

The Sports Review

By Harold Keith

MARK up another conference all sports championship for Oklahoma, the eighth in the last twelve years for the versatile Sooners.

Oklahoma won with a grand low average of 25 points for the ten recognized Big Six conference sports during the school year 1937-38. Nebraska was a very close second with 25½, followed by Missouri 35½, Kansas State 39½, Iowa State 41½ and Kansas 43.

The Sooners won the most team championships, three (wrestling, golf and tennis) and had the best showing in minor sports with a low total of 11. Nebraska edged out the Sooners for the major sports ascendency with a low of 11½ points scored. Football, basketball, baseball, outdoor track and indoor track are the major sports.

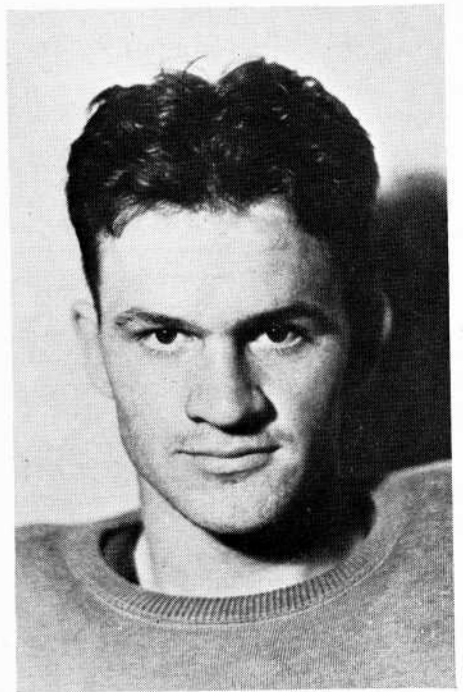
The Sooners won this all-around athletic test in 1927 and 1928 in the old Missouri Valley conference and in 1929, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, and 1938 in the Big Six loop. In 1930 and 1931 Oklahoma was second. In 1932 and 1938 Oklahoma was third, her poorest finishing place.

The 1937-38 Big Six all-sports table, figured on the basis of low score winning as in golf (the figure 1 in a school's column means it finished first in that particular sport, 2 indicates a second, etc.) is:

	OKLA.	NEB.	MO.	K.S.	I.S.	KANS.
football	2	1	4	5½	5½	3
basketball	2	3½	3½	5	6	1
baseball	2	4	1	5	3	6
indoor track	5	1	2½	2½	6	4
outdoor track	3	2	1	4	6	5
two-mile race	5	4	2	1	3	6
wrestling	1	4	5½	2½	2½	5½
swimming	3	2	6	5	1	4
tennis	1	2	5	3	5	5
golf	1	2	5	6	3½	3½
totals	25	25½	35½	39½	41½	43

Nebraska led the Big Six all-sports table by a wide margin until the spring sports returns were posted, then Oklahoma roaring in with championships in tennis and golf, a second in baseball and a third in outdoor track to come from way behind and nip the Cornhuskers at the wire.

Down to Kansas by six strokes at the turn, Coach Bruce Drake's Sooner golfers shot beautifully through the last 18 holes of medal play to post a four-man stroke total of 638, winning by 14 strokes from Nebraska which was second with 652. Kansas and Iowa State tied for third with 657 each, Missouri had 684, Kansas State 692.



Football is the next sport on the Sooner calendar and here are two sophomores who will be in the thick of the going next fall with Coach Tom Stidham's Sooners. They are Clifton Speegle, left, former Oklahoma City Capitol Hill star, and Bill Jennings, of Norman. Speegle will be used at center, Jennings at halfback

Billy Craig, stocky Sooner junior from Seminole, won the individual title. Members of the Oklahoma team were Craig, Guy Underwood of Wichita Falls, Texas; Jim Pate, of Oklahoma City, and Rex Edwards, of Oklahoma City.

As the Sooners took the tennis flag, Joe Ben Champion, Ardmore junior, won the Big Six conference singles title while Ray Clement, of Norman, grabbed the No. 2 singles rating and Gene Roop of Tulsa the No. 3. Champion and Rufus Goodwin, of Oklahoma City, won the No. 2 doubles crown. The team finish in Big Six tennis was Oklahoma 15, Nebraska 13, Kansas State 3, Iowa State 1, Missouri 1, Kansas 1.

Coach Leslie Hewes, young University geography instructor, was kept home by academic duties but had the pleasure of reading of his team's triumph in the newspapers.

Coach Lawrence "Jap" Haskell's young Sooner baseball team finished second in the Big Six race. Two defeats to the strong Missouri team at Columbia kept this Oklahoma team from a championship although two Oklahoma left-handers, Clarence Benton and Warren Morris, allowed Missouri only four hits in two games. The Tigers won the first, 3 to 2, and the finale, 1 to 0, as each pitcher allowing but one hit.

John Jacobs' Oklahoma track team got a third in the outdoor meet, their best showing in three years. Missouri's yellow-shirted hustlers won with 51 points, Nebraska was second with 45, Oklahoma third with 42½, Kansas State fourth with

40½, Kansas fifth with 36½ and Iowa State sixth with 9½ in the closest and most thrilling meet held in years.

Granville Barrett, of Okmulgee, an oldish boy back for his final season with the Sooner's after a year's lay-off, won the 880 yards dash in 1:53.8, defeating John Munski the Tiger ace, by two yards. John Shirk, Oklahoma City sophomore, won the discus with a toss of 145 feet 1 inch and the tired Sooner mile relay team of Barrett, Thim Finley, Ernest Haskell and Lin Trueblood conquered Missouri by a yard to win in 3:19.8.

At the Lincoln session it also was announced that Walter Kraft, superintendent of utilities, president of the university athletic council and former Northwestern university football and track star had been appointed by Dr. W. B. Bizzell to succeed Edgar Meacham as Oklahoma's new Big Six faculty representative. Doctor Meacham, who had done an outstanding job, asked to be relieved so he could spend more time on academic duties.

Bruce Drake, recently appointed Sooner basketball coach to succeed Hugh McDermott who resigned to head the university's reorganized physical education department for men, secured the following Big Six basketball schedule for the Sooners for 1939:

- Jan. 7 Kansas at Norman.
- Jan. 14 Missouri at Columbia.
- Jan. 16 Iowa State at Ames.
- Jan. 28 Nebraska at Norman.
- Feb. 4 Kansas State at Norman.
- Feb. 11 Missouri at Norman.
- Feb. 18 Iowa State at Norman.
- Feb. 25 Kansas at Lawrence.
- March 4 Nebraska at Lincoln.
- March 6 Kansas State at Manhattan.