Reviewing Sooner Sports

By Harold Keith, '29

BIG SIX title hopes of the Sooner basketball team were crushed in late February when the Oklahomans were defeated by Kansas 30-19 in a game at Lawrence. However, the Soonees still held third place in the conference with five victories and three losses, and had chalked up several non-conference victories that helped give a touch of success to the season.

Most pleasing of the Sooner victories was the 30-19 winning streak of coach Iba's Oklahoma Aggies at Norman, January 13. That upset triumph, scored before 3,707 people in the Fieldhouse, the largest home basketball crowd of the last eight years, broke an Aggie winning streak of nine consecutive games and gave Coach McDermott the record of having won two of three contests from Iba's team on the large Fieldhouse floor.

Don Gunning, Sooner center from Enid, who isn't tall enough to get the important center tip, was nevertheless the game's heroic figure with his eternal hustling, his aggressive post play and his ability to hold both Kalsu and Barringer, Aggie centers, scoreless.

Iba's team tied the score at 11-11 and 15-15 but each time Tec Connelley, Sooner guard from El Reno, broke the tie with beautiful long shots.

The Soonees kept going after that Aggie triumph, defeating Kansas State 34 to 31 at Lincoln, Nebr., the following night. They lost a return game to the Iba's Aggies at Stillwater, 27 to 32, but rallied three nights later to defeat Missouri 42 to 26 at Norman.

How McDermott's team can go on winning without the important center jump is stumping fandom. The answer probably is that seven of the first eight Aggies are seniors who handle the ball cooly and smartly and can hit from any angle in the offensive third of the court, making a higher percentage of their shots although they usually get less shots than the foe, owing to loss of the center jump. Also, the '37 team is one of the fightingest aggregations McDermott ever developed or else it wouldn't win so many close ones.

Huskers get Biff Jones

Biggest news of the month was the announcement that Major Lawrence "Biff" Jones, whom the War Department last November forced to resign the Oklahoma coaching assignment to attend staff school at Fort Leavenworth, Kans., had resigned from the army to accept a five-year coaching contract at Nebraska which had just lost Dana Bible, its fine coach, to the University of Texas.

Tom Stidham, the new Sooner coach, of Creek Indian blood, is glad Biff has chosen to remain in football. With Biff Jones' Nebraska team and Dana Bible's Texas team both on the Oklahoma schedule next fall, Tom feels the young Sooner team has a real mark to shoot at and despite the odds he wouldn't forfeit either of these games for a bale of wampum.

Matmen drop two matches

Coach Paul Keen's Sooner wrestling team, defending national collegiate champions, lost its first two matches, Edmond Teachers triumphing 19-11 at Norman and Weatherford Teachers winning 18-11 at Stillwater.

Without taking anything away from either the Edmond or Weatherford teams, it might be said the Sooners are largely a sophomore aggregation this year and of the veterans left, D. C. Matthews, 126 pounds, and Port Robertson, 165 pounds, each a finalist in the national collegiate, were unable to wrestle in either meet because of injuries.

Billy Carr, 118-pounder from Cushing who hasn't lost a bout in two years, and Bill Keas, 155-pounder from Carter, are leading the team in scoring.

Floyd Lochner, Sooner runner who set a new American record of 10m. 1.5s in the two-mile steeplechase at New Orleans in December, placed fourth in the two-mile run in Boston's Knights of Columbus Indoor meet January 30 and third in the Millrose Games two-mile at Madison Square Garden, New York, February 6.

At New York, Lochner beat such stars as Joe McCluskey, Ray Sears, and Wayne and Blaine Rideout but was passed by Indiana's Don Lash on the last lap. Tom Swineford, senior drama student from Enid, was pleasantly surprised in January by word that he was chosen as the first student to receive an anonymous scholarship fund donated to the College of Fine Arts.

SPRINTS SCHEDULE

Wrestling
March 5, 6, Big Six meet at Lincoln, Neb.
March 16, Okla. Aggies at Stillwater.
March 19, National Collegiate meet at Terre Haute, Ind.
Indoor Track
March 5, 6, Big Six meet at Columbia, Mo.
Outdoor Track
March 26, 27, Texas Relays at Austin, Tex.
Tennis
March 25, Baylor at Norman.