



"Coach, I never touched him!" grandly insists Herb Scheffler, 6-foot 3-inch center of the Sooner basketball team, to Coach Bruce Drake, as Scheffler walks to the bench after his fourth personal foul in the Missouri game at Columbia, leaving an opponent gasping on the floor behind him while the Tiger crowd boos vociferously. Scheffler's act, in which he deliberately badgers enemy basketball crowds while the Sooners play on the road, is known and eagerly watched for all up and down the Big Six conference. In fact the big Sooner center seems to get more fun out of it than he does his fierce and expert defense rebounding, if that is possible.

Sports Review

by
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DANDELION grubblings about spring sports:

With the first outdoor track meet, the Texas Relays at Austin, scheduled for April 6 this year, John Jacobs, Oklahoma track coach, is already lining up some speedy new relay combinations for the Longhorn games.

Jacobs believes Oklahoma's best relays this spring will be the half-mile, in which each of the four men runs 220 yards, and the sprint medley, which calls for a 440 yards, 220, 220 and 880.

For the half-mile relay, the Sooners are grooming Fred Coogan, holder of the university outdoor 440 record of 47.9 seconds, George Koettel, holder of the 220 record of 20.5 seconds and two extremely promising sophomores, Bill Lyda, former Oklahoma City Central high school boy who won state interscholastic championships at 220, 440 and 880 yards, and Orville Mathews, of Chickasha, who holds state interscholastic 100 and 220-yard records of 9.6 seconds and 21.2 seconds.

On the sprint medley team, Coogan or Lyda will run the 440 leg, Mathews and Koettel the 220-yard assignments and Ray Gahan or Lyda the half-mile anchor. Last year Gahan was unofficially clocked in 1:52.8 in his half-mile anchor at the Drake Relays. Lyda did 1:55 as a freshman last year, running all by himself.

The Sooner track schedule for 1940:

INDOORS

March 2 Nebraska at Lincoln (dual).
March 9 Big Six meet at Kansas City.

OUTDOORS

April 4 Kansas at Norman (dual).
April 6 Texas Relays at Austin.
April 20 Kansas Relays at Lawrence.
April 26, 27 Drake Relays at Des Moines.
May 4 Kansas State at Norman (dual) (tentative).
May 11 Oklahoma Aggies at Stillwater (dual).
May 17, 18 Big Six meet at Lincoln.

Best news to track fans was the recent announcement that University regents had okayed an appropriation of \$25,000 for the construction of a new indoor track beneath the east wing of Memorial Stadium. This track will be nine laps to the mile, of clay construction and probably will be finished in time for the 1941 indoor season. Its completion means that an Oklahoma A.A.U. meet under the lights and also dual indoor meets may now be held at Norman in January, February and March.

Introducing Coach Jacobs to our alumni, many of whom already know him: Jacobs came to the University from Mangum in 1910. He never saw a running track until he left Mangum, where he was a baseball player on the crack Mangum high team. At Norman he went out for track to escape the gym class requirement and from 1911 to 1915, set state intercollegiate, Southwest conference (to which the university then belonged) and University records in the high hurdles, low hurdles, broad jump and high jump besides running the opening 440 on the all-victorious

Sooner relay team. In 1922 he became track and cross-country coach at Oklahoma, a position he has held for the past eighteen years.

Two important baseball developments broke recently, the signing of Oklahoma's Second-baseman Joe Gulleddge by the Boston Bees of the National league and the scheduling of two games with the strong University of Texas team at Norman next May 6 and 7.

Gulleddge still had another year at Oklahoma and was advised to take it by President Bob Quinn of the Bees. However the second-baseman is older than the average college boy and decided that postponement of his professional career another year would mean one year subtracted from his professional career, so he signed the contract, and went to Bradenton, Florida, with the Bees. He will return to school the first semester next year to renew the pursuit of his degree.

Incidentally, two former Sooners now playing professional football, Earl Crowder and Roland "Waddy" Young, and also Jack Baer, former Sooner outfielder who is now playing with Little Rock of the Southern Association, were back in the University this school year completing work towards their degrees, although their sports eligibility here is ended.

Coached by venerable competent "Uncle Billy" Disch, University of Texas baseball teams have won 23 Southwest conference titles in the last 29 years and are known everywhere for their exhibition game flayings of the big league clubs each March. However Coach Jap Haskell's equally fast Sooner teams have spanked the Longhorns three games out of four on Texas' home field at Austin the past two years, which should make the Texas-Oklahoma series at Norman something of an intercollegiate world title event.

The Oklahoma baseball schedule:

March 27, 28 Baylor at Waco.
March 29, 30 Texas at Austin.
April 6 Oklahoma Aggies at Stillwater.
April 12 Oklahoma Aggies at Norman.
*April 19, 20 Kansas State at Norman.
*May 3, 4 Iowa State at Norman.
May 6, 7 Texas at Norman.
*May 10, 11 Kansas at Lawrence.
*May 13, 14 Missouri at Columbia.
*May 16, 17 Nebraska at Norman.

*Big Six conference games.

At this writing Oklahoma is in third place in the Big Six basketball race and is pressing closely upon both Kansas and Missouri. Since the last *Sooner Magazine*, Coach Bruce Drake's Sooners have won five of six games with scores as follows:

Jan. 20—Oklahoma 54, Iowa State 32 at Norman.
Jan. 27—Oklahoma 56, Nebraska 41 at Norman.
Jan. 29—Oklahoma 35, Missouri 34 at Columbia.
Feb. 2—Oklahoma 34, Kansas State 29 at Norman.
Feb. 9—Oklahoma 45, Nebraska 28 at Norman.
Feb. 13—Oklahoma 27, Missouri 33 at Norman.

By defeating the powerful Missouri team 35 to 34 before 6,000 fans at Columbia January 29, Oklahoma vaulted into the Big Six leadership. The result was an upset, the Tigers having been all-victorious in Big Six play and having won eleven consecutive conference games on their home floor, yet the Sooners were playing so coolly and determinedly that they spurred into leads of 17 to 4 in the first half and 29 to 14 in the last half before losing two first-teamers, Herb Scheffler and Dale Carlile, on fouls. Then Missouri rallied and was actually ahead by one point when Bill Bentley, Sooner sub, hit a one-handed running shot from the side with 45 seconds of play left to give Oklahoma the victory.

However, in the return meeting of the two clubs at Norman before another crowd of 6,000 with hundreds standing, Oklahoma muffed her chances with atrocious shooting, hitting only 10 of 68 field goal trials, or 14.7 percent. Forward Jimmy McNatt, who set a new Big Six individual scoring record of 30 points against Nebraska at Norman, was stone cold, hitting two field goals in 19 shots against the Tigers, and so were his mates. Meanwhile Missouri was playing smart, aggressive basketball and with Capt. John Lobsinger hitting some sensational long goals, 6-foot 5-inch Center Blaine Currence deftly caging several tip-in shots and Forward Clay Cooper stopping McNatt and breaking up the Sooner dribbling, the Tigers worked into a 22-15 margin at the half and made it stand up, winning 33 to 27.

Oklahoma has three more basketball games at this writing, one with Hank Iba's Oklahoma Aggies, Missouri Valley champions, at Norman February 20 and two conference clashes, with Iowa State at Ames March 2 and with Kansas at Norman March 8.

McNatt's feat of scoring 30 points during the 32 minutes he played against Nebraska was a marvelous shooting exhibition. Most of the shots were long set heaves in which the ball alighted as gently into the basket as a robin settling into her nest. McNatt fired 21 times, hit 14 field goals, which means he was hitting two-thirds of his shots, miraculous marksmanship. His record has never been approached by another Sooner player on a 94-foot court, although several Sooners have made higher totals playing on smaller courts since basketball was started at the University back in 1907.

Back in 1909 in the old gymnasium here, Ernest C. Lambert, now an Okmulgee business man, hit 47 points in a game against the Edmond Teachers, 23 field



Four Sooner trackmen who will be exceedingly busy this spring are, from left to right, Fred Coogan, George Koettel, Orville Mathews and Bill Lyda. Their first outdoor appearance will be at Austin, Texas, April 6 at the Texas Relays.

goals and a foul shot, Oklahoma winning 93 to 7.

Howard McCasland, of Duncan, high-scoring center of Bennie Owen's crack Oklahoma team of 1915 and 1916, hit 35 points February 30, 1916 against the Edmond team here. Homer Risen, of Hooker, Sooner forward of 1918, snagged 34 points against the Durant Teachers here February 8 that year as Oklahoma won 116 to 13, believed the greatest count ever amassed by a Sooner five.

Naturally all these old-time scoring performances were helped by the fact the old gym had only a 50 x 30-foot court with no out-of-bounds, the ball being played off the wall as in handball, but they took real shooting skill, at that.

Bennie Owen, speaking of how rough basketball used to be in the old gym here, once declared: "Both teams always wore football pants for protection. The referee threw up the first ball then climbed up into a seat in the balcony. Whichever team could walk out under its own power after forty minutes of play, won the game."

Incidentally, basketball is easily America's biggest and most popular game today, even surpassing baseball and softball. Frank G. Menke's *Sports Encyclopedia* listed the five leading American sports as follows in point of spectator attendance in 1938:

Basketball	90,000,000
Softball	72,000,000
Baseball	60,000,000
Football	45,000,000
Boxing	22,500,000

A poll of high schools in 47 of the American 48 states revealed that in 1938-39 far more American high schools played

basketball than any other sport. The figures:

Basketball	18,930 high schools
Track and field	9,181 high schools
Football	8,105 high schools
Baseball	6,305 high schools
Tennis	4,739 high schools
Volleyball	2,575 high schools
Golf	1,445 high schools
6-man football	1,233 high schools
Swimming	775 high schools
Wrestling	772 high schools
Soccer	547 high schools
Boxing	519 high schools

In Oklahoma, the number of high schools patronizing the various sports is: boys basketball 722, girls basketball 506, football 251, baseball 223, track 204, softball 154, tennis 73, wrestling 54, golf 22, volleyball 7, boxing 5, and swimming 5, according to Lee K. Anderson, secretary of the high school athletic association. His figures were for 1938-39.

The Oklahoma basketball team set a Big Six record in the Iowa State game when it hit ten of ten free goal shots for a percentage of 1.000.

As this is written, there is nothing new on Oklahoma's football situation. No new backfield coach has been hired yet although Athletic Director Tom Stidham has been busy interviewing prospects. Dewey "Snorter" Luster, retired backfield mentor, hasn't yet divulged his new job. The 1941 football schedule isn't complete. However spring practice will soon start and when it does, Big Chief Stidham will have the new backfield mentor on hand.

In the 1940 football schedule, the Missouri game at Norman November 16 has been designated as the Sooner Homecoming game. This will give the O.U. Homecoming crowd a chance to see the Big Six defending champions in action.