A SUMMATION of Oklahoma's 1939 football season—
That accidental kick in the head Fullback Bob Seymour suffered in the first minute of the Missouri clash probably cost Oklahoma a Big Six championship and a $50,000 Bowl game this fall. Until Seymour was hurt and the defeats started, Oklahoma was being strongly considered for the Sugar Bowl game at New Orleans.

A healthy Seymour in the Missouri game might have meant an Oklahoma victory by at least two touchdowns. Oklahoma's second quarter drive that fizzled on the Tiger four-yard line very probably would have succeeded if Seymour hadn't been groggy from his concussion.

Also, had Seymour been able to play against Nebraska (he stayed home, confined in the University infirmary) the Cornhuskers would not have run through the Sooners as they did. Both Nebraska touchdowns were short forward passes through the defensive left halfback territory usually defended by Seymour and the two costly Oklahoma fumbles that ruined long Sooner power drives were made by Seymour's substitutes, younger and less experienced lads who were doing a sweet job of line-smashing but just happened to drop the ball at the wrong time.

Incidentally Seymour was married December 9 at Seminole to Miss Melba Vil-lines of Seminole. Next day he was drafted for professional football by the Washington Redskins. Several other Oklahoma players also were claimed by the draft.

Incidentally, Oklahoma may have as many as a dozen of her former players in the "pro" game next fall. Six men played this fall, Earl Crowder and Jim Thomas with the Chicago Cardinals, Waddy Young with the Brooklyn Dodgers, Hugh McCullough with the Pittsburgh Pirates, Mickey Parks with the Washington Redskins and Swede Ellstrom with the St. Louis Gunners. Frank Ivy, John Shirk, Gilford Duggan, Ralph Stevenson, J. R. Manley, Beryl Clark, Dick Favor and Seymour of this year's team may all take a whirl at it next fall.

Grantland Rice, selecting Collier's fifteenth annual All-American team, the eleven started by the late Walter Camp of Yale, honored Frank Ivy, Oklahoma right end from Skiatook, by placing him at end. Last year Rice named Waddy Young at end. Gilford Duggan, Sooner left tackle, made Bill Stern's All-American printed in Life magazine and also was selected on the New York Sun's All-American eleven.

The Sooners were the champion crowd-pullers of the Southwest this year, drawing close to a quarter of a million fans. Tom Stidham-coached Oklahoma teams have set new all-time attendance records at the Iowa State (18,700), Kansas State (17,530) and Missouri (27,000) stadiums and also established a new mark of approximately 47,000 for an opening game at Dyche stadium at Evanston, Illinois, and an all-time Texas-Oklahoma game record of 27,000 at Dallas.

However the Sooners' most pleasing attendance gains were made at home where in spite of the weak home schedule, an average of 23,251 fans saw the contests against Southern Methodist, Kansas, Oklahoma Aggies and Iowa State, establishing all-time throngs for the latter three games. The 1939 Norman attendance as announced by Bill Cross, athletic business manager:

- Southern Methodist: 26,905
- Kansas: 21,979
- Oklahoma Aggies: 24,555
- Iowa State: 20,967

Twice this past season Oklahoma games were broadcast by national chains. When the Sooners licked Northwestern of the Big Ten conference 23 to 0 at Evanston in October, Ford Pearson of the National Broadcasting system, Ted Husing of Columbia, and the Mutual system told the Nation about it. The 6-7 defeat to Missouri at Columbia November 18 also was broadcast by Pearson and Husing for National and Columbia.

The Oklahoma team this year was the highest scoring aggregation developed at Norman in the last twenty years. Stidham's 1939 team averaged 20.2.5 points or roughly three touchdowns per game this fall although playing a tough schedule—the highest average since 1919.

However, the champion Oklahoma scoring team of all times was Bennie Owen's 1916 aggregation which amassed the monumental total of 472 points in eleven games, an average of nearly 43 points per contest. Included among the Sooners' victims that season were the Weatherford, Oklahoma, Teachers by 140 to 0, Catholic university of Enid by 107 to 0 and King-fisher college by 96 to 0.

The Sooners this year were improved in nearly all departments over the great Oklahoma team of last autumn. Stidham's 1939 team averaged 173 net yards rushing per game to 133 last year, gained 40.1 yards from the line of scrimmage to 36.5 last season, completed 54 percent of their forward passes to 50.7 percent last year, averaged 12.3 yards per each completed pass to 10.3 last year, permitted only 33 percent of opponents' passes to 42.1 last year and returned kickoffs 438 yards to 287 yards last season.

The lone major department in which Oklahoma fell down, and the Sooners tumbled badly in it, was defense against opponents' rushing. The Sooners let their nine opponents pile up 1,032 yards rushing this year whereas last season Oklahoma led the nation in this phase of defensive play with only 406 yards running permitted in ten games.

Poor tackling, both by backs and linesmen, probably was the biggest factor in the defensive rushing weakness this year. For example, on the two touchdown runs of 68 and 72 yards by Jack Crain of Texas...
and also the 58-yard sprint through the mud by Bill Cunningham of Missouri, several Oklahomans had clean shots at the ball-lugger but were out-maneuvered by Crain and Cunningham, who incidentally were sophomores.

Beryl Clark, the slender Cherokee lad who made such a gallant comeback this fall in the face of odds that would have badly discouraged a less courageous player, was Oklahoma’s leading ground-gainer in all departments this season with a grand total of 689 yards, not counting 435 yards of forward passes he threw.

The complete Sooner yardage table by individuals:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>YDS</th>
<th>REC</th>
<th>YDS</th>
<th>PUNT</th>
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<th>YDS</th>
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Jimmy McNatt, senior forward, leads the Oklahoma basketball team into action this season. McNatt holds the Big Six Conference individual scoring record of 29 points set against Iowa State last year, and also was named All-Big Six forward as a sophomore and junior.

Lincoln November 25, return almost every man of their team intact and are an overwhelming favorite to recover the Big Six title next season since Missouri and Oklahoma lose heavily from their squads. Against the Sooners before 36,000 at Lincoln, Biff’s Cornhuskers showed Oklahomans the slashingest, most deceptive running attack the Sooners met all year. The Sooners, playing without Seymour and Center Novel Wood, saved themselves a shut out when Clark completed three passes in a row, the last to Alton Coppage, for a touchdown in the final minute of play and kicked goal.

What will Oklahoma have in football next fall? Very probably a greener and weaker team than this season since Coach Stidham loses eight of his eleven starting players: Ends John Shirk and Ivy, Tackle Duggan, Guards Stevenson and Manley and Backs Favor, Clark and Seymour, not to mention such valuable reserves as Coppage, Starr, Wilkinson, Locke, Bolten and Potter, a transfer student who had only a year of eligibility left here.

Two players of former seasons, Howard “Red Dog” McCarty, halfback who broke his hip in the Oklahoma Aggie battle a year ago, and Howard Teeter, tackle who was benched by typhoid two campaigns hence, may return to the squad.

Although a few of the freshmen listed below may not be able to run up to the academic scrimmage line, the following squad will report to the coaches for spring practice in February:

ENDS—Louie Sharpe, Lyle Smith and Ray Mullen with some playing experience. Also freshmen W. G. Lamb, Ardmore; Ervin Osterle, Henryetta; Howard Yielding, Walters; Jerry Jarratt, Crystal City, Tex.; Ancil Young, Norman; Ralph Schilling, Seminole.

TACKLES—Harold Lahar, Justin Bowders, Roger Eason and Wright Phebus with some playing experience. Also freshmen W. S. Lamb, Ardmore; Ervin Osterle, Henryetta; Howard Yielding, Walters; Jerry Jarratt, Crystal City, Tex.; Ancil Young, Norman; Ralph Schilling, Seminole.

CENTERS—Cliff Speegle, Novel Wood and Jack Marsee with playing experience. Also freshmen Homer Simmons, Seminole; John Funk, Okmulgee; Alton Tallman; Chief, Fairfax; Laddie Birge, Duncan and Joe Allton, Claremore.

GUARDS—Olin Keith, Ralph Harris and Chad Vallance with some playing experience. Also Willie Wick and Allen Fender of the 1939 squad. Also freshmen Jack Haberlein, McAlester; Sammy Stephens, Walters; Mitchell Shadd, Oklahoma City; Joe Somerville, Norman.

BASKETBALL Schedule

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 5</td>
<td>Kansas at Lawrence</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 6</td>
<td>Kansas State at Manhattan</td>
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<td>January 10</td>
<td>Oklahoma Aggies at Stillwater</td>
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<td>January 20</td>
<td>Iowa State at Norman</td>
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<td>January 27</td>
<td>Nebraska at Lincoln</td>
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<td>January 29</td>
<td>Missouri at Columbia</td>
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<td>February 2</td>
<td>Kansas State at Norman</td>
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<td>February 9</td>
<td>Nebraska at Norman</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 12</td>
<td>Missouri at Norman</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Oklahoma Aggies at Norman</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 2</td>
<td>Iowa State at Ames</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 8</td>
<td>Kansas at Norman</td>
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Orville Mathews, with some playing experience. Also Jack Steele and Maury West of the 1939 squad. Also freshmen Pat Shanks, Drumright; Huel Hamm, Oklahoma City; Lindell Hayes, Wagoner; Charles Denison, Idabel; Clyde Parrish, Ardmore; Dene Harp, Fairview; Bill Mattox, Walters; Boyd Bibb, Sayre; Bill Campbell, Pawhuska and Roy Cagle, Oklahoma City.

Thirty-five hundred students and faculty members, out to prove that they weren’t fair-weather fans, marched into the University Fieldhouse after the close of the football season to pay tribute to Tom Stidham’s Sooner football team, which the Saturday before had lost its second straight game of the season to Nebraska’s powerful Cornhuskers.

Vigorous cheers echoed through the building in response to speeches by President Bizzell and Coach Stidham and short talks by the football players, who were introduced from the stage.

Biggest applause came to Dr. Bizzell’s reference to Stidham as “one of the greatest coaches in America and one of the greatest football strategists in the nation.”

“I’d like to remind you,” the University president told his hearers, “that if you harbor any feeling of disappointment over the season, all that stood in the way of complete victory was a little arithmetic—one touchdown and one field goal.”

“We should have won at Missouri. We had the best team on the field up there. We went up against a team (Nebraska) Saturday that had pointed for O.U. all year. It meant everything in the world to Biff Jones to beat Tom Stidham.”

Paul Young, Oklahoma’s great all-Big Six center of 1931 now coaching at Ardmore, figured humorously in the news right after Thanksgiving.

Young’s green Ardmore team, losing all but one regular from its powerful last year’s aggregation, had lost every game this fall up to the Thanksgiving finale with Pauls Valley, to be played at Pauls Valley.

Fearing Pauls Valley’s favorite strategy, the old “hide out” play, Young stationed an Ardmore scout in the stands with an old-fashioned coon horn and instructed him to blow it long and loud every time Pauls Valley tried the “hide out” play. He then warned his boys to be alert and listen for the blast of the horn.

In the game that followed Pauls Valley tried the play twice, and each time Young’s keen-eyed grandstand scout detected it and blew his horn with all the power in his lungs.

However, in spite of Young’s precaution, his befuddled Ardmore boys had forgotten what the horn meant and Pauls Valley completed both passes and won the game, 19 to 7!