

Stidham Resigns

[Sports Review]

By HAROLD KEITH

TOM STIDHAM, for the past four years Oklahoma's football coach and athletic director, resigned suddenly in January to accept the football coaching job at Marquette university of Milwaukee, Wisconsin and as this issue of the Sooner Magazine went to press, the athletic council hasn't yet recommended his successor to the Board of Regents.

Stidham was expected to take some of his Sooner assistant coaches with him to his new post. His resignation, made to Dr. W. B. Bizzell, president of the university, will take effect March 15 and was accepted by the athletic council which released him from the remainder of his contract.

Stidham will not be athletic director at Marquette since Conrad M. Jennings, veteran track mentor, holds that job.

Stidham will lead the Marquette team to Norman next November 22 to play the Sooners.

Scholastic Leaders

Bennie Owen's old-time University of Oklahoma football teams were composed of scholars. Prompted by the recent University of Alabama expose written for "Colliers magazine" by Bill Huie (not hooey), a survey recently was made at Norman of the University's strongest football teams of all time from the standpoint of scholarship reflected by the players who went on and earned degrees.

It revealed not only that Owen's teams led those of every other coach here, but that Bennie's three outstanding Sooner clubs, the all-victorious Oklahoma teams of 1911 and 1915 and the undefeated Oklahoma squad of 1920 had graduated 40 of their total 47 letter men, or 85.1 percent.

This was a phenomenal showing and a splendid compliment to Owen, especially when it is considered that only approximately 33.3 percent of all non-athletic students enrolling in the university graduate, according to Registrar George Wadsack.

Moreover, from Owen's 1911, 1915 and 1920 teams, none of which ever lost a game, later sprang a governor, chairman of the State Corporation Commission, five geologists, four lawyers, five oil operators, two engineers, three surgeons, three teachers, a banker, a dean of a university faculty, a head of a department of a college, two automobile dealers, an opera singer, a ranchman and four coaches of college or professional football teams.



Coach Tom Stidham

Only two lettermen in Owen's all victorious 1911 squad failed to graduate here and one of them, "Sixshooter Bill" Moss, a guard, later became an attorney and therefore is believed to have taken a law degree at some other school.

Of the sixteen players who lettered on Owen's all-victorious 1915 team, all but three graduated. Among the three exceptions were George Anderson, a tackle and splendid student, who withdrew from the University School of Medicine to enlist and was killed in action at Chateau-Thierry, and Forrest "Spot" Geyer, All-American full-back, who later arose to the presidency of the Marland Oil Company of Texas.

Owen's Missouri Valley conference championship squad of 1920 graduated fifteen of its seventeen lettermen and of the two who did not take degrees, one, Harry "Dutch" Hill, has been elected to the State Legislature while the other, Roy "Soupy" Smoot, a good student, withdrew from the University to embrace a career in opera.

Here are the Oklahoma lettermen who graduated from Owen's three strongest teams:

OKLAHOMA '11

12 of 14 graduated

Glenn Clark, B.A.; Sabe Hott, B.A. and B.S.; Roy Spears, B.A.; Ed Meacham, B.A., M.A. and Ph.D.; Jimmy Nairn, B.A. and

LL.B.; Chuck Rogers, B.A., M.S. and A.M.; Hubert Ambrister, B.A. and LL.B.; Ray Courtright, B.A.; Fred Capshaw, B.A. and LL.B.; Claude Reeds, B.A.; Roger Berry, B.A. and Henry Weedn, B.S. and M.D.

OKLAHOMA '15

13 of 16 graduated

Jesse Fields, B.S.; Leon Phillips, LL.B.; Curry Bell, B.A. and B.S.; Willis Hott, B.S.; Oliver Hott, B.S.; Howard McCasland, B.A.; Montfort Johnson, B.A.; Rayburn Foster, LL.B.; Prentiss Lively, B.A.; Frank McCain, B.A.; Trim Capshaw, B.A.; Homer Montgomery, C.A.; and Clifford Meyer, B.A.

OKLAHOMA '20

15 of 17 graduated

Dewey Luster, B.A. and LL.B.; Lawrence Haskell, B.A.; Howard Marsh, B.A.; Myron Tyler, B.A.; Pott Johnston, B.A.; Dwight Ross, B.A.; Erle Deacon, B.S. in C.E.; Bill McKinley, B.A.; Gustavus Van Edmondson, B.A.; Ronald Cullen, B.A.; Dow Hamm, B.A.; Roy Swatek, B.S. in C.I.; Phil White, M.D.; Arlo Davis, B.A., and Frank Ogilvie, LL.B.

Basketball Leaders

At this writing the University of Oklahoma basketball team has won only three of eight games and yet, paradoxically, is leading the Big Six conference, having defeated Kansas at Norman 42 to 31 and Nebraska at Lincoln 40 to 29, while losing an extra-period thriller to Kansas State at Manhattan, 36 to 41.

It all goes right back to Coach Bruce Drake's policy of seasoning his green, youthful Sooner squad against just about the most formidable non-conference opponents that could be had.

In spite of the fact the Sooners have lost four of five road games this year, Drake's fledglings have looked great in all five even when going down to defeat.

Southern Methodist nosed the Sooners at Dallas 57 to 55, all-victorious St. Johns triumphed over Oklahoma before 18,000 fans at Madison Square Garden, New York City, by only 45 to 41, unbeaten Temple conquered Oklahoma after a stubborn battle at Philadelphia 32-26 and the Sooners had the Kansas State game won 36 to 34 while passing the ball with five seconds left to play at Manhattan, only to bow out after a thrilling overtime battle. The 40-29 trouncing of Nebraska at Lincoln has already been reported.

Oklahoma's free goal throwing in her last three games, all of them Big Six conference clashes, has been amazing, Drake's new team having hit 32 of 38 free throws which figures out 84.2 percent (14 of 17 against Kansas, 8 of 9 against Kansas State and 10 of 12 against Nebraska).

Putting the long-range glass on the Big Six race at this early stage, the following possibilities begin to take focus:

(1) The championship looks like another three-cornered fight with Coach Louis Menze's Iowa State Cyclones replacing

Coach George Edwards' Missouri Tigers in the annual argument with Kansas and Oklahoma.

(2) Drake, the youthful Sooner coach, apparently is doing the best early-season job in the league in proportion to his losses from last season. Although Oklahoma lost such scintillating players from last year as Jimmy McNatt, All-American forward; Marvin Mesch and Herb Scheffler, all Big-Six men; Marvin Snodgrass, outstanding defensive guard and Gene Roop, competent reserve, casualties fully as severe as those of any other team, Drake has welded another formidable Sooner aggregation from last year's substitutes and freshmen, a squad that lacks the spectacular individual playing talent of the Oklahoma team of 1940, yet seems a little further along as a unit.

(3) Howard Engleman, of Kansas, a forward who rolls a true shot from any range and knows how to get his openings, looks like the loop's individual scoring champion for 1941 with Ford and Corbin of Oklahoma, Nicholas of Iowa State, Bobby Allen of Kansas, Don Fitz of Nebraska and Herbie Gregg of Missouri all maintaining only an outside chance to pass him.

(4) Kansas State, when playing on her home court at Manhattan, is very apt to knock off any team in the loop. Coach Jack Gardner's boys know how to guard without fouling. Although Oklahoma hit 14 field goals to Kansas State's 12 during the regular playing time, and also canned 8 of 9 free throws in last Saturday's game at Manhattan, Kansas State was able to force the game into an overtime period and win because of her cleaner defending, cashing 12 free throws on the rough Sooner guarding.

Biff Jones Visits Campus

Major Lawrence "Biff" Jones, Nebraska's football coach and athletic director who held a similar post at Oklahoma in 1935 and 1936, dropped into Norman for a day early in January and made some interesting observations about the famous T formation employed by Stanford which defeated Major Jones' Nebraska Cornhuskers in the 1941 Rose Bowl game, 21 to 13.

The hefty major's conclusion seemed to coincide with that of Mike Donahue, former Yale player and for nineteen years Auburn coach, who coined the famous football axiom "Fundamentals will beat formations and players will beat plays."

"All football formations have as fine a possibility for deception as the T," the Biffer elaborated gruffly, "Stanford's great backfield of Albert, Kmetovic, Gallarneau and Standlee would be just as dangerous from the Warner, Notre Dame, or short punt as from the T."

Asked what his advice would be to high school coaches who were contemplating installation this fall of the T formation in an effort to get more deception, the big fellow who coxswained Oklahoma's football fortunes in 1935 and 1936 barked with a twinkle in his eye:



Bennie Owen, whose Sooner football teams made a notable scholastic record along with their gridiron fame

"Tell 'em to be sure to have two half-backs who can buck the line, a big fullback fast enough to run the ends, a quarterback who can pass the ball and a dry field for every game."

In other words the Major is still going to stick to his single and double wingback with "suitable variations" at Nebraska next fall, although the loss of twelve lettermen may mean "we can't use some of the stuff we used this year."

And Major Jones wasn't trying to belittle Stanford, the team that defeated his Cornhuskers 21 to 13 in the recent Rose Bowl game. In fact the Nebraska coach spent much of his time praising Stanford.

"The thing about Stanford we marveled at was the amount of offense Shaughnessey and his staff put over in one year," he said, "Their smoothness, finesse, the number of plays and the variations they ran amazed us. And their speed was superb."

And yet Jones would like to see high school teams in Nebraska adopt the T formation this fall so their ball-handling would improve.

"Because of our cold weather, Nebraska high school players who come to us don't know as much about forward passing and ball-handling as boys farther south," Jones said, "We have to teach them these things after they get to the university."

However, he doubted if the formation would be entirely practicable in his state after October. He admitted that the Chicago Bears had done well with the T up north late in the season in spite of weather handicaps but pointed out that the Bears, although they had used the formations for several years now, hadn't won a championship with it for several seasons prior to this fall.

The major can point out several fine football teams that have had splendid deception with other formations besides the T.

"Minnesota this year had a great deal of deception off the single wingback formation," he declared, "Also Michigan and Harvard off the single wing. Dana Bible's Nebraska team of 1936 that had Sam Francis, Cardwell, Douglas and Howell had fine deception off both the single and double wing. Nearly all these teams except Harvard had power and the threat of this power helped the deception no end.

"Rockne's Notre Dame teams? They were hard-running teams with power and speed and didn't need so much deception. They depended lots upon decoy blocking to draw the foe out of position, and also went in for variation of route. In fact, the Four Horsemen once ran around one of our Army ends with so much speed that they didn't bother to block him."

Regarding the Rose Bowl game, Major Jones said his three greatest thrills in order were Nebraska's opening touchdown march from kickoff, Zikmund's catch and the third-quarter goal line stand. He said Nebraska depended upon "trap plays and reverses at a slant" for the opening touchdown.

"Kmetovic cleverly set up his own blocking on their third touchdown by drawing us to the left sideline inside his blockers, then reversing almost to the other sideline," the major admitted frankly, "It was a beautiful play to see from upstairs, if you were neutral, but a hell of a headache for us."



Kelley E. Debusk, '34, has been elected scoutmaster of the Great Salt Plains Council, and has moved, with his wife and three children, to Enid where his headquarters will be located. They resided formerly in McAlester.

After a long illness, Mrs. John Folks (Mary Bumgarner, '34fa), died in December in Mattoon, Illinois. The 28-year-old woman attended grade school and high school in Norman. Surviving her are her husband, John Folks; her mother, Mrs. Lula Bumgarner; two brothers, John Bumgarner and Bill Bumgarner; and two sisters, Mrs. D. R. Stogner and Miss Grace Bumgarner. Services were held in Norman, her former home.

Lt. V. R. James, '34ba, is assigned to the 27th Field Artillery Battalion at Fort Knox, Kentucky. This unit is part of the first Armored Corps, the first corps of its kind in the United States Army.

MCKENNA-CASTANEDA: Miss Helen McKenna, '34, and Luis G. Castaneda were married December 31. She was formerly on the staff of the *Oklahoma News* and has done free lance writing for the *Chicago Times*. Mr. Castaneda attended the University of California. They live in Mexico City, where he is assistant manager of the Hotel Ritz.

Carlton E. Smith, '34med, of Henryetta, a lieutenant in the Reserve Corps, has been ordered to report for army duty at Fort Logan, Colorado, subject to passing physical examinations.

STEWART-WRIGHT: Miss Carolyn Hutcheson Stewart, '34, and Roland Ira Wright were married in December in Las Vegas, Nevada. She is a member of Delta Gamma sorority. Mr. Wright attended the University of Iowa, where he was a member of Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity. They live in Los Angeles, California.

STINNETT-OWENS: Miss Anne Stinnett, '34, and Lieutenant Marion S. Owens, '34, were married December 21 in Oklahoma City. She is a member of Delta Gamma sorority. He is a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. They live in Lawton where he is stationed with the United States army.