

(4) Mr. Davis's disavowal of having voted on the question of the migrant rule raises the question of what "member institution" requested the ruling on the migrant statute, as Mr. King's telegram claimed. It wasn't Kansas and it apparently wasn't Iowa State, and Nebraska and Missouri weren't polled. Did Mr. King, the chairman of the eligibility committee, take it upon himself to raise the question?

(5) No school made any objection to Tucker's eligibility until after the player had participated in five nonconference games in December, averaging 15.4 points per game. This appeared, to Oklahoma, a deliberate attempt to get Tucker just before the Big Six Conference season began early in January. Why wasn't the player protested before Oklahoma's first game with Southern Methodist at Norman, December 13?

IN FACE of all this improper procedure Oklahoma protested the decision vehemently and demanded a hearing before the entire conference membership, declaring she would play Tucker in the opening game against Kansas unless given a chance to defend herself. Mr. King granted the hearing which was scheduled for Kansas City on Monday, January 5, the day before the Oklahoma-Kansas basketball game at Lawrence.

MEANWHILE, Big Six territory newspapers aired the unusual case thoroughly. Oklahoma drew both support and ex-
coriation from the press.

AT THE Kansas City meeting, Mr. Kraft presented an important piece of evidence that quickly killed the migrant athlete charges against Tucker. That portion of the migrant rule that Oklahoma was held to have violated reads: "It shall be the duty of the authorities of such institution (Oklahoma) to ascertain thru correspondence the validity of the reason or reasons for such transfer." In disbaring Tucker for life, the conference eligibility committee (with the exception of Mr. Davis of Kansas whose vote was misrepresented) had held Oklahoma did not comply with this section of the rule.

BUT Mr. Kraft showed at Kansas City the copy of a letter he had written to Mr. King on November 19, 1940, a few days after Tucker enrolled at Oklahoma, officially appraising Mr. King for information regarding any irregularity in the transfer, in accordance with the conference rule. Before he wrote the letter, Mr. Kraft had talked to Tucker and learned the player had left Kansas State simply because he didn't like the school.

MR. Kraft also presented at Kansas City a reply from Mr. King in which the latter pleaded for time and suggested the Oklahoma athletic director, who was then Tom Stidham, correspond with the Kansas State director concerning the migrant ruling. Meanwhile Oklahoma changed directors and in the resulting confusion, this was never done. Here lay Oklahoma's only vulnerability in the migrant charge, and it was a technical one. Someone in authority at Norman should have followed the matter to its full conclusion.

HOWEVER, the fact that Mr. Kraft had promptly asked for the information on the transfer showed Oklahoma was acting in good faith and altho the rule puts the burden of ascertaining this information upon Oklahoma, Oklahoma held it sent the original letter promptly and that had Mr. King co-operated as promptly, instead of delaying the matter, there would never have been any controversy over the migrant rule.

ONCE Mr. Kraft's correspondence to Mr. King was presented, the Big Six faculty representatives quickly and righteously dropped all charges connected with the migrant rule, including the life disbarment.

HOWEVER, Mr. Davis, the Kansas faculty man, introduced the further question at Kansas City of whether Tucker was eligible under the residence rule. This had been the basis of Mr. Davis's objection all thru the case, and Oklahoma gives him full credit for sincerity, Mr. Davis having called it to Mr. Kraft's attention by letter during the Christmas holidays while the Oklahoma team was on a long road trip into the East and North. However, it would have been far more fitting if the Kansas faculty man had written the letter in November, before Tucker had played in any games.

OKLAHOMA pointed out that Tucker had attended school thirteen months in residence at Oklahoma before playing his first basketball game, that he had transferred, after seven weeks of the first semester of 1940 at Kansas State into precisely the same courses at Oklahoma, finishing the last eleven weeks of the semester at Norman and taking his finals and obtaining his grades from Oklahoma.

OKLAHOMA protested that this portion of the residence rule, written in 1928 when the Big Six was formed, was designed solely to prevent tramp football players from enrolling at a Big Six school, playing thru the football season, withdrawing from the university at the football season's close and enrolling the following autumn and playing another season without penalty, which had been a popular custom in the old days.

Altho Oklahoma accepted this decision, it wasn't generally popular over the state nor on the campus, where it was the general opinion that the conference had resorted to extreme interpretation of a phrase of the residence rule written for an entirely different purpose to save the face of its eligibility committee which had obviously erred on the migrant clause.