



Latest casualties in the Sooner football squad.— Left to right, L. G. Friedrichs, J. S. Munsey and Jack Marsee

Sports Review

by

Harold Keith

THE Sooner varsity football squad was reduced to thirty-six players when Coach Tom Stidham announced June 1 that three more lettermen, Backs J. S. Munsey and L. G. Friedrichs and Center Jack Marsee, would not play this Fall because of injuries sustained last season or in Spring drill this year.

Although the Sooners will make the 1940 fight with their greenest squad of the last three years, prospects aren't totally discouraging by any means.

Composed chiefly of last year's reserves and new sophomores, the 1940 Sooner roster shapes up as follows today:

CENTERS: Novel Wood and Clifton Speegle, both lettermen, who alternated at the position last year; Clare Morford, no experience.

GUARDS: Harold Lahar, Olin Keith, Ralph Harris and Paul Woodson, all lettermen who were substitutes last year; and Joe Allton, Sammy Stephens, Jack Haberlein, and Mitchell Shadid, all with no experience.

TACKLES: Roger Eason, letterman and substitute last year; Howard Teeter, letterman of 1937 who didn't play last year; and Clovis Pierce, John Funk, Laddie Birge and Homer Simmons, all with no varsity experience.

ENDS: Bill Jennings, letterman and regular last year; Lyle Smith and Louis Sharpe, lettermen and substitutes last year; and W. G. Lamb, Ervin Oesterle and Bill Bentley, all with no varsity experience.

BACKS: John Martin, Jack Jacobs, Marvin Whited, Orville Mathews and Gus Kitchens, all lettermen and substitutes last year; and Lindell Hays, Boyd Bibb, Bill Campbell, Jack Steele, Huel Hamm, Pat Shanks, Bill Mattox and Tom Rousey, all with no varsity experience.

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For pure strategy and hustle, Munsey ranks close to Bennie Owen's great quartet of "Hurry Up" quarterbacks, Bill Cross, '07, Buster Ambrister, '11, Hap Johnson, '15, and Frank Ogilvie, '20.

Munsey learned his football while quarterbacking Snorter Luster's smart lit-

tle Norman High School teams of 1934, '35 and '36.

In fact, they still tell the incident about the Norman High game when, with eight seconds to go, Munsey looked over to the sidelines where Luster, his coach, was nervously pacing up and down with his arm around little Al Remy, a substitute.

As Luster talked to Remy, he kept patting Remy's back upon which was inscribed the playing number 48. The quick-witted Munsey thought it was a signal. Norman had a 48 pass. Munsey called it and Bill Jennings, his teammate, caught the ball and ran to a touchdown.

Munsey still has two more years' competition with Oklahoma and naturally Coach Stidham hopes the player's injured shoulder will have healed so Munsey can play in 1941 and 1942.

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Several senior members of Coach Jap Haskell's Big Six championship Oklahoma baseball team may be playing in the big leagues before many years.

Three of them signed outright as soon as the 1940 season ended with the Boston Red Sox of the American League. They are Third-Baseman Jack Riley, First-Baseman Herb Scheffler and Outfielder Roy Myer. Riley and Scheffler were assigned to and are now playing with Boston minor league farm clubs. Myer is playing with the Duncan, Oklahoma, Halliburton Cementers and won't report to Boston until 1941.

Sam Blackwell, Sooner shortstop, was signed by the Brooklyn Dodgers of the National League and farmed out. Ralph Bollinger, junior outfielder, gave up another year of intercollegiate baseball to

sign with the Hutchinson, Kansas, club of the Western Association where he is now playing.

Joe Gulledege, Sooner second-baseman of last year, is now the property of the Boston Bees of the National League and is playing with Hartford in the Eastern League. Jack Baer and Clarence "Hook" Benton are playing on Boston Red Sox farm clubs. Joffre Cross is the regular shortstop of Houston of the Texas League. Colonel "Bus" Mills is a utility outfielder with the world's champion New York Yankees.

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Baseball batting champions on Sooner nines seldom repeat. In fact, none has repeated in the last ten years, the leaders being: 1931, Bus Wall, .436; 1932, Ralph Brand, .410; 1933, Doyle Tolleson, .360; 1934, Roy Myers, .454; 1935, Johnny Hunter, .386; 1936, Gordon Clarke, .382; 1937, Dale Simpson, .385; 1938, Jack Riley, .344; 1939, Herb Scheffler, .407; and 1940, Victor "Popeye" Lasater, .420.

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From averages kept the last ten years the following Sooner baseball feats stand out... Roy Myers got the most hits, 35, in 1934... Delmar Steinbock the most doubles, six, in 1936... Jack Riley the most extra-base hits, 13, this Spring... Doyle Tolleson the most extra-base hits in proportion to number of games played, 13 in 1933... Sam Blackwell the most stolen bases, 20, this Spring... and Hobart "Red" Hardwick the most sacrifice hits, seven in 1935.

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Proof that Jap Haskell's 1940 Sooner team is master of the squeeze bunt—Eleven Sooners made at least one sacrifice this season... all four pitchers came through with at least one sacrifice.

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The University of Oklahoma probably leads the nation in number of its football players now in major league professional football.

Fifteen former Sooner players developed the last three seasons by burly Tom Stidham will go to summer camp August 1 with the "pros." Nine of them were members of Stidham's powerful 1939 team.

The nine who go up for the first time this year are Frank Ivy, John Shirk, Alton Copping, Gil Duggan, Ralph Stevenson, J. R. Manley, Dick Favor, Beryl Clark and Bob Seymour.

Half a dozen others, members of Stidham's 1937 and 1938 clubs, will go back for their second or third years. They include Mickey Parks, Washington Redskins; Earl Crowder and Jim Thomas, Chicago Cardinals; William "Red" Conkright, Cleveland Rams; Waddy Young, Brooklyn Dodgers, and Hugh McCullough, Cleveland Rams.

Besides the fifteen promoted from the Stidham regime, tough Marvin "Swede"

Ellstrom, Tonkawa back who played with Ad Lindsey's Sooners of 1931, rejoins the St. Louis Gunners, while James "Red" Stacy, Altus guard who played for Lewis Hardage in 1932-34, is coaching a club in Hawaii, making a grand total of 17 Sooners who go after real football sugar this Fall.

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Distant dropkicks ... C. E. McBride, for the last thirty-three years sports editor of the *Kansas City Star*, recently attacked, in his mild but cogent way, the consistency of the University of Nebraska's opposition to football bowl games.

"We are having the utmost difficulty in making the Nebraska Bowl attitude coincide with the Nebraska attitude regarding the Pittsburgh game through all the years when the Cornhuskers were annually playing football's most ably recruited college team, taking their annual lickings but getting the dough," McBride began.

"The question before the house is: Why does Nebraska spurn Bowl money when for so many years it reached out for Pitt money?" the *Star's* veteran sports editor concluded.

McBride's article was doubtless provoked by Nebraska's opposing the Bowl question in the recent Big Six conference meeting at Lincoln, and also by repeated boasts by such Nebraska sports writers as Fred Ware of the *Omaha World-Herald* and Cy Sherman of the *Lincoln Star* that Nebraska has rejected in the last few years one Rose Bowl and two Sugar Bowl invitations that would have netted handsome sums.

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Stan Williamson, Sooner line coach, has an article on center play coming up in the September *Athletic Journal* ... He has also done a piece for the *First Aider* about how linemen should warm up before a game.

Bill Lyda's 880 at Stillwater recently was 1:54.5, not bad for a second race... George Koettel's 21.2 for 220 straightaway without a speck of breeze aiding him shows the Alex Arrow is holding his form... If he can stay sharp for the national collegiate at Minneapolis two weeks hence, Koettel may give Clyde Jeffery, Stanford's national champ, a whale of a race... Jeffery did 21 flat in the recent Pacific Coast championships.

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A native stone memorial to Hal Niemann, who was killed on Thanksgiving Day, 1936, while playing polo for the University of Oklahoma, was dedicated in a ceremony May 24 at the polo field.

The memorial is a native stone wall bearing a polo scoreboard and time bell. In presenting the memorial to the University, Ed Edmondson, a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity, to which Niemann belonged, said in part:

"Today we dedicate a monument to the memory of a 21-year-old boy whose name is placed in the hearts of Soonerland as a clean-cut, courageous and brilliant member of the varsity polo team, and who lost his life wearing the red and white of Oklahoma University.

"Here in the native stone of the Niemann Memorial is embodied something of the Sooner spirit of united respect and admiration of sportsmanship and fair play... of the universal love and admiration for youth itself."

Dr. W. B. Bizzell, president of the University, accepted the memorial. Hal Niemann's parents, Dr. and Mrs. George H. Niemann, of Ponca City were present for the ceremony.

Below is the newly completed stone memorial to Hal Niemann, Sooner polo player fatally injured during a varsity game

