

# LOCAL OLYMPIC TIMBER

BY FRANK FINCH

Natives of the rugged State of Oklahoma are nicknamed "Sooners," which is just about the most apt appellation you could stick on Phil Cope.

For the boy from Oklahoma City, who leaps over high hurdles for the good old U.S.C., gets to the tape "sooner" than anyone else in the race.

Right now Cope is the greatest high hurdler in the United States, if not in the entire world, and if he but maintains his present form he's a cinch to pick up some mighty important points for your Uncle Sam in the Olympic Games at Berlin this summer.

## TIED OWN RECORD

In the Stanford meet last Saturday Phil tied his own unofficial world's record of 14.2s. for the 120-

yard barrier race, nosing out his "shadow," Roy Staley, by the width of an eel's epidermis.

Dean Cromwell doesn't claim all the credit for Cope's amazing ability. At Lassen High, Oklahoma City, Cope set a national interscholastic record of 14.7s. in 1933. Upon receiving his prep sheepskin, Cope migrated to the sunny (upon occasions) Southland and entered U.S.C., following in the footsteps of such great hurdlers of another day as Fred Kelly, Leighton Dye, Kenny Grumbles, Ron Stever, Ernie Payne, Jimmy Payne, Norman Paul, Jeddy Welsh and others.

## SET I.C.4-A. RECORD

In his first season as a varsity competitor, Cope last year won the I.C.4-A. 110-meter highs, setting a new record of 14.5s.; placed third in the N.C.A.A. 120-yard highs and tied the unofficial world's record of 14.2s. in the Southern California-Ohio State dual meet at the Coliseum in a dead heat with "Shadow" Staley. He also toured Europe as a member of the American A.A.U. barnstorming brigade last summer.

Cope is hurdling better than ever this year. In a recent indoor meet at San Francisco the Trojan star tied the 50 and 60-yard indoor records in one of his few appearances on the boards.

In the California meet Cope defeated Staley and California's Tom Moore (another unofficial 14.2s. hurdler) in 14.3s., and excelled that mark last Saturday in beating Staley and Sammy Klopstock.

A junior at S.C., Cope plans to enter the oil business upon graduation. He is an even 6 feet in height, weighs 170 pounds and is just barely old enough to vote.



Phil Cope