

Sports Review

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View of Sooner-Tennessee game in Orange Bowl at Miami, Florida, showing two forward walls crashing into each other

WHILE Oklahoma football fans still are wondering what hit the undefeated Sooner football team at Miami, where it dropped an Orange bowl game to Tennessee, 17 to 0, Coach Tom Stidham already is thinking about Spring practice and next season.

After the loss, the first in 15 games for the Big Six champions, Stidham had only this comment to make to reporters, "I've got just one thing to say boys. We had to get it sometime and we got it today. We'll just rub this off and start next year against S. M. U."

No one has been able yet to give a satisfactory answer as to just what happened to the Sooners, pride of the Big Six and Missouri Valley sector, in that January 2 game at Miami. Although Tennessee had by far the best team met by the red-shirted Sooners all year and the best team on the field that day, Oklahoma put on perhaps its worst exhibition of the year.

The game was marred all the way through by rough play and penalties, with both sides giving and taking in one of the hardest games ever fought.

Tennessee was brilliant. No team could have beaten the Vols that day. It was the opinion of practically every writer present that the victors were the best

team in the nation and could have taken care of other bowl winners without trouble.

The blocking of the orange-shirted Tennessee team was unbelievable to Sooner fans, who thought that the blocking of the Oklahoma team was perfection itself. On every play a horde of Tennessee men seemed to pop up out of the ground and mow the Sooners down.

But while the Oklahomans were having trouble functioning as a team, several players turned in outstanding individual performances, and Hugh McCullough, triple-threat back, was especially bright.

Here is what Sid Feder, Associated Press writer, had to say about McCullough's performance:

"It was Hugh McCullough, as game a grider as ever came down the pike, who played the hero's role all the way for the Sooners.

"He played 58 of the 60 minutes and did about everything one man could do to stop the terrific Tennesseans. The only trouble was there weren't 10 others like him on the field for Oklahoma this warm afternoon.

"He passed, he ran, he kicked (and how) and he played plenty of defense. Then, two minutes before the finish, when

the scoreboard showed 17-0 and nothing mattered any more, Tom Stidham took him out.

"Both packed sides of this colorful Orange bowl boomed applause as he limped off. His right leg was hurt, one sleeve of his jersey had been ripped clear out, but one and all admitted that young Mr. McCullough was quite a lad with that pigskin."

Jim Hopkins, sports editor of the *Oklahoma News*, also had praise for the performances of McCullough and several other Sooner players. Here is what he had to say:

"Despite the brilliance of those two Tennessee backs (Wood and Cafego), two major football coaches said Hugh McCullough of Oklahoma was the best player on the field. I have thought all season that McCullough is the most underrated player of the year.

"He stayed in Monday's rough contest 58 minutes. While there, he did all of the kicking, passing, signal-calling; most of the ball carrying and much of the tackling. He took some severe jolts and came back for more.

"Dick Favor, a reserve blocking back; Guard Ralph Stevenson; Frank Ivy, reserve end; were other Sooners whose

work stood out against a preponderance of brilliance on the Tennessee side."

While Tennessee was ripping down the field for long gains, Oklahoma's attack, which had been good all year for a touch-down or two when necessary, never did get started.

Handicapped from the start by the absence of two of their best running backs, Howard "Red Dog" McCarty and Bill Jennings, the Sooners lost another valuable asset right at the start when Earl Crowder, senior blocking back, was injured.

And while the running game was slowed down to a trot, Coach Tom Stidham's boys also had trouble getting their passing attack to functioning. Finally, when it didn't really matter, the Sooners drove down to the Vols 19-yard marker with a series of sharp passes, but it just wasn't their day, and the attack bogged down.

But while the football team had a disastrous day, Oklahomans who made the 1,500-mile trip to Miami were treated to a colorful spectacle at the game. Here is how one writer described it:

"—A holiday pageant so packed full of color that it looked like a carefully-designed Hollywood set, was set in motion by the parading bands in red, orange, white, blue, yellow, green, totaling 1,700 players."

The 150-piece Sooner band just about stole the show in pre-game parading. It was chosen as the official bowl band and led the parade on the Saturday before the game. The efficiency and sportsmanship of the Sooner band was widely praised, by Tennessee partisans as well as by neutral observers in Miami.

Seven Sooner players made their last appearance on the gridiron in an Oklahoma uniform in the Tennessee game. They are McCullough, Waddy Young, all-American end; Jim Thomas, guard; and Gene Corrotto, Crowder, Otis Rogers, and Raphael Boudreau, backs.

Basketball race close

With football out of the way until Spring practice begins about March 1, the eyes of Sooner sports fans have turned to the Big Six basketball race, which has developed into one of the dizziest and most interesting in league history.

Although the conference race is just getting started, as this is written, every team has lost at least one game, and Kansas' defending champions, who usually dominate the race, have lost twice.

Oklahoma made a brilliant conference debut under a new coach, Bruce Drake, star basketball performer for the Sooners in 1927, 1928 and 1929, with a victory over Kansas, 43 to 31.

The victory was the first scored at Norman over the powerful Jays since 1933, and was accomplished with two veterans, Marvin Mesch and Roscoe Walker, riding the bench with injuries. Two sopho-

mores, Garnett Corbin, speed demon from Oklahoma City, and Herb Scheffler, Springfield, Illinois, product, sparked the attack.

Corbin rang up 16 points to pace the scoring, while Scheffler worked both backboards handily and still found time to score 11 points. Jimmy McNatt, all-Big Six forward as a sophomore last year, played a brilliant floor game and made several baskets possible with his uncanny passing.

On their first conference road trip, the Sooners followed the example of other conference teams and lost two successive games, to Missouri and Iowa State.

After leading the Bengals from Missouri throughout, the speedy Sooners suddenly found themselves with both Scheffler and Corbin on the bench for excessive fouling. They had a nine-point lead with only 10 minutes remaining, but Missouri suddenly went wild, and won out in an overtime battle.

Before they had time to recover from this shock, the young Oklahomans journeyed over to Iowa State and did everything wrong all night. As a result they lost again, this time 51 to 42.

McNatt is at his usual place at the head of the class in the scoring column with 83 points in the first nine games, although Corbin has the lead in conference battles and stands fourth among Big Six high scorers.

Other sports

Basketball is not getting all of the attention of coaches and players, however, for both the wrestling and swimming teams have outlined ambitious schedules and were to swing into action immediately after first semester examinations were out of the way.

The wrestling team already has met the

Northwestern Teachers and handed the Tahlequah team a terrific lacing, 36 to 0, although five sophomores were in the lineup for Paul V. Keen.

Among the newcomers are Bennie Young, 121 pounds, Tulsa; Herbert Barnett, 136 pounds, Ponca City; Mason Smarr, 155 pounds, Clinton; J. D. Barrow, 165 pounds, Norman; James Miles, 175 pounds, Sapulpa; and Arthur Freeman, 175 pounds, Oklahoma City.

Returning veterans include Hoy Stone, Big Six 128-pound champion; Gene Ross, 145-pound senior; Charles Robertson, 155-pound junior; and Waddy Young, unlimited.

The complete schedule includes:

Feb. 3. Central Teachers at Norman.
Feb. 10. Oklahoma Aggies at Stillwater.
Feb. 14. Southwestern Teachers at Norman.
Feb. 20. Franklin and Marshall at Lancaster, Pa.
Feb. 22. Kent university at Kent, Ohio.
Feb. 24. Kansas State at Manhattan, Kan.
March 3. Central Teachers at Edmond.
March 10, 11. Big Six meet at Ames.
March 17. Oklahoma Aggies at Norman.
March 24, 25. National Collegiate meet.

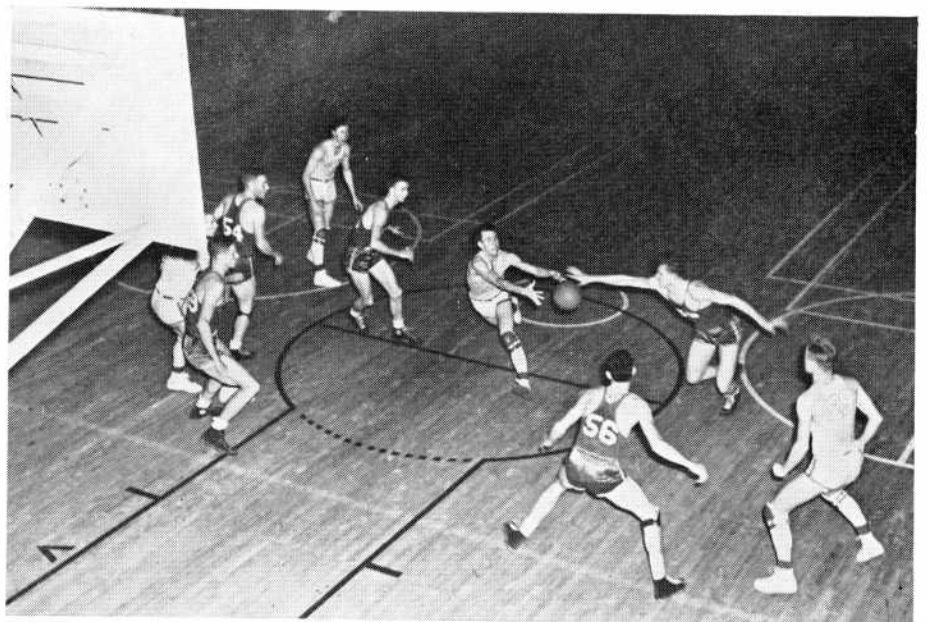
Erskine coaches swimmers

Swimming, an orphan sport until last year, received a big boost recently when Robert "Doc" Erskine, freshman football coach, was appointed coach for the mermen. Erskine, however, will act only in an advisory capacity, with Bill Clegren, student swimmer doing most of the actual coaching.

The schedule outlined by Clegren includes five dual meets and the Big Six swim, with another dual with the Oklahoma Aggies slated to be added later.

Here is the incomplete schedule:

Jan. 28. Tulsa at Norman.
Feb. 11. Oklahoma A. and M. at Stillwater.
Feb. 14. Kansas State at Norman.
Feb. 24. Kansas State at Manhattan.
March 3 and 4. Big Six Meet at Lincoln, Neb.



Modern basketball is one of the fastest, most strenuous sports. The above picture, made during the Sooner-Kansas game last month, is an unusually clear action shot.