Success Smiles on Sooner Quintet

1929 Team Emulates Last Year’s Missouri Valley Champs

BEGINNING the Big Six basketball season of ’29 with the ideal of last year’s all-victorious season before them, Coach Hugh V. McDermott’s basketeers invaded the camp of the University of Kansas determined to carry on. They had received a legacy of twenty-two consecutive conference victories made by last year’s “wonder” quintet. In making this number twenty-three the Sooners defeated an experienced aggregation of fighting Jayhawkers by a thrillingly close score of 27 to 25.

In this first conference game of the season the basketball artists from Oklahoma met their first real test. Completing a successful invasion of Southern Methodist university, where the Sooners took the first of their pre-season games with comparative ease, McDermott started a series of hard practice sessions, drilling the team in the fundamentals of the game and correcting the weaknesses shown up by the S. M. U. encounter. They turned on Stillwater for the second and last engagement before the opening of the “Big Six” season. The inexperienced Aggies, defeated by a score of 51 to 16, left the Sooner strength an unknown quantity.

The Jayhawker game was a thrilling test of strength. The Sooner five took the cage floor not knowing what to expect from their opposition. Kansas had been beaten in six out of seven contests, but their conquerors were teams like Notre Dame, California, and Missouri. Finding themselves overwhelmed by the unknown Kansas power in the early part of the first half, the Sooners began a steady up-hill battle which enabled them to overhaul the Jayhawkers early in the second half. That last period was one in which anything might have happened to throw the laurels of victory to either side, but McDermott’s men finally emerged with a two point lead.

In this game the Sooner coach used nine men, starting a first team composed of Meyers and Churchill, forwards; Shearer, center; Captain Drake and Stuart Seaton, guards. Jess Taylor and High Roberts served as alternates in the forward positions. Ben Kiergan started the second half at center, while Bill Noble took one of the guards.

Passing on to Manhattan the Sooners made a clean sweep of the Kansas Aggies under a score of 44 to 24 for the twenty-fourth consecutive victory made by the representatives of Soonerland in the Big Six conference and their twenty-fifth victory in a row.

This twenty-fourth conference victory leaves the basketeers of Soonerland, with those of Missouri, as the only two teams to have played two conference games and remain undefeated.

The work of Clifton Shearer, who seems to have won out in the contest for the center position, has been especially gratifying to McDermott. The lanky pivot man was high scorer in both of the Aggie games and proved very effective in ringing up points against the Jayhawkers.

Captain Bruce Drake, and Tom Churchill, the two remaining regulars who were members of last year’s “wonder” quintet, are hitting their stride in fine fashion. Captain Drake is proving a versatile player as well of a young son. Mrs. Symon taught two summers and one winter term in Missouri university. While there she helped twenty-five girls to organize a club which later petitioned and was given a charter by Mu Phi Epsilon.

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She has studied under Oscar Segle at Schroon Lake, N. Y.

Mrs. Lelah Smith Weirich, B. M. '22, sings and assists in recitals at Tulsa. She is substitute director in one of the churches there.

Mrs. Lucille Couch Paschal, B. M. '23, spent some time in Chicago studying voice and also taught at Capitol Hill high school in Oklahoma City before her marriage to E. A. Paschal, '22 geol.

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as a good leader, being able to shift from the guard to the forward position with ease and effectiveness.

When the Sooners won a decisive victory January 19, over Iowa State in the second half of a game closely contested until the winning team broke away in a triumph of accurate shooting and passing near the beginning of the latter period, they passed the greatest obstacle they have yet had to face in their fight for a clear record of victories and a conference championship.

This game, won by a count of 35 to 22, was the twenty-sixth consecutive cage victory for the Sooners. Iowa State had won four games this season before their disastrous meeting with McDermott's men. The cyclone five defeated the Kansas Aggies by a score of 41 to 30—approximately the same score by which Oklahoma turned the Aggiesmen.

With the Ames victory the Sooner hopes are beginning to crystallize. The team is well on its way to a championship title.

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With Sooner Wrestlers

Coach Paul Keen and his Sooner wrestlers must find it hard to keep from being satisfied with themselves after their showing in the first meet of the Big Six wrestling season when the Sooner tusslers took six matches out of eight starts against Coach Leon Bauman's mat aggregation from Kansas. This Sooner team which won a decisive victory over the Jayhawks was crippled by the ineligibility of two regulars. It has additional potential power which should be developed as the season progresses, but even without which their opponents for the Big Six title are bound to consider them formidable.

In three lighter Jayhawk matches Marvin "Kid" Leach, 115-pound class, Lawrence Mantooth, 125-pound class, and Leo Miller, 135-pound class, won their matches for the Sooners. Captain Tommy Cox, Jayhawker, gave the Sooners their first upset by defeating O. Leach in the 145-pound encounter. Lester Danford took the 155-pound mix-up for Oklahoma, but Kirk lost his tussle with Church, Jayhawker, by a time advantage. In the 175-pound encounter Hugh Cunningham, wrestling the second varsity match of his career, defeated Cummings of Kansas by a decision. In the unlimited class Bass of O. U. was given the decision over Miller, his lighter Jayhawker opponent.

This opening encounter with the Jayhawkers revealed faults in the work of the Soonermen to the discerning eye of Coach Keen. In preparation for the encounter with the Southwestern Teachers he put his men through hard drills in an effort to achieve perfection. The work of Paul Keen and his matmen is receiving the admiring interest of the students who broke all previous attendance records at the University of Kansas engagement held in the fieldhouse on January 12.

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Nebraska Gets Bible

With the recent switching of Coach Dana X. Bible from Texas A. & M. to the University of Nebraska, the Cornhusker team should continue to give the rest of the conference something to think about. Bible's team at Texas A. & M. won five southern conference championships in eleven years. The new Nebraska coach has been a member of the national rules committee since 1922, and has had for some time an active part in the National Coaches association.

Coach Ernest E. Bearg, formerly of the University of Nebraska, goes to Washburn college at Topeka, Kansas as director of athletics.

Bible will fill his former position at Nebraska as head football coach beginning next fall.

Another change in Big Six coaches may take place as their is a possibility that Bo McMillan may leave-Kansas A. & M. for Texas Christian university.

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