Sooner Sports

K.C. Games, Train Ride Stymie Soothers in National Cage Finals

By Harold Keith

Smartly coached by Alumnus Bruce Drake, the N.C.A.A. fifth district's new representative on the national rules committee, a big, aggressive, courtwise Oklahoma team than ranked with any ever developed in the league planted the banners of the Big Six conference basketball high in national acclaim in 1947.

 Competing in a year where the quality of collegiate basketball was higher than in any since the game was devised, owing to the hordes of experienced talent back from war, the Oklahomans ranked No. 2 in the Nation, won 24 of 31 games, won the Big Six championship by two full games, broke the 13-year Oklahoma Aggie jinx at Stillwater, and although the tallest man on their squad stood only 6-5, probably defeated more good teams from all over the land than any college team in the country.

A slick-passing outfit that moved the ball fast, guarded tenaciously, hit their set shots well, established a national reputation for free-throwing and possessed a versatile offense with an intelligent play pattern for virtually any situation that might arise in a basketball game, the red-shirted Sooners were at their best on the road, defeating Wisconsin's Big Nine champions 56-40 at Madison, Ill., N.C.A.A. Eastern regional runners-up 55-52 in Madison Square Garden, Bradley's Braves 65-64 at Peoria, Ill., and while powering their way down the home stretch conquered in thrilling succession Oklahoma A. & M.'s Sugar Bowl champions 48-41 at Stillwater, St. Louis University's Missouri Valley champions 47-41 at Kansas City, Oregon State's Pacific Coast champions 56-54 at Kansas City and Texas' Southwest Conference champions 55-52 in Madison Square Garden, Bradley's Braves 56-41 at Madison, Ill., Navy and C.C.N.Y. (these games were also played in Madison Square Garden) .

This is the shot that caused tears to flow throughout Texas. It's Kenneth (Sonny) Pryor jumping high into the air to drop in a basket in the last few seconds of the O.U.-T.U. game to give the Soothers a 56-55 victory and the Western N.C.A.A. championship. The other Oklahoma player (No. 20) is Allie Paine.

Missouri and Harry Good of Nebraska, injected spark and punch into a Big Six championship race that was everywhere conceded in advance as lying between Kansas' defending champions, back intact, and Oklahoma. Then in stunning succession came the blows that startled and delighted the fans: (1) Good's Nebraskans upset Oklahoma at Lincoln, in the first game, 44-41, (2) Stalcup's Missourians stopped Kansas 39-34 at Lawrence. Further dissolution of the traditional Kansas-Oklahoma overmatching was indicated in the additional disaster that struck the Jayhawkers, Dr. F. C. "Phog" Allen, their nationally-famous coach, was knocked down while directing his team in a practice scrimmage. Sustaining a head injury, he was ordered by his physician to abandon coaching and go West for a long rest. Kansas lost the next two games, 42-50 to Oklahoma at Norman and 46-48 to Good's fighting Nebraskans at Lincoln and the league stared agast at a Kansas team which had lost its first three games and with a 0-3 standing, reeled in the conference cellar.

Missouri, the surprise team of the league, made the pace through the first half of the season. Teaching the Henry Iba style of defense and ball control, Stalcup's Missourians played the Henry Iba style of defense and ball control, Stalcup's Missourians played the Henry Iba style of defense and ball control, Stalcup's Missourians played the Henry Iba style of defense and ball control, Stalcup's Missourians played the Henry Iba style of defense and ball control.
And What Basketball Figures

Final figures on the Big Six race released by Reaves Peters, commissioner of officials, reveals that Oklahoma led the conference this season in offense with 191.6 points per game, in defense with 41 points scored against them, in field goals with 171 and in free throws with .647 percent to Missouri's .644, very close.

Gerald Tucker, Oklahoma's All-American center, closed his third season with the highest average among Big Six individual scorers with 137 points in 10 games. Tucker also had the highest average in 1942 and 1943, with 19.8 and 17.5 respectively. However, in the 1942 season he played only second semester games, consequently his conference competition was limited to five contests.

Potts Predicts Keen Competition For O.U. in Mid-West Conference

Twenty years ago, with the ink still wet on his diploma from the University of Oklahoma, lanky Frank Potts, 276a, reported for work as track coach at the University of Colorado and thus began an era that saw the Golden Buffaloes practically unbeatable in dual meets.

Track and field stars are made, not born, and the former Sooner football and pole vaulting star has the formula which, among other things, has brought Colorado University's track team the Blue Grass State, Nebraska and Kansas State, next December containing Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa State, Nebraska and Kansas State, next December 1.

Last week, however, the affable Potts predicted the end of the profitable era—but the announcement carried no note of sorrow. With C.U. becoming a member of the new Mid-West Conference containing Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa State, Colorado and Kansas State, next December 1, the caliber of competition will be greatly increased and Potts knows his thin-clads no longer will be alone when they hit the stretch.

"Our days of winning championships may be over but I'm very glad we're in the new conference," is Potts' way of saying, "They may beat us but they'll sure know they've been in a race."

Born in Ada, 44 years ago, Potts got his first taste of competition at Ada High School under Coach C. Raymond Cox, now professor of history at East Central Oklahoma State Teachers. After climaxing a brilliant high school career by winning the state pole vault championship and being chosen as a member of the all-state football team, the skinny kid with the unruly hair enrolled at the University.

Bennie Owen was the football coach at the Normal school and John Jacobs was, as now, the track mentor. Both "adopted" frightened Frank and he developed into one of the best all-around athletes of the time. As a rock 'em and sock 'em halfback he twice was named on the all-Missouri Valley Conference team. At the circuit's top vault, he won practically every title available as a junior in 1926. Trophies he hugged back to Norman came from the Kansas Relays, the Texas Relays, the Drake Relays, the Rice Relays, the Missouri Valley-K.C.A.C. indoor meet and, most coveted of all, the National Collegiate Athletic Association championships. The N.C.A.A. title, won in the rain and mud at Chicago, came with a 12-foot, six-inch vault but Frank's best height was 12 feet, 11 and seven-eighths inches at the Kansas Relays while competing against Charley Hoff of Norway, then holder of the world record.

The last time Potts visited the redlands of Oklahoma was in 1942 and he chuckles when he recalls the visit.

"I couldn't run and I couldn't holler," says Potts, "And if that bear hadn't decided to go on home there would have been a widow and three children in Boulder and no track coach at the university."

Potts is president of the National Track Coaches Association and tutors the linemen on Coach Jim Yeager's football squad. He was head football coach during the 1940 season while university authorities were seeking a replacement for "Bunny" Oakes and again in 1944 and '45 while Yeager was on Navy duty. His '41 grid team won the Big Seven title but track is his No. 1 specialty—and at track he is tops.

Coach Frank Potts, 27ba ... former O.U. gridster and pole vaulter, now track mentor at Colorado University.

Here they are...Oklahoma University's second ranking collegiate basketball team in the nation. They are, first row from left to right, Paul Merchant, Tulsa; Allie Paine, Jack Landon and Kenneth (Sonny) Pryor, all of Oklahoma City; second row, Harly Day, Ada; Bill Watters, Oklahoma City; Gerald Tucker, Winfield, Kansas, chose best college eager of the year by Helms committee; Paul Courty, Windsor, Missouri, and Dick Reich, Oklahoma City. Proudest yet is Coach Bruce Drake (back center), 29 phys ed.
**Name It—O.U. Directory Has It**

Species of birds, beasts, fish and flowers, brands of automobiles, titles and colors—all these combine with the Smiths, Browns, Johnsons and Joneses to comprise no small percentage of the 10,000 names listed in the University directory.

Between Floyd Daniel Aaring, junior engineer from 'way up in Royalties, Canada, and Julius Zynida, business administration sophomore from Oklahoma City, the range is immense and the surnames are arranged. Aaring leads the list while Zynida concludes it.

Every letter in the alphabet is represented, even the lonely X, which owes its place in the directory to the presence on the campus of George and Faye Xezonatos, a man-wife pharmacy threesome from Norman.

The University’s population includes Cocons, Crows, Foxes, Birds, Bass, Redheads, Salmon and Wolves. There are also Cottons, Lemons, Berries, Beans, Beets, Bushes, Woods, Cains, Peppers, Pines, Pauls and Roses.

Seventeen hundred, nine Fords, three Kaisers, three Fraziers and a Nash travel the campus roads.

The directory holds 163 Smiths, seven Charles but no Johns. The Brown as after 69, Johnsons 61, Jones 56, and Williams 55. There are 50 Davis, 48 Williams and 43 Millers.

We have Farmers and Bakers but no Candlestick-makers here at O. U. Men of title and professional prestige abound. There are Kings, Barkers, Barkers, Dukes, Fishers, Gardners, Chancellors, Christians, Bishops, Rectors, Cooks, Cooks, Tailors, Wears, Rachels and Taylors. Some are Young; others are Old.

No shortage of Love, Hope, Power and Bliss is evident either. Plenty of color to college life is added by the Greens, Blacks, Golds and Greens, Wins and (ouch!) Ballews.

To top it all off, George Washington is a sophomore in the College of Business Administration!

**Sooner Splashes Finish Fourth**

Oklahoma, the school which once had a swimming coach (Robert “Doc” Erkinke) who couldn’t swim a lick, and whose greatest all-around swimmer (Jack Davis, ’37) had to practice in a frog pond, has at last put the sport on a firm foundation.

When the Sooners last fall hired wily, little Joe Glander, OKU swimmers to their swimming coach and assistant athletic trainer, they couldn’t have given swimming here a finer boost. And Oklahoma’s new 25-yard, eight-lane pool is the finest in the conference.

Glander’s Sooners have won six dual meets this year, lost three. They finished fourth in the Big Six conference meet at Ames, Iowa, but are improving and look to do better. Glander has soundly re-established swimming at Oklahoma which hasn’t had a team in five years.

In the Big Six, the Sooners shaded Kansas State twice. The Nebraska loss was narrow, 41-43, in the Nebraska pool.

**Willoughby—Dog Fancier, Author**

Whether that rolly-poly pup of yours turns out to be a champion bird dog or a dud in the fine art of pointing and retrieving all depends on his "pedigree puppy" or his "grand-dogmaton." And to find out the ancestor of your bird dog, just look up one V. E. Willoughby, assistant professor of mechanics, dog fancier and newly turned author.

An expert on the blue-blood of dogs, Willoughby this year has published two books, "The Cream of Pointerdom, 1900 Through 1945," and "The Cream of Setterdom, 1900 Through 1945," which list pertinent facts and figures about dogs, of course.

Two years ago he started collecting information on the winners of field trials in the United States since the year 1900. By making file cards for each dog and sorting these into a dozen different classifications, Willoughby came up with a staggering array of figures about the sires and dams and progeny of every dog that ever won a blue ribbon.

One book lists 16,000 pointers, the other 10,350 setters. Both contain over 350 pages. The record shows name, sire and dam, color, when whelped, number of male winners produced, number of female winners produced, number of victories in the various field events of the dog and his progeny and other data.

A large number of Oklahoma dogs are listed. One of them, Spunky Creek Boy of the Spunky Creek kennels of Mrs. Nina Billing of Catoma, was not only a champion himself, but his sons and daughters outdid him. He holds the all-time pointer record for producing the most progeny scoring puppy wins with 184 and amateur derby wins with 93. He is also top dog by producing 88 individual puppy winners, 55 amateur derby winners, 66 open derby winners and 72 female winners.

Willoughby devotes a few pages to explain his findings on why a jittery dog may have a grandfather to blame, why lemon-colored mates produce only lemon-colored offspring or why "throw-backs" appear in litters.

It all adds up to a complicated set of figures bigger than the public debt. For instance, if 40 sets of genes, the heredity determinants, are required for a dog’s “make-up” and if all genes of each set of four possessed by the sire and dam are different, the possible combinations would reach 1,205,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.

**Nation’s Biggest Baseball Tourney to Be Held at O.U.**

The biggest high school baseball tournament in the nation, the University of Oklahoma’s 41st annual invitation meet, will be held here May 1, 2 and 3.

Last year a total of 84 Oklahoma high school baseball clubs descended upon the Sooner campus for the three-day tournament which ended with Oklahoma City Capital Hill triumphing in class A and Fairview Consolidated of near Holdenville, surviving in the oversized class B division.

Jack Baer, Sooner baseball coach in charge of the tournament, thinks this year’s meet will be just as large or larger. Baer urges high school coaches and principals to get their entries in early this year. Friday, April 29, is the deadline.

**O. U. Leads Big Six All-Sports**

Sweeping championships in cross-country and basketball and being for the football title, Oklahoma leads the Big Six conference all-sports table for the school year. Only a single point prevented the Sooners from tying Iowa State for the loop wrestling crown. Here’s the present conference all-sports ranking:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Football</th>
<th>Basketball</th>
<th>Cross-country</th>
<th>Indoor track</th>
<th>Swimming</th>
<th>Wrestling</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Okla. Mo.</td>
<td>1½</td>
<td>3½</td>
<td>3½</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1½</td>
<td>2½</td>
<td>23½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kans. K.S.</td>
<td>1½</td>
<td>3½</td>
<td>3½</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1½</td>
<td>2½</td>
<td>23½</td>
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**Editors Speak to J-Students**

A growing trend for newspapermen with the specialized knowledge to deal with such complex stories as labor problems and governmental affairs was pointed out by Morris P. Moore, city editor of the Oklahoma City Times in a recent talk before the University chapter of Sigma Delta Chi, professional journalistic fraternity.

Specialization was one of the topics discussed by city editors at an American Press Institute seminar at Columbia University attended by Moore.

The seminar did not wholly agree on the qualifications of specialists, Moore said. William L. Laurence, science writer of the New York Times, held that hard work on a daily, beginning with police reporting is of primary importance, whereas formal education is secondary. On the other hand, John J. O’Neil of the New York Herald Tribune maintained that “education and more education” is the answer.

A good newspaperman, Moore stated, is one who has a specialized knowledge about many subjects, although he realizes that such an ideal reporter does not exist.

To meet the need for better trained reporters, the Daily Oklahoman and Times are conducting a school for reporters, with experienced staff members lecturing to the cubs. This practice, Moore said, is being followed by other metropolitan newspapers.

Ralph Sewell, city editor of the Daily Oklahoman, accompanied Moore on the visit with the student journalists and participated in roundtable discussion of reporting and editing problems.
K. C. Games, Train Ride—
(Continued from page 19)
and stood by to challenge the visiting Missourians at Norman late in January.

In this first meeting of what turned out to be the circuit's top clubs, Oklahoma won decisively 57-43. Tucker was magnificent, scoring 21 points and hitting 11 of 16 foul shots. County's defensive rebounding was vital, and the brilliant individual guarding of the Oklahomans chocked off the Tigers with 11 steals, 30 steals, Allie Paine holding Dan Fippin to three field goals, Reich restricting Thornton Jenkins to one, and Jack Landon holding Darrell Lorraine to one. The Sooners kept winning and when, in the last half of the season, Coach Louis Menze's Iowa State Cyclones, notoriously tough on their home floor, upset Missouri 54-52 at Ames, the Oklahoma team slid past the Tigers into the leadership. The Sooners overcame their Ames jinx on a free throw by Allie Paine, shading Iowa State 46-45, and the tight race approached its climax on the Missouri floor late in February in the second Oklahoma-Missouri game. If the Sooners won, they clinched the championship. If Missouri won, the race very likely would end in a tie.

Meanwhile the conference was seeing rough, slugging, one-upmanship as the other clubs closed furiously. Howard Fogleman, a law student and assistant coach, had a firm hold on the reins after illness had compelled Doctor Allen to relinquish on Kansas, and the kid coach drove the Jayhawks for all he was worth. The Kansans laced Iowa State 55-30, Kansas State 50-39 and Menze's Iowa State Cyclones, notably tough on their home floor, but flogged DePaul, Kentucky's conquerors, 58-41 the Purple's first win in ten years from Kansas, and stood by to challenge the visiting Missourians in this first meeting of what turned out to be the conference's imp clubs, Oklahoma won decisively 57-43. Tucker isthe first basketball player in the history of the Big Six Conference to be named Player of the Year in the National Collegetournament. The last Sooner to win the honor was Vic Holt, All-American center of Coach Hugh McDermott's all-victorious team of 1929, when Helms sport-lighted that season. That was one year before the Big Six began operating.

Gerald Tucker, Sooner center from Winfield, Kansas, was named Player of the Year at the close of the season by the Helms Athletic Foundation of Los Angeles and named to Helms' All-American team. Tucker had previously been chosen on True magazine's All-America.

Tucker is the first basketball player in the history of the Big Six Conference to be named Player of the Year in the National Collegetournament. The last Sooner to win the honor was Vic Holt, All-American center of Coach Hugh McDermott's all-victorious team of 1929, when Helms sport-lighted that season. That was one year before the Big Six began operating.

Great O.U. Teams of the Past

(ranked in number games won)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>PCT</th>
<th>Coach</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1947</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>774</td>
<td>Bruce Drake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1946</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>704</td>
<td>Bruce Drake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1945</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>727</td>
<td>Bruce Drake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1944</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>722</td>
<td>Bruce Drake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1943</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>652</td>
<td>Bruce Drake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1942</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>786</td>
<td>Bruce Drake</td>
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<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>692</td>
<td>Bruce Drake</td>
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<tr>
<td>1940</td>
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<td>1939</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>714</td>
<td>Bruce Drake</td>
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<tr>
<td>1938</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>786</td>
<td>Bruce Drake</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Sooner Record for 1947

49, Warrensburg 21
60, Texas Tech 37
76, Texas Christian 55
82, Southern Methodist 41
94, Kansas State 59
101, Missouri 53
103, Nebraska 54
103, Wisconsin 40
104, Baylor 47
105, Kansas 51
106, Texas 62
111, N.Y. City College 52
114, Bradley 64
117, Nebraska 44
120, Kansas 47
125, Kansas State 30
136, Iowa State 40
142, Oklahoma A&M. 47
143, Iowa State 40
157, Texas Christian 34
157, Kansas State 38
163, Nebraska 49
164, Iowa State 45
165, Kansas State 38
168, Oklahoma A&M. 41
176, Kansas 38
178, St. Louis U. 41
186, Oregon State 54
187, Texas 54
187, Holy Cross 58

Sooner Record for 1947

*Big Six championship games.
§47, Holy Cross 58
§48, Oregon State 54
§56, Oregon State 45
$65, Oklahoma 51
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$67, Oklahoma 51
$68, Oklahoma 51
$69, Oklahoma 51
$70, Oklahoma 51
$71, Oklahoma 51
$72, Oklahoma 51

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Laessig Joins—
(Continued from page 13)
As an ordained minister he was able to procure admittance to the United States through the help of the First Baptist Church. On February 1, 1947, he arrived in Norman and immediately began teaching German at the University.

At present he is engaged in writing a book on popular linguistics. He describes in this book his method of learning languages through a breakdown of grammatical structure. His style of writing used in the book is the same free and easy style that he uses in conducting his classes—that of artistically expressing himself.

Dr. Laessig likes Oklahoma and plans to apply for American naturalization for himself and his family as soon as is legally possible. He, his wife and three children, the youngest having been born in Jamaica, are now residing in the faculty section of Sooner City, University housing area.

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