

Sooner Sports

By HAROLD KEITH



VETERAN AND ROOKIE

A rookie on Oklahoma's new junior football varsity gets a helping boost from Bill Campbell, husky blocking back of the varsity squad. The new Jay-Vee is Edward Heard of Tecumseh

SIX STRAIGHT basketball victories have fallen to Coach Bruce Drake's Sooner sophomore-junior court aggregation since the last issue of the magazine.

Four of them were notched by a fighting Oklahoma team that was playing without Gerald Tucker, Oklahoma's star sophomore center, whom the Big Six conference declared ineligible for the first semester of conference play.

Tucker's ineligibility would have wrecked the ordinary basketball team. The big fellow seemed to comprise about 40 percent of the Oklahoma attack during the holidays and had averaged 16.4 points per contest besides playing a great floor game.

But Drake and his Sooner rookies didn't let it wreck them. Here are the recent Oklahoma scores:

Oklahoma 47, Kansas State 40 at Norman.
Oklahoma 26, Kansas State 25 at Manhattan.
Oklahoma 46, Missouri 31 at Columbia, Mo.
Oklahoma 46, Iowa State 37 at Norman.
*Oklahoma 60, Missouri 36 at Norman.
*Oklahoma 37, Nebraska 29 at Norman.

*Tucker played, becoming eligible the second semester.

Oklahoma's team play, consisting of beautiful screening, deadly set shooting and the traditional Sooner offensive weapon, the fast break, has been the talk of the league.

The rejuvenated Oklahoma club's most scintillating player during this drive has perhaps been Bob McCurdy, Purcell sophomore. Coach Drake has cast McCurdy into a defensive player who has stuck like a briar to the greatest goal shots in the conference.

McCurdy stopped Jack Horacek, Kansas State's scoring phenom, with two field goals in each game against Kansas State, checked Missouri's Herbie Gregg with two goals, halted Al Budolfson, Iowa State's leading Big Six conference scorer, with one field basket and rode Sid Held, Nebraska's 6-foot 4-inch scoring star so savagely that Held made no field goals. Moreover Mc-

Curdy has been doing a clean job. He has yet to foul out of a single game.

Oklahoma's most severe test is coming up. Drake's Sooners soon take on Dr. F. C. "Phog" Allen's Kansas Jayhawkers and Hank Iba's Oklahoma Aggies, two of the finest basketball teams in the land.

The remainder of the schedule:

*Feb. 21 Nebraska at Lincoln.
*Feb. 23 Iowa State at Ames.
*Feb. 27 Kansas at Norman.
March 6 Okla. Aggies at Stillwater.
March 12 Okla. Aggies at Norman.

*Big Six games.

Lyda Breaks Frank's 17-Year-Old Record

On February 14 a dual track and field meet was held at Norman with the thermometer standing around 40 degrees and a hard rain falling all during the meet.

But in spite of the nasty weather, the Sooner trackmen of Coach John Jacobs and the North Texas Teachers of Denton, Texas, coached by Charles "Choc" Sportsman kept warm and dry and made some creditable marks.

It was the first dual indoor meet ever held in Oklahoma. The contesting teams met on Oklahoma's new indoor track layout beneath the east wing of Memorial Stadium where a 220-yard clay track, jump runways, sprint and hurdle stretches and

a weight-throwing pit had been constructed although there are still no heating facilities to seal off the enclosure against winter.

Oklahoma won, 67 to 37. Jacob's Sooners triumphed chiefly because they seemed about three weeks advanced in training over their rivals from sunny Dixie. The only event Oklahoma lost was the mile relay in which North Texas's great Texas Relays championship team took a terrible vengeance on the Sooners for defeat in the flat races, winning by 50 yards.

Orv Mathews, 27-year-old Sooner dash man, bulleted the 60 yards in 6.2 seconds, just a tenth of a second off the world's record. Billy Lyda, Sooner Big Six Indoor 880-yard champion, smashed Karl Frank's 17-year-old University indoor record in the 440 yards, turning it in 51.1 seconds although he ran but two laps and four curves as compared to the three laps and six curves Frank traversed while doing 51.2 on the old board track at Kansas City's Convention hall back in 1925.

Dick Smethers, Oklahoma's Big Six two-mile indoor record-holder, galloped off with the mile and two-mile. Ken Farris, a skinny lad with a crew hair cut, grasshoppered to within half an inch of 23 feet in the broad jump. Son Wright, big-footed sophomore hurdler from Waurika, won both hurdles races, took one sail that was good for sec-

ond in the broad jump and ran the first lap on the mile relay.

The summary:

TRACK EVENTS

60 yards—won by Mathews, Oklahoma; second Jones, North Texas; third Rogers, North Texas. Time 6.2 seconds (new university indoor record).

440 yards—won by Lyda, Oklahoma; second Jackson, North Texas; third Holmes, North Texas. Time 51.1 seconds (new university indoor record).

880 yards—won by Lyda, Oklahoma; second Campbell, North Texas; third Burns, Oklahoma. Time 1 minute 59.5 seconds.

Mile run—won by Smethers, Oklahoma; second Vaughan, North Texas; third Wood, North Texas. Time 4 minutes 30.7 seconds.

Two-mile run—won by Smethers, Oklahoma; second Wood, North Texas; third Huston, North Texas. Time 10 minutes 15.5 seconds.

60 yards high hurdles—won by Wright, Oklahoma; second Sharpe, Oklahoma; third Womack, North Texas. Time 8 seconds.

60 yards low hurdles—won by Wright, Oklahoma; second tie, Hodges, Oklahoma and Sharpe, Oklahoma. Time 7.2 seconds.

Mile relay—won by North Texas (Vaughan, Jackson, Terry, Rogers). Time 3 minutes 30.5 seconds.

FIELD EVENTS

Shot put—won by Andros, Oklahoma, 43 feet 10 inches; second Mullen, Oklahoma, 43 feet 5½ inches; third Boatman, North Texas, 41 feet 5 inches.

High jump—triple tie for first between Mullen, Oklahoma; Cartwright, North Texas and DuHadway, North Texas, 5 feet 9½ inches.

Pole vault—tie for first between Janes, North Texas and Simecheck, Oklahoma, 10 feet 6 inches; third Bellieu, Oklahoma, 10 feet.

Broad jump—won by Farris, Oklahoma, 22 feet 11½ inches; second Wright, Oklahoma, 21 feet 2½ inches; third Andrus, North Texas, 20 feet 10 3-4 inches.

22 of 24 Lettermen Registered In Draft

With all but two of the remaining 24 Oklahoma lettermen registered, the emphasis was on youth when Coach Dewey "Snorter" Luster started five weeks of Sooner spring football practice here February 9.

A survey of the Sooner material discloses that of the 59-man varsity and freshman squad, 32 are registered and 27 are too young to register.

Luster said the practice would last five weeks of six days each and end promptly on March 14. He will divide the squad and play three practice games between two picked groups as was done last year. Suits will be checked out Saturday.

The new Junior Varsity checked out suits February 12 and started practice the same day with 53 reporting. Next fall it will play its own schedule against service teams, junior colleges and teachers' colleges. Luster decided to install it to condition additional fighting men for Uncle Sam.

Oklahoma has already lost several players to the service from its returning talent. Carl Brewington is working in the naval yards in California, George Boudreau, Joe Whisenant, George Kerbo, and Tom Tall Chief have enlisted in the Navy, Olin Keith is in the Air Corps and Son Riley in the Coast Guard. Nearly all of last autumn's seniors have gone to the service or are awaiting call. Even Maury West, student manager,

took his R.O.T.C. commission recently and was assigned to Fort Sill.

Four freshmen failed scholastically and did not re-enroll the second semester. They are Dudley Carson, Muskogee; Jim Shafer, Gotebo; Bob Corrotto, Fort Smith, Arkansas, and Thurman Garrett, Blackwell. Pug Harp, Fairview, did not return to school this semester.

Sooner players already registered include: VARSITY—Huel Hamm, Bill Mattox, Junior Golding, J. S. Munsey, Jack Steele, Lindell Hayes, Clare Morford, Mitch Shadid, and Homer Simmons.

FRESHMEN—Bill Jensen, Walt Tanner and Harold Hill.

Sooner players now 20 years old who registered in the new draft this month are:

VARSITY—Pete Cawthon, Bill Campbell, Eddie Davis, Dick Monroe, Pat Shanks, Son Wright, Jack Marsee, Joe Allton, Plato Andros, Dick Boepple, Lee Cowlings, John Funk, Max Fischer, George Gibbons, Dub Lamb, Bill Morris and Don McDonald.

FRESHMEN—Oscar Ragland, Ray Rolins and Ben Tillman.

Sooner players under 20:

VARSITY—Sammy Stephens and Jim Tyree.

FRESHMEN—Jack Bechtold, Boone Baker, Virgil Elliott, Don Fauble, Myrle Greathouse, Bill Hollis, Leroy Neher, Bill Reimers, Dave Wallace, Olin Andrews, C. F. Bryce, Arch Bradley, Albert Bagley, Wayne Condry, Albert Downs, Buddy Goodall, Stanley Greene, Lee Kennon, Chris Lambert, Bud O'Dea, Leo Presley, Harold Simeroth, Gary Scott, Jim Tebow, Dub Wooten, and M. T. Johnson.

Luster said Hill, Tanner and Johnson would not be able to play this spring because of injuries. Stephens will also miss the spring drills because he is not enrolled this semester.

Directors Settle Cossey Case

An undergraduate and alumni contest between Sooners and Aggies to pledge Burton Cossey, Centerview consolidated high school's high jump record-holder who did 6 feet 4-7-8 inches at Norman last spring, entered its third stage early in February with Cossey's enrolment at the University of Oklahoma.

Cossey's sudden enrolment at Norman, after he had registered for the second semester at Stillwater, caused Editor Don Boydsten of the *Daily O'Collegian*, Aggie student newspaper, to write an editorial in which he charged the Oklahoma athletic department with having pestered, telephoned and otherwise bothered the lad until he was "fast-talked" into coming to school here.

Mr. Boydsten then mailed copies of his opus to Big Six territory newspapers who reprinted it generally. The Stillwater News-Press later reported that during a meeting of the Stillwater Quarterbacks club, Mr. Boydsten "exhibited campus newspapers from the Big Six area. He had papers from

all except Iowa State. Each Big Six paper played up the Cossey case, was critical of the Sooner "snatch" and referred to it as another "Tucker case," all of which pretty well establishes Mr. Boydsten's motive in writing the piece in the first place.

Lawrence "Jap" Haskell, Sooner athletic director, worked in perfect harmony on the troublesome case with Hank Iba, fair-minded Aggie director, and the two directors themselves settled the matter quietly and sensibly. Furthermore Iba and Haskell agreed upon a future code of conduct regarding transfer of their athletes from one school to another.

Briefly, the facts of the case, listed chronologically, are these:

(1) Cossey, who lives just 45 miles east of Norman in an adjoining county, was in Norman last fall preparing to enrol at the University of Oklahoma. He had announced his choice of the University in his home newspaper, engaged a room at Norman and had mapped out his aeronautical engineering course here with his adviser. His room mate was Dick Smethers, Oklahoma's Big Six indoor two-mile champion. Cossey had moved to the room and he and Smethers were occupying it. Cossey's parents both wanted him to come to school at Norman, Cossey declared.

(2) The summer rivalry to interest him in their respective schools was chiefly one between alumni and undergraduates of the two institutions. Mr. Boydsten, the Aggie editor-high jumper, and H. E. Doty, Cossey's superintendent at Centerview and former Aggie athlete, were pressuring the lad in behalf of Oklahoma A. and M. which Oklahoma maintains explains Boydsten's critique in his own newspaper. Smethers and other members of the Sooner track team were applying equal persuasion in the interest of Cossey's coming to Norman and with Cossey's own announcement of his intent to enrol at Norman, they had apparently won.

(3) But the Doty-Boydsten combine wasn't beaten. Just before actual enrolment at Norman, Cossey was suddenly whisked to Stillwater. Mr. Doty drove him to Norman to get his clothes and then drove him to Stillwater where he enrolled for the first semester. Sooner track men found the Centerview superintendent and his automobile parked under a tree on a side street one block distant from Cossey's room in Norman the night of the moving, which to them was sufficient evidence that what Mr. Doty was doing was not quite "regular" in his own eyes. This was "kidnaping" No. 1, and with Cossey's departure, everybody at Norman tried to forget about him.

(4) Cossey soon began to write home-sick letters from Stillwater to his friends on the Sooner track team. Many of these letters are still on file at Norman. He even wrote John Jacobs, Sooner track coach, but Jacobs ignored him. In fact, Cossey emphasizes that nobody on the athletic staff at Norman ever contacted him in any way

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after he enrolled at Stillwater, thus refuting Mr. Boydsten's later wholly false charges in the *O'Collegian* that Sooner athletic authorities were implicated.

(5) Just before the first semester ended at Stillwater, the proctor at Cordell hall, Aggie dormitory where Cossey roomed, distributed forms asking each roomer what his plans were for the second semester. Cossey boldly wrote on his "I am going to the University of Oklahoma to study aeronautical engineering."

(6) However that frank statement of intent plunged the lad into another unhappy pledging session. The loyal proctor tipped off the Aggies that they were about to lose Cossey. As the first semester ended, they descended upon him in force, persuaded him to re-enrol.

(7) Cossey did re-enrol but says two days later he was sorry and that he decided if he couldn't attend school at Norman, he would go to school no where. Meanwhile he had telephoned his friends on the Sooner track team of his intent to come back to Norman.

(8) With the example of the earlier "kidnaping" before them Smethers and Bob Seymour, a Sooner alumnus, drove to Stillwater and gave Cossey and his luggage a lift to Norman. They saw nothing wrong with helping a friend move, Cossey having bombarded them with letters and phone calls. They made no attempt to hide. While Smethers and Cossey packed, Seymour went to an Aggie basketball game. Then they all came to Norman.

(9) In spite of the previous Aggie "kidnaping," Director Haskell of the Sooners strongly opposed the "assisting" action of his own alumni and undergraduates. The difference was that Cossey had actually re-enrolled at Stillwater, regardless of the pressure exerted upon him to do so. He had not actually enrolled at Norman prior to the Aggie "kidnaping." Haskell immediately telephoned Iba, the Aggie athletic director, and even took Cossey to Oklahoma City to talk to Iba. There Iba admitted to Cossey that he had known ever since Cordell Hall proctor's slips were gathered that Cossey planned to change schools between semesters. Haskell also showed Iba some of Cossey's correspondence to Norman friends. The two directors harmoniously ironed out the vexing problem and charted a future course of conduct in the event of similar incidents in the future.

"Jap is square on this thing. We will reach an understanding," Iba had maintained all along and thereby made it plain that the Aggie athletic department in no way subscribed to the *O'Collegian's* untrue accusations concerning the Sooner athletic department. The Iron Duke, as Iba is called, thus made himself a host of friends in Norman.

Drake Becomes Player Again

The Old Man reaches in his pants pocket and carefully lays his cigarettes and his key ring on the bleacher seats, then steps out on the shiny basketball floor.

He is bare-waisted but wears basketball shoes, long trousers and a confident expression.

"All right!" he chirps, cockily, "I'll play with the Skins. Let's go!"

It is Bruce Drake, the Oklahoma basketball coach and 13 years ago captain of a Big Six championship Oklahoma team that was all-victorious in conference play. Short one player, the 36-year-old Sooner mentor decides to personally fill in as the tenth man at the fag end of the daily drill.

The Sooner varsity that has won six straight Big Six games has gone in, showered, and returns to see the coach do his "comeback." With shouts of glee they linger along the sideline in civies to see the fun and rib Drake.

"Look out there, Dad, you'll get racked!" shouts A. D. "Ug" Roberts, the varsity's crack forward and cleverest jockey.

"Zone! Zone!" razzes big Gerald Tucker in his space-piercing tenor.

"The losers buys the winners an orange squeeze!" calls Dick Reich.

Drake grins but pays no attention. The scrimmage starts. The coach mixes it with his boys but seems to have lost his touch. They intercept his passes, block his shots and once even take the ball away from him. Nobody shows him any mercy.

After two or three sprints up and down the big floor, the Old Man begins to puff. He tries to drive in for a set-up but some yannigan gives him the hip and he hurtles into the bleachers, barking his shin. He is awarded a free throw at the far end of the court but elects to save the long walk by pegging the ball in from out of bounds where he is standing. Soon he is playing a stationary forward under his own goal.

Everybody on his side respectfully throws him the ball if he is at all open.

"Yah! Yah!" the varsity shrieks at every pass to the coach. "Tryin' to make the club!"

Finally tiring of the good-natured abuse, the Old Man turns himself loose and for one thrilling play takes the astonished spectators back to the Drake of yesteryear.

Dribbling low and moving fast, the Old Man suddenly seems to pour himself catlike through the entire foe defense. Like a rivulet of spilled water hurrying down a groove in a sidewalk, the dribbling oldster zig-zags past man after man and rises in the air to thread the goal.

The brilliant effort has completely exhausted him but the Old Man is smart.

"Take it in, boys! That's all!" he orders, gruffly, and commandeering the ball and snatching up his cigarettes and key ring, he trots to his office paying no attention to the protesting chorus behind him of "One more goal! Just one more!"

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