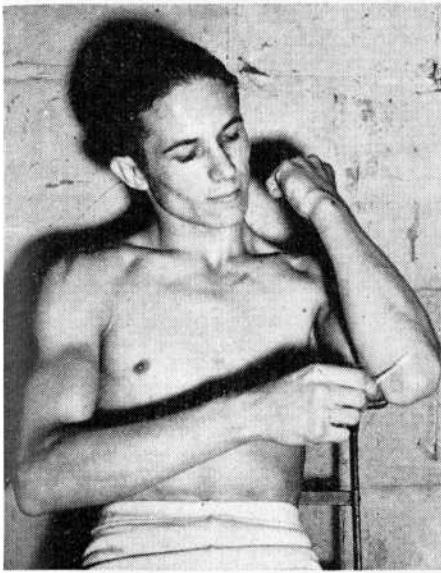


Sooner Sports



Treating mat burns is an everyday chore in the life of a wrestler, as Raymond Gibbs (above) can tell you. Gibbs, 121-pounder from Tulsa, won the Big Six championship at that weight in the recent conference tourney. He has won six matches and lost one this season.

Sooner Grapplers Miss Big Six Championship Tie By One Point

By GENE GREGSTON, '48, Marlow
Oklahoma Daily Sports Editor

Missing a tie for the Big Six championship by only one point, Coach Port Robertson's Sooner wrestlers brought home three individual titles from the conference meet held at Ames, Iowa, Saturday, March 15.

Entering only seven men, Oklahoma won three seconds and one third in addition to the three titlists to score a team total of 34 points, one under the champion Iowa State squad's score of 35.

Oklahoma did not have a representative in the 145-pound division. Kenneth Watson, regular grappler at that weight, moved down to 136 pounds, winning the lighter division with victories over the two favored men.

Raymond Gibbs, 121-pounder from Tulsa, was the first conference champion crowned. He chalked up easy decisions over Bob Tambor of Nebraska and Gene Ewoldson of Iowa State.

The other Sooner champ is Jim Eagleton, 165-pound Tulsa matman. Eagleton also took two decisions by wide margins, remaining undefeated for the season.

Orville Wise, 128-pounder from Tulsa, Leger Stecker, 175-pounder from Bristow, and Henry Schreiner, Seminole heavyweight, won runners-up honors for O. U. Leonard Marcotte from Purcell was the lone Sooner entrant who did not win a match in the finals, but he won his consolation match for third place.

Missing first place by such a narrow margin was a moral victory for the Sooner wrestlers because in pre-tourney predictions, O. U. was rated third or fourth.

Robertson, himself a former Sooner wrestling champ, has brought the University a long way back up the road to the high place it once held in collegiate wrestling circles.

And winning second place in the Big Six was a miraculous feat for the first Sooner mat team in seven years.

The Iowa State team win placed the Cyclones in a tie with Oklahoma for the number of Big Six wrestling championships. Each school has won the

conference mat crown six times. Oklahoma did not compete in 1940, '41, or '42.

O.U. Resumes Intramural Sports

Swinging into a full-packed schedule for the first time since 1942, intramural sports soared ahead this year with an estimated 90 per cent of the male enrollment at the University participating in at least one of the 25 scheduled sports.

During the war years intramurals hit an all time low with all of the fraternities inactivated and most of the male students away in the armed forces. Six N.R.O.T.C. teams and two teams from the Army Specialized Training Program at the University competed throughout the war, but the personnel of these two groups changed so fast that the intramural department was unable to keep a running championship record.

The intramural program is a plan of organized physical activities which offers an opportunity for widespread participation in games and sports. The program makes possible the combination of the pleasures of competitive sports and the benefits of organized physical exercises.

Director of the intramural department is Ben G. Owen, second oldest faculty member at the University in terms of service, who came to the University as football coach in 1905. After a glorious history of 22 years as football coach, he retired from his coaching position to take over his present job. That same year, Paul Keen, who received the BS from Oklahoma A. & M. and the MS from the University of Michigan in 1943, came to the University as assistant director of intramurals, which position he still holds.

The 1927 intramural department was very much in the deficit on equipment and playing fields. Most of the baseball diamonds were mere level spaces of ground with temporary backstops. The Fieldhouse had two intramural courts running crossways of the varsity basketball court. The four most important sports at that time were basketball,

baseball, track and tennis.

In 1934, intramural fields and a golf course were built under the W.P.A. program. New equipment was gradually added to the department, and by 1940 participants in the program consisted of 80 per cent of the total male enrollment.

The present point system under which championship teams are determined was instigated in 1928. Entry points are given for entering and playing the first game of the match. For each game or match played, won or lost, additional points are added to the participant's score. An example is that of touch football in which 25 points are given for a win and 15 points for a loss.

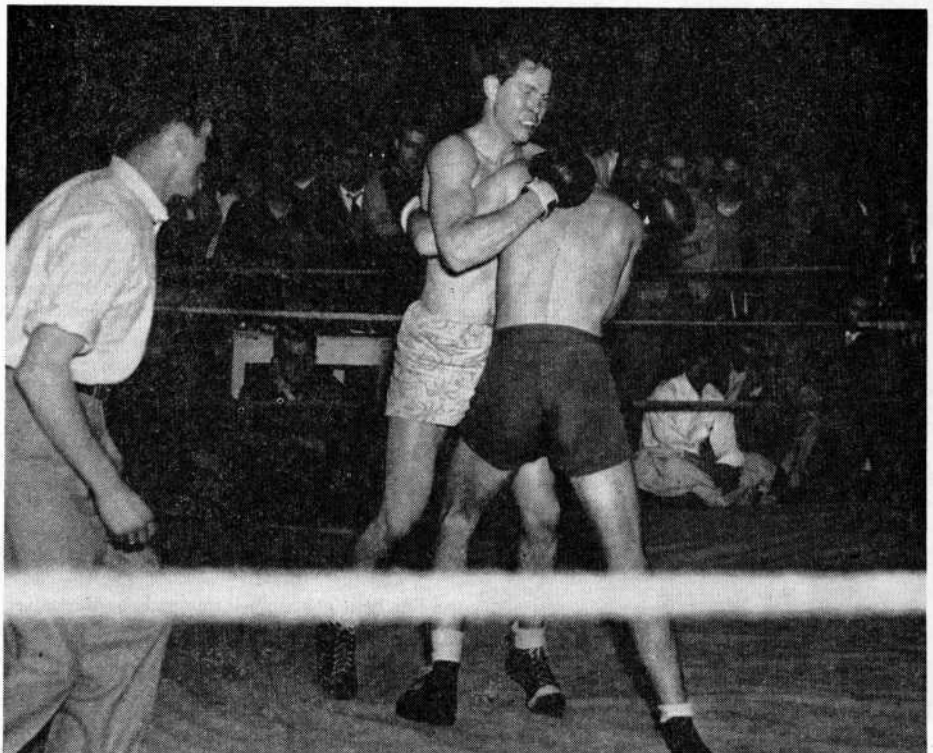
With the organization of the Independent Men's Association in 1933, first to be organized in the nation, the Intramural Department was able to expand its program. The IMA organized by Dr. James F. Findlay, former dean of men and now president of Drury College, Springfield, Missouri, had three aims—stressing of scholarship, social life and organized intramural sports.

About this same time Dr. E. E. Dale, '11ba, who joined the faculty following his receiving of the MA degree from Harvard in 1914 and who received the Ph.D. from Harvard in 1922, suggested that the independent districts be named after old-time cattle brands. Such names as "Spur," "Half Circle Hat," "Chained 'C'" and "7-Up" were adopted and are still used.

During the depression years a new independent group was organized by students living in the co-op dormitory in the stadium. This group chose the name of "Wagon Wheel."

Not only have the number of teams competing in the intramural program increased from 35 in the late '30s to 60 this year, but they have also increased appreciably in number of men participating on a team. The increased size of fraternities has played a major part in this expansion.

As the present score stands on this year's point system, Phi Delta Theta occupies first place with a total of 1,873 points. Sigma Nu runs a close sec-



Sigma Chi Bob Conkling, Arts and Sciences sophomore of Midland, Texas, grimaces as he clinches with Delta Tau Delta Hal Treadwell, freshman of Oklahoma City, in the semi-finals of intramural boxing.



These Sooners have really been going places—they are the 1947 Oklahoma University Big Six Champs. First row, left to right, are Harly Day, Ada sophomore; Kenneth "Sonny" Pryor, Oklahoma City sophomore; Paul Courty, sophomore, Windsor, Missouri; Coach Bruce Drake, '29bs, and Gerald Tucker, junior, Winfield, Kansas. Back row, left to right, Jim Jones,

Tulsa freshman; Paul Merchant, Tulsa freshman; Charles Pugsley, Oklahoma City sophomore, and Dick Reich, Oklahoma City senior. Other O. U. cagers (not in picture) include Allie Paine, senior, and freshman Bill Waters, both of Oklahoma City. Latest victories are over Oregon State (56-54), and Texas University (55-54).

ond with 1,861 and Kappa Sigma comes in third with 1,673. Final selection of the winner will not be made until May when all sports scheduled are completed.

The above scores are total compilation of points won in touch football; horse shoe pitching, both singles and doubles; golfing, doubles; handball, singles and doubles; badminton, singles and doubles, and basketball.

When the total score is tallied in May, the all-year-organization winner will receive the Letzeiser trophy. The trophy must be won three years by an organization before it can be permanently retired. If at the conclusion of a ten-year period, no organization has won three legs on the trophy, it becomes the permanent possession of the organization which has won it the most times. If two organizations are tied for this honor, the cup remains in competition until some organization has broken the tie.

In addition a victory trophy is given each year to the team winning the all-round championship. This trophy becomes the permanent property of the winner.

Organizations which enter every athletic event on the intramural program for a full year receive a plaque for all around team ability. Also, appropriate trophies are awarded in all team sports. Individual winners receive medals of gold, silver

and bronze in the individual events.

The department has the following facilities for sports: 12 softball diamonds, 12 touch football fields, 21 tennis courts, 4 four wall handball courts, 4 basketball courts, 6 horseshoe pits, 1 track, 1 swimming pool, 1 golf course and 1 club house. Ample equipment is also available for all sports sponsored by the department.

Each organization has an athletic manager elected or appointed by his respective group. He is the point of contact between the team and the intramural department. Referees are furnished for each contest by the department.

A recent addition to the intramural department staff is Dewey "Snorter" Luster, '22ba, '22law, head football coach at the University from 1941 to 1945. Luster assists throughout the department, but specializes in promotion of boxing.

Emphasis placed on intramurals by the university administration was expressed by President George L. Cross in a recent radio broadcast. He said, "We believe that organized play is not wasted time, but rather that it is one of nature's ways of teaching how to live a fuller life. The intramural program provides the normal boy with the opportunity of keeping in good health by participating, not observing, the games he likes."

He further stated, "The student who takes advantage of these opportunities not only enjoys the

spirit of the game, but also improves his physical and mental wellbeing. And of course, the teaching of good sportsmanship, fair play, and respect for the rights of others is the goal of the intramural department."

Colorado Joins Big 'Six'

Expansion of the Big Six Conference to include Colorado increases the number of Big Six schools from six to seven.

The University of Oklahoma has belonged to several different athletic groups during its 56 years of existence. The first known one was the old State Territorial League, later known as the Oklahoma Intercollegiate Conference.

In 1915 Bennie Owen took the University into the Southwest Conference, and in 1920 into the Missouri Valley Conference, then a ten-team loop.

In 1928 the present Big Six was formed with Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas, Kansas State, Iowa State and Oklahoma pulling away from Washington, Drake, Grinnell and Oklahoma A. & M., and for 19 years, until the addition of Colorado, there was no change in Big Six membership.