

Sports Review

By Harold Keith

BACK in 1901 Frank McCoy, University of Oklahoma sprinter from Sawyer, Kansas, ran 220 yards on a dirt track in the old Oklahoma Territorial meet at Norman in 21 seconds flat, a University record that stood for 38 years until April 14, 1939.

On that day George Koettel, spindly Sooner sophomore from Alex, Okla., ran the 220 yards in the 27th annual Aggie-Sooner dual meet on the cinders at Owen field in 20.5 seconds, defeating Eddie Toribio, the Sooners' Big Six conference indoor 60-yard champion, by eight yards, Lin Trueblood, another Sooner, nine yards, and Herschell "Sandstorm" Burris, big Aggie dash man, by eleven yards.

Koettel's time is all the more remarkable when it is considered that he never ran in competition before this year. At Alex, Oklahoma, High School where he attended his first three years, he never ran a step. At Chickasha, where he went his senior year, he wasn't eligible because of the high school residence rule but at the insistence of Leslie Bond, a friend, checked out a track suit anyhow and in his best trial run hit 10.1 seconds for 100 yards.

Koettel came to Oklahoma to study geology and as a freshman at the University last year came out for track only one day. He was still disgusted with the high school rule that deprived a boy who liked to run of a whole year's competition just because he moved to a new town.

However, last January he got another spell of running fever and wandered out to watch John Jacobs' Sooners go through their indoor paces beneath the west wing of Memorial stadium. Eligible for varsity track, he decided to check out a suit himself and from that time on he didn't miss a day of practice.

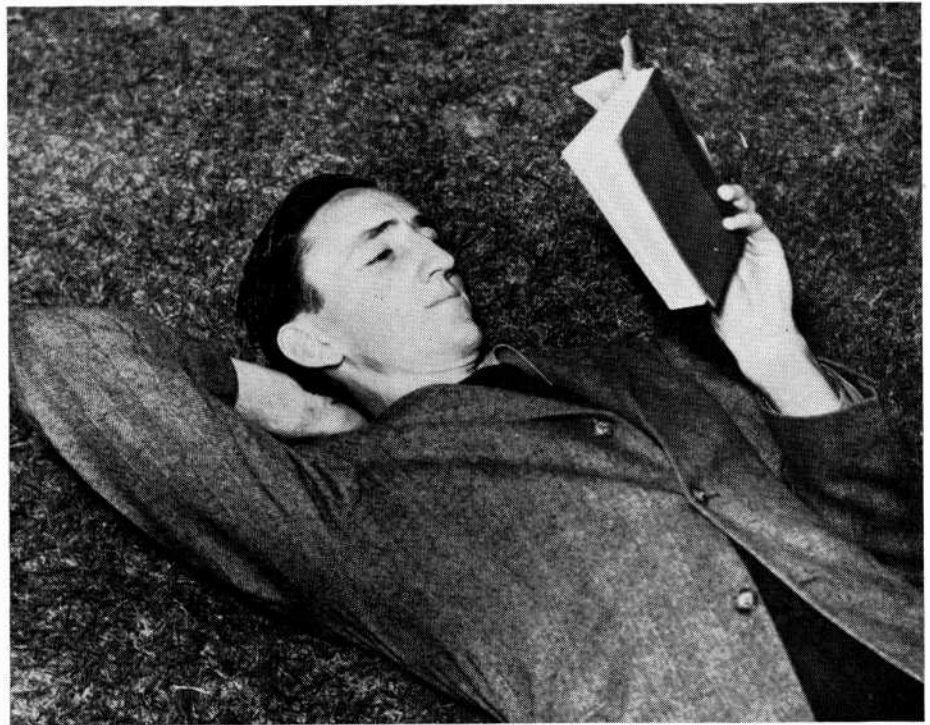
The first competition of his life was the 60-yard dash in the Varsity-Freshman indoor meet and he finished third in the 50-yard dash won by Eddie Toribio, Oklahoma's Big Six Indoor champion, in 5.3 seconds with Alton Coppage second.

His first varsity meet was at Lincoln, Nebraska, where the Sooners defeated the Nebraska Cornhuskers in a dual meet. However, Koettel, nervous at the starting line, was badly distanced in the 60-yard dash, failing to place, and after the race walked up to Jacobs and ruefully asked:

"Say, Jake, will I always be this scared at the start of a race?"

"Naw!" scoffed the Sooner coach, who always speaks frankly, "After you get your tail beat a few times you'll be all right."

Koettel had to grin at that candid assurance, which turned out to be true prophecy.



Although he doesn't look it in this relaxed session with a textbook, the young man above is the University of Oklahoma's new sophomore sprint sensation. His name is George Koettel and some of his performances this spring have been remarkable.

He kept running, and losing. In the Big Six indoor meet at Columbia, Missouri, Koettel was eliminated in the first heat of the 60 yards dash and had blown that 1,000-mile trip with about 6.6 seconds of very mediocre running.

But the experience was valuable. The Sooner squad moved outdoors where the dash distances are 100 yards and 220 yards, instead of the shorter indoor standard of 50 and 60. There Koettel came into his own. Twice before the Texas Relays he strode 220 yards in 21.3 seconds and at Austin ran a blistering 220-yard leg on the Sooner 880-yard relay team that defeated Rice, Oklahoma Aggies and Kansas State and won the Texas Relays championship in 1:26.1.

Koettel's next competition was the 27th annual Aggie-Sooner dual held in sun-flooded Owen field stadium on a windy day April 14. He won the 100 yards in 9.6 seconds after an exciting brush with little Toribio, breaking the old dual meet record and also establishing a new University of Oklahoma record, the old mark having been 9.7 seconds and held by four men, Ray Lindsey '24, Harold Adkison '28, Lawson Burke '36 and Ernest Haskell '38.

Then came the 220-yard dash. A stiff south wind blew at the runners' backs as they set their blocks at the south end of the

black cinder straightaway, so beautifully flanked by the well-groomed emerald turf of the Sooner athletic field. The white-shirted Sooner entries were Koettel, Toribio and Trueblood. Dale Akers and the formidable looking Burris, who had already made a show of the University's best 440 men, wore the black livery of the Stillwater squad and as the five sprinters crouched at the starting line, the 3,000 spectators standing in the stadium waited with hushed breath for the spout of white smoke from Starter Walter Kraft's shiny pistol.

After a false start the eager line of far-away runners bolted away evenly and a murmur of excitement arose from the spectators as they craned their necks to see.

It's hard to see what man is leading in the early part of a 220-yard race when the runners start so far away from the crowd huddled about the finish string. However, as the bobbing runners spun within the focus of the fans, Koettel was so far ahead that it looked like he had been set up ten yards ahead of the other runners before the race started. As he held to his withering pace, his opponents, heads thrown back and muscles taut under the strain of the futile pursuit, wilted so perceptibly that eight full yards separated Koettel and his nearest rival when the flying winner streaked through

the tightly stretched finish yarn and after jogging another 30 yards, turned with a shy grin to grasp the outstretched hands of his victims.

At the advise of Jacobs, Koettel sprinted the entire distance at top speed, instead of running it in the orthodox fashion of starting fast, then floating 50 or 60 yards, then finishing with everything. Jacobs figured Koettel could hold his sprinting form with the high wind carrying him along and the sprinter didn't break until five yards from the finish twine. Two watches caught him in 20.5 seconds, a third in 20.4.

"Run the first 100 your best and keep going!" was the coach's final admonition and Koettel obeyed orders.

The sophomore has peculiar sprinting form. He is a fast and steady starter with a sharp body lean, and an exaggerated hip action that reminds one of a worm hurrying along through the dust. Of course Koettel's progress is infinitely faster than that of the worm but you get the idea.

The Oklahoma Aggies, coached by youthful Ralph Higgins, formerly an Aggie quartermiler and a good one, defeated the Sooners in the dual meet, 70 to 61, but the meet wasn't decided until the final event of the day, the mile relay, which the Aggies won by three yards, thanks to well-run legs by Clarence Odell and Frank Dial.

The Farmers, possessing their most powerful aggregation of all time, probably would have gone home defeated had not the Sooners lost three members of their team just before the meet started. Jack Morris, Big Six indoor high hurdle champion, was out of the meet because of influenza. Duane Jones, Oklahoma A. A. U. low hurdle champion, ripped a leg muscle four days before the meet and couldn't hobble to the first hurdle. Dixie Howell, Sooner two-miler, was called to Butler, Oklahoma, because of the serious illness of his father and didn't compete. It was discouraging to Sooner fans to have to stand by idly and see the Aggies score 26 points to the Sooners' one in these three events.

R. V. Wright, great senior hurdler for the Farmers, won the high sticks in 14.3 seconds and the lows in 23.7 without being pressed in either. Forrest Efav, tireless striding little antelope who runs the distances for the Stillwater team, won the mile in 4:28.9 and the two-mile in 10:05.2 without pushing himself in the high wind. Burris licked the Sooners' best in the 440 in 49.5.

John Shirk, giant Sooner football player who last year won the Big Six discus championship as a sophomore, set a new University record by hurling the Greek platter 155 feet 11½ inches, a phenomenal hurl that eclipsed the former mark by more than ten feet.

Sooner outdoor records to date:

TRACK EVENTS

METERS

100 meters—10.6 by Eddie Toribio, 1938
600 meters—1:54.1 by Granville Barrett, 1936
1,500 meters—4:7.8 by Ray Gahan, 1938
3,000 meters—8:53.5 by Glen Dawson, 1931

3,000 meters steeplechase—10:9.6 by Harold Keith, 1928.
5,000 meters—15:29.7 by Floyd Lochner, 1936
10,000 meters—35:21.9 by Elwood Cleveland, 1936.
110 meters hurdles—14.5 by Herman Nelson, 1937
200 meters hurdles—23.7 by Duane Jones, 1938
400 meters hurdles—53.4 by Herman Nelson, 1936.

YARDS

100 yards—9.6 by George Koettel, 1939
220 yards by George Koettel, 1939
440 yards—48.9 by { Bart Ward, 1933
Granville Barrett, 1936
Thim Finley, 1938
880 yards—1:53.8 by Granville Barrett, 1938
1,000 yards—2:22.1, Loris Moody, 1935
Mile—4:19.8 by Floyd Lochner, 1935
2 Mile—9:26.2 by Floyd Lochner, 1935
2 Mile Steeplechase—10:1.6 by Floyd Lochner, 1936
120 yard high hurdles { Loyett Burk, 1935
—14.8 by { Herman Nelson, 1936
120 yards low hurdles—13.9 by Bill Newblock, 1933
220 yards low hurdles—23.7 by Jack Carmen, 1929
440 yards hurdles—55.6 by Herman Nelson, 1936

FIELD EVENTS

Shotput—49ft 1½ in. by Alfred Howell, 1932
Discus—155ft 11½ in. by John Shirk, 1939
Javelin—208ft. 2½ in. by Arthur Cox, 1925
Hammer—137ft. 8in. by Artie Reeds, 1909
High Jump—6ft. 6¼ in. by Douglas Barham, 1934
Broad jump—24ft. 5in. by Harold Morris, 1932
Hop, step and jump—45ft. 4½ in. by Harold Morris, 1932
Pole Vault—13ft. ¾ in. by John Bryce, 1929
Decathlon—7,422,846 pts by Tom Churchill, 1929

RELAY EVENTS

440 yards—41.9 by Don Adkison, Earl Baker, Jesse Hill, Cliff Mell, 1931
880 yards—1:26.1 by Fred Coogan, Lin Trueblood, George Koettel, Eddie Toribio, 1939
Mile—3:19.7 by Bob Moore, Bill Thompson, Loris Moody, Bart Ward, 1933
2 miles—7:58.3 by Dick Chaney, Granville Barrett, Denzil Boyd, Loris Moody, 1933
Sprint Medley—3:30 by Granville Barrett (440), Thim Finley (220), Ernest Haskell (220), Ray Gahan (880), 1938
1½ miles Medley—7:32.2 by Ben Taylor (440), Harold Adkison (220), Russell Carson (880), Harold Keith (mile), 1928
2½ miles Medley—10:26.4 by Bart Ward (440), Dick Chaney (880), Loris Moody (1,320), Floyd Lochner (mile), 1935
480 meters shuttle hurdles—1:3.4 by Bob Butler, Herman Helson, Elmo Hewes, Loyett Burke, 1935



Baseball record good

Although Coach Lawrence "Jap" Haskell hadn't been able to do much coaching because of his duties as line mentor of the Sooner spring football squad, his Sooner baseball team has made a nice start, winning five of eight games.

The Sooners opened at Manhattan, Kansas, dividing two Big Six games with Kansas

State. Oklahoma lost the first game, 5 to 6, but won the second, 6 to 2, behind steady hurling by Sophomore R. B. Deal, Jr.

Oklahoma then took a four-game road trip into Texas, dividing two games with Baylor. The Sooners won the first, 5 to 1, behind Sophomore Johnny Heath's fine hurling, but lost the second, 6 to 9. Tommy Fine's pitching and the hitting of Witt and Lummus were Baylor features.

Haskell's squad continued down to Austin to meet "Uncle Billy" Disch's Texas Longhorns, Southwest conference champions who annually whale the dickens out of the barnstorming big league clubs. Oklahoma won the first game, 14 to 12, with Second-Baseman Joe Gullede collecting four hits, but Texas's hard-hitting team won the second, 11 to 1. Their first three hitters, Haas, Moers and P. Fiel, belted 13 hits in this game.

Returning home, the Sooners trimmed the Oklahoma Aggies, 6 to 2, behind Jim Pope's pitching, quelling the Farmer hitters with three fast double plays. Shortstop Crosby, Sooner sophomore from Tulsa, got three stinging hits and drove in two runs.

The Sooners also won a night game from the Farmers at Stillwater April 15, coming from behind an Aggie lead of 6 to 4 with a six-run rally in the ninth to win, 10 to 6.



Tennis

The Oklahoma tennis team, made up of three sophomores, Ed Lindsey, Oklahoma City; Walter Mead, Norman, and E. P. Litchfield, Chickasha, and one junior, Johnny Powell, defeated Baylor, tied the South-eastern State Teachers' college team of Durant and lost to the North Texas Teachers of Denton.

Addition of Gene Roop, Tulsa junior who is late getting started this season because of late participation in basketball, should strengthen the squad for the important meets against the powerful Edmond Teachers and the Oklahoma Aggies and the Big Six meet at Ames Iowa late in May.

Coach Leslie Hewes is bringing the young Sooner team along nicely.



Two polo victories

Capt. L. R. Wingfield's Oklahoma polo team was undefeated in its spring schedule at this writing, having conquered Texas Aggies 10-0 and beaten the Oklahoma Military academy at Claremore, 5 to 4.

Jim Hester at 1, Alex Cheek and Bill Aycock at 2, Jerry Galbreath at 3 and Harry Hill at 4 comprise the Sooner first string.



Golfers win two

Another formidable Sooner golf team is being developed by Bruce Drake, basketball coach. On the first road trip of the year, the Sooner golfers beat Kansas and Nebraska handily.

Billy Craig, Tom Gable, Vic Johnston, Rex Edwards, Marvin Mesch and Tommy Trower are players Drake hopes to take to the National Collegiate at Des Moines, Iowa, in June.

FASTEST 220-YARD DASHES EVER RUN BY SOONERS

1939—20.5s by George Koettel.
1901—21s by Frank McCoy.
1932—21.1s by Clifford Mell.
1906—21.2s by John Darling.
1924—21.5s by Wilford Morse.