

COACH HUGH McDERMOTT'S University of Oklahoma basketball team, a bunch of slick-fingered sophomores, have been the sensation of the Big Six conference basketball race this season and also have attracted the fancy of state fans as no other Sooner team of the past.

The Boy Scats this year:

(1) Divided two games with Dr. F. C. "Phog" Allen's Kansas Jayhawkers, perennial champions, defeating the Jays 49-46 at Lawrence (largest score ever made against a Kansas team by a Big Six foe) and dropping a return game to Kansas at Norman 38-41, a contest the Sooners might have won had not Vernon Mullen, 6-foot 5-inch center, taken down with a sinus infection just before the game. Mullen didn't play.

(2) Divided two games with Hank Iba's Oklahoma Aggies, Missouri Valley conference champions and leaders. The Aggies' great senior club won on the small court at Stillwater 38 to 37 but the Scats reversed this verdict at Norman February 16, winning 31 to 28.

(3) Played to two all-time record crowds that surpassed any other basketball crowds in the history of the sport in Oklahoma. Although seven inches of rain had fallen two days before the Oklahoma Aggie game at Norman and it was still raining the night of the game, 6,343 people attended. A crowd of 5,343 saw the Scats nose out Nebraska 50 to 48 at Norman February 5. Previous attendance record was 5,228, established ten years ago in the first game at the Fieldhouse when Oklahoma's all-victorious club smashed Kansas 45 to 19.

(4) Were well on their way toward setting a new Big Six conference all-time team scoring record. Present mark is 42.2 points per game by Kansas' all-victorious club of 1936. But the Boy Scats had averaged 46.7 points following the last Kansas game and seemed certain to better the old record.

▲ Stidham given long contract

The University Board of Regents put Sooner football on its soundest basis in a decade when they voted February 14 to offer Tom Stidham, popular Sooner athletic director and head football coach, a new five-year contract and raised his salary to \$7,500 per year.

Last fall Stidham, in his first year as head coach, and losing six men off the 1936 first team, built an aggressive Sooner team than won five games, lost two and tied two for a percentage of .714, defeating Rice's Southwest conference and Cotton Bowl champions and holding Nebraska outside Oklahoma's 40-yard line while tying them 0-0 at Lincoln.

▲ Spring football work starts

Spring football practice is under way at Oklahoma, having started February 14.

Three player switches are being tried.

The Sports Review

By
Harold
Keith

Bob Cisar, sophomore from Oklahoma City, is slicing the water in the Sooner pool in the picture below. He's the first member of the 1938 Sooner swimming team to set a new record.



Frank Ivy, of Skiatook, 190-pound substitute at right end last year, has been moved to Pete Smith's old spot at left end. Alton Coppage, fleet Hollis junior, has been shifted from left to right end. Otis Rogers, Oilton junior who ran 94 yards to a touchdown from kickoff against Kansas State, has been shifted from right half to left half.

Two new players who weren't here last year are trying out. They are Robert "Chief" West, 190-pound Indian fullback from St. Louis, Okla., a promising freshman here in 1934, and Norvel Locke, of Ardmore, a blocking back on the 1936 team but out of school last year. Both can be eligible next fall.

Although they won't be eligible until year after next, ten freshmen who just enrolled the second semester also are participating in the spring practice. They are: Paul Woodson, Oklahoma City, Capitol Hill, back; John Moeller, Holdenville, tackle; Harmon Graham, Holdenville, guard; Frank Kring, Fort Worth, Tex., back; Chad Vallance, Westville, guard; Maury West, Oklahoma City, Classen, back; Lyle Smith, Fairview, end; Virgil Rollins, Noble, back; Gene Blalock, Pauls Valley, center; and Wesley Jones, Thomas, back.

▲ Sooner football gains prestige

Sooner football coaches traveled several thousand miles during December and January answering invitations to speak and show motion pictures of Sooner 1937 games at various high school and civic banquets and dinners. The invitations just about tripled those received in any one year before and kept Tom Stidham and such aides as Dewey "Snorter" Luster, Lawrence "Jap" Haskell, Robert "Doc" Erskine, Frank "Speck" Moore and Harry "Dutch" Hill so busy that frequently the staff would split up and go to three different cities the same day.

A fairly complete list of cities visited by Sooner coaches is as follows: Altus, Noble, Cherokee, Miami, Fairview, Fort Sill, Holdenville, Muskogee, Okmulgee, Pauls Valley, Purcell, Oklahoma City, Chelsea, Ardmore, Oilton, Fairfax, Chickasha, Henryetta, Sapulpa, Sand Springs, Woodward, Fort Smith, Ark., Duncan, Enid, Ponca City, Walters, Thomas, Konowa, Hobart and Vinita.

▲ Wrestlers lose to Aggies

Plagued by injuries and ineligibility, Coach Paul Keen's Sooner wrestling team lost a dual meet to the Oklahoma Aggies at Norman February 19, 20½ to 7½. D. C. Matthews, Sooner lightweight from Sulphur, defeated Fred Parkey, the Aggie Olympic veteran, and Marshall Word, Sooner light-heavy from Butler, won a decision from Aggie Bob Williams. Hoy Stone, Sooner special weight from Tulsa, drew with Aggie Woodrow Rorex.