Less Kicking, More Help, Please!

Here's a Way Alumni Can Help Sooner Athletic Prospects

By Ad Lindsey, Coach of the Football Team

In my opinion most of our alumni are taking their athletics a bit too seriously for what they are putting into it. They support a winner and demand a winner, and if it is not forthcoming right away they want meat. Usually, if the material was pronounced good by the doctors, lawyers and barbers, they want the coach; if it was generally conceded to be bad or if some of the best men flunked out they want the athletic director or the president. If any school is to have winning teams it must first of all have as good material as its rivals. There are not many miracle men in the coaching game and they do not win with poor material. The athletic director and coaches have their problems and I believe if a few of them were brought to the attention of the alumni they would appreciate it.

Oklahoma has colleges that seem to concentrate on a football team. They are located in towns where there are enough "jobs" to insure them a good team. Consequently, they can go to a good high school athlete and say, "We will give you a job where you can make from fifty to a hundred and fifty dollars a month if you will come to our school and you will not have much work to do."

Oklahoma goes in for all branches of athletics as our records in the Big Six will show. So far this year we have won second in football, first in basketball, second in wrestling, first in indoor track, and fourth in cross-country; with baseball, outdoor track and tennis yet to be determined. And whereas the schools I am thinking of need twenty-five athletes to carry on their program, Oklahoma needs 150 athletes. We are located in a smaller town and in addition the university records show that 700 additional men work their way wholly or partially through the university. With this large number seeking work the athletic department is hard pressed to find jobs for all our athletes. It stands to reason the athlete should get the preference in jobs as he gives something to the school, alumni, and town that the non-athlete does not.

Namely, a winning team which creates good feeling and makes it easier for everyone concerned.

So far so good, but here's the catch. Some of the business men and employers say the athlete won't work. They want a man who doesn't go out for anything for he is always on the job and if he doesn't work he must go home, so he will work like a slave. What are we going to do? We must have a team and the employer must have his work done.

The condition, right or wrong, exists and has to be dealt with by us. The good athlete, while yet a high school student, has been flattered and made over by friends and alumni of various schools. He has been offered "soft jobs" by certain schools such as seeing that the gymnasium door is locked each night and that the laundry gets the towels after practice. And even though he has money he is led to believe by our university alumni that we can and will meet any offer that anyone else can make him. Our alumni even get sore if we don't go out and do it. The worst feature of the whole thing is we don't have any way of knowing whether the high school boy will make good or prove a dud in college. Some of the athletes will do any kind of work, and some will do certain kinds of work well, but they are mostly high strung and will not do certain types of menial labor; they would rather go where the jobs are easier and the pay better. You may say, "Let them go," but remember it is the man who can deliver on the athletic field that fills the stadium and not the man who can use the plumber's friend. And a winning team draws the gate receipts, carries on our athletic program and creates good feelings.

The solution, as I see it, lies in education of all concerned. Let the business men and employers be educated to the fact that an athlete can't go to school, keep up his grades, go out for athletics and work four or five hours for thirty-five cents an hour. It is mentally and physically impossible.

Select for athletes the jobs that can be done and still leave time to go out for athletics. Educate the boy to the fact that he must do his work. If the employer finds the work of one athlete unsatisfactory, try another athlete; as in every class of workers a few are bad. Educate the alumni to pick only the best boys in their section of the country, boys they conscientiously think will study, work, and have the ability to make good here. There are in many universities, funds, scholarships, and tuitions given annually to worthy students, I see no reason why an athlete, if he is a good student, could not be helped through school by such aids from the alumni. It is only a question of getting better organized.

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Baseball Season Near

While the big league baseball clubs were enjoying the early spring weather in the far south for their training, Coach Jap Haskell's charges managed to get their initial workouts on a few sunny days during the first of March. His battery men were the first to begin getting rid of the kinks, and by the sixth of March his aggregation of talent was beginning to take on the appearance of a ball club.

The beginning season brought an abundance of material to the R. O. T. C. field where the boys are going through their conditioning process. Ten letter men have reported for the practice sessions, and there is a plentiful supply of promising sophomores in the running for positions. Haskell reports his men to be in comparatively excellent condition, most of them having engaged in other forms of athletics after quitting various amateur teams at the close of the season last fall.

The prospective pitching staff is composed of co-captain Lee Hunter, '29, Oklahoma City; Fay Coil, '30, Fort Smith; and Glenn Cannon, a newcomer from Sapulpa who seems to have plenty of stuff to make him a serious contender for a staff position.

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unparalleled stag, but I was too much fascinated by his dialect to interrupt him; I could understand only one word in every five.

We set out the third day determined that no hind would thwart us. It was a rare day in the highlands for autumn. The sun was shining and great clouds of mist hung round and obscured the granite peaks. "Wull find they in the vale" said the ghillie with a wink. We heard no bawling to direct us. We walked for three hours up and down hills, and then as we came to the top of a hill, we saw a band of five in the valley, grazing contentedly. The difficult part began here. We had to get into the slight breeze and crawl cautiously forward. We crawled for minutes out of sight of the band, then suddenly I saw the ghillie stop, flatten out and turn his head to me. I came nearer and listened for him to whisper. He turned slowly and said softly "dinna breathe." Three hundred yards off he came to his knees. He was badly wounded and we dared not go nearer than fifty yards. He saw us and attempted to rise, his little eyes directed at us savagely. Once he gained his feet and lunged toward us, but fell again. I ended his struggles with another bullet.

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receiving end of the battery will be either co-captain Bud Haswell, '29, Oklahoma City; Dick Marsh, or Roe Alexander, '29, Mckenzie, Tenn.

Bitsey Cook and Eph Lobough, '31, Pauls Valley, have been practicing at the second base position. Bus Wall who played at third last year, and Mickey Beets, '30, Ardmore, have been scooping up the grounders in the shortfield. Hardy Buff, '31, Oklahoma City, and Ole Talbott, veteran Sooner, have been holding down the hot corner, relaying the ground balls to John Murray, '30, Tulsa, and Ed Starkey, '29, Oklahoma City, at first base.

Coach Haskell has one letter man, Doc Lampton, to return to the outfield, and a bevy of good sophomore material in Charles Kitchell, '31, Kansas City, Kansas; Bus Mills, '31, Ranger, Texas; Ned Marshall, Quanah, Texas.

The schedule follows:
April 6 and 7, Washington at Norman.
April 12 and 13, Okla. Aggies at Stillwater.
April 16 and 17, Nebraska at Norman.
May 8 and 9, Iowa State at Norman.
May 15 and 16, Kansas State at Manhattan.
May 17 and 18, Kansas at Lawrence.
May 28 and 29, Nebraska at Lincoln.

Date not set for Sooner-Oklahoma Aggie game at Norman.

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Tennis

With the first game of the season scheduled for April 6, against Southern Methodist university, the Sooner netmen, consistent winners of high honors in the Missouri Valley conference, are ready to start the season, as a result of consistent winter practice.

The schedule follows:
April 6-----------------------S. M. U. at Norman
April 9-----------------------Drake at Norman
April 11----------------------O. U. at Stillwater
April 15----------------------Rice at Norman
April 19----------------------Missouri at Norman
April 27----------------------Iowa State at Norman
May 2------------------------O. U. at Lawrence
May 3------------------------O. U. at Manhattan
May 4------------------------O. U. at Lincoln
May 8------------------------Oklahoma Aggies at Norman
May 11----------------------Texas at Norman
May 18----------------------Big Six meet at Ames, Iowa