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HISTORY OF WRESTLING AT
OKLAHOMA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE;
BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF EDWARD CLARK GAIL GHER

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By

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PREFACE

Attention is frequently directed to the development of wrestling at Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College. In any study of this nature Coach Gallagher becomes a dominant factor.

This study has been undertaken in an effort to bring together in a compact form facts concerning Coach Gallagher and his wrestlers.

The information secured came from personal interviews with Coach Gallagher and two of his sons, Clarence and Kenneth; with immediate friends of Gallagher, and from the following publications: Stillwater Press, O'Collegian, A. and K. Boomer Magazine, and records obtained from the Athletic Publication Department. The writer wishes to express his appreciation to all who have assisted him in collecting this material.

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INTRODUCTION

"Wrestling is so natural to the competitive spirit of man that it is one of the very earliest sports known to exist. There is hardly a taint or artifice known to the modern wrestler that was not practiced by Greek and Roman athletes before the birth of Christ."

"Wrestling though comparatively young as a college sport has developed rapidly during the past two decades."¹ It is true that our wrestling heroes are not talked about nor given the publicity that our football heroes are given, but in a few colleges much interest and enthusiasm is registered. Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical college is, what might be called, the wrestling center of Oklahoma. That wrestling falls in line with the major sports is shown by the number of boys who try out for the team, and by the backing the sport receives from wrestling fans. "However, at many colleges, the sport is being held down by authorities who have not interested themselves sufficiently to learn about the game, on the grounds that it is a brutal and low type of activity."²

¹

H. E. Kenney and C. C. Law, Wrestling for High Schools and Colleges, p.1

²

Ibid.

CHAPTER I

HISTORY OF WRESTLING

The following brief history of wrestling was taken from the Encyclopedia Britannica:

"Wrestling is a sport in which two persons strive to throw each other to the ground. It is a sport that dates back to 3,000 years before Christ, and is known to be one of the most primitive of the universal sports. Upon the walls of the temple-tombs of Beni Hasan in Egypt are sculptured many hundreds of scenes from wrestling matches depicting almost every known hold of today. The sport was probably introduced into Greece from Egypt or Asia. At first the wrestlers wore only a girdle as is shown in Homer's celebrated description of the match between Ajax and Odysseus. Beginning with the eighteenth Olympiad, in 704 B.C., the wrestlers were required to be oiled. After the oil was applied to the body, a fine layer of sand was rubbed into it in order to provide a better hold for the opponent.

"Wrestling was a popular sport in Greece and always comprised a part of the Pentathlon. Practically any hold was allowed: strangling, kicking, butting, crushing of the fingers, and a combination of wrestling and boxing went to make up a wrestling bout. Yet, we find that the Greeks emphasized grace in all movements. There were two types of Greek wrestling: the upright wrestling and the ground wrestling. The upright wrestling was similar to the catch-as-catch-can style, in that the opponents would grapple for holds.

The best three falls out of five won the bout. Both shoulders of one wrestler must touch the ground at the same time to constitute a fall. In ground wrestling the opponents, after throwing each other to the ground, would wrestle until defeat was admitted. The most celebrated wrestler of the ancient times was Milo of Croton (520B.C.). He scored thirty-two victories in the different national games, six of them being at the Olympiad. Wrestling was introduced into Rome the last half of the second century before Christ, by the Grecians, but never did it become so popular as in Greece.

"The popularity of wrestling has survived in many Asiatic countries. In Japan the first match recorded was in 23 B.C. This match was won by Sukune. In 858, the two sons of the Emperor Buntoku of Japan, wrestled for the throne. About two-hundred years later imperial patronage of wrestling ceased as the result of war, but it continued to be a part of the training for a soldier. About 1600 professional wrestling again rose to importance. In 1624 the national championship was won by Shiganosuke, and since being re-established at that time, it has continued until today.

"The style of wrestling that is carried on now, the Lancashire, generally known as the catch-as-catch-can style, was originated and is practiced in Lancashire, England, and is the most popular style in the United States, Canada, Australia, Switzerland, and other countries. It is a descendant of the ancient Greek upright wrestling combined with ground struggling, but minus the freedom in holds that was given the

Greeks. A fall is seldom gained from standing throws. Most of the wrestling is done on the ground or mat, and is scientifically carried out. There is no biting, hitting, kicking, or other harmful hold allowed.

"The popularity of wrestling as an amateur sport has received considerable development through the institution of the modern Olympic games. This is shown by the increase in the number of nations entering the Olympics. In 1908, when the games were held in London, fifteen countries competed. In 1914, through Great Britain's influence, the catch-as-catch-can style of wrestling was permanently introduced into the Olympic bouts. In 1924 Japan, Turkey, and Egypt were represented for the first time. This indicated that the western style of wrestling was being studied throughout the East. The International Amateur Wrestling Federation has fixed the number of championship weights at seven for the catch-as-catch-can style. In 1932 the United States won three bouts and Sweden won two bouts. European (amateur) championships in both styles have been instituted and are decided annually (except during Olympic years); and numerous international matches are contested every year, leading to a higher development of the sport and a marked increase in public interest, which will be yet further extended if the proposal to bring the styles within one code of rules is carried into effect."

¹

The Encyclopedia Britannica, 14th Edition, XXIII, pp804-807

CHAPTER II

A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF A WRESTLING COACH

E. C. GALLAGHER

The history of wrestling at Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College is so closely interwoven with the biography of E. C. Gallagher that the two can only be written as one. Although wrestling was not introduced into the college by Coach Gallagher, to him goes the credit for its progress. Gallagher's coaching days date back to the spring of 1909 when he was graduated from A. and M. College with a B. S. degree in Electrical Engineering. The fall following his graduation, he accepted the position of head track coach, assistant football coach, and instructor of physical education classes at A. and M. College. In 1913, however, he left to become athletic director of Baker University, Baldwin City, Kansas. Then in 1915 he returned to A. and M. as director of physical education, head wrestling coach, and head track coach.

The story of Coach Gallagher's life from the time of his birth in Kansas, until he entered college in 1904, is an incomplete and somewhat abbreviated chain of remembrances and anecdotes related by Gallagher himself and by a few old friends.

Edward Clark Gallagher was born September 5, 1887, in Perth, Kansas. The son of Alfred Gallagher and Susan Gallagher, who migrated to Kansas by way of Missouri in 1878. He was the third child of a family of three boys and three

girls. As a baby, Gallagher was robust and healthy, and before his first birthday had quit crawling around on the floor and was up walking, exploring both the house and the out of doors.

At the age of four years, Gallagher entered the first grade at Prairie Creek school. Here he received his elementary education. For six years he attended the one-room school; it is only natural that he learned to love the place, and when time came to move to a different location, he kept a warm spot in his heart for his first school.

As a boy Gallagher was shy and modest but a good student. He was fond of hunting rabbits with his greyhounds, and horses fascinated him. He engaged in bronc busting, hunting, wrestling, sprinting, and other sports of that day with the boys of his neighborhood.

Gallagher enjoyed competition, and it was always a joy to him when he could engage someone in a foot race or a wrestling bout. His speed enabled him to outrun many of those who were larger than he, but because of his size he was not able to win many of his wrestling or boxing bouts. Gallagher, although getting whipped by his opponents in many of his encounters, was not afraid of physical pain, and was never known to give up.

In the early years of Gallagher's youth, a large part of the mutual interest in a community was centered around inter-town rivalry in such sporting events as horse racing, bronco busting, boxing, wrestling, foot-racing, etc. At the

age of eleven, weighing 60 pounds, Gallagher became interested in riding race horses. He was a daring jockey and continued to ride until he became too heavy for the activity in spite of an accident which occurred soon after he began to ride. A high strung mare that he was astride "flew the jack", ran into a barbed wire fence, cut herself badly in the wire, and hurled Gallagher sixty-four feet into a pile of rocks, all of which resulted in the breaking of his right arm in two places and the cracking of his lower jaw; he was unconscious for four hours from the concussion. A railroad physician who happened to be in the town patched him up for \$2.50, and he was back on the horses in a few weeks!

In 1898 he moved to Argonia, Kansas, where he finished the grade school and took two years of high school work. Leaving Argonia in 1903, he moved to Deer Creek, Oklahoma, where he attended Medford high school for one semester. His next move was to Stillwater, Oklahoma. Here he attended A. and M. prep school for one year before entering the college as a freshman in the fall of 1905.

Naturally thrifty, Gallagher recalls preserving his savings carefully after beginning school. When he came to A. and M., he knew only a few people and possessed but \$53.00. He found a room in a draughty dwelling known as the Club House where meals could be obtained for from \$1.75 to \$2.25 a week,

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Personal Interview with E. C. Gallagher

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Bureau of Information and Service, A. and M., 1937

and rooms for \$2.50 a month.

By observing all of the rules of thrift and by being careful with his diet, Gallagher managed to keep enough of his money to purchase his educational supplies and at the same time to stay in school until he worked himself into a janitor's job. For this sweeping job he received ten cents an hour, which was considered a decent wage at that time. Even a job as a janitor, with this "average" wage, was hard to obtain at the time. It was only because Gallagher was of a determined mind that he was able to get the job. He says he got the job by hanging "around the building until somebody failed to report." When one of the janitors failed to come to work, Gallagher was on hand and ready. After his first evening's trial, he was hired permanently. With the aid of this first job, he was able to complete his first year of college training.

When he went home for his first vacation, he was in no frame of mind to attend school the following September. He had had a hard struggle his first year, and it put him to wondering if school was worth the price. "Why not quit school, pick up a good job someplace, and start life as a farmer?" was the thought that occurred to him at the time. Mrs. Gallagher was a woman with an insight into the future and a great deal of confidence in her son's ability, should he be trained well. It was her duty to convince him that although schooling cost many sacrifices, in the end it paid dividends. She pointed out to him the backbreaking labor of the village

blacksmith and the village handyman, and finally convinced him that a college education was valuable.

During this first summer vacation from college, Gallagher worked for a farmer. For these three months of hard physical labor, he earned \$4.00 a month and his board and room, at that time a poor wage for a farm hand in the West. This experience convinced him that the farm was no place for him. September came and Gallagher returned to A. and M.

Very little is known of Gallagher as a sophomore. He had enough money at the time of enrollment to begin school, and during the year he worked again at his job as janitor in order to stay in school. That year he acquired a fairly usable knowledge of engineering principles. He spent his second summer vacation working on the farm, but this time with a threshing crew as chief engineer of the boiler type engine. This job required skill and training. His day began as early as 3:30 a.m. and ended sometimes late at night. Usually he got as much as six hours sleep, and often this was disturbed by his working on the engine so that it would run the next day. Summer seemed to pass slowly for Gallagher as he had rather be back in school than to be working on the farm.⁴

When September came, Gallagher packed his suitcase with his suit, two shirts, and other meager belongings, and again headed for Stillwater. When he arrived he at once began exploring the campus and business district of town for a job.

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Personal Interview with E. C. Gallagher, and from a Letter from True C. Blue--Gallagher's college room mate.

His money supply was lower at this time than it was the previous year. The logic which he possesses today was with him then. He noticed that the students turned to social activities for entertainment, so what would be better to have in Stillwater than a cleaning and pressing establishment?

With his few dollars Gallagher bought a formula for cleaning suits. The first experiment with the new formula was with his own suit. If it stood the test, then he would be ready to invest his remaining money in a flat-iron, a pressing board, and a few clothes hangers. The experiment with his own suit proved successful; therefore, Gallagher put up his cleaning and pressing sign and was immediately in business. The country was new; times and customs were changing; this was Aggieland's first cleaning business, and it succeeded so well that Gallagher did not have many serious financial worries during the remaining time in college.

Something more subtle than keenness of mind or natural latent talent and instincts inherited from his parents prompted and guided him to success in his cleaning and pressing enterprise. There was a family pride, a pride for making good in the face of all obstacles that glowed in his inner-self. He had been taught from babyhood that to make a success in life one must never give up. Life was hard at its best, and it was wrong to think that one could make a success by half trying. This pride did more than send Gallagher to success in all of his physical and scholastic activities--it regulated

his social and moral life.⁴

Gallagher tells that he and his best friend, T. C. Blue, did break down once and really "go on a binge". They had little money and rarely attended the occasional social affairs; therefore, they were wanting a little excitement. So together they went to town to spend their money in a foolish way. Blue bought a package of chewing gum, and Gallagher purchased a bag of peppermint candy. Both purchases together totaled ten cents, and this was the full amount that was spent that year, as Gallagher says, "foolishly".

Gallagher spent his third summer's vacation again working in the harvest fields of Kansas and northern Oklahoma. It was necessary to work in the summer in order to meet the enrollment expenses for the opening of school. By this time Gallagher did not have to be encouraged to continue his schooling, and no sooner was harvest over than he was on his way to Stillwater.

It was not until 1906 that the college hired an instructor in the physical education department. At first members of the faculty and members of the community, who had observed athletic contests at some time or other, donated their services. The athletic calendar at that period called for football, baseball, and track.⁵

Boyd A. Hill was Gallagher's first athletic instructor,

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Personal Interview with E. C. Gallagher

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A. and M. College Catalog, 1919-1920, pp 167

being at A. and M. from 1906 to 1907 before he was supplanted by W. E. Schreiber in 1908. Schreiber remained director of athletics until Gallagher graduated in 1909. The physical education plant in those days is described as:

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The men's gymnasium is a well lighted room 45 x 65 feet and is well equipped with apparatus for indoor exercise. Dumbbells, bar bells, Indian clubs, flying rings, traveling rings, horses, parallel and horizontal bars, mats, foils, gloves, etc., are all available for those desiring to enter into the work. In direct connection is a locker room with six hundred steel and wooden lockers, benches, and a shower room. An athletic field for baseball, track, and football is provided by the college and maintained by the athletic association.

From the beginning it seemed that Gallagher was destined to be an athlete. His father was a sprinter, and his grandfather was a wrestler, and both made a great deal of money gambling on their physical prowesses. Moreover, his mother was able to outrun him when he was fifteen.

Before coming to A. and M. College, Gallagher had at one time entered the state scholastic track meet and competed in the 220-yard and 100-yard dashes, winning third place in both events. At college he was still ignorant of any coaches' techniques other than the coaching Nature had by chance given to him. He took part in football and track, captaining both teams in his four years of competition. His greatest track year was in 1908 when he ran the 100-yard dash in 9.7 seconds on a dirt track which had been the scene of a race for horses but a few minutes before; the same year he won

6

Ibid., pp 167

both the 100-yard dash and the 220-yard event at the Texas Relays as well as second in the 220-yard low hurdles, and third in the half mile.⁷

The unique method that Gallagher used in winning second place in the hurdle race is worthy of recounting. He had competed in two events and had become a little sick because of an "over-dose of fried chicken" that he had eaten at lunch. When the last call for the race was given, he was still very tired and very sick. The coach thought it best that Gallagher remain out of the race, but Gallagher did not think so, and when the gun sounded he was off with the other hurdlers. As he would leap each hurdle, he would let out a grunt, each consecutive grunt being louder than the previous grunt. Nearing the end of the race with only three hurdles to clear, Gallagher unintentionally let out an extremely loud grunt. This attracted the attention of the three men in the lead, causing each one to look around, which resulted in two of them knocking their hurdles over, giving Gallagher second in the race.

Gallagher continued to be noted at his college and over the state for his fine athletic performances. In his last two years of school, he began to take interest in a bit more of the college's social activities, and during his junior year, he attended his first dances. Although he was always a handsome fellow, his lack of finances and lack of presentable

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Personal Interview with E. C. Gallagher

clothing kept him from paying attention to social events.

With additional funds from his cleaning and pressing business, from the athletic department, and from his summer vacations, Gallagher pushed himself forward more and more to get the type of education that he was missing. When he was a senior, he was elected president of his class, was given the lead in the senior play, and was presented with a 21-jewel Elgin watch for having been chosen the most outstanding athlete in school. Immediately following his graduation, he married Stella Taylor, a very popular girl (on the campus), who was then a junior in the school of Home Economics.

Gallagher says very little about his family, but one notices a gleam in his eye when they are mentioned. To him and Mrs. Gallagher were born three boys and three girls. Clarence, the oldest boy, graduated from A. and M., continued his study of medicine at Oklahoma University, and is now in St. Anthony's hospital, Oklahoma City, doing his intern work; Don graduated from A. and M. in 1936, and is now in the cleaning and pressing business in Enid, Oklahoma; and Kenneth, who graduated in 1936, is now coaching football, track, and basketball at Guthrie, Oklahoma. Geraldine, the oldest girl, is married to Dr. W. E. Sanger, Vinita, Oklahoma, physician; Jane is now a junior in the A. and M. school of Home Economics; and Barbara, who is ten years old, is attending grade school in the Stillwater grade school.

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Personal Interview with George Talbot, an old A. and M. graduate

9
Personal Interview with Mrs. E. C. Gallagher

From 1904 to the present, Gallagher's career is a record of unusual achievement and a remarkable example of ambition, preserverance, and sacrifice in the face of great difficulty, which has brought national and international acclaim and fame to A. and M. College and to the state of Oklahoma.

When he graduated from the school of Electrical Engineering in 1909, he was offered two jobs, one with the Gary, Indiana, Steel Mills and the other with the Western Light Company. He refused both and accepted an offer, which came later, to become assistant football coach, head track coach,¹⁰ and instructor of physical education at Oklahoma A. and M. College.

Gallagher filled these three coaching positions for four years, leaving Stillwater in 1913 to become director of athletics at Baker University at Baldwin City, Kansas.¹¹ He remained at Baker for a period of two years, and in 1915 returned to A. and M. to become director of physical education,¹² wrestling coach, and track coach.

As an undergraduate Gallagher had experience in track and football, but he knew very little of wrestling, the sport to which he was assigned. He was fortunate, however, in

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Personal Interview with E. C. Gallagher

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A. and M. Bulletin, 1909-1913

12

A. and M. Bulletin, 1915

that no other southwestern coach knew more about the grappling game than he. His teams, however, won from the first, but as Gallagher says, "They did it by main strength and awkwardness." Although Gallagher was handicapped by his lack of knowledge, he set about the task of learning the game. He studied the muscles of the body in the biology laboratory by stringing rubber bands over a human skeleton, and thereby learned to apply the principles of leverages to wrestling. On the basis of this knowledge, Gallagher began to design holds and wrestling procedures. Next he attacked the problem of diet, the relative energy values of different foods, and the ways to reduce body weight. Finally he studied psychology, and the sources of hypnotism, in order to prepare a wrestler's mind as well as his body for a match. He also learned the sources and methods of energy release and renewal. Gallagher's results show the value of his studies.

Gallagher soon made a science of the wrestling sport. In the twenty-four years that wrestling has been coached on the A. and M. campus (twenty-three years by Gallagher), the Aggie teams have had one-hundred and thirty dual meets, and during this period they have lost but five times, and only two of those defeats came in the same season. Never have Gallagher's teams been beaten by more than two points. At one time his teams had an eleven-year winning streak, compiling a total of seventy-four consecutive dual wins.

A. and M. teams' total wrestling record shows one-hundred and twenty-one matches won, five lost, four tied, and one won by a forfeit.

Wrestling remains a minor sport everywhere but in Oklahoma. Gallagher-trained coaches have rooted the sport so deeply into the athletic life of Oklahoma colleges and high schools that it is a major sport. So strong are the A. and M. teams that squads representing other institutions in the United States have yet to break the A. and M. monopoly of national tournament championships. Yet in spite of this record which Gallagher's men have made, Gallagher has received very little recognition from the national wrestling officials in an open manner.

However, Gallagher was elected president of the American Association of Wrestling Coaches for the three years, 1928, 1929, and 1930. He has been a member of the rules committee, in an advisory capacity, for ten years. In 1936 after he had placed five men on the team, the Olympic committee made him honorary coach of the Olympic team. At present he is a member of the Olympic wrestling committee which has only sixteen members.¹³ April 29, 1938, he was appointed to the 1940 Olympic wrestling committee by Avery¹⁴ Brumbage, president of the American Olympic Association.

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Personal Interview with E. C. Gallagher

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Daily O'Collegian, April 30, 1938, pp3

He has attended the Olympic games twice, in 1932 in Los Angeles, California, and in 1936 in Berlin, Germany.

As a relaxation from his coaching duties, he retains a boyhood interest through the ownership of a greyhound which he races as a member of the local greyhound racing club, the only one of its kind in Oklahoma. When Gallagher was a boy, he owned a huge black hound that was very much attached to him, and often followed him to school. If the hound was still on the grounds at noon, which was generally the case, Gallagher would divide his lunch with him. Gallagher thought much of this dog, and today he says that from this dog he learned a most valuable lesson: "That a dog will fight without being whipped." This slogan he has carried into his career as a grappling coach. He never browbeats or abuses his wrestlers. Boys are too human to refrain from resenting a rebuke, and the rules of kindness, fairness, and understanding which Gallagher applies are sufficient to cause his boys to admire, honor, respect, and love him and accept his every suggestion without question.

Gallagher has not confined himself only to dog racing as a recreation, however. He enjoyed several other sports and practiced them as hobbies; among them being hunting, at which he was considered expert in his younger days, and golfing, which he enjoys somewhat even now for the skill it demands and because of the outdoor freedom which it offers. Although he is at present not in the best of health, he continues to play a little golf, and is quite interested

in obtaining and training a hawk for falconry.

Buel Patterson, former Gallagher wrestler, a national champion, and now coach at Kansas State College, Manhattan, writes this of his former coach: "A reason that the men who have worked under Ed like him so well is that if they lost a match they never, at any time, received a bawling out, and believe you me, it is a lot of satisfaction to give all one has for a man and know that what one gives will be satisfactory with him even if he makes mistakes."

CHAPTER III

EXPERIMENTS AND THEORIES

As before stated when Gallagher first began to coach, he spent much time finding out about the muscles and mechanism of the human body from a scientific standpoint. All of his findings were then figured out according to engineering principles that he learned in his engineering courses. He learned the laws of levers so well that he seldom originated a hold that was not effective.

Gallagher spends about two hours each day alone in his office figuring out new ways of combining holds or of a new way to counter a hold. Sometimes he studies a hold for several weeks before he gets the solution that he wants. Sometimes the solution comes to him in the night, and he has to get up and write it down. It is through this method of studying that Gallagher keeps his technique ahead of his competitors.

A common sense theory that Gallagher uses in wrestling is the fundamental of Jindo, meaning to give away. The idea of this fundamental is to counteract strength with strength if you are stronger, but if you are weaker give away before you are forced to give.

Gallagher claims to know more than five hundred holds and variations of holds. Most of his wrestlers know around two hundred, but it is not necessary that they know that many if they are perfect performers with the ones that they do know. However, every hold that a wrestler does not know

is counted against him by the coach who says that every hold is a potential danger to a man if he does not know it and the counters for it.

From a study of a duck and a jack snipe, Gallagher some time ago came to a definite conclusion about the type of man who makes the best wrestler. Both the duck and the snipe make long flying trips, yet the snipe who is smaller can fly farther without a stop. Upon examination Gallagher found that the duck has heavy muscles while the snipe has slim, resilient muscles. But the secret of the snipe's endurance is the size of the blood vessels. They are as large as those of the larger duck. It was upon this theory that Gallagher decided that what he wanted was tall boys with slim, not over developed muscles, who possessed a slow heart beat and large blood vessels. "I don't want the forearm developed too much, nor the muscles of the calf. There is no apparatus lying around in our gymnasium. Around here the boys practice for exercise. The most danger is to have a hard arm and a clamped fist. The blood flows through the arteries of the body and the veins return it. If the arteries are overworked feeding the overdeveloped calves and forearms, there is a fatigue that can not be escaped. The forearm should always be lax and the hand should be held loosely. Unless the blood flows freely, fatigue is the result."

Gallagher selects boys with a natural heart beat of about sixty beats per minute for his team. He then drills them in the science of wrestling. He never tells a boy that he can not come out for wrestling, but the boys who are

best fitted always seem to come to the front. "I do not want normal boys to work with. I want abnormal ones; those whose nerve impulses travel faster than one hundred feet per second and those whose strength is greater than eighty-five pounds per square inch cross-section are the boys I want."

Along with Callagher's coaching, he has taught courses covering first aid, massage, anthropometry, kinesiology, Swedish gymnastics, and heavy and light apparatus. The knowledge that he gained teaching these courses has helped him in turning out well trained wrestling teams.

"Making weight" is a problem which Callagher has solved; this has helped him tremendously. He has found that five days are required for making weight the easiest. If a man is overweight, he cuts off his weight by a system of reducing his meals gradually, by sweating, and by wrestling. This is continued for four days, but the day of the match he must have no activity. He is fed twenty-four hours before his match on sugar of some type. Brown sugar is best, but honey, and Karo syrup are both very good. The man is weighed in five hours before the match and fed about two and one-half pounds of food. After he has eaten he carries out the usual activities.

On the day of the bout the boys carry out a normal day's activities. They come to the gymnasium one and one-half hours before the bout is to be called. They go immediately to the dressing room and leisurely remove their clothes, go to the toilet, drink a swallow or two of water, and begin their stretching. This is carried on for a few minutes, and then a light rub-down is administered. After the rub-down

they get up and "break" a sweat. A little perspiration must show on the nose. All this is completed fifteen minutes before the bouts are to come off. Now the final touch is added by the coach. He goes over the opponents one by one with his boys, giving their weak and strong points, and assists the boys to think of nothing but the bout ahead and how they intend to wrestle it.

A study by the coach's son, Clarence Gallagher, who is studying medicine, revealed another secret which Coach Gallagher uses in training: "After looking in all the literature in an attempt to find out the contra-indications concerned in the use of sodium bicarbonate in the release from the acidosis of wrestlers, I find that in the acidosis is just temporary and not serious, the sodium bicarbonate is all right, but, in the acidosis is caused by the starvation to the extent that the body has started burning fat, there will be ketone bodies formed. For this type one must use orange juice which will provide the necessary alkali and in addition furnish an unknown factor the absence of which will result in the formation of more ketone bodies which will make the condition worse. The summary of the whole thing would be to use lots of orange juice every time and not to run the risk of making the starving fellow more acid. This is not complicated, if one does not let the big chemical terms get him down; they are sensible if they are understood. The solution to the whole thing by summation would be--Give orange juice (several oranges) in every case and a little

sodium bicarbonate only occasionally."

About one week before an expected close match, Gallagher is affected peculiarly. The pressure is great in his mind and he becomes uneasy and remains so up until three or four hours before the bouts are to start; after which, he is calm and no longer worried. His wrestlers are usually very nervous and high strung, and his very best often can not stand the pressure.

Frank Lewis, 1936 Olympic champion, Joe McDaniels, 1937 and 1938 National Intercollegiate champion, Ross Flood, thrice National Intercollegiate champion and second in the 1936 Olympic games, are men who go to pieces occasionally because of pressure.

Flood is now coach at Stillwater high school. During a match with Tulsa high school Flood was sure of winning the dual but the matches had gone against him. During the last match his man was on the bottom with a scissor on him. Flood fainted, being no longer able to stand the pressure, and it was quite a few minutes before he was brought to by the attending physician.

(The fore-going record was read and approved by Coach Gallagner himself. In fact, he served as a member of my thesis committee.)

The all-time record in wrestling of Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College is concisely recorded in the following release (1937) from the A. and M. "Bureau of Information and Service".

CHAPTER IV
WRESTLING RECORD

1916

Oklahoma A. and M. College lost to Texas University.
Score not on record.

Coach--Colvelle

Squad Members--W. B. Forrester, R. W. Havenstrite, Virgil Rinehart, Millard Harnden, William Cooley, William Payne, Herman Dose, Jack Briscoe.

1917

OAMC	OPPONENTS	
15	Kansas State Normal	10
12½	Arkansas University	12½
20	Texas University	5
47½	Totals.....	27½

Coach--Gallagher

Squad Members--Virgil Rinehart, Ward Chase, Carl Kisselburg, W. C. Smith, Fred Forsyth, Carl Reichman.

1918

No Varsity team. Only all-college tournament repeated.

1919

No Varsity team. All-college tournament repeated.

Squad Members--Roy Oldham, Cecil Thompson, Joe Nault, Ward Chase, Claud Carmichael, Jesse Foliert, L. S. Stokesberry, Goldia Walls, Orman Nash, Walter Word.

1920

OAMC	OPPONENTS	
40	Oklahoma University	0
50	Oklahoma University	0
23	Nebraska University	19
113	Totals.....	19

Squad Members--Thomas Clump, Frank Briscoe, Marion Liehart, D. S. Williams, Maxwell Ives, C. V. Townsend, Ward Smith, T. W. Hodgden, O. H. Thompson, Jesse Foliert.

1921

OAMC	OPPONENTS	
37	Oklahoma University	7
11	Nebraska University	36
9	Iowa State College	37
35	Oklahoma University	11
47	Arkansas University	0
<u>137</u>	Totals	<u>91</u>

Squad Members--Bernard Evenhoe, Ed Roberts, Clifford Keen, Oran Nash, Kilby Victor, Frank Briscoe, D. S. Williams, Carl Voyles, Mark Frost, Jack Jester, Guy Lockabaugh, Jesse Foliart, Louis Ethridge, Troy Jackson, Bussy Swim, Lloyd McCullough.

1922

OAMC	OPPONENTS	
36	Oklahoma University	12
54	Kansas University	0
32	Oklahoma University	13
28	Texas University	20
38	Central Teachers	12
<u>188</u>	Totals	<u>57</u>

Squad Members--Frank Briscoe, Jesse Foliart, Tom Dale, Lynn Reid, Ivan Foster, Howard Williams, Mark Frost, Red Witt, Lloyd McCullough.

1923

OAMC	OPPONENTS	
36	Central Teachers	5
34	Texas University	13
37	Missouri Mines	16
26	Kansas University	5
17	Oklahoma University	8
<u>150</u>	Totals	<u>47</u>

Squad Members--Raymond Ethridge, Lynn Reid, Leone Bauman, Clifford Keen, Huston Moore, Red Witt, Houston Hill, Guy Young, Mark Frost, Clifford Clodwelter, Robert Vincent, Loren Melton.

1924

OAMC	OPPONENTS	
25	Central Teachers	4
	Kansas State (forfeit)	
19	Oklahoma University	2
23	Rolla School of Mines	0
<u>67</u>	Totals	<u>6</u>

1924 (cont.)

Squad Members--Lynn Reid, Jesse Foliart, Henry Witt, Gerald Northrip, Clausine Vincent, Leycester Bringham, Clifford Keen, Lenone Bauman, Ed Roberts, Ray Oldham, Lloyd English.

1925

OAMC	OPPONENTS	
38	Kansas State Normal	0
34	Southwestern Teachers	0
16	Indiana University	4
18	Oklahoma University	5
31 $\frac{1}{2}$	Texas University	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
<u>137$\frac{1}{2}$</u>	Totals	<u>10$\frac{1}{2}$</u>

Squad Members--Guy Lockabaugh, Lenone Bauman, Roy Oldham, Gerald Northrip, Chris White, Chilton Wrigley, Leycester Bringham, Buel Patterson, Ed Roberts, George Campbell.

1926

OAMC	OPPONENTS	
23	Southwestern Teachers	0
19	Central Teachers	0
36	Rolla School of Mines	0
23	Texas University	8
19	Iowa State College	8
20	Oklahoma University	5
<u>140</u>	Totals	<u>21</u>

Squad Members--Gerald Northrip, Orion Stuteville, Chris White, George Campbell, Findley Collins, Harold Cotton, Clarence Costner, George Rule, Chilton Wrigley, Alan Kilpatrick.

1927

OAMC	OPPONENTS	
26	East Central	0
33	Southwestern Teachers	0
28	Oklahoma City University	0
24	Oklahoma University	5
31	Kansas State	0
24	West Virginia University	5
20	Navy	5
15 $\frac{1}{2}$	Cornell College	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
18 $\frac{1}{2}$	Iowa State College	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
<u>244</u>	Totals	<u>27</u>

Squad Members--Buel Patterson, George Rule, Findley Collins, Charles Strack, Willard Northrip, Wager Gilbert, Jay Ricks, Clarence Berryman, Harold Demarsh, Vernan Jeter.

1928

OAMC	OPPONENTS	
27	Central Teachers	0
16	Oklahoma University	9
27	West Virginia University	0
29	Kansas State	0
22	Cornell College	3
12	Iowa State	11
<u>153</u>	.....Totals.....	<u>23</u>

Squad Members--George Hule, Clarence Berryman, Vernon Jeter, J. B. Moore, Chester Williams, "Cloddy" Clodfelter, Matthew Hesser, Earl McCready, Willard Northrip, John Hemphill.

1929

OAMC	OPPONENTS	
24	Kansas Normal	0
26	West Virginia University	5
20	Missouri University	0
19	Oklahoma University	11
22	Cornell College	0
14	Iowa State College	12
<u>145</u>	.....Totals.....	<u>28</u>

Squad Members--Clarence Berryman, Earl McCready, Chester Williams, Jack VanBeber, Chester Dotter, George Brancroft, Ludvik Love, William Bradley, Walter Young, Conrad Caldwell.

1930

OAMC	OPPONENTS	
32	East Central Teachers	3
35	Oklahoma City University	0
19	Oklahoma University	9
28	Cornell College	0
20	Iowa State College	8
25	Kansas State College	3
31	West Virginia University	3
35	Philadelphia A. C.	0
<u>225</u>	.....Totals.....	<u>26</u>

Squad Members--Earl McCready, Jack Vanbeber, LeRoy McGuirk, Arlie Tomlison, Conrad Caldwell, Robert Pearce, Walter Young.

1931

O.A.M.C	OPPONENTS	
33	Northeastern Teachers	3
27	East Central Teachers	3
28	Southwestern Teachers	8
27	Oklahoma City University	5
21 $\frac{1}{2}$	Kansas State	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
40	Kansas University	0
25	Oklahoma University	3
<u>201$\frac{1}{2}$</u>	Totals.....	<u>26$\frac{1}{2}$</u>

Squad Members--Jack VanLebber, Robert Pearce, Andy Hesser, Bryon Renfro, John Divine, Sherman Stephenson, George Bennett, LeRoy McGuirk, Conrao Caldwell, Wayne Gilbert, Walter Young, Chester Potter, M. Eastep, Red McCrary.

1932

O.A.M.C	OPPONENTS	
25	Northeastern Teachers	3
30	East Central Teachers	6
23	Southwestern Teachers	11
23	Central Teachers	5
22	Kansas Aggies	8
38	W. and J.	0
20	Navy	8
12 $\frac{1}{2}$	Oklahoma University	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
<u>171$\frac{1}{2}$</u>	Totals.....	<u>64$\frac{1}{2}$</u>

Squad Members--Robert Pearce, J. E. Moore, Wayne Gilbert, Howard Lynn, Merle Collins, LeRoy McGuirk, Andy Hesser, Ralph Rasor.

1933

O.A.M.C	OPPONENTS	
27	Northeastern Teachers	3
32 $\frac{1}{2}$	Northeastern Teachers	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
23	Central Teachers	13
17	Southwestern Teachers	11
18	Illinois University	8
12	Oklahoma University	12
38	Missouri University	0
15	Oklahoma University	9
19 $\frac{1}{2}$	Tulsa Y.M.C.A.	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
<u>212</u>	Totals.....	<u>68</u>

Squad Members--Fred Merriman, Andy Hesser, William James, E. M. Cotton, Sam Barnes, Frank Lewis, Gordon Dupree, Tracy Randle, Rex Peery, Tom Cunningham, Ross Flood, Alan Kelley.

1934

OAMC	OPPONENTS	
15 $\frac{1}{2}$	Central Teachers	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
29	Northwestern Teachers	3
27 $\frac{1}{2}$	Northeastern Teachers	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
40	Kansas State	0
31	Oklahoma University	3
15 $\frac{1}{2}$	Southwestern Teachers	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
31	Navy	3
27 $\frac{1}{2}$	Oklahoma University	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
<u>217</u>	.....Totals.....	<u>41</u>

Squad Members--Alan Kelley, Frank Lewis, Tom Hanley, Rex Peery
Ross Flood, Ralph Rasor, Joe Cooper, Darmer Browning, Gordon
Dupree.

1935

OAMC	OPPONENTS	
24 $\frac{1}{2}$	Northeastern Teachers	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
26	Northwestern Teachers	8
17	Central Teachers	11
28	Southwestern Teachers	6
20	Oklahoma University	6
13 $\frac{1}{2}$	Southwestern Teachers	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
18	Central Teachers	6
24 $\frac{1}{2}$	Oklahoma University	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
<u>171$\frac{1}{2}$</u>	.....Totals.....	<u>64$\frac{1}{2}$</u>

Squad Members--Rex Peery, Darmer Browning, Ross Flood, Frank
Lewis, Ralph Rasor, Lloyd Ricks, Tom Hanley, Elmer Nazworthy,
Eugene Pennema, Willard Lorette.

1936

OAMC	OPPONENTS	
32	Northeastern Teachers	0
15	Southwestern Teachers	9
28	Kansas State	0
13 $\frac{1}{2}$	Southwestern Teachers	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
14	Oklahoma University	12
13 $\frac{1}{2}$	Central Teachers	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
12	Central Teachers	12
<u>128</u>	.....Totals.....	<u>54</u>

Squad Members--Gordon Dupree, Darmer Browning, Willard
Lorette, Elmer Nazworthy, Freddie Parkey, Harley Strong, Loyd
Ricks, D. E. White, Eugene Pennema, Madison Merritt.

1937

OAMC	OPPONENTS	
31	Northeastern Teachers	5
16 $\frac{1}{2}$	Central Teachers	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
20 $\frac{1}{2}$	Southwestern Teachers	6
14	Oklahoma University	14
24 $\frac{1}{2}$	Kansas State	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
10 $\frac{1}{2}$	Southwestern Teachers	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
18 $\frac{1}{2}$	Central Teachers	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
24	Oklahoma University	8
<u>159</u>	.....Totals.....	<u>63</u>

Squad Members--Joe McDaniels, Madison Merritt, Harold Byrd, Freddie Parkey, Stanley Henson, Dale Scriven, Harve Base, Willard Lorette, Lloyd Ricks.

1938

OAMC	OPPONENTS	
26 $\frac{1}{2}$	Kansas State	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
26	Central Teachers	6
27	Illinois University	3
34	Northeastern Teachers	0
26	Southwestern Teachers	0
20 $\frac{1}{2}$	Oklahoma University	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
28	Central Teachers	0
19 $\frac{1}{2}$	Southwestern Teachers	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
29	Oklahoma University	3
<u>236$\frac{1}{2}$</u>	.....Totals.....	<u>25$\frac{1}{2}$</u>

Squad Members--Joe McDaniels, Madison Merritt, Freddie Parkey, Stanley Henson, Harley Strong, Harve Base, John Williams, George Chiga, Woodrce Rorex, Vernon Nell, John Harrell, Dale Scrivens.

CHAPTER V

YEAR BY YEAR SUMMARY OF WRESTLING

1914--This marked the beginning of a sport on the A. and M. campus that later brought fame to the college. Coach A. M. Colville organized the first A. and M. wrestling squad; he also planned the first inter-collegiate meet. This first meet was between Texas University and A. and M. The meet was a long-drawn-out affair, and a brief summary of the bout, as it is the first one, will not be out of order here.

Smith of Texas threw Harnden in two minutes with a further half-nelson and bar arm. Dose of the Aggies wrestled Bradfield for thirty minutes to a draw. Berry of Texas threw Havenstrite in six minutes, retaining the championship of the south-west. Cooley of A. and M. threw Greer in fifty-five seconds with a head scissor, while Briscoe and Turner wrestled for thirty minutes without a fall, but the decision was given to Turner.

1917--The season under Coach Gallagher the Aggies wrestled three bouts, winning two and breaking even in one. Wrestling was new and the bouts were new, yet the Aggies found it more fun to win than to lose.

1918-1919--Although no dual meets were held these two years, wrestling on the A. and M. campus did not fade out. Each year an all-college tournament was held. The interest that this created tied the boys over.

1920--This proved to be an unusually good season. Maybe the opponents were inexperienced, but in the three dual meets that the Aggie grapplers entered they took easily. The Aggies piled up 113 points to their opponents 19. Gallagher took four of his best men to Birmingham, Alabama, to the National

A. A. U. meet. No championships were taken by the Aggies, but they made an acceptable showing.

1921--Chiefly through the efforts of Coach Gallagher the Southwest Conference recognized wrestling as a major sport, and in 1921 the first conference tournament was held in Stillwater. The Aggies had little difficulty in walking away with the meet. Two schools were entered besides the Aggie Squad; they were Texas A. and M. and Texas University. Following the meet, Gallagher took three of his boys, Frank Briscoe, Guy Lookabough, and Carl Voyles, to the Western Conference meet at Bloomington, Indiana, where Lookabough won the conference title in the middle-weight class.

1922--The season was filled with nothing but victories. It was the second straight all-victorious squad to be turned out by Coach Gallagher. Sickness and ineligibility threatened to play havoc with the team, but the Aggie mentor soon had the recruits trained to a sufficient degree to take on, and in most instances defeat, their opponents. At the beginning of the season, the Captian, Jesse Folliart, left school; Tom Dale was lost because of an infected leg; Lynn Reid, varsity 175-pounder of the year before, was not able to compete. The Aggies grappled and defeated five strong opponents to win the Southwest conference in spite of all this.¹

¹ Redskin, A. and M. Year-Book, 1923, pp 123-125

1924--The prospects were good for a thriving team as seven of the lettermen were back and in good condition. The chances for developing a winning team were strong, and develop a winning team Gallagher did. His grapplers took the Southwest title in easy stride, and then tried for the Missouri Valley at Iowa but were defeated by one point by the Nebraska University team. The four teams that the Aggies met during the season were badly "squelched", the seasons score being for the Aggies 67 to their opponents 6. It was the summer of this year that two Aggies went to the Olympia and captivated a second place to honor the Aggies.²

1925--This year the Aggies again went undefeated. In the National American Amateur Athletic Union tournament the Aggies won thirty points which gave them the individual team championship. They also carried away two first places, one second place, and two third places to win the Missouri Valley Wrestling Championship. The Southwestern Conference Championship was taken by the Aggies with a one-sided score of 18 to 2. The Aggies downed the Indians to win the Big Ten Conference by a score of 14 to 4.³

1926--"Beginning the season with a clean slate, Coach Gallagher's Oklahoma Aggie wrestling team, Missouri Valley champions for the second consecutive year, national amateur champions in 1925 and undefeated for five years, staged their sixth all-victorious year in 1926". A college tournament was

²Redskin, H. and K. Year-Book, 1924, p 133.
³Ibid, 1925, p-220

first held to open the season. The Aggies then met Southwestern and Central the same night, the Aggies showed their superiority by winning all the points in both meets. This year the Aggies met and defeated their opponents in six dual meets, giving them another undefeated season. Again the Aggies won the Missouri Valley championship, and the A. A. U. title.⁴

1927--"Some say that never before in the history of A. and M.'s wrestling has a team been produced that equals the one of 1927." For ten years the Aggies had been winning, and each year they seemed to prove themselves better than the year before. The most colorful season was arranged for the Aggie mat-men, and in addition to meeting and winning over the Valley men, the Aggies met and defeated the best of wrestling teams from the West and Southwest schools. The Aggies were victorious over ten opponents and ended the season holding aloft the banners of the Missouri Valley championship, and the A. A. U.⁵

1928--"Gallagher-men" were becoming known the world over, and this season has added another jewel to their crown. The Aggies won five first places, one second, and one third place in the Missouri Valley meet, and in the A. A. U. matches they won four first places and one second place. During the season the Aggie mat squad met six schools without losing a dual meet.

⁴ Redskin, A. and M. Year-Book, 1926, pp218-220

⁵ Ibid, 1927, pp 262-266.

The only school that gave them any trouble was Iowa State. The Aggies won over them by only one point; 12 to 11. The Aggies won the A. A. U. and the McCready--Dotter Award; then four of the boys went to Amsterdam as Olympic squadmen.⁶

1929--with only one veteran left to begin the new season Gallagher was faced with the problem of bringing to the front new material. This he did, and again we find the Aggies meeting six schools and coming through the season undefeated. People began to wonder just what type of a coach Gallagher was. By now they realized that all was not luck, that somehow Gallagher knew the secret of how to develop a winning team; therefore, he must be given full credit for his work. Iowa State again was the only school that gave them a tough match, but the Aggies were on top when the score was counted, 14 to 12. At the end of the season the Aggies had to their credit the Missouri Valley championship, the National Intercollegiate championship, and the McCready--Dotter Award.⁷

1930--Coming through the season again undefeated gave the Aggies a record of ten years without a defeat. Having four national champions around which to build his team, Coach Gallagher turned out a squad of grapplers "here-to-fore" believed unequalled. Again Gallagher's men tackled and won a double-header against East Central Teachers and Oklahoma City University. Again the Aggies made a trip into the

6

Redskin, A. and M. Year-Book, 1928, pp 262-266

7

Ibid, 1929, pp 276-280

mountians of West Virginia and netted the fourth consecutive win over the mountianeers in as many years. In March the Aggies won the N. I. tournament held in Pennsylvania. The Aggies took three first places in this meet and proceeded on to N. Y. City to fight for the A. A. U. championship. This was the first time in the history of wrestling at A. and M. that the Aggies has tried for both major mat meets in one year. In this meet the Aggies placed second. The championships for the year were the Missouri Valley, Intercollegiate titles, second in A. A. U., and the McCready--⁸Dotter Award.

1931--The first two meets of the season were double-headers. The Aggies craved action and plenty of it; they were willing to stick their necks out and ask that they be twisted, but yet they came home as winners. Meeting eight teams during the season, the Aggies won each in its turn, piling up a score of 201 to their opponents 26½. The Aggies won the National Intercollegiate Wrestling meet at Providence, Rhode Island, making the third straight year of winning this meet. The Aggies were represented six-strong in the finals, and then with half of the members of the team ailing with the influenza, the Cowboys came through to win four of the eight individual crowns of the eight national championships offered.⁹

1932--The season seemed to be a little off key for the Aggie grapplers. They dropped the first dual meet in eleven years.

8

Redskin, A. and M. Year-Book, 1930, pp.244-248.

9

Ibid, 1931, pp. 366-371

This was taken by Oklahoma University squad. The battle was hard fought, and in the end the score stood 13½ to 12½ in favor of O. U. The National Intercollegiate title was also dropped by the A. and M. mat-men, this being the first time in four years the Aggies failed to cop it. Meeting eight teams during the season, the Aggie grapplers won seven meets, ending the season with a score of 191½ to their opponents 64½¹⁰

1933--Meeting nine schools during the season, the Aggies won eight of the bouts with ease. The Aggies two dual meets with O. U. were of note. The first meet the teams proved to be of equal strength, but in the second meet the Aggies won by a score of 15 to 10½. This season the Aggies met many tough teams. One was the Y. M. C. A. in Tulsa which boasted of champions, but the A. and M. grapplers put the damper on such talk at the close of the season when they downed them on their own mat 19½ to 10½. Callagher should again receive a major portion of praise for developing such a strong team. His uncanny knowledge of wrestling, wrestling holds, and his psychology of dealing with men help to make him the nation's master mind in the skill of college wrestling.¹¹

1934--The curtain closed on another year of success for the Aggie wrestling team. The Cowboys were becoming accustomed to winning, and there was nothing unusual in this, but it is seldom that we find them winning more and more honors. This

¹⁰Redskin, A. and M. Year-Book, 1932, p. 203

¹¹Ibid, 1933, pp. 194-195

season the Aggie grapplers won the state championship and the National Intercollegiate title. Ross Flood won the Dotter award with 53 points.¹²

1935--When Gallagher makes a statement concerning his team, one can rest assured that he knows what he is saying. At the beginning of the season, Gallagher said, "The Aggie team this year will be twenty-five percent stronger than last season's undefeated squad." This proved to be no idle boast. The squad met and defeated eight schools, closing the season undefeated. This did not give the boys the "big-head", for they kept on working out as usual. The National Collegiate Wrestling Tournament, which they had won five times in seven years, was next in line. In this they competed against one hundred and thirty-nine wrestlers from forty different schools; the Aggie mat-men won again. Next in line was the national A. A. U. Tournament in Oklahoma City. A total of twenty-six wrestlers were entered in this meet from A. and M. because of the closeness of the event. The Aggies won five out of nine titles and amassed 32 points to finish 21 points ahead of the second place team. Another season had passed with the Aggies carrying the honors.¹³

1936--Again Coach Gallagher started the season with only one champion returning to represent and fight for the Aggies, but he carefully weeded his promising prospects and whipped

¹² Redskin, A. and M. Year-Book, pp. 268-269 (1934)

¹³ Ibid, 1935, pp. 200-201

into shape another undefeated team. The Aggies met seven tough opponents, to be tied by only one. Although the Aggies won the Sam Avey Trophy, emblematic of state wrestling supremacy, they saw O. U. and Central Teachers lead out in the N. I. tournament, leaving them only a third place.¹⁴

1937--Although the Aggies lost the State Collegiate League title to Southwestern Teachers of Weatherford, they won the National Intercollegiate title for the eighth time. The season was one of the most disastrous for the Cowboys since 1932 for the Puncers were tied by Oklahoma University as well as beaten by Southwestern. The Aggies did not enter the A. A. U. tournament because of a shortage of funds. The Aggies ended the season with a score of 159 to their opponents 63.

1938--Again the Aggies push to the top with a winning team. The team which Coach Gallagher called his greatest, scored 236½ to their opponents 25½ as they won nine dual victories in eight weeks of competition. After winning the state collegiate league title, the Aggies easily won both the N. I. and A. A. U. team titles. They headed the two meets with six individual national championships.

¹⁴

Redskin, 1936, A. and M. Year-Book, pp. 174-175

CHAPTER VI

ANNUAL TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL RECORDS

WRESTLING AT
OKLAHOMA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE
OVER A PERIOD OF TWENTY-THREE YEARS

Season	Dual Meets	Won	Lost	Tied
1916	1	0	1	0
1917	3	2	0	1
1918	0	0	0	0
1919	0	0	0	0
1920	3	3	0	0
1921	5	3	2	0
1922	5	5	0	0
1923	5	5	0	0
1924	4	4	0	0
1925	5	5	0	0
1926	6	6	0	0
1927	9	9	0	0
1928	6	6	0	0
1929	6	6	0	0
1930	8	8	0	0
1931	7	7	0	0
1932	8	7	1	0
1933	9	8	0	1
1934	8	8	0	0
1935	8	8	0	0
1936	7	6	0	1
1937	8	6	1	1
1938	9	9	0	0
Totals	130	121	5	4

The above table gives the date of the season, the number of dual meets; the number of dual meets won, the number lost, and the number tied. For example: 1917, the Aggies wrestled three dual meets; they won two, lost none, and tied one.

CALENDAR I

TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS WON

- 1917--Southwest Conference Champions.
- 1921-1923--Southwest Conference Champions.
- 1924--Southwest Conference Champions.
Two members of U. S. Olympic Team.
- 1925--National A. A. U. Champions.
Southwest Conference Champions.
Missouri Valley Conference Champions.
- 1926--Missouri Valley Conference Champions.
Runnerup National A. A. U.
- 1927--National A. A. U. Champions.
Missouri Valley Conference Champions.
- 1928--National Intercollegiate Champions.
Four members of U. S. Olympic Team.
Missouri Valley Conference Champions.
- 1929--National Intercollegiate Champions.
- 1930--National Intercollegiate Champions.
Runnerup National A. A. U.
- 1931--National Intercollegiate Champions.
National A. A. U. Champions.
- 1932--Runnerup National Intercollegiate.
Four members of U. S. Olympic Team.
- 1933--National Intercollegiate Champions.
Oklahoma League Champions.
- 1934--National Intercollegiate Champions.
Oklahoma League Champions.
- 1935--National Intercollegiate Champions.
National A. A. U. Champions.
Oklahoma League Champions.
- 1936--National A. A. U. Champions.
Oklahoma League Champions.
Five members of U. S. Olympic Team.
- 1937--National Intercollegiate Champions.
- 1938--National Intercollegiate Champions.
Oklahoma League Champions.
National A. A. U. Champions.

The above calendar gives the year the Aggies won team championships, and the team championships won for that year.

CALENDAR II

INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL INTERCOLLEGIATE CHAMPIONS

1928--Harold LeMarsh, 125; Melvin Clodfelter, 145; George Rule, 175; and Earl McCready, Heavyweight.

1929--George Brancroft, 155; Jack VanBebber, 165; Conrad Caldwell, 175; and Earl McCready, Heavyweight.

1930--Jack VanBebber, 165; Conrad Caldwell, 175; and Earl McCready, Heavyweight.

1931--Robert Pearce, 125; Conrad Caldwell, 175; LeRoy McGuirk, 155; and Jack VanBebber, 165.

1932--Rex Peery, 118; Ross Flood, 126; Alan Kelley, 145.

1933--Rex Peery, 118; Ross Flood, 126; Alan Kelley, 145.

1934--Rex Peery, 118; Ross Flood, 126; Frank Lewis, 155.

1935--Harley Strong, 145.

1937--Joe McDaniels, 118; Stanley Benson, 145; Harvey Case, 165; Lloyd Ricks, Heavyweight.

1938--Joe McDaniels, 118; Stanley Benson, 145; Dale Scrivens, 155.¹

CALENDAR III

INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL A. A. U. CHAMPIONS

1925--George Campbell, 118; Luel Patterson, 126; Leicester Bringham, 165; Orion Stuteville, 175.

1926--Charles Strack, Heavyweight.

1927--Laverne Lake, 118; Finley Collins, 160; George Rule, 175.

1928--Clarence Perryman, 147.

1929--Archie Tomlinson, 147.

1930--Robert Pearce, 118; Jack VanBebber, 165; Earl McCready, Heavyweight.

1931--Robert Pearce, 126; Archie Tomlinson, 145; Jack VanBebber, 165; Conrad Caldwell, 175.

¹

Mens Physical Education Department--records.

CALENDAR III (cont.)

1962--Robert Pearce, 118; Jack VanBebber, 130.

1965--Rex Peery, 118; Ross Flood, 120; Halpa Easor, 138;
Frank Lewis, 158; Lloyd Ricks, 191.

1966--Joe McDaniels, 118; Ross Flood, 120; Fred Parkey, 134;
Lyndall Fagg, 148; Lloyd Ricks, 191.

1968--Joe McDaniels, 118; Stanley Henson, 145; John Har-
rell, 191.²

2

mens Physical Education Department--records.

CHAPTER VII

SKETCHES OF OUTSTANDING WRESTLERS

Carl Voyles received his B. S. degree in 1921 from the School of Commerce, majoring in commerce and marketing. He first became the Athletic Coach at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina. At the present he holds the position of wrestling coach at this University.

Clifford Keen received his B. S. degree in 1924 from the School of Commerce, majoring in commerce and marketing. From here he went to Ann Arbor, Michigan, as wrestling coach. From there he was transferred to Lafayette University, Lafayette, Pennsylvania. He is wrestling coach there at the present.

John Mason received his B. S. degree in 1925 from the School of Science and Literature with a major in Physical Education. From here he went as coach to the University of Colorado. From there he went to Colorado School of Mines, first as an assistant football coach and then as wrestling coach.

Guy Lookabaugh received his B. S. degree from the School of Science and Literature in 1925, majoring in Physical Education. He became coach at Northeastern State Teachers College, Tahlequah, for two years; he went to Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa, as wrestling coach in 1926.

Leycester Bringham received his B. S. degree in 1926 from the School of Agriculture with a major in dairying. Since then he has been with the Beatrice Creamery, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Charles Strack graduated from the School of Science and Literature with a B. S. degree in 1927. Since he graduated, he has followed the professional wrestling game. He is now in Boston, Massachusetts.

Findley Collins received his B. S. degree from the School of Science and Literature, majoring in Physical Education, in 1927. He is now wrestling coach at the State University, East Lansing, Michigan.

George Rule received his B. S. degree in 1927 from the school of Agriculture. He was first employed as seed inspector for the State Board of Agriculture. He is now Superintendent of the S. C. S. Camp, Number twenty-two, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.

Melvin Clodreiter, majoring in Industrial Arts, received his B. S. degree from the School of Engineering in 1928 and his M. S. degree from the school of Education in 1937. He is now wrestling coach in Ponca City, Oklahoma.

Jay Ricks received his B. S. degree in 1929 from the School of Engineering with a major in Architecture. He is now wrestling coach at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Earl McCready received his B. S. degree from the School of Science and Literature in 1930. From here he went to New York City as a professional wrestler. In 1933 he went to Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Conrad Caldwell received his B. S. degree from the School of Education in 1931. From here he went to Los Angeles, California, to the Olympiad. While out there he began working with the Safe-Way grocery store. He is now salesman for the

company.

Robert Pearce received his B. S. degree from the School of Science and Literature with a major in Physical Education in 1932. Since then he has done graduate work at the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College. He now holds the position of wrestling coach at the Y.A.C.A., Columbus, Ohio.

LeRoy McGuirk received his B. S. degree from the School of Science and Literature in 1933. His major interest was in sports-writing and professional wrestling. Since leaving here, he has wrestled mainly in Tulsa and Oklahoma City. He is now located in Oklahoma City.

Jack VanHebber received his B. S. degree from the School of Agriculture with a major in Agriculture Economics in 1933. For four years he was coach in the high school at Lubbock, Texas. In 1937 he went to Pampa, Texas, to work for an oil company.

Alan Kelley received his B. S. degree in 1934 from the School of Commerce, majoring in accounting. Soon after graduation he was at work with the Tide Water Oil Company in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He left this position to be with the Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Buel Patterson received his B. S. degree from the School of Agriculture with a major in the field of Dairy Products in 1934. From here he went to the Kansas State College, Manhattan, Kansas, as wrestling coach.

Ralph Rasor received his B. S. degree in 1935 from the School of Commerce. He then began his first job by working for the Amerada Oil Company in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Since then

he has changed to the Carter Oil Company.

Ross Flood graduated with a B. S. degree from the School of Science and Literature with a major in Physical Education in 1935. He is now teaching science and wrestling in the high school at Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Rex Peery received his B. S. degree from the School of Science and Literature with a major in Physical Education in 1935. From here he went to Erick, Oklahoma, to teach science in the high school and to coach wrestling. In 1937 he went to Pauls Valley High School, Pauls Valley, Oklahoma, on the same mission.

Sam Barnes received his B. S. degree from the School of Science and Literature with a major in Literature in 1937. Leaving Stillwater, he went to V. M. I. as wrestling coach. After being there one year, he went to Randolph Field and entered as a Flying Cadet, Company B.

Frank Lewis graduated with a B. S. degree from the School of Commerce as an Economist in 1937. That December he began working for the Norble Drilling Company, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

(The information for this chapter was taken from the card index file in the Placement Bureau Office)

SUMMARY

E. C. Gallagher received most of his education in the Oklahoma schools. He graduated from Oklahoma A. and M. college in 1909; since then he has coached wrestling for twenty-two years at A. and M. In this twenty-two year period he has brought the amateur wrestling sport from infancy to national prominence, and because of the splendid record which his teams have compiled he has become recognized as the foremost wrestling coach in America.

In one hundred and thirty matches, Gallagher's A. and M. teams have lost five times, having sixteen undefeated seasons. From 1922 to 1932 Gallagher's teams wrestled sixty-one dual meets without a single loss. His teams have won nine official and unofficial National Intercollegiate team titles in eleven tournaments, and six National Amateur Athletic Union team titles. He has developed forty-nine national champions, had fifteen members on the U. S. Olympic teams in 1924, 1928, 1932, and 1936, and three on the Canadian Olympic team. Three have been Olympic World Amateur Champions.¹

Gallagher's teams are almost wholly made up of Oklahoma boys. He chooses strong boys whose muscles are not overdeveloped, and although his varsity squad seldom totals twenty, he has always had a great team every year.

Gallagher has at his command about five hundred holds. He has his own theory of training and diet. He gives personal instruction to every boy out for wrestling, and ad-

¹

Records, Mens Physical Education Department.

vises his men before they enter each bout.²

Gallagher-trained coaches fill a number of important wrestling coaching positions over the United States in universities and colleges. In many of the Oklahoma high schools are located Aggie wrestlers who are coaching wrestling along with their teaching.³ Because of the influence of E. C. Gallagher, the wrestling sport has been raised to a major classification in Oklahoma.

²

Personal Interview with E. C. Gallagher.

³

Card Files, A. and M. Placement Bureau.

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