

# Sooner Sports

By HAROLD KEITH

SPORTS still burgeon luxuriously in Oklahoma high schools. With most of the college boys off to war, athletics in the state have their freest and nearest to normal expression in the various brown brick high schools where the kids under 18 years of age, and that includes most high schoolers, still plunge into their games with whoops of pure joy. The clean exhilaration of competitive schoolboy sports in America will be a long time dying no matter how long the land is plagued by war.

For the first time in two years, the kids from the cotton country, the short grass, the blackjacks, the wheat belt and the creeks stormed into Norman May 5 and 6 to settle state championships in a state-wide invitation baseball tournament and the Oklahoma High School Athletic Association's first annual track and field finals.

Last year the University invitation meet was cancelled for the first time in 39 years (the first one was held here in 1905) because of a contemplated transportation crisis, but this year the youngsters were back in force. Competition in golf, tennis, badminton, swimming, horseshoes and pingpong was eliminated, but for two days the baseball and track throngs gathered curiously about the baseball field and the cinder running track.

The University put on one of its finest shows of modern times when WNAD, the University radio station, broadcast an hour and one-half of the track and field meet. Motion pictures were made of each track event. President George Cross launched the meet with a short address of welcome. That modern indispensable feature of every big track meet, a queen and her attendants, lent pulchritude to the event by passing out certificates to the bashful high school winners from a stand on the field. The queen was Mary Martha Logan, University co-ed from Hominy.

The University Navy V-12 band played at the meet.

Gould's Coyotes won the Class B baseball tournament by vanquishing Friendship 9-5 in the finals, behind Catcher C. W. Duvall's hitting, after being given terrific games in lower brackets by Rose-dale and Ron of Hollis. In Class A, Oklahoma City Central drubbed Oklahoma City Classen 14-4 for the crown after eliminating Putnam City 5-4 in ten innings. There were eight Class A baseball teams here, 20 B teams. As usual, all the pitch-



## BEST BATTER

*Kent Martin, Sooner right-fielder and Navy trainee from Wisconsin, is leading the O. U. baseball team in hitting with .420.*

ers were overworked and worn to a frazzle, but everybody had lots of fun and went home happy.

Tulsa Will Rogers High won the Class A track and field meet with Bobby Jack Stuart, their ace, thrice snapping the twine with his gold jersey. Stuart won the 100 in 9.9 seconds, the 220 in 22 seconds, and anchored the winning Roper half-mile relayists. Fairview's Yellowjackets tripled their score on the nearest Class B antagonist with Laddie Harp, handsome 185-pound football tailback, duplicating Stuart's feat in Class A by sweeping the 100 and 220 and sensationally running with the bamboo on the final leg of the 880-yard relay.

One state record was broken. J. D. Cole, gangling, freckled Shawnee star, propelled his gaunt form over the 39-inch

high hurdles in 14.8 seconds in a morning prelim during which he practically ran alone.

## New Interscholastic Broad Jump Record

In the 13th annual Oklahoma A.A.U. track and field meet held at Owen field May 13, a Comanche High School boy made by eight inches the greatest broad-jump in the history of high school athletics in Oklahoma. The lad's name was Bill Grimes, he is a 16-year old junior and his coach is Arthur Smith, the Comanche High School principal.

Unlike Mark Twain's celebrated jumping frog which was weighted down with shot and couldn't spring off the floor, Grimes sailed like a bird on his final jump, leaping 24 feet 1 3/4 inches for a new state record. The old mark was 23 feet 6 1/2 inches set here in 1938 by Malcolm Strow of Ada. Strow's mark was aided by wind. There was no breeze behind Grimes.

The Norman Navy Skyjackets won the team championship with a big team of former college and A.A.U. stars ably readied for the test by Lt. J. J. Wolff, former Manhattan College runner.

## Sooner Baseballers Come to Life

For the last five weeks, the University's youthful baseball team, ably coached by Ensign Bill Scheerer, University Navy V-12 athletic officer, has been rather futilely matching its adolescent strength against powerful nearby service teams composed of former professional league and semi-pro stars.

However, early in May the Sooners turned on one of their conquerors, the Purcell Gunnery School, coached by Lt. Howard Gregory, former White Sox twirler, and with Bobby Estep, diminutive infielder, slashing a three-run homer down the left foul chalk, defeated Purcell 7-2 at Haskell Park.

Previously Scheerer's boys had pinned the first defeat of the year (after seven wins in a row) on the N.A.T.T.C. Marines of the State Victory League, 3-2, winning on Bob Reese's cool pitching. Bill Greenfield's slashing hitting and Catcher Jess Sweeting's squeeze bunt that softly pushed the horsehide out of reach of the Marine pitcher until the runner from third, in motion with the pitch, could score the winning run.