Sports Review

By Harold Keith

The University of Oklahoma won its eighth Big Six conference all-sports championship of the past 12 years this spring, finishing first with a low total of 25 points in the ten recognized conference sports to 32½ for Nebraska, 33½ for Kansas State, 34 for Iowa State, 39/2 for Missouri and 45½ for Kansas.

Sooners athletic teams winning outright championships were Coach Leslie Hewes' tennis team, which has won the title four of the five years Hewes has coached, and Coach Yap Haskell's baseball team. Coach Bruce Drake's Sooner basketball team tied Kansas and Missouri for the cage title.

Oklahoma also won all-sports crowns of the old Missouri Valley conference in 1927 and 1928, the Sooner's last two years in that league, to make it 10 all-sports titles in the last 14 seasons, a record that speaks very highly of the university's athletic program and its splendid coaching staff which is second to none in the nation.

The above compilation does not include polo, which isn't an official conference sport, although Oklahoma's fine polo team, coached by Capt. L. R. Wingfield, also dominated the Big Six, defeating Iowa State and Missouri both at home and away without losing a match. Only Oklahoma, Iowa State and Missouri play polo in the Big Six conference.

The Big Six all-sports table for the school year 1939-40:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Oklahoma</th>
<th>Nebraska</th>
<th>Kansas</th>
<th>Iowa State</th>
<th>Missouri</th>
<th>Kansas State</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outdoor</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Track</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5½</td>
<td>5½</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wrestling</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>Indoor Track</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3½</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2½</td>
<td>4½</td>
<td>3½</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>32½</td>
<td>33½</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>39½</td>
<td>45½</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graduations

As usual, the university bade goodbye to a swell crop of senior athletes this spring. Among the departing top-notchers in the various sports are:

**Football:** Capt. Norval Locke, Frank Ivy, John Shirk, Alton Coppage, Gifford Duggan, George Wilhelm, Ralph Stevenson, Jerry Bolton, J. R. Manley, Bob Seymour, Dick Favor, Byron Potter and Beryl Clark.

**Basketball:** Capt. Marvin Mesch, Jimmy McNatt, Marvin Smooglass and Herb Scheffler.

**Track:** Ray Gahan, Jack Morris, Albert Tone, McNatt, Shirk and Potter.

**Baseball:** Jimmy Pope, Scheffler, Poppey Laseter, Sam Blackwell, Jack Riley, Carol Berryman and Roy Myer.

**Swimming:** Ed Ham.

**Wrestling:** Harry James and Chocaw Smith.

**Two-Mile Race:** Gahan.

University of Oklahoma tennis players say Oklahoma Aggie cowbells gave them as much trouble as the Aggie players during their recent 1-5 defeat to the Aggies at Stillwater. Every time a Sooner started to hit a ball, one of the 500 hilarious Aggie cowbells rattled a cowbell and many a Sooner drive was foiled over the backstop as a result. Although this was unusual tennis ethics, Coach Hewes' Sooners weren't caught napping when the Aggies came to Norman for the return match. All week prior to the match, the Sooners practiced with their freshman squad ringing cowbells on the sideline...just in case. However, the Stillwater team was unaccompanied by its cowbells and with everything quiet as a tomb, the Sooners won 5-2. In the picture Bill Tenhagen (left), Sooner No. 3, rings two cowbells in the large ears of E. P. Litchfield, Jr., Sooner No. 4.

**Golf:** Mesch.

**Polo:** Jerry Galbreath, Alex Cheek and Harry Hill.

**Baseball**

Baseball was the most popular sports dish at Norman for spring sports fans and reached its climax in the widely-heralded games here May 6 and 7 with Uncle Billy Dirsch's University of Texas Longhorn who had won 16 of 17 games including a 13-7 licking of the Toledo Mudhens of the American association and 11-10 and 7-3 spankings of the Tulsa Oilers of the Texas league prior to their invasion of Norman.

Oklahoma won the first game 6 to 5 behind Jimmy Pope's gifted half-speed ball, moving the winning runs across the rubber on three consecutive squeeze bunts, the last off Mel Deutsch, giant Texas ace, who beat the Philadelphia Phillies of the National league 4 to 1 last year and has never lost a game in a Texas uniform. Deutsch came in as a relief twirler in the fourth inning and did not receive credit for the defeat.

Texas's savage hitting power burst in the very first inning when the speedy Charley Haas beat out a bounder off Pope's glove, Jack Stone singled to center, Capt. Clarence Pfiel sacrificed and Bobby Mears plated a home run down the left field foul line but the Sooners tied the score 3-3 in their half and went on to win with finesse despite the Texas hitting superiority.

Oklahoma also won the second game. Trailing 4 to 6 in the ninth when Pfiel put Texas ahead with a long home run
with Stone on, the Sooners staged a three-
run rally in the last of the ninth featuring
bunts, walks and a long fly by Jack
Riley that drove in the winning run.
Again such Sooners strategy as the sacri-
fice, the hit-and-run, speed on the base-
paths and Coach Haskell’s policy of
throwing his batsmen how to out wait
enemy pitchers prevailed over Texas’s
murderous slugging as the largest crowds
of the season came to see the vaunted
Longhorns play at Norman for the first
time in 26 years.

After the series, the Daily Texan, stu-
dent newspaper for the Longhorns, said
of the series:

“The Longhorns’ heart-breaking series
with the Sooners received a big play in
the Daily Oklahoman, the Oklahoma City
newspaper. Several pictures were taken
of both games and nearly half the sports
page was devoted to the game and side-
lights. The newspaper billed the series
as ‘The College World Series of 1940’ and
if the Sooners can take the Longhorns
twice in a row, they must have a team
worthy to receive high honors.”

Texas had defeated the Sooners 8 to 6
at Austin in March.

If an all-opponents team composed from
the colleges who played at Norman this
spring were selected, it would probably
include:

- outfield—Haas, Texas
- outfield—Piel, Texas
- outfield—Landrum, Oklahoma Aggies
- third base—Mears, Texas
- shortstop—Hornsby, Kansas State
- second base—Stone, Texas
- first base—Haley, Baylor
- catcher—Doyle, Oklahoma Aggies
- pitcher—Deutsch, Texas
- pitcher—Williams, Oklahoma Aggies
- pitcher—Barnes, Baylor

The final Sooner hitting averages for the
season just ended showed that Popeye
Lasater, senior second baseman, led the
club in hitting with .420 while Third
Baseman Jack Riley was probably the
most valuable player other than pitchers
with the most hits, triples, homers, extra-
base hits and runs batted in.

The Sooner averages reveal that Has-
kell’s team hit only .279 yet made 201
hits get 146 runs, stole 54 bases and laid
down 26 sacrifices. Every player on the
squad could bunt, eleven men sacrificed
at least once during the season, including
all four of the pitchers.

**Polo**

Captain Wingfield’s Sooner polo team
won 15 consecutive games this spring,
and also established the all-time record of
having only one contest washed out by
rain, before going down in the season’s
finale before the University of Arizona’s
great 10-goal outfit at Hal Niemann field
in Norman before 2,500 spectators, 10 to 7.

The Sooners defeated the University
of Illinois twice, Texas Aggies twice, New
Mexico Military Academy twice, Okla-
ahoma Military Academy four times, Iowa
State twice, Missouri twice and the Fort
Sill field artillery team once before bow-
ing to Arizona, and particularly to Ar-
izona’s great No. 4, Bob Dent, and her
clever No. 3, little Charlie Mosse.

The Oklahoma team of 1940 ranked
close to the greatest team ever developed
at the university, the all-victorious 1931
and 1932 outfits which had a great No. 2
in J. Brac McKinley (who died of a tooth
infection a few weeks ago while com-
manding a C.C.C. encampment near
Sentinel, Oklahoma) and a swell back in
Joe Barnhill.

**Tennis**

The Sooner tennis team won five of the
six championship brackets in the Big Six
meet at Lincoln. Ed Lindsey triumph-
ing in the No. 1 singles, Walter Mead in
No. 2 and Bill Tenhagen in No. 4 which
he swept with the loss of but three games
in six sets.

The Lindsey-Mead and Bob Davis-Ten-
hagen doubles combinations also won.
All the Sooner tennis players will be
back next year.

**Track**

Haned all year by injuries, Coach John
Jacobs took his handful of Sooner track-
men to Lincoln, Nebraska, for the annual
Big Six meet and surprisingly finished
second to Nebraska, the Cornhuskers
counting 58 1/2 to Oklahoma’s 49 with
Kansas State third, Missouri fourth, Kan-
sas fifth and Iowa State sixth.

George Koettel, the “Alex Arrow,” won
the 100 and 220 yard dashes for the
Sooner, defeating in both races Gene
“Red” Littler, Nebraska’s sensational
sophomore National A. A. U. Junior 200-
meter champion and co-holder of the
American indoor record for 300 yards. In
his Friday’s trials, Koettel broke the Big
Six record for 220 yards around one curve,
doing 21.3 seconds. However when he
defeated Littler four yards in Saturday’s
finals, Koettel ran against a stiff north
wind and his time was only 22.6 seconds.

Five over-worked but game Soomers,
Koettel, Ray Gahan, Bill Lyda, Dick
Smathers and Fred Coogan, scored 36
points in track events alone, the Sooners
winning the mile relay by 20 yards.

Orv Mathews, sophomore sprinter,
could not go because of a torn leg muscle
while Jack Morris, Oklahoma’s Big Six
indoor high hurdle champion, was also
unplaced because of a recent appendec-
tomy. These injuries also cost Oklaho-
ma the dual meet with the Oklahoma
Aggies at Stillwater, and probable champi-
onships in the Drake Relays 440, 880 and
sprint medley relays.

**Postscripts**

Shorts.... Bruce Drake’s Sooner golf
team, with three sophomores on the roster,
raised the number of university’s consec-
tutive dual golf wins to 30 this spring....
Coach Jap Haskell’s Sooner baseball teams
have won 31 consecutive Big Six games
at Norman since losing a 14-16 slugfest
to Kansas seven years ago.... Tom Stid-
ham, Sooner athletic director, lobbied
hard for adoption of the rule to let junior
college athletes compete at Norman in
their first year of enrollment (a rule now
in force in the Southwest, Missouri Val-
ley and Pacific Coast leagues) but the
Big Six faculty men refused to pass it.