Here is the Sooner Big Six championship squad. First row, Roscoe Johnson, Gene Hammonds, Wayne Martin, Vernon Sisney, Luther English, Ralph Hughes. Back row, Ray Sandler, Floyd Nelson, Harry Broadbent, Jim Stacy, Ray Frogge, Marion Foreman, Coach Paul Keen.

Out in Front

By Harold Keith, '28journal

SOONER wrestling and indoor track teams maintained the Oklahoma tradition of having finished in the first division of every conference sport so far this school year by placing first and second respectively in annual meets at Columbia, Missouri, March 3.

Coach Paul Keen's Oklahoma wrestlers won the first conference team championship a Sooner athletic team has garnered so far this school year when they tallied 86 points to defeat Iowa State, last year's conference champions who are tutored by Hugo Ottopalik, coach of the last American Olympic wrestling team. Iowa State was second with 25. Then came Missouri with 17, Kansas 5, Kansas State 3, and Nebraska 2.

Coach John Jacobs' Oklahoma indoor track team, crippled by the loss of Loris Moody, Big Six 880-yard champion and demon relay runner, who broke his leg Christmas day, won a clean cut second in the conference indoor track meet, scoring 35.5 points. Kansas won with 41.4 points. Nebraska was third with 22.25; then came Iowa State with 17.5, Kansas State with 8.85, and Missouri with 6.5.

Thanks to the splendid performance of these two teams, Oklahoma now leads the Big Six conference in the all-sports table, which is the best indicator of a school's successful versatility in all the sports. In fact Oklahoma has won the all-sports championship of the old Missouri Valley and new Big Six conferences five out of the last eight years.

The Sooner two-man swimming team took a third in the conference meet March 10 at Lincoln, maintaining Oklahoma's record of not finishing in the second division this year.

Jack Davis, a sophomore paddler of Wichita, Kansas, set two records for the Sooner in-winning the 220 and 440-yard dashes. Murray McDonald, veteran Sooner of Chicago, Illinois, took a third in the 50 and a fourth in the 100-yard free-style.

Following is the all-sports standing for football, basketball, indoor track, wrestling and swimming:

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Coach Keen's feat of winning the Big Six championship in wrestling after his Sooner team had been wrecked February 1 when four regulars, Carr, Sisney, Kalpin and Bashara, were declared scholastically ineligible, is a real coaching feat. When the season started Keen had the makings of a team which he believed powerful enough to defeat both the strong Oklahoma Aggies and Weatherford Teachers. It swept its first two matches this year without the loss of a bout.

Then the semester examinations came along and approximately half the Oklahoma team flunked out, and promptly were barred from wrestling any more this year. Using a 126-pounder in the 145-pound weight and substitutes in three other weights, Oklahoma then was badly defeated by the fine Weatherford team, 3 to 23, and fell an easy prey to the Oklahoma Aggies, 3 to 31, and to the Edmond Teachers 7.5 to 18.3.

But all the time Coach Keen was working with his squad men, fellows who hadn't been quite good enough to win a place on the regular team, soon he began to get results. Two of them, Luther English of Guthrie and Ray Sandler of Tulsa, won their bouts against the Northeastern Teachers, enabling Oklahoma to win, 15.5 to 10.5, and a third, Harry Broadbent of Sulphur, 165 pounds, defeated Thiele, Kansas State heavyweight, and when Keen picked his squad for the conference tournament, it was substantially stronger than it had been at any time since his team had been wrecked by scholastic ineligibility and figured to go far in the tournament as the quality of wrestling in the Big Six was poorer this year than last.

At the tournament every man on the Sooner team wrestled as though on fire. Three of them, Wayne Martin, Tulsa 135-pounder; Broadbent; and Floyd "Swede" Nelson, 175-pounder from Holdenville, won championships in their weight. Three others, Sandler, Marion Foreman, Newkirk 155-pounder; and James "Red" Stacy, Altus heavyweight, won seconds. Roscoe Johnston, 118-pounder from Wilson, was third. The eighth Oklahoman, English, was eliminated by a coin flip after drawing with his opponent in the semi-finals.

And yet he never lost a bout.

In placing second to Kansas in the Big Six indoor track meet, Oklahoma placed in all the events save the half-mile and high hurdles, a feat that proved its balance. With Moody in shape, Oklahoma might easily have won a second in the 880 and perhaps trimmed the field in the mile relay, annexing the team championship. But of course a track team can't collect on suppositions.

Bart Ward, trim Weatherford junior, who has never lost a 440-yard race in the Big Six conference, won the 440 in 51.4 seconds and the broad jump at 23 feet 7 inches. He had a close call in the quarter, being pitted against Ken Wessling, of Iowa State, champion three years ago but out of school since. This duel between the former champion and the present champion was a beauty. Ward, straddling outside of Wessling, shot to the pole as soon as the runners got away and from there on in he and Wessling ran like a two-horse team with Ward winning by a foot.

Hugo Otopalik, coach of the last American Olympic wrestling team, tutored this year's champions who are the present champion and the former champion. It won the indoor track team championship. But of course a track team can't collect on suppositions.
Omar "Bud" Browning, junior of Enid, was rated this year as the most valuable basketball player in the Big Six. In scoring ninety-six points from a guard position, he set a new record and for the second consecutive year was on the all-conference team.

However Ward's best race was his third of the day, the 440-yard anchor leg in the mile relay which decided the meet. In this race he had for a foe the stocky world's champion miler and half-miler, Glen Cunningham of Kansas, the team that led in the team scoring. When the batons got around to them Cunningham had a 15-yard lead but the aggressive Ward was soon running up his back. Sight of the two of them battling it out, the burly Jayhawker bolting around the 220-yard track with long powerful strides and the slender Sooner slowly reducing the distance between them with his graceful flowing style brought the big crowd to its feet with a roar. Although he gained eight yards on Cunningham and was clocked in 50.7 seconds for his lap, which would have been about 48.7 seconds on an outdoor track, the handicap was too great for Ward to overcome and Kansas won the relay and the meet, Cunningham being timed in 51.9 seconds for his lap.

Floyd Lochner, blond sophomore from Agra whom Coach Jacobs is fast developing into a Sooner distance man whose feats threaten to surpass those of Lee Fields, "Red" Rutherford, Les Niblack and even Glen Dawson, won second in the mile and first in the two-mile. Lochner ran his last half in 2.08 and was unofficially clocked in 4.22 to finish only 15 yards behind Cunningham in the mile. Then with a 40-minute rest he proved he could repeat by winning the two-mile by a step from Landon, Kansas State's defending champion, in 9:45.1, a new University of Oklahoma indoor record.

After establishing a new university indoor record while winning his heat of the 60-yard dash in 6.3 seconds, Whit Cox of Tulsa ran third in a blanket finish in the finals. Tom Simms of Oklahoma City set a new university indoor record in the 60-yard low hurdles with a mark of 7.1 seconds, made in a heat, then pulled a leg muscle in the finals and was unplaced.

However Loyett Burk, his team mate, slipped through for a fourth, running the distance close to 7 flat in a race that saw the world's record tied by Lambertus of Nebraska.

Doug Barham, senior from Alex, won the high jump at six feet with Simms, a team mate, tied for second. On his last of three trials at 6 feet 4 inches, a new conference record, Barham was over the bar with his body but turned a bit too far and struck the bar off with his rear hand. Albert Gilles, senior from Edmond, took second in the shot, tying Ralph Ryder's University record with a put of 46 feet 9 inches. Joel Cunningham, sophomore from Konawa, tied for second in the pole vault with a leap of 12 feet 6 inches. He was the surprise of the meet to his team mates as he had never before vaulted that high outdoors.

Coach Jacobs has established himself as the outstanding indoor track mentor in the Big Six loop. Athletes coached by him hold more Big Six records than those from any other school. Also in the past seven years Jacobs' Oklahoma teams have won four conference indoor track championships, one of them a tie with Nebraska, and been runners-up in a fifth and sixth.

Jobs for Students

Four hundred students whose finances would not have allowed them to continue their studies at the University were placed on the federal payroll and given work on the campus in February. One-fourth of this group was not enrolled during the first semester and was brought back to the University or allowed to enter for the first time through the aid appropriated by Congress.

While this group of undergraduates was being put to work at campus landscaping, on research projects, in offices and in laboratories, Carl Giles, '05x, state CWA administrator, announced that the one hundred twenty-five college graduates who were given CWA jobs in research during January would be allowed to continue their work at least until April 1.

The larger group of undergraduates is required to be enrolled in full-time work and is restricted to earning twenty dollars a month. The average salary for the four hundred is fifteen dollars a month.

The group of graduates was allowed to enrol in a maximum of six hours of work during the semester as these research positions require much more of their time.

Students who were given aid by the direct appropriation of Congress were required to appear before faculty committees to establish their qualifications for work. The students had to be passing all hours of University work, of good character and in dire need of assistance.

Women students appeared before a committee comprised of Dean Edna McDaniel, Mary Ruth Holbrook and Dora McFarland, '21M.A. The committee for men students was George Wadsack, '18x, George V. Metzel and Walter W. Kraft.

As both types of workers were assigned to projects and were busily employed in all buildings on the campus, the CWA paving and painting projects started last December were finished.

Work completed on the campus by CWA workers included the paving of Asp avenue in front of the Union building and of Brookes in front of the library, the laying of seven stretches of new sidewalk and the painting of the interiors of several buildings, including the Fieldhouse.

Although no Public Works Administration projects have been approved for the University campus, President W. B. Bizzell has been hopeful that at least one or two of those applied for will be given Washington sanction.

Lloyd Gray, '31eng, is affiliated with the Gypsy Oil company in Roswell, New Mexico. Elizabeth Boyce Whitney, '31as, is teaching two courses in the University English department. She took the place of the late Minnie Mae Forbes, '10as, '11M.A., who died last fall.