

# Everybody's Aiming at the Sooners!

(Sports Review)



**D**ON'T be too high on the University of Oklahoma's sophomore football huskies this fall.

True, Coach Tom Stidham has some dandy new players and the Sooners, especially in the last half of the season are going to have a strong colorful team that nobody is going to kick around with impunity.

But don't expect Oklahoma to win all its games and don't be disappointed if the Sooners fail to repeat their Big Six championship. The odds are heavily against it. The 1938 season with all its thrills and pristine glory for Oklahomans is gone and so are several of the Sooner players who created it. This is 1939.

Probably you have heard that with backs like Jack Jacobs, Orville Matthews and Paul Woodson, the Sooners will be forty per cent stronger than last year and are a sure bet for another bowl assignment.

Well, that's wrong. Sophomore football players, even the ones who make the all-state honor rolls, are just like green bird dog puppies. A young pointer or setter has to be taught not to do too much ground scenting and not to run after flushed birds. They have to learn to honor another dog's point, to heel, lie down and to mind hand and whistle signals. An old, steady dog is worth half a dozen inexperienced pups. Sophomore footballers are the same way, generally speaking. They have to learn from scratch, too.

The futility of banking too heavily on sophomores was strikingly illustrated to Oklahoma fans eight years ago. In 1931 a corking sophomore crop consisting of Bob Dunlap, Bill Pansze, Swede Ellstrom, Pete Maloney, Jiggs Whittington, Smith Watkins, Henry Haag and Ellis Bashara became eligible at Oklahoma and everybody was jubilant. It looked (on paper) like a great year for the Sooners. And yet this team, lacking "game savy," was defeated seven times, an all-time Oklahoma low.

Adrian Lindsey, the coach, succinctly summed it up in mid-season when somebody asked him what was the matter with

the disappointing highly-touted Dunlap who later was to become the greatest Sooner triple threat of modern times.

"It's a long ways from Haskell High School to the Big Six Conference," was Lindsey's drawling reply and any school that builds its hopes too fondly upon sophomores will do well to ponder those sage words.

Last year everybody blindly picked Nebraska to win the Big Six championship. Biff Jones had the greatest Cornhusker freshman team in a decade to draw from and they looked great in spring practice. But lacking experience, they lost to Iowa State, Oklahoma and Missouri, defeating only Kansas and Kansas State.

Everybody will be gunning for the Sooners this fall because it's human nature to "gang up" on a champion. Bennie Owen, Oklahoma's beloved pigskin tutor from 1905 through 1926, knows all about that. Bennie's last championship team was his undefeated 1920 aggregation and he'll tell you himself that in 1921, everybody took picks on Oklahoma.

**T**HE Sooners that year were placed on three foe Homecoming dates and when the flow of Oklahoma blood had been staunch and the Oklahoma bruises bandaged, it was discovered the Sooners had been trimmed by Kansas State 7-14, licked by Missouri 14-24 and belted by Nebraska 0-44.

The same thing happened after each of Bennie's other championship teams. In 1909 Oklahoma yielded 110 points and dropped four games. In 1912 she gave up 80 points and four more lost games. In 1916 enemy teams counted 115 points on Oklahoma and the Sooners bowed to five foes. In 1919 Oklahoma only won half of her games. It's tough to be a defending champion.

This fall, it will be Oklahoma's turn to receive. Every coach is leveling down on the Sooners. Kansas State has changed her date with Kansas from Saturday to Friday and will have eight days rest for the Sooners. Missouri gave Oklahoma her Homecoming contest and Nebraska, which formerly preferred to spank the Sooners at Lincoln early in October so she could concentrate on Pitt and Notre Dame, has now shifted the Oklahoma date to the final Saturday of the season in Lincoln.

What will Oklahoma have this autumn with which to meet all this enemy concentration? How badly have graduation and injuries crippled Coach Tom Stidham's prancing charger from the Red-

*The gridman sprinting with the ball is Beryl Clark, from Cherokee, who is likely to see duty often in the Sooner backfield. Below is Johnny Martin, junior triple threat from Broken Bow, as he dropped in to try on his new 1939 game uniform*

# Sooner Football Roster for 1939

lands who last fall shot through the Big Six for five straight wins, scoring 90 points to its opponents 0?

Oklahoma's best selling point is the fact most of its first and second team lines will return. Waddy Young, 203-pound All-American right end whose skillfull blocking sprang Stidham's halves past the enemy tackles, is gone. So is Jim Thomas, a corking 207-pound guard. Jerry Bolton, outstanding defensive guard last year who threw foe backs for nearly 100 yards in losses but was out of the Tennessee clash with a smashed knee cap, may not be able to play. George Wilhelm, senior tackle, lost part of a finger in an oil field accident this summer.

But most of the other big forwards of last year, and also several sophomores, will be ready. Although the Orange Bowl defeat last January proved the Sooner line that afternoon lacked top-flight speed and blocking skill, no team returning twelve or fifteen husky forwards should be pushed around too freely in its own league.

The cruelest loss was in the Oklahoma backfield. Earl Crowder, versatile blocker; Otis Rogers, game little runner-passer; Gene Corrotto, dependable right half who caught twenty-one completed passes last fall; Raphael Boudreau, place kicking wizard who didn't miss a try for point until his senior year; and Hugh McCullough, triple threat quarterback who did practically all the signal-calling, power running and had the highest percentage of completed forward passes in the nation—all are gone.

Although the game with Lynn Waldorf's Northwestern Wildcats of the Big Ten conference at Evanston, Illinois, October 7 looms as the toughest on the schedule, the coaches are even more afraid of losing the opener with Southern Methodist's formidable Southwest Conference runners-up, coached by Mattie Bell, the Rose Bowl mentor.

Three hard-hitting Big Six Teams, Kansas State, Missouri and Nebraska, must be met consecutively away from Norman on the tail end of the schedule, and that may hurt. Texas and Oklahoma A. and M., coached by Dana Bible and Jim Lookabaugh, look like improved aggregations this autumn while Kansas, coached by foxy Gwin Henry who is back in the Big Six after an absence of eight years, may prove the dark horse of the loop.

So don't expect too much of Stidham's Sooners this fall. What the team does is up to the players and the coaches. The coaching staff, easily the strongest the school has ever had, will get a lot out of the green material. Of tremendous importance is the morale of the players themselves. Last year it blazed fiercely all along the route and a great season was the result. If the coaches are able to keep it flaring brightly this fall, another fine year is in prospect.

PLAYER	POSITION	WEIGHT	HEIGHT	CLASS	HOME
1Frank Ivy	end	190	6' 2"	senior	Skiatook
1John Shirk	end	197	6' 4"	senior	Oklahoma City
1Alton Coppage	end	185	6'	senior	Hollis
2Louis Hotchkiss	end	190	6' 1"	junior	Enid
Eddie Calvert	end	170	5' 10"	junior	Odessa, Tex.
Joe Tribbey	end	173	6' 1"	junior	Purcell
Lyle Smith	end	195	6' 1"	sophomore	Fairview
Louis Sharpe	end	200	6' 4"	sophomore	Checotah
Keith Rigney	end	180	6'	sophomore	Muskogee
Charles Starr	end	190	6' 3"	sophomore	Claremore
Ray Mullen	end	190	6' 2"	sophomore	Seminole
1Gilford Duggan	tackle	211	6' 2"	senior	Benton, Ark.
2Justin Bowers	tackle	212	6' 2"	junior	Waukegan, Ill.
2George Wilhelm	tackle	209	6' 2"	senior	Oklahoma City
2Harold Lahar	tackle	215	6'	junior	Oklahoma City
2Harold Edgeman	tackle	210	6' 3"	junior	Wilson
2Wright Phebus	tackle	208	6'	junior	Union City, Tenn.
Fred Borg	tackle	190	6' 1"	sophomore	Wewoka
Roger Eason	tackle	196	6' 1"	sophomore	Oklahoma City
Clovis Pierce	tackle	200	6' 2"	sophomore	Oklahoma City
1Ralph Stevenson	guard	185	5' 11"	senior	Ponca City
1Jerry Bolton	guard	190	5' 11"	senior	Quanah, Tex.
1J. R. Manley	guard	212	6'	senior	Hollis
1Norval Locke	guard	185	5' 11"	senior	Ardmore
2Bill LaRue	guard	172	5' 9"	senior	Tulsa
Olin Keith	guard	207	6'	sophomore	Hollis
Chad Vallance	guard	200	5' 11"	sophomore	Greenwood, Miss.
Allan Fender	guard	190	5' 11"	sophomore	Stroud
Harmon Graham	guard	200	5' 10"	sophomore	Holdenville
Harold Reed	guard	220	5' 9"	sophomore	Tulsa
Roscoe Miller	guard	170	5' 11"	sophomore	Norman
Willie Wick	guard	185	6'	sophomore	Muskogee
2Novel Wood	center	177	6' 1"	junior	Norman
2Clifton Speegle	center	176	6'	junior	Oklahoma City
Jack Marsee	center	185	6'	sophomore	Tulsa
Eugene Blalock	center	175	5' 10"	sophomore	Pauls Valley
1Bob Seymour	back	185	6' 2"	senior	Commerce
1Howard McCarty	back	170	5' 11"	senior	Pauls Valley
2Beryl Clark	back	162	5' 10"	senior	Cherokee
2Bill Jennings	back	175	6'	junior	Norman
2Dick Favor	back	185	6'	senior	Crescent
2Ed Spottswood	back	173	5' 9"	junior	Norman
2Bob West	back	180	6' 1"	junior	Dundee
2Johnny Martin	back	180	6' 1"	junior	Broken Bow
2Gus Kitchens	back	170	5' 11"	junior	Purcell
Merle Williams	back	178	6'	junior	Stroud
Tommy Myers	back	160	5' 9"	junior	Tyler, Tex.
Maury West	back	180	6'	sophomore	Oklahoma City
J. S. Munsey	back	164	5' 11"	sophomore	Norman
Wes Jones	back	190	6'	sophomore	Thomas
Marvin Whited	back	185	5' 10"	sophomore	Hollis
Paul Woodson	back	210	6'	sophomore	Oklahoma City
Ralph Harris	back	225	5' 10"	sophomore	Stroud
Jack Steele	back	190	6' 2"	sophomore	Lone Wolf
Byron Potter	back	205	6' 1"	transfer	Oklahoma City
Jack Jacobs	back	180	6' 1"	sophomore	Muskogee
Orville Matthews	back	163	5' 10"	sophomore	Chickasha
L. G. Friedrichs	back	160	5' 10"	sophomore	New Orleans, La.
Ralph Stufflebean	back	152	5' 7"	sophomore	Pauls Valley

1two letters.  
2one letter.

## SCHEDULE FOR 1939

- Sept 30 Southern Methodist at Norman.
- Oct. 7 Northwestern at Evanston, Ill.
- Oct. 14 Texas at Dallas, Tex.
- \*Oct 21 Kansas at Norman. (Dad's Day.)
- Oct. 28 Oklahoma Aggies at Norman. (Band Day.)
- \*Nov. 4 Iowa State at Norman. (Homecoming.)
- \*Nov. 11 Kansas State at Manhattan, Kans.
- \*Nov. 18 Missouri at Columbia, Mo.
- \*Nov. 25 Nebraska at Lincoln, Neb.

\*Big Six conference games.

## RECORD FOR 1938

- Oklahoma 7, Rice 6 at Houston, Texas
- Oklahoma 13, Texas 0 at Dallas, Tex.
- Oklahoma 19, Kansas 0 at Lawrence, Kans.
- Oklahoma 14, Nebraska 0 at Norman.

- Oklahoma 28, Tulsa 6 at Norman
- Oklahoma 26, Kansas Aggies 0 at Norman.
- Oklahoma 21, Missouri 0 at Norman.
- Oklahoma 10, Iowa State 0 at Ames, Iowa.
- Oklahoma 19, Oklahoma Aggies 0 at Stillwater.
- Oklahoma 28, Washington State 0 at Norman.
- Oklahoma 0, Tennessee 17 at Miami, Fla. (Orange Bowl.)

## FINAL BIG SIX STANDINGS 1938

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	Pts.
Oklahoma	5	0	0	1.000	90	0
Iowa State	3	1	1	.700	58	50
Missouri	2	3	0	.400	52	75
Nebraska	2	3	0	.400	47	49
Kansas State	1	3	1	.300	48	93
Kansas	1	4	0	.200	48	76

Note: Tie games count half game won and half game lost.