

The Sports Review

By Harold Keith, '29

REVIEWING Oklahoma's games with Oklahoma Aggies, Iowa State, Kansas State and Missouri:

Oklahoma 41, Oklahoma Aggies 0

Although Coach Jim Lookabaugh's Aggies from Stillwater were pitifully outmanned, they fought splendidly to hold the Sooners scoreless through the first quarter, something neither Southern Methodist nor Northwestern could do. However, they fell apart from the stiff hammering handed out by three fresh Sooner teams in the last three periods.

Beryl Clark's well-placed 43-yard punt introduced the first Sooner touchdown, Pete Rivers, Aggie ace, picking it up on his two-yard line and returning to his ten. The Aggies punted out on their 40, and the Sooners drove 40 yards to their first score, Clark hitting Dick Favor and Bill Jennings with forward passes and Seymour leaping across the goal. Favor converted.

Another gaudy punt by Clark, keen little Sooner triple threat, this one a 58-yard quick kick that Jackie Wurtz, Aggie back, brought back three yards to his ten, set up the second Sooner touchdown. Oklahoma took Wurtz's weak return boot and drove to a touchdown in eight plays, Clark ripping off tackle for the six-pointer and Favor goaling to make it 14-0 at the half.

The Sooner touchdowns came faster thereafter. Two of them were scored in the first seven and one-half minutes of the third quarter, the first on a pass, Clark to Bill Jennings who ran and dodged beautifully 35 yards to the goal, and the second on a 47-yard power push with the viciously-charging Oklahoma line savagely cleaning out for Clark and Seymour, Clark scoring. Favor hit both extra points by placement to make it 28-0.

The Oklahoma second team scored the last two touchdowns, Left Half L. G. Friedrichs counting the first on an eight-yard cutback over guard. Friedrichs forward passed to J. S. Munsey for the second, Munsey having cleverly stolen behind the Farmer secondary. End Lyle Smith missed the first goal but Friedrichs hit the second.

Clark hit six of his first six forward passes in this contest.

"My boys said after the game that Oklahoma was very much superior to Texas A. and M." Lookabaugh later declared.

Oklahoma 38, Iowa State 6

Oklahoma's reserves played most of this contest and reveled in it.

Fullback Bob Seymour scored two touchdowns in the first two minutes of play,

but one was called back because the Sooner backfield was in motion too fast. A break cost Coach Jim Yeager's youthful team this first touchdown, Merle Osborne accidentally kicking the opening kickoff after he had fumbled it. Officials awarded the ball to the Sooners on Ames' 14-yard line from whence Jack Jacobs and Seymour quickly drove to the score. However, Jack West, Iowa State's fine center, tore through to block Favor's placekick for point.

Oklahoma made it 12 to 0 before the first quarter ended when Seymour intercepted an Iowa State pass and ran it back 22 yards to the Cyclone 31. From there Jacobs, the Creek Indian boy, back into action after a four-weeks layoff because of injuries, drove Stidham's club 31 yards to a touchdown, scoring standing up and carrying Jack Vinsel of Iowa State across the goal on his shoulders as he burst off his left tackle for the touchdown. Favor missed goal.

The Sooner second team whirled 58 yards in 11 plays to tally the third, Clark pitching three consecutive passes for 39 yards and Johnny Martin slashing off guard for the score. Clark missed goal.

Stidham started his seconds in the third quarter but when Bill Bliss, Iowa State end, blocked a punt by Jacobs deep in Oklahoma territory and Osborne narrowly missed a field goal, Stidham rushed his first team back in and they traveled 54 yards in four plays with Jacobs pitching to Jennings in the right hand corner of the playing field for 31 yards and a touchdown.

The Sooners counted twice more in the closing moments of the battle. After Clark's passing carried them down to the 10-yard line, Byron Potter, 208-pound third string fullback, rolled off tackle standing up for the score, Clark goaling. Later Clark shot off his left tackle, cut back and raced 39 yards to another touchdown, bringing the score to 38-0.

Bill Letchenberg's hard running and a long pass, Jack Wallace to Don Griswold, brought Iowa State's score in the final two minutes, the touchdown play traveling 35 yards.

Oklahoma 13, Kansas State 10

Although John Shirk, left end; Harold Lahar, right tackle; Ray Mullen, substitute left end and Friedrichs all were left home with injuries, Oklahoma went blithely and fearlessly to Manhattan, Kansas, Armistice Day to play Coach Wes Fry's Wildcats.

Before an all-time record throng of 17,500, Kansas State played superbly, actually

wrested the lead away from Oklahoma two times and had the misfortune to fumble what might have been the winning touchdown on the Sooner three-yard line early in the last quarter.

The extremely slippery playing field prevented much Oklahoma forward passing and as a result, Stidham's team and the hard-running Purple were like two bulldogs thrown into a pit with victory going to the one able to walk out.

Kansas State led 3 to 0 in the first three minutes when Jacobs fumbled a punt, Crumbaker, Kansas State's great end, recovering on the Oklahoma 21 and Jim Brock placekicking a field goal from 33 yards away.

The Sooners answered this bold challenge (it was the first time they had been behind all season) by driving 46 yards, all of them running plays, to the Kansas State 17 where Seymour fell down on a play that would almost certainly have netted a first down.

Undaunted, Oklahoma got another chance after Clark quick-kicked 66 yards and this time Stidham's boys, with Seymour and Clark knifing off tackle or over guard, went 43 yards to a touchdown, scoring on a 10-yard dash over left tackle by Clark, Favor goaling. The Sooners' seconds then launched a 44-yard drive to Kansas State's 20-yard line that the first half gun halted when it seemed Oklahoma couldn't miss scoring again.

Kansas State roared back strongly in the third quarter to go 60 yards to a touchdown and lead 10 to 7, Crumbaker scoring on a 16-yard end-around play with a wave of purple-jersied blockers sweeping ahead of him and Brock kicking goal.

Now the burden of offense was on Oklahoma. Smelling an upset victory that would amaze the Nation, the record Kansas crowd cheered the home club to the echo but as Beryl Clark brought the kickoff back 45 yards to the Kansas State 46, nearly getting away, and the thoroughly determined Sooners moved the Kansas State line back with each off-tackle punch, the Manhattan throng grew quieter and quieter. Charging murderously, Oklahoma didn't give up the ball until big Seymour volplaned over the Kansas goal and Oklahoma had regained the lead, 13 to 10, on as fine an offensive surge as one could ask to see, considering the pressure that was on the attacking team.

But still one more thrill was in store for the Kansas State spectators. Melvin Seelye tossed a screen pass over to Niemann early in the fourth quarter and behind another gang of burly Wildcat blockers, Niemann raced down the sideline to Oklahoma's four-yard line where Seymour, sprinting desperately clear across the gridiron, knocked him off the playing field with his shoulder. Pandemonium broke loose thereafter, but Seymour hurled Seelye to the turf for a two-yard loss and on the third play Duwe fumbled and Favor recovered

for Oklahoma on the Kansas State three-yard mark.

The game ended with Jacobs taking over for Clark who hurt his shoulder. Jacobs drove the Sooners on another long, steady, remorseless advance that saw Seymour burst off guard for eight yards and a first down on the K-Aggie 32-yard line at the final gun.

With 108 yards gained rushing, Seymour was the game's hero. Clark's injury was to cost Oklahoma dear in the Mizzou fray that followed.

Oklahoma 6, Missouri 7

Before another record crowd, this one 27,500, largest gathering ever to crowd into the Mizzou stadium, and on another soft field with a fine mist wetting the faces of the players, Oklahoma's string of six consecutive wins was stopped by an aroused Missouri team that had found itself down the November stretch, defeating Nebraska 27-13 and New York university 20-7 before the Oklahoma game.

Although nobody realized it then, Oklahoma's doom was sealed in the first minute of play when Sooner backs Seymour and Favor sustained slight brain concussions. Favor got his on the opening kickoff when he booted to the Tiger goal, then ran down and hurled Starmer to the moist ground with a jolting tackle. During this play Favor was accidentally kicked in the forehead and had to be helped from the field.

Seymour's injury came two plays later. The big fullback received an accidental blow at the base of his neck that affected his vision. He stayed in but fumbled four times and was obviously not himself.

Clark, making his first start of the year at left half, yielded ten yards on each exchange of punts to Blaine Currence, Missouri's telephone pole end, the tight harness he wore to protect his injured shoulder preventing his dropping the ball accurately on his punting toe.

Currence soon kicked the Tigers into Sooner territory but the husky Sooner line was holding beautifully, and truculently heaved the Missouri ball-carriers back on the soles of their pants.

The Sooners made the first offensive sally of the battle early in the second quarter when Clark flicked an 11-yard forward pass to the giant Shirk and then found the nimble Jennings with a spinning hurl that gained 17 yards and a first down on the Tiger 13. However, after four off-tackle drives by Clark and the befuddled Seymour, the Sooners still lacked half a yard of getting a first down and desperate Missouri took over on her four-yard line.

Remainder of the half was uneventful except when Bill Cunningham, young Tiger fullback, peeled off a sensational 59-yard run on a fake lateral, Johnny Martin, in for Seymour at fullback, roping him from behind on the Sooner 14-yard line where Oklahoma dug in and stopped the Tigers four downs in a row.



Members of the 1939-40 Sooner basketball squad. Top row, left to right: Coach Bruce Drake, Hugh Ford, Bill Richards, Herb Scheffler, Marvin Snodgrass, Roscoe Walker, and Ed Kelly, manager; second row, Mitchell Simon, Ralph Bollinger, Matt Zollner, Gene Roop, Marvin Mesch, Jimmy McNatt, and Dale Carlile; front row, Paul Gardner, Harold Hermes, Lee Platner, James Taylor, and Oliver Curtis.

The deadly punting of Ronald King, Missouri reserve back, gave the gold-armored Tigers the edge all through the third quarter as the Oklahoma coaches, ignorant of the seriousness of the injuries to Seymour and Favor, still tried to gamble with their crippled backs.

King's booting was sensational. He punted dead on Oklahoma's two-yard mark, then kicked out on Oklahoma's 17, then guided another long punt over the sideline on the Sooner six-yard mark, again forcing Oklahoma to kick from the dangerous proximity of her end zone.

Here Missouri worked a carefully rehearsed defensive play, lining up Moser, her center, on the outside of her left tackle, and rushing him in with their left tackle and left end to overwhelm the Sooner interference there, Moser blocking Martin's punt cleanly. The ball shot 30 feet straight up into the air, like a pop foul, and Bob Orf, Tiger end, leaped up and caught it for a touchdown. King kicked goal and the jubilant Tigers led, 7 to 0.

Stidham's answer to this was to withdraw his groggy first team backs and his tired first team line, and rush in his frisky second team. This cocky aggregation, quarterbacked by 159-pound J. S. Munsey, Norman sophomore, struck right through the heart of the Missouri defense for 71 yards and a touchdown with Martin streaming down the middle, Munsey hitting off tackle on reverses and Jacobs bucking hard and forward passing the wet ball beautifully. Down on the Missouri 30-yard line, Coach Don Faurot of Missouri rushed in the last of his first string only to have Oklahoma score a touchdown three plays later when Jacobs passed to Munsey in the end zone.

Then came tragedy. Rushed in to kick goal, the usually accurate Favor missed the easy placement kick that would have tied the game and Missouri led, 7 to 6.

Only seven minutes of play remained. Oklahoma sped fiercely to the attack. Rushing the ball to Missouri's 24-yard line, the Sooners tried a placekick by Favor, but Seymour, who had just entered the game, was still so woozy from his head blow that he lined up on the wrong side of the kicker. The Oklahoma players moved him over to Favor's left but when the ball was passed, Seymour fumbled it and Favor, eager to avenge his extra-point miss, didn't even get to swing his foot.

With two minutes to go, Oklahoma was still trying to score. Calmly but grimly, the Sooners, mud staining their white jerseys, swung into their last-minute attack. Stidham shot Seymour back into action and he and Favor each blocked out a Tiger to cut Jacobs around right end for 15 yards. Then Jacobs hurled a 50-yard pass in the direction of Alton Coppage that would have been a touchdown, Christman barely reaching it with his fingers, the Tiger crowd groaning with relief.

Fraught with impending defeat, the final seconds dragged out slowly for the 1,600 Oklahomans in the stands. Jacobs whipped a pass through the murky twilight and out to the left flat that Seymour snagged with a running leap for an 18-yard gain. Jacobs then heaved to Favor for eight yards, Oklahoma carrying to Missouri's 29-yard line after a brave advance of 41 yards. Like a muleskinner laying a long lash on the backs of an oxen team, the Indian boy coolly rained his passes everywhere but the Tigers successfully covered the Sooner receivers in the soft turf and the ball went over to Missouri in the last minute of play. When the game ended a few seconds later, the weary Sooners, heads lowered disconsolately, strode slowly through the light rain to their locker room, defeated for the first time this season.