Army Draws Athletes

By HAROLD KEITH

TENNIS—Tenhagen, Walter Mead, E. 1'.
WRESTLING—Byrd, Hoy Stone, Bennie

The University of Oklahoma's youthful sports teams bowed during the school year 1940-41 to the University of Nebraska when the Big Six All-Sports table was computed and announced.

Teams wearing the traditional Cornhusker scarlet won the ten-sport all-around test this past school year with a low total of 25% points. Nebraska had won the conference all-around title eight of the last twelve years and the last three years consecutively before the Northern school finally broke through.

The Sooners tied with Iowa State for second place with 28 points each. Missouri was fourth with 38, Kansas State fifth with 41 and Kansas last with 46½.

Nebraska’s feat of sweeping the three running sports on the conference program—fall two-mile race (formerly called crosscountry), indoor track and outdoor track—plus a Cornhusker championship in football carried the big school from the Cornlinds home ahead of the field. Iowa State won swimming and wrestling and tied for first in basketball. The Sooners also licked Missouri and Iowa State in polo which isn’t a recognized conference sport since only three schools play it.

The table for 1940-41:

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<th>Sport</th>
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Trim Aggies

Some compensation for the all-sports loss to Nebraska was the University of Oklahoma’s feat of winning the school year’s ascendency from its firmly intra-state rival, Oklahoma A. and M. College of Stillwater.

Sooner athletic teams defeated the Aggies in football, fall two-mile race, track and field, tennis and baseball. Aggie teams defeated the Sooners in wrestling, swimming and basketball. Golf was a draw, each school winning one dual meet.

The school year’s tally by sports was: Sooners 5, Aggies 3.

Tennis Is Tops

Coach Leslie Hewes' Sooners tennis squad won its fourth Big Six title in the past five years during the conference single round robin competition for 1941.

Oklahoma was all-victorious in Big Six team play and also won 23 of the 24 individual Big Six matches. Kansas, Kansas State and Missouri were beaten at Lawrence, Manhattan and Columbia, while Nebraska and Iowa State fell before the Sooners at Norman.

The decisive meet was the Oklahoma-Iowa State finale at Norman. The Cyclones and Sooners were tied for the top with four wins and no defeats but in their dual meet here, moved indoors onto the R. O. T. C. Armory court because of rain. Oklahoma won all six matches without dropping a set.

Walter Mead, corporal Sooners senior and captain, closed his three-year Big Six career all-victorious. Walt Newman, big transfer student from Jamestown, N. Y., who played at No. 4 or No. 5 for the Sooners, won all eleven matches this year.

Golfers Also Best

Oklahoma also won the Big Six golf championship, finishing all-victorious. Strangely enough, Coach Bruce Drake’s Sooners got their hardest match from the conference’s cellar team, Kansas State, which was defeated by one point on sand greens at Manhattan, Kansas.

The Sooners record in Big Six play:

*Oklahoma 10 ¼ Nebraska 7 ½
*Oklahoma 9 ½ Kansas State 8 ¼
*Oklahoma 13 ¼ Kansas 4
*Oklahoma 14 Missouri 4
*Oklahoma 11 ¼ Iowa State 6 ½

*played at Norman.

Ted “Golfer” Gwin, Oklahoma’s long-hitting business student from Tulsa, was medalist in the State Amateur championship at Oklahoma City early in June, firing 143, four better than the nearest of his 123 opponents, as he trimmed the best amateurs in Oklahoma. However Gwin was eliminated in the second round of match play, 1 up, on the 19th hole.

Baseballers Second

Handled most of the season by Assistant Coach Jack Baer, the fledgling Sooner baseball team finished second in the Big Six race with six wins and two defeats. Missouri’s veteran team also finished with two defeats but won the championship because they played more games than Oklahoma.

The Tiger-Sooner series in Norman late in May was a thriller. In the first game...
Bill Spencer, Missouri’s big right-hander, showed consummate control and a slow curve that bent like a trout hook to beat the Sooners and Hal Cumberland, Sooner fire-ballingsophomore, 3 to 2. It was the first conference baseball game Oklahoma had lost at Norman in nine years.

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However in the second game of the series Virgil Ward, Sooner junior, stranded the Tigers, pitching hitless ball for eight innings. Meanwhile the revenge-bent Sooners were hitting sharply and batted out a 4-2 triumph.

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Walter Stephenson, fleet Sooner base-snatcher and lead-off man, was the batting champion of the Oklahoma team with an average of .392. Stephenson led in hits, three-baggers and stolen bases. The Henryetta Whippet purloined 15 sacks in 15 games, an average of one a game for the season.

Lyda’s triumph was epochal since he defeated, for the first time, Nebraska’s saucy little red-head Gene “Red” Littler, defending Big Six champion and runner-up last year in the National Collegiate meet to the great Grover Klemmer of California. Three times last year and twice this season Littler had met and conquered Lyda at 440 yards.

Lyda drew a wretched starting lane, sixth place, while Littler broke from the second position. This meant that Lyda had to spot his opponent four or five yards before the race began. But the Sooners didn’t complain. Employing Coach John Jacob’s advice “not to let that Littler settle down and float,” Lyda made the tiny Nebraskan sprint at top speed the first 340 yards. After that the pair of them staggered in the best they could (because no man can sprint a full 440) with Lyda out-fastering his foe to win by two and one-half yards.

Even in defeat, Littler, who had just lost the first 440-yard race of his life before his home crowd at Lincoln (5,000 shocked Nebraska track fans saw the race) was cocky.

The top ranking 440-yard marks made in America this spring are:

- 46.4 by Klemmer, California.
- 46.5 by Littler, Nebraska.
- 47.6 by Lyda, Oklahoma.
- 47.7 by Hall, Rice.
- 48 by McDowell, St. John’s.
- 48.1 by Cochran, Indiana.
- 48.2 by Bogrow, New York U.
- 48.2 by Boswell, Alabama.
- 48.3 by MacMitchell, New York U.

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"I don't think he'll come back for the half-mile," the impudent little Cornhusker told a teammate, after he had congratulated the Sooner and climbed into his warmups.

Polo Pony Types

Jim Hester rolls his own cigarettes, speaks softly and artfully, practices a little law and coaches the University of Oklahoma polo team on the side. He contends that polo ponies have whims and personalities just like polo players.

In other words, Jim contends that horses, just like human beings, are sulky, dependable, smart or dumb, and furthermore he can name you examples from the R. O. T. C. string now playing in all Sooner polo games at Norman.

But let's put Jim up in the saddle and give him the reins.

"The orneriest pony on the Sooner string is a 10-year old dark brown blaze-face called Dr. Pepper," Hester asserts, "If Dr. Pepper doesn't agree with his rider, he will go anywhere he wants to and you can't do anything about it. He's hard to handle. His favorite pastimes is breaking loose at the South Canadian river and running every step of the two miles in.

"He is stubborn and headstrong. Once this spring when somebody in a riding class rode him across a highway, Dr. Pepper ran over an approaching car, knocked it off the highway and demolished it to the extent of $190 damages.

"The steadiest and best-behaved pony on our string is Betty Co-ed, a little 950-pound paint. She's not fast nor brilliant, but she's gentle and reliable and experienced and always ready to go. She's never missed a game that I know of. Betty refused to leave the picket line.

"The smartest and best horse is War Chief, a big 13-year old brown. He's handy, rugged and can take it. He does everything well. He's fast, turns quickly, rides off well and can run in so small a circle you can write your name on him and dot the i.

"The clown of our string is Promenade, a long-legged bay. If you touch him a certain way with the reins, he will suddenly stop on all fours, causing his rider to sail over his head. His pet stunt is leaving the field without permission."

DOW

JULY, 1941