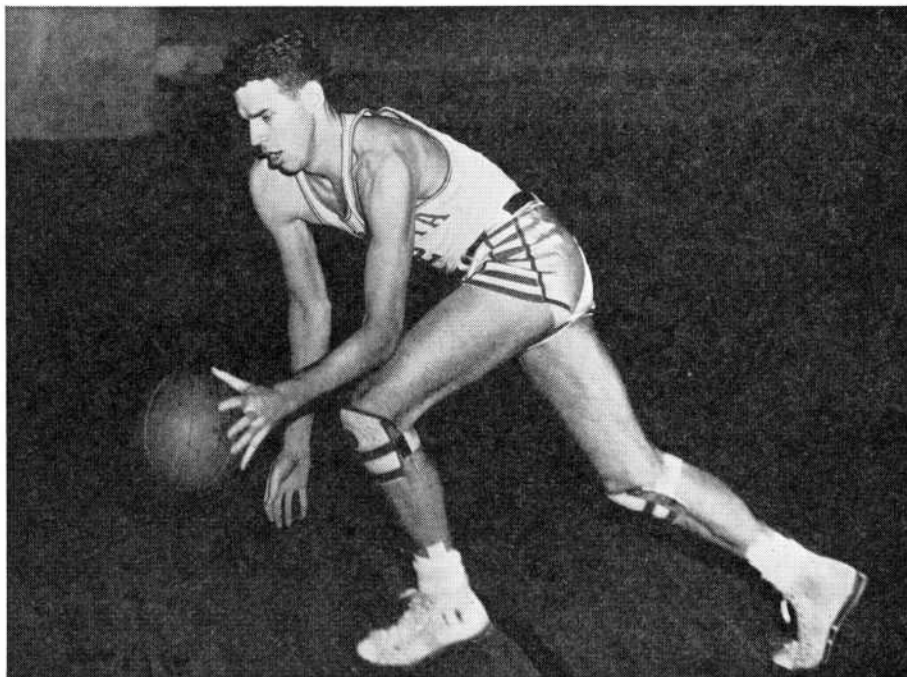


Sooner Sports

By HAROLD KEITH

O.U.'s Athletic Program Goes On, But Everything Will Be Subordinated To Needs of National Defense



6-FOOT 4-INCH GUARD

Paul Heap, architectural engineering junior from Tulsa, is back this winter for his second season of competition with the Sooner basketball team. He plays guard.

WITH Uncle Sam now an official participant in World War II, the University of Oklahoma will subordinate its sports program to national defense.

The school's full athletic program will go right on as it did through the last war, but the national emergency will come first. A slow exodus of many of the older Sooner athletes into the service is expected. Crowds will be somewhat smaller because after fans start paying their new defense taxes, they won't have so much left to spend on sports.

And yet the public needs sports more than ever now as a healthy diversion from the grim realities of the conflict with the Axis powers. Americans have always gone right ahead playing their games through all their wars.

It seems safe to predict that Sooner athletic teams during the present war will be composed of younger boys, as they were in 1918. The Big Six conference may rescind its freshman rule so younger first-year men may be used their first season, instead of waiting until they are sophomores. Games will probably be matched with service teams from nearby army camps. In fact, the Sooner freshmen football team twice met the Will Rogers Air Base team of Oklahoma City this fall and also played two hard games with the crack Replacement Center team from Fort Sill.

Sooners Outplay Nebraska, But Lose

Oklahoma lost its final football game against Nebraska, 6 to 7. Played at Lincoln, home field of the mighty Cornhuskers of Major Lawrence "Biff" Jones, where no Oklahoma team has ever defeated a

Nebraska aggregation although Oklahoma has been trying since 1912, the contest produced the unusual spectacle of a sharp, aroused Sooner team driving a harassed Cornhusker outfit before it all over the dry field.

Oklahoma dominated the first quarter. After Jack Jacobs had punted Coach Dewey "Snorter" Luster's team into an offensive starting point in the middle of the field, the Sooners put on a 42-yard drive to a touchdown with Jacobs throwing one 12-yard pass to End Dub Lamb and the remainder of the distance being bridged by Orv Mathews' swift scoots around the flanks, Jacobs' drives over guard and Joe Golding's ripping reverses to the strong-side. Golding scored on a 4-yard reverse with Blocking Back Bill Campbell wiping out the Nebraska defensive half who might have stopped the play.

But Jack "Straight Line" Haberlein, Oklahoma's crack place-kicking ace, surprisingly missed the easy goal, fouling the ball off to the left of the posts. This tragic miss, not evident at the time, cost the Sooners a tie.

Then came Nebraska's sudden touchdown. The Sooners were pressuring the Cornhuskers when Jacobs fired a forward pass straight down the middle, ordinarily the safest place in the world to peg the ball. Wayne Blue, Nebraska's 200-pound substitute fullback, moved in to pluck it out of the gray sky and, angling to the right sideline and thereafter straight down its chalked course to the goal, returned it 68 yards to a score. And when Vic Sleich, Nebraska left tackle, booted the conversion, Nebraska led 7 to 6.

There were only two minutes left in the first half, but Oklahoma, hot for vengeance, nearly regained the lead in that brief time. Mathews nearly got clean away as he flitted back 48 yards to the Nebraska 45 with the kickoff. Then Jacobs began unloosing his deadly aerial artillery. Eager to prove that the touchdown interception scored against him was a fluke, the Indian hit Louis Sharpe for 16 yards, Campbell for 13 and Golding for 7 and the ball rested on Nebraska's 6-yard line with Oklahoma possessing four downs and plenty of time to score!

But the Oklahoma attack bogged. Two line plays picked up only three yards. A third down pass was slapped to the turf and on a fourth down Haberlein tried a placekick virtually from the corner of the field that actually looked good from the press box but was declared a miss by Referee Dwight Ream. Two plays later the half ended.

The teams fought evenly through the third quarter until Roger Eason, Oklahoma's great tackle, blocked Vike Francis's punt to earn Haberlein another field goal shot, this time from 47 yards away but down the middle. Again the chilled Nebraska fans held their breath but the cross wind blew the drifting kick just wide of the posts although Haberlein had booted it far enough.

Nebraska dominated the fourth quarter. She drove to the Oklahoma 4yard line, only to have Eason hurl big Francis back on the seat of his moleskin rompers for a 4-yard loss on fourth down. After a punt exchange, the weary Sooners found themselves with the ball on their own 10-yard

line and only a minute and 50 seconds of playing time left, a discouraging situation.

But with their habit of exploding at the end of each half, Luster's Sooners thrilled their thousands of radio listeners back home with a forward-lateral that gained 68 yards. Jacobs passed to Sharpe who lateraled so perfectly to Mathews that Orv had to sprint to catch the ball on his fingertips. Then Mathews, his short legs scissoring frantically, was off down the west sideline. He out-ran the Nebraska end, line-backer and defensive half but was turned by the safety, forced to the center and finally caught and piled on the Nebraska 21-yard line!

However, an official ruled that a Sooner had clipped on the play and the ball was heart-brokenly walked 42 yards back to Oklahoma's 37-yard mark. The frightened Nebraska fans breathed with relief. Oklahoma was still 63 yards from a touchdown and there were only 50 seconds left to play.

But the die-hard Oklahomans gave the stadium another tremendous scare when Jacobs passed to Mathews for 13 yards and then tossed another forward to Bill Mattox, the play gaining 37 yards to the corner of the field on the Nebraska 17-yard line. There were only 15 seconds left to play, but again plucky Oklahoma was knocking at the Cornhusker goal.

Oklahoma elected to placekick. Off the Sooner bench came Haberlein. For the third time, Haberlein was given a difficult kick. The angle was cruel. This time it was virtually from the northwest corner. But knowing Haberlein's reputation, the Nebraska crowd of 23,000 stood in frozen alarm. But Haberlein missed again. This time the ball floated off to the right of the posts, and was short. A sigh of relief went up then from the Nebraska and two plays later the game was over.

The Sooners looked like a great football team, although losing. Luster's decision to junk his unit system and start his eleven best boys paid off handsomely. With even reasonable luck, Oklahoma would have won by two touchdowns from a Nebraska team at full strength on its home field. Two weeks earlier the Cornhuskers, with three regulars out, had held Minnesota to a 9-0 triumph at Minneapolis and two weeks before that had barely lost to Missouri 0-6 at Columbia. Oklahoma was man-handling a tough football team on its home field before its home crowd.

Eason and two Sooner sophomores, Center Lee Coyling and Left End Jim Tyree, played the whole 60 minutes and played them well. Campbell tackled and blocked bruisingly until he left the game in the third quarter with a damaged elbow. Luster started six sophomores and all of them came through to brilliantly substantiate the coach's judgment.

The breaks diabolically kept going against Oklahoma. Haberlein ordinarily would have kicked the first conversion with his eyes shut. Lamb's ankle injury in the first quarter and Campbell's injury in the

third quarter hurt. With just a few seconds more time, Oklahoma wouldn't have had to try difficult field goals from corner angles at the end of each half. Nebraska's touchdown, realized from an interception of an Oklahoma pass thrown straight down the safe center groove instead of off to the risky flank, probably wouldn't happen again in a Nebraska-Oklahoma game once in the next ten years. The miserable clipping penalty in the final moment that deprived Oklahoma of the ball on the Cornhusker 21-yard line, where Haberlein would have had a bee-line shot from close up, or when there was plenty of time to have scored on a pass (and Oklahoma gained 178 yards on Jacob's passes) was ill-starred. That the Sooners kept striving so doggedly for victory in the face of all these unfortunate breaks testifies to their mettle and courage.

Two Sooners Chosen For Shrine Classic

Two Sooners, Tackle Roger Eason and Tailback Jack Jacobs, were invited to play with the West in the big Shrine game at San Francisco and accepted. However, as this is written, the Army has requested that the game be moved from San Francisco because of its proximity to Japanese bombing range, and the contest's status wasn't determined at press time.

Eason and Jacobs were the thirteenth and fourteenth Oklahoma players to be invited to play in an East-West game. The complete list of Oklahomans invited is as follows:

- 1929—Tom Churchill, Oklahoma City (end).
- 1930—Bus Mills, Ranger, Texas (back). Bus kicked a field goal and the West team won 3-0.
- 1934—James "Red" Stacy, Altus (guard).
- 1935—J. W. "Dub" Wheeler, Davis (tackle).
- 1936—William "Red" Conkright, Tulsa (tackle).
- 1937—Pete Smith, Muskogee (end), and Mickey Parks, Shawnee (center).
- 1939—Frank Ivy, Skitook (end), John Shirk, Oklahoma City (end), and Dick Favor, Crescent (back).
- 1940—Bill Jennings, Norman (end), and Harold Lahar, Oklahoma City (guard).
- 1941—Roger Eason, Oklahoma City (tackle), and Jack Jacobs, Muskogee (back).

Oklahoma Won Six And Lost Three

The complete Sooner football record for the last season:

Oklahoma	19,	Oklahoma Aggies	0
Oklahoma	7,	Texas	40
Oklahoma	16,	Kansas State	0
Oklahoma	16,	Santa Clara	6
Oklahoma	38,	Kansas	0
Oklahoma	55,	Iowa State	0
Oklahoma	0,	Missouri	28
Oklahoma	61,	Marquette	14
Oklahoma	6,	Nebraska	7
	218		95

Best Sooner Offense Of Modern Times

In their first season, Luster and his all-graduate coaching staff forged an Oklahoma team that broke all Sooner offensive records of the last 22 years.

Luster's Sooners scored 218 points, the most a Sooner team has made in one season since 1919 when Bennie Owen's Oklahomans tallied a season's high of 275, more

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BIG SIX CHAMPIONS

All-victorious this fall and winners of the Big Six championship meet November 8 at Columbia, Missouri, the Sooner crosscountry team was gazing interestedly at the gold track shoes on Coach John Jacobs' watch chain when this picture was taken. Left to right: Bill Pruett, Norman; Warren Lehman, Ardmore; Dick Smethers, Ponca City; Jacobs; Bill Lyda, Oklahoma City and Hoyt Burns, Washington, Oklahoma

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than half of which was built during a single 157-to-0 walloping of Kingfisher college.

The Oklahoma team of 1941 set a new modern offensive record of 421.8 yards per game, easily surpassing the previous high of 380 yards set by the powerful Oklahoma team of 1939 that defeated Northwestern of the Big Ten 23 to 0, and distancing by 101.6 yards per game the offensive average of last year's Oklahoma team.

Luster's Sooners this fall established new modern records in forward passing with an average of 112.4 yards per game, in pass interception yardage with a new figure of 29 yards per game, and in kick runbacks with a new record of 125.2 yards per game. They were second in rushing only to the 1939 club which out-ran them, 173.4 yards per contest to 150.8.

The offensive records of Oklahoma teams the last five years:

YEAR	AV. NET		AV. INTG.	AV. KICKS	AV. TOTAL	
	PTS.	RUSH	PASS	RET.	YDS.	
1937	98	108.2	62.3	18.8	118.6	308.1
1938 ¹	185	136.6	110.1	27.8	100.3	359.8
1939	186	173.4	90.7	21.5	94.2	380.0
1940	121	125.0	86.5	6.0	102.6	320.2
1941	218	150.3	112.4	29.0	120.6	421.8

¹won Big Six championship.

The poor point of the 1941 team was defense. Luster's Sooners yielded an average of 126.5 yards per game to enemy rushing attacks, 73.5 yards per game to enemy forward passing, and 18.7 yards per game on enemy pass interceptions.

The foe rushing average was the highest made against an Oklahoma team in the last five years. The foe passing and pass interception averages were the second largest made against an Oklahoma team in the last five years.

Drake's Cagers Look Promising

Oklahoma's big rookie basketball team showed surprising form in whipping Southern Methodist University 57 to 34 in the opening battle December 13 at Norman.

Bruce Drake, youthful Sooner coach starting his fourth season, apparently has Oklahoma's most rugged club of the last 13 years. Drake's new zone defense, built around his three giants, 6-foot 4-inch Paul Heap, 6-foot 4½-inch Gerald Tucker and 6-foot 2-inch Richard Reich, swallowed and digested all of Southern Methodist's offensive machinations and meanwhile the Sooners themselves working the ball in beautifully on Tucker's cool pivot post passing, surprisingly sank 26 of 53 shots, approximately 50 percent!

Oklahoma left Norman Wednesday, December 17, on a four-game swing of the East and North. Here is the Oklahoma schedule for this season:

At Norman

Dec. 13 (S) Southern Methodist.
Jan. 10 (S) Kansas State.
Jan. 26 (M) Iowa State.
Feb. 7 (S) Missouri.
Feb. 16 (M) Nebraska.
Feb. 27 (F) Kansas.
March 12 (Th) Okla. Aggies.

Away

Dec. 20 (S) St. Johns at New York City.
Dec. 22 (M) Geo. Wash. U. at Wash. D. C.
Dec. 27 (S) De Paul U. at Chicago.
Dec. 29 (M) Bradley Tech at Peoria, Ill.
Jan. 6 (T) Kansas at Lawrence.
Jan. 17 (S) Kansas State at Manhattan.
Jan. 19 (M) Missouri at Columbia.
Feb. 21 (S) Nebraska at Lincoln.
Feb. 23 (M) Iowa State at Ames.
March 6 (F) Okla. Aggies at Stillwater.

Meet the Sooner Basketeers

Here are brief thumbnail sketches of the players who will be seen in action on the basketball team this season:

LAST YEAR'S REGULARS

Paul Heap Architectural engineering student from Tulsa. . . . junior. . . . 6-4 and weighs 187.... good ball hawk and rebound man.... at Tulsa Central high school he played three years of basketball under Coach Grady Skillern, an Oklahoma graduate, making the all-state team his last season at center. . . . also played first base for Tulsa Central's baseball team Phi Gam advanced R. O. T. C. . . . quiet, popular fellow and a real team player "Heaper". . . . his father is Harry H. Heap, pricing clerk for a Tulsa oil company.

A. D. Roberts—"Ug" chatterbox of the club. . . . hustler when he is hot, he is apt to score six or eight field goals on any team.... 158 pounds. . . . 6-1 "when I straighten up". . . . Irish. . . . played four years at Oklahoma City Central high school under Coach Clarence Breithaupt of Washburn college also played end on the Oklahoma City Central football team and third base on its baseball team. . . . junior as a high school sports hero he did his loafing around drug stores so his choice of pharmacy as a major at the university is only natural. . . . son of Arthur Roberts, Oklahoma City plumber.

LAST YEAR'S RESERVES

Mitchell Simon hustling little Syrian sub of last year only 5-9 in height and weighs only 155. . . . good ball hawk and fast-breaker at Oilton and Tipton, Okla. high schools Simon was an all-round athlete the natives still talk about played three years of quarterback on the football team and four years of shortstop for the baseball team Bert Ezell, Abilene, Tex., college, was his high school coach at Tipton and Lawrence Wilson of Texas U. at Oilton N. Simon, Tipton merchant, is his father "Mitch". . . . only senior on the Oklahoma squad.

Tom Rousey played very little last year because of an injured knee a former all-state high school man from Springfield, Ill. Central high also lettered in football and baseball there under Coach Mark Peterman, LaCrosse Teachers 6-1, junior, 178 pounds Alpha Tau Omega Majoring in physical education English now lives at Centralia, Ill. . . . played wingback on Coach Tom Stidham's Oklahoma football team of 1940 His father, C. E. Rousey, is district manager of a Centralia, Ill., oil company.

Warren Lehman junior sub from Ardmore, Okla. . . . No. 3 runner on Oklahoma's Big Six championship crosscountry team this fall former state champion at 880 yards in

Class A interscholastic meet lettered in football, basketball and track at Ardmore high under Coach Paul Young, a Sooner graduate 6 feet 158 pounds German majoring in education.

Jim Marteney junior 5-11 141 pounds. . . . from Cherokee, Okla. where he played three years of basketball and also shortstop on C. H. S. baseball team under Coach Don Rodgers his father is Grant Marteney, weigher in an Amarillo, Tex. elevator Jim is a business student, majoring in accounting tough little defensive player.

Louis Bailey squad man from last year but didn't letter junior 6-1 182 played three years at Bartlesville high school under Coach C. C. Custer English son of Carlton L. Bailey, cashier of a Bartlesville oil company played three years of golf for Bartlesville high mechanical engineering Phi Delta Theta.

SOPHOMORES

Gerald Tucker outstanding sophomore prospect 6-4½ and 200 does everything well, especially offensive and defensive rebounding from Winfield, Kans. where he played four years for Coach Ollie Thomas of Emporia, Kans. Teachers also won Kansas high school tennis championship in 1940 and Oklahoma Open Junior title twice sang in university quartet last year son of L. B. Tucker, Winfield stockman and auctioneer English school of business Phi Delta Theta "Tuck."

Richard Reich another sophomore played two years under Coach Clarence Breithaupt at Oklahoma City Central 6-2 175 German majoring in physical education.

Jack Grey little fellow only 5-9 sophomore from Norman where he lettered three years on Coach Arlo "Skivy" Davis's Norman high school five state high school golf champion who still holds record low score left field on N. H. S. baseball team.

Don Jones 6-2 165 son of W. W. Jones, Bartlesville real estate man Scotch-Irish. . . . second semester senior but played his first basketball at Oklahoma had two years at Bartlesville Junior college and two at Bartlesville high school under Coach C. C. Custer of Kansas majoring in government.

Bob McCurdy sophomore 6 feet 172 pounds all-around athlete at Purcell high school under Coach Jim Conger of Oklahoma quarterback of Purcell football team three years, forward on Purcell basketball team three years, state class B tennis champion 1940.

Danny Burrell sophomore needs lots of polishing 6-3½ 175 French-Irish played two years for Henryetta high under Coach Jimmy LaRue of Ada, Okla. Teachers played end on H. H. S. football and pitched last year for Clinton's state championship sandlot baseball team.

Fred McKenzie sophomore 5-11 172 from Kansas City, Mo. East high where he played three years of basketball for Coach J. C. Cohlmeier of Massachusetts played end in football and ran 440 and 880 in track with marks of 53 and 2:03.

Allan West "Bus" another midget sophomore 5-8½ 175 from Ponca City where he lettered in football, basketball, baseball and ran the dashes in track his basketball coach was Stewart Seaton of Oklahoma.

Richard Vaughn sophomore 6-2½ 178 English son of W. H. Vaughn, Ardmore chef played two years of basketball and one of football at Ardmore high under Coach Paul Young.