

Sooner Sports

Don Hutson awes Sooners in New York—Professional ace known as 'laziest' player in football world today

By HAROLD KEITH

STOPPING OFF in New York after their Temple defeat to watch the New York Giants and the Green Bay Packer professional clubs play a 21-21 tie, the Sooners saw Don Hutson of Green Bay, the world's greatest forward pass receiver and foremost football specialist, in thrilling action.

Hutson put on a great show. Like a woman deftly plucking clothespins off a line, the pro ace tied the world's professional record for received forward passes in one game by grabbing 14 out of the air at the Polo Grounds. (Dub Lamb, Oklahoma's leading pass receiver this season, caught 18 passes in 10 games).

Watching Hutson with considerable awe, the Sooners came away with two definite impressions concerning the Packer's lean, lackadaisical latcher-on:

(1) Hutson is the finest fielder of a thrown football in the world today, and especially is he tops at body-feinting and cutting away from his defenders. (He was a 9.8-second sprinter and a 6-foot high jumper at Alabama).

(2) Hutson is also the laziest player in the world today. Used to the high school and college coaches' eternal insistence that every man on the team must do his share of the blocking and tackling, the Sooner players thought Hutson "dogged it." (Joe College for loafed.)

On his best receiving route, an oblique sprint towards the sidelines with Cecil Isbell, his accomplished passer, always hitting him just inside the sideline stripe, Hutson never turned up the field trying for extra yardage after making his catch but instead jumped across the chalk to avoid a bruising tackle.

On defense, Hutson did not play end but was retreated deeply into the Green Bay secondary where he could dodge the jarring rough stuff. The only two tackles he made in the game occurred when the New York ball-carrier practically ran into him, and yet both times Hutson got his man neatly.

With Green Bay on the offense, Hutson did no blocking. Instead he tore downfield on nearly every play either to make a catch or to cleverly lead two or three Giant defenders away from another Green Bay receiver.

And yet there was intelligent purpose behind Green Bay's cautious planning to preserve its star from injury. After all, Hutson is 29 years old, wears very little padding (to give him more speed) and at 178 pounds is far frailer, and therefore far more

amenable to injury, than the average pro end who scales perhaps 210. If Hutson got hurt, Green Bay's gate might drop off as much as 40 percent.

The Sooners were enthusiastic about Hutson's skill. Hutson seemed to play with a fine contempt for the New York pass defense. The Giants couldn't hold him up because he lined up five yards outside his tackle. His speed, his baffling cutting and the fact that in Cecil Isbell's passing he had a perfect complement for his own rare receiving gift, made him well-nigh unstoppable.

The whole Green Bay offense seemed designed about him. Sometimes he lined up at left end, sometimes at right end. Green Bay passed to him with perfect confidence anywhere outside their own 20-yard line. He had a rich variety of plays, long, short, hook and spot passes. Once he even ran back towards the scrimmage line, after taking a pass, to hand the ball to a guard.

The crowd of 30,045 came to see him play, and this was refreshingly unique. Usually a great runner like Grange, a mighty plunger like Nagurski, or a practiced passer like Baugh is the top-billed star at a pro game, not a catcher. Although Hutson played in a foreign city, every eye was on him as he moved about the field in his No. 14 black jersey and his lemon-hued helmet. In action, he looked and walked much like Dave Wallace, Sooner sophomore star.

Even the Giant fans liked him.

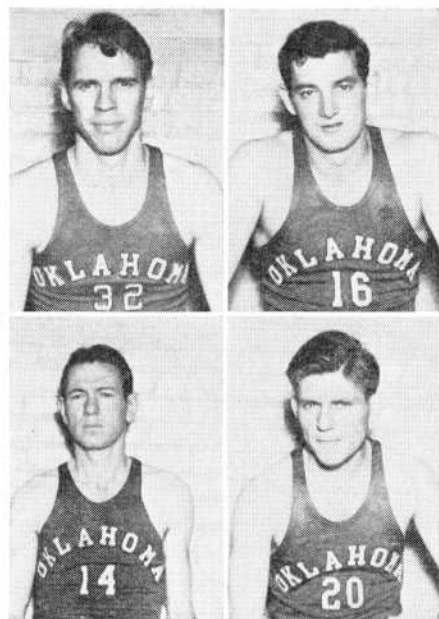
"Steve don't know what to do to stop 'um," (Steve Owen, formerly of Aline, Oklahoma, is the New York coach) one of them chuckled when Hutson, fleeing into the end zone, did a fast pivot to lose his man and came back to palm a touchdown pass facing the thrower.

That wouldn't distinguish Steve from any other pro manager. None of them know how to stop him, either.

Wartime Travel Doesn't Bother Basketball Team

Bruce Drake, Oklahoma basketball coach whose Sooners have already dribbled to 53-29 and 43-20 victories over the Naval Reserve Aviation Base Zoomers at Norman and the Southwestern college cagers at Winfield, Kansas, likes his latest experiment of deliberately seeking wartime transportation hardships for his team during its hop to Winfield.

Striving to give his club experience with transportation difficulties it is almost sure to encounter on all its trips this season, Drake purposely took his team to Winfield the afternoon of the game in chair cars, instead of following the pre-war luxury practice of going up a day ahead on Pullmans.



SENIOR CAGERS

Seniors on Coach Bruce Drake's basketball team playing their last season with the Sooners are (top, left to right) Paul Heap, Norman, and Tom Rousey, Centralia, Illinois; (bottom) Ug Roberts, Oklahoma City, and Jim Marteney, Cherokee.

The Sooners left Norman at 2:45 o'clock in the afternoon on a crowded train that was already two hours late. At 6 p.m. they had what was left in the diner after 150 soldiers had dined first. They didn't arrive at Winfield until 7:30 p.m., which was exactly the time the game was supposed to start.

However, foreseeing that the Oklahoma team would be late, Drake had wired ahead to Bill Moneypenny, Southwestern coach, and Moneypenny had taxis waiting at the Winfield station to whirl the Sooners to the Southwestern gym.

There they quickly hustled into their playing duds, ran out on the floor for a quick warm-up, and, playing before a packed crowd that had good-humoredly waited from 7:30 to 8:20 for the Oklahomans to arrive, defeated the Winfield collegians and then hustled into street clothes and back down to the depot where they caught the Streamliner for home, leaving Winfield shortly after 10 p.m., arriving back at Norman after changing trains in Oklahoma City at approximately 2 a.m.

"We liked it," Drake sleepily declared the next morning. "The boys realize there's a war on and that we're lucky to get a train of any kind for basketball travel. They stood up much of the route. However we didn't seem to suffer any fatigue."

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"It was good for another reason, too. When they arrive just in time to play, the boys don't have time to sit around in hotel lobbies reading how good they are, or how tough their opponents are, in the newspapers. Also, it's a good deal scholastically. You don't miss any classes."

The Sooner hardwood schedule for the coming year:

1943

- *Jan. 9 Kansas at Norman.
- *Jan. 16 Kansas State at Norman.
- Jan. 19 Naval Training Station (AM) at Norman.
- *Jan. 30 Nebraska at Lincoln, Neb.
- *Feb. 1 Iowa State at Ames, Iowa.
- Feb. 5 Naval Training Station (AM) at Norman.
- *Feb. 8 Iowa State at Norman.
- Feb. 10 Naval Reserve Aviation Base Zoomers at Norman.
- *Feb. 13 Kansas State at Manhattan, Kans.
- *Feb. 15 Missouri at Columbia, Mo.
- Feb. 19 Olathe, Kans. Pre-Flight Clippers at Norman.
- *Feb. 26 Kansas at Lawrence, Kans.
- *Mar. 1 Nebraska at Norman.
- Mar. 4 Oklahoma Aggies at Norman.
- *Mar. 6 Missouri at Norman.
- Mar. 11 Oklahoma Aggies at Stillwater.
- *Big Six conference games.

Sooner Eleven Finishes Second in Big Six

Coach Dewey "Snorter" Luster's Sooner football team not only finished second in the Big Six football derby this fall, but their 131 points in the five conference games is a 15-year-old conference scoring high for Oklahoma teams, while the 20 points made against them this fall by Big Six foes was Oklahoma's second best defensive showing of all time.

By tying Missouri 6-6 at Norman on November 14, Homecoming Day, the Sooners became the only Big Six team ever to stop Missouri's explosive T formation attack.

Season's Last Two Games Lost, Both Scores 14 to 7

Oklahoma closed its 1942 football season by dropping close games to Temple at Philadelphia November 21 and to William and Mary's Southern conference champions at Norman December 5. The score of each game was 14-7.

During the hectic 1942 campaign which saw the Sooners sending what was probably a better team off to war than they kept, Oklahoma was outplayed by only one club on its schedule, Tulsa, and the Hurricane superiority lay solely in its forward passing.

Three modern records for Sooner teams were established this year by Coach Dewey "Snorter" Luster's club:

(1) The Sooners tossed opponents for 350 yards lost rushing this year, an average of 35 yards per game. The old record of 281 yards, of 31.2 yards per game, set by the Oklahoma team of 1940.

(2) Oklahoma's feat of trapping Iowa State's ball-carriers for 102 yards lost rush-

ing in that game alone (played at Ames, Iowa, October 21) was easily a record for a single game.

(3) Oklahoma collected 365 yards on runbacks of intercepted forward passes, surpassing the old standard of 290 yards set by last year's team. The average per game this year was 36.5 yards.

Guard George Gibbons and Tailback Huel Hamm were the champion workhorses of the Sooner team this year, playing 477 minutes each out of a possible 600.

William "Red" Conkright, rangy Tulsan who played center for Biff Jones' Sooners of 1936, holds the modern Sooner record for having toiled the most minutes in a single season. In 1936 Conkright, without substitution, played eight full games of a nine-game schedule or a total of 510 of 540 minutes, 93 percent of the total time.

Mickey Parks, 230-pound center of the 1937 team, played 501 minutes and four whole games.

Al Corrotto, hard-twisted little 165-pound blocking back of the 1935, '36 and '37 Sooner teams, has the best three-year record with a total of 1,205½ minutes, an average of better than 401 for each of three seasons. Corrotto averaged playing 44.6 minutes in each game for three years, which figures out approximately three full quarters.

The champion Sooner workhorses and the runners-up for each of the last eight seasons are:

Year	Player
1935	Al Corrotto (371½) and Fred Ball (357)
1936	Red Conkright (510) and Al Corrotto (492)
1937	Mickey Parks (501) and Pete Smith (410½)
1938	Hugh McCullough (496½) and Waddy Young (430)
1939	Bill Jennings (376½) and Frank Ivy (430)
1940	Johnny Martin (496) and Roger Eason (400)
1941	Roger Eason (330) and Jack Jacobs (305)
1942	George Gibbons (477) and Huel Hamm (477)

A.P. Picks Five Sooners For All-Big Six Team

The surprise of the season occurred after it ended when five Sooner players, four of them members of Oklahoma's staunch line, were selected on the Associated Press all-Big Six football eleven. Missouri, the champion, landed three.

Feeling something like the man who stepped up to a punch machine and with his first nickel got a hatful of coins in return, Oklahomans were surprised and pleased to learn that End Dub Lamb, Tackle Homer Simmons, Guard Clare Morford, Center Jack Marsee and Tailback Huel Hamm had all been honored on the first AP team, while End Jim Tyree and Blocking Back Bill Campbell made the second eleven.

Campbell was selected on the Kansas City Star's first team, named by C. E. McBride, veteran sports editor, who tabbed him as the best blocking back in the league and wrote that an all-star football team without a blocking back was like an automobile without an engine.

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