

*Because they refused
to be licked, Sooner
trackmen registered a*

By David Burr, '50

Sugar Bowl Win

Mid-Winter sports at O.U. are in full swing with basketball, wrestling and indoor track sharing the spotlight.

Every so often a sports yarn comes along that indicates beyond a doubt why Americans are sports loving people. Its the hero type of story that proves a little extra effort under great handicaps can produce a champion.

O.U.'s mid-winter sports program offered such a story in late December. It came in the Sugar Bowl track and field meet in New Orleans. As defending champs of the mile relay, O.U. was considered a good bet to repeat. Their relay squad of Jerry Meader, Charles Coleman, George McCormick and Quanah Cox was experienced in quality competition.

Form proved right for the first two relaymen. They produced a five yard margin as the baton was ready to be passed on to the third runner. Then the trouble began. He ran out of the foul line and had to return to pick up the baton. By the time the baton passing was complete, O.U. was

Straining every muscle for the final push over the finish line, Quanah Cox scores 1,600 meter relay victory as . . .



no longer leading but trailing the leader by five yard.

Quanah Cox, anchor man, was faced with the disadvantage as he began his lap. He trailed the leader, Paul Wells of Oklahoma A. & M., half way around the track but then began to pull up and won the race by two yards. It was an all out effort by Cox (see cuts below) but set a new record for the 1,600 meter relay (instead of the mile measurement all Sugar Bowl measurements were in Olympic terms this year) at 3:14.1. Two other runners, J.W. Marshburn and Harry Lee, took second and third in the 400 meter race in the same meet. Track prospects, especially in the relays, look bright.

Basketball was not bouncing quite as high as it had in many years at the University. With a team lacking height and experience, Bruce Drake, '29phys.ed, was busy in January indoctrinating his sophomore squad with the skill necessary to play his traditionally tough schedule. As of January 10, the team had won only 3 while losing 9. Among the losses were five to the country's top quintets. Kansas (No. 1), Illinois (No. 2), Kansas State (No. 7), Iowa (No. 10), and New York U. (No. 13) were all victorious over the Sooners. In addition SMU, Texas, Oklahoma A. & M. and Missouri also held wins with the local lads beating Colorado, Baylor and Stanford.

The team has good potential but needs a tall man and more game experience before it can hope to set worlds on fire. The February-March schedule includes:

February 4	Iowa State at Norman
February 9	Nebraska at Lincoln
February 11	Missouri at Columbia
February 16	Oklahoma Aggies, Norman
February 18	Nebraska at Norman
February 23	Iowa State at Ames
February 25	Colorado at Boulder
March 1	Kansas at Norman
March 10	Kansas State at Manhattan

Wrestling will be underway by the time this issue reaches its readers. The squad, coached by Port Robertson, '37ba, will be defending its Big Seven and NCAA crowns of last year. With Phil Smith, '51bus, national wrestling champ at 157-pounds gone, the Sooners will not have an easy time repeating their triumphs. Three other squad

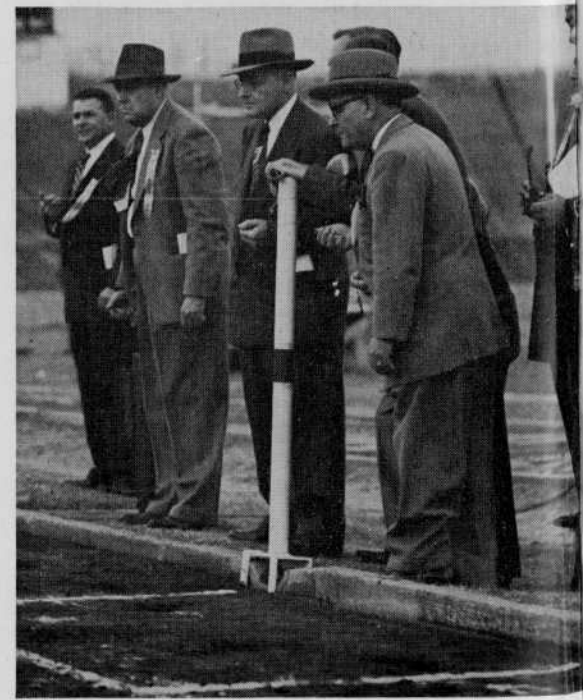
members of last year are also gone from the team.

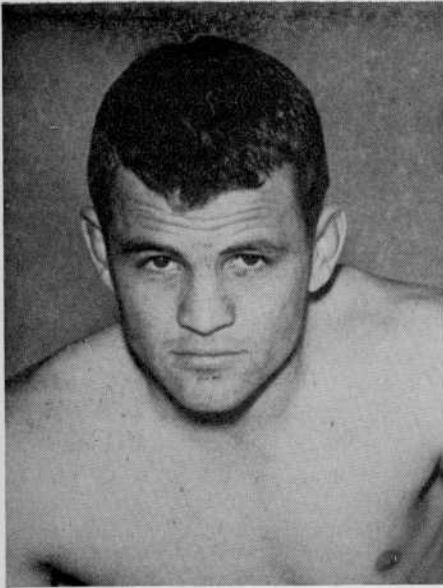
Back to head the matmen are Big Seven Champs and national runners-up Billy Borders and Tommy Evans. Borders wrestled at 123-pounds and Evans at 137 but both move into the next weight division this year. Both wrestlers lost only one bout last year—and that in the NCAA tourney.

Expected to provide Evans and Borders with quality teamwork is Frank Marks of Edmond at 167 who won the Big Seven class last year but had to miss the NCAA meet because of a knee injury. Bryan Rayburn at 147 last year won 6 and lost 1 moved into Smith's spot. Others who will probably round out the team are Ronald Scott of Tulsa or Harold Reece of Tulsa at 137; Joe Butler of Tulsa or Larry Cotton of Blackwell at 177, and Doc Hearon from Putnam City at heavyweight. The schedule:

January 11	Colo. A. & M. at Norman
January 18	Okla. A. & M. at Stillwater
February 1	Iowa State at Ames

. . . Sugar Bowl officials thumb their stop watches preparatory to recording O.U. relay team's record breaking time.





TOMMY EVANS
... Heads Wrestlers

- February 2 Iowa Sta. Tchrs, Cedar Falls
- February 4 Ark. State at State College
- February 8 Colorado at Norman
- February 15 Okla. A. & M. at Norman
- February 19 Nebraska at Norman
- February 29 Kansas State at Norman
- March 7-8 Big Seven Conf. Tourney at Ames, Iowa
- March 28-29 NCAA tourney at Fort Collins, Colorado

Football provided several items of note including an honor bestowed on Benny Owen. Harold Keith, '29ba, '39ma, Sooner Sports Publicist, wrote:

"Bennie Owen, Oklahoma's foxy, soft-voiced, one-armed football coach from 1905 through 1926, was one of 21 American coaches elected to the Hall of Fame at Rutgers University, scene of the first collegiate game 82 years ago.

"Owen was known for his emphasis upon clean play and sportsmanship in a day when neither was fashionable, and for originating as soon as any other coach such stratagems as the direct pass and the forward pass to a tackle.

"Back in 1914 Owen was the first to prove the modern 'pro' principle that numerical profusion of forward passes is both practical and sound. This was the theory that decades later would be spectacularly exploited by such college coaches as Ray Morrison of Southern Methodist, Tommy Thompson of Arkansas, Leo "Dutch" Meyer of Texas Christian, Henry Frnka of Tulsa and the fast-growing modern school. But Owen of Oklahoma was the pioneer.

"Owen, now 75 years old, is living in retirement at Norman."

More Keith work produced the following:

"Oklahoma finished tenth in the 1951

Associated Press football poll and thereby became the only college to make the nation's top ten the last four years in a row.

"Coach Bud Wilkinson's Sooner teams were ranked fifth in 1948, second in 1949, won the national championship in 1950 and tenth this year.

"Here are the number of times the leading schools have finished in the first ten the last four years: Oklahoma 4, Army, California and Michigan 3 each, Tennessee, Princeton, Michigan State and Notre Dame 2 each and 19 other schools one each.

"Counting 10 points for a first place rating, 9 for second, etc., Oklahoma also emerges as the national leader over a period of the last four years with 26 points, followed by Army 21, California 21, Notre Dame 19, Michigan 19, and Tennessee 17.

"Here are the AP ratings the last four seasons:

"1951—1. Tennessee, 2. Michigan State, 3. Maryland, 4. Illinois, 5. Georgia Tech, 6. Princeton, 7. Stanford, 8. Wisconsin, 9. Baylor and 10. Oklahoma.

"1950.—1. Oklahoma, 2. Army, 3. Texas, 4. Tennessee, 5. California, 6. Princeton, 7. Kentucky, 8. Michigan State, 9. Michigan and 10. Clemson.

"1949—1. Notre Dame, 2. Oklahoma, 3. California, 4. Army, 5. Rice, 6. Ohio State, 7. Michigan, 8. Minnesota, 9. Louisiana State and 10. College of the Pacific.

"1948—1. Michigan, 2. Notre Dame, 3.

North Carolina, 4. California, 5. Oklahoma, 6. Army, 7. Northwestern, 8. Georgia, 9. Oregon and 10. Southern Methodist.

"Wilkinson's won and lost percentage at Oklahoma now stands at .884 per cent. His Sooner teams have won 46, lost 6, tied 1.

"His bag includes four Big Seven Conference championships and one co-title, a modern times national record of 31 consecutive games, an unbroken string of 26 consecutive Big Seven wins, two Sugar Bowl champions and eleven different Oklahoma players, a full team, selected on first All-American teams: Ends Frankie Anderson, '51bus, and Jim Owens, '50ba, Tackles Wade Walker '51phys.ed, and Jim Weatherall, '52, Guards Buddy Burris, '49bus, and Stan West, 51bus, Center Tom Catlin, '53, and Backs Jack Mitchell, '50ba, Darrell Royal, '50bus, Buddy Jones, '51geol, and Leon Heath, '47-'51."

(Editor's Note: Since the story on wrestling was completed, the Sooners have taken large strides towards repeating their all-victorious dual meet record of a year ago. In their opener, they trimmed the Colorado Aggies and followed with a narrow win, 14-12, over the Oklahoma Aggies. Many thought the O.U.-Oklahoma Aggie meet amounted to a national championship affair. Last year they ran 1-2 in the NCAA championships.)



Benny Owen was among the first twenty coaches to be selected to football's hall of fame. His selection was announced recently. He is seen above in a photo taken several years ago at an occasion honoring his many years of coaching (1905-'26).