



The backbone of Coach Jap Haskell's Sooner baseball crew this spring is its pitching corps. Here is the hurling staff that already this season holds two victories over the Oklahoma Aggies. They are, left to right: Hal Cumberland, outstanding fire-ball sophomore; Virgil Ward, junior; Johnny Heath, veteran pitcher on the squad; and Harold Parks, an effective south-paw relief chucker.

## Sooner Sports

By HAROLD KEITH

*deceive*: "to lead into error."

—Webster's Collegiate dictionary

WITH deception the aim in the recently-completed Sooner spring football practice, Sooner Coach Dewey "Snorter" Luster, a quiet, droop-shouldered little guy who goes around these days looking perpetually exhausted, had some surprising comment for football fans everywhere when recently asked to define the word as it applies to football.

The substance of Luster's remarks were that there is far more to football deception than just hiding the ball. In fact, his definition of the term agrees almost exactly with Mr. Webster's definition of the verb "deceive."

In other words, Luster's Sooners this fall aim to lead the enemy into constant error. But they won't always try to do it by concealing the ball.

"The deception most frequently missed by the average spectator is the ball-carrier's skill in setting up his blocks after the center has thrown him the ball and it is in plain sight of everybody in the stadium, under his arm," Luster declares.

"No matter where the play goes, this back should always start the same way, taking two or three steps laterally to make the defensive end, tackle and line-backers declare themselves in the wrong direction. Or in other words, to 'lead them into error.'

"For example, if the play is going inside the tackle, the ball-carrier can set up

his block by starting laterally, as for a sweep. If he can lead the defensive tackle even a few inches wide, he has helped his blockers move the tackle in the direction the tackle declared himself, towards the sideline. It is easier then for the ball-lugger to cut back inside them and into the secondary before the tackle can recover position.

"But still he didn't have to hide the ball.

"In fact, you can have deception in every position on the team," he added, "The defensive tackle may show excellent deception when he charges hard on one play, but on the next just fakes to charge, causing the blocker to fall on his face. The end fools you when he bulls in on one down but waits on the next. The guard who comes under you one down, then over you the next, then refuses to charge at all on the third, can embarrass you just as much as the best ball-hider who ever breathed."

Luster says the best ball concealment he ever looked at was that put on by Buck Shaw's Santa Clara Broncos last November when they spanked the Sooners 33 to 13 at Kezar stadium in San Francisco.

Luster didn't actually see that game. He was attending classes at Columbia university in New York City and acting as guest coach of the New York Giants professional team. However he has seen the motion pictures of it and already has an idea of what his Sooners are up against at Norman October 25 when the Broncs invade Owen field.

"I never saw better ball-hiding finesse than Santa Clara's even in pro ball," Luster declared, "They must have spent a world of time on it. They exploded."

The finest offensive deception Luster ever personally saw an Oklahoma team face was that employed by Major Bob Neyland's Tennessee Vols in the Orange Bowl game of 1939 at Miami, Fla. Luster was backfield mentor then of Coach Tom Stidham's Sooner team that the orange-shirted Tennesseans humbled 17 to 0.

But unlike Santa Clara, Tennessee didn't hide the ball.

"Tennessee showed you the ball, then walled off your rushing linesmen and ran around you," Luster recalls, "They had marvelous poise and seemed to do everything dead easy. They hit quickly, ran hard and used lots of reverses. Their line, which averaged only 185 to 190 pounds per man, wasn't big but it was lightning fast and blocked brilliantly downfield."

Luster named the Chicago Bears as the pro club he saw last year in the East that showed the most deception.

"Of course their great personnel helped make it," he admitted, "but you can't get around the fact that their T formation spreads you out, and that they had men who could hit fast and hard through your widened and weakened middle."

Coach Lou Little's Columbia team had the most deception of any eastern college squad the new Sooner coach saw.

"Columbia would spend their first 40

minutes on the field practicing hiding the ball," Luster recalls, "Their two tailbacks play almost side by side and they polished their stuff over and over again. I watched several of Columbia's Monday morning workouts. They spent as much time on their ball-handling as we do on throwing."

Luster says Oklahoma's offense this autumn should roughly resemble Santa Clara's.

"That is, it will when we start blocking," he qualified, mentioning a fault of the Sooner spring drills, "A team can't win by just hiding the ball. It's going to have to block, too."

### Selective Draft

Whether Oklahoma will confound enemy football teams with either deception or power depends no little upon Uncle Sam's distribution within the next 60 days of 13 Sooner players registered in the selective draft and two more who are senior cadets in the university's advanced R. O. T. C. unit.

With Adolph Hitler's swift-rolling Nazi juggernaut already several touchdowns ahead in the Balkans, Coach Luster's statement last February that "the only players we are sure of not losing in the draft are the married ones who have children," looks more like truth and less like a wisecrack every day.

As long as the age limit remains at 21 years, the Sooners will still have plenty of football players this fall even if all the "oldsters" should be called, since 40 of the 55 varsity men available are under 21. However it would be the youngest and greenest Sooner team since Bennie Owen's "kid" aggregation of 1918, a doughty outfit made up of boys too young to go to the first World War. Incidentally, that Oklahoma team was all-victorious.

### Baseball

Jack Baer, new Sooner coaching assistant, has done a fine job on the adolescent Sooner baseball team. With last year's Big Six conference championship aggregation wrecked in every position but the pitching staff, a brand new club had to be built this spring.

Baer, who belongs to the Boston Bees of the National league, passed up a chance to go to spring training at San Antonio with Casey Stengel's major league club to accept the position on the Sooner coaching staff and tutor the Sooner baseballers while Lawrence "Jap" Haskell, coach for the past 13 years, was busy with his duties as director of athletics and football line coach.

In their first game at Norman April 3, the fledgling Sooners defeated the Oklahoma Aggies 11 to 9 in spite of the handicap of six infield errors. Sharp hitting was the Sooner reply to an Aggie lead of 5 to 2 in the early innings, base hits leaping off the Sooner hickories like crooked nails off the hammer of a tippy carpenter.

Maury West and Melvin Bullington walloped home runs and the Sooners also put on both the hit-and-run and the squeeze to earn other scores, thus continuing Sooner baseball tradition of a smart, versatile attack.

The score by innings:

	R	H	E
Aggies	212	010	210
Sooners	025	111	10x
Meggs, Booher and Salmon; Ward and Chyz.			

### Polo

Jim Hester, Oklahoma's graduate polo coach, a quiet, drawling fellow who sits on the sidelines and calmly rolls cigarettes no matter how hot the action on the field, is slowly but steadily building another fine team at Oklahoma.

It isn't any world-beater and won't be for another year or so, but it has won four games, lost one and tied one in intercollegiate competition this season and improves every time it plays.

The young Sooner riders, every man trained and developed at Norman instead of at some neighboring military school, opened their season by defeating Ohio State at Hal Niemann field here, 9-5 and 10-4. They were held to a tie by Oklahoma Military Academy at Claremore, 4-4, but came back to win in the second of the series, 5-4. They lost to the strong Texas Aggies at Norman April 10, 4-5 but defeated the Texans April 10 here 8-7.

### Golf

Coach Bruce Drake's Sooner golf team, after defeating Wichita university 17½ to ½ in their 1941 opener, are on their way to

Colorado and California for dual matches with the University of Colorado at Cherry Hills, Denver, and with Southern California and U. C. L. A. at Los Angeles.

Ted Gwin of Tulsa, Howard Teeter of Grandfield, Charles Smith of Norman, Charles Hutchins of Norman and Harold Lahar of Oklahoma City comprise the team.

### Tennis

Slow to start, although it has lately begun to roll, the University of Oklahoma tennis team, Big Six conference defending champions, has won four of seven dual meets this spring.

Coached by Dr. Leslie Hewes, assistant professor of geography, the Sooner netsters have compiled the following record:

Oklahoma 4,	Baylor 5
Oklahoma 5,	Michigan State 4
*Oklahoma 3,	Southern Methodist 4
*Oklahoma 1,	Texas 6
*Oklahoma 4,	Texas Christian 3
Oklahoma 6,	Augustana 0
*Oklahoma 7,	Arkansas 2

\*played away from Norman.

The singles ranking of Sooner players at present is: Bill Tenhagen of Kansas City, Kansas 1, Walter Mead of Norman 2, Bob Davis of Norman 3, Eddie Bedwell of Fort Smith, Ark. 4, Herb Newman of Jamestown, N. Y. 5, E. P. Litchfield, Jr., of Chickasha 6.

### Track and Field

Short on numbers but possessing a few crack individual performers, the University of Oklahoma track team broke a record at the Southwest Exposition meet at Fort Worth, Texas March 15 when Bill Lyda won the half-mile in 1:57.1 on a slow track to defeat Umstadt, sensational Texas runner.

Dick Smethers won the mile at the same meet in 4:28 while Archie Walker was second in the low hurdles. Lyda lost the 440 by inches to Morris "Red" Barefield, Texas's Southwest conference champion, prior to his 880 effort.

The Oklahoma team passed up the Texas Relays April 5 to compete for the first time in the fourth annual Colorado Invitational Indoor meet at Boulder, Colorado, sponsored by the University of Colorado of which Frank Potts, former Sooner football and track hero of the middle 1920s, is coach.

Competing indoors on a 220-yard clay track against the finest runners in the mountains, the Sooners won five first places and broke three records.

Orv Mathews won the 50 in 5.4 seconds, Lyda won the 440 in 49.9 seconds and Smethers took the mile in 4:32.5, all new records although Smethers' mark was later erased in the open mile race. Tommy Harrison won the broad jump by four times leaping the winning distance of 22 feet 5 inches while Lyda came back to win the 880 in 2:02.6

## May Sports Schedule

### Baseball

- May 1—Iowa State at Ames.
- May 2, 3—Nebraska at Lincoln.
- May 5, 6—Kansas State at Manhattan.
- May 13—Oklahoma Aggies at Norman.
- May 16—Missouri at Norman.
- May 17—Missouri at Norman.
- May 21—Oklahoma Aggies at Stillwater.

### Track and Field

- May 1—Oklahoma Aggies at Norman (dual).
- May 17—Kansas State at Manhattan (dual).
- May 23, 24—Big Six Outdoor meet at Lincoln.

### Tennis

- May 8—Kansas State at Manhattan.
- May 9—Kansas at Lawrence.
- May 10—Missouri at Columbia.
- May 13—Oklahoma Aggies at Stillwater.
- May 26—Iowa State at Norman.

### Golf

- May 3—Oklahoma Aggies at Norman.
- May 8—Kansas State at Manhattan.
- May 9—Kansas at Lawrence.
- May 10—Missouri at Columbia.
- May 26—Iowa State at Norman.

### Polo

- May 8, 10—New Mexico Military academy at Norman.
- May 15, 17—Oklahoma Military academy at Norman.