

Sooner Sports

By HAROLD KEITH

Engaged for three years at a sliding scale salary of \$8,000, \$9,000 and \$10,000 per year, Jim Tatum, discharged navy lieutenant who was head coach at North Carolina in 1942 and at Jacksonville, Florida, Naval Air Station last year, succeeds Dewey "Snorter" Luster, who resigned because of ill health, as Sooner football coach.

The \$27,000 that will be paid Tatum for three years work will be the highest salary ever paid a coach at Norman. Tom Stidham and Biff Jones each received \$7,500 annually from the University. However because of the present high income tax and the shrinking purchasing power of the American dollar, Stidham and Jones could buy far more with their salaries.

Tatum brought with him as one assistant Charles "Bud" Wilkinson, also a discharged navy lieutenant. Wilkinson was for five years assistant to Ossie Solem at Syracuse and for one year to Dr. George Hauser at Minnesota. Tatum was promised a free hand in the naming of his assistants and will designate two others later.

Tatum played tackle in 1931-32-33 at North Carolina U. Wilkinson played guard for Bernie Biermer's Minnesota Gophers in 1934-35 and quarterback in 1936.

Both were the unanimous choice of the University athletic council's screening committee and also of the University Board of Regents, President Cross said.

Although President Cross said members of Luster's football coaching staff not to be retained would remain on salary until they placed themselves elsewhere, Frank Crider, Freshman coach, resigned as of September 1, 1946 and wished Tatum and Wilkinson luck.

Tatum is the 12th football coach within the 52-year period the University has sponsored a team. The others and their records:

Period, Name	Yr.	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	Opp. Pts.
1895	1	0	1	0	.000	0	34
Jack Harts							
1897-00	4	9	2	1	.818	241	64
V. L. Parrington							
1901	1	3	2	0	.600	93	29
Fred Roberts							
1902-03	2	11	7	3	.555	301	145
Mark McMahan							
1904	1	4	3	1	.571	204	90
Fred Ewing							
1905-26	27	128	52	13	.711	5132	1426
Bennie Owen							
1927-31	5	19	17	6	.527	511	435
Adrian Lindsey							
1932-34	3	11	12	4	.478	327	194
Lewie Hardage							
1935-36	2	9	6	3	.600	183	111
Biff Jones							
1937-40	4	27	8	3	.771	590	235
Tom Stidham							
1940-45	5	27	18	3	.600	936	552
Dewey Luster							

Despite his long, long period, Bennie Owen's teams have the highest offensive average with 26.5 points per game. The offensive rating is Owen 26.5, Ewing 25.5, Parrington 20.0, Luster 19.5, Roberts 18.6, Stidham 15.5, McMahan 14.3, Lindsey 12.1, Jones 10.1, Hardage 8.7 and Harts (Harts' first team, only two men of whom had ever seen a game, was beaten 0-34 by the Oklahoma City Town Team in the only game it played.)

Sooner teams coached by brilliant Verne Parrington, later a Pulitzer Prize winner, have the best defensive record. The defensive rating is: Parrington 5.3 points per game scored against his teams, Roberts 5.8, Stidham 6.1, Jones 6.1, McMahan 6.9, Hardage 7.1, Owen 7.3, Lindsey 10.3, Ewing 11.2, Luster 11.5 and Harts 34.

Parrington's teams scored the highest percentage of wins at .818, followed by Stidham .771, Owen



JIM TATUM

.711, Luster .600, Jones .600, Roberts .600, Ewing .571, McMahan .555, Lindsey .527, Hardage .478 and Harts .000.

Several factors work against the creditability of the above figures. For example, touchdowns counted only five points while Harts, Parrington, Roberts, McMahan and Ewing coached and through the first eight years of Owen's long term. On the other hand the old-timers' teams had to make only five yards in three downs. There was no forward pass until 1906. On the other hand, modern coaches didn't have access to the old inside kick, the custom of permitting offensive players to recover punts regardless of whether they had been touched. Also, the moderns played far tougher schedules.

L. E. "Jap" Haskell, Sooner athletic director, is busy with plans to introduce Tatum and Wilkinson to Sooner alumni and fans. On January 29 the new coaches met the state's sports writers and radio broadcasters, on February 2 they meet high school coaches of the state and on February 4 they begin a statewide two-weeks tour of larger alumni cities located on the outskirts of the state.

BASKETBALL

Scores since the last issue of the magazine are: Oklahoma 70, Nebraska 48. Oklahoma 57, Kansas State 32. Oklahoma 52, Kansas 53.

Dick Reich and Dayton Spaulding, two new players (Reich played before going into the Marines) joined Oklahoma for the Kansas game. Coach Bruce Drake's boys narrowly missed upsetting Dr. F. C. "Phog" Allen's Jayhawkers at Lawrence January 18, losing by a point.

SPORTS SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY

Basketball

- Feb. 2 Iowa State at Norman.
- Feb. 11 Nebraska at Lincoln.
- Feb. 12 Kansas State at Manhattan.
- Feb. 23 Iowa State at Ames.
- Feb. 28 Kansas at Norman.

Indoor Track

- Feb. 2 Nebraska at Lincoln.
- Feb. 23 Missouri at Columbia.

Pottery Design Winners

Wayne Fuller, Fine Arts junior from Waurika, was selected first place winner of the Caddoan Indian pottery design contest and has been awarded 10 books published by the University Press. Second prize went to Frances Bontrager, junior from Norman. Walter Quillian, senior from Dallas, Texas, won the third prize.

Association Progress

Alumni Extension in Southwest

Recently county meetings were held in Tillman County, Harmon County and Jackson County (Frederick, Hollis and Altus) for the purpose of election of new officers for the county organization in Altus and pointing toward the ultimate establishing of clubs in Tillman County (Frederick) and Harmon County (Hollis headquarters) for the Association.

In Frederick, Superintendent of Schools Wilbur F. Randle acted as the temporary chairman of the planning committee in this work. In Harmon County at Hollis, Judge Ramond Barry acted as the chairman; while in Jackson County, the newly elected officers included Clifford Peterson, president; Ross Rutherford, vice president, and Jarita Bicknell, secretary-treasurer. In each of these centers extensive work was done on war casualty reports for O. U. alumni. The correction and bringing up to date of address lists and general programs were discussed on University and Alumni Association development.

It is anticipated that in the near future announcements will be made listing the officers and directors for the Tillman County and Harmon County O. U. Alumni chartered clubs.

Comanche County Organization Completed

Late in December, Ted Beard met with a large delegation of O. U. alumni in the city of Lawton. During the course of the evening the Comanche County O. U. Charter Club was formed. Several special committees were approved to complete details of the work and, as we go to press with this issue of *Sooner Magazine*, it is announced from the Lawton headquarters that all details have been perfected and that this newly organized alumni group is launching upon a very ambitious program.

Those who signed the application for the Alumni Club charter were D. A. Becker, '22bs, '35m.ed.; J. D. Shoemaker, '33m.ed.; B. C. Swinney, '41; Vanita Lee, '26ba, '45m.ed.; Christina Swanson, '45m.ed.; Guy Brown, '42ba; Stanley J. Bryant, '21ba, '29m.ed.; Merton E. Munson, '29ba, '31 law; Phil E. Gafford, '41journ; Lily F. Stafford, '19ba; James L. Cox, '41eng, and Shannan P. Cox, Jr., '37-'42.

Officers elected to head this newly organized Comanche County club were Guy Brown, head of the speech department, Cameron State College, president; Ray Pool, '34eng, vice president, and Miss Vanita Lee, secretary-treasurer. Three of the ten directors for the county organization were selected from Lawton, namely Stanley Bryant, Lily Stafford and W. J. Becker, '31ma.

The recently elected member of the Board of Regents, Ned Shepler, '18, was in attendance, as was the editor of the *Oklahoma Daily* from the campus of the University of Oklahoma, Mary Evelyn Smith. Miss Smith's home is in Lawton. She made a special trip as a guest of the Alumni Association to assist in perfecting this county organization.

Among the items of business that have been completed in recent days by the Comanche County Charter Club, are the selection of the additional seven directors of the organization from the communities of Comanche County; intensive work on World War II casualty reports, and the correction of addressograph lists for the O. U. graduates residing in Comanche County along with additions of many names of former students of the University whose homes are in Comanche County.

As we go to press, President Guy Brown of Lawton has announced that Dr. George L. Cross, president of the University of Oklahoma, will appear before their county organization in Lawton on Tuesday night, February 5.