

The Sports Review

By Harold Keith, '29

A SUMMATION of Oklahoma's 1939 football season—

That accidental kick in the head Fullback Bob Seymour suffered in the first minute of the Missouri clash probably cost Oklahoma a Big Six championship and a \$50,000 Bowl game this fall. Until Seymour was hurt and the defeats started, Oklahoma was being strongly considered for the Sugar Bowl game at New Orleans.

Few people realized how important Seymour was to Oklahoma until the Sooners tried playing without him. Kansas State might possibly have licked the Sooners 17 to 0 if Seymour hadn't been there to lead two long Oklahoma touchdown marches and save the game by knocking Niemann off the playing field when the Wildcats threatened to score early in the final quarter.

A healthy Seymour in the Missouri game might have meant an Oklahoma victory by at least two touchdowns. Oklahoma's second quarter drive that fizzled on the Tiger four-yard line very probably would have succeeded if Seymour hadn't been groggy from his concussion.

Also, had Seymour been able to play against Nebraska (he stayed home, confined in the University infirmary) the Cornhuskers would not have run through the Sooners as they did. Both Nebraska touchdowns were short forward passes through the defensive left halfback territory usually defended by Seymour and the two costly Oklahoma fumbles that ruined long Sooner power drives were made by Seymour's substitutes, younger and less experienced lads who were doing a sweet job of line-smashing but just happened to drop the ball at the wrong time.

Incidentally Seymour was married December 9 at Seminole to Miss Melba Vilines of Seminole. Next day he was drafted for professional football by the Washington Redskins. Several other Oklahoma players also were claimed by the draft.

Incidentally, Oklahoma may have as many as a dozen of her former players in the "pro" game next fall. Six men played this fall, Earl Crowder and Jim Thomas with the Chicago Cardinals, Waddy Young with the Brooklyn Dodgers, Hugh McCullough with the Pittsburgh Pirates, Mickey Parks with the Washington Redskins and Swede Ellstrom with the St. Louis Gunners. Frank Ivy, John Shirk, Gilford Duggan, Ralph Stevenson, J. R.



Bruce Drake, Oklahoma's youthful basketball mentor, is coaching his second season. As an undergraduate in 1927 through 1929, Drake played on powerful Sooner basketball clubs coached by Hugh McDermott that won 43 of 50 games

Manley, Beryl Clark, Dick Favor and Seymour of this year's team may all take a whirl at it next fall.

Grantland Rice, selecting *Collier's* fiftieth annual All-American team, the eleven started by the late Walter Camp of Yale, honored Frank Ivy, Oklahoma right end from Skiatook, by placing him at end. Last year Rice named Waddy Young at end. Gilford Duggan, Sooner left tackle, made Bill Stern's All-American printed in *Life* magazine and also was selected on the New York Sun's All-American eleven.

The Sooners were the champion crowd-pullers of the Southwest this year, drawing close to a quarter of a million fans. Tom Stidham-coached Oklahoma teams have set new all-time attendance records at the Iowa State (18,700), Kansas State (17,530) and Missouri (27,000) stadiums and also established a new mark of approximately 47,000 for an opening game at Dyche stadium at Evanston, Illinois, and an all-time Texas-Oklahoma game record of 27,000 at Dallas.

However the Sooners' most pleasing attendance gains were made at home where in spite of the weak home schedule, an average of 23,251 fans saw the contests

against Southern Methodist, Kansas, Oklahoma Aggies and Iowa State, establishing all-time throngs for the latter three games. The 1939 Norman attendance as announced by Bill Cross, athletic business manager:

Southern Methodist	26,205
Kansas	21,279
Oklahoma Aggies	24,553
Iowa State	20,967
	93,004
Average	23,251
Average, 1938	18,549

Twice this past season Oklahoma games were broadcast by national chains. When the Sooners licked Northwestern of the Big Ten conference 23 to 0 at Evanston in October, Ford Pearson of the National Broadcasting system, Ted Husing of Columbia, and the Mutual system told the Nation about it. The 6-7 defeat to Missouri at Columbia November 18 also was broadcast by Pearson and Husing for National and Columbia.

The Oklahoma team this year was the highest scoring aggregation developed at Norman in the last twenty years. Stidham's 1939 team averaged 20 2-3 points or roughly three touchdowns per game this fall although playing a tough schedule—the highest average since 1919.

However, the champion Oklahoma scoring team of all time was Bennie Owen's 1916 aggregation which amassed the monumental total of 472 points in eleven games, an average of nearly 43 points per contest. Included among the Sooners' victims that season were the Weatherford, Oklahoma, Teachers by 140 to 0, Catholic university of Enid by 107 to 0 and Kingfisher college by 96 to 0.

The Sooners this year were improved in nearly all departments over the great Oklahoma team of last autumn. Stidham's 1939 team averaged 173 net yards rushing per game to 133 last year, punted 40.1 yards from the line of scrimmage to 36.5 last season, completed 54 percent of their forward passes to 50.7 percent last year, averaged 12.3 yards per each completed pass to 10.3 last year, permitted only 33 percent of opponents' passes to 42.1 last year and returned kickoffs 438 yards to 287 yards last season.

The lone major department in which Oklahoma fell down, and the Sooners tumbled badly in it, was defense against opponents' rushing. The Sooners let their nine opponents pile up 1,032 yards rushing this year whereas last season Oklahoma led the nation in this phase of defensive play with only 406 yards running permitted in ten games.

Poor tackling, both by backs and linemen, probably was the biggest factor in the defensive rushing weakness this year. For example, on the two touchdown runs of 68 and 72 yards by Jack Crain of Texas

and also the 58-yard sprint through the mud by Bill Cunningham of Missouri, several Oklahomans had clean shots at the ball-lugger but were out-manuevered by Crain and Cunningham, who incidentally were sophomores.

Beryl Clark, the slender Cherokee lad who made such a gallant comeback this fall in the face of odds that would have badly discouraged a less courageous player, was Oklahoma's leading ground-gainer in all departments this season with a grand total of 689 yards, not counting 435 yards of forward passes he threw.

The complete Sooner yardage table by individuals:

	YDS.		YDS.		YDS.		YDS.		TOT.
	RUSH.	RECD. PASS.	INTC. PASS.	PUNT. RET.	K. O. RET.				
Clark	411	0	10	162	106			689	
Seymour	393	20	37	0	42			492	
Jacobs	156	0	10	82	115			363	
Jennings	24	236	25	0	95			360	
Mathews	122	97	3	91	0			313	
Potter	201	10	0	0	0			211	
Martin	130	14	54	0	0			198	
Munsey	59	43	41	0	27			170	
Friedrichs	65	0	0	71	0			136	

Byron Potter, sub fullback, romped to the highest running average with 5.7 yards gained every time he lumbered off tackle. However, Clark had the most net yards gained rushing with 411. Seymour, who missed the Nebraska game and was groggy through all but the first minute of the Missouri clash, was second with 393 net yards.

Bill Jennings, junior right half, was the champion pass catcher on the club with 21 snags for 236 yards. Frank Ivy was second with 104 yards in nine grabs, John Shirk third with 78 yards in seven catches (Shirk missed three full games), Alton Coppage fourth with 69 yards in six catches and Dick Favor fifth with 42 yards in five catches.

Jennings also broke up the most enemy passes, getting four interceptions with Seymour second with three.

Clark was also the club's most accurate forward passer, hitting 40 of 66 for 435 yards, a completion percentage of 60.6. His throws averaged 10.8 yards each.

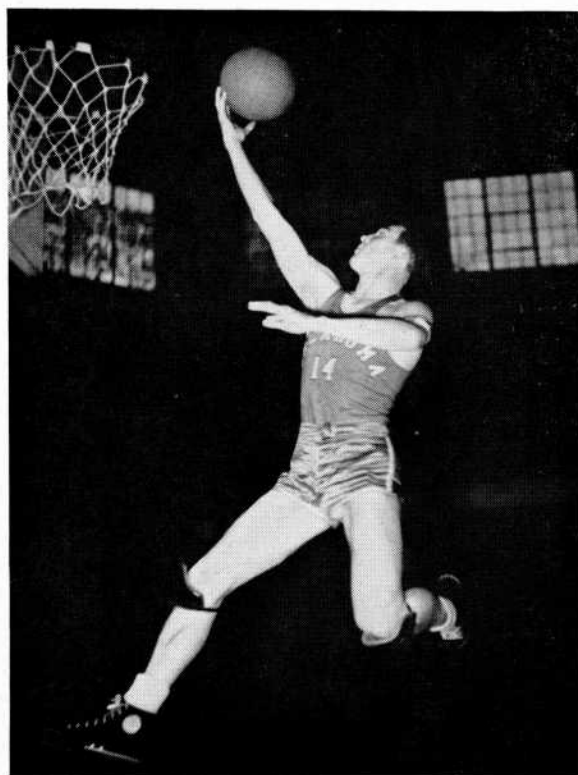
The individual forward passing table on the Sooners:

	HAD		COM.		
	COM.	ATT.	INTC.	YDS.	PCT.
Clark	40	66	7	435	60.6
Jacobs	12	31	3	165	38.7
Friedrichs	4	11	3	81	36.3
Martin	3	3	0	65	100.0
Mathews	5	11	0	35	45.4
Seymour	1	1	0	33	100.0

Mathews had the highest punting average, 46.8 yards, but kicked only six times. Clark punted 44 times for an average of 40.2 yards from the line of scrimmage, Jacobs kicked 19 times for an average of 38.3 yards and Martin 12 times for an average of 40 yards.

Coach Biff Jones' Nebraska Cornhuskers, who defeated Oklahoma 13 to 7 at

Jimmy McNatt, senior forward, leads the Oklahoma basketball team into action this season. McNatt holds the Big Six Conference individual scoring record of 29 points set against Iowa State last year, and also was named all-Big Six forward as a sophomore and junior



Lincoln November 25, return almost every man of their team intact and are an overwhelming favorite to recover the Big Six title next season since Missouri and Oklahoma lose heavily from their squads. Against the Sooners before 36,000 at Lincoln, Biff's Cornhuskers showed Oklahomans the slashingest, most deceptive running attack the Sooners met all year. The Sooners, playing without Seymour and Center Novel Wood, saved themselves a shut out when Clark completed three passes in a row, the last to Alton Coppage, for a touchdown in the final minute of play and kicked goal.

What will Oklahoma have in football next fall? Very probably a greener and weaker team than this season since Coach Stidham loses eight of his eleven starting players: Ends John Shirk and Ivy, Tackle Duggan, Guards Stevenson and Manley and Backs Favor, Clark and Seymour, not to mention such valuable reserves as Coppage, Starr, Wilhelm, Locke, Bolton and Potter, a transfer student who had only a year of eligibility left here.

Basketball Schedule

- January 5 Kansas at Lawrence.
- January 6 Kansas State at Manhattan.
- January 10 Oklahoma Aggies at Stillwater.
- January 20 Iowa State at Norman.
- January 27 Nebraska at Lincoln.
- January 29 Missouri at Columbia.
- February 2 Kansas State at Norman.
- February 9 Nebraska at Norman.
- February 12 Missouri at Norman.
- February 20 Oklahoma Aggies at Norman.
- March 2 Iowa State at Ames.
- March 8 Kansas at Norman.

Two players of former seasons, Howard "Red Dog" McCarty, halfback who broke his hip in the Oklahoma Aggie battle a year ago, and Howard Teeter, tackle who was benched by typhoid two campaigns hence, may return to the squad.

Although a few of the freshmen listed below may not be able to run up to the academic scrimmage line, the following squad will report to the coaches for spring practice in February:

ENDS—Louis Sharpe, Lyle Smith and Ray Mullen with some playing experience. Also freshmen W. G. Lamb, Ardmore; Ervin Oesterle, Henryetta; Howard Yielding, Walters; Jerry Jarratt, Crystal City, Tex.; Ancil Young, Norman; Ralph Schilling, Seminole.

TACKLES—Harold Lahar, Justin Bowers, Roger Eason and Wright Phebus with some playing experience. Also Clovis Pierce and Fred Berg of the 1939 squad. Also freshmen Homer Simmons, Seminole; John Funk, Okmulgee; Tommy Tall Chief, Fairfax; Laddie Birge, Duncan and Joe Allton, Claremore.

GUARDS—Olin Keith, Ralph Harris and Chad Vallance with some playing experience. Also Willie Wick and Allen Fender of the 1939 squad. Also freshmen Jack Haberlein, McAlester; Sammy Stephens, Walters; Mitchell Shadid, Oklahoma City; Joe Somerville, Norman.

CENTERS—Cliff Speegle, Novel Wood and Jack Marsee with playing experience. Also freshmen Bill Roberts, Holdenville and Clair Morford, Lawton.

BACKS—Bill Jennings, L. G. Friedrichs, Gus Kitchens, Marvin Whited, Paul Woodson, Jack Jacobs, J. S. Munsey and

(PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 29)

'38phys.ed, is head of the physical education department of Hendrix College, Conway, Arkansas. Last year she was in charge of the largest May Festival that has been presented at the college.

During the summers since her graduation, Miss McElwee has been studying chemistry and physics as part of the requirements for the degree of M.D. toward which she is working.

President of the W.A.A. at the University, Miss McElwee also served as treasurer of Mortar Board. She was president of Racket Club and Dusty Travelers, and a member of several of the other women's societies.

With only the horseback riding of freshman physical education to her credit, Lurline Kraft, '38phys.ed, was made assistant riding counselor at the large and exclusive Camp Kamaji, for girls, at Cass Lake, Minnesota. She has returned each succeeding summer to that position.

In the spring of 1938 Miss Kraft demonstrated her horsemanship by winning the cup for three-feet, six-inches, open jumping competition at the Oklahoma City Horse Show.

She is teaching her second year at Stand Watie, an Oklahoma City elementary school.

A member of Delta Delta Delta sorority, Miss Kraft served as secretary of the W.A.A., as treasurer of Racket Club, president of the Ducks, captain of Timber Cruisers, and was a member of the Y.W.C.A. and the Intramural Council.

Maxine Richardson, '39phys.ed, is teaching this year in Pampa, Texas, after working last summer as director of McKinley Park in Oklahoma City.

She has gained wide recognition for her pitching on the Street's Ready-to-Wear softball team in Oklahoma City. Under the business management of G. M. Byerley, her team has taken part in the National Amateur Softball Tournament at Chicago three years, and last year played a team of eastern all-stars in Madison Square Garden.

She also won the state tennis singles title for women in 1937 and 1939, and was co-winner in the doubles matches last year.

Elected to the Junior Women's Honor class of 1938, Miss Richardson belonged to Mortar Board, and was president of the W.A.A. at the University.

After attending the University of California at Berkeley a year, in addition to securing her degree at Norman, Marya Welch was given a position as instructor of physical education in the senior high school at Woodland, California, last fall.

At the University of California she was elected to Nu Sigma Psi, honorary physical education society. She taught two classes there, swimming and diving.

Before leaving O.U., Miss Welch became a member of the W.A.A., Rifle Club, Ducks, Racket Club, Dusty Travelers, and Newman Club. She belonged to Delta Gamma sorority.

Sports Review

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)

Orville Mathews, with some playing experience. Also Jack Steele and Maury West of the 1939 squad. Also freshmen Pat Shanks, Drumright; Huel Hamm, Oklahoma City; Lindell Hayes, Wagoner; Charles Denison, Idabel; Clyde Parrish, Ardmore; Dene Harp, Fairview; Bill Mattox, Walters; Boyd Bibb, Sayre; Bill Campbell, Pawhuska and Roy Cagle, Oklahoma City.



Thirty-five hundred students and faculty members, out to prove that they weren't fair-weather fans, marched into the University Fieldhouse after the close of the football season to pay tribute to Tom Stidham's Sooner football team, which the Saturday before had lost its second straight game of the season to Nebraska's powerful Cornhuskers.

Vigorous cheers echoed through the building in response to speeches by President Bizzell and Coach Stidham and short talks by the football players, who were introduced from the stage.

Biggest applause came to Dr. Bizzell's reference to Stidham as "one of the greatest coaches in America and one of the greatest football strategists in the nation."

"I'd like to remind you," the University president told his hearers, "that if you harbor any feeling of disappointment over the season, all that stood in the way of complete victory was a little arithmetic—one touchdown and one field goal."

"We should have won at Missouri. We had the best team on the field up there. We went up against a team (Nebraska) Saturday that had pointed for O.U. all year. It meant everything in the world to Biff Jones to beat Tom Stidham."



Paul Young, Oklahoma's great all-Big Six center of 1931 now coaching at Ardmore, figured humorously in the news right after Thanksgiving.

Young's green Ardmore team, losing all but one regular from its powerful last year's aggregation, had lost every game this fall up to the Thanksgiving finale with Pauls Valley, to be played at Pauls Valley.

Fearing Pauls Valley's favorite strategem, the old "hide out" play, Young stationed an Ardmore scout in the stands with an old-fashioned coon horn and instructed him to blow it long and loud every time Pauls Valley tried the "hide out" play. He then warned his boys to be alert and listen for the blast of the horn.

In the game that followed Pauls Valley tried the play twice, and each time Young's keen-eyed grandstand scout detected it and blew his horn with all the power in his lungs.

However, in spite of Young's precaution, his befuddled Ardmore boys had forgotten what the horn meant and Pauls Valley completed both passes and won the game, 19 to 7!

IMAGE IS NOT AVAILABLE
ONLINE DUE TO COPYRIGHT
RESTRICTIONS.

A paper copy of this
issue is available at
call number LH 1 .06S6 in
Bizzell Memorial Library.