

Sooner Sports

By HAROLD KEITH

OKLAHOMA'S cherished Big Six conference all-sports championship, which Sooner athletic teams have won eight of the last twelve years, and also for the final two seasons of the old Missouri Valley league, seems likely to fall to Nebraska's Scarlet-smocked teams this school year.

With only the four spring sports to be heard from—baseball, outdoor track, tennis and golf—Nebraska was leading with a low total of 13, followed by Iowa State with 16½, Oklahoma 19, Kansas State 25, Missouri 25½ and Kansas 27.

Only one of Oklahoma's four youthful winter sports squads finished as high as third place—Acting Coach Harold Byrd's Sooner wrestlers who won third place in the Big Six tournament.

The Big Six all-sports table at mid-season, with six of the ten sports finished, stood:

	Neb.	I.S.	Ok.	K.S.	Mo.	Kans.
Football	1	4	2	5	3	6
Two-mile race	1	4	2	5	3	6
Indoor track	1	5	4	6	2	3
Swimming	3	1	4	2	6	5
Basketball	3	1½	4	5	6	1½
Wrestling	4	1	3	2	5½	5½
	13	16½	19	25	25½	27

Closing out the university's winter sports program:

Basketball

Coach Bruce Drake's Sooner basketball team rallied from the discouragement of seven straight losses to defeat the championship Kansas team, coached by the redoubtable Dr. F. C. "Phog" Allen, on the Jayhawkers' own court at Lawrence, in Oklahoma's final game of the season, 45 to 37.

This surprise victory, which Drake's crippled team won decisively, was the most important victory scored by a conference team this season because it:

(1) Broke Kansas's three-year record of no defeats on her home floor at Hoch Auditorium. The Jayhawkers had won twenty-seven consecutive games there prior to the Sooner chastisement.

(2) Dropped Kansas into a tie with Iowa State for the 1941 conference championship.

(3) Established Iowa State, and not Kansas, as the conference's representative in the National Collegiate Basketball tournament playoffs, since Iowa State had a much greater margin between her own points scored and those tallied by her combined opponents, the method agreed upon by the league for deciding the Big Six representative provided there was a tie for the Big Six championship between two or more teams.

(4) Snapped an Oklahoma losing streak of seven consecutive games, the Sooners

having lost to Missouri at Columbia, 42 to 61, with both Hugh Ford, 6-foot 5 3/4 inch center, and Paul Heap, 6-foot 4-inch guard, out of action. Ford had a severe "charley horse" and Heap a broken hand suffered in the Nebraska battle at Norman February 22.

In Oklahoma's astonishing belting of the Jaybirds at Lawrence, Sooner Forward Garnett Corbin hit eight field goals and stopped Bobby Allen, Kansas's all-conference center, with two. Allie Paine, Oklahoma's sophomore guard, dogged Howard Engleman, Kansas's all-Big Six forward and hottest scorer of 12-year-old Big Six conference history, holding him to two field goals. Matt Zollner, Sooner reserve, brought the Oklahomans out of a second-half slump with cool generalship, while the stork-like Ford had a great night, delivering seven field baskets and controlling the leather off both backboards.

Although the Sooners ended their conference season with five wins and five losses they ranked second only to Iowa State in margin between offense and defense with a plus 1.4 points per game, led the Big Six in free throwing by sinking 69.2 percent of their foul shots and scored more field goals than any other team in the loop, 154.

Oklahoma's misfortune was her failure to win a single close game. In Big Six play Drake's boys lost to Nebraska 42-43, to Iowa State 33-35 and to Kansas State in an overtime 36-41, although Oklahoma led all three with only seconds left to play.

Indoor Track

In the official entry list of the Big Six indoor track and field meet lies the explanation of why Oklahoma finished fourth with only 18½ points in Kansas City's new Convention Hall March 1.

Nebraska entered 20 athletes in the big meet, Missouri 19, Kansas State 19, Kansas 18, Iowa State 18 and Oklahoma 11.

However, two Sooners broke 20-year-old records, Bill Lyda disregarding the fatigue of an earlier 440-yard race to come back and win the half-mile by ten yards in 1:56.5, splendid time considering he ran 12 sharp curves while circling the 147-yard spruce track.

A log of the half-mile races in the Big Six and old Valley conference since the first indoor meet was held back in 1922 shows Lyda's time is the fastest ever made indoors in the conference:

OLD VALLEY CONFERENCE

1922—2:00.8, Gardner, Nebraska (boards).
1923—2:00.8, Gardner, Nebraska (boards).
1924—2:02.6, Hammerly, Iowa State (boards).

1925—2:03.8, Lewis, Nebraska (boards).
1926—2:02.6, Moody, Kansas State (cinders).
1927—2:03.6, Conger, Iowa State (clay).
1928—2:01.1, Moody, Kansas State (clay).

BIG SIX CONFERENCE

1929—2:02.4, Hoak, Iowa State (boards).
1930—2:01.9, R. Swartz, Missouri (cinders).
1931—1:59.7, Ostegard, Nebraska (cinders).
1932—2:01.8, Nagel, Iowa State (cinders).
1933—2:00.1, Moody, Oklahoma (cinders).
1934—1:57.8, Cunningham, Kansas (cinders).
1935—1:57, Moody, Oklahoma (cinders).
1936—1:58.8, Barrett, Oklahoma (cinders).
1937—1:59.2, Eberhart, Kansas State (cinders).
1938—1:58.7, Gahan, Oklahoma (cinders).
1939—1:58.4, Reaves, Missouri (cinders).
1940—1:56.9, Reaves, Missouri, (boards).
1941—1:56.5, Lyda, Oklahoma (boards).

Smethers, Coach John Jacobs' latest addition to a long line of fine Sooner distance runners, conquered Larry Inman, Iowa State's sophomore phenom, by 20 yards with a blazing sprint through the final two laps and his time, 9:36.9, like Lyda's was a new record, surpassing any mark ever clocked in a conference meet during the 20-year-old history of indoor running in the league.

A log of the conference indoor two-mile races since the first one 20 years ago follows:

OLD VALLEY CONFERENCE

1922—9:43.4, Rathbun, Iowa State (boards).
1923—9:54, Kuykendall, Kansas State (boards).
1924—9:58.4, Poage, Missouri (boards).
1925—9:37.6, Balzer, Kansas State (boards).
1926—10:01.4, Niblack, Oklahoma (cinders).
1927—9:54.4, Frazier, Kansas (clay).
1928—9:45.2, Keith, Oklahoma (clay).

BIG SIX CONFERENCE

1929—9:50.7, Frazier, Kansas (boards).
1930—9:45.9, Putnam, Iowa State (cinders).
1931—9:50.3, Putnam, Iowa State (cinders).
1932—9:54, Ayers, Nebraska (cinders).
1933—9:49, Landon, Kansas State (cinders).
1934—9:45.8, Lochner, Oklahoma (cinders).
1935—9:49, Wheelock, Kansas State (cinders).
1936—9:52.2, Lochner, Oklahoma (cinders).
1937—10:03, Burris, Missouri (cinders).
1938—9:40, Mitchell, Kansas State (cinders).
1939—9:42.2, Mitchell, Kansas State (cinders).
1940—9:41.2, High, Kansas State (boards).
1941—9:36.9, Smethers, Oklahoma (boards).

In the 60-yard dash, Orv Mathews, Sooner sprinter, scored his second triumph in a week over Gene Littler, Nebraska's world's indoor record-holder at 300 yards, but finished second to Cooley of Missouri. Littler was third. Sophomore Archie Walker of Cleveland placed third in the low hurdles, Lyda got a second in the 440 and Pole Vault Harry Fender tied for fourth.

Wrestling

Able to enter only five men in the Big Six tournament because of injuries and illness, the Sooner wrestling team rallied from its 0-28 spanking by the national cham-

pionship Oklahoma Aggies to place third to Iowa State and Kansas State.

Richard Frye, Sulphur sophomore, won the conference 121-pound championship. Hoy Stone, Tulsa senior, won the conference 136-pound title. Bennie Young, at 129, and Jack Moskowitz at 145, placed second while Bob McKinney at 155 finished third.

Swimming

Student Coach Ned O'Reilly's young Sooner swimming team closed its 1941 season by placing fourth in the Big Six aquatic meet March 1 at Lincoln, Neb.

Mike Travis, Oklahoma's sophomore breast-stroker from Tulsa, won first place in his event.

The final duel meet against the Oklahoma Aggies at Norman had to be forfeited because Oklahoma had but five swimmers available for the gruelling nine-event program.

Fencing

Varsity fencing with all its colorful punctilio made its debut here March 7 when the St. John's Military school of Salina, Kansas, defeated a University of Oklahoma team that was fencing its first match of all time, 9 to 7, in the Union lounge at Norman.

The match was not decided until the closing touch of the final bout when with a quick thrust of his shining blade, Bob Hickman, of St. John's, slipped beneath the guard of Sooner Milton Ungerman and dented his padded apron for a 5-4 decision in their bout. If Ungerman could have won, the match would have ended in an 8-8 tie.

Looking as meek as choir boys before the action began, the visiting lads from the little Kansas military college, none of whom was over 17 years old, fenced beautifully. They had been following the sport for years and eloquently bespoke it with their deft skill and aggressiveness. That the Sooners' coached by Dr. Fritz Frauchiger of the mathematics department, were able to hold them to a close score in Oklahoma's first match of all time, was a tribute to Dr. Frauchiger's coaching.

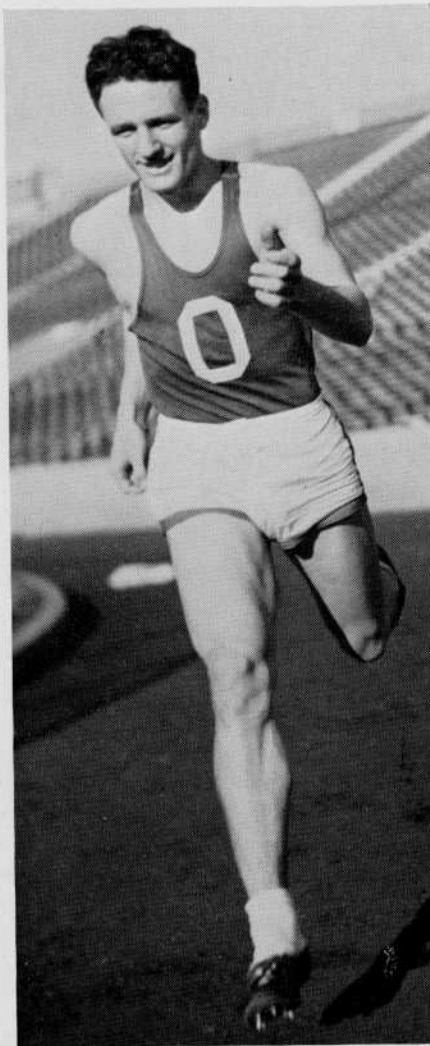
Star of the cadets was Allen Guibert, a spunky little left-hander who is only 14 years old and weighs but 118 pounds. Guibert defeated in rapid order Sooners Eugene Glass, Milford Ungerman and Russell Webber before finally bowing with a sleepy grin to brawny James Dugger by a single point just before midnight.

Guibert, Hickman and Guy O. Henderson of St. Johns each won three bouts. For the Sooners Dugger, Glass and Webber each won two while Ungerman annexed a single victory.

Interscholastic Records

Begun before statehood, the 37-year-old Oklahoma Interscholastic Meet to be sponsored by the University of Oklahoma at Owen field May 1, 2 and 3 has sprouted a formidable set of records.

The 11-year old 880-yard dash mark of 1:59, set in the track and field division back



Rushing through an indoor half-mile in 1 minute 56.5 seconds, Bolting Bill Lyda broke all conference indoor records for the past twenty years as he won by ten yards from Bob Ginn, his Nebraska opponent. It was the first race Ginn had ever lost in his life. He is the Big Six fall two-mile champion and also the Big Six indoor mile king.

in 1930 by Loris Moody, of Tulsa Central high school, is the oldest on the books at present. Moody is now a physical education teacher in the Tulsa school system.

Four new track and field marks were established last year and a fourth one tied. In addition, one new golf mark was set and four new swimming standards chalked up as the state's best athletes went on a spree.

Tulsa Central high school and Oklahoma City Central hold the most records in boys events, seven each. Norman and Oklahoma City Classen hold three each and Chickasha two.

In the newly-created girls athletic divisions, Oklahoma City Capitol Hill and Oklahoma City Classen are tops with three new marks each.

John Jacobs, Sooner track coach who doubles as director of athletic events of the interscholastic, has brought all the records up to date. Not listed correctly in the official guide, the marks are as follows:

BOYS TRACK AND FIELD

Track

- 100 yards—9.6s by Mathews, Chickasha, 1933.
- 220 yards—21.2s by Mathews, Chickasha, 1933.
- 440 yards—49.2s by Lyda, Oklahoma City Central, 1938.
- 880 yards—1m.59s by Moody, Tulsa Central, 1930.
- Mile run—4m.32.2s by Liles, Cooperton, 1935.
- 120 yards hurdles (3ft.3in.)—14.0s by Ellison, Seminole, 1940.
- 200 yards low hurdles—22.6s by Hernandez, Norman, 1938, and Hodges, Enid, 1940.

Field

- Discus (lightweight)—147ft.10in. by Van Orsdol, Port, 1940.
- Shot put—54ft. 7½ in. by Tichenor, Nowata, 1931.
- Javelin—214ft.3in. by Peoples, Oklahoma City Classen, 1937.
- High jump 6ft.4in. by Hunt, Oklahoma City Classen, 1935.
- Broad jump—23ft.6½ in. by Strow, Ada, 1938.
- Pole vault—12ft.6 ¾ in. by Stewart, Blackwell, 1934.
- Hop, step and jump—47ft.2in. by Bixler, Broken Arrow, 1938.
- Football throw—222ft.10in. by Morris, Oklahoma City Northeast, 1940.

Relays

- 880 yards—1m.32.2s by Oklahoma City Central (Wingfield, Holcomb, Ferguson, Bell), 1935 and Oklahoma City Central (McClain, Sims, Azeltine, Lyda), 1938.
- Mile relay—3m.27.4s by Oklahoma City Central (Wren, Terneus, Wingfield, Sanders), 1934.

Obsolete events

- 120 yard hurdles (3ft.6in.)—14.8s by Nelson, Norman, 1933.
- 220 yards low hurdles—24s by Cope, Oklahoma City Classen, 1933.
- Discus (old style)—132ft.9.6in. by Shirk, Oklahoma City Central, 1936.

GIRLS ARCHERY

- Individual—328 by Geraldine Nelson, Oklahoma City Classen, 1940.

GIRLS SWIMMING

Individual

- 20 yards—12s by Betty Cleveland, Oklahoma City Capitol Hill and Edith Sheldon, Oklahoma City Capitol Hill, 1940.
- 40 yards—27.1s by Nancy Chesher, Oklahoma City Capitol Hill, 1940.
- 20 yards breast stroke—25.7s by Ina Mae Chesher, Oklahoma City Capitol Hill, 1940.
- 20 yards back crawl—13.2s by Louise Carter, Oklahoma City Classen, 1940.

Relay

- 80 yards—30s by Oklahoma City Classen (Kneeland, Thomas, Severin, Carter), 1940.

BOYS GOLF

- Team—621 strokes by Tulsa Central (Jack Shields, Townsend Wilson, Robert Klein and Shelby Green), 1939.
- Individual—141 strokes by Jack Gray, Norman (73, 68), 1939.
- Long driving—338 feet by Tom Berend, Tulsa Central, 1940.

BOYS SWIMMING

Individual

- 50 yards—26.3s by Ayers, Oklahoma City Central, 1939.
- 100 yards—1:00.1 by Ayers, Oklahoma City Central, 1939.
- 200 yards—2:16.9 by Davis, Tulsa Cascia Hall, 1939.
- 100 yards breast—1:13.2 by Kessler, Tulsa Central, 1940.
- 100 yards back—1:07.2 by Fox, Tulsa Central, 1940.
- Dive—75.64 points by Catledge, Oklahoma City Central, 1939.

Relays

- 150 yards medley—1:30.2 by Tulsa Central (Fox, Crawford, Kessler), 1940.
- 200 yards—1:46.1 by Tulsa Central (Sibole, Battler, Fox, Kessler), 1940.