

Under Cover

By DAVID BURR. '52ba

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AN INTERESTING NEWS ITEM appeared in state papers in late January. For the first time in several years, the University of Oklahoma Athletic Department announced the cost of the school's athletic program. For the fiscal year 1955-56, expenses will total \$1,071,519.45.

The cost includes the following:

1. \$105,000 is taken from gross receipts to retire Owen Stadium building bonds.
2. \$260,000 is paid annually to visiting schools in all sports.
3. \$21,830 is used to finance intramural sports program.
4. \$125,650 was needed to pay the way for the football team.
5. \$70,600 was paid coaches in all sports in salaries.
6. 80 scholarships figured at \$746 per in-state student per year are financed each year.

7. Other expense items: Cost of all other varsity teams, advertising, officials, ticket sales and printing, press box operation, etc.

And the revenue comes from:

1. \$821,502.80 receipts from football, with one away-from-home game still to be received.
2. \$17,383 radio and television.
3. \$11,017.25 football program sale.
4. \$9,914.14 from golf course fees.
5. \$9,192.61 football program advertising.

Revenue figures from other sports was unavailable at the time of the report. But Kenneth E. Farris, O.U. athletic business manager, estimated gross receipts at \$977,294.55, excluding O.U.'s Orange Bowl share and revenue from remaining basketball and baseball games. He said total athletic receipts could easily surpass the program's cost.

(In case of a deficit, the athletic department is a self-sustaining operation and deficits are covered with surplus funds built up over the years.)

For a million dollars the University is offering one of the best balanced sports programs in the nation. Football pays most of the freight.

Shortly before this was written, Oklahoma defeated Iowa State in a dual swim-

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meet; first conference defeat for Iowa State in 15 years of dual meets. As winner, Oklahoma is favorite in Big Seven swimming and should give a good accounting of itself at the national meet.

Oklahoma's wrestlers, traditional Big Seven champs, are a serious title threat in the NCAA national championship tournament. (For more about wrestlers see page 4.) The boxing team had not made its debut as this is written, but the team boasts several top boxers.

The spring sports of tennis, golf, track and baseball will find the Sooners offering real competition to other Big Seven schools.

The only athletic team that fails to be a league challenger is the basketball squad. With a new coach, Doyle Parrack, and a more deliberate style of play, the team was not expected to be otherwise this year. The reason: lack of personnel.

And what was already a problem became acute at the end of the first semester. Jimmy Peck, experienced guard and good floorman, quit the team. So did a reserve guard. Still others were eliminated because of academic difficulty. Much of the load was picked up by sophomores. Only one junior started the Missouri game February 4 and the rest were sophomores.

But brighter days are ahead for basketball at Oklahoma. Parrack has proved his ability to get the most out of his charges and he has given a convincing demonstration of his teaching capabilities. At the start of the season, Joe King, 6-7 sophomore forward, was of little offensive help to the team. Parrack left him in as much as possible. Patience and training paid off. Against Missouri he hit 34 points and in two previous games totaled 57 points. He also demonstrated he had learned many of the fine points of basketball.

Several talented freshmen are expected to materially strengthen the team next year. Parrack has had his initiation by fire but next year should have a squad that will play several opponents on equal terms—a far cry from the February 5 showing of 13 losses and 3 wins. A note should be added in support of the present team: their won-lost record is not due to a lack of drive or hustle. If desire alone could win games, they would be atop the league standings.

Hal Muldrow, Jr.

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