

Sooner Sports

By HAROLD KEITH

OKLAHOMA sports teams brought the 1941-42 Big Six conference all-sports championship back to Norman this school year, defeating Nebraska, last year's champion, by half a point.

The final tally, low score winning, was Oklahoma 26, Nebraska 26½, Iowa State 33, Kansas State 34, Missouri 40, Kansas 48½.

Oklahoma won clear-cut championships in two-mile race and tennis, tied for first in basketball, was second in baseball and indoor track, tied for second in football, finished third in golf, fourth in swimming and outdoor track and wasn't represented in wrestling.

Nebraska and Iowa State were the only schools competing in all the sports.

Oklahoma lost the baseball title again because she didn't play as many conference games as Missouri. Last year the Sooners and Tigers lost but one game each yet Miz-zou won because she played more. The same thing occurred this season.

Oklahoma lost its chance to win the Big Six baseball title undisputed when she dropped her only conference loss to Missouri at Columbia May 12. The two teams were rained out May 11. That night the down-pour continued with the result that the field was twice as wet on May 12 but the resourceful Missourians, determined to play at least one game and force the issue of the championship, went to work with shovel and drag and constructed a makeshift diamond in their outfield and the second contest was played in mire that made it a fiasco.

The Tigers won after 10 thrilling innings, 11 to 10. The Sooners couldn't use their blazing speed on the basepaths nor their deft squeeze-bunt game in the mud and moreover they lost Hal Cumberland, their finest pitcher for the season, early in the game when Cumberland twisted his throwing arm and had to retire when he slipped in the mud while pitching. With every ball hit more than arm's length from an in-fielder going for a hit, Oklahoma knocked Bill Spencer, Missouri's all-victorious twirler, out of the box only to have Spencer, switched to the outfield, valiantly single home the tying run and himself count the winning tally in the tenth.

The score by innings:

| | R | H | E |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|
| OKLAHOMA | 200 | 211 | 210 |
| MISSOURI | 014 | 100 | 210 |

Batteries, Cumberland, Sanders, Lacer, Pringle and Chyz; Spencer, Finlayson and Queveraux.

The Sooners enjoyed a fine season nevertheless. Among other assorted feats, they trimmed the Oklahoma Aggies four times, triumphing twice at Norman by the iden-

tical score of 5-1 and prevailing 7-5 and 11-5 at Stillwater.

Fastest Sooner club of modern times, they badly fractured the previous record of 55 stolen bases in a single season, having purloined 92 sacks already this year.

Dale Mitchell, sophomore right-fielder from Cloud Chief, smashed the all-time single-season record for runs batted in with 43, for triples with 7 and for extra-base hits with 17. Lester Layton, sophomore left-fielder from Wichita, Kansas, set a new all-time record for two-baggers with 11, center-fielder Walter Stephenson set a new



CLUTCH HITTER

Dale Mitchell, Oklahoma's slugging sophomore right-fielder from Cloud Chief, this season broke Jack Riley's all-time Sooner record for runs batted in

high of 25 stolen bases and Shortstop Dwight Collins broke the all-time standard for sacrifices with 9.

Sooner Relay Team Breaks World Record

That rarest of all experiences, a world's record, was achieved by four Sooner runners April 24 at the Drake Relays in Des Moines, Iowa when they smashed the world's mark of 3:23.2 for the sprint medley relay by racing the distance in 3:23 flat.

John Sharp, Joplin, Missouri, sophomore, ran the opening 440 yards, Orv Mathews followed with a fast 220, Bob Hodges, Enid sophomore, added another speedy 220 and Bill Lyda, great Sooner anchor, powered the final half-mile in an unofficial 1:49.7 that almost unanimously won him the

plaque as the outstanding performer at the meet. The world's record for 880 yards is 1:49.6 set by Elroy Robinson of Fresno State in 1937.

Bill Easton, director of the relays, has made application for a world's and also a national intercollegiate record which unquestionably will be granted, he says. The Sooners were handicapped by wind and a choppy track. Lyda, starting ten yards back, overhauled some of the finest half-milers in the nation to win by five yards.

In later meets the Sooner track and field Commando lost the dual to the Oklahoma Aggies at Stillwater, 56 to 75, and finished fourth in the Big Six Outdoor meet at Lincoln, Nebraska. The Oklahomans were in wretched condition for this meet, Lyda and Dick Smethers suffering from influenza and Orv Mathews pulling a muscle in the 100 and having to be scratched from the 220.

Lyda won the 440 in 48 seconds flat although forced to do his legging around two full curves and finish against a gale. Smethers gamely punished himself despite his illness to pluck his fourth consecutive two-mile title. Ken "Crow Hop" Farris, broad-jumper, won that event by a foot at 23 feet 8¼ inches.

Lyda will run the half-mile in the National Collegiate meet at Lincoln June 19 and 20, Smethers and Farris may also go, Smethers running the mile and Farris broad-jumping.

Tennis Team Wins Big Six Laurel

Without losing a single set in conference play, the Sooner tennis team this spring won their fifth Big Six title in a row and their sixth in the seven years Leslie Hewes has been coach.

The Sooners shut out Nebraska and Iowa State in dual meets at Lincoln and Ames. Kansas, Kansas State and Missouri did not compete in tennis and golf this spring because of the war.

Personnel of the Sooner net team was Bob Davis, a senior, and three sophomores, Gerald Tucker of Winfield, Kansas, Drew Putty of Oklahoma City and Bob Faulkner of Electra, Texas.

Golfers Third In Conference

Although Oklahoma had the finest individual golfer in the Big Six in Ted "Golfer" Gwin, Tulsa senior, who played the strange Nebraska and Iowa State courses in exactly par and was all-victorious, the Sooners dropped a dual match to Iowa State and tied Nebraska for a final position of third in the conference.