

# Cooper Establishes New Indoor Pole Vault Record

By Jim Petersen

Nebraska defeated Colorado in a track meet Saturday night, 63-59, as Don Cooper, stellar vaulter bettered the world's record off a dirt runway by three inches at Boulder.

Don soared 14 feet 4 1/4 inches. The previous record of 14 feet 6 1/4 inches was held by Earl Meadows, a former Southern California athlete. This vault also topped the best collegiate performance of Don Laz of the University of Illinois.

His record vault was made possible through what was regarded earlier as an "unfortunate development". This "unfortunate development" was the bad weather which forced the scheduled outdoor meet inside and which enabled Cooper to break the record he was seeking throughout the entire indoor season.

This Saturday in an outdoor dual with Missouri, he will seek to break the 15 foot mark, a height which only three men have been able to attain. Len Kehl also came through with a fine vault of 13 feet six inches. He is the Big Seven indoor champion.

Tanner

Wally Tanner of Colorado set a new meet and field house record in the shotput. He heaved the iron ball 51 feet 3 inches, breaking the old mark of 51 feet 1 inch set by Rollin Prather of Kansas State. Grimm and Neilson placed second and third.

The best race of the night was in the 880. Dale Schnackel of Nebraska led John Creighton of Colorado by only ten yards with 110 yards left in the race. Creighton poured on the coal and passed



DON COOPER... star pole vaulter set a new indoor world record off the dirt runway Saturday night at Boulder. He is aiming to clip 15 feet before the season is over.

Schnackel winning the event in followed by Leroy Clark of Colorado 2:02.5. Schnackel finished second. Dole Kelley of Colorado equaled the meet record in the 60 yard dash with a :06.3. It was the first time this year that Kelley has been able to beat his teammate Augie Rasco who finished

second followed by Lee Alexander of Nebraska.

Meissner

Dick Meissner won his pet event, the high jump, with a 6 feet 5 inch jump. Joe Gold of Colorado got second with 6 feet 4 inches, with Irv Thode of Nebraska picking up third place with an even 6 feet.

Those won the broad jump with a leap of 23 feet 2 1/4 inches. He was followed closely by his team-mate, Glen Beerline, who had a leap of 22 feet 1 1/4 inches.

The discus throw was won by Lowell Neilson of Nebraska. He threw the plate 127 feet 3 inches. Ken Dunstan of Colorado got second, followed by his team-mate Bos Klammann.

Lee Alexander of Nebraska got a first in the 440 clipping off the distance in :52. Bill Reed of Colorado came in second, followed by Bill Hein of Nebraska.

The 60 yard high hurdles event was won by Don Bedker of Nebraska in the time of :07.7. Merwin Hodel of Colorado finished second with Dan Tolman of Nebraska coming in third.

Hodel

Merwin Hodel of Colorado got first in the 60 yard low hurdles going the distance in :07. Dan Tolman got second followed by

In the two mile run Jim Brennan of Colorado got first place with a 4:35.5. Gene Yeikin of Nebraska came in second.

The two mile run was won by Colin Couper of Colorado with the time of 10:17.2. Bob Kruger of Nebraska got second, with Bob McCone of Colorado taking third.

The meet was as close as the score indicates. Nebraska was trailing 58 to 59 with only the mile relay left. But the Huskers came through with a winning combination consisting of Tolman, Barcus, Hein and Kehl who went the distance in 3:31.1.

The four points gained in the relay turned the meet into a victory for Nebraska. Nebraska has won five of the seven track meets held between the two schools.

## Gier Tabs Eight For Gym Letters

Eight members of the Nebraska gymnastic team have been recommended for varsity letters and four freshman squad members have been recommended for freshman numerals.

Gymnastic coach Jake Gier announced that Art Hillman, Bobby Yarwood, Don Yoder, Jerry Tubbs, Paul Hughes, Al Runavun, Ira Epstein and Ed Craven's names will be presented to the athletic board of control for its consideration for the major letter "N."

## THE BENCH WARMER

Another chapter in the history of sports is rapidly coming to a close.

Look back at your athletic heroes of the past and you will notice that a great many of them rise and fall almost simultaneously.

During the last twenties and early thirties such personalities as Babe Ruth, Red Grange, Bobby Jones, Bill Tilden, and Johnny Weismuller all basked in the American sportlight and then rapidly faded out. These are but a few of Roaring Twenties stalwarts.

And now it seems the curtain is ringing down on some of our great performers.

The life of a professional athlete is quite short in years, but its brightness is made up by the great amount of admiration and respect which his fans give him.

Let us look over the present sports scene and notice a few of those who are rounding out a brilliant athletic career.

Louis

In boxing the one and only in the heart of the American public, Joe Louis, is rapidly approaching the end of the trail. He was a great champion during the late thirties and early forties. National sports writers have rated him among the top heavyweights of all time.

In our opinion Louis is marring what would have been a great career by attempting to regain his crown. Father Time has done to the Brown Bomber what no opponent could do. He has slowed the former champ down and fattened him up tremendously.

Now Louis is trying to win something back which is almost unquestionably beyond his grasp. He is beating up a few helpless jugs and may make quite a record for himself before he fights for the title again. But that record will mean little to Ezzard Charles.

Such baseball stalwarts as Joe Dimaggio, Marty Marion, and

Bob Feller will likewise be bowing out in a few years.

Dimaggio

Dimaggio is considered as one of the all-time center fielders. His batting, throwing arm, and smooth fielding are legendary even now in baseball circles.

Some of his best years were lost in the army, but he still was the main Yankee spark after his discharge.

Marty Marion, Mr. Shortstop of baseball a few years ago, has practically lost his position with the St. Louis Cards to a young rookie. He is now the Cardinal manager.

Marion was sensational outfielder and wielded a fairly potent bat.

Feller is in the twilight of a brilliant pitching career. He was the leading Cleveland Indian hurler before he went into the service and holds the American league record for strikeouts. During the past two years Bob Lemon has assumed Feller's spot as the Tribe mound ace.

Football

Turning the spotlight to football we find Steve Van Buren, Philadelphia Eagles; Sid Luckman, Chicago Bears; and Sammy Baugh of the Washington Redskins almost ready to hang up their grid togs.

Van Buren holds the National League ground gaining record and even last year he ranked fourth in that department.

Sid Luckman migrated from the University of Columbia to the Bear camp and became the first great T-formation quarterback. He was replaced last year by young Johnny Lujack.

Many rate Baugh as the greatest passer of all time. He announces each year that he will retire but reverses this decision and comes back for more.

These are but a few of the many who will be remembered long after they have disappeared from the sports scene. All are worthy of commendation, and the Halls of Fame should give each player the position he deserves.

## Missouri Coach Believes Pitching Is Main Weapon

Long before Dick Tracy's current comic-strip quarry, "Empty" made the phrase "as a matter of fact" popular, Missouri's baseball coach—"Hi" Simmons—was using a variation of the same cliché in every-day conversation.

So it was that just the other day when someone remarked to the Tiger coach that a little pitching went a long way in collegiate baseball, the Simmons' reply was quite in character.

"Fact of the matter is, that's true," agreed the drawing Hi. "Major leaguers figure that pitching is 75 per cent of their ball-club, and it's even higher in college."

That was Hi's flat assertion, and he'd stick with it. Fact of the matter is, he'd refer you to the 1950 Tiger baseball team by way of proving his point.

"We finished second in the conference last season with a 9-5 record," said Simmons, "but anyone checking the final Big Seven statistics would realize we didn't have much license to do that well."

"As a team, we were sixth in batting—just hit 200—sixth in total base hits, sixth in total runs, and sixth in total bases. In the field, our average of .339 was fourth-best in the league."

"We did get some pitching, though—some pretty good chucking out of Bob Smith who won five out of six starts for us, and saved a couple of other games besides. Then we also had boys like Roger Englert, Gene Crenshaw and Floyd Eberhard who helped along the way with a couple of good performances."

Workhorse

"But Smithy was our workhorse—and a good one. Not much to look at out there—skinny, loose-jointed and awkward—but how he could throw that crooked pitch. His arm carried us into

Varsity: "Born Yesterday," 1:16, 3:16, 5:16, 7:16, 9:18.

State: "Sierra Passage," 1:00, 3:42, 6:13, 8:55. "Bowery Battalion," 2:22, 5:04, 7:35, 10:17.

Husker: "Arson, Inc.," 2:14, 4:32, 6:50, 9:26. "The Arizonian," 1:00, 3:18, 5:36, 7:54, 10:12.

## Kansas Grid Squad Greenest in Years

The greenery is protruding from Kansas' spring football camp like holly wreaths at a Christmas parade. But the youngsters have pulled the rip cord on furious competition at almost every spot.

Most of the fire is concentrated up front where Head Coach J. V. Sikes and his line lieutenant, Pop Werner, must perform a major refurbishing job. The rookies necessarily are crowding into the picture here since George Mrkonjic, the panther-like left tackle, and Center Wint Winter are the lone returning regulars through the five mid-line spots. And the latter played only on offense last season as a sophomore.

Even some of the current first-stringers are mere holdover squadmen or barely made the grade as monogram winners.

No one has tagged any of the newcomers as "exceptional" or "can't miss," but, after two full weeks of the hot weather grind, there is more improvement than expected at some slots.

Guards

Five young guards are battling for playing time behind a brace of holdovers, George Kennard and Ron Hammell. The roster includes Jack Cole, tackle; Don Aungst, 188-pounder rated the best lineman of the freshman club; Don Beyer, Bob Hanftla, madeover fullback, and Hugh Armstrong. The latter pair are being geared chiefly for defensive duty.

Five youthful tackles have moved in behind Mrkonjic and Oliver Spencer, giant sophomore who hopped off in the lead for Mike McCormack's old right side position. This gang includes Bill Schaben, a holdover sophomore, and four yearlings, George Helmstadter, Orville Poppe, Bill Marshall and Joe Lundy.

There is respectable experience at end with four lettermen returning in Co-captain Bill Schaake, Orbon Tice, Duane Furuh, and Ron White, but four rookies are commanding attention here also. George Michale, Chicago, Clarence Bender, Jerry Tay-

lor and Tom Brannan round out this quartet.

Fullbacks

Bud Laughlin and Galen Fiss, who lettered as sophomore fullbacks last season, are feeling the pressure from a swarthy frosh named Frank Sabatini, who along with Frank Cindrich, has been the most impressive of the new backs to date. Morris Kay also has moved into the fullback picture.

Cindrich, former state sprint champion, will make a serious bid for the starting right halfback berth if he continues to flash his early spring form. John Konek is working at both halves.

Two holdovers, Hal Cleavinger and Bob Brandeberry also have increased their stock. Cleavinger, who was employed almost entirely on defense last season, has forced attention with his ball-carrying. Brandeberry was running well also until sidelined with a shoulder bruise.

Jerry Robertson and Dick Gatz are earning consideration at quarterback. There is still a measure of speculation on this spot since Chet Strehlow is the only active performer in camp who actually tasted a full round of game fire every Saturday last season. Jerry Bogue, 1949 regular, is working in sweat clothes while a knee heals completely from a Christmas operation.

Green

This is the greenest Kansas squad since before World War II. It already is apparent that KU successes next season, particularly in the line, will depend on the maturing of the newcomers.

Sikes appraises the situation accurately when he says... "All the boys are showing a fine willingness to work hard. Most of them show promise, but they simply have a long way to go. We have very few boys who actually played a lot of football last season. That even goes for some of the lettermen. We are going to stare next fall mighty short on experience."

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## Minor Leagues Damaged By Players Lost to Service

A majority of the minor league ball clubs will be operating without utility men this summer. The reason for this cut down is the draft. It is the same with most of the clubs now in spring training. There are not enough available men.

The baseball training camps seem to be the favorite spot of the draft boards. Most of the boys in the minor league ball clubs are healthy young guys just right for the draft.

The Lincoln club, which is on the farm system of the Philadelphia Athletics, has felt the draft as much as any other club in the minor leagues. The original roster of the Lincoln "A's" boasted 32 men and of these original 32, nine have already been called in the service.

The shortage of manpower is being felt the most in the catcher and infield positions. The clubs have been shifting many players in hopes that they might remedy this shortage.

Infield Frank Skaff, manager of the Lincoln "A's", has been trying some of his trainees on the infield positions, but as yet he has not switched any of them to the catcher's position.

Skaff does not know yet just what men he will bring to Lincoln with the club, but he is trying to work in men that can play more than one position such as Johnny Wisniewski and Bill Shantz.

Skaff summed up the draft problem in this way: "I think

that we will take a ball club to Lincoln that has a good chance" he stated. "If we lose players to the service, we will have to do our best to make up for it."

The minor leagues should be very interesting to watch this season, because most of the clubs will be faced with the problem of losing key men to the service.

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