

Sports Review

By Harold Keith, '29

FOOTBALL was hot news at the University in December and January. Three particularly important Sooner football developments broke during that time:

(1) The University of Oklahoma got its second consecutive bowl invitation. The Cotton Bowl committee invited Coach Tom Stidham and his colorful Sooners to be the host team in the Dallas Bowl New Year's Day, in spite of narrow Oklahoma defeats in the last two games. But after a conference with President W. B. Bizzell, Coach Stidham decided to refuse the attractive offer, partly because of injuries to such key players as Backs Bob Seymour, J. S. Munsey and L. G. Friedrichs and Center Novel Wood.

(2) Dewey "Snorter" Luster, the school's shrewd little backfield coach, resigned to enter private business and Coach Stidham must get a man to replace him before the start of spring practice, approximately March 1.

(3) The 1940 schedule, several weeks overdue, was finally completed and announced. Fans who had been grumbling impatiently to see it, felt more than compensated for the delay when they saw the attractive home slate Athletic Director Stidham had lined up. Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas State, Oklahoma Aggies and Temple university of Philadelphia all play at Owen field next fall and a two-game series was signed with Coach Buck Shaw's powerful Santa Clara university Bronchos of Santa Clara, California, whom the Sooners will meet at San Francisco in 1940 and at Norman in 1941. The Temple game is only a one-year agreement.

Loss is serious

Luster's loss is a serious one. The captain and furiously-tackling end of Bennie Owen's Missouri Valley championship Oklahoma team of 1920 was Stidham's top assistant. Perhaps Luster's best licks were put in on the strong Sooner forward passing game which averaged 50.7 percent of completions in 1938 and 54 percent last year while stopping the fatal leakage of enemy passes that cost Oklahoma so many games a few years back. Luster also helped with the strategy and deception. There probably isn't a finer backfield coach in the nation than the quiet little man who served Oklahoma so brilliantly the past three years.

Schedule favorable

Although Coach Biff Jones's Nebraska Cornhuskers, with practically their whole team returning next fall, are overwhelmingly favored to win the 1940 Big Six con-

ference football championship, the favorable Sooner home schedule, with the toughest conference games scheduled at Norman and scattered two weeks apart, still leaves the veteran-stripped Stidham squad an outside chance.

The 1940 schedule:

Oct. 5 Oklahoma Aggies at Norman.
Oct. 12 Texas at Dallas.
Oct. 19 Kansas State at Norman.
Oct. 26 Iowa State at Ames.
Nov. 2 Nebraska at Norman.
Nov. 9 Kansas at Lawrence.
Nov. 16 Missouri at Norman.
Nov. 23 Temple at Norman.
Nov. 30 Santa Clara at San Francisco.

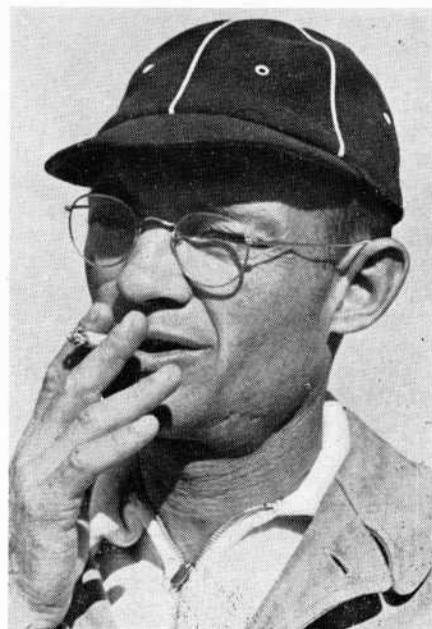
Football tickets sell fast

Two thousand season tickets to 1940 Sooner football games were sold before Athletic Director Stidham could complete the new schedule and fix the season ticket price. The new season book will sell for \$9, tax included. Moreover, its purchasers will be buying five home games for the price of four, securing the best seats in the stadium, and getting the same seats for each game. Also they won't have to stand in line before the ticket booths on the day of the game, and they will have priority right to their same seats in 1941.

Cagers win four, lose four

Now let's turn to basketball, current rage of the University's sports fans.

At this writing, Coach Bruce Drake's Sooners have won four and lost four of their first eight games, seven of which were played on foreign courts.



Dewey "Snorter" Luster, ex-coach

In the opener before about 4,000 people at Norman, largest December throng ever to see a Sooner basketball team in action, Oklahoma defeated Southern Methodist university, 57 to 32, scoring 13 points to the Mustangs' none with a fast-breaking surge in the last five minutes of the game.

Then the Sooners drove in automobiles to Fayetteville, where they squared off against the University of Arkansas's big rangy team that licked Oklahoma twice at Norman last season. The Sooners won the first game, 49 to 36, chiefly because of their speed, but in the wind-up the following evening were edged out, 40 to 38, with Johnny Adams, Arkansas's fine forward, hitting seven field goals with his two-handed jump shot.

The first appearance of a Sooner basketball team in the East during the holidays saw Oklahoma lose to Temple at Philadelphia 36 to 42 on Christmas night, but rally three days later to defeat the Fordham University Rams before more than 14,000 people at Madison Square Garden, 55 to 48. Hugh Ford, Oklahoma's 6-foot 6-inch junior center, hit eight field goals in this game, most of them pivot-post shots. The Sooners led 37 to 17 in the second half but because of lack of condition, quickly faded after that.

Everett Morris, crack basketball writer for the *New York Herald-Tribune*, described the Oklahoma team as follows:

"Oklahoma was a tall, fleet-footed outfit that traveled like the wind when it broke down the floor in its three-lane attack. But its shooting was sour and the Sooners missed enough sucker shots to win two or three games.

"Their big under-the-basket men, who handled a double pivot on the offense and formed the backline of the defense when the Rams had the ball, could have controlled rebounds until doomsday if they had been so minded. The taller of the two, Hugh Ford, poured in 19 points for Oklahoma. Herb Scheffler just couldn't make the ball roll for him."

Coach Drake said the boys played "sorry ball" on this trip.

"We looked good against Fordham until we played out while leading by 20 points in the second half," he said. "We had only three practices on our whole trip, because of the scarcity of courts in the East, and got badly out of condition.

"We had a swell time and were treated royally but we found our style of play totally unfit for the small 84-foot courts we had to play on at both Philadelphia and New York. Also we ran up against eastern rule interpretations that seemed as far divorced from ours as football is from rugby. The officiating was honest but vastly different."

Kansas licked the Sooners soundly at Lawrence January 5 in the Big Six conference opener, 46 to 26, but Drake's boys buried Kansas State at Manhattan the following evening, 50 to 33. The score was tied 25 to 25 with ten minutes left to play

Jimmy McNatt, Oklahoma forward, scoring a long goal against Southern Methodist University. The camera caught most of the ball, high in the air. The Sooners won, 57 to 32.



in this game when Oklahoma suddenly hit a scoring streak that saw them thread the hoop for 25 points in ten minutes, a furious pace that if continued the full 40 minutes of a game, would have netted 100 points. A few days later Kansas State went to Lawrence and nearly upset the Jayhawkers, Kansas barely winning on her own court, 34 to 33, on a free shot in the last four seconds of the game.

Oklahoma's fourth defeat of the year followed on January 10 at Stillwater when Hank Iba's smooth-passing Oklahoma Aggies, winners of 10 straight games this season and undefeated on their home floor in five years, won an exciting contest before 7,200 fans in the new Aggie Fieldhouse.

With only two minutes of playing time left, Drake's cagers, who shelved their speed for the same cautious passing and guarding the Aggies use so well, were tied with the Aggies 19 to 19 and themselves had possession of the ball. However, at this critical point a questionable double dribble violation was called on a Sooner player and the Aggies given the ball out of bounds.

This incident was the battle's turning point. Harvey Slade of the Farmers then hit a long goal and with the Aggies leading 21 to 19 and the final seconds fleeting, the Sooners had to go out after the ball, thereby spreading and weakening their own tight defense. The Aggies drove in for two more field goals before the bell.

However, better days are ahead for the Sooner basketekers with six of the nine remaining games scheduled for their own floor.

Jan. 20 Iowa State at Norman.
Jan. 27 Nebraska at Lincoln.
Jan. 29 Missouri at Columbia.
Feb. 2 Kansas State at Norman.
Feb. 9 Nebraska at Norman.
Feb. 12 Missouri at Norman.
Feb. 20 Oklahoma Aggies at Norman.
March 2 Iowa State at Ames.
March 8 Kansas at Norman.

Tribute to Jack Davis

Cocky Jack Davis, greatest swimmer in the University's history, is still a winner although he got his B.A. degree here three years ago.

The slender youth who won five Big Six championships during his spectacular career and still holds three-fourths the University aquatic records, is now a prominent Hutchinson, Kansas, lumberman and president of the Junior Chamber of Commerce there and recently was named Hutchinson's No. 1 citizen for 1939 over twenty-seven other outstanding civic leaders of that western Kansas metropolis.

Davis was married January 6 in Harlowton, Montana, to Louise Peterson and they will be at home in Hutchinson after February 1.

Wrestling schedule

The Oklahoma wrestling schedule for 1940, arranged by Coach Tom Stidham, is as follows:

Feb. 3 Edmond Teachers at Edmond.
Feb. 9 Weatherford Teachers at Weatherford.
Feb. 16 Kansas State at Norman.
Feb. 28 Oklahoma Aggies at Stillwater.
March 4 Oklahoma Aggies at Norman.
March 8 and 9 Big Six meet at Ames, Iowa.

Big Six Basketball Champions

	W	L	Pct.	Pts.	Opp. Av.	Margin	Coach
1929 Oklahoma	10	0	1.000	38.0	28.0	10.0	McDermott
1930 Missouri	8	2	.800	32.6	24.7	7.9	Edwards
1931 Kansas	7	3	.700	32.6	25.2	7.4	Allen
1932 Kansas	7	3	.700	31.6	26.4	5.2	Allen
1933 Kansas	8	2	.800	31.3	23.6	7.7	Allen
1934 Kansas	9	1	.900	29.1	23.5	5.6	Allen
1935 Iowa State	8	2	.800	32.2	27.4	4.8	Menze
1936 Kansas	10	0	1.000	42.2	26.8	15.4	Allen
1937 Kansas (tie)	8	2	.800	35.2	27.0	8.2	Allen
Nebraska (tie)	8	2	.800	37.7	30.4	7.3	Browne
1938 Kansas	9	1	.900	40.8	32.9	7.9	Allen
1939 Missouri (tie)	7	3	.700	45.0	37.2	7.8	Edwards
Oklahoma (tie)	7	3	.700	46.2	41.6	4.6	Drake

Too Many Governments

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

cent of which are one teacher affairs. Probably no plan is better designed to guarantee the least return from the tax dollar.

It is a bit trite, of course, to describe the organization of local government in Oklahoma as a "horse and buggy" affair. But this is an accurate way to describe it. The pattern of county government, still persistently followed in the United States was well established before the adoption of the Constitution. The geographical dimensions of this political subdivision measure to suit the convenience of travel. It was understood that the county seat should be so located that a resident could drive to the county seat and return in a day. Roughly this was the measurement. It was necessary in our early history for a man to carry his tax monies to a government treasury, for there was no banking system such as today enables the tax payer to remain a complete stranger to the interior of a tax-gathering office.

Because travel was inconvenient and communication inadequate there was need for numerous local governments with comprehensive authority. But if we were to apply these standards today, we would eliminate more than half of the three thousand counties in the United States.

There are few county seats in Oklahoma which cannot be reached by the average resident within ninety minutes. From the standpoint of accessibility the modern state capitol is more local in character than most early county seats.

"When the present boundaries of county subdivisions were established" Governor Leon C. Phillips recently observed, "thirty miles was about as far as any county resident could be asked to go to attend to his business at the county seat. Since then the automobile has changed the whole picture and the geographical factor no longer is valid."

There is, of course, a danger in too much government at the top and too little government at the bottom. But local government is, to some extent, a relative matter, relative to means of travel and communication; and in our efforts to preserve it, we need attribute no particular sanctity to a plan of organization evolved more than two hundred years ago. Between the extremes of present decentralization and possible excessive centralization, there is a sensible mean which challenges the thoughtful citizen. The best assurance that local government shall be preserved lies in its constant adjustment to the needs of a dynamic society.

CORRECTION: In last month's article in this series, the caption under Chart I erroneously stated that the figures represented per capita debt in Oklahoma, including both state and local debt. Actually, the figures given represented only net local per capita debt and did not include state debt.