

# Sports Review

By HAROLD KEITH

**O**KLAHOMA'S big, youthful football team charged to second place in the 1940 Big Six conference race by defeating Missouri 7 to 0 before approximately 27,000 Homecoming Day fans at Owen field November 16.

The triumph over the Tigers closed the conference season for the Sooners who this fall defeated Kansas State 14-0, Iowa State 20-7, Kansas 13-0 and Missouri 7-0, losing only to Nebraska's powerful double-eleven of veterans, 0-13.

Coach Tom Stidham's Oklahomans retained a slim chance to tie Nebraska for the flag as the Cornhuskers, at this writing, still had to face the second-division Kansas State and Iowa State clubs and a defeat at the hands of either—which seemed very unlikely in view of Nebraska's splendid strength and experience—would drop the Cornlanders even with the Sooners.

Oklahoma has stepped up her pace in Big Six play the past four years, winning fifteen conference games, losing four and tying one. The Sooners finished second in 1937, first in 1938, third last year and second this season.

Two intersectional battles remain on Oklahoma's schedule, Coach Ray Morrison's Temple Owls of Philadelphia being scheduled to invade Norman November 23 while the Sooners themselves have a trip to San Francisco November 30 when they engage Coach Buck Shaw's Santa Clara Bronchos.

Both these final foes of the Stidhams are tough ones, and it is easily possible for Oklahoma to lose to either.

Now let's briefly review the Sooners' games with Iowa State, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri, unreported since the last issue of this magazine:

**OKLAHOMA 20, IOWA STATE 7**—Keyed high before their Homecoming throng, the lowly Iowa Staters played the Sooners off their feet all afternoon, scoring one touchdown, having another called back because of a clipping penalty and moving within two yards of a third. With a shade more luck, Iowa State might have tied Oklahoma 20-20 or beaten the Sooners 21 to 20.

Oklahoma put over a 65-yard power



*The all-time record crowd of 33,377 that saw the Nebraska game*

drive for a touchdown in the first quarter, Backs Jack Jacobs and Johnny Martin steadily punching downfield behind the magnificent blocking of the big Sooner line, Martin plunging over and Jack Haberlein nonchalantly trotting in to boot the goal, then jog back to the bench.

But seven plays later the Cyclones tied the score when Paul Owens lined a screen pass to Hank Wilder, 190-pound fullback, who ran through Oklahoma like a frightened deer bolting through a blackjack clump, the play traveling 39 yards. Darling kicked goal.

Iowa State began the last half by scoring another sensational touchdown on the fourth play after the kickoff, Owens again passing to Wilder on the screen pass this time for 50 yards and a touchdown, but Iowa State clipped on the play and the touchdown was recalled that would have given the Cyclones a 13-7 and possibly a 14-7 lead.

Oklahoma's latent power again burst its bonds midway of the third quarter, the Sooners marching like a platoon of beefy cadets to cover 64 yards in 11 plays for their second touchdown with the big Sooner line smashingly dividing the Iowa State defense and pouring Indian Jack Jacobs through the breach for the score. Haberlein hit his tenth consecutive extra point of the season by placekick.

Gaining the wind in the fourth quarter, the lighter Cyclones gamely drove to the Sooner six in another desperate, gallant effort to tie the score, but there Oklahoma's big forwards dug in and four downs later the ball had moved forward only two yards and Oklahoma took over.

Frustration of their third touchdown

chance seemed to kill the Cyclone morale, and Oklahoma made sure of the final result by shaking Martin loose for a 52-yard run for the third Sooner score, the fullback fleeing down the wide-open middle and then veering to the right sideline with all the Iowa State players but one laid on the ground by the vicious Oklahoma blocking.

Haberlein missed his only conversion attempt of the season after this touchdown, the ball sailing high over the left post.

**OKLAHOMA 0, NEBRASKA 13**—Coach Lawrence "Biff" Jones' Cornhuskers had too fine a second team, far too much defense and too excellent a conception of nearly every play Oklahoma attempted, and defeated the Sooners 13 to 0 at Owen field November 2 before an all-time record throng of 33,377, approximately 3,000 of whom were accommodated in hastily-constructed wooden bleachers in the end zones.

The Sooners looked dangerous only twice. On the sixth play of the game Guard Harold Lahar threw a savage block to free Orv Mathews down the east sidelines on a 43-yard sprint off a reverse to the Cornhuskers 23-yard mark. Again in the third quarter, Mathews skirted his own left wing for 16 yards and a first down on the Cornhusker 18, but following each of these runs, Nebraska's great defense smothered the next four plays.

Oklahoma had the ball in Nebraska territory five times on first down, twice because of Cornhusker fumbles, but starting from the Nebraska 23, 28, 40, 47 and 27-yard marks, the Sooner attack was helpless. Nebraska seemed to know in advance the route of every Oklahoma play,

so brilliantly did she maneuver to smash them, particularly the Sooner forward passing.

At that, the final score should have been only 6 to 0. The Sooners gave the Huskers the first touchdown when with only 20 seconds of the first half remaining, Jacobs, who ordinarily does a grand job at safety for the Sooners, obligingly deflected a wildly-thrown Nebraska forward pass that he thought he had intercepted, behind him into Zikmund's arms, the Cornhusker Dutchman galloping to an easy score.

Nebraska later scored on a 39-yard drive with Francis and Rohrig alternating behind a fresh line, Francis bursting across from the one. Walt Luther, Nebraska's crack right half and outstanding back this season, set up the drive by returning Jacob's punt 41 yards, slipping off half a dozen Sooner tacklers en route.

OKLAHOMA 13, KANSAS 0—Rain, football's famous "equalizer," spoiled the Kansas Homecoming celebration at Lawrence November 9 and came near ruining the football game for Oklahomans, too, as the fighting Jays of Coach Gwin Henry, caught Oklahoma at a low spiritual ebb the week after the Nebraska game.

When the fourth quarter began the score was still 0 to 0, the field was still wet, mist was still sluicing in off Mt. Oread and the tired Sooners, their white jerseys muddied almost beyond recognition, had the ball on their own 20-yard line where officials had walked it after a Kansas drop-kick by Chester Gibbens had failed against the high south wind.

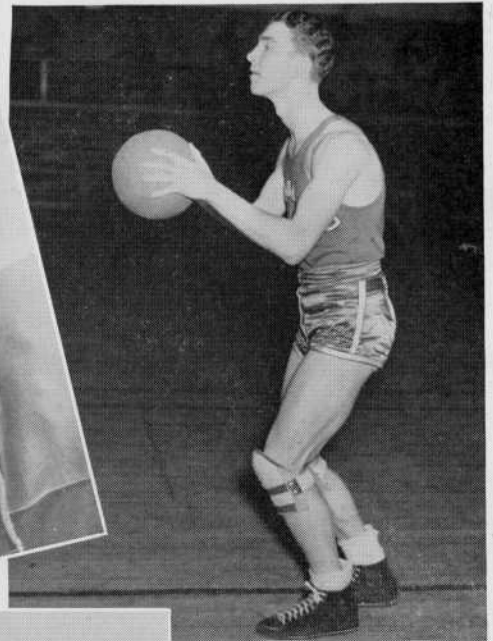
Discouraged Oklahoma had already seen two great ground drives fail. In the first quarter the Sooners, with their big line dividing the Jayhawkers like Moses divided the Red Sea marched 43 yards through the mud and failed by only six muddy inches to make a touchdown, Kansas holding heroically and kicking out.

Oklahoma began the second half with an even more stunning ground offensive, wheeling 78 yards through the goo from their own 20-yard line to the Kansas two where with two downs to score the touchdown, Blocking Back Marvin Whited lined up too near the center lane and the snapback struck him on the leg, bounded wildly and was recovered by Jack of Kansas.

To further thicken the gloom for Oklahomans, Jack Jacobs, Sooner triple threat, was helped off the field with an injured hip.

The Sooners couldn't pass the slippery ball and Kansas, knowing it, had moved her line-backers into her defensive line which meant Oklahoma was having to buck both an eight-man Kansas line and the soft footing, tough handicaps for any rushing game.

That was the situation as the fourth quarter began but Oklahoma didn't quit. Fullback Johnny Martin, who single-handed gained 138 yards that day in the



*Above left is Harold Lahar, 214-pound senior, one of Oklahoma's greatest guards of all time. Right, Jimmy McNatt, Sooner all-American cage star of last year and the only Big Six player invited to play with the college all-stars at Chicago late last month. Below, the Sooner cross country quartet, all-victorious in dual meets: left to right, Jack Denton, Warren Lehman, Bill Lyda, Dick Smethers*

mud, punted 52 yards and with Huel Hamm, Oklahoma's big sophomore left half who was in for the injured Jack Jacobs, bringing the return Jayhawk punt back 13 yards to the Kansas 47. Oklahoma suddenly struck for a touchdown. Hamm whipped a short overhand shovel pass behind the line to fleet Orv Mathews who ran 41 yards down the left sideline to a touchdown behind a stunning block by the stolid Whited, who was still brooding about the ball striking his leg on the previous Sooner drive.

Later Oklahoma drove 49 yards in 13 plays to score a second touchdown with three minutes left to play, Martin and big Hamm slashing off guard and tackle. Haberlein kicked the first goal and Ralph "Fats" Harris, 235-pound Sooner guard, missed the second.

OKLAHOMA 7, MISSOURI 0—Both teams were crippled for this one. Jacobs played only two minutes which almost totally killed the Sooner forward passing, while Missouri's injury-riddled squad kept sustaining fresh casualties all afternoon. Harris and Eason, Sooner linesmen, were taken from the game early because of head injuries.

It was chiefly a contest between Paul

Christman, Missouri's big All-American quarterback and finest forward-passer of Big Six conference history, and the watchful Sooner pass defense. Christman was out to pass Oklahoma off the field if he could because the Sooners had held him in stern check in both his sophomore and junior seasons.

Oklahoma did a splendid aerial defense job for the third year in a row. With only one play left in the ball game, Christman had thrown 22 times for a total gain of only 51 yards. But he still had that last play left. Fading almost back to his goal, he hurled the ball 50 yards down the field. But he was hurried, the ball fell short of Harold Adams, the Missouri receiver, and Bill Jennings, alert Sooner defensive half, moved confidently under it and reached for it with the same sure pair of hands that has made him America's leading pass grabber this fall.

Then a roar of alarm burst from the 27,000 Sooner Homecomers. Jennings let the spinning leather ricochet off his fingers into the air behind him—another of those diabolical deflections that cost the 1937 Kansas game and the first touch-

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down two weeks ago against Nebraska—and Adams fielded the ball and was off down the west sideline to the Sooner goal with a wave of gold-shirted Tiger blockers galloping at his outside flank. It looked like Missouri was going to tie the score on the last play of the game!

But dependable Marv Whited, Sooner blocking back, saved the game for Oklahoma, hustling down to crash through Adams' hurriedly-collected interference and hurl the runner to the turf on the Sooner 12-yard line! And there the game ended. What a scare Jennings had given the Oklahoma spectators!

The Sooner touchdown came on a 72-yard drive in the third quarter with Hamm and Martin ripping through the same spots they had in the Kansas game and Mathews skirting left end to the Missouri four on a corking block by Lahar. Haberlein came in to boot his tenth of eleven placement conversions this season and that was all the scoring for the day.

### Oregon Coming to Norman

Coach Howard Hobson's University of Oregon Webfeet, national collegiate champions of 1939, will open the 1940-41 basketball season for the Oklahoma Sooners.

The Sooners are billed to show at Madison Square garden, New York City, December 21 when they meet St. Johns, coached by Joe Lopchick, famous center of the Old New York Celtics, and also play Temple in Philadelphia on December 23.

The complete Sooner schedule:

December 9 Oregon at Norman.  
 December 11 Southern Methodist at Norman.  
 December 13 Southern Methodist at Dallas.  
 December 21 St. Johns at New York City.  
 December 23 Temple at Philadelphia.  
 January 8 Kansas at Norman.  
 January 11 Kansas State at Manhattan.  
 January 13 Nebraska at Lincoln.  
 January 24 Missouri at Norman.  
 January 31 Kansas State at Norman.  
 February 5 Oklahoma Aggies at Norman.  
 February 8 Iowa State at Norman.  
 February 12 Okla. Aggies at Stillwater.  
 February 15 Bradley Tech at Peoria.  
 February 17 Iowa State at Ames.  
 February 22 Nebraska at Norman.  
 March 1 Missouri at Columbia.  
 March 7 Kansas at Lawrence.

Jimmy McNatt, Oklahoma's graduated All-American basketball forward, was chosen to play with the College All-Stars against the Harlem Globe-Trotters, world's professional champions, in a game at the Chicago Stadium on the night of November 29. He was the only player invited from the Big Six conference.

Coach John Jacob's Sooner two-mile team finished second to Nebraska in the Big Six meet November 16 at Columbia, Missouri, after completing an all-victorious dual meet season against Oklahoma Aggies, Kansas State, Nebraska and the North Texas State Teachers of Denton, Texas.

# Sooner Books

for your

## Sooner Friends



1. *King of the Fur Traders*, by Stanley Vestal (W.S. Campbell). A swell adventure story about the explorer who discovered Hudson's Bay and ruled the wild Indian country by his skill and bravery. \$3.50.

2. *Presidential Elections*, by Cortez A. M. Ewing. A "natural" as a gift for anyone interested in national politics and political trends. \$2.50.

3. *Captain Lee Hall of Texas*, a new biography with a southwestern background published this fall by the University of Oklahoma Press. Full of adventure and movement. Sure to please every Texan, as well as the general reader. \$2.75.

4. *Cherokee Cavaliers*, by Dr. E. E. Dale and Gaston Litton. An intimate account of one of the most spectacular chapters in the history of the Cherokee Tribe. Already in its second edition. \$3.00.

5. *High Frontier*, by Leland Jamieson. A novel with an exciting background based on the pio-

neer days of commercial aviation, written by a Sooner alumnus who himself has flown more than 1,400,000 miles. \$2.50.

6. *Red Earth*, by Jennie Harris Oliver. A collection of the most popular poems of this widely loved Oklahoma author.

7. *RENNI: The Rescuer*, by Felix Salten, translated by Kenneth Kaufman. The story of a dog on the battlefield. \$2.50.

8. *The Good Shepherd*, by Gunnar Gunnarsson, translated by Kenneth Kaufman. The simple, beautiful tale of an Icelandic shepherd. An inspiring Christmas message. \$1.50.

9. *The Ordeal of Bridget Elia*, by Ernest C. Ross. A highly readable biography of the sister of Charles Lamb, of special interest to everyone with a knowledge of English literature. \$2.50.

10. *Through the Diplomatic Looking Glass*, by Oliver Benson. A penetrating, unbiased description of the events leading up to the present World War. \$2.00.

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