



*Herb Scheffler, Oklahoma's new 6-foot 3-inch junior center. A transfer student from Springfield, Illinois, has two more years to play*

## Sports Review

by

Harold Keith, '29

**H**UGH McDERMOTT'S retirement from the basketball coaching job at the University of Oklahoma to accept the professorship of the department of physical education for men may mean that Sooner caging teams will adopt a new offensive vogue.

McDermott's colorful squads usually have employed the fast break to almost total exclusion of any other style. The Scotchman's chief reasons for coaching this mode were two-fold, first his playing material usually was too small and too light for any other type of game, and second, he has always favored speed over the slow break because basketball crowds everywhere liked it so well.

"Basketball fans like to see speed and scoring," McDermott always has contended. "They don't care so much for the slower more deliberate screening game." And

crowd statistics at Norman bear him out. Spectators attending a game in which McDermott's Sooners played always came away as limp and spent and hoarse as the players themselves and yet with expressions of unspeakable enjoyment on their faces. The Scotchman's speedy Sooner teams always gave them their money's worth and ten times more thrills than any other team they ever saw.

This doesn't mean that McDermott-coached Oklahoma teams haven't been able to screen. The Boy Scats, as the whizzing Sooner basketball team of last year that set a new Big Six scoring record of 45.6 points per game was known, showed they could guard and screen with the best of them when they beat Hank Iba's Oklahoma Aggies, a veteran senior aggregation, at their own deliberate game before 6,338 people at Norman last February, 31 to 28. But the

little Scotchman has always preferred to coach the vastly more thrilling fast-break style.

And McDermott's teams showed that there is much more to a fast breaking attack than just blind aimless speed. When three or four Oklahomans in possession of the ball would converge down upon two startled enemy defenders, the white-jersied Sooners knew how to employ superb feinting and passing finesse to open the scoring lanes. Also they could thread the eye of the goal while traveling toward it on a dead run from any oblique the defense forced them to. McDermott's "sprint for the bucket" game always had a delightful finesse of its own, and, it always seemed to me, a difficult one. It is lots harder to feed the ball accurately on a dead run than if the players are slowed down and set.

However, Bruce Drake, the young fellow

who has succeeded McDermott as tutor of Sooner teams, may change up the traditional Sooner style of play. This requires explanation since Drake played under McDermott; cut his eye teeth on the sensational Sooner fast break, and therefore might be expected to coach the same fashion of play he got his schooling in.

Perhaps one explanation is the fact that after his graduation, Drake played with an Oklahoma City independent club against some of the fastest independent teams of the Nation. These squads all were made up of older, more experienced players who were skilled users of the rougher blocking game and lacked the youth and dash and hot impetuosity that so characterize the bolting college fives.

Drake became adept at this slower, surer style of play and liked it for its soundness. He also likes the quick break style and his system at Oklahoma probably will be a blending of the two that will vary in proportion to what the opponent does.

How will the Drake system be reflected out on the court? The Sooners probably won't compile quite as many high scores as formerly, but neither will the Oklahoma opponents. The crowds will still see Sooner teams fast-breaking more than any other squad in the Big Six, but they will also see Oklahoma teams that will take fewer chances, screen the ball in more and guard tenaciously.

Mastery of the new style naturally will require time. For instance in the opening game with Colorado's Rocky Mountain Champions at Boulder, Colorado, December 16 and 17, Drake's boys were whipped the first night, 52 to 40, and contributed prominently to their own downfall by attempting long solo dashes up the floor and not trying to guard or screen when the occasion presented itself.

However the Sooners changed their tactics the second night, freezing the ball and refusing to relinquish it unless their deliberate probing of the Colorado defense revealed a reasonably good scoring opportunity. Oklahoma won, 33 to 29, and it was Colorado's first defeat on its home floor in three years.

The Sooner cagers lost only Bill Martin from their last year's team and have back lettermen Jimmy McNatt, all-Big Six forward, Marvin Mesch, Roscoe Walker, Jr., Marvin Snodgrass, Ben Kerr, Gene Roop, Bill Haugh and Vernon Mullens; and also Ralph Bollinger, Norman; Garnett Corbin, Oklahoma City; Matt Zollner, Oklahoma City; Hugh Ford, Billings; and Bill Richards, Okmulgee, sophomores, and Herb Scheffler, Springfield, Illinois, a transfer. However, despite its experience the squad still lacks the height and weight under both backboards that it needed so sorely last year.

#### Injuries are handicap

As this is written Coach Tom Stidham's Oklahoma football team, all-victorious through the regular span of its ten-game schedule, is in the midst of its training for the Orange Bowl encounter with Major Bob

#### BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

\*Jan. 7 Kansas at Norman.  
 \*Jan. 14 Missouri at Columbia.  
 \*Jan. 16 Iowa State at Ames.  
 \*Jan. 28 Nebraska at Norman.  
 Feb. 2 Oklahoma Aggies at Norman.  
 \*Feb. 4 Kansas State at Norman.  
 \*Feb. 11 Missouri at Norman.  
 Feb. 16 Oklahoma Aggies at Stillwater.  
 \*Feb. 18 Iowa State at Norman.  
 \*Feb. 25 Kansas at Lawrence.  
 \*March 4 Nebraska at Lincoln.  
 \*March 6 Kansas State at Manhattan.

\*Big Six conference games.

Neyland's Tennessee Vols, all-victorious Southeastern conference champions, January 2 at Miami, Florida.

The Sooner team will be crippled for this game in that it lost three first-string players by injuries in its last two games of the season. Howard "Red" McCarty, hard-running junior back from Pauls Valley, broke his thigh while attempting to field a punt during the Sooners' 19-0 triumph over the Oklahoma Aggies November 26 at Stillwater. Bill Jennings, crack sophomore right half, sustained a compound fracture of his ankle during Oklahoma's 28-0 trouncing of Washington State December 3 at Norman, and Jerry Bolton, tough left guard who had thrown enemy backs for more than 100 yards in losses already this season, suffered a split kneecap in the same game. All three will be out of the Tennessee game and may miss spring practice.

The Sooners defeated Babe Hollingbery's Washington State Cougars of the Pacific Coast conference by a much greater score than did any team on the Coast. Howard Jones' Southern California Trojans, who recently beat Notre Dame and will play Duke in the Rose Bowl, defeated Washington State only 19-6 at Los Angeles and the score was tied until the fourth period. California trimmed the Cougars 27-3 and Stanford only 8-0.

In spite of the loss of McCarty, Jennings and Bolton, the Sooners should give Tennessee a terrific game. The Vols are primarily a running team but they should find it difficult to run over Oklahoma's big line that has allowed opponents an average of only 40.6 yards rushing per game this year. If the Vols blossom into a forward passing threat at Miami, they should find Oklahoma ready for that style of play too because no team Oklahoma has played this year has been able to pass with impunity against the fiercely rushing Sooner forwards and the alert backs in the Oklahoma secondary.

The Oklahoma record this year:

Sooners . . . . .	7,	Rice . . . . .	6
Sooners . . . . .	13,	Texas . . . . .	0
Sooners . . . . .	19,	Kansas . . . . .	0
Sooners . . . . .	14,	Nebraska . . . . .	0
Sooners . . . . .	28,	Tulsa . . . . .	6
Sooners . . . . .	26,	Kans. State . . . . .	0
Sooners . . . . .	21,	Missouri . . . . .	0
Sooners . . . . .	10,	Iowa State . . . . .	0
Sooners . . . . .	19,	Okl. Aggies . . . . .	0
Sooners . . . . .	28,	Wash. State . . . . .	0
			12
	185		

Going into the Tennessee game, Oklahoma had won 14 consecutive football triumphs under the tutelage of its new coach, Tom Stidham.

#### National fame for Young

Roland "Waddy" Young, Oklahoma's 203-pound senior right end from Ponca City, was named on practically every All-American team chosen in the Nation this year, including all the more prominent ones such as Grantland Rice's *Collier's* selection, and that of the Associated Press. In selecting the Sooner on his *Collier's* All-American, Rice said of Young:

"Some ends are fine defensively, not so strong on offense. Some are star offensive ends. In Roland Young of Oklahoma we have a star who combines both qualities—a great blocker on offense—a fine pass receiver and one of the few skilled in the use of the forward-lateral; one of the best at rushing a passer. A rugged, 60-minute type of player. Young won 13 of 15 wrestling matches on the side, to show his versatility."

#### Statistics

Following are statistics on the complete 1938 football season, not including the Orange Bowl contest:

	Total Yards	Okla.	Opp.
Yards rushing (net) . . . . .	1330	406	
Forward passing . . . . .	1101	539	
Lateral passing . . . . .	36	19	
Punt returns . . . . .	616	229	
Kickoff returns . . . . .	287	431	
Intercepted passes . . . . .	228	134	
	3598	1758	

#### Individual Leaders

Forward passing—McCullough completed 69 of 109 for 637 yards and 63.3%.  
 Rushing, most yards—McCullough 383.  
 Rushing, best average—Jennings 4.10 yards per carry.  
 Most passes caught—Jennings 22.  
 Most pass interceptions—Rogers 5.  
 Most yards laterals—McCarty 25.  
 Most yards punt returns—McCarty 216.  
 Most yards kickoff returns—Crowder 138.  
 Most yards, total gains—Seymour 608.  
 Most blocked punts—one each by Shirk, Ivy and Young.

#### Life-Time Records All Oklahoma Coaches

(ranked by percentage of victories)

Coach	Tenure	Won	Lost	Tied	Pct.
Tom Stidham	1937-1938	15	2	2	.882
Verne Parrington	1897-1900	9	2	1	.818
Bennie Owen	1905-1926	128	52	13	.711
Mark McMahan	1902-1903	10	5	3	.667
Biff Jones	1935-1936	9	6	3	.600
Fred Roberts	1901	3	2	0	.600
Frank Ewing	1904	4	3	1	.571
Adrian Lindsay	1927-1932	19	19	6	.500
Lewie Hardage	1932-1934	11	12	4	.478
John A. Harts	1895	0	1	0	.000

#### Sooners at Carnegie

Five O. U. graduates are teaching in the new \$90,000 school plant at Carnegie. Faye Hartman, '37, and Ruth Truitt, '35, are teaching in the junior high school. Essie Lee, '38ma, Sterling Gaylord, '37, and Ethel Dunlap, '30ma, are teaching in the high school and the newly established junior college.