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## The Carroll Story

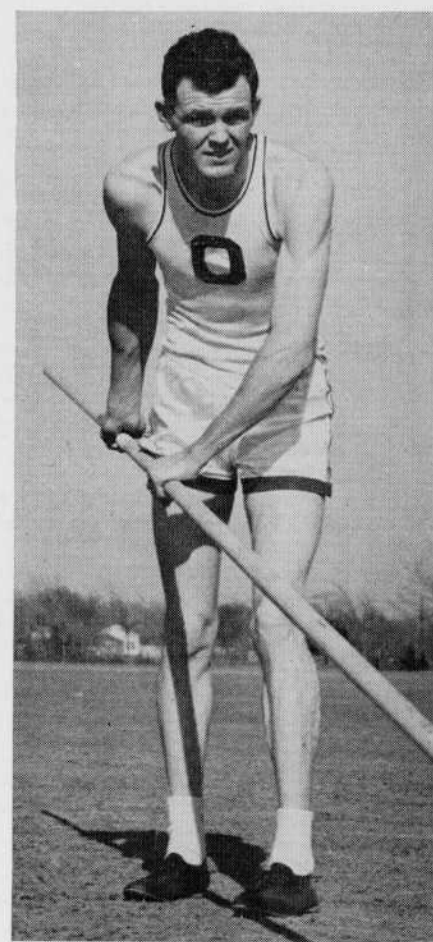
By HAROLD KEITH, '29BA, 39MA

From a seven-foot vault with a green willow pole to a 14-foot 1-inch soar with a Swedish-built stick of tempered steel has been the pleasing improvement of Bill Carroll, towering Oklahoma pole-vaulter from Okemah, who is Coach John Jacobs' newest track phenomenon.

Carroll says that willow pole, cut from the banks of an Okfuskee county creek when he was a youngster in knee pants at Okemah, was the best he ever had. It was stout and whippy.

"If you can't talk the home town furniture store man out of the bamboo pole his rugs come shipped with, go down on the creek and cut yourself one of green willow. It will flip you across the bar," is Carroll's advice to all youngsters who aspire to be pole-vaulters.

Worrying and fretting as he practiced for the Texas Relays, Carroll looked like the symbol of gloom. Tossed about by the gusty Oklahoma



*Bill Carroll, rangy pole-vaulter from Okemah, is all set for another crack at the all-time University pole-vault record. The tall education junior hoisted himself over the bar at record-breaking levels twice during the indoor season.*

breezes, the 6-foot 4½-inch 178-pound Sooner star whom Coach Jacobs calls "Lucky Strike" is now in the slump he always encounters when he makes the difficult change from indoor to outdoor vaulting.

"When you start vaulting outdoors, you never know whether the wind is with you, against you or coming in from the side," moans Carroll.

A pole-vaulter falling 14 feet with only thin-soled spiked shoes on his feet is naturally anxious about the landing pit beneath him. What's the best one Carroll ever dropped into?

"The one in that Michigan State Fieldhouse," he replies, promptly, "It was filled with sawdust topped with several inches of wood shavings. Almost as good is Jake's home-made layout here of prairie hay. You hit in it and bounce, like a kid jumping off a hay stack. Sand landing pits are the worst."

What does a pole-vaulter do to get in trim?

"He vaults. Also, we work in the gym on the bars and climb rope to build up our shoulders for the all-important push-up that jack knifes you over the bar. Also, Jake makes us sprint lots to develop takeoff speed and stamina."

Carroll can run the 100 in 10.4 seconds and the 220 in 22.7. Occasionally he gets "drafted" and runs a 220-yard leg on the Sooner half-mile relay team.

Carroll says the hardest thing about pole-vaulting is sweating out an opponent's jump. The pole vault is the longest event at any track meet. It starts at 7:30 p.m. and ends around 11 p.m. There's a lot of wear and tear just watching your opponent

(Sports Continued on Page 31)

living in Wewoka.

RAMSEY-MUNDE: Jean Ramsey, '48fa, Sulphur, and Henry Lawrence Munde, Norman, are at home in Norman after their marriage in February. Munde is an engineering student at the University of Oklahoma.

HAGGARD-SPURLIN: Quincy Pearl Haggard, Plano, Texas, and Marion George Spurlin, '48bus, Clinton, were married recently in the home of the bride's parents. They are residing in Clinton.

~1949~

Fred W. Gill, '41-'49, has enrolled in the Ben Bard School of Drama in Hollywood, California. He is doing practice reading for his first play.

Betty McLean McDonald, '49ba, is now employed by the Stanolind Oil and Gas Company in Oklahoma City.

BRAY-STEPHENSON: Virginia C. Bray, '49, and Larry E. Stephenson, '48journ, were married March 12 in Edmond. Mrs. Stephenson is a sophomore in the University of Oklahoma. Stephenson was president of Sigma Delta Chi, journalism fraternity, and a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity. He was editor of *Sooner Magazine* during the summer and fall of 1948. He is head of the promotion and sales division of U. S. Savings Bonds in Oklahoma City, where the couple has established a home.

### Sports Continued

vault, waiting to see if he makes or misses it. Carroll chews dextrose cakes, more as a release from his nervousness than for the quick pickup the product is noted for.

What does a pole-vaulter do when he hits a slump? That's when Carroll looks up his coach. "Jake can take one look and tell you what you're doing wrong," says Carroll. "Also, he knows how to relax you by coming in there with a wisecrack."

"Pole-vaulting is all mental," Jacobs told Carroll when the latter was having a bad week last winter. "If a fellow can't go 14 feet, he hasn't got good mentality."

Starting from that witticism, Carroll began the three-week climb that was culminated by his record indoor sail of 14-1 a month ago in the Central Collegiate indoor meet at East Lansing, Michigan, believed the top indoor jump for an American collegian this year.

### Oklahoma Leads All Sports

Finishing no lower than third in any sport, Oklahoma leads the Big Seven conference all sports table for the school year 1948-49 with six of the loop's ten recognized sports finished.

The Sooners had a low of 11½, followed by Nebraska 17½, Kansas and Missouri 26 each, Iowa State 26½, Colorado 27 and Kansas State 33½.

Nebraska has the most championships so far, having carried wrestling, indoor track and tied for basketball.

But Oklahoma's superior balance told. Coach Bud Wilkinson's Sooner football team won the championship. Coach Bruce Drake's team tied for the basketball crown. Coach John Jacobs' crosscountry team, Coach Port Robertson's wrestling team and Coach Joe Glander's swim squad all picked off runner-up honors in their sports and Jacobs' indoor track squad was third.

Emphasizing every sport on the calendar, Oklahoma has won the Big Seven all sports championship 13 times to Nebraska's three, Iowa State's three, Kansas one, Missouri one.

Oklahoma, Nebraska, Iowa State and Colorado participated in every sport officially recognized by the conference. Kansas has no wrestling, Kansas State no swimming, while Missouri has neither a wrestling nor swimming team.

With golf, tennis, baseball and outdoor track still to be heard from, here's the Big Seven all sports table for 1948-49:

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