

Oklahoma A and M Track Star 'Swiped'

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Sooners Are At It Again

By **CHUCK ELLIOTT**
Kansan Sports Editor

Oklahoma has done it again! Seemingly not content with the Sooners supply of athletic talent on the Norman campus the Oklahoma athletic officials have gone recruiting again and this time they have come up with

probably the outstanding track prospect of last year's high school crop.

The star in question is Burton Cossey, a freshman in the School of Engineering at Oklahoma A. and M., Stillwater, during the past semester. Last year he attended high school at Centerview, Okla., and gained All-American rating as a result of his

track efforts. He high jumped six feet four and one-half inches and this leap was the best in the nation. The jump also set a new Oklahoma record and was recorded during the state interscholastic meet. Besides being a high jumping expert, Cossey starred in the broadjump and the hop-step and jump events.

Sooner Athletes Persuaded Cossey

The Centerview star enrolled at Stillwater this fall and impressed the officials there very favorably. Not only was he in the upper third of his class in engineering and on the dean's honor roll but he was popular with schoolmates in A. and M.'s big Cordell hall and performed well his campus job which provided him with room and board.

Everything was going along smoothly for Cossey and for the Aggie authorities until last Saturday. The track star was already re-enrolled in school and seemed set for this semester until Dick Smethers, Sooner track star, and Bob Seymour, former Sooner football ace, dropped in at Stillwater to see Cossey. Within a few hours the three of them were on their way to Norman where Cossey enrolled in the School of Aeronautical Engineering.

No Official Action Yet

Feeling on the Aggie campus at Stillwater was running quite high this week although no official action had been taken as yet by Henry Iba, director of athletics at the Aggie school. Reason for no action as yet is that Iba left Stillwater late Tuesday with his basketball squad on a swing to the North where they faced Drake University at Des Moines Wednesday night and Creighton University at Omaha last night.

Before leaving on the trip Iba stated "I believe this will be worked out without trouble for the boy. I will have a conference with Jap Haskell (Oklahoma's athletic director) early next week when we are to meet in Oklahoma City about some other matters. I am sure that when we have all the information before us, this can be settled."

Only Cossey Was Talkative

On the Norman campus athletic officials refused to become excited about the affair. Haskell was not too talkative but did remark that the transfer of the athlete was regular. John Jacobs, Sooner track coach, was another who offered no comment.

Cossey however was entirely different. He seemed willing to talk on both campuses but with conflicting statements. While at Stillwater he objected to the many letters, phone calls, and visitors whom he was re-

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O. U. Being Unfair

(The following article appeared in the Wednesday edition of The Daily O'Collegian, official student paper of Oklahoma A. and M. College, as an open editorial on the front page. It was written by Don Boydston, editor of the O'Collegian and a famous track star in his own right. Two years ago in an indoor meet he high jumped 6 feet 8 7-8 inches.—Sports Editor's Note).

Oklahoma University is going too far in open subsidization of athletes.

We aren't calling anyone names, we are not stating the opinion of anyone but this writer's, and we aren't whining, but from all indications the policy of the University of Oklahoma in obtaining their athletes is unfair and dishonest.

Perhaps the best way to let you know about this little debacle is to give you the facts and let you decide for yourself to see if it was A. and M. that was Tuckered out this time.

Last year Burton Cossey, a limber-limbed lad hailing from Center View, Oklahoma, a whistle-stop near Prague, leaped six foot four and one-half inches in the state interscholastic meet, setting a new state high school record and also earning an All American rating as one of the best high school jumpers in the nation.

He also excelled in the broad jump and the hop-step and jump.

He was a fine student, valedictorian of his class and wanted to come to Oklahoma A. and M. and study engineering.

He enrolled here last fall and made high enough grades this last semester to make the dean's honor roll.

In the early season practice session he jumped far enough in the hop-step-and-jump to give Coach Ralph Higgins the vision of a national A.A.U. championship in the event.

Then the O.U. athletic department evidently decided that he was a bit too accomplished and started a subtle campaign.

They wrote him letters, called him long distance, came to see him and just generally made life miserable.

A week ago Burton told some of his team-mates that he wished the O.U. bunch would leave him alone and that Jap Haskell, athletic director at Oklahoma university, had called him the night before.

Then last Saturday night Dick Smethers, distance man at the University and Bob Seymour, former football player for the Sooners, came to Stillwater to see Cossey.

Evidently they put the pressure on the lad because three hours after they blew in, they had Burton in his room helping him to pack his bags for the trip to Norman.

A friend of Burton's, Wendell Wilson, tried to walk into the victim's room for a visit but the door was abruptly slammed in his face and the Norman visitors went on with their preparation.

If what Cossey has said is true, and if the University of Oklahoma had the gall to come on the A. and M. campus and pack a boy's clothes and transport him to Norman after he had already enrolled and attended classes here this semester then, its a pretty lousy deal.

Of course the kid is somewhat to blame. He shouldn't allow stories of sugar plums and a clock-winding job to turn his head, but then too, high-pressuring a kid is sometimes pretty easy.

From personal experience we remember how O.U. promised everything within reason and more too, but on our arrival there it was found that we didn't even have a place to sleep.

That's about all we have to say.

You can draw your own conclusions from the above statement of facts. As we said before, we think their actions unfair and dishonest.