Tom Stidham moves up

By HAROLD KEITH, '29

A native Oklahoman who has had broad experience in big time football has been given the tough assignment of handling the University's football destinies for the next two years.

He is Tom Stidham, line coach for the last two seasons. He was advanced to the position of head football coach and athletic director to fill the vacancy left by resignation of Major Lawrence "Biff" Jones. Major Jones reluctantly gave up the coaching duties at Oklahoma because of an army assignment to go to the general staff and command school next fall at Fort Leavenworth.

Although the teams produced by Major Jones in his two years in Norman were not hailed by fans generally as being the all-conquering type they desire, a careful analysis of the records shows that the record was actually a very creditable one—a percentage of .600 for the two seasons.

But even more important, in the minds of those who know the inside of modern football, is the fact that Major Jones in two seasons has installed a solid foundation for the future as well as making a good record of performance on the field.

Stidham, after his appointment by the University Board of Regents, stated that he will endeavor to carry on the Jones system.

"I'll be mighty happy if I can carry on, to the best of my ability, the great job Biff Jones has started at Oklahoma. It has been a great opportunity for me to work with him. I understand he is to be here until the end of the school year. I'm glad, because I know the help and advice he'll give me will be invaluable."

Stidham's salary is $5,000 a year, his appointment as coach becoming effective January 1 and that of athletic director on July 1.

The regents authorized him to select his own staff and add an assistant. He subsequently announced Dewey "Snorter" Luster, '22as, '22law, Norman High school coach and former assistant on the University staff, would return to the campus as backfield coach. Luster, who has been unusually successful at Norman High school, was an O. U. football star from 1917 to 1920, and was line coach under Adrian Lindsey in 1929, 1930 and 1931.

Stidham retained the present coaching staff, but revised it to make Lawrence "Jap" Haskell line coach and R. H. Ers-
Newspaper comments on his death paid tribute to him as "one of Chandler's leading citizens, a man who during his years of association with the people of this community, endeared himself to all with whom he came in contact."

Richard Van Dyne, '33, sex, mathematics teacher in Woodward Junior college, died in an Oklahoma City hospital November 24 as a result of injuries received when he was struck by an automobile. Van Dyne, who was 27 years old, had almost completed work for a master's degree in the University. Funeral services were held at Plainview church near Woodward.

Dr. Gaines Brightwell, 29as, '31, med, and Mrs. Brightwell were killed when a tire on their automobile blew out near Beaver, Okla. Their car was hurled over a 15-foot embankment and lay unseen until a passing motorist heard the cries of the Brightwells' 5-month-old baby which was in a basket in the car.

The parents were dead, but the baby had only head bruises. The child was taken to the home of Mrs. Brightwell's parents in Denver. Dr. Brightwell had been practicing in Leedy for the last two years and was on route to Glenwood Springs, Colo., where he had been offered a hospital position.

Mrs. R. W. Skinner, the former Nora Cole, '27, sex, died in December and funeral services were held at Dallas, Texas. She was the wife of a former member of the state legislature from Miami, Okla. Mrs. Skinner wrote for newspapers and magazines in both Oklahoma and Texas under the name Nora Cole Skinner.

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Gerald Koons, 20-year-old student from Turpin, Okla., died December 2 in the University Infirmary. He was the son of Mrs. R. W. Skinner, the former Nora Cole, of Woodward.

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