

# Wrestling



A SURVEY OF THE  
WINTER SPORTS SCENE

## the contest for big 8 and n.c.a.a. titles looks like an old sooner-cowboy battle

**L**AST year the Oklahoma wrestling team got a new head coach in Tommy Evans, a former Sooner wrestling great himself, who led the way to the Big Eight title and N.C.A.A. championship in his first time out. In the season ahead, things could—and should—be as promising for the grunt and groaners as they were in 1959-60.

Prospects for a good wrestling season rest largely with sophomore performances. Perhaps in no previous season has the team depended so much on newcomers as this year. Over half of the entire team will be sophomores, and as Evans says, "If they come through for us we will be all right; they'll play a tremendous role in our overall season, that's for sure."

A repeat of last year's great campaign, in which the squad set a new school record of 43 falls, took 13 of 15 dual meets and won the conference and national titles, is a great deal to hope for, but the youngish Sooner mentor is optimistic.

"The season actually looks better this year than it did at the start of last year. If everything works out like it did last year, we should be a good team. . . . The thing is, that everything, I mean everything, went just right for us last year . . . in the regular season, the tournaments, everything. Wrestling is just like a lot of other sports, there is a big 'if' in any match, and 'if' every-

thing goes right, you do fine. Last year everything went right for us."

But the "if" factor can take nothing away from Evans' coaching abilities, since he led his crew to the national championship despite injuries, academic troubles, thin team ranks, and countless other complications. When any varsity coach in his first year overcomes these problems, there must have been more than the "breaks" behind the season record.

The only black marks on that record were two defeats by O.S.U. in regular dual meets. And Evans thinks that the Cowboys will hog-tie the Sooners again this year.

"We may have another good team, but O.S.U. will be better. They'll probably beat us twice again. They have an almost endless number of good boys back, and they will have a really great team."

The Sooners have some good boys back too, and fans are hoping that they will perform as admirably as they did last year.

Two O.U. wrestlers who hold individual N.C.A.A. crowns will return for competition this season. George Goodner, 191-pound champ, and Dale Lewis, heavy-weight title winner, will be back, as will David Campbell at 177 pounds. Campbell was Big Eight titlist and N.C.A.A. runner-up at this weight.

These three will give Oklahoma strength

in the heavier weights and will be depended upon for points in most of the matches. While the team will be strong here, it may be rather weak in the middle weights.

Graduation took three squad members whose absence will be felt in matches this season. Stan Abel, N.C.A.A. champ at 130, the Big Eight 157-pound champ, Sid Terry, and Lawrence Gregory will not don the crimson and cream grappling togs this winter. All had fine records last year, 21-1, 16-2-2, and 8-6-2, respectively.

Evans has hopes of filling out a well-balanced line-up. Here's how he thinks it will look, from weight-to-weight:

"114—Jerry Tanner will probably get the nod here; Wally Curtis will be eligible second semester and he'll help.

"123—Bob Peck and Regan Wright will battle it out for a starting spot . . . a real tough battle.

"130—Tony Macias or Gerald Whitfield will be fighting for this berth. They are just about even in ability, I believe, and this will be a real tussle to see who wrestles." (Whitfield had an 8-4 record last year at weights from 123 through 147, and Macias recovered from a bone operation to take fourth in the N.C.A.A.)

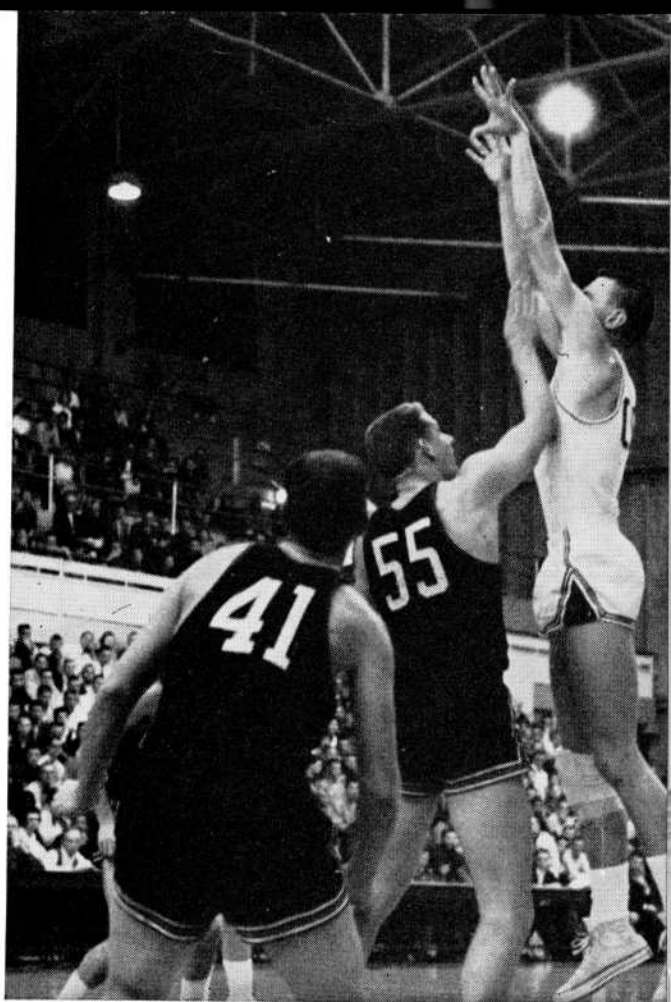
"137—First semester it will be a sophomore, just who I can't say for sure. Second

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# Basketball

By SAM R. POWELL  
'60journ

**last year's sophomores are  
this year's hope for a  
winning season on the court**



COMING fast on the heels of a football season that saw O.U. get knocked from pillar to post by a suddenly supercharged Big Eight conference is a basketball season that promises to be equally as thrilling as last year's.

Under the guidance of Coach Doyle Parrack, the Sooner basketball team of recent seasons has come crawling out of its once-perennial spot in the cellar, to be regarded as one of the top teams in the tough Big Eight conference. From all indications Oklahoma has the potential to equal the fine showing made last year—a second place finish only one game behind the league co-champs Kansas and Kansas State.

How well O.U. does this winter on the hard-wood court depends largely on how well the guards play for the team. As Coach Parrack puts it, "We probably will be hurting the most at guard this year. We lost a lot of good boys at that spot."

The "good boys" referred to are Guards Denny Price, Ray Lewis, Buddy Hudson and Roger Potts. Lone returnee at that position is George Kernek, a talented youngster from Holdenville, who as a sophomore last year gave the Sooners a needed spark that helped them take five of their last six games.

Parrack, like all of the other Big Eight coaches, is just a little bit wary of the tough

conference foes that his team will have to face. Long regarded as one of the best basketball loops in the nation, the Big Eight promises to be just as rugged this year.

"The league is going to be tough, as usual. It will be fairly well-balanced, and how well a team does may not necessarily depend on how good they are. In the Big Eight this year, it will be easy to have a good team and have a poor year. Kansas should be the toughest team in the league, just a shade above K-State, who will be good, of course. I think every team in the league should be stronger than last year, with the exception of Nebraska," Parrack predicts.

Besides the conference teams that they will face, Parrack's men meet some other top teams early in the season. These early season games, though not as crucial to the Sooners as the league contests, may be important to the overall season.

"Our first few games will probably answer many questions. If we can get off to a real good start and take some of the early games, that will help a lot."

Oklahoma will meet their first conference foe in the annual Big Eight tournament in Kansas City over the Christmas holidays. O.U. is scheduled to meet Colorado December 27. This tournament is not any guarantee of the way the loop race will

turn out, but basketball followers can watch it as an indication of how the conference may shape up.

On January 7, the powerful Kansas Jayhawks will come to Norman for the Sooners' first conference tilt. This should be a great game, remembering the cliff-hanger that the two squads staged in Norman last year.

Last year Kansas took O.U. 54-53 with Jayhawk Wayne Hightower sinking a free shot after the final buzzer had sounded. Kansas had led 51-47 with a little over 2 minutes remaining when the Sooners surged back in some furious action to tie the score 53-53. With 4 seconds remaining, Hightower got the ball, was fouled and won the game. The Kansas ace returns this year and is an almost sure bet for All-America.

As good example of how close the Big Eight race always is—if O.U. had won that vital game with Kansas, they would have taken the league crown. In the same light, if Colorado had taken their two games from the Sooners, instead of dropping both of them in thrilling overtime battles, Oklahoma would have finished in fifth place, instead of one game out of first place.

In the last couple of years, basketball at O.U. has shown tremendous improvement.

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## WRESTLING

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semester it will probably be Billy Carter who has been in the Navy." (Carter, who hails from Tulsa, was National A.A.U. free style champion at 125 in 1956.)

"147—Joe Chamberlain, or Bob Deupree, with the loser probably going down to 137.

"157—Joe Gregg will probably wrestle for us at this weight." (Gregg was ineligible second semester last year and had a 3-3 record in the early part of the season.)

"167—It should be Wayne Baughman here.

"And of course our last three weights are solid with Campbell, Goodner and Lewis."

The sophomore-dotted team will get its first taste of action in December in a trip to the West Coast and up through Utah. They will open at home January 6 against University of Iowa in what should be one of the best matches of the season.

## BASKETBALL

continued

Last season the team was expected to do just about what it did. But after a slow start and lagging through several bad weeks, the Sooners had to come up with a strong finish to grab the number three spot in the conference. Much of the fine finish can be credited to some sparkling play by Parrack's sophomores. This year, much will depend on how well these same players perform as juniors.

At the end of the season, Parrack was starting four sophomores, Kernek, Jack Lee, Brian Etheridge, and Warren Fouts. These four are probably the key players in the basketball picture this year. Etheridge is probably the most important single factor

By March 10 and 11, when the Big Eight tournament comes to Norman, fans should have some idea of what will take place. But you can be sure that they will see some great wrestling.

"Besides O.S.U., Iowa State will be really tough in the Big Eight, and generally the rest of the teams will be about like last season," Evans predicts.

Besides the conference tournament to be held at the University, wrestling fans will of course be looking forward to the Oklahoma State match on February 3 in Norman. "The Bedlam Series" of wrestling always provides a thrilling show, and this year it will probably be as wild as any.

"The O.S.U. matches should be as great as ever. We will have several men who will play especially important roles in this particular match. Jerry Tanner at 114, as well as the 147-pound and heavyweight matches will probably be key points in the night's wrestling for us," Evans says.

A successful defense of their title as best

in Oklahoma's hopes for a successful year.

Etheridge is a junior this year, and great things may be expected from him. He led the team in scoring last season with a 10.4 average, and showed marked improvement as the season progressed. His rebounding left something to be desired, but his height of 6-8 and weight of 210 seems to indicate that experience is probably all that is lacking.

Losing Denny Price, who for three years was a dynamic team leader and one of the best all-around players in the conference, will hurt the Sooners. Parrack will have to find someone to fill his shoes, if that is possible. Kernek comes the closest, and his floor play will be important to a good season showing.

"Our sophomores of last year actually carried us in our last few games, and how they come through this year may determine to a large extent how well the entire team does. If they play well, they may offset the losses that we have suffered from graduation. They have the potential to give the nucleus with which to build a good team."

Eight lettermen return this year, Seniors Buddy Russell and Joe Lee Thompson, and Juniors Kernek, Etheridge, Lee, Fouts and Connie McGuire. McGuire is another fine center, who was kept out of action by an injury last year until the end of the season. He is expected to give Parrack valuable depth at that position, and will see a lot of action because of his size, 6-7 and 215, and his scoring and rebounding ability.

Injuries, the plague of any athletic team,

## Schedule

AT NORMAN

Iowa	Jan. 6
Mankato State	Jan. 20
Minnesota	Jan. 28
O.S.U.	Feb. 3
Iowa State	Feb. 10
Southern Illinois	Feb. 24
Big 8 Tourney	Mar. 10-11

college wrestling team in the nation may elude the Sooners this year, but the season should provide enough wrestling excitement for the most ardent fans of the sport. Evans and his team face a rugged schedule. The young Sooner coach says that he will consider this season another success if his team survives with only three losses in dual meets—no small target in itself.

have hit Oklahoma hard in early practices this year. Parrack reports that the team has had more injuries in pre-season practice than at any other time during his five years at O.U. The injuries, though none of them serious enough to put a player out of action permanently, are dangerous to a team in getting ready for early games—another big question mark hanging over the early part of the season.

While last year's sophs helped in the clutch, this year's newcomers to varsity ball may be called on to do the same. A good prospect moving up from the freshman squad is Eddie Evans, a fast little player (5-9½) who averaged 17 points per game as a frosh. Also figured to see action are DeWayne Garner, a 6-6 Norman boy, and Eddie Jackson, 6-9, from Waco, Texas.

Because of the terrific competition that Oklahoma will face in the Big Eight this year, a prediction of the outcome would be tough to make. Parrack thinks his team will be better by mid-season than they were last year, with better power on the boards and more offensive shooting power in the field. Improved rebounding—a big "if" right now—could spell the difference in the close ones.

The Oklahoma team thinks that they can take the title this year, but as Parrack puts it, "—so do a lot of other people.

"All I can say is that we are going to be giving it all we have to make a good showing. I think the team's spirit will play a big part in how we finish—if the boys keep the desire that they have now, we should do all right."

## Schedule

AT NORMAN

Texas Western	Dec. 1
Minnesota	Dec. 3
Colo. State	Dec. 19
Texas Tech	Dec. 22
Kansas	Jan. 7
K-State	Feb. 4
Nebraska	Feb. 6
Missouri	Feb. 11
Iowa State	Feb. 25
Colorado	Mar. 6
O.S.U.	Mar. 9