

# A Second National Championship

**Circumstances favored anything but a team win in the NCAA wrestling tournament. O.U.'s heavyweights were injured and unable to compete, yet Port Robertson's talented youngsters wrestled expertly to bring home the coveted national title.**

With only three-fourths of a team entered due to injuries in the heavy-weight divisions, O.U.'s wrestling team took top honors at the NCAA tournament March 22-24 in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

In taking the meet, the Sooners were squeezed by Oklahoma A.&M. with a final score of 24 to 23 to make the meet an all Oklahoma affair. Phil Smith, 157 pound Big Seven champ, was O.U.'s only entry to take top honors in his weight class but the work of the other five squad members sparkled.

Tommy Evans at 137 pounds and Bill Borders at 123 scored three pins apiece to pile up early points. Both lost their final matches on points.

The national championship was undoubtedly due in large measure to Port Robertson, '37ba, coach of the team Harold Keith, '29ba, '39ma, sports publicist, wrote after the title was in Oklahoma hands:

"When Coach Port Robertson refounded wrestling at the University of Oklahoma in 1947 and sent his small squad of 20 on a three-mile run along the river road, half of them quit on the first day.

"That was all right with Robertson. Hard physical condition is the trademark of his Sooner mat squads. It was the biggest factor in Oklahoma's winning the National Collegiate wrestling championship with a 6-man team. . . .

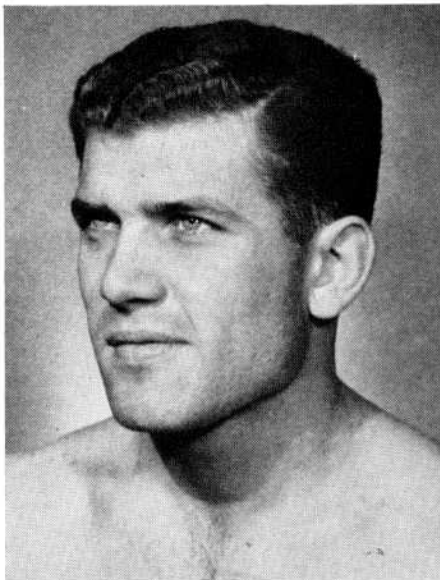
"Robertson tries to sell his boys on the necessity of going all out the full nine minutes, of continuing to wrestle furiously even after they become tired.

"That's why Oklahoma won the nationals by one point. Two of the tiniest Sooners, Billy Borders, 123 pounds, and Tommy Evans, 137, both from Tulsa, operated so doggedly on that theory at Lehigh that together they notched six falls. Jack Blubaugh, Sooner 130-pounder from Ponca City, also hustled terrifically, picking up a fall and a forfeit.

"That totaled eight valuable points on falls and forfeits alone and how the Sooners needed them. No other team collected more than three. . . .

"When Robertson, a clever 165-pound

wrestler at Oklahoma back in 1935, became coach at Norman in 1947, there had been no wrestling at Oklahoma for eight years. No good wrestlers were enrolled. There was no equipment, no schedule, no interest. Only a strong wrestling tradition, engendered by Paul V. Keen, Sooner coach from 1928 through 1938 (now director of intramural athletics). Yet Robertson's Sooner teams won Big Seven championships in



**PHIL SMITH**  
... NCAA Champ

1948, 1950 and 1951. His 1947 and 1949 teams placed second.

"The Oklahoma wrestling team's fiery climb from nonentity to a national collegiate championship in five years is a sports tradition the school is proud of."

#### Outdoor Track Season Opens

In track, Coach John Jacobs, '16ba, seems to have one of the strongest teams ready for outdoor duty since the war. After a disappointing showing in the Big Seven indoor track meet due to injuries to key men, the outdoor season was initiated with a clear cut win in the Oklahoma A.&M. Previews March 31.

Compiling a point total of 76, the team scored wins in the mile and two-mile re-

lay events and placed individual firsts when Dick Jones high jumped 6-7, (a Previews record), Clair Mayes hurled the shot 49-10 (another Previews record), Jim Smith took the high hurdles, Don Sobocinski raced the 100 yard dash, Quannah Cox jumped 24-1½, and Jerry Lemon gained a tie for first in pole vault at 13-10½.

The team demonstration was a good one but did not demonstrate what was to come in the Texas Relays. In a much larger field, the Sooners just about swept the relay events. They won the 440, 880, sprint medley and two mile relays. They came within an eyelash of copping the mile relay that would have made them the first team in history to win five relay events in the Texas meet. The team had to be content with second in the mile but still more points were added by Mayes with a second in shot put (his 52-foot heave was a new school record), Jones with a third in the high jump and Jerry Lemon with a first place tie in pole vault.

#### Baseball, Tennis Underway

The baseball team was still looking for their first win at press time. A tour through Texas in late March provided four losses with Texas taking two tilts and Baylor and Texas Christian providing the other poundings. At home the team tangled with Minnesota in two tussles but could do no better than push the second game into extra innings.

An assortment of errors were hurting the Sooners' cause but as the Big Seven race opened in mid-April it looked like the most serious handicap the team would encounter was a lack of hitting power.

The tennis team was improving with every game. After dropping the season openers against Southeastern State at Durant and Colorado, the team perked up to win six straight.

#### Drills and an Appointment

Spring football drills were scheduled to close April 20 when the varsity was to meet the alumni in their annual spring game. Saturday intra-squad scrimmages were held at the close of the practice season to



O.U.'s first annual wrestlers reunion was held on the campus March 10 during the windup of the Big Seven wrestling tournament. Alumni who wrestled while students at the University saw the O.U. matmen win the tourney championship.

Among those present for the reunion were (left to right) Paul V. Keen, former O.U. wrestling coach and now director of intramural athletics; James White, '32bs, Oklahoma City; Raymond Inglis, '33bs,

Chase, Kansas; Laurence Mantooth, '30bs, '35ms, Purcell; Bill Whiteside, '36bs, Weatherford, Texas; Wayne Martin, '32-'38, Tulsa; and Bill Brakebill, '35bs, Norman.

Mantooth, O.U.'s first national champion, won the national honor twice while a student at the University. Wayne Martin copped the national championship three times.

allow fans to get a good look at the boys the Big Red will field next fall.

While its much too early to predict what fall will bring, it looks like Coach Bud Wilkinson will not be suffering from a shortage of players. Thus far football scribes seem to like the looks of the backfield material headed by Billy Vessels. And the line should be capably manned, headed by All-American Jim Weatherall.

In March the football coaching staff announced the successor to assistant coach George Lynn who resigned to take a position at Stanford. Pete Elliott, Oregon State assistant coach and former Michigan University sports star, was named by Wilkinson.

The youthful Elliott set an all-time Michigan record by earning 12 sports letters. He quarterbacked Michigan teams to Big Nine Conference championships in 1946 and 1947 and to a 49-0 overwhelming of Southern California in the 1948 Rose Bowl.

## FACULTY

### In and Out

**Kenneth Harris**, '39ba, '49Law, senior public relations assistant at the University, has been appointed national director of the public information program of the Junior

Bar Conference of the American Bar Association.

Harris has been serving as national co-director of the program and was promoted to the top position when Dick Avent, Austin, Texas, resigned as director to enter the armed forces.

During the past year Harris served as Oklahoma state director of public information for the Junior Bar. He has been re-appointed to another term in that position.

In his new assignment, Harris also will serve as an ex officio member of the public relations committee of the American Bar Association.

**Dr. Garold Holstine**, University schools director in the College of Education, resigned in March to accept a post as dean of the College of Education at the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks.

Dr. Holstine is to report to his new position April 15. He will be a visiting professor at the University of Southern California in August.

Prior to coming to the University he was director of teacher education for North Dakota State College at Minot. He joined the University faculty in 1940 as associate professor of education and was named that summer as director of the University schools.

During his tenure at O.U. Dr. Holstine

has been active in the promotion of audio-visual and air-age education for the University schools and for other Oklahoma schools. He served on the state committee that promoted the program of state certification for teachers now being used in Oklahoma.

**Dr. Stanley K. Coffman, Jr.**, assistant professor of English, is author of a new book published in February by the University Press.

Entitled "*Imagism: A Chapter from the History of Modern American Poetry*," the book gives the first complete account of the school of Imagist poets.

Imagism, as a concept of verse, stands for direct treatment of the image. It emphasizes the use of only essential words and the putting together of phrases in musical sequence.

Dr. Coffman considers the impact of imagism on Twentieth Century verse in a discussion of such writers as Hilda Doolittle, Ford Maddox Hueffer, T. E. Hulme, Richard Aldington, John Gould Fletcher and Amy Lowell.

The book grew out of an interest developed when Dr. Coffman was writing his dissertation for a PhD degree in English at Ohio State University.

Dr. Coffman came to the University in 1948. He teaches contemporary American and English poetry.

**Paul V. Keen**, chairman of the intramural department at the University, is the author of "Physical Education Today," an article in the February issue of the *Athletic Journal*.

Former wrestling coach at the University, Keen points out in the article that there is a need for a health and physical education program for the nation.



**DR. STANLEY COFFMAN**  
... A New Chapter