

Swimmers, Wrestlers Make O.U. Sports Fans Happy

TWO OF THE UNIVERSITY'S so-called "minor" sports teams were busy making major impressions on the sports world in January and February meets. Coach Port Robertson's wrestlers were undefeated in six starts as of February 10 and Ken Rawlinson's swimmers were taking the hint, and walloping the opposition in their initial tests.

Rawlinson has put together a team that is considered by most observers as the best balanced squad in O.U.'s swimming history. Against Texas February 5, O.U. scored a 52-32 victory and left a lone first place for the Lone Star state. The day before, S.M.U. was defeated by a 47-36 margin.

What makes the team such a formidable opponent can be stated in two words: South Africa. Or, to be more exact, five South Africans. And to refine and over-simplify the reason more, one South African. His name—Graham Johnston.

Johnston is no one-man gang, but a look at his swimming history could lead to the conclusion: 1954 British Empire champion at 1,500 meters; member of South African Olympic team in 1950; 1952 and 1953 Big Seven champ at 220-, 440-yard and 1,500-meter free style events; 1953 placed third in NCAA 440; holds Sooner pool records in 1,500-meter, and 220- and 440-yard events, and may be the only South African swimmer to be an All-American.

The only reason he is not a one-man gang is the competition for wins that is provided by his fellow countrymen—Lin Meiring, Peter Duncan, Mel van Helsdingen, and Ernst DeJong—and a fine dash man from the U. S.—Tommy Kehoe.

Best Sooner marks thus far: Kehoe's 23.5 in the 50-yard dash and 52.1 in the 100; Johnston's 2:08.9 in the 220; Duncan's 4:48.7 in the 440, and Meiring's 2:14.6 in the 200-yard backstroke. Johnston's clocking in the 220 is a new school record and the other marks are close to school record marks.

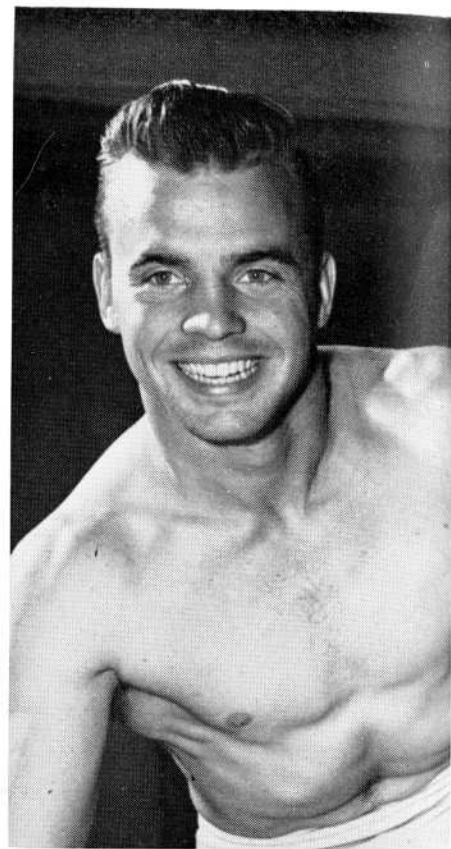
When the Big Seven holds its swimming meet March 4-5 in Lincoln, Nebraska, the Oklahoma team will probably be paddling as the favorites. Two weeks later, the strongest team O.U. has ever sent to the NCAA tourney should corner a fair share of honors.

AS THIS IS WRITTEN, the wrestling team is heading into the homestretch of dual meet competition. There are few disappointed wrestling fans in Oklahoma. Against the best competition available, Coach Robertson's men own a five-win, one-tie record. Not to discourage state wrestling fans, the one tie was the result of a head-on meet with Oklahoma A&M.

On the basis of the tie and victories over Big Ten champ Iowa (14-13); Wyoming (16-11); Colorado A&M (19-8); Colorado (20-11), and Colorado State (29-2), a good line has been established on the individual wrestlers.

Topping the list of performers are three wrestlers with all-winning records: Don Hart, 137 pounds; Lee Young, 147 pounds; Danny Hodge, 177 pounds.

Of the three, Hodge has been the most impressive. He's scored three pins in his six matches and has won the other three by easy decisions. The national AAU champ and Olympic wrestler seems headed



DON HART
... The Best in His Weight?

for a national title, barring injuries. He already owns one decision over 2-time national champ, Ned Blass, of Oklahoma A&M.

Don Hart faced his biggest trial February 12 when he met Myron Roderick, Oklahoma A&M's national champ, for the second time.

In their first encounter, Hart took an easy decision, but Roderick was troubled by a bad ankle. If Hart could repeat this winning performance over a healthy Roderick, his chances for a lofty national rating will be considerably improved.

Lee Young also appears to be headed for a fine season and a chance at a national championship. His six wins include one pin and one forfeiture. His closest brush came against Iowa when his riding time was enough to break a draw match.

Records of other wrestlers: Ed Corr, 2-2, at 123; Bobby Lyons, 2-2-2, at 130; Jerry Bross, 2-1-1, at 157; Bernard Sullivan, 1-2, at 167, and Jimmy Coln, 1-1, at heavy-weight. All are showing steady improvement.

The wrestlers will be favored to win the Big Seven tournament at Boulder, Colorado, March 11-12, and are expected to show considerable improvement on their seventh place showing in last year's NCAA national tournament.