



Off the Sports Cuff

by Jim Reed

HAROLD Keith, director of sports publicity at Oklahoma University, wrote a resume of the Gerald Tucker case in the current issue of the Sooner alumni magazine. In order to give our readers the case as Oklahoma saw it, we are reprinting parts of Keith's article:

Manhattan, Kan.
Jan. 2, 1942.

BIG SIX ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY RULES GERALD TUCKER INELIGIBLE FOR ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION AT OKLAHOMA. RULE MADE ON ARTICLE ELEVEN. RULING REQUESTED BY A MEMBER INSTITUTION. DR. H. H. KING.

"The above telegram, sent to Prof. Walter Kraft, Oklahoma's faculty representative, bluntly notified Sooner athletic authorities that Gerald Tucker was ineligible for athletics at Oklahoma for life because Oklahoma had violated the migrant rule, which is rule eleven in the Big Six Conference code.

"The conference eligibility committee represented to have made the ruling is composed of Mr. King, the Kansas State faculty representative, W. W. Davis of Kansas, and H. B. Bergman of Iowa State.

"Mr. Kraft quickly put in long distance telephone calls to both Mr. King and Mr. Davis and discovered several irregularities concerning the decisions which he explained to the Oklahoma Athletic Council at a special meeting Sunday afternoon, January 4. Among them were:

(1) Oklahoma had not been given a hearing by the eligibility committee, nor an opportunity to present its side of the argument on the migrant rule question. The wisdom of such a hearing was evident at a later meeting before the entire conference when Oklahoma presented new evidence that speedily killed the migrant rule charge.

(2) Two of the three members of the conference eligibility committee that pronounced Tucker ineligible were from what turned out to be complaining schools and this raised a serious question of propriety.

(3) Mr. King misrepresented the vote of one of the committee members, Mr. Davis of Kansas, who told Mr. Kraft that he had never voted to disqualify Tucker on the basis of the migrant rule, but because of the residence rule. Mr. Davis repeated this at the Kansas City meeting, asserting that "Mr. King apparently misunderstood me over long distance telephone." Yet Mr. King's original telegram had stated that the three-man eligibility committee had unanimously disbarred Tucker because of the migrant rule. Mr. Davis is one of the three members of the committee, therefore the migrant rule and life disbarment decision wasn't unanimous and even appears to have been confused during the hasty long distance telephone poll Mr. King made to ascertain it.