



*Jack Jacobs carries the ball for a gain against the Oklahoma Aggies, with Guard Harold Lahar throwing an effective block on a would-be tackler*

## Sports Review

By HAROLD KEITH

**L**OOKING critically at the Sooners with one-third of the 1940 season gone, the following points stand out:

(1) Oklahoma has a first team that can play with any in the land. It was vastly better than that of Texas, as comparison of the Dallas statistics in the first and third quarters, when the refreshed rival first teams were on the field, shows. In those two periods Oklahoma outscored Texas 16 to 6, made 14 first downs to Texas's 2, out-rushed the Longhorns 113 yards to 60, out-passed them 124 yards to none and maintained possession of the ball 48 plays to Texas's 20.

(2) The green Sooner second team, containing eight sophomores playing the first football of their lives, is the squad's big problem. The Oklahoma Aggies scored two quick touchdowns against the Sooner seconds in the final moments of the opening game and Texas put over thrill runs of 60 and 63 yards against the Sooner second-teamers that hurt. Against Kansas State, the Sooner seconds looked better but they still have a long ways to go and until they can give the great Sooner first team lots of relief, Oklahoma is very vulnerable defensively.

(3) Fullback Johnny Martin is doing a great job offensively. His down-the-middle hitting has been savage, he is a hard man to drag down after he has caught a pass, he is probably Oklahoma's hardest-blocking fullback of the past decade and his ability to punt half the length of the field against the wind has been outstanding. In the Texas game Martin once

lifted a 61-yard kick that popped out of bounds on the Texas two-yard line. When his pass defense became spotty against the Oklahoma Aggies, Martin was switched to defensive right end and is aggressively taking care of himself there.

(4) Other Sooner player shorts. . . . Marvin Whited is as fine a blocker and line-backer as Oklahoma has had in years. . . . Harold Lahar, 214-pound senior guard, was the outstanding linesman on the field in the opening game, praised Jack Gray, the Texas scout. . . . Tackle Roger Eason has been doing a fine job. . . . Orv Mathews is a fixture at right half in spite of his hard-luck complex. . . . He is a great defensive player and a good blocker.

(5) Oklahoma's best chance to come through to a Big Six championship depends upon how fast her second team comes along and also upon whether or not she can keep her few key players healthy. For example, an injury to any one of such experienced key men as Jennings, Lahar, Whited, Martin, Eason or Jacobs would mean the difference between a .750 season and a .400 season. Oklahoma simply doesn't have enough veteran players this fall.

At this writing (October 20) Oklahoma has played three football games. Coach Tom Stidham's Sooners defeated Oklahoma A. and M. 29 to 27 in their opener, lost an exciting 16 to 19 game to Texas before 33,006 at Dallas and came back to defeat Kansas State 14 to 0 at Norman.

The most satisfying individual statistical feats by Sooners in these first three games were:

(1) Jack Jacobs, Sooner left halfback, made 737 yards. The Holdenville-Muskogee Indian boy picked up 201 yards in 35 rushes, hit 29 of 47 forward passes for 402 yards, ran back eight punts for 106 yards, returned one kickoff for 28 and averaged 47.2 yards on his punting.

(2) Bill Jennings, Oklahoma's 175-pound left end, led the Nation in received forward passes. In his first three games Jennings fielded 14 aerials for a total of 217 yards, coolly lateraling three of them. The Norman boy probably comes close to being the finest simon-pure offensive end ever developed at Soonerland, probably rating right up with Homer Montgomery, '15, the adhesive-fingered gent who used to grab "Spot" Geyer's long heaves.

(3) Jack "Straight Line" Haberlein, a McAlester junior who transferred to the University from Oklahoma Military Academy of Claremore and has two years' competition with the Sooners, hit seven of seven place kicks for extra points. Like Raphael Boudreau, Oklahoma's great extra-point phenom of 1935, '37 an '38, Haberlein doesn't enter the game until Oklahoma scores a touchdown, then he goes in, makes his kick, and jogs back to the bench without mussing his hair. Haberlein has yet to miss.

### First Three Games

Now for a brief summary of the first three games:

**OKLAHOMA 29, OKLAHOMA AGGIES 27**—The Sooners put on a 56-yard drive for their first touchdown, Martin plunging over and Ralph Harris missing goal. The Aggies tied it up, 6-6, when Jimmy Reynolds passed 21 yards to Herald in the end zone.

Oklahoma then fought into a 29 to 6 lead with four minutes of play left. Jack Steele scored on a trap play, Martin ripped over after Jacobs hit three consecutive forward-laterals, Boyd Bibb counted on a right end sweep and the 240-pound Harris blocked an Aggie punt out of the end zone for a safety.

Trailing by 23 points with four minutes left to play, the Aggies electrified the stands by scoring three touchdowns. The Sooner second team fumbled on its 15-yard line, the Aggies recovered and scored on a run by Faubion. The Aggies scored again on a pass, Reynolds to Jones, that gained 58 yards. The Sooner varsity went back in cold, Jacobs fumbled on his 12, the Aggies recovering there and scoring on a drive by Faubion in the last five seconds of play.

**TEXAS 19, OKLAHOMA 16**—The Sooner first team opened the game with a magnificent 82-yard march to a touchdown from the opening kickoff without

losing the ball but Texas's veteran second team tied the score 7-7 in the second quarter when R. L. Harkins ran 60 yards through the Sooner seconds to a touch-down on a lateral.

The Sooner first team came back into the game in the third quarter and ran Texas all over the field. On a wild Texas center snapback, Martin chased Layden back into the end zone for a safety. Jacobs then hit Jennings with a pass that was good for a 43-yard touchdown (End Lyle Smith threw a great block during this play) and Oklahoma led 16 to 7.

But Texas's rich reserve strength prevailed. Jack Crain ran 63 yards off a lateral to the Oklahoma two-yard line, Mathews catching him from behind after a great race, and Harkins smashed over on third down. Oklahoma still led, 16-13, with two minutes left to play when Center Cliff Speegle, steadiest player on the Sooner squad, threw away a wild center snapback on fourth down that gave Texas the ball on the Sooner 19-yard line. Two penalties cost Oklahoma ten more yards and then the clever Crain swept the Sooner right wing for nine yards and the winning score.

**OKLAHOMA 14, KANSAS STATE 0**—Oklahoma scored in the second quarter on a 62-yard march, Jacobs hurling a 19-yard pass to Louis "Tree Top" Sharpe for the touchdown. Haberlein kicked goal. The Sooners then put over an 83-yard march in the fourth quarter, Martin plunging over and Haberlein again goaling.

A third Sooner touchdown was called back when Orv Mathews intercepted a Kansas State pass and brilliantly ran it 70 yards through the entire Kansas State team for a score, only to have the play recalled because Mathews interfered with a Kansas State receiver before his catch and run.

### Freshmen Outstanding

A fine group of freshman football players has enrolled at the University and will bolster the Sooner varsity squad of 1941. Among the most promising are:

**ENDS**—Jim Tyree, Oklahoma City, Capitol Hill; Bob Richter, Oklahoma City Capitol Hill; Don McDonald, Commerce; Bill Caldwell Durant; Bill Morris, Oklahoma City Northeast; and Ken Spence, Pawhuska.

**TACKLES**—Tommy Tall Chief, Fairfax; Jack Jordan, Garber; Cliff Banks, McAlester; Plato Andros, Oklahoma City, Central.

**GUARDS**—Dick Boepple, Enid; Harvey Stone, Cushing; Tait Hale, Okmulgee; and Lester Hill, Walters.

**CENTERS**—Max Fischer, Norman; Lee Cowling, Eufaula; and Bill LeGrange, Oklahoma City.

**BLOCKING BACKS**—Pete Cawthon, Lubbock, Texas; Ed Jeffers, McAlester; and Bob Cunningham, Hollis.

**HALFBACKS**—Carl Brewington, Shawnee; George Kerbo, Duncan; Son Wright, Waurika; Junior Golding, Eufaula; Vance Lenz, Lawton; Dick Monroe, Madill; and Bill Blancett, Boise City.

**FULLBACKS**—Eddie Davis, Muskogee; George Boudreau, Purcell; and Pie Mai, Russell, Kans.

The best freshmen enrolled in other sports are:

**BASKETBALL**—Sonny West, Ada; Jakie Chambers, Ardmore; C. L. Schneider, Ponca City; Jones Ramsey, Ponca City; Herman Robertson, Konowa; Jack Gray, Norman; Richard Vaughn, Ardmore; Freddie McKinzey, Kansas City, Mo.; Bob McCurdy, Purcell; and Sam Shackelford, El Reno.

**TRACK**—Kenneth Farris, Muskogee; Billy Lee, Hominy; Hoyt Burns, Washington; Jonathan Sharp, Carthage, Mo.; Bob Hodges, Enid; Dale Mitchell, Cloud Chief; and Son Wright, Waurika.

**BASEBALL**—Jay Walker, Dale; Jim Strong, Norman; Lester Layton, Norman; Gale Pringle, Blair; Ernest Logan, Garber; Roy Binger, Broken Bow; Ray Lacer, Anadarko and Dan Burrell, Henryetta; Hal Cumberland, Clinton; Dueland Day, Indianola; Dee Sanders, Indianola.

### Field Cover

A new \$3,500 field cover of green army duck has been purchased by the Sooner athletic department to protect the playing gridiron against rains the day before each home game and thus insure a fast field. This gigantic blanket, divided into twelve sections, entirely covers the Sooner playing rectangle and end zones, and can be installed or removed in approximately 20 minutes time.

Its arrival reminded old-time Sooner fans of some of the famous mud battles of the past, a phenomenon that spectators of the future will see seldom.

The mud game that sticks longest in the memory of modern Sooner fans was the one played against Nebraska at Lincoln 19 years ago which the Cornhuskers won 44 to 0 after hard winter rains had

lashed the Nebraska field for 24 hours preceding the game.

That was the year Oklahoma found out about special mud cleats although Nebraska's powerful array led by Preston and Noble probably would have prevailed anyhow. Oklahoma wore the regular stub cleat but Coach Fred Dawson's Cornhuskers, looking smugly mysterious, came out in oiled shoes and special mud cleats as long as an ordinary match.

The game was something of a farce. Once Ram Morrison, Sooner punter, fumbled the slippery ball behind his goal and Scherer of Nebraska bulleted in and pounced on it for a touchdown. Another time Jap Haskell, Sooner end, blocked out mud-besmeared Van Edmondson, his own guard, going down beneath a punt, believing him a Cornhusker.

"I put my suit on the scales after the game and it weighed 27 pounds," Yienie Hendricks, Sooner back that day, recalls.

A muddy field at Norman cost Oklahoma a victory over Kansas back in 1925. In the first quarter Roy "Goat" Lamb, Sooner fullback, ran wide from long punt formation half the length of the field and was in the clear and headed for glory when he slipped in the mud and fell on the Kansas seven-yard line. The fighting Jays then held Oklahoma for downs and got a 0-0 tie.

In Oklahoma's stone age of football games were often postponed when rain slowed the gridirons but in 1902 at old Mitway park, Emporia, Kansas, a Sooner team had to play in the mud and although

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Bill Jennings, Oklahoma's great left end, has piled up a remarkable record as pass receiver in the first three games this season, in spite of the fact that he's an extremely well-watched young man in every game. Each of the ten footballs in the above picture represents a completed forward pass in the Aggie and Texas games. Jennings added four more completions in the Kansas State game

## VIRGINIA

### Richmond

Sisler, Dr Frank H, Jr, interne, 1200 E Marshall

## WISCONSIN

### Milwaukee

Dodson, Dr George Edward, interne, 3321 Maryland Ave, Columbia Hospital

## FOREIGN COUNTRIES

### Canada

Skogsberg, Betty, student, St Thomas St, c/o Mrs. Cummings, Toronto



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they defeated Emporia that day 6 to 5, "None of us were making more than one mile per hour through that muck," Fred Roberts of Oklahoma recalls.

The rival players were so unrecognizable in the black goo that day that each team risked playing its own coach and nobody much would probably have been the wiser if some newspaperman who hadn't been fixed hadn't written in his story that "Coach Botsford was the star for Emporia and Fred Roberts and Coach McMahan for Oklahoma."

Although the Oklahoma team of 1904 whipped the Sulphur Springs Town team 48 to 0 in the snow at Sulphur, Oklahoma, it had met an even odder situation the year before when it traveled to Fayetteville, Arkansas, for a game with Arkansas.

Arkansas's rocky gridiron, wet from hard rains and cut up considerably because the Razorbacks later had practiced on the muddy field, was frozen hard as iron with its rough surface resembling an inverted harrow. Log fires were kindled to melt the mud but did little good, the players bruising themselves almost beyond recognition in the battle that followed.

Lewie Hardage, Oklahoma's coach from 1932 through 1934 built the finest all-weather field Norman ever saw, using sand from the nearby North Canadian river instead of earth. The Oklahoma-Kansas Homecoming Day game of 1933 was played on this field after a two-inch rain but the players held their feet beautifully as Hardage's speedy Sooners won, 20 to 0, scoring two touchdowns on fast sweeps.

However Hardage's successors wanting a finer stand of grass plowed up the field and added great quantities of Minnesota peat and that's the luxuriant Sooner field today.



Lloyd C. Mostron, '40ma, has been employed as high school mathematics teacher at El Reno. He has taught as high school teacher and principal in Minnesota and Michigan.

PATE-MAYO: Miss Jessie Lee Pate, '40, and Warren Moody Mayo, both of Ardmore, were married in September. The couple live in Ardmore where Mr. Mayo is employed at Colbert's.

RICHARDS-REED: Miss Marie Willis Richards '40ed, of Muskogee and Roy S. Reed, '34 of Tulsa, were married September 1. Mrs. Reed was a member of Gamma Phi Beta at the University. Mr. Reed is a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. The couple live in Tulsa.

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