

Sooner Sports



Members of the O. U. tennis team, which so far this season has won four matches and lost one in Big Six competition, include (left to right) Roland Champion, team manager, arts and sciences junior of Pekin, Illinois; Dick Land, freshman, Oklahoma City; Abe Ross, freshman, Denison, Texas; Jesse V. Carmichael, engineering junior, Meridian, Massachusetts; Tanell

Dakil, arts and sciences sophomore, Childress, Texas; Charles Cunningham, freshman, Ardmore; Bill Kessler, senior arts and sciences student, Wichita, Kansas; Eugene "Sonny" West, freshman, Ada; Randal Clark, engineering senior, Tulsa; Walter Moore, senior in business administration, Oklahoma City, and Walt Mead, '37-'41, tennis team coach.

Sooner Tennis Team Wins 4, Drops 1 in Big Six Matches

By BOB PAYNE, '48, Ardmore
O. U. Journalism Senior

Early this month, with the nip of winter still in the air, and the March winds ahead of schedule, Coach Walt Mead, '37-'41, assembled his varsity tennis team candidates for initial workouts. The netmen this year will play the first full schedule since the sport was abandoned after 1942 because of the war.

Coach Mead's 1946 crew played an abbreviated schedule, winning four of five Big Six matches, pasting Oklahoma A. & M. twice and losing two to the O. C. U. club.

The Sooners have been undisputed kingpins of Big Six tennis, capturing 10 championships in 15 years of conference play, beginning in 1929. Kansas grabbed four titles, in 1931-32-33 and 1937, and Iowa State tied the Jayhawks for the 1946 crown.

Oklahoma's practical monopoly on the courts surpasses any performance by any other Big Six

school in any other sport, even Nebraska, whose athletic teams have won nine undisputed championships in each of three sports—football, outdoor track and indoor track.

Coach Mead was himself a Sooner net star, participating in the 1939, '40, and 1941 seasons, when Oklahoma, coached by Dr. Leslie Hewes, swept to loop titles in each year. Mead played a large part in getting the conference rules committee this year to make an official dual meet consist of five singles and two doubles matches, thus eliminating the possibility of a tie, which was common under the old plan of four singles and two doubles matches.

Prospects for the current season are bright enough to permit Mead to cast aside the usual gloominess and pessimism prominent among members of the coaching profession, and to admit that his hopes of winning the loop pennant are high.

"One good thing about the squad right now," Mead said, "is that no one player stands out like a sore thumb. I couldn't go down the line and say this man's best, this one next, and so on.

"Anyone on the squad, after all the boys get in shape, is likely to knock anybody else off the top

rung. Consequently competition is high, and team spirit is abundant."

Prospective members of the net team, which Mead expects to narrow to a 10-man working squad and a 6-man traveling squad, include Bill Kessler, Wichita, Kansas; Charles Cunningham, Ardmore; Stanley Draper, Oklahoma City; Randal Clark, Tulsa; Jack Griggs, Ada; Eugene "Sonny" West, Ada; Walter Moore, Oklahoma City; Marvin Douglas, Tulsa, Tannell Dakil, Childress, Texas; Dick Land, Oklahoma City; Abe Ross, Denison, Texas, and Jack Fretwell, Henryetta.

Two candidates expected to report later are Gerald Tucker, All-American cager, from Winfield, Kansas, and Carl Mitchell, Oklahoma City, one-time National Interscholastic doubles champion.

Squad members have been working out two hours a day, six days a week since February 1, and should be ready for the first match March 4, when Central State, Edmond, sends its tennis team to invade Norman.

Schedule:
March 4—Central State of Edmond at Norman
March 7—East Central State of Ada at Norman



CHARLES "BUD" WILKINSON
New Head Sooner Football Coach

That Boy "Bud"

By QUINTON PETERS, '49
O. U. Journalism Sophomore from Hominy

The score was 0-0 and the big clock at the end of the jam-packed football stadium showed less than a minute to play between the University of Nebraska and the Golden Gophers from Minnesota.

Minnesota had not lost a ball game in the past three years but it looked as if her time had run out. Nebraska had used up its downs and was deep in her own territory when the Husker quarterback called for a punt.

Deep, deep into Minnesota territory went the powerful punt . . . down to the Gopher 10-yard line where the signal-chirping Minnesota back had raced backward to receive it. Thirty seconds remained in the scoreless game.

The Gopher back galloped toward the sidelines planning his strategy, reversed the entire Nebraska field, handed off the ball to another Minnesota back and watched the Gopher Great, Andy Uram, race 78 yards for the game's winning touchdown.

The year—1935. The winning team . . . Bernie Bierman's powerhouse national champs from Swedeland. The back who called the Minnesota signals, received the desperation punt and set up the winning touchdown . . . O. U.'s popular, new coach, "Bud" Wilkinson.

Since his part in pulling this Gopher victory out of the fire, "Bud" has added two degrees, 12 years, a wife, two youngsters, a hitch in the Navy where the going was warm. Nine years of coaching experience and a head coaching contract with the University of Oklahoma.

Since Minnesota teams were famous for their power and strength, it is no surprise to learn that the new Sooner coach is a king-size product himself . . . 6-feet 2-inches tall and 195 pounds.

With just enough grey in his hair to add dignity and a sartorial sharpness to indicate that he reads *Esquire* as well as the *Football Annual*, the 31-year-old grid tutor could well pose for a Calvert ad, except that his players know full well that training and stamina are one of the Wilkinson long suits.

Except for through trips via Highway 66, "Bud" spent his first time in Oklahoma when he came to the campus as an assistant to Big Jim Tatum. His wife, an Iowa girl whom he married while she was attending the University of Minnesota, agrees with him that Oklahoma climate is tops.

Wilkinson, as player or coach, has never played against an Oklahoma team in his 13 years of active association with football.

He assures fans that the Sooners will continue to operate basically from the T this fall, at least offensively, with such variations as are necessary to adapt local talent to the formation.

With "Dutch" Fehring and Gomer Jones already signed as assistants for the next Sooner season, Wilkinson's staff is lacking only one, or two at the most, additional helpers.

A golfing and hockey enthusiast and player, Big "Bud" admits that his avocations have suffered recently because of his concentration on the gridiron. A sub-80 shooter in his collegiate days, he is still looking forward to playing his first game of golf on the University's 9-hole course.

Except for his brief tenure as hockey referee at Syracuse, his skating also has rusted from inactivity in the past few years.

O. U.'s new coach had another asset that is singular among big-time football coaches . . . a security ace-in-the-hole in the form of an interest in his father's mortgage banking business in Minnesota. Inactive in the business now, he refers to himself as only an "heir."

Wilkinson will teach a course in football theory as part of his work as coach this year.

Declining to single out one event that gave him the most pleasure as a coach, "Bud" doesn't hesitate to point out that the development of the Sooner football squad in the last three games and in the 'Gator bowl skirmish gave him a genuine satisfaction.

March 14—Southeastern of Durant at Norman
March 25—Southeastern at Durant
March 31—Kansas at Norman
April 3—T. C. U., at Fort Worth
April 4-5—Texas at Austin
April 7—Baylor at Waco
April 8—S.M.U. at Dallas
April 9—North Texas State at Denton
April 15—Central State at Edmond
April 22—East Central at Ada
April 26—Nebraska at Norman
May 6—North Texas State at Norman
May 9—Kansas State, at Manhattan
May 10—Kansas at Lawrence
May 12—Missouri at Columbia
May 20—T. C. U. at Norman
May 23—Baylor at Norman
May 26—Iowa State at Norman

Dates have not been confirmed for matches with Oklahoma A. & M. and Wichita University.

Kenneth Ihrig, McAlester, former pre-medical student at the University of Oklahoma and now a freshman in the O. U. Medical School, has been named outstanding pre-med student of the year by Alpha Epsilon Delta, national honorary pre-medical fraternity. The award is based on scholarship, outside activities and leadership qualities.

A total of 763 students are enrolled in University of Oklahoma ROTC classes for the second semester.

Since the beginning of the fall semester, 33 scholarships have been awarded University of Oklahoma students by the Will Rogers Memorial Scholarship fund.

Over 4,000 persons are enrolled in the 350 courses offered by the University of Oklahoma correspondence study department.

Drake's 'Basketball Beanpole' Materializes, Surprises Critics

By HAROLD KEITH

Bruce Drake, Oklahoma's cage prexy, must have got a lot of satisfaction out of reading that AP story describing how Max Palmer, the seven-foot seven-inch Vance, Mississippi high school boy, was revolutionizing basketball along the Mississippi Delta.

Because in the January issue of Salute magazine, Drake predicted Max Palmer with amazing accuracy in an article titled "Basketball Beanpoles," an Orson Welles preview of where Drake believes basketball is going under the present rules.

In his article Drake created a fictional young giant eight feet tall whom he called Gangleshank, coached him two hours and stuck him in a game. In Drake's story Gangleshank stood by the side of the goal, fielded high passes from his team mates and in prose at least, proceeded to shoot the opposition club out of the gymnasium.

The young Sooner coach took a lot of kidding in his own state after that article appeared, but now that the world has heard about 7-7 Max Palmer, let's compare Max with Gangleshank and see how often the Sooner coach called the turn.

Drake wrote, "Give me a boy 7½ or 8 feet tall and I'd have to work with him only two hours before he'd be ready to play a game of basketball." The critics hooted at that, alleging it took Henry Iba, famous Oklahoma Aggie coach, four collegiate years to make a player out of Bob Kurland.

Yet the AP story reveals that Palmer, the 7-7 Mississippi boy, is only a ninth grader.

Regarding Gangleshank, Drake wrote: "We formed a four-man zone defense before their goal. Where was Gangleshank? He hadn't gone down on defense. He hadn't moved out of his tracks beneath our goal."

By gum, neither does the real flesh-and-blood Mississippi ninth-grader. Of his tactics, the AP story quoted his coach as follows, "We just let Max stand there and wait for passes. He never has to go down the floor. We use only four men on defense."

Of Gangleshank's "accuracy" Drake wrote in

Salute: "Our feeding passes, miles over the heads of the opposition, were snared by Gangleshank who with his right hand held high in the air, moved the ball directly over the goal and released it neatly, like a barkeeper placing an olive in a martini glass. Two points, dead easy."

The AP story from far-off Vance, Mississippi, said Palmer stands on tiptoe under the basket and "dunks basketballs through the hoop like a kid feeding pennies to a piggie bank."

In his Salute article, Drake has Gangleshank almost single-handedly beating the other team 74-48. The AP story from Mississippi says 7-7 Max Palmer averages 40 points per game and quotes his coach, "He could score 100 if we wanted to leave him in there."

Drake wrote in Salute, "We haven't seen a truly tall player yet. Wait until basketball coaches start pulling them out of the carnivals, off the backwoods farms . . ."

Of Max Palmer, the AP story says, "The University of Arkansas may be his next stop."

The Oklahoma coach is now a member of the National Collegiate Basketball Coaches' Association Rules Committee. He is frankly on the hunt for legislation that will prevent lads like Max Palmer "making a travesty of the fine game of basketball at the expense of thousands of average-sized players who out-number him 1,000 to 1."

Drake, now in his ninth year here, was honored twice within one week recently. He learned he had been appointed as a member of the national rules committee of both the National Collegiate Athletic Association and the National Basketball Coaches Association. The former organization is basketball's ranking rules group. Drake represents the fifth district on both rules bodies.

The Sooner coach succeeds George Edwards, former Missouri coach, on the N.C.A.A. committee.

John Jacobs, Oklahoma track coach starting his 25th season here, will guide the Sooner indoor track squad, Big Six Conference runner-up, through a four-meet schedule this winter.

Here is the Sooner slate:

Feb. 1, Oklahoma Aggies at Norman.

Feb. 15, Oklahoma Aggies at Stillwater.

Feb. 22, Nebraska at Lincoln.

March 1, Big Six Indoor Meet at Kansas City.

Returning such veterans as Andy Cary, Lynn "Hobo" Gilstrap, Jon Sharp, Laddie Harp, John Canaris, Lonny Chapman, Bill Weaver, Dick Cavnar and Plato Andros, Jacobs is hard at work developing the Sooner team.

Sharp was high point scorer of the Big Six Indoor meet last year. Harp won the 60-yard dash, Canaris the two-mile.

Tucker Sets Sooner Record With 15 Straight Free Throws

Coach Bruce Drake and Center Gerald Tucker of the Sooner cage squad are glamorizing the low-free throw.

Tucker sank 15 consecutive free tosses through the Missouri, Oklahoma A. & M., Iowa State and Texas Christian games before missing his first shot against Denver at Norman February 7. No other player in the history of basketball at O. U. has equalled that feat.

Drake has plenty of statistical proof that he coaches one of the soundest charity shots in the roundball business. Here are some of Oklahoma's free-throwing accomplishments since Drake became coach:

1. The Sooners canned 41 of 51 free tosses in their games against Iowa State and Texas Christian for slightly over 80 per cent. They meshed 20 of 25 against Iowa State, then two nights later hit 21 of 26 against Texas Christian.

2. Center Tucker hit 15 in a row, believed to be an all-time record at O. U.

3. Drake's wartime Oklahoma team of 1945 sank 17 free throws in succession before missing no. 18 in a game against Kansas State at Manhattan, Kansas, to set a Big Six record. Incidentally, the Sooners hit 10 in a row against Iowa State here this year and sank the first 12 before flubbing one against T.C.U.

4. Oklahoma holds the Big Six record for having hit the highest percentage of free throws in one game, 10-10 for 1.000 per cent against Iowa State at Norman in 1940.

5. Oklahoma hit 70.2 per cent of her free shots in the ten Big Six conference games of 1944, hooping 104 of 148, believed to be an all-time loop seasonal record.

Here are some free-throwing feats by Drake's Oklahoma teams during the past seven years:

1941—Oklahoma hit 14 of 17 against Kansas at Norman, 8-9 against Kansas State at Manhattan, 14-19 against Kansas State at Norman.

1942—Oklahoma hit 12-14 against Iowa State at Norman, 10-12 against Iowa State at Ames, 18-21 against Missouri at Norman, 13-14 against Kansas State at Norman.

1943—Oklahoma hit 13-14 against Kansas State at Norman, 15-19 against the 18th Field Artillery team at Norman, 11-13 against Iowa State at Norman, 19-23 against the Norman Navy Zoomers at Norman, 19-24 against Olathe Clippers at Norman.

1944—Oklahoma hit 15-17 against Kansas at Norman and 10-13 against Kansas at Lawrence, 8-11 against Iowa State at Ames, 8-11 against the Oklahoma Aggies at Stillwater, 18-24 against Missouri at Oklahoma City.

1945—Oklahoma hit 18-26 against Kansas State at Manhattan, 11-13 against Oklahoma Aggies at Stillwater, 9-11 against Iowa State at Oklahoma City.

1946—Oklahoma hit 20-24 against Kansas at Oklahoma City, 18-22 against Nebraska at Norman, 22-26 against Iowa State at Ames, 14-18 against Baylor at Oklahoma City, 19-28 against Nebraska at Lincoln, 14-19 against Oklahoma Aggies at Norman.

A scholarship award of \$350 to an outstanding aeronautical engineering student has been made by the Oklahoma City Women's Aeronautical Association.



The Old Central Hall bell in Aggeland won't be tolling for a while. James McNeely (left), an Aggie graduate and now president of the University Student Senate, shows its clapper to Jim Tyree (right), honorary O. U. football captain for 1946. An O. U.-A. & M. tradition since 1930, the clapper is forfeited every year to the winning football team. The Aggies last won it from the Sooners in 1944, kept it in 1945 and relinquished it last year. McNeely, of Broken Arrow, is a junior law student at the University. Tyree, of Norman, is a junior in mechanical engineering.