



University of Oklahoma tennis players say Oklahoma Aggie cowbells gave them as much trouble as the Aggie players during their recent 1-5 defeat to the Aggies at Stillwater. Every time a Sooner started to hit a ball, one of the 500 hilarious Aggie rooters rattled a cowbell and many a Sooner drive was fouled over the backstop as a result. Although this was unusual tennis ethics, Coach Hewes' Sooners weren't caught napping when the Aggies came to Norman for the return match. All week prior to the match, the Sooners practiced with their freshman squad ringing cowbells on the sideline—just in case. However, the Stillwater team was unaccompanied by its rooters and with everything quiet as a tomb, the Sooners won 5-2. In the picture Bill Tenhagen (left), Sooner No. 3, rings two cowbells in the large ears of E. P. Litchfield, Jr., Sooner No. 4

# Sports Review

By Harold Keith

**T**HE University of Oklahoma won its eighth Big Six conference all-sports championship of the past 12 years this spring, finishing first with a low total of 25 points in the ten recognized conference sports to 32½ for Nebraska, 33½ for Kansas State, 34 for Iowa State, 39½ Missouri and 45½ for Kansas.

Sooner athletic teams winning outright championships were Coach Leslie Hewes' tennis team, which has won the title four of the five years Hewes has coached, and Coach Jap Haskell's baseball team. Coach Bruce Drake's Sooner basketball team tied Kansas and Missouri for the cage title.

Oklahoma also won all-sports crowns of the old Missouri Valley conference in 1927 and 1928, the Sooner's last two years in that league, to make it 10 all-sports titles in the last 14 seasons, a record that speaks very highly of the university's athletic program and its splendid coaching staff which is second to none in the nation.

The above compilation does not include polo, which isn't an official conference sport, although Oklahoma's fine polo team, coached by Capt. L. R. Wingfield, also dominated the Big Six, defeating Iowa State and Missouri both at home and away without losing a match. Only Oklahoma, Iowa State and Missouri play polo in the Big Six conference.

The Big Six all sports table for the school year 1939-40:

	OKLA.	NEB.	K. S.	I. S.	MO.	KANS.
football	3	2	5	5	1	5
basketball	2	5	5	5	2	2
outdoor track	2	1	3	6	4	5
baseball	1	5	2	4	3	6
swimming	4	3	2	1	6	5
wrestling	3	4	1	2	5½	5½
indoor track	5	1	4	3	2	6
2-mile race	2	6	1	4	5	3
golf	2	3½	6	1	5	3½
tennis	1	2	4½	3	6	4½
<b>totals</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>32½</b>	<b>33½</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>39½</b>	<b>45½</b>

## Graduations

As usual, the university bade goodbye to a swell crop of senior athletes this spring. Among the departing top-notchers in the various sports are:

**FOOTBALL**—Capt. Norval Locke, Frank Ivy, John Shirk, Alton Coppage, Gilford Duggan, George Wilhelm, Ralph Stevenson, Jerry Bolton, J. R. Manley, Bob Seymour, Dick Favor, Byron Potter and Beryl Clark.

**BASKETBALL**—Capt. Marvin Mesch, Jimmy McNatt, Marvin Snodgrass and Herb Scheffler.

**TRACK**—Ray Gahan, Jack Morris, Albert Tone, McNatt, Shirk and Potter.

**BASEBALL**—Jimmy Pope, Scheffler, Pop-eye Lasater, Sam Blackwell, Jack Riley, Carol Berryman and Roy Myer.

**SWIMMING**—Ed Ham.

**WRESTLING**—Harry James and Choc-taw Smith.

**TWO-MILE RACE**—Gahan.

**GOLF**—Mesch.

**POLO**—Jerry Galbreath, Alex Cheek and Harry Hill.

## Baseball

Baseball was the most popular sports dish at Norman for spring sports fans and reached its climax in the widely-heralded games here May 6 and 7 with Uncle Billy Disch's University of Texas Longhorns who had won 16 of 17 games including a 13-7 licking of the Toledo Mudhens of the American association and 11-10 and 7-3 spankings of the Tulsa Oilers of the Texas league prior to their invasion of Norman.

Oklahoma won the first game 6 to 5 behind Jimmy Pope's gifted half-speed ball, moving the winning runs across the rubber on three consecutive squeeze bunts, the last off Mel Deutsch, giant Texas ace, who beat the Philadelphia Phillies of the National league 4 to 1 last year and has never lost a game in a Texas uniform. Deutsch came in as a relief twirler in the fourth inning and did not receive credit for the defeat.

Texas's savage hitting power burst in the very first inning when the speedy Charley Haas beat out a bouncer off Pope's glove, Jack Stone singled to center, Capt. Clarence Pfiel sacrificed and Bobby Moers railed a home run down the left field foul line but the Sooners tied the score 3-3 in their half and went on to win with finesse despite the Texas hitting superiority.

Oklahoma also won the second game. Trailing 4 to 6 in the ninth when Pfiel put Texas ahead with a long home run

with Stone on, the Sooners staged a three-run rally in the last of the ninth featuring bunts, walks and a long fly by Jack Riley that drove in the winning run. Again such Sooner strategy as the sacrifice, the hit-and-run, speed on the base-paths and Coach Haskell's policy of teaching his batsmen how to wait out enemy pitchers prevailed over Texas's murderous slugging as the largest crowds of the season came to see the vaunted Longhorns play at Norman for the first time in 26 years.

After the series, the *Daily Texan*, student newspaper for the Longhorns, said of the series:

"The Longhorns' heart-breaking series with the Sooners received a big play in the *Daily Oklahoman*, the Oklahoma City newspaper. Several pictures were taken of both games and nearly half the sports page was devoted to the game and side-lights. The newspaper billed the series as 'The College World Series of 1940' and if the Sooners can take the Longhorns twice in a row, they must have a team worthy to receive high honors."

Texas had defeated the Sooners 8 to 6 at Austin in March.

If an all-opponents team composed from the colleges who played at Norman this spring were selected, it would probably include:

outfield—Haas, Texas  
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 outfield—Landrum, Oklahoma Aggies  
 third base—Moers, Texas  
 shortstop—Hornsby, Kansas State  
 second base—Stone, Texas  
 first base—Haley, Baylor  
 catcher—Doyle, Oklahoma Aggies  
 pitcher—Deutsch, Texas  
 pitcher—Williams, Oklahoma Aggies  
 pitcher—Barnes, Baylor

The final Sooner hitting averages for the season just ended showed that Popeye Lasater, senior second baseman, led the club in hitting with .420 while Third Baseman Jack Riley was probably the most valuable player other than pitchers with the most hits, triples, homers, extra-base hits and runs batted in.

The Sooner averages reveal that Haskell's team hit only .279 yet made 201 hits get 146 runs, stole 54 bases and laid down 26 sacrifices. Every player on the squad could bunt, eleven men sacrificed at least once during the season, including all four of the pitchers.

## Polo

Captain Wingfield's Sooner polo team won 15 consecutive games this spring, and also established the all-time-record of having only one contest washed out by rain, before going down in the season's finale before the University of Arizona's great 10-goal outfit at Hal Niemann field in Norman before 2,500 spectators, 10 to 7.

The Sooners defeated the University of Illinois twice, Texas Aggies twice, New Mexico Military Academy twice, Oklahoma Military Academy four times, Iowa



Here are the coach and star of Oklahoma's great polo team this spring, Capt. L. R. Wingfield (left) and Jerry Galbreath, senior No. 3 from Tulsa

State twice, Missouri twice and the Fort Sill field artillery team once before bowing to Arizona, and particularly to Arizona's great No. 4, Bob Dent, and her clever No. 3, little Charley Mosse.

The Oklahoma team of 1940 ranked close to the greatest team ever developed at the university, the all-victorious 1931 and 1932 outfits which had a great No. 2 in J. Brac McKinley (who died of a tooth infection a few weeks ago while commanding a C.C.C. encampment near Sentinel, Oklahoma) and a swell back in Joe Barnhill.

## Tennis

The Sooner tennis team won five of the six championship brackets in the Big Six meet at Lincoln. Ed Lindsey triumphing in the No. 1 singles, Walter Mead in No. 2 and Bill Tenhagen in No. 4 which he swept with the loss of but three games in six sets.

The Lindsey-Mead and Bob Davis-Tenhagen doubles combinations also won.

All the Sooner tennis players will be back next year.

## Track

Hexed all year by injuries, Coach John Jacobs took his handful of Sooner trackmen to Lincoln, Nebraska, for the annual Big Six meet and surprisingly finished second to Nebraska, the Cornhuskers counting 58½ to Oklahoma's 49 with Kansas State third, Missouri fourth, Kansas fifth and Iowa State sixth.

George Koettel, the "Alex Arrow," won the 100 and 220 yard dashes for the Sooners, defeating in both races Gene

"Red" Littler, Nebraska's sensational sophomore National A. A. U. Junior 200-meter champion and co-holder of the American indoor record for 300 yards. In his Friday's trials, Koettel broke the Big Six record for 220 yards around one curve, doing 21.3 seconds. However when he defeated Littler four yards in Saturday's finals, Koettel ran against a stiff north wind and his time was only 22.6 seconds.

Five over-worked but game Sooners, Koettel, Ray Gahan, Bill Lyda, Dick Smethers and Fred Coogan, scored 36 points in track events alone, the Sooners winning the mile relay by 20 yards.

Orv Mathews, sophomore sprinter, could not go because of a torn leg muscle while Jack Morris, Oklahoma's Big Six indoor high hurdle champion, was also unplaced because of a recent appendectomy. These injuries also cost Oklahoma the dual meet with the Oklahoma Aggies at Stillwater, and probable championships in the Drake Relays 440, 880 and sprint medley relays.

## Postscripts

Shorts... Bruce Drake's Sooner golf team, with three sophomores on the roster, raised the number of university's consecutive dual golf wins to 30 this spring... Coach Jap Haskell's Sooner baseball teams have won 31 consecutive Big Six games at Norman since losing a 14-16 slugfest to Kansas seven years ago... Tom Stidham, Sooner athletic director, lobbied hard for adoption of the rule to let junior college athletes compete at Norman in their first year of enrolment (a rule now in force in the Southwest, Missouri Valley and Pacific Coast leagues) but the Big Six faculty men refused to pass it.