
Sooner Sports

By HAROLD KEITH

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA alumni can take pride this year in the high school basketball coaching feats in Oklahoma of several of its graduates.

Both Norman and Muskogee Central, finalists in the 1945 state prep cage tournament, were coached by former Sooners, Arlo "Skivey" Davis, Bennie Owen's football quarterback 1917-20, and John Grayson, a sub on Coach Hugh McDermott's speedy Oklahoma Boy Scat basketball team of 1938.

Paul Young, Oklahoma's all-Big Six football center of 1931, was the only high school mentor in the state this year who put his team in both the state football and basketball playoffs. Young coaches at Ardmore.

Tulsa Central's great club that was all-victorious and rated No. 1 in various state newspaper polls until upset in the district meet by Claremore, was tutored by Grady Skillern, also a Sooner grad.

Ray "Freight Train" LeCrone, Sooner football-basketball star of 1925-28, last year developed Shawnee High's fine team that lost to Oklahoma City Capitol Hill in the finals of the 1944 state championship tourney.

Varsity Basketball

Coach Bruce Drake's Roundball Runts went into something of an eclipse in the home stretch of their 1945 season when they had the bad luck to lose Harold "Scooter" Hines, their 5-foot 5½-inch forward, with a badly-sprained ankle February 13 in the Kansas game at Lawrence.

Here are the Oklahoma scores since the last issue of the magazine:

Lost to Kansas 42-28 at Lawrence.

Lost to Iowa State 51-43 at Ames.

Lost to Oklahoma Aggies 23-17 at Stillwater.

Lost to Iowa State 31-29 at Oklahoma City.

Lost to Long Island U. 43-33 at New York City.

Defeated LaSalle U. 52-38 at Philadelphia.

Lost to Missouri 45-39 at Columbia.

Iowa State won the Big Six title by annihilating Kansas 61-39 at Ames in March. Kansas was second and Oklahoma and Missouri tied for third. Jack Landon, Oklahoma guard, made the all-Big Six team and had a great year. He formerly played at Oklahoma City Capitol Hill High School.

The Oklahoma club named an all-opponents team at the season's close. On it were Bill Henry, Rice, and Gordon Reynolds, Kansas, forwards, Bob Kurland, Oklahoma Aggies, center, Weldon Kern, Oklahoma Aggies, and Jim Myers, Iowa State, guards. Kern, a little fellow like the Runts themselves, was their idea of the best player they met all year.

Varsity Indoor Track

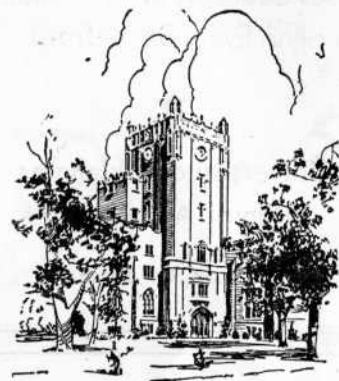
Oklahoma defeated Nebraska 57-42 in a dual indoor meet at Norman in February 17. Oklahoma finished fourth in the Big Six Indoor meet March 3 at Kansas City. Iowa State won, Nebraska was second, Missouri third.

Dave Day, little red-haired Navy trainee from Lodi, California, won the 60 yard dash and was second in the 440 in the conference meet. Homer Sparkman was third in the 880, Fred Hawley third in the high hurdles and fourth in the lows, Dave Davis tied for third in the high jump, Bill Wilson was third in the pole vault and the relay quartet of Bion McBride, Bill Sylvester, Joe Richardson and Day was third. Clarence Vicklund, Oklahoma's Big Six outdoor mile and two-mile champ, stumbled and fell in the mile and was not only unplaced but was too badly injured to run the two-mile.

John Jacobs, Sooner coach, conceded the shot in advance to Bill Bangert, Missouri's 52-foot man who is also a baritone singer of note who will shortly undertake an operatic career.

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