

Sooner Sports

By HAROLD KEITH

THE STORY of how Oklahoma's practically all-freshman baseball team lost its first four games to powerful service teams and then braced to win its first contest of the season is best told by listing the scores by innings of each of the games.

The reader should recall that the young Sooners, in most cases, were facing such former major league pitchers as Al Benton of the Detroit Tigers, George Burpo of Birmingham (who belongs to the Cincinnati Reds), Don Kennedy of Fort Smith (who is the property of the New York Giants), Jim Winford, formerly of the St. Louis Cards and others.

Most formidable of the teams encountered was Charley Gelbert's Naval Aviation Technical Center team (Norman's south base). Gelbert, former Cardinal infielder, is its manager and shortstop, Johnny Rizzo of the Brooklyn Dodgers is the center-fielder, Bennie Warren of the Chicago Cubs is its catcher and in its roster are several minor leaguers.

But back to the line scores:

March 31, 1943 at Norman: R H E
 SOUTH BASE -----000 102 010 9—13 11 3
 SOONERS -----000 001 102 0—4 4 4
 Batteries: Benton, Burpo, Kennedy and Warren, Turk; Lacer, Fry and Cairns.

April 3, 1943 at Norman: R H E
 ENID FLIERS -----210 310 022—11 12 3
 SOONERS -----000 002 311—7 7 6
 Batteries: Kretlow, Immel, Raven and Kellert; Merrell, Rousey, Fry and Cairns.

April 5, 1943: R H E
 SOONERS -----210 020 031—9 9 5
 SOUTH BASE -----330 230 10x—12 11 4
 Batteries: Lacer, Merrell and Cairns; Kennedy and Warren, Turk.

April 9, 1943 at Norman: R H E
 NORTH BASE -----200 010 002—5 6 3
 SOONERS -----000 001 100—2 5 5
 Batteries: King, Blumette and Erickson, Brancheau; Merrell and Cairns.

April 12, 1943 at Norman: R H E
 SOONERS -----100 041 300—9 8 5
 NORTH BASE -----122 040 020—8 15 2
 Batteries: Rousey and Cairns; Hatfield, Byrd, Winford and Brancheau, Erickson.

Freshman Pugsley Is Top Swatter

Charles Pugsley, the tall, slender all-state basketball star from Oklahoma City, is leading the Sooners in hitting with a mark of .333 and has done some great shagging and throwing from left field despite a lame leg.

Oklahoma has an all-freshman infield, C. D. Deal of Oklahoma City at third base, Jimmy Mitchell of Oklahoma City Classen at shortstop, Olin Corley of Friendship at second and Merrell McDonald of Garber at first. Outfielders Pugsley and Herb Smith

of Tulsa are also freshmen as are pitchers Gene Merrell of Tulsa and Bill Fry of Durant. Catcher Jack Cairns of Clinton is a sophomore, Pitcher Ray Lacer and Outfielder Bill Parker are juniors and Pitcher Tom Rousey is a senior.

The Sooners are coached by Howard "Splash" Spangenberg, South Base metal-smith and Milwaukee semi-pro pitcher who once had a try-out with the Milwaukee Brews. Spangenberg holds a B.A. degree from Milwaukee Teachers College and is about to complete an M.A. at Marquette.

Young Sooners Run At Texas Relays

Oklahoma placed second in both the distance medley and sprint medley relays at the 16th annual Texas Relays April 3 at Austin, Texas. In both events the freshman-sophomoric Sooners ran inspired races against veteran thinclads from the southwest schools.

In the distance medley, Bill Reimers, Tulsa sophomore, stepped a 51.8-second 440, Indian George Roberts a 2:01.1 half-mile, Freshman Andy Cary of Duncan a 3:13.8 three-quarters to propel Oklahoma into the leadership and Dan Painter, Tulsa sophomore, a 4:32.2 mile. Texas won this race, anchored by Jerry Thompson, brilliant miler.

In the sprint medley, Roberts toured his opening quarter in 50.3 seconds, Reimers and Jimmy Jones, Tulsa freshman, each scatted 220 legs and Cary, running his second race within the hour, did 1:58.7 on his anchor half-mile to sweep the youthful Sooners from fourth to second place.

Littlefield Cancels Race With Jacobs

The 20-yard hurdle race (over one hurdle) between 50-year-old Clyde Littlefield, director of the Texas Relays, and 49-year-old John Jacobs, Sooner coach who was honorary referee, didn't materialize.

Littlefield told coaches and officials at the Friday night smoker that he couldn't get his leg over a low hurdle any more, let alone a high hurdle.

Jacobs declared that he had secured his wife's permission to run but that he hadn't yet heard from the Big Six Conference eligibility committee.

The Sooner coach drew a laugh with his definition of an honorary referee:

"I don't know whether I want the job or not," Jacobs said. "It's something they always give to an old man. An honorary referee is like an honorary pallbearer. Too old to carry the casket."

Cagers Third In N. C. A. A. Tourney

Coach Bruce Drake's Sooner basketball



CHOSEN ALL-AMERICA Jimmy McNatt, '41eng, popular forward of Oklahoma's speedy Boy Scouts and all-Big Six Conference forward in 1938, 1939 and 1940, was chosen All-America forward at the recent National A.A.U. tournament at Denver in which his team, Phillips 66 of Bartlesville, won the championship.

team finished the season in a swirl of glory, probably missing a National Collegiate championship by the toot of a West Coast official's whistle.

When Creighton passed up the N.C.A.A. tournament to play in the more lucrative wildcat New York Invitation meet at Madison Square Garden, and Kansas couldn't accept the bid because of last-minute service losses, Oklahoma, Big Six Conference runners-up, got the fifth district bid and went to Kansas City to play March 26 and 27 in the Western Regional N.C.A.A. tournament.

Sooner fans trembled when Oklahoma
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drew for a first-round opponent mighty Wyoming, most powerful college outfit in the country which had twice defeated the Phillips 66 Oilers, National A.A.U. champions. However, Wyoming suited Coach Bruce Drake just fine.

With Gerald Tucker, Oklahoma's All-America center, hitting five quick goals and tying Milo Komenich, Wyoming's big center, in knots defensively, Oklahoma smartly whipped into first half leads of 14-5 and 19-10 before tragically losing Tucker on personal fouls before the first half ended. The gigantic Kansas City crowd, discerning patrons of the game, booed Tucker's ouster to the echo in what C. E. McBride, veteran *Kansas City Star* sports editor, later termed "the most convincing display of crowd resentment a Kansas City basketball audience ever has given."

But the decision stood and Wyoming went on to win 53 to 50 although Forward Dick Reich's clever faking and one-handed shooting and Guard Allie Paine's splendid all-around play kept Oklahoma in the game every minute. In the third place playoff, the Sooners licked Washington's Huskies, Pacific Coast kids, 48-43 the next night, with Tucker hitting six field goals, six free throws and committing no personal fouls. Wyoming went on to defeat decisively Georgetown for the N.C.A.A. title, 46-34, and then measure St. Johns, the New York tourney winner, in a Red Cross benefit game at Madison Square Garden, by five points.

The Sooners received 14 gold wrist watches and some solace when rival coaches and officials assured them they probably had the best college team in the nation at the season's close.

Little Payne was probably the most outstanding player at the Kansas City tourney, with his superb guarding, passing, shooting and shrewd court generalship. He handcuffed Kenny Sailors, Wyoming's great forward, with three field goals in the first game, and Bill Morris, Washington's great scorer, with two field baskets in the last encounter, and out-scored both. But his cool direction of and deft participation in Oklahoma's smoothly screening offensive was in many ways the tournament's high.

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WOOD-BECKER: Miss Doris Tate Wood, Ardmore, and Robert M. Becker, '43eng, Chickasha, were married January 17 at Ardmore. Mrs. Becker, a graduate of Oklahoma College for Women at Chickasha, is continuing her position as teacher at Springer, Oklahoma. Mr. Becker expected to leave soon for duty with the Army Air Forces at Chanute Field, Illinois.

CHERRY-FRANTZ: Miss Leota Cherry, '43 soc.wk, Shawnee, and Lt. Robert S. Frantz, '42 bus, Enid, were married January 16 in Dallas. Mrs. Frantz is a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. Lieutenant Frantz, a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity, was stationed at Camp Hood, Texas with a Tank Destroyer battalion. He and Mrs. Frantz were living near there at Temple.

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