

Sooner Sports

By HAROLD KEITH

Lt. (J.G.) RAY GAHAN of Blackwell, Oklahoma's Big Six Conference Indoor half-mile champion of 1936, has received the Air Medal for gallantry as a bombing pilot. The citation accompanying the air medal said: "Despite heavy anti-aircraft fire Lieutenant Gahan daringly attacked shore installations and shipping and by his aggressive and courageous airmanship inflicted severe damage on the enemy. On July 17, 1943, he participated in a raid against hostile shipping in strongly defended waters at Kahili (in the Solomons) and pressing home his attack assisted his squadron in sinking four destroyers and severely damaging a light cruiser."

Lieutenant Gahan is now operational officer at Englewood, New Jersey, and recently was married to Thelma Elise Purvis, the daughter of a veteran naval officer.

Trophy to Honor Athlete

Although Lt. Bill Lyda, marine flier and the University of Oklahoma's national collegiate half-mile champion, died in a California plane crash last October, his memory as a great runner and a popular sportsman will be perpetuated in the future by a handsome trophy that hereafter will go to the runner who wins the half-mile in the Big Six Indoor conference meet.

Lloyd Noble, former student at Oklahoma and long-time member of the University Board of Regents, is putting up the "Bill Lyda Memorial Half-Mile Trophy." Noble has bought war bonds with the funds with which this permanent trophy will be purchased. After the war, the bonds will be cashed and the beautiful trophy purchased. Meanwhile Noble will put up a temporary trophy for wartime use.

Cagers Lose Three, Win One

The Oklahoma basketball team lost three of its four-game February home stand. The Sooners were beaten 32-30 by the NATTC Skyjackets, 41-39 by Iowa State and 14-11 by the Oklahoma Aggies, but defeated Dr. F. C. "Phog" Allen's Kansas Jayhawkers 39-35.

Here is the remainder of the cage schedule:

Feb. 26 Nebraska at Lincoln.

Feb. 28 Iowa State at Ames.

March 1 New York U. at Madison Square Garden.

March 4 Westminster at Buffalo, N. Y.

Welcome Home

Vic Holt, Oklahoma's All-America center of 1928 and now assistant sales manager of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber company at Akron, Ohio, was a spectator at the Oklahoma-Kansas game at Norman February 12.

Win Over Kansas

Oklahoma won the Kansas basketball game at Norman despite the fact she made three less field goals than did the Jayhawkers. Coach Bruce Drake's lads were magnificent at the foul line, sinking 15 of 17 free throws.

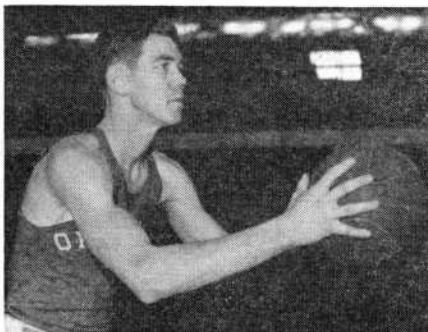
Last Game for Paine

Allie Paine, Sooner captain, closed an illustrious three-year career on his home court in the Aggie game by holding Floyd Burdette, 27-year-old Stillwater ASTP army captain and former A.A.U. star, to one field goal. Burdette, 6 feet 5 inches tall, was five inches taller than Paine. Previously, in the Kansas game Paine blanked Chuck Moffett, Jayhawker freshman star who was then in second place in the Big Six conference standings. Moffett got only two shots at the hoop, missed both.

'Stall' Tactics Work in Aggie Game

That low score 11-14 loss to Hank Iba's gigantic Oklahoma Aggies at Norman February 19 before a crowd of approximately 6,000 fans, was the result of a disconcerting "retaliatory stall" that Coach Bruce Drake dreamed up for the Cowboys. Refusing to rush the sensational goal-tending of Bob "Foothills" Kurland, Aggie seven-footer, Drake instructed his players to sew the backcourt with a crisscross pattern of as many as 30 and 40 deliberate passes, then deliver a long shot just as Jack Landon, Sooner freshman, screened out Kurland under the goal.

The Sooners synchronized their passing so flawlessly that Kurland was permitted only two "robs" all night and the Sooners actually led 10-9 with five minutes and 15 seconds of the game left. However, the Aggie height was not to be denied, Kurland himself going into the stratosphere to deliver a field goal and Burdette tipping in another of Kurland's miss of a free throw.



LEARNS FAST

Most improved Sooner basketball player has been Richard Vaughan, Ardmore, who never played in a varsity collegiate game until this year.

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Hal Muldrow, Jr.

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Norman