



*Dr. Leslie Hewes, '28ba, young assistant professor of geography, last month was coaching the University of Oklahoma tennis team to its fifth Big Six conference title in the last six years. Dr. Hewes' Sooners had defeated Nebraska, Kansas State, Kansas and Missouri of the Big Six with the loss of only one individual match in 24 played, and were to meet Iowa State at Norman in late May for the championship*

# Sooner Sports

By HAROLD KEITTI

**W**ITH a series of unprecedented triumphs on foreign battlegrounds early in May, University of Oklahoma spring sports teams are driving towards their climax Big Six conference competition that always precedes commencement and the closing of the school year.

## Baseball

Despite the pain of a freshly-broken arm, Assistant Coach Jack Baer took the young Sooner baseball team on an invasion of the northern schools of the Big Six conference and brought them home in first place.

After losing the first game to Iowa State at Ames, 4-6, the Sooners won all the rest, licking Iowa State 12-5, Nebraska 3-1 at Lincoln, and Kansas State at Manhattan in a double-header, 11-2 and 3-2.

Drama marked the final Kansas State game, a night affair. Hal Cumberland, Oklahoma's sophomore fire-baller who has whiffed 56 enemy batsmen in 36 innings this spring, went into the last half of the ninth inning with a 3-2 lead, thanks to Catcher Johnny Chyz's timely single which drove in Sam Mabry.

As the Wildcat hitters came up for their final turn, the Kansas State rooters, annually the most rabid in the Big Six, arose and with synchronized stamping of the wooden bleachers, sought to heckle Cumberland. They even called him "Sugar," a nickname he dislikes very much.

Cumberland answered them with horsehide bullets discharged blindingly. He struck out Hugas. He struck out Raemer. He struck out Doyen and the game was over. All told, he rubbed out 17 Wildcats on strikes in the nine-inning battle and he still doesn't like the nickname "Sugar."

Baer's young club found itself at the bat during the tour. Walter Stephenson hit at a .600 pace and swiped 10 bases. Third-baseman Dwight Collins of Okemah clouted a lusty .529. First-sacker Mabry, the Sweetwater (Tex.) swatter, batted at a .454 pace and smote four home runs. Outfielder Maury West, from Oklahoma City, hit three homers and drove in eight runs. Collins, Mabry and West are all sophomores.

## Golf

Not only did Coach Bruce Drake's Sooner golf team keep its five-year record of no defeats on its home course at Norman inviolate, but defeated Kansas State, Kansas and Missouri during a three-match swing around the northern boundary of the Big Six conference in May.

The Kansas State match, which the Sooners barely won on unfamiliar sand greens at Manhattan, 9½ to 8½, produced a laughable incident that eloquently illustrates the Sooner self-confidence.

Howard Teeter, burly right tackle on the Sooner football team who also doubles at golf, was 4 down after the 10th hole. His Kansas State opponent was hitting the ball beautifully and sinking everything around

the greens. Moreover the Wildcat golfer was jubilantly talking a good match, too.

Becoming fed up with his opponent's breezy chatter, the 230-pound Teeter pulled out two well-thumbed dollar bills as he and his foe walked to the No. 11 tee.

"You're kinda high on your game today, aren't you?" Teeter asked.

"I'm hittin' the ball pretty good," the Wildcat confessed, with satisfaction.

"Okay," replied Teeter, "I'll just bet you two dollars I beat you in."

Four up with only eight holes to go, the Kansas State player accepted the wager with alacrity. However the added financial responsibility completely wrecked his game. Teeter birdied Nos. 11 and 12 to cut the lead to two strokes and then went on to defeat his man one up.

Used to grass greens entirely, the Sooners putt far better on grass than sand. The best illustration of this was their two dual matches this spring with the Oklahoma Aggies. On the sand greens at Stillwater during a rain storm, the Aggies won 10-8, their first golf triumph of all times over the Sooners. However in a return engagement over grass greens at Norman, the Sooners took a terrible revenge, annihilating the Aggies 18-0.

## Polo

Coach Jim Hester's Sooner polo team, with Lieut. Thomas P. Ewing in charge when business duties kept Hester at home, swept all five games on its northern tour in spite of the fatigue of motor travel and the fact they had to ride strange horses in every match.

Hitting timely goals in the final moment of play to save three of the five games, the young Sooner poloists defeated Iowa State at Ames 8-3 and 7-6, Missouri at Columbia, 8-2 and 5-4 and Illinois at Urbana in an overtime, 8-7.

## Tennis

Although they can't clinch the Big Six championship until their final dual of the season against Iowa State at Norman May 26, the Sooner tennis team, coached by Dr. Leslie Hewes, assistant professor of geography, appears well on its way to its fourth Big Six title in the last five years.

Hewes' boys won 17 of 18 individual matches while chastising Kansas State, Kansas and Missouri during a road trip, and also defeated the Oklahoma Aggies twice, 5-1 at Norman and 4-3 at Stillwater, thus enabling the Sooners to clinch the school year's sports ascendancy from the Farmers. The Sooners won football, crosscountry, track and tennis. The Aggies took wrestling, basketball and swimming. The Sooners have already won two of three baseball games and can't do worse than tie in that sport.

## Track

For the first time in four years, the Sooner track team defeated the Oklahoma

Aggies. It happened May 1 at Norman before hundreds of Interscholastic meet visitors who were given a thrilling show as Coach Ralph Higgins' Stillwater boys gamely delayed the verdict until the mile relay, final event of the sultry, cloudy afternoon.

Hero of this modern spirited mingling of Sooner and Aggie track teams was Bill Lyda, stout Sooner junior from Oklahoma City, who burns his running kilowatts as recklessly as a light meter on a golf driving range yet never seems to run out of power. It was the durable Lyda's thrilling 48.5 anchor lap, his third race of the day, that gave the Sooners a narrow triumph,  $68\frac{1}{2}$  to  $62\frac{1}{2}$ .

With only the relay left, the Sooners led by a point,  $63\frac{1}{2}$  -  $62\frac{1}{2}$ . Aggie Foster Johnson opened a 10-yard lead on the first leg. Warren Lehman, Sooner No. 2, pluckily got it back to the delight of the screaming Sooner fans. Ralph Tate, youthful sophomore workhorse of Higgins' team, made them glum again by shooting into another 15-yard Aggie lead and with the frowning Lyda, already weary from two hard races, stamping impatiently at the restraining line, after Tate touched off, it looked like the Sooners were cooked.

W. L. Clapham, the Aggie broad-jumping anchor, courageously held his lead around the first curve and down the back stretch only to have Lyda suddenly shift into his amazing overdrive, collar Clapham at 330 yards out, and striding like a machine, whip around the Aggie and win by 50 yards as Clapham, declining useless punishment, slowed to a walk and trotted in.

Winning nine first places to the Aggies' six, Coach John Jacobs' Sooners seemed to catch fire from Dick Smethers' upset defeat of Aggie George Gibson in the mile run, first track event of the day.

Smethers, Oklahoma's Big Six conference indoor two-mile champ from Ponca City, simply dogged the slim Aggie as Gibson turned the first three whirls in 63, 2:10 and 3:19 and then fled through the final lap in 60.9 seconds to win ten yards in the elegant time of 4:19.9.

Lyda's first race was the 440. Running as smoothly as though grafted to a set of rubber-tired wheels, the black-thatched Sooner junior streaked to victory by 18 yards in the astonishing clocking (considering he wasn't pushed) of 47.6 seconds, only meet record to fall all day. It was also a new Sooner school mark, eclipsing Fred Coogan's 47.9 made two springs ago.

But Higgins' wiry hurdling trio, Ross Nichols, Billy Munn and Tate, who had won so sensationally at the Drake Relays, hit the string in a black-jersied cluster to sweep the high hurdles and restore the lead to the Aggies,  $38\frac{1}{2}$  to  $33\frac{1}{2}$ .

But with the 880 coming up, the menacing figure of Lyda again arose to confront the Farmers. With only 35 minutes rest from his strenuous quarter, Bolting Bill patiently followed the field until the final 300 yards, then drove slowly but command-

ingly around everybody to win by six yards in 1:57.8 with Lehman, his long-nosed team mate, fighting past Patillio in the stretch.

The surprise of the meet was Jacobs' hurriedly-summoned Sooner javeliners, Football Players Jack Jacobs and Ansel Young and the 6-foot 6-inch basketball center Hugh Ford, whom the shrewd Sooner coach had culled off the campus a few days before. They had done no practicing but this was an Aggie-Sooner meet and arising to the emergency, they astonished by sweeping the event!

And when stocky little Orville Mathews poured himself down the 220 straightaway in 21.6 seconds for his second dash win, with a be-spectacled team mate, Elmer Heard, cruising in his wake, the spirited Sooners had opened their widest lead of the day,  $58\frac{1}{2}$  to  $40\frac{1}{2}$ .

However that 220 race proved costly to both teams. It took both Mathews and Jackie Taylor, Aggie quarter-miler, out of the mile relay with pulled muscles. The Sooners had already lost their crack sophomore low-hurdler, Archie Walker, from a muscle ripped while warming up before the meet began.

Then came a splendid Aggie rally in the last three events that chilled the Sooner crowd. Tate leaped 23 feet on his last broad jump to crowd Sooner Tommy Harrison down to third place by one inch. Freckled George Gibson came back in the two-mile to defeat Smethers, his mile conqueror, by 40 yards, and when Aggies Edwards and Munn coasted to first and second in the low hurdles, the Sooners' hard-earned lead had melted to a single point and the meet's fate passed to the final mile relay.

But the Sooners still had Lyda and even a tired Lyda was much better than any horse left in the Aggie stable.

### Semi-Centennial Game

The University dipped into Dixie for its Semi-Centennial football opponent at Norman December 5, 1942. It selected William and Mary College of Williamsburg, Virginia, second oldest college in America and seat of the founding of Phi Beta Kappa in 1776.

Coached by Carl Voyles, former Oklahoma Aggie athlete and personal friend of both Lawrence "Jap" Haskell, Sooner athletic director, and Dewey "Snorter" Luster, Sooner football coach, the Indians are just getting started in big-time football but apparently are headed upward under Voyles whom Haskell and Luster regard as a brilliant coaching prospect.

In its one big game last autumn, William and Mary lost to Navy, 19 to 7. The game was on fairly even terms until lack of reserves proved costly to William and Mary.

The special game for the Semi-Centennial was scheduled in late May after the Big Six Conference authorized a ten-game schedule for the Sooners in 1942. The five Big Six schools and Texas and Oklahoma A. and

M. already have been scheduled, and two more games will be added later, Haskell said.

Although short on football tradition, William and Mary is long on scholarship and history. An Indian massacre in 1622 kept it from being founded then as the University of Henricopolis. In 1693 it was granted a charter by King William and Queen Mary who also yielded the college the income from the tobacco tax and gave it 20,000 acres of land for which the college was to pay a yearly rent of two copies of Latin verse.

Gen. George Washington used the college as a hospital during the Yorktown campaign. Lord Cornwallis occupied it for a few days in 1781. During the Civil War it was occupied by United States army officers.

### "Centerview Roll"

Perhaps the top athlete of the 37th annual Oklahoma Interscholastic meet at Norman early in May was Burton Cossey, 6-foot  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -inch senior high-jumper from the Centerview Union-graded school, four miles south of Prague. Springing upward like a golf ball dropped onto a concrete sidewalk out of an upstairs window, Cossey leaped 6 feet  $4\frac{7}{8}$  inches and barely missed three jumps at 6 feet 6 inches. Moreover, he jumped in sprint shoes without spikes in the heel.

Right after Cossey broke the record, somebody asked John Jacobs, Sooner track coach, what high-jumping form Cossey had used. Cossey himself admitted he couldn't identify it from among any of the standard forms.

Jacobs scratched his head perplexedly. He was frankly stumped.

"It looks like the Half-Sweeney and yet it's different, too," the Sooner coach opined, "Maybe we'd better just call it the 'Centerview Roll.'"

### Texas Aggies Booked

Texas A. and M. College, football champions of the Southwest Conference for the last two seasons, will play the Sooners at Norman for five consecutive years starting in 1944, Athletic Director Jap Haskell has announced.

The contract calls for games at Norman on October 7, 1944, October 6, 1945, October 5, 1946, October 4, 1947, and October 2, 1948.

With all of the games to be played in Norman, the Sooners' home schedules will be greatly strengthened. Haskell is confident that the Texas Aggies will prove to be a fine drawing card with Oklahoma football fans.

Playing both Texas and the Texas Aggies each year, as well as the members of the Big Six Conference, the Sooner football team will have an opportunity to build its national reputation to new heights.