

# Sooner Sports

By HAROLD KEITH

"We intend to play football at Norman this fall if anybody else plays. And by anybody else, I mean anybody else in this part of the country."

That was Dewey "Snorter" Luster, Sooner football coach, speaking, and his statement brings the grid game's 1943 war-time status at the University up to date.

"Even if we have to use inexperienced players, we intend to keep the game alive and play a full schedule, barring, of course, some sudden change in the national picture," Luster added.

There will be practically no experienced Sooner material available this fall. War calls apparently will sweep away 26 of the 30 promising players who participated in the Sooner spring exercises. The Naval R.O.T.C. may elect to keep Wingback Boone Baker, lone returning "O" man, on the campus another year, and also freshmen Merle Dinkins, Blackwell end, and Derrald Lebow, Okmulgee back. Omer Burgett, Enid freshman, is a pre-med and may also stay. But the others will drop their books, rip off their pads, and march away to war.

"How good a team we have depends entirely upon the caliber of the Navy trainees, and the time they will be available for football, and upon the football-playing quality of the incoming high school students who will be on our campus this autumn," opined Dale Arbuckle, young Sooner director of athletics. Army trainees cannot play football, the war department has ruled.

The amended Sooner schedule calls for Luster's club transferring its Norman jousts

with Tulsa and the Oklahoma Aggies from Owen Field to Taft Stadium in Oklahoma City. The present Sooner schedule for 1943, very tentative, is:

Oct. 2 Oklahoma Aggies at Oklahoma City.  
Oct. 9 Texas at Dallas.  
Oct. 16 Tulsa at Oklahoma City.  
Oct. 23 Kansas State at Manhattan.  
Oct. 30 Iowa State at Norman.  
Nov. 6 Kansas at Norman.  
Nov. 13 Missouri at Columbia.  
Nov. 20 Open.  
Nov. 27 Nebraska at Lincoln.

## Freshmen Letter First Time in 25 Years

Ten freshmen, first yearling athletes to letter at the University since 1918 and the last World War, were awarded varsity O's in spring sports during 1943 by the University Athletic Council. In fact, approximately one-half of the total spring sports letter-winner were frosh. The list:

BASEBALL—Juniors Ray Lacer and Bill Parker; Sophomore Jack Cairns; Freshmen Ray Corley, Friendship; Clarence Deal, Jim Mitchell and Charles Pugsley, all of Oklahoma City; Gene Merrell and Herb Smith, both of Tulsa, and Merrell McDonald, Garber.

TRACK—Seniors Kenneth Farris and Archie Walker; Juniors Son Wright and George Roberts; Sophomores Bill Reimers, Dan Painter, Charles Heard and Gene Baker; Freshmen Andy Cary, Duncan; Jimmy Jones, Tulsa, and Lynn "Hobo" Gilstrap, Ardmore.

## Green Sooner Track Team Steadily Improves

The University's freshman-sophomore track and field "kindergarten," tutored by

John Jacobs, '15, who because of the extreme youth of his pupils had to do more A to Z coaching this spring than ever before, continued to struggle through the Kasserine Pass period of its brief varsity career, although showing such pleasing improvement that it should form the nucleus for a powerful team when it gets back from the war.

The Sooner brace came April 28 at Norman when Coach Ralph Higgins brought the veteran Oklahoma Aggie powerhouse, consisting mostly of gifted juniors and seniors, to Owen Field for the 31st annual Sooner-Aggie duel. The Aggies won, 74 1-3 to 56 2-3, but the hustling Sooner kids grabbed seven first places, Reimers copping the 220 in 21.4 seconds, Cary the 440 and 880 in 49.8 and 2:03.5, Gilstrap the low hurdles in 24.1, Joe Bailey, Macomb freshman, the shot put at 44-1, and Ancel Young the javelin at 168-6. The young Sooner mile relay team surged to a surprising 25-yard triumph in 3:23.3 with Reimers, Jones, Roberts and Cary running in that order.

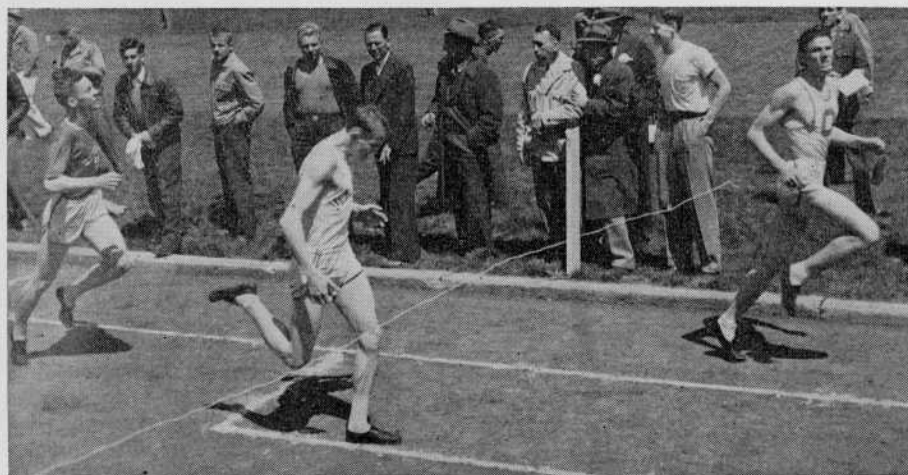
On May 1, at the Oklahoma A.A.U. meet at Taft Stadium, Oklahoma City, the Sooners won three firsts, Reimers taking the 100 and 220 and Cary the 880, and Cary tying for first in the 440 and Felix Laney, Camden, Arkansas freshman, in the pole vault.

Exhibiting the best-coached freshmen and sophomores at the meet, Oklahoma closed her season in the Big Six outdoor games May 8 at Lincoln, Nebraska. Cary, the Duncan kid, became the first freshman ever to win a track event in a Big Six meet when he throttled the home stretch like a sprinter to take the half-mile in 1:59. Coolest freshman at the mingling, little Gilstrap ran second in the low hurdles. Dan Painter took third in the two-mile and might have won it if he had waited until the last 250 yards to start his kick. Leading by five yards on the last leg, the Sooners gave the mile relay away. Baker tied for third in the high jump, Son Wright rolled to second place in the high hurdles, and Ken "Crow Hop" Farris, veteran broad jumper, had too much fight and experience for his opponents, hitting the board perfectly in the cold, tricky wind on all nine jumps to peg three leaps over the best submitted by any other man.

Final standing was Missouri 78, Nebraska 40 1-2, Kansas State 35, Iowa State 35, Oklahoma 27½ and Kansas 9.

Most nervous runner at the meet by a unanimous vote was Bill Reimers, Oklahoma's sophomore sprinter from Tulsa.

Reimers finally got strung out in the final relay, powering the opening quarter so fast that he brought home a seven-yard lead. It was his first Big Six meet.



SOONER RUNNER BREAKS TAPE, BIG SIX RECORD

Andy Cary, Sooner freshman from Duncan, winning Big Six Outdoor half-mile at Lincoln, Nebraska, May 8, with Tom Madjeski, Iowa State, second, and Kratz, Nebraska, third. Cary's time was 1:59. He is the first freshman ever to win a track event in the 15-year-old history of Big Six meets.

Photo courtesy E. K. Langevin, Omaha World-Herald