

Sooner Sports

By HAROLD KEITH

FRESH FOOTBALL concrete to replace the torn masonry of 12 departing lettermen and 7 lost squadmen from last year's Big Six Conference championship team has been afforded the University of Oklahoma by the summer practice for new players just concluded.

Coach Dewey "Snorter" Luster named Grady Harris, 170-pound guard from Chickasha, Kent Martin, 170-pound end from Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, and Darold Reckling, 185-pound tackle from Lincoln, Nebraska, as summer squad rookies who made the most progress in the recent two-weeks drill.

"Martin is small, but he comes in there. Harris might be in the money. Reckling is green and never even played high school football before, but he wrecked several plays defensively in short scrimmage and might come through," Luster opined. All three are Navy V-12 trainees here.

If Reckling, who wears the largest pair of hands on the squad, comes through this fall, he will be the first football player the Sooners ever drew from Lincoln, Nebraska, home of the mighty Cornhuskers who are famous for keeping their best high school athletes.

"There had to be war before we finally got a football player out of Lincoln," Luster laughed.

Several new boys in the summer exercises will help the Sooner squad this autumn, despite their inexperience. Among the best of the new summer linesmen were Gene Bradney, all state tackle from Henryetta; Albert Stover, Weatherford; Al Vogel of Texarkana, Texas; Dick Strickland, Wichita Falls, Texas; L. P. Brown, Duncan, and Harley Smalley, Birmingham, Alabama.

Several of the new backs are sure to make their mark this fall. Luster and Dale Arbuckle, backfield mentor, were sorry that a foot infection kept them from looking at Laddie Harp, lightning fast 175-pound Fairview fullback, in scrimmage. But they are high on the Major County boy and predict he will come through.

Although seven starters, Lebow, Heard, Sparkman, Dinkins, Mayfield, Tigart and Honor Captain Wooten, return from last year's Sooner club, Luster says the hands who show the most stuff this fall will start the games, with the others coming in on the second and third teams.

There may be some high school boys on Oklahoma's starting team this autumn.

"The best boys will play the most, regardless of whether they played in high

school or college last fall," the Sooner coach maintains.

Last year's lettermen lost are Backs Bob Brumley, Boone Baker, Bill Geter and Lloyd Meinert and Linesmen Gale Fulghum, Lee Kennon, Jim Desmond, Omer Burgert, Donald Link, Lewis Dunn, Joe Breeden and Jim Gassaway. Brumley, Fulghum and Kennon were all Big Six Conference choices.

Lost squadmen from last year are Backs Bob Berry, Clark Case and Hugh Jackson, and Linesmen Jim Reedy, Hilliard Parsons, Harry McKinney and Bill McGinty, who accepted an appointment to Annapolis.

Several additional high school boys, not yet enrolled in the University, will join the Sooners this autumn when practice starts September 1.

The following 52 players were named by Luster as being available this fall when the old and new squads are blended. The list includes only those players formerly or now enrolled in the University:

ENDS—Lettermen: W. G. "Dub" Wooten, Amarillo, Texas; Merle Dinkins, Blackwell; Archie Bradley, Muskogee. **Others:** John Austin, Pauls Valley; P. H. Griffin, Fort Worth, Texas; R. E. Strickland, Wichita Falls, Texas; Kent Martin, Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin; W. W. Cantrell, Smithville, Texas.

TACKLES—Lettermen: John Harley, Tulsa; Thurman Tigart, Amarillo, Texas. **Squad man:** Millard Cummings, Enid. **Others:** Bill Horan, Union, New Jersey; Wilhelm Schneider, Willows, California; Albert Rittenour, Casper, Wyoming; Gene Bradney, Henryetta; Albert Stover, Weatherford; Bill Hallett, Duncan; Darold Reckling, Lincoln, Nebraska.

GUARDS—Lettermen: Don Tillman, Chickasha; Elvin Jackson, Arcata, California. **Squad men:** Joshua Tharp, Snyder, Arkansas; Harold Latham, Chickasha. **Others:** Art Kenworthy, Goldsmith, Texas; Steve Sawyer, Tulsa; E. M. Parker, Millville, Florida; L. P. Brown, Duncan; Harley Smalley, Birmingham, Alabama; Grady Harris, Chickasha.

CENTERS—Lettermen: Bob Mayfield, Norman. **Squad man:** Bob Stover, Enid. **Others:** Al Vogel, Texarkana, Texas; Bill Snyder, Ridge Farm, Illinois.

BLOCKING BACKS — Letterman: Homer Sparkman, Anadarko. **Others:** Don Weir, Kerrville, Texas; Harry Paramore, Duncan; Augustine Hernandez, Waco, Texas.

WINGBACKS — Others: Kenneth Campbell, Montgomery, Alabama; R. C. Jackson, Phillips, Texas; Max Culver, Muskogee; Doug Nix, Duncan; Ivan Preston, Milwaukee.

FULLBACKS — Letterman: Charley Heard, Cleveland, Oklahoma. **Squad man:** Dick Paddycoart, Oklahoma City. **Others:** Johnny West, Oklahoma City; Robert Beamer, Glendale, California; Laddie Harp, Fairview.

TAILBACKS—Lettermen: Derald Lebow, Okmulgee; Louis Dollarhide, Idabel; Bobby Estep, Phillips, Texas. **Others:** John "Billy" Wright, Lubbock, Texas; J. D. Cole, Shawnee; Bob Williams, Weatherford.

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