



The winter sports program hits full stride as the second semester opens. A good line on what can be expected from the teams is offered in this story.

Basketball Takes Bad Bounce; Wrestlers Impressive in Initial Start

DANNY HODGE

... Olympic Wrestler and AAU Champ Heads Sooner Mat Team

IF ANY basketball follower still believes that basketball is a game for small men, that dreamer is welcome to consider the plight of O.U.'s 1954-55 squad. Consider the team and its record as of January 15.

Nine games played. Eight lost. One won. Yet the team is a hustler. Sooner scoring is running high. And so is the opponent's and the opposing players. To date, no team has had a height disadvantage over O.U. With Center Fred Muller (6-3) the tallest man on the squad, the opposition has had the backboard advantage, more shooting opportunities and defensive edge.

There are three bright spots in the basketball story. The first concerns the point production of Lester Lane. The senior from Purcell has just become the first

known 1,000 point shooter in Sooner basketball history.

Sports publicist Harold Keith, '29ba, '39ma, picks up the story:

"Although Lane benefits from the fact that he played as a freshman and that the rules have been liberalized greatly to aid scoring, he hasn't had the advantage of playing with a championship team. Also, he performs in an era of gigantic opponents and has trouble seeing the basket, let alone scoring over opponents so tall that he has to shoot a false arch over them.

"Here's Lane's record to date: 1951-52, 152 points; '52-'53, 219 points; '53-'54, 397 points, and 1954-55 (to January 15), 243 points.

"No statistical evidence is available to

show that any Sooner player ever fired 1,000 basketball points in his career.

"Gerald Tucker, the school's twice All-American of 1943 and 1947, scored 925 points in three years despite the handicap of playing in only 13 games his sophomore season.

"No career records are in the books before Tucker although some of the old-time cagers who played in quilted pants and wore elastic hairbands over their shiny pompadours were good shots.

"For example, Howard McCasland, of Duncan ('16ba, now president of the Alumni Association), center on Bennie Owens' 1916 team, apparently holds the all-time O.U. record for pitching in the most field goals in a single season, 202 in 1916,

and also the most points in a single season, 407 in 1916 made in 26 games on 202 field goals and only three free throws.

"In McCasland's day, a player wasn't compelled to shoot his own free toss when he was fouled, consequently the task was delegated to one man. If McCasland had shot his own free tosses, he might have scored 500 points that year."

The second bright spot concerns an El Reno product named LeRoy Bacher. Bacher becomes eligible for the basketball competition as the second semester opens. He played freshman ball at O.U. before entering service and is now counted on to pick up the team where it hurts the most—in height. He's 6-6 and a relative giant among this year's players. The three extra inches he will add to the team could have meant the difference between victory and defeat in earlier games.

A third bright spot for basketball fans is this year's crop of freshmen. You have to take a long look to find a man under 6 feet and you can spot quite a few over 6-4. This will be the last year O.U. fields a team of shorties for some time.

Remainder of the 1954-55 basketball schedule: February 1—Kansas State at Norman; February 5—Missouri at Columbia; February 10—Oklahoma A&M at Stillwater; February 12—Nebraska at Lincoln; February 16—Kansas at Norman; February 21—Nebraska at Norman; February 25—Missouri at Norman. March 2—Oklahoma A&M at Norman; March 5—Iowa State at Norman; March 8—Kansas at Lawrence.

THE WRESTLING team made its initial start of the year against Oklahoma A&M, defending NCAA Champion, Jan-

uary 14. Starting a team well-stocked in sophomores (five), Port Robertson's wrestlers earned a 12-12 tie in what has been described as the World Series of wrestling.

Leading the sophomore contingent were two wrestlers the fans will be hearing a good deal about. Both have outstanding records and both indicated their ability against the Aggies, although one won and one lost.

The winner, Dan Hodge, 177 pounds, was about as impressive as a wrestler can be in stopping 2-time NCAA champ Ned Blass of the Aggies. His performance was not wholly unexpected. Hodge wrestled on the 1952 Olympic team and was national AAU champ last year at 170½ pounds. He owned a high school record of 50 wins out of 54 matches while attending Perry High School. A little older than most of the sophomores, he finished a 3-year hitch in the navy before enrolling at O.U. last year.

The loser, Bobby Lyons, 137 pounds, was not at top physical form as he lost to Aggie David Simmons. However, Lyons is built from the Tommy Evans mold of wrestlers and will be hard to beat before the season is completed. His loss was the first of his career. He brought a record of 50 straight wins from Bistow High School with him to O.U.

Other sophomores who made their first collegiate start against the Aggies were Billy Pricer, 167 pounds; Everett Johnson, heavyweight; Rex Edgar, 157 pounds. All lost, but indicated that experience would make them tough to beat.

Another Sooner wrestler provided a good deal of excitement and took some of the limelight away from the battle of the AAU and the NCAA champs.

Don Hart, 137 pounds, last year's Big Seven champion at 130 pounds, moved up a weight to challenge NCAA champ Myron Roderick of A&M. Few observers gave Hart much of a chance against the stylish Roderick, but when the match was over Hart led by a comfortable margin.

Other winners besides Hart and Hodge were Ed Corr, 123, and Lee Young, 147.

Consensus of opinion after Aggie match: O.U. has a well-balanced team. When season is finished and experience added, team should be a strong contender for national honors.

The wrestling schedule: February 3—Wyoming at Laramie; February 4—Colorado A&M at Fort Collins; February 5—Colorado at Boulder; February 11—Oklahoma A&M at Stillwater; February 19—Kansas State at Manhattan; February 24—Iowa State at Norman. March 11-12—Big Seven tournament at Boulder; March 19—Illinois at Champaign; March 25-26—

NCAA tournament at Cornell, Ithaca, New York.

OUTLOOK for the swimming team is good, also. Six of the Sooner South Africans return with Graham Johnston, British Empire 1,600-meter champion, ready for his senior season.

As the squad prepared to open its season February 4, Coach Ken Rawlinson's team could show added strength. Two transfer students, Tommy Kehoe and Lyle Dillmann, became eligible for competition. Both are sprinters. Kehoe swam the 50-yard sprint in 22.3 seconds and the 100-yard jaunt in 52.6 just before the Christmas holidays. His 50-yard clocking is well under Sooner records.

But it is Graham Johnston who is expected to lead the team in scoring. For the past two seasons he has won the Big Seven 220-yard, 440-yard and 1,500-meter races. Last year his wins were removed when it was discovered that he was scholastically ineligible. This year he leads the swimmers in scholarship.

The swimming schedule: February—4, Southern Methodist at Dallas; 5, Texas at Austin; 12, Kansas at Norman; 19, Colorado at Norman; 26, Iowa State at Ames. March—4-5, Big Seven tournament at Lincoln, Nebraska; 18-19, Southern AAU meet at SMU; 24-26, NCAA meet at Ohio, Oxford, Ohio. April—1-2, National AAU meet at Yale.

... Help Your Child

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A businessman whose son was coming to O.U. made a deal with the boy. He placed him on a 40-hour week basis and paid him according to the amount of time the boy devoted to his schoolwork. At first the son billed his father only for the amount of classtime, but gradually he began studying more and more until he was devoting all free time from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to study and his grades were good. Dean Couch feels the plan worked for two reasons, the boy was placed on his honor, and he was made conscious of the value of time.

These are some of the common reasons for college failure and these are some of the ways failure can be averted. But in the end, "If the young student does not have the personal desire for a degree," one professor declared firmly, "he is taking a hard road in attempting to be educated at a university."



LEROY BACHER

... First Aid for Basketball Woes