

## Chapter 1 : Echoes of Oklahoma Sooners Football : The Greatest Stories Ever Told | eBay

*Echoes of Oklahoma Sooners Football is a nostalgic compilation of feature articles, profiles, games stories, and other examples of the best sportswriting ever devoted.*

Harts , a student from Winfield, Kansas who had played the game in his home state. After that year, Harts left Oklahoma to prospect for gold in the Arctic. The Sooners had three more coaches over the next four seasons. Fred Roberts led the Sooners to a 3-2 season in , Mark McMahon recorded an 11-7 record in his two years as coach in and , [15] and Fred Ewing recorded a 4-3-1 record in Bedlam football, the athletic rivalry between the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University, was born that day. They found Bennie Owen , [18] a former quarterback of the undefeated Kansas team of led by famous coach Fielding H. The undefeated team of Due to a low travel budget, his teams would regularly have to play as many as three games in one trek. His players were small in size and number and the schedules they faced were too difficult for such a small squad. Hardage also played football as well as baseball for the Commodores. His final record at OU was 11-12-4. The whole football program was placed on a solid footing necessary for success in modern times. In , 17 Sooners started in pro football and 10 stayed all season. Kennedy at the White House in When Tatum left for Maryland after the season, [60] Bud Wilkinson got the promotion to head coach. Prentice Gautt would become the first black football player at the University of Oklahoma. After a freshman game in Tulsa , Gautt was refused service in the restaurant where the team was scheduled to eat. He was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in The final loss came in the Gator Bowl to Florida State. Those four were dismissed from the team prior to the bowl game, [78] ultimately causing Oklahoma to lose the game 36- This brought the Jones era to a quick close, although he did remain at Oklahoma as the athletic director , a role he also held while he was head coach. The team went 6-4 [82] with a win in the Red River Shootout over rival Texas coached by former Oklahoma defensive back Darrell Royal , their first win over Texas since They also beat the number four team in the nation, rival Nebraska , by a score of 10-9. The season showed promise for the young coach, but, on April 28, , at the age of 37, Mackenzie died of a heart attack. He wanted to accept, but it was the middle of the summer and unusually late for a coaching move, so he decided to stay loyal to Houston and remained there. Four months later, Coach Mackenzie died and Fairbanks was named head coach. It did not take long for Fairbanks to turn the team around. In his first season in , his squad went 10-1. They continued their romp through the season and beat 2 Tennessee 26-24 in the Orange Bowl. Fairbanks lost four games in each of the next three seasons. One of those players was Steve Owens. It did not take long for Fairbanks to return the team to form. He and his offensive co-ordinator Barry Switzer helped impliment the use of the wishbone offense. They began the season ranked number ten. These early-season wins propelled them to a 2 national ranking and set the stage for one of the great college football games of the century against top-ranked Nebraska. Oklahoma went on to beat Oklahoma State and fifth ranked Auburn to finish the season ranked number two. Fairbanks closed out his career at Oklahoma the following year with a win in the Sugar Bowl over Penn State after having lost once all season, to Colorado. Fairbanks denied any knowledge of this. As a punishment, the Sooners could not play in a bowl game for two years. His team finished 10-0-1 with only a tie to the number one ranked USC team. His season currently ranks third in team history in yards per attempt with 7. They lost four games each in , , and It was the first time they lost four games in a season since under Coach Fairbanks. They began to turn things around in when they went 9-2-1 and finished the season at 6. The team featured Buster Rhymes at wide receiver, Spencer Tillman at running back and Tony Casillas at defensive tackle. Over the next three years, the team continued to grow and went 11-1 each year with all three losses coming to Miami , including a national championship in they finished ranked number three in and Suddenly, in , it all came crashing down for Switzer. His team was placed on probation by the NCAA for violating several rules. In , OU went 9-3, finished the season ranked No. In the follow-up campaign, however, OU finished 5-4-2, unranked and did not earn an invitation to a post-season bowl. In season the Sooners finished 6-6. Gibbs went 2-15-1 against Texas, Nebraska and Colorado. In addition to his record, he was thought to be uncomfortable around alumni and the media, and

with being a head coach in general. He had built Miami from an also-ran to a national champion in , and turned around a once-moribund Louisville program. In the end, he was almost too sure of himself. He was quoted as saying, "They will write books and make movies about my time here. However, an embarrassing loss to Colorado on national television started a downward spiral. The Sooners ultimately finished 5â€”5â€”1, [] including only their second losing conference record since World War II. Schnellenberger resigned a month after the season ended. He ordered numerous old files to be thrown out; instead, they were archived without his knowledge. His coaching experience was very limited, especially compared to his predecessor. In his seven-year coaching career four years at OU, three years with the Dallas Cowboys and one year at Tulsa , he had never been more than a position coach. The skeptics were proven right. In his three years at Oklahoma, Blake went 3â€”8, 4â€”8, and 5â€”6 for a final record of 12â€” Blake was fired after the season. Consider splitting it into new pages, adding subheadings , or condensing it. Return to glory[ edit ] Coach Stoops The university looked at many candidates to replace Blake. Many big-time college coaches were considered for the post. However, Oklahoma athletic director Joe Castiglione decided to hire a year-old defensive coordinator from Florida , Bob Stoops. Stoops would remedy this by signing a little-known junior college quarterback, Josh Heupel , to run his offense. They lost the next two games, which included a 34â€”30 loss against Notre Dame at South Bend and finished the season with an overall record of 7â€”5. They would not be disappointed. In , the Sooners opened the season with a new offensive coordinator, Mark Mangino , and ranked number 19, [] the first time they opened the season ranked in five years. The Sooners opened 4â€”0, dominating their early season opponents by a combined score of â€” The annual Red River Shootout against arch-rival Texas would prove to be the first signature victory of the Bob Stoops era. The Sooners dominated the Longhorns by a score of 63â€”14 in what was then the most lopsided upset in the history of the rivalry. Oklahoma running back Quentin Griffin smashed the Oklahoma record for most touchdowns in a game with six scores. The Sooners were now officially back in the hunt for a national title. In the following weeks the team narrowly beat the number two ranked Kansas State 41â€”31 in Manhattan and the following week went on to beat number one ranked Nebraska 31â€” The team defeated the Kansas State Wildcats for the second time that season in the Big 12 Championship, a victory which propelled the program to its first national title berth since The Sooners finished the season with a stunning 13â€”2 win over a heavily favored Florida State team in the Orange Bowl and claimed the Sears Trophy. The team had finally regained its status as a power in the college football world. The stoic coach from Ohio had resurrected a football giant, bringing the once great program back to the pinnacle of college athletics. The Sooners and their fans were hungry for more success and Coach Stoops would deliver. After the season, Mark Mangino stepped down as OU offensive coordinator to accept the head football coach position at Kansas. The team, led by Heisman Trophy winner Jason White , was billed as one of "the greatest college football teams of all time. Prior to the Big 12 Title Game, the Sooners Defensive Coordinator, Mike Stoops , accepted the head coaching position at Arizona , becoming the third Sooners coordinator to take a head coaching job during the Stoops era. In a warm night in New Orleans, the Sooners were handed their second consecutive defeat and their first title loss; this time to LSU squad by a score of 21â€” The heartbreaking defeats shocked the "Sooner Nation" while conversely establishing the team as a perennial title contender. Adrian Peterson â€” [ edit ] In , Stoops finished the season with an 8â€”4 record, his worst season record since his inaugural season. Paul Thompson was moved to the wide receiver slot for the rest of the season. They started the season 2â€”3 with additional losses at UCLA and against eventual national champion Texas. The team started to improve as the season progressed, especially the young Bomar. The next loss came against Texas Tech , coached by former OU offensive coordinator Mike Leach , and was a controversial loss. The play was reviewed by replay officials, but video replays were deemed inconclusive. It was a setback for the Sooners but they moved on and were able to soundly defeat their instate rival Oklahoma State in Norman by a final score of 42â€” The unranked Sooners would represent the Big 12 in the Holiday Bowl and they would play the sixth-ranked Oregon. In the offseason, OU made Kevin Wilson the new offensive coordinator. One day before fall practice began, returning quarterback Rhett Bomar and J. Quinn, a projected starter on the offensive line, were kicked off the team for violating NCAA rules when they received payment for work they did not do.

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## Chapter 7 : Jason White (American football) - Wikipedia

*With a proud tradition dating back to , a worldwide following of rabid, devoted fans, and an ever-growing list of national championships, Oklahoma Sooners football is one of the most elite programs in collegiate sports.*