



Here is Oklahoma's all-victorious medley relay quartet. Left to right, Dick Smethers, mile; Bill Lyda, 1,320 yards; Hoyt Burns, 880 yards, and John Sharp, 440 yards.

Sooner Sports

By HAROLD KEITH

ORVILLE MATHEWS, the University's pudgy little 26-year-old football hero, seems to have proved this spring that cigars won't hurt a good sprinter even if taken during the racing season.

At this writing, Mathews is all-victorious at 100 yards, winning that event at both the Texas and Kansas Relays carnivals against some of the finest sprinters in the nation.

The University's sprinting grandpappy has achieved his 1942 renown in spite of the fact he won his first Oklahoma Inter-scholastic 100-yard championship in 1932, exactly ten long years ago, while running at Lawton High School. Mathews is seven or eight years older than most of his youthful opponents, married, likes to savor an occasional cigar and in a foot race puts out just what he has to and no more.

But don't let Mathews' age, the fact he is an indolent trainer nor his slow time in meets this year fool you. The Chickasha Cheroot, like a half-fired Roman candle, has still got several good sprinting shots left in him. His experience makes him doubly dangerous.

There has been some inclination to belittle Mathews' explosive ankling in the Texas Relay century because the Sooner's time was only ten seconds flat. That's a lot of hokum.

Now that he is a family man and nearing 30, Mathews runs just fast enough to win. He fits his pace to the competition.

"In a foot race, you run the man and not the time," Mathews maintains, simply.

Mathews has made a specialty this spring of beating fast men in slow time and then retiring to his golf, his house shoes and his stogies, leaving his vanquished and perplexed opponents wondering how in heck it ever happened and why somebody forgot to repair the stop watches.

For instance, in the Texas Relays March 28 at Austin, Mathews won the 100 in ten flat, beating both Billy Hall of Rice who had done 9.6 and Jimmy Metcalf of Oklahoma A. and M. who had done 9.7.

In the Colorado Indoor Relays at Boulder April 4 Mathews rode 1,500 miles in an automobile to run 50 yards against Bob Dey, Colorado's 5.2-second phenom on Dey's home track.

Mathews won easily, shaking his ancient hocks in 5.5 seconds, and when the time was announced the wrathful Mountain fans wanted to murder the timers.

At the Kansas Relays Mathews won by a full yard in 9.8 seconds, bothered some by a cross wind.

The Sooner Swiftie is plenty capable of good time if the other runners can make

him put it out. Last May he won the Big Six outdoor 100 yards title in 9.6 seconds with no wind blowing. His Oklahoma high school records of 9.6 seconds for the century and 21.2 for the furlong, set nine years ago with wind, still stand.

Mathews usually gets his lead somewhere between 10 and 30 yards out, if he gets it at all. He seems to run his fastest then.

"I don't know where he gets his lead on them but I do know where they start pulling up on him, between 90 and 100 yards," laughs John Jacobs, Sooner track coach.

Jacobs says Mathews responds faster to the starter's pistol than any sprinter the Sooners ever had save Whitley Cox, '34.

"Mathews is a driver," the Sooner coach tells you in his salty speech, "most of our good sprinters here, except Tom Lowry who ran low with high knee action, have been pullers, fellows like George Koettel, Cox, Wall Abbott, Prentis Lively and John Darling who was bench-legged and squatty and in action seemed to roll like a barrel. But Mathews bows his neck and runs like a mad bull."

Mathews' buddies on the Sooner track team call him "Little Tom Moore."

Lyda Thrills Crowd At Kansas Relays

Mathews' triumph in the Kansas Relays century was only one of three championships won by Sooner runners at Lawrence on the cloudy, gusty Saturday afternoon of April 18.

Oklahoma won both the sprint medley relay (440, 220, 220 and 880 yards) and the distance medley relay (440, 880, 3-4 mile and one mile).

Bill Lyda, brawny Sooner senior from Oklahoma City, was the hero of both races.

Literally blasting Bob Ginn, Nebraska's be-spectacled little ace, off the gray slag in the sprint medley with a withering 1:53 anchor half-mile, Lyda thrilled the crowd that sat in the west unit of the drab concrete Kansas football stadium, turning it into a bright splash of color.

The race began badly for the Sooners. John Sharp, big sophomore hurdler, was tried at the 440-yard leg, and cantered around in a creditable 50 flat, yet ran third. Bob Hodges, Enid sophomore, and Mathews submitted well-run furlongs but the Sooner baton exchanging was so awkward that when the half-milers started, Nebraska had a 30-yard lead and it looked as if Oklahoma were out of the race.

Leaping away one by one, like seaplanes zooming off a carrier, Ginn, then Rayl of Missouri and finally Lyda and three others took off on the final leg.

It looked like a futile chase to everybody but Lyda, for Ginn, who ran a 4:10 mile last spring in California, is also a 1:55 half-miler. Then Lyda began to run. Bravely he set out to bring Ginn back alive, peeling off the yards like a boy stripping bark from a willow switch. He over-ran the gold-shirted Rayl at 300 yards and the crowd's roar swelled into a shrill crescendo when the Sooner Powerhouse caught the red-jerseyed Ginn at 400 yards out! Lyda had run 430 yards while Ginn ran 400.

They made another half circuit of the track, little Ginn's eyes popping out with surprise at finding an opponent behind him so soon, Lyda's face screwed with suffering although the white-clad Sooner maintained his beautiful form.

Then on the back stretch of the second and final lap, Lyda took the track away from Ginn and although the game little Cornhusker fought valiantly, the big Sooner moved slowly, smoothly, powerfully and majestically past, and adding to his margin down the home stretch, won by a dozen yards, then slowed down to turn and quietly shake hands with his defeated opponents.

Lyda rested 30 minutes then returned to the track to run a 3:09 three-quarters leg in the distance medley to give Oklahoma a lead she never relinquished in that event.

After Sophomore Hoyt Burns had moved Oklahoma up two positions in this race with a gritty 880-yard leg, Lyda gave Dick Smethers, Oklahoma's mile anchor, a 20-yard lead over Al Rues, of Kansas State. The other four teams were far back, obviously out of the running.

Nobody had a chance to catch Smethers then. The plump-rumped Ponca City boy ran with the joyous abandon of an ice wagon nag galloping home with an empty load in the evening. He not only kept the 20 yards Lyda loaned him, but added 30 more and finished fast in 4:22.7 to give the Sooners a victory by 50 yards, good time considering the wind and choppy track.

Kansas Judge Raps Big Six Sports Code

Oklahomans who have held for years that the Big Six conference athletic code was antique, impractical and difficult of enforcement by a majority of the schools it affects were unexpectedly sustained April 16 by an authoritative source.

Judge Hugo Wedell of the Kansas Supreme Court was quoted as saying that Big Six rules as they now stand are "the most foolish you ever read in your life."

The plain-spoken Jayhawker judge added that he thought it was time to cut out "hypocrisy and to cease blaming other Big Six schools for violating conference rules because they have better football teams than Kansas."

Judge Wedell is also president of the University of Kansas alumni association in addition to holding his exalted position on the state bench; therefore his statement is all the more significant. It wasn't long ago that Dr. F. C. "Phog" Allen, the Kansas

basketball coach, charged that Oklahoma was harboring and developing more professionals than amateurs.

It's no secret in the Big Six that some conference schools, in order to keep from being annihilated by neighboring rivals from other conferences with less stringent athletic codes, have been forced to violate, sometimes with official permission, sometimes by legal but nevertheless guilty circumvention, several of the Big Six's most hallowed canons not supported by that warm and living public opinion so necessary to the integrity of any code of rules.

The most striking proof that parts of the Big Six code are out-moded is the fact that the conference itself has constantly had to grant exceptions to it.

For example, the conference has a rule forbidding any of its members to engage a rival in a neutral city. Yet the conference, which also opposes football bowls, has several times relaxed both attitudes, letting Oklahoma play Tennessee at Miami in 1939, Nebraska play at Pasadena in 1941, and Missouri play at Miami in 1940 and at New Orleans in 1942.

Oklahoma is grateful, too, that she is permitted another exception, the Texas-Oklahoma football game at Dallas. That exception saved Oklahoma's financial hide last year, the Sooners taking more than \$30,000 cash from the 1941 game, Oklahoma's largest football cut of all time for a single game. Without that big Dallas check, Sooner track, baseball, tennis, golf, swimming, etc., would have had to be curtailed and the athletic department could not have purchased \$50,000 in war bonds from athletic profits. And yet a Big Six rule forbids it.

Why have such a rule at all? Why not eliminate several more of the Big Six's consecrated but out-moded statutes? What is the harm of Big Six teams playing in bowl games, or of Big Six football teams scheduling ten games if they wish, or of Big Six baseball teams occasionally playing exhibition games against major league clubs as do Eastern and Southwest conference schools, or holding the Big Six Indoor Track and Field Meet in neutral Kansas City's new Convention Hall?

Missouri and Nebraska, as well as Oklahoma, are regarded as ultra-progressive by some of the more sanctimonious conference schools yet by what really amounts to violation, in some form or other, of the present unreasonable conference code, these three schools have achieved financial stability, assurance of a strong athletic program during the war and prevention of the necessity of having to discharge any of their coaches.

A complete re-writing of the present code would also help the Big Six faculty representatives upon whom rests the burden of enforcing the present obnoxious rules. With a more reasonable rule code to enforce, the unpopular faculty men's job would be far less difficult.

There is now in progress, I am told, a revision of the present conference rule code

by a committee of the faculty representatives. It may improve much of the ambiguity that now exists in the statutes, such as the ridiculous residence rule by which Gerald Tucker, an excellent student who had been enrolled in residence at Oklahoma 13 months prior to his first varsity competition, was recently disbarred, but it will pitifully lack the thorough reform so badly needed if the conference is to retain its present membership and function harmoniously.

Rules and their enforcement are necessary to the successful functioning of any collegiate conference but such rules should be sensible, workable and founded on the manners of a majority of the schools they affect. Nebraska, Missouri and Oklahoma have frankly ambitious and practical sports programs that wouldn't be possible without some sort of violation of the falsely pious Big Six conference statutes as they now stand. Other respectable conferences all over the nation are daily proving that sportsmanship, high educational ethics and sound financial policy all are possible under a feasible athletic code.

Isn't it about time our league began realizing that there might be truth in the old maxim that a rule overcharged with severity is like a blunderbuss overcharged with powder. Neither will ever be widely resorted to because of the shock and recoil that follows their explosion.

Judge Wedell is right, yet he is only giving voice to an opinion that so many have widely shared yet have lacked the courage to publicly reveal.

He wants sensible rules first—then enforcement, all of which is good old-fashioned hoss sense.

Stephenson After 14-Year Record

Walter Stephenson, Oklahoma's swift little centerfielder and lead-off man, tops the Sooner baseball team in batting at this writing but if tradition has its way, the odds are against Stephenson's leading the club at the end of the season.

No Sooner batting champion since the Big Six conference was organized in 1928 has ever led the club in hitting two years in a row, records show. Stephenson won the hitting title last year with .392.

A glance at the records discloses that Roy Myers, Sooner sophomore centerfielder of 1934 who jumped the club the following season to join Oklahoma City's Texas league champions, holds the all-time Sooner batting high. Base hits spewed off Myers' hickory in 1934 like crooked nails off a tipsy carpenter's hammer, the slender star hitting .454 and collecting 35 bingles. Myers was set for a big league career when he became ill and died.

Gordon Clarke, big first-sacker from Okmulgee, tied Myers' record of 35 hits in the 1936 season but played in three more games.

Doyle Tolleason, strapping 1933 catcher

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Sooners at Camp Wallace include Capt. Stanley T. Tyler, '35bus, Major Robert J. Harris, '27ba, and Lt. Mark C. Meister, '38ba, '38law, all of Oklahoma City; Lt. William Dexter Moss, '37, Lt. Wilson H. Gibson, '37ba, '39law, and Lt. James K. Smith, '30-'33, all of Tulsa; Lt. Henry M. Beidleman, '32ba, '35law, Okmulgee; Lt. Don T. Royse, '35bus, '35law, Elk City, and Lt. J. Kenneth Hogue, '35ba, '35law, Carnegie. University alumni who were formerly on duty at Camp Wallace but have been transferred to other posts are Capt. Fay Coil, '30eng, '32ms, Lt. Bernard A. Rosen, '31-'33, and Capt. Ray O. Embree, '24-'27, now at Camp Hulen, Texas; Lt. Charles E. Stewart, '34ba, '34law, Camp Tyson, Tennessee; Lt. W. H. Wylie, '39geol, Lt. Douglas Lane, '32-'36, and Lt. R. K. Black, '35bus, all stationed in Hawaii; Lt. William H. Peet, '34ba, Alaska; Lt. Kenneth B. Shelton, '38pharm, reported in the Philippines, and Capt. Marvin Ludington, '28law.

Stanley T. Tyler, '35bus, former manager of the Goodyear Store at Ada, has been promoted to the rank of captain. Captain Tyler is stationed in Anti-Aircraft service at Camp Wallace.

Virginia

Capt. Perry B. Hackett, '34eng, has been transferred from Fort Benning, Georgia, to the staff of the Engineers' School at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Lt. Albert S. Gilles, '34ba, '37law, Edwardsville, Illinois, is on duty at the Coast Artillery School, Fort Monroe.

John Schmoldt, '36-'40, Oklahoma City, sergeant at Camp Barkeley, Texas, was one of five enlisted men selected to attend Officer Candidate School at Fort Belvoir.

O. T. McCall, '40bus, recently promoted to first lieutenant, is stationed at Camp Lee.

Elmo (Bo) Hewes, '33-'39, former Anadarko High School football coach, has been ordered to Norfolk for naval training before assignment as physical education instructor. Mr. Hewes was one-time professional football player with the New York Yankees. He has an ensign's commission.

Washington

Jack Wheeler, '41, Clinton, has been assigned to the Quartermaster Detachment, McChord Field, Washington.

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who batted cleanup, got seven home runs that year, an all-time record.

The top-ranking Sooner base thief of Big Six history is Sam Blackwell, catcher-shortstop of 1940. Sam swiped exactly 20 sacks, the all-time top. Blackwell also scored 24 runs in 1940, also an all-time record.

The two-base king of the past 14 seasons is nobody else but Lester Layton, sophomore leftfielder from Wichita, Kansas, who plays this season. Layton has already poled eight doubles, breaking the old record of seven set by Delmar Steinbock in 1936 and tied by Firstbaseman Roy Myer in 1939, and with several 1942 games left may add to his record.

Myers, the deceased centerfielder of 1934, and Jack Baer, present Sooner coach, are

the champion triplers with five each. Baer garnered his in 1936.

The extra-base hit high is 13 and four players hold it. Tolleson, the big catcher first set it in 1933. It was later tied by Myers in 1934, Steinbock in 1936 and Jack Riley in 1940.

Sooner clubs are nationally famous for their squeeze bunts and the king appears to have been Hobart "Red" Hardwick, 1935 second-sacker, who laid down seven that season.

Riley's 33 runs batted in over a 21-game span in 1940 broke Baer's old record of 32 set in 1936 but Baer has the most RBI's for a single game, nine, driven in during an Oklahoma-Iowa State game at Ames, Iowa in 1936.

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9:00 Daily	Chapel Time.	3:15 T	The Four Minute Men.
9:15 MWF	The Pacific Basin.	3:30 M	Presenting the Press.
9:15 TTh	German Lessons.	3:30 T	The Reading Hour.
9:45 Th	Garden Club.	3:30 W	Tales from Shakespeare.
10:00 Daily	Hello Oklahoma.	3:30 Th	Student Forum.
10:15 TW	Gardening and Wild Flowers.	4:00 Daily	The Bible in a Year.
10:15 W	General Science.	4:30 Daily	Dansant Moderne.
10:30 MWF	Spanish Lessons.	5:00 M	Meet Your University.
11:00 F	League of Women Voters.	5:00 T	Sooner Almanac.
11:15 MWF	Conflicting Political and Economic Systems.	5:00 W	Theater of the Air.
	General Science.	5:00 Th	University of Oklahoma Roundtable.
11:15 T	Symphonic Hour.	5:00 F	WNAD Players.
12:00 Daily	Indians for Indians Hour.	5:30 MTWFS	Campus News.
1:00 T	Problems of Peace and War.	5:30 Th	Uncle Will's Choir.
1:00 W	Passport to Poetry.	5:45 TThS	Rendezvous With Music.
1:00 Th	General Science.	5:45 MWF	Mrs. Story's Pet Shop.
1:30 Th	Our Social Services.	6:00 Th	Campus News.
1:30 F	The House of Seven Mables.	6:15 Th	Rendezvous With Music.
1:45 W	Today's Story.	6:45 MWF	Console Interlude.
2:00 Daily	Pauline Brooks, Contralto.	7:30 Daily	Sign Off.
2:15 T	20th Century Music.		
2:15 WS	Family Life Forum.		
2:30 M	French Lessons.		
2:30 TTh	General Science.		
2:30 F	Adventures in Listening.		
3:00Th	Your Government at War.		
3:00 F			

NOTE: A variety of programs, mostly musical, will be offered during the periods not specifically listed above, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Complete weekly programs will be mailed upon request. Address inquiries to Radio Station WNAD, University of Oklahoma, Norman.