

The Sports Review

By Harold Keith

REVIEWING the University of Oklahoma's first four football games this fall:

Oklahoma 7, Southern Methodist 7

Record this game as a moral victory in prophecy for Coach Tom Stidham. All summer the big Indian had been warning Sooner fans that "sophomores make mistakes and mistakes cost ball games." But the public didn't believe. It figured Stidham was only indulging in some defensive moaning, as so many good coaches do. Didn't the Sooners have Jack Jacobs and Orv Mathews, two of the slickest sophomores in the Nation, all bridled and saddled and ready to run?

And yet if it hadn't been for three costly fumbles by Jake and Orv, Oklahoma very likely would have beaten Southern Methodist, 14 to 0, in spite of the fact the Mustangs are strong. It is natural for sophomores to be jittery in the first few games. Besides, Jacobs and Mathews were playing the important left half position and in the Stidham system the left half handles the ball on nearly every play. The crowd of approximately 26,000 fans who incidentally comprised the second largest throng ever to see a game at Norman (last year's late October crowd of 28,092 is tops), filed soberly from the stadium after Matty Bell's Ponies had held the Sooners to a tie, reflecting upon those costly fumbles and upon Stidham's constant warning that "you can't substitute for experience."

Oklahoma quickly put over a touchdown in the first quarter. Jacobs, the Indian boy from Muskogee, ran the Sooners in offensive territory with a magnificent 65-yard return of the opening kickoff to the Southern Methodist 30-yard line during which Stidham's blockers were leveling the Ponies all over the field. The crowd cheered the colorful Indian lad to the echo for that feat, which was Jacob's first play in intercollegiate football.

Three times Southern Methodist repulsed Sooner runs and passes but midway in the quarter, lanky Bob Seymour pulled down a Pony pass on the S. M. U. 42 and the Sooners made good on their fourth drive, covering the 42 yards in eleven plays for a touchdown.

The key plays in this surge were Jacob's beautifully-pitched pass to Long John Shirk, 6-foot 4-inch left end, for 21 yards, Jacob's seven-yard cutback through guard, Jacob's six-yard sweep off right end and four consecutive smashes by the hard-

hitting Seymour, the last of which sprang him over the goal line standing up.

Dick Favor, senior blocking back from Crescent, kicked goal and Oklahoma led, 7 to 0.

When the first quarter ended, Stidham substituted almost an entire second team, a green outfit made up almost entirely of sophomores. Orville Mathews, popular little 165-pound Chickasha boy and with the possible exception of Frank McCoy of Oklahoma's 1901 team, probably the fastest man ever to wear the Sooner colors into football combat, went in with them at left half. All eyes were on the diminutive Mathews as he twisted on his red helmet and jogged backward to the Oklahoma safety position. The huge Sooner throng waited breathlessly. They wanted to see him run.

Mathews didn't disappoint them. On the third play after Mathew's entrance into the game, Ray Mallouf, S. M. U. full-back, belted a 55-yard punt deep into Sooner territory. For a moment it looked like the kick would pass far over Mathew's head but covering ground easily and gracefully, Mathews went back under it, caught it, and in the first action of his intercollegiate career ran it back 32 yards to the Oklahoma 47-yard mark, showing tremendous speed and nearly getting away for a touchdown. But the stadium's roar was cut short when an official called the play back because a Sooner player had been offside.

SIX plays later with Southern Methodist desperately storming the Sooner goal, Mallouf hurled a long pass almost to the Oklahoma goal line. But little Mathews down on the Sooner five-yard mark, jumped into the air to intercept it and with the big crowd on its feet roaring came streaking back up the field, the chalk lines passing one by one beneath his flying cleats as he darted up the left sideline with incredible swiftness and speed. Fifty yards did he cover before Mallouf, the last man, got him on the Southern Methodist 45-yard line. But this play also was called back. Officials ruled an Oklahoma player had clipped. Yet in spite of the fact both Mathew's great runs had gone for naught, there was an excited buzz in the stadium. The fans got an awful kick out of just seeing the Chickasha Rocket whiz in spite of the wasted yardage.

Behind in the scoring and therefore having the pressure of offense on them, Southern Methodist kept attacking, heroically and relentlessly, all through the sec-

ond and third quarters. With the wind at their backs in these two periods, they quick-kicked into Sooner territory, stayed there and finally cashed in when Jacobs, back into the battle in the third quarter, fumbled on his own 20-yard line, Buck Bailey, Pony guard, recovering there. Three plays later Mallouf spun 15 yards down the middle for a touchdown and when tackle Jack Sanders kicked goal, the game was tied up, 7-7.

Now it was up to Oklahoma, and Stidham's red-trousered team responded by dominating the play all through the final quarter. Favor brought the kickoff almost to midfield, Jacobs quick-kicked 58 yards, Mallouf's weak return boot left the Sooners only 37 yards from the goal, and the Oklahoma drive was on.

Jacobs, eager to atone for his expensive fumble, was unstoppable. The Indian boy turned his left end for 11 yards, smacked off right tackle for four, repeated through the same space for four more and Seymour's five-yard drive over guard gave Oklahoma first down on the Pony 11-yard point. Again Jacobs took the ball and this time hurled himself through left tackle. But as he crossed the eight-yard line he fumbled and Sander's blue shirt was last off the ball when officials untangled the pile. Southern Methodist had recovered.

However, Oklahoma kept hitting hard on the defense, so hard that Bearden, Pony back, fumbled a few plays later and Lyle Smith, Oklahoma end, recovered on S. M. U.'s 23-yard mark.

The Sooners then launched another drive. Mathews, in for Jacobs, swept his right end for 10 yards and a first down on the Pony 13, following his blockers beautifully. However, two plays later he, too, fumbled, Bianchi recovered for Southern Methodist and the hardpressed Ponies punted to midfield and held off the Sooners in the short time left.

The rival dressing rooms after the battle furnished the tip-off on the result. The Southern Methodist players were jubilantly shouting and singing and seemed glad to get a tie. But the Sooners were muttering and scowling over all those bad bounces and the dissatisfaction they registered had a lot to do with their aggressive mental attitude against Northwestern one week later.

Oklahoma 23, Northwestern 0

All summer, Oklahoma fans had been dreading this game which easily appeared to be the toughest on the schedule. Northwestern, Big Ten conference favorites with 23 lettermen returning, not to mention Bill DeCorrevont, most highly-publicized sophomore back in the Nation, was a 3 to 1 favorite.

Northwestern was coached by Lynn Waldorf, whom Oklahoma had never been able to beat during half a dozen efforts when Waldorf coached at Oklaho-

ma A. and M. and for one year at Kansas State. Northwestern had the advantage of scouting Oklahoma in the S. M. U. game. The game was to be played on Northwestern's home field.

All this reacted psychologically in Oklahoma's favor. The Sooners were rated as the underdog team when in reality they were a match for the Big Ten juggernaut. In fact with the S. M. U. game under their belts, Stidham's boys were much sharper than the sluggish Wildcats as the resulting action proved.

The game was decided, as so many games are, in the first few minutes. Oklahoma kicked off to Northwestern's veteran eleven, Dick Favor tossed Oliver "Red" Hahnenstein, Northwestern's star left half, for a three-yard loss and after Hahnenstein punted, Mathews, a surprise starter in the Sooner lineup, quick-kicked 71 yards, the ball rolling over the Wildcat goal. Mathews ran Hahnenstein's return boot up to almost midfield.

Then the highly-keyed Sooners opened up. Seymour spun a pass to Mathews who, aided by Shirk's elegant block on the sideline, sped 33 yards to the Wildcat 23-yard mark. Mathews then shot around his right end for 15 yards to the Northwestern eight. The befuddled Northwestern team braced here and took the ball on downs but Hahnenstein, trying to run instead of kick, fumbled on the first play and the alert Shirk, recovering the leather on the fly, bulled his way to the Wildcat six-yard line.

THEN Jacobs, Oklahoma's Indian sophomore, came off the Sooner bench and into the fray for Mathews. Right through the heart of Northwestern's supposedly impregnable left tackle the young Creek three times plowed. On last down, with the leather on Northwestern's one-yard mark, Seymour hit the same spot for a touchdown standing up and even though Favor missed goal, Oklahoma led 6 to 0!

Hahnenstein's fumble was a break for the Sooners yet the fact remains that Oklahoma had carried the ball to Northwestern's eight-yard line prior to the fumble so Oklahoma was just getting a break she had forced.

Suddenly most of the 45,000 spectators arose and began cheering. Oklahoma fans didn't understand it at first but the public address announcer quickly enlightened them. A trim blond 180-pound youth trotted lazily onto the field. He was Bill DeCorrevont, the Nation's No. 1 sophomore sensation from Chicago's Austin High. He took Hahnenstein's place in the middle of the spread Northwestern lineup, as the Wildcats deployed to receive the kickoff.

But Favor, Oklahoma's demon kicker-offer, didn't give DeCorrevont a chance to run with that kickoff. Instead he booted it entirely out of the end zone on the fly, a tremendous shot of 74 yards that the



Big-handed John Shirk, 6-foot 4-inch senior end from Oklahoma City, who pleases Sooner fans with his pass-snatching ability

Wildcat players could only turn and stare at as it soared far over their heads. Northwestern was given the ball on its 20.

Just as all Oklahoma had wanted to see Jacobs and Mathews run in the S. M. U. opener at Norman the week before, so did the packed Dyché Stadium eagerly bend forward to watch DeCorrevont in his first college play. But they weren't prepared for what followed. Frank Ivy, Oklahoma's gangling right end from Skiatook, rudely hurled DeCorrevont back on the seat of his tan pants for a seven-yard loss. Gamely, Chicago Bill jumped to his feet and tried another off-tackle cutback. This time the truculent Favor dropped him for a six-yard loss. DeCorrevont punted, spiraling a kick out of bounds against the wind on the Northwestern 38-yard mark.

Then Jacobs went into action. He laid one of his fluffy passes on Bill Jennings' fingers and just as he was tackled, Jennings deftly flipped a lateral to Game Captain Ralph Stevenson, Oklahoma guard, the play gaining 16 yards to the Northwestern 19-yard line. But Jacobs was hurt on the play, being struck on the side of his leg as he threw the ball, and was toted from the field.

But Beryl Clark, slim 162-pound senior from Cherokee, a quiet, clean, gentlemanly boy who has always believed in himself in spite of the fact he had been only a third-stringer in his sophomore and junior years, went into the game at left half for Jacobs. After three futile line plays, Clark called for a field goal and Favor made it from 34 yards out with Seymour holding. Now Oklahoma led

9 to 0 and Northwestern would have to score twice to win!

Six minutes before the first half ended, Waldorf ran his big first team back into action and led by the fumbling Hahnenstein, who now drove the Purple flawlessly, Northwestern moved powerfully and majestically 76 yards down the blue grass gridiron to Oklahoma's five-yard line. The thrill play was a forward pass, that gained 38 yards, Hahnenstein to Jim Smith, Negro end and believed to be the first colored man ever to play football against an Oklahoma team. However, there was room for only one more play in the half and Oklahoma stopped it for a three-yard loss, and her nine point lead still stood!

TO shorten the story, Oklahoma won, 23 to 0. Although the stadium felt Waldorf's highly-regarded entry, with the wind at their backs, would force the milling in the third quarter, Oklahoma, quarterbacked brilliantly by little Clark who kicked, ran and passed with the calm insouciance of a veteran, carried the fight to the host team, advancing deeply into Wildcat territory twice. Clark's punting against the stiff lake breeze was superb. The Cherokee boy booted three out of bounds after rolls of 31, 34 and 48 yards and midway of the quarter lifted a 31-yard effort that Ivy killed on the Northwestern four-yard line.

Here Hahnenstein again tried to run with the ball and fumbled, Center Cliff Speegle recovering for the Sooners on the five-yard line. Three plays later Clark sent Seymour whirling and stumbling

(PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 35)

Sports Review

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19)

through the Wildcat left tackle for another touchdown and Favor's goal kick left Oklahoma leading 16 to 0.

True, the Sooners had got another break but again Stidham's men had forced it, running the Wildcats all over the field in the third quarter and downing a splendid punt on Northwestern's four-yard mark just prior to Hahnenstein's fumble.

The rest of the game is history. De Correvont came back in and tore off some elegant runs. His best play was a cutback through guard where the Northwestern blockers protected him so superbly that he burst through the Oklahoma line and secondary for 28 yards before Long John Shirk pulled him down in midfield.

But always Oklahoma had plenty of stuff to stop the Wildcats. Meanwhile Stidham began to rush in his second and third teamers. Johnny Martin, Broken Bow junior who made half a dozen as great defensive plays against Northwestern as one ordinarily sees in the full course of a season, intercepted one desperately thrown Northwestern flat pass and hot-footed 54 yards to a third touchdown, protected by blockers Alton Coppage and George Wilhelm. Martin goaled.

The final thrill of the game for Sooner fans was the Sooner second string's feat of four times hurling back Waldorf's first team from the Sooner three-yard line, late in the fourth quarter, a courageous goal-line stand that broke Northwestern's morale completely.

Oklahoma 24, Texas 12

Although the Sooners were clearly superior to Dana Bible's fighting team of sophomore kids in this game, Coach Tom Stidham says Oklahoma could easily have won it 45 to 0 or lost it 17-18.

With the Sooners leading 17 to 0 in the fourth quarter and the Sooner second team smothering the Longhorns deep in Texas territory, Jack Crain, 165-pound Texas sophomore halfback, suddenly and unexpectedly ran through the Sooners for touchdown runs of 68 and 72 yards that changed the whole complexion of the game.

Crain's beautiful hip fake when hemmed in by four Sooners on the sidelines during his first touchdown run, a deft movement that pulled the Oklahomans back on their heels and allowed the fast Texas boy to run past them, freed him on his first long scoring ramble and three minutes later he repeated on an off-tackle play, making the backs in the Sooner secondary look foolish as he eluded and ran off from them.

The Sooner seconds doggedly dug in and blocked both Texas tries for points,

End Louis "Tree Top" Sharpe getting one and Tackle Justin Bowers the other on leaping one-handed stops, but the Sooner lead had been cut to 17-12 and another run by Crain would win the game for Texas. The Texas band and rooters were threatening to tear down the stadium. The Sooner band and fans looked scared and glum.

But down on the Sooner bench, Coach Stidham quickly moved to prevent a recurrence of Crain's two runs. He rushed the Oklahoma first team back into the battle and although they went into the game cold, they smothered the Texas attack, stopped Crain and drove 63 yards in seven plays to a touchdown of their own, Bob Seymour scoring from the two-yard line without going off his feet after Frank Ivy had made a miraculous catch of L. G. Friedrichs' forward pass. That "clutch" comeback cooled off Bible's kids and clinched the victory for Oklahoma.

Oklahoma 27, Kansas 7

Although they defeated Coach Gwin Henry's Kansas Jayhawks handily in the Dad's Day game at Norman, Oklahoma let down from the Texas triumph and played sluggishly in the record 89-degree heat, rolling up a record total of 123 yards in penalties and yielding the traditional Kansas touchdown in the final seconds of play, a feat Kansas has performed at Norman the last three games hand-running, in 1935, 1937 and 1939.

The first Sooner touchdown was scored by Clark after a 76-yard drive in the first quarter during which the Cherokee senior tore off tackle for rips of 18, 22 and 14 yards, the last distance gaining the touchdown. Favor missed goal from 28 yards away where a Sooner penalty on the first try-for-point had forced him, the regular goal kick being annulled.

Oklahoma scored again with seconds of the first half left when Stidham rushed in his first team backfield, Seymour smashing almost to the Kansas goal where Clark hit Jennings with a nine-yard pass as Jennings crossed the double stripe. Favor goaled.

Guard Jerry Bolton set up the third touchdown by blocking Frank Bukaty's punt, Oklahoma driving 32 yards in seven plays with Clark scoring through his own left tackle, Favor goaling. The fourth Oklahoma touchdown was tallied by Orv Mathews on an off-tackle buck after Oklahoma drives of 74 and 32 yards with Byron Potter, 208-pound transfer fullback from Kemper Military Academy, smashing 69 yards in 6 plays and gaining a tremendous ovation from the stands. This is Potter's first and last year here, since he played three seasons at Kemper. Paul Woodson kicked goal.

Kansas tallied on a plunge by Milt Sullivant after Bukaty had thrown a pass to Dick Ameringer for 32 yards. Fullback Ed Hall goaled.

BOOKS

Of Special Interest to

TEACHERS

A Picture Dictionary for Children

A 480-page book of simple words with pictures, for the very young child, by Gamette Walters and S. A. Courtis. Contains 4,832 words and their variants, each word both printed and written, and illustrated with a picture and descriptive sentence. Published by Grosset and Dunlap.

\$1.98

Thorndike's Junior Dictionary

A dictionary designed especially for grade school and junior high school students. Well illustrated.

\$1.39

Pocket Books

A new series of complete reprints of standard works at a remarkably low price for uncondensed reprints. Some of the titles are: Tale of Two Cities, Show Boat, Wuthering Heights, Five Great Tragedies of Shakespeare, Lost Horizon, The Great Short Stories of de Maupassant, and many others.

Only 25 cents Each

Write for information about new reference books in any special field in which you are especially interested

THE UNIVERSITY BOOK EXCHANGE
UNION BUILDING
NORMAN, OKLAHOMA
CHARLES MILES, '22, Manager

Please send me postpaid the following books:

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

CITY.....STATE.....