

Sports Review

By Harold Keith

GOLF was the University's most successful spring sport through March and April.

Coach Bruce Drake's Sooner daisy-trampers had not only thumped six consecutive opponents this spring, but at this writing had won 25 consecutive dual meets since their last defeat to the powerful Stanford team, national collegiate champions, at Palo Alto, Calif., in April of 1938.

The team's phenomenal success this year is all the more remarkable considering that only one regular, Marvin Mesch of Bartlesville, is back. And with Mesch, who is also captain of Oklahoma's basketball team, getting a late start because of basketball, two sophomores, Ted Gwin of Tulsa and Charles Hutchins of Cushing, have been the most dependable shot-makers.

Gwin made a phenomenal comeback against his Texas Tech opponent on the University intramural course early in April. Four down at the end of the first nine and forced to look at a sizzling 33 by his opponent, Gwin rallied savagely, winning seven holes of the second nine and winning his match, 2 and 1.

Two more sophomores, Jack Pruett of Sand Springs and Bill Shipley of Oklahoma City, and Harold "Sandy" Lahar, clouting senior who weighs 216 pounds and plays guard on Coach Tom Stidham's Sooner spring practice football squad, round out the squad.

Coach Jap Haskell's Sooner baseball team has had its ups and downs and prior to its opening Big Six contest against Kansas State here April 19 and 20, had won four and lost four.

The Sooners began the season by walloping Baylor university of Waco, Tex., twice at Norman, 8 to 2 and 13 to 4. Then Oklahoma traveled to Waco for a return series, splitting two games, 4-0 and 4-5. Against "Uncle Billy" Disch's powerful Texas Longhorns, who were all-victorious and had numbered among their victims Tulsa of the Texas league and Toledo of the American Association, Oklahoma lost 6 to 8 although out hitting the Steers 13 to 10 on Texas' home field at Austin. The first Texas game was rained out.

Then came a night game against Hank Iba's Oklahoma Aggies at Stillwater. Strongest Aggie team of modern times, Iba's club licked the Sooners 8 to 1. The result was all the more surprising since Oklahoma got but two hits.

On April 12 and 13 Iba brought his Aggie powerhouse to Norman for return contests. The Sooners won the first 9 to 8, with a thrilling three-run rally in the last

of the ninth. Popeye Lasater, Oklahoma's diminutive second-baseman from Broken Bow, got four hits and Jack Riley three to pace the Sooner attack, Oklahoma out hitting the Aggies 16 to 10.

However the Aggies won next day, 9 to 2, chiefly because of timelier hitting. Their 1940 club has a great deal of speed at most positions, hits viciously, has a strong defense, three able pitchers and in Danny Doyle, senior catcher, the best college backstopper to play at Norman since Joe "Skunk" Mayes, the Cherokee boy from Pryor who used to catch for Bill Owen's powerful Sooner teams.

Feature of the Sooner season, aside from Third-baseman Jack Riley's great all-around play and the hustling of little Lasater, has been the phenomenal batting of Ralph Bollinger, junior outfielder from Norman. At this writing Bollinger had gathered 11 hits in 18 trips and was leading the club in hitting with a neat .611.

John Jacobs' crack Sooner sprinters came through as predicted at the Texas Relays April 6 at Austin, Oklahoma winning the 440-yard relay, in which each man runs 110 yards, by three yards and the 880-yard relay, in which each man runs 220 yards, by 30 yards. Sooner time for each event was 41.7 and 1:26.7, good considering the rain-soaked track and the strong wind.

George Koettel, Alex junior; Fred Coogan, Sayre senior; Orville Mathews, Chickasha sophomore and Bill Lyda, Oklahoma City sophomore, comprise the Sooner sprint team.

Oklahoma also won its opening dual meet against Kansas State, 77 2-3 to 53 1-3 at Owen field April 4. Koettel won the 100 in 9.6 seconds with a brisk north tail wind scooting him along while Lyda shot through the 440 in 49.4 with Coogan just a jump behind, very good time considering the first 220 yards of the race was run into a brisk north wind.

The Sooners then overwhelmed the Edmond, Okla., Teachers and Oklahoma City university in a tri meet April 13 at Norman, scoring 93 to Central's 16 and O. C. U.'s 7.

However the track team suffered a severe loss April 15 when Jack Morris, senior hurdler from Anadarko and Big Six conference indoor champion in the high



Six senior reliables on the Sooner baseball team, from left to right, top panel, Shortstop Sam Blackwell, Outfielder Roy Myer and Second-baseman Victor Lasater. Bottom panel, First-baseman Herb Scheffler, Pitcher Jimmy Pope, Third-baseman Jack Riley. They found the Oklahoma Aggies double tough.

SPORTS CALENDAR

May 2 (tennis)—Denton, Tex. Teachers at Norman.
 May 2, 3 (golf)—State Intercollegiate meet at Oklahoma City.
 May 3 (track)—Oklahoma Aggies at Stillwater.
 May 3, 4 (baseball)—Iowa State at Norman.
 May 3, 4 (polo)—Iowa State at Ames.
 May 4 (tennis)—Tulsa university at Norman.
 May 6, 7 (baseball)—Texas at Norman.
 May 6 (polo)—Illinois at Urbana.
 May 7 (tennis)—Oklahoma Aggies at Norman.
 May 7, 8 (polo)—Missouri at Columbia.
 May 10, 11 (baseball)—Kansas at Lawrence.
 May 13, 14 (baseball)—Missouri at Columbia.
 May 16, 17 (baseball)—Nebraska at Norman.
 May 16, 18 (polo)—Oklahoma Military academy at Norman.
 May 17, 18—Big Six championships in tennis, track and golf at Lincoln, Neb.

sticks, underwent an appendectomy at the University infirmary. Although the popular Sooner blond came through the operation nicely, it meant the end to his collegiate athletic career since this is his last year and the season will be over five weeks after his operation.

Suffering defeats to University of Texas, North Texas Teachers of Denton and to the Oklahoma Aggies at Stillwater, Coach Leslie Hewes' Sooner tennis team had nevertheless trimmed no less than eight opponents this spring and were eagerly conditioning themselves for return meets with Denton and the Aggies at Norman.

Ed Lindsey at No. 1, Walter Mead at 2, Bill Tenhagen, Kansas City Junior college transfer at 3, and E. P. Litchfield at 4 make up the Oklahoma team which is stronger than last year in spite of the three defeats.

Another all-victorious Oklahoma sports team is Captain L. R. Wingfield's Sooner polo team which has won six matches in a row this spring, defeating Texas Aggies twice at Norman, Oklahoma Military academy twice at Claremore, University of Illinois once at Norman and the crack Fort Sill field artillery four at Fort Sill, 10 to 7.

Three veterans, Jerry Galbreath and Alex Cheek, at No. 2 and Harry Hill No. 3, are back while Clark Hetherington and Edwin Ramsey at 1 and B. D. McCampbell at 4 complete the squad.

Coach D. C. Matthews' green Sooner wrestling team, defeated in every dual meet this past season, nevertheless finished third in the Big Six tournament and claimed one national collegiate champion when Harold Byrd of Tulsa, a junior, won the 128-pound championship at the national meet at Urbana, Ill.

Phil Handler, line coach of the Chicago Cardinals, professional football team that probably will contain five former Sooners on its 1940 roster, Earl Crowder, Jim Thomas, John Shirk, Alton Coppage and Beryl Clark, saw the Sooner spring football drills one day recently.

"Oklahoma has the biggest intercollegiate squad I've seen this spring," Handler said. He had already seen spring drills at Southern Methodist, Texas Christian, Centenary, Colorado Mines, Texas Tech and Hardin-Simmons.

The University of Oklahoma's forward passing attack was lauded as the most consistently effective in the nation the last three years by the American Football Statistical bureau's compilations for the 1939 season, just out.

"Oklahoma's Sooners ranked third in completion percentage in 1937 and were second in 1938. Their three-year record of 235 completions in 461 attempts for a .510 percentage has no modern counterpart for percentage of effectiveness," the report says.

The ranking of the nation's leading teams in forward pass offense:

	G	Att.	Comp.	Int.	Pct. Comp.	Total Yds.	Average
1. Okla.	9	123	66	13	.537	810	12.27
2. N. C.	10	180	90	20	.500	985	10.94
3. Tex. C.	10	245	120	16	.490	1,485	12.38
4. Ind.	8	142	69	14	.486	1,032	14.96
5. S. Cal.	9	183	84	12	.459	1,008	12.00
6. Princn.	8	153	67	12	.438	1,055	15.75
7. Oregon	8	137	58	11	.423	866	14.93
8. Tx. Ag.	10	166	70	15	.422	948	13.54
9. La. S.	9	159	67	15	.421	918	13.70
10. Miss.	9	120	50	13	.417	880	17.60

Coach Tom Stidham's Sooners punting game ranked 12th in the nation with an average of 39.55 yards per kick, the best mark Oklahoma has had since the Big Chief became head coach here in 1937. Auburn was tops in punting length with 43.25 per kick, followed by Alabama, Washington State and Ohio State.

The Sooners ranked ninth nationally in runbacks of opponents' kickoffs with their average of 25.71 yards per runback and topped the nation in number of penalties with 74 and with the most yards lost by penalties, 581, closely followed by their state cousins, the Oklahoma Aggies, who drew 60 penalties for 510 yards.

Beryl Clark, Sooner back, was the nation's individual leader in forward passing accuracy for all passers who threw more than 50 times. The Cherokee boy hit 38 of 64 tosses for a completion percentage of .594 and was trailed by Lalanne, North Carolina; Boell, New York and Odle, Texas Christian, in this department. Bill Jennings, Oklahoma back, was sixth nationally in received passes, grabbing 21. Ken Kavanaugh of Louisiana State was high with 30 catches for the year.

There were several surprises in the 1939 ratings. For instance Kansas led the nation in forward pass defense, yielding only 34.1 yards per game for seven games.

Enjoy Sooner Football



from a good seat

It's twice as much fun when you are sitting in a good seat, not too far from the middle of the field. The secret of getting a good seat is, of course, to buy it before someone else gets it. And with the Sooners playing five swell home games in 1940, the orders for season tickets are already coming in fast. If you wait too long, and don't get what you want, don't say we didn't warn you!

Season Ticket

FIVE BIG HOME GAMES

\$9

HOME SCHEDULE

- Oct. 5—Okla. Aggies
- Oct. 19—Kansas State
- Nov. 2—Nebraska
- Nov. 16—Missouri Homecoming
- Nov. 23—Temple

Ticket orders should be mailed to W. J. Cross, business manager, Athletic Department, Fieldhouse, Norman, Oklahoma. Early purchasers of season tickets get best available seats in the center sections of the west wing of the stadium.

University of Oklahoma Athletic Association

Fieldhouse

Norman