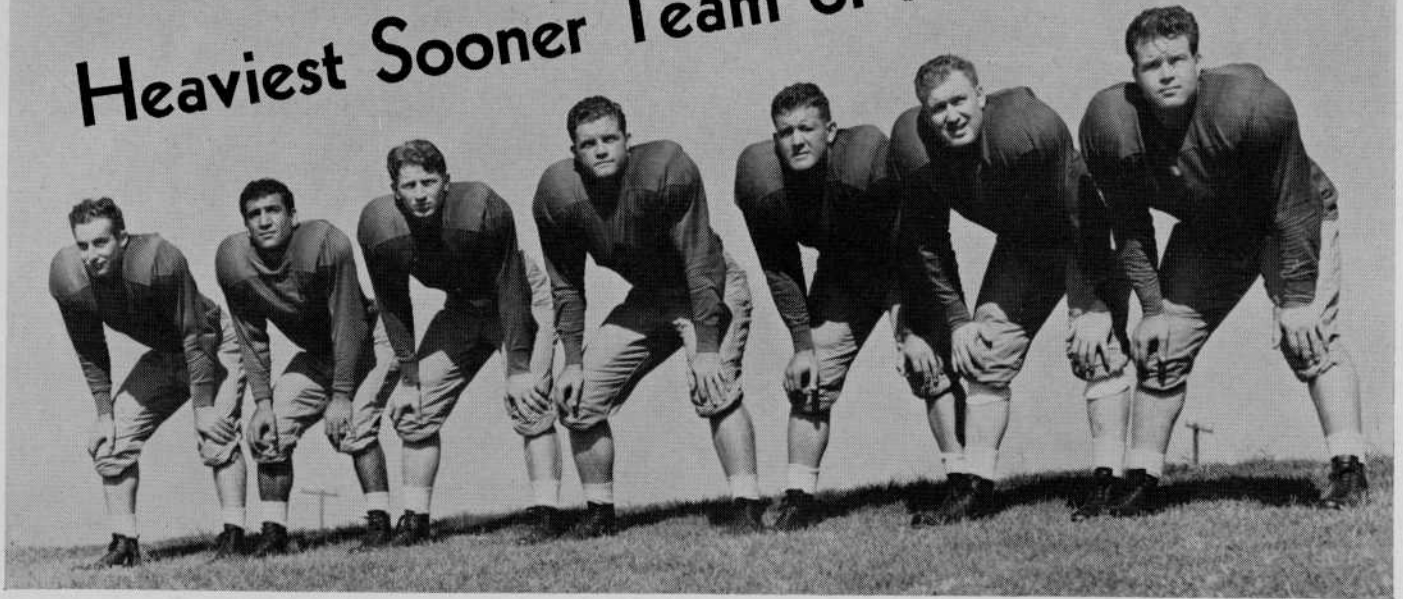


# Heaviest Sooner Team of All Time



Here is Coach Tom Stidham's stalwart line of Sooner guards for 1940. Left to right, Olin Keith 195, Mitch Shadid 170, Jack Haberlein 180, Harold Lahar 214, Sammy Stephens 190, Paul Woodson 220 and Ralph Harris 230

By HAROLD KEITH

**T**HE University of Oklahoma football team that prances out on the hallowed sod of Owen field to meet the Oklahoma Aggies October 5 at Norman (this is being written three weeks in advance of that game) will be the heaviest Sooner football team of all time.

Coach Tom Stidham's first team will come close to averaging 193 pounds per man and his second eleven also will scale close to that figure.

What have been the heaviest Sooner football teams of the past?

Probably the two biggest clubs Bennie Owen ever coached were his powerful elevens of 1908 and 1920.

And yet they weren't as big as Stidham's present outfit.

Heftiest men on the 1908 club were Key Wolfe 195 pounds, Ralph Campbell 190, Porter English 185, and Roy Campbell 200. But the others were much lighter. Willard Douglas, the other tackle, played at 175 and all the other players were lighter still, particularly the ends and backs.

Probably the old-time Sooner team that nearest approximated the avoirdupois of the present Stidham squad was Bennie Owen's Missouri Valley championship club of 1920.

Weights of some of its leading players were Soupy Smoot 215, Pott Johnston 185, Bill McKinley 190, Erl Deacon 200, Van Edmondson 187 and Dow Hamm 190. But the ends were light, Tarz Marsh coming in around 180 and Jap Haskell at 166. Phil White, at 194, was the biggest back with the others weighing

something as follows: Roy Swatek 168, Dutch Hill 175 and Skivy Davis 165.

The 1920 first team's average was about 185 pounds, the line scaling 190 and the backs 175.

The usual physical pattern of those swift-moving pass-throwing Bennie Owen-coached Sooner teams fell far below this. The all-victorious Oklahoma team of 1911 probably averaged close to 170 pounds with the all-victorious 1915 outfit just a trifle heavier, but not much.

Stidham has always been a believer in big football players. Every coach, for that matter, would probably prefer big players to smaller ones, everything else being equal.

Dick Hanley's great Haskell Indians, whom Stidham captained in 1926, were a big, rough aggregation who enjoyed rolling over the foe with sheer power although they had plenty of forward passing finesse, too, with John Levi, an Arapaho, doing the throwing.

Levi weighed 215 pounds, Tackle Tiny Roebuck 260, Fullback Mayes McClain close to 220, Blocking Back Egbert Ward an even 200, Stidham himself could have dieted a week and still hit 220, and the other Haskell players scaled big in proportion.

## Watch out for Nebraska's Running

With the Big Six conference starting its thirteenth annual football season, let's take a look at the six teams. What club

will have the best running attack, which will be the top forward passing outfit, who will show the finest kicking game?

A long-range calculation based wholly upon what each squad has left over from last year discloses that Nebraska should be tops in running and kicking, Missouri and Oklahoma in forward passing.

Major Biff Jones' Nebraska Cornhuskers are given the ground-attack accolade because they return almost two veteran lines and such experienced ball-carriers as Herm Rohrig, Vike Francis, Walter Luther, Harry Hopp and Henry Rohn.

Although Oklahoma, Missouri, and Kansas State all outranked Nebraska in rushing yardage in Big Six games last fall, at the season's close the Cornhuskers had the most savage, and thanks to a stunning weakside offensive, the most versatile running attack in the league, and moreover they've still got it.

Nebraska plays Oklahoma at Norman on November 2 this fall.

Iowa State should rank close to the top in rushing this fall with most of their linesmen returning and also a bevy of fine running backs. In Merle Osborne and Hank Wilder (the latter gained 545 yards single-handed in 1938 but didn't play football last fall), Coach Jim Yeager's Cyclones will have a pair of fullbacks who come close to matching Nebraska's Francis and Rohn, while Bob Seaburg returns as does also Bill Letchtenberg, a slippery junior who may rival Cornhusker Rohrig as the cleverest running tailback in the circuit.

Kansas State has lost dependable Mel-

vin Seelye but still retains its junior howitzer, Kent "Blooie" Duwe and also Gene Fair and part of her top line.

Missouri still possesses such excellent running backs as All-American Paul Christman, Bill Cunningham, Myron Council and Richard Gale but has lost the line that blocked for it. Oklahoma also will find the ground route difficult with her great line gutted of every man save the center and her new backfield composed entirely of last year's substitutes.

Kansas State, which surprised last year by decisively topping the Big Six in forward passing yardage, loses Seelye, its ace thrower, and receivers Don Crumbaker, and Elmer Niemann, and may surrender her forward passing aureola to Missouri which still has Christman, her passing percheron, and Jim Starmer, outstanding receiver.

Oklahoma should build considerable forward passing yardage too, with Jack Jacobs, coppery Indian boy who last year spelled Beryl Clark, back and also Bill Jennings, finest fielder in the midlands the past two years.

Kansas's indispensable aerial game looks about wrecked. Even Gwin Henry's pass-coaching wizardry may not lift it this fall. The complete Jayhawker hurling corps of Bukaty, Ralph Miller and Eldreth Cadwalader won't return. Also departed are receivers Milt Sullivant, Russ Chitwood and Dick Amerine.

Nebraska's forward passing game was a Big Six puzzle last autumn. Major Jones' secondary was riddled by enemy heaves. Nebraska surrendered 563 yards in completed forwards last fall to its five Big Six foes alone and was the only club in the league yielding more yards by passing than by running.

In spite of their brilliant goal-line passes against Oklahoma at Lincoln last November, the Cornhuskers totaled only 156 yards passing against her Big Six opponents, an average of 31.2 yards per each Big Six game, and while they didn't pass wantonly, their completion percentage of 33.3 was surpassed by all the conference schools save Iowa State.

But the Scarlet won't take any back sass when it comes to punting. They can apply experienced pressure through all four quarters with both Hopp and Rohrig back, while Missouri has lost Blaine Currence and Ronald King, her best booters, Oklahoma reductantly bade goodbye to little Clark and Kansas graduated Bukaty. Kansas State keeps Fair, her best punter last year, while Iowa State still has Osborne.

Missouri's and Oklahoma's kicking games will be further crippled by the going of two great corps of punt-covering ends, Stillman and the Orf twins of the Tigers and All-American Frank Ivy, John Shirk and Alton Coppage of the Sooners.

## Here's Big Six Statistical Ranking for last year

An analysis of Big Six conference statistics for the 1939 season, based on Big Six games only, reveals that Oklahoma led in total offense and rushing, Kansas State in offensive forward passing, Missouri in kick runbacks, and intercepted forward passing, Kansas in forward pass defense and that Iowa State lost the fewest yards from penalties.

The 1939 figures:

	TOTAL OFFENSE				
	YARDS RUSH	YARDS PASS	KICK RUNB.	INTC. PASS	TOTAL
Oklahoma	957	399	607	78	2,041
Missouri	863	349	519	103	1,834
Kansas State	798	498	428	20	1,744
Nebraska	710	156	356	62	1,284
Kansas	448	414	311	7	1,180
Iowa State	554	224	291	15	1,084

	TOTAL DEFENSE				
	OPP. YDS. RUSH.	OPP. YDS. PASS.	OPP. KICK RUNB.	OPP. INTC. PASS.	TOTAL
Oklahoma	526	280	394	18	1,218
Missouri	647	352	277	27	1,303
Kansas State	728	295	512	31	1,566
Nebraska	553	563	422	71	1,609
Kansas	980	191	484	42	1,697
Iowa State	896	359	423	96	1,774

## A new slant on Ed Gallagher

The passing last month of Ed Gallagher, the quiet but shrewd little man from Stillwater, was a grievous shock to Soonerland in spite of the fact Sooner shanks still sting from the more than a score of spankings administered by Ed's great Oklahoma Aggie wrestling teams.

Ed's superbly coached and conditioned Aggie juggernauts dealt out, year after year, the stiffest hidings Sooner sports

teams ever took—even stiffer than the football floggings the state university used to absorb from Nebraska.

And yet the Sooners liked and respected Ed Gallagher as much as any enemy coach they ever faced. Liked him because of his fine personal qualities; respected him because he knew more wrestling than any other three coaches in the nation.

Gallagher's Aggie wrestling teams, like Bennie Owen's old-time Sooner football aggregations, wrestled so cleanly that Sooner-Aggie sportsmanship in this sport was wellnigh spotless and should be an example to Aggie-Sooner teams in all sports in the future.

Gallagher's coaching manners were perfect. He never charged a referee, protesting heatedly when a decision went against one of his boys. He never shouted instructions from the bench, nor gesticulated wildly. Even when the fan throng threatened to blow the roof off with their noise, Gallagher looked as calm and neutral as some tired business man who had just wandered in alone to pass a dull evening and had sat down on the bench by mistake.

Watching him in the matches at Norman, you got the impression that here was a coach who genuinely enjoyed good wrestling so richly and hugely that winning or losing of a match was secondary with him, if that emotion is possible to a coach.

Paul Keen, now Bennie Owen's first assistant here as intramural sports director, was a sprinter under Gallagher at Oklahoma A. and M. college in 1917. He is very high on Gallagher's ability as a track coach.

"Ed told me once that his father used to own several race horses and that he (Ed) learned to run by sprinting alongside the horses and copying their front foot action," Keen recalls.

"When I came to him at Stillwater in 1917, I was a cross country runner and had never sprinted in my life, yet he pulled me down to 10 flat in the 100 and 50.2 in the 440 on a dirt track.

"Even after he was thirty years old, I recall his running along beside me when I was running my best, calling to me to get my knees up and try for more spring in my ankles."

Keen also recalls another incident that illustrates Gallagher's quietness and tolerance. At a meeting of the National Collegiate wrestling rules committee there had been a long wrangle over proposed rules changes. Finally the disputants turned to Gallagher, who had been sitting quietly, and asked the Aggie mentor for his opinion on the suggested change.

"Gentlemen," said Gallagher, in his soft voice, "It doesn't make any difference to us what changes you make. You write your rules and we'll study them at Oklahoma A. and M. college and wrestle you on your own terms."



Marvin Whited . . . charging