

Sooner Sports

By HAROLD KEITH

FOOTBALLS, not bombs, are spinning through the air at Norman in the lazy afternoon heat of September.

For the 49th successive year, a University of Oklahoma football squad is hard at work exuding the same old pep, perspiration and enthusiasm as the 48 other Sooner squads before it.

This year the players will be younger and greener and the crowds smaller. The home games against Oklahoma A. and M. and Tulsa university have been shifted from historic Owen field to Oklahoma City's tidy little ballyard at Taft stadium, corner of May avenue and 23rd street, where the new Sooner team will play its first games of all time under candlepower other than the sun's. But it's the same game, even if the cast and some of the scenery is new.

The coming football season is startlingly comparable to that of 1918.

In the fall of 1918 the Allies had seared the Kaiser's submarines and were pressing the German armies back into Coffin corner. The same thing is happening in the autumn of 1943.

In 1918 the Sooner football team was composed almost entirely of young Student Army Training Corps players out of Oklahoma's high schools, stationed on the University campus for instructions. That's the way it is this autumn although many of the campus trainees are from other states.

In 1918 the Sooners played in Oklahoma City. Ditto this year.

It's the sixth year that the University, like most of the other institutions around it, has fielded a team while the nation was at war (the other war years were 1898, 1916, 1917, 1918 and 1942). Football is far too deeply rooted into the affections of the American people to be killed by an ugly thing like war.

Luster Is Forging A Colorful Offensive Club

While Oklahoma's 1943 squad returns but one letterman from last year and 86% of its personnel is composed of young military trainees stationed on the Sooner campus among whom there isn't a single major college first string player, let alone a "big name" player, don't sell the Sooners short.

True, they would be badly over-powered if they had to play a matched game against Oklahoma's 1942 team, but they wouldn't be out-gamed. Furthermore the three-weeks summer practice Coach Dewey "Snorter" Luster just closed revealed



ONLY ONE BACK
Boone Baker, junior wingback from Amarillo, Texas, is the only 1942 letterman returning to the Sooner football squad this autumn.

that the 1943 team is shaping up as a more versatile offensive club, and therefore a more entertaining club, than the Sooners of last year who were handicapped because many of their returning key linemen and all their fast, tricky backs had gone to war.

Summing them up, the Sooners of 1943 are a club of average peace-time junior college strength. What they do this fall depends as much upon the strength of their foes, impossible to evaluate now, as upon their own efforts.

Here's a statistical comparison of Oklahoma's 1942 and 1943 squads:

	SOONERS 1942	SOONERS 1943
Av. height.....	6ft. ½ in.	5ft. 11¼ in.
Av. age.....	20.8 years	19.3 years
Av. weight.....	187 pounds	174.6 pounds
No. returning lettermen.....	19	1
No. returning freshmen squadmen.....	22	4
No. of new freshmen.....	0	11
Div. of squad.....	28 linemen 16 backs	19 linemen 17 backs
Favorite major.....	33 arts and sciences	23 engineers

Night Games With Tulsa, Aggies at Oklahoma City

The University's games with the Oklahoma Aggies and Tulsa University at Oklahoma City on the nights of October 2 and 16 mark the first time a Sooner club has played in the capitol city in 24 years.

The last time a Sooner club showed in Oklahoma City was 1919 when Bennie Owen's Sooners defeated the Aggies at Western League park 33 to 6 with Myron "Little Tub" Tyler, now a Bristow insurance man, blocking three Aggie punts.

Scores of all the University's games in Oklahoma City are:

1902	Oklahoma	30,	Okla. City A. C.	0
1903	Oklahoma	11,	Fairmont	5
1903	Oklahoma	5,	Texas	11
1903	Oklahoma	10,	Bethany Swedes	12
1904	Oklahoma	0,	Kansas	16
1904	Oklahoma	9,	Bethany Swedes	36
1905	Oklahoma	2,	Texas	0
1905	Oklahoma	29,	Bethany Swedes	0
1906	Oklahoma	9,	Texas	10
1906	Oklahoma	0,	Washburn	0
1907	Oklahoma	29,	Epworth	0
1908	Oklahoma	24,	Epworth	0
1909	Oklahoma	12,	Epworth	11
1910	Oklahoma	0,	Kansas	2
1910	Oklahoma	3,	Epworth	3
1913	Oklahoma	14,	Colorado	3
1914	Oklahoma	67,	Central	0
1914	Oklahoma	28,	Oklahoma Aggies	6
1914	Oklahoma	35,	Arkansas	7
1915	Oklahoma	26,	Oklahoma Aggies	7
1916	Oklahoma	27,	Central	0
1916	Oklahoma	41,	Oklahoma Aggies	7
1917	Oklahoma	99,	Central	0
1917	Oklahoma	0,	Oklahoma Aggies	9
1917	Oklahoma	7,	Camp Doniphan	21
1918	Oklahoma	27,	Oklahoma Aggies	0
1919	Oklahoma	33,	Oklahoma Aggies	6

Oklahoma won 17, scored 577 points.
Opponents won 8, scored 172 points.
Two games tied.

Four Sooner Coaches Are Away on Leave

Four members of the Sooner football staff are now in the service on leave of absence. They are:

Lt. Com. Lawrence "Jap" Haskell (athletic director), Navy, Jacksonville, Florida.

Lt. Orville Tuttle (line coach), Marines, San Diego, California.

Lt. (jg) Frank Crider (freshman coach), Navy, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Ensign Jack Baer (assistant freshman coach), Navy, Del Monte, California.

Desmond of Santa Clara Most Experienced Player

Here's a quick appraisal of the Sooners of 1943:

SERVICE LOSSES—42 of the 44 varsity men available last year.

LETTERMEN RETAINED—One, Boone Baker, junior wingback. "We're coming in on a wingback and a prayer," quips Coach Dewey "Snorter" Luster.

SQUAD MEN RETAINED—One, Lee Kennon, junior tackle.

FRESHMEN RETAINED—Four, Ends Omer Burgert, Enid, and Merle Dinkins, Blackwell, and Backs Dick Peddycoart,

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