

Evans and the Mat Brats

IF, as the adage says, everyone loves an underdog, then along in November just before the start of the season it appeared that the Sooner wrestling team might be the most lovable group in school history. Only it hasn't turned out that way. Some of the people in the know were ready to dedicate *You'd Be So Easy to Love* to the Sooners, who instead have been causing their opponents to warble *Let Me Go, Lover*. The potential underdogs have been wrestling like top dogs.

Cause for the pre-season concern was the conspicuous youth and inexperience of the O.U. Kiddie Korps, as one writer has dubbed the team. It's true. The team is young and inexperienced. Sophomores fill six of the eight weights. Halfway through the season the team's sole letterman, junior Ed McQuarters, he of the bruised ribs, had yet to throw his 230 pounds into a match. Nevertheless, the tenacious youngsters have wrestled well enough to have dumped eight of their first ten opponents in a long, strong schedule that stretches from December through March.

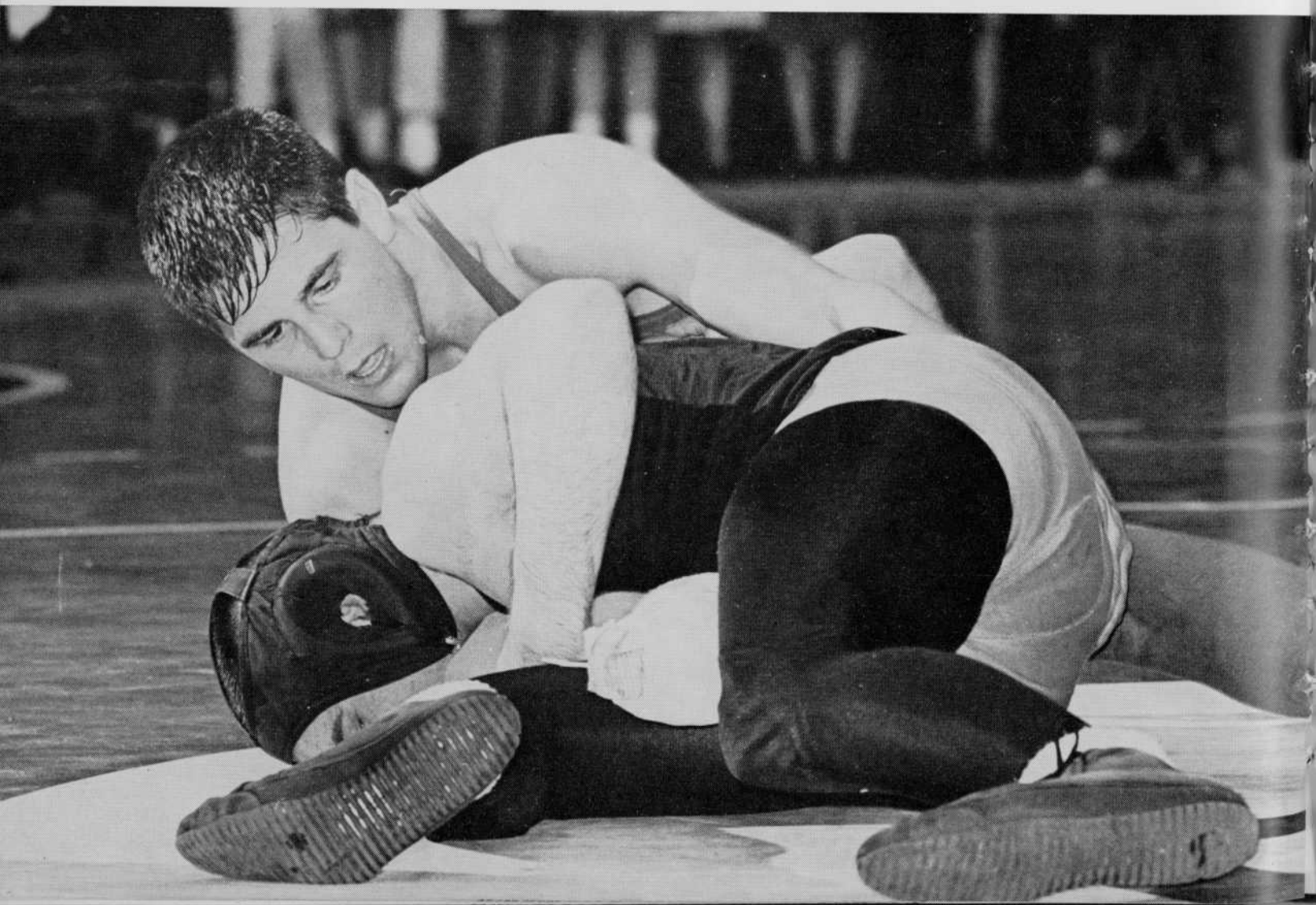
Coach, or scoutmaster if you prefer, of the infants terrible is Tommy Evans. Evans is a reserved, affable young man who somehow manages to effect composure throughout a match, no matter how agonizingly close it may be. Beneath that stoical demeanor, however, rages the fire of the *compleat* competitor. As a wrestler for O.U. in 1952 and 1954, Evans was national champion at 147 pounds and was voted outstanding wrestler of the

NCAA tournament both years. (He didn't wrestle in 1953 because of an injury.) At the 1952 Olympics he won the silver medal at 145½ pounds. His collegiate record of 42 wins, including 20 pins, and one defeat ranks second in Sooner history behind Danny Hodge's 46-0 mark. Even today Evans can beat every man on his squad, but youth may soon be served. "I think one of the kids can beat me," admits Evans, "but he doesn't know it and I'm not going to tell him." Evans will also admit to being a tiger on the paddle ball court but becomes reticent when questioned about his golf game.

Evans succeeded Port Robertson as wrestling coach in the 1959-60 season when Robertson decided to concentrate on four other jobs he holds in the athletic department. Robertson and his predecessor, Paul Keen, now director of intramurals, established a strong tradition at the University, and both have been voted into the Wrestling Hall of Fame as coaches.

So Evans topped them both by guiding the Sooners to an NCAA championship in his first year as coach, something no one had done before. In 1960-61 O.U. finished second nationally, behind that bunch from Stillwater. That summer came the Berlin crisis and Evans, then a captain in the Air Force Reserve, was recalled to active duty, serving for a year as a pilot in an air transport squadron.

Returning last year, Evans readjusted to civilian life in ex-



the green teens, though far from being a dream team, are showing signs of ripening

emplary fashion. Presto. Another NCAA title for the Sooners. Some disbelievers are convinced he used mirrors. The Sooners, weak in the lower weights, were hindered, hampered, plagued and beset by injuries all year while finishing with a sturdy though unspectacular 10-3 dual meet record. Two of those defeats were to that bunch from Stillwater. Perennial rival Oklahoma State again bopped the Sooners in the Big Eight tourney. OSU finished first with 85 points; O.U. was second with 71. Optimism wasn't exactly busting out all over as the national meet approached. National 130-pound titlist Mickey Martin, who had broken a collarbone in midseason, seemed to be hale, but defending 137-pound champ Billy Carter—a cinch to repeat and add at least 10 points to the team total—had missed the Big Eight meet because of an injured neck and couldn't compete in the NCAA tourney. The 177-pounder, senior Tommy Edgar, was a former student manager whom Evans had transformed into a wrestler two years back when a pressing need arose at that weight. Edgar wasn't counted on to contribute any points in the nationals. He hadn't wrestled in high school, and collegiate wrestlers with no previous experience are as common as 190-pound pro football tackles. Edgar didn't win a match in his sophomore year, was 2-9 in his junior year. In the NCAA tournament Edgar wrestled with skill and inspiration to finish third in his division. His four points were the difference in the three-point margin over second-place Iowa State.

A well-healed Mickey Martin repeated as 130-pound champ and won the outstanding wrestler award. Defending champion Wayne Baughman was upset in the finals at 191 but contributed seven points with his second. Powerful OSU finished in a three-way tie for fourth place, 16 points back. Mandrake the magician would have been proud of such a trick.

This year's team won't win the national tourney, but two, possibly three, team members may get pretty far. Bill Lam at 157 pounds is undefeated after 10 matches. Of 1963's top four finishers at the weight only Rahim Javanmard of UCLA returns, and Lam defeated him in a dual meet earlier in the year. Lam is a hustling, all-heart kind of competitor. "Mechanically, he's the poorest wrestler on the team," says Evans, "but his desire makes up for any deficiencies he might have. He is always attacking and his superb conditioning and aggressiveness have made him unbeatable." Sven Holm, 177-pounder, is another fine wrestler. He has five falls in his eight victories. Sophomore Jerry Stanley at 147 wrestles well and could finish high in the tourneys at the end of the season.

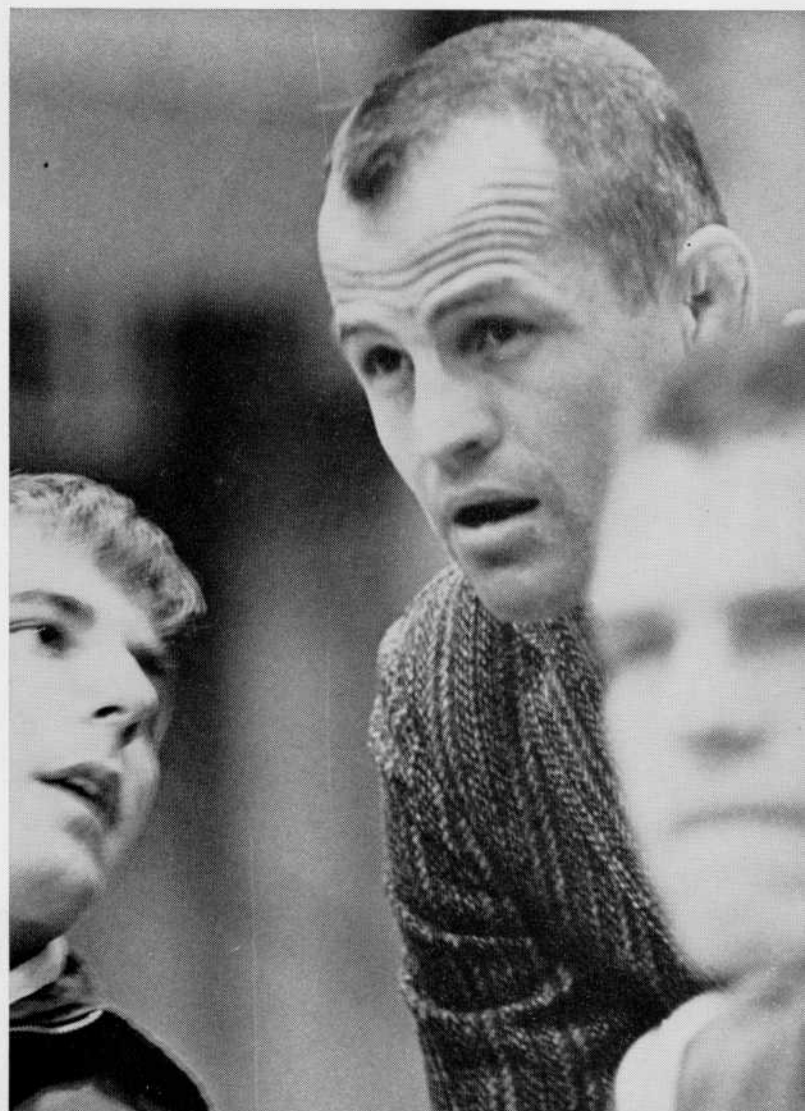
The Sooners, like the O.U. wrestling teams of past years, bear the stamp of the Oklahoma wrestling philosophy: Be aggressive and go for the pin. If there are two schools of thought on wrestling, one capital is at Stillwater and the other at Norman. The OSU approach is decidedly more conservative. The Cowboys are known for a close-to-the-vest kind of wrestling. Often a Poke wrestler will make himself extremely scarce to

his opponent after he has built up a lead. The approach favors a no-risk, win-by-decision instead a risky, fall-or-nothing attitude. To say that this way hasn't paid off would be ignoring the record. OSU has dominated amateur wrestling. "One of the reasons we advocate going for the pin," says Evans, "is that we need the points. We have to rely on the extra points we get from pins and near-pins to pull us through many matches and meets. If we had the top material as OSU generally has, we might not be so aggressive. But don't count on it."

Robertson, who was the leading advocate of pins while he was coach and is still dedicated to his proposition, has always tried to get the rules to give more credit for falls and near falls. "Wrestling crowds," says Robertson, "come to see falls, not running. They're like football crowds. They don't come to see you make a long drive and then stop at the opponent's 30-yard line. They want to see you go in for the touchdown. Also Olympic rules stress falls. Our rules must be changed so they coincide with international rules."

This year the rules committee made some significant changes which have moved the collegiate rules closer to the Olympic ones. One new rule protects against the stalling tactic of holding legs. Another rule encourages falls by liberalizing the interpretation of predicaments and near-fall scoring. The major change is the

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O.U.'s leading wrestler, sophomore Bill Lam, is shown (*left*) in a close victory over his Oklahoma State opponent. Coach Tommy Evans (*right*), the strain showing on his face, confers with Lam during the OSU dual.

1962-64

2nd Lt. Jerry W. McNeely, '62bus, Norman, was presented the Daughters of American Colonists Award as distinguished graduate of his aviation cadet navigator training class at James Connally Air Force Base, Texas. Lieutenant McNeely is in the Oklahoma Air National Guard unit at Will Rogers Field.

Gerald E. Baehler, '62eng, recently rejoined North American Aviation, Tulsa. Baehler is married to the former Dawn Rahlfs, '62. They have a daughter, Sonja Renee, 2.

Henry Chennault, '63ma, is pastor of the First Baptist Church, Davis. He and his wife, Reba Maxine, '62, previously lived in Lindsay.

Jay S. Lee, '63bs, Medway, Ohio, received the eagle insignia of a colonel upon his promotion in the United States Air Force. Colonel Lee, formerly the director of the Department of Aircraft Maintenance Training at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, now is assistant deputy commander of the 3750th Technical Training School.

Nancy Spradling, '63fa, played the heroine of the Oklahoma City Mummies Theater production of *Antigone* which ran through November 24. Nancy is the wife of Dave Spradling, O.U. graduate student.

Margo Williams, '63journ, has been named news editor of the Canyon (Texas) *News*. She is former news editor of the *Oklahoma Daily*.

Army 2nd Lt. James D. Smith, '63bus, is assigned to the U.S. Biological Laboratories, Fort Detrick, Maryland. Lieutenant Smith entered the Army last July after graduation from the University.

2nd Lt. Gaylon A. Lee, '63bus, Lawton, Oklahoma, provided support in Germany for a NATO field training exercise, a part of Operation Big Lift, which ended November 5. Lieutenant Lee is assigned to the 60th Ordinance Company near Stuttgart, Germany.

Army 2nd Lt. Jerry L. Brust, '63bus, Midwest City, Oklahoma, was assigned to Headquarters, Eighth U.S. Army in Korea, early in November. Lieutenant Brust is a message control unit officer in the adjutant general section.

Nina Hinson, '63fa, Dallas, Texas, sang the role of the foreign princess in the Los Angeles premier of Dvorak's opera, *Rusalka*, presented in early December by the University of Southern California Opera Theater. Miss Hinson has won several awards for singing, including a Metropolitan Opera district competition. She leaves in January for a four-month tour of Europe and Israel with the U.S.C. Chamber Singers.

Robert Hale, '63m.ed, returned to the campus to give an hour concert in Holmberg Hall Auditorium October 29. Hale is on an eight-concert tour under sponsorship of the National Association of Teachers of Singing. He won the association's "National Singer of the Year" award in the spring of 1963.

Michael R. Doyle, '63bus, Abilene, Texas, has been commissioned a second lieutenant in the Air Force upon graduation from Officer Training School at Lackland AFB, Texas. Lieutenant Doyle is being reassigned to Sheppard AFB, Texas, for training as an accounting and finance officer.

MARRIAGES: Jane Ann Steadley, Oklahoma City, became the bride of Ens. Thomas Clifford McKee, '63eng, Port Hueneme, California, November 15 in the First Presbyterian Church of Oklahoma City.

Carolyn Jean Lyons, '63eng, Oklahoma City, and Bruce Edwin Armour, Los Angeles, California, were married November 23 in St. John's Episcopal Church at Norman. The couple will reside in Downey, California.

The Phillips Collection

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of Oklahoma Territory, and continued by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Ferguson and their children. Included are some 900 framed photographs of prominent early-day Oklahomans, some 1,600 valuable and often rare books and pamphlets about the territory, extensive files of early newspapers and an estimated 75,000 manuscripts.

In western history, the famous Rose col-

Mat Brats

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time that an opponent's shoulders must be held in contact with the mat to constitute a fall. The time has been cut from two seconds to one second. The Olympic free-style rules also will move to one second from the "flash" fall which required that the wrestler's shoulders merely touch the mat for a fall.

Evans believes his youngsters will lose four, maybe five, of the 17 dual meets. Two of those losses will be to that doggone Stillwater bunch and another to Iowa State, probably the second best team in the nation next to you-know-who. How the youngsters will perform in the Big Eight meet and the NCAA is anybody's guess, but they are a year away from being a real threat to take national honors although the way they have been surprising people all year would shake any so-called expert's confidence. They opened the season with a lovely little jaunt East, defeating Lehigh, Rutgers and Army, with Holm pinning all three of his opponents. The beardless ones then defeated UCLA and Kansas State at Norman before being turned every way but loose by OSU, 21-3. The sophs wrestled like sophs and O.U. could manage only four takedowns all night. Lam was the only Sooner to win although Stanley and Karel Blubaugh came close. The team bounced back with meet victories over Michigan State at Norman and Iowa and Mankato State on the road before dropping their second dual to Minnesota, 14-12, at Minneapolis.

Evans likes OSU to win the national title with Iowa State second. "All I can say about us is that we'll be there," says he. It might be a good place to come of age.—PAUL GALLOWAY

lection of 2,100 negatives of early western scenes was acquired, as well as the Bartholomew collection of books and journals. A program of buying microfilm of Indian archives in Washington, D.C., continues through the use of special funds. Important purchases have also been made in recent months in areas of Indian history, for significant additions on the history of the livestock industry and in general histories of the West.

The American West has many dimensions, and because they are all tied up with Oklahoma history, enduring purchases like these all help to make the University a greater institution.

"From visiting numerous libraries across the nation and corresponding with various individuals, I am convinced that the status of a great university comes not only with its faculty and research centers but also from great collections," Dr. Gibson says.

And it was through the vision of such men as E. E. Dale and Frank Phillips that the whole sweep of the West can now be practically at the fingertips of anyone who visits the Phillips Collection.

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