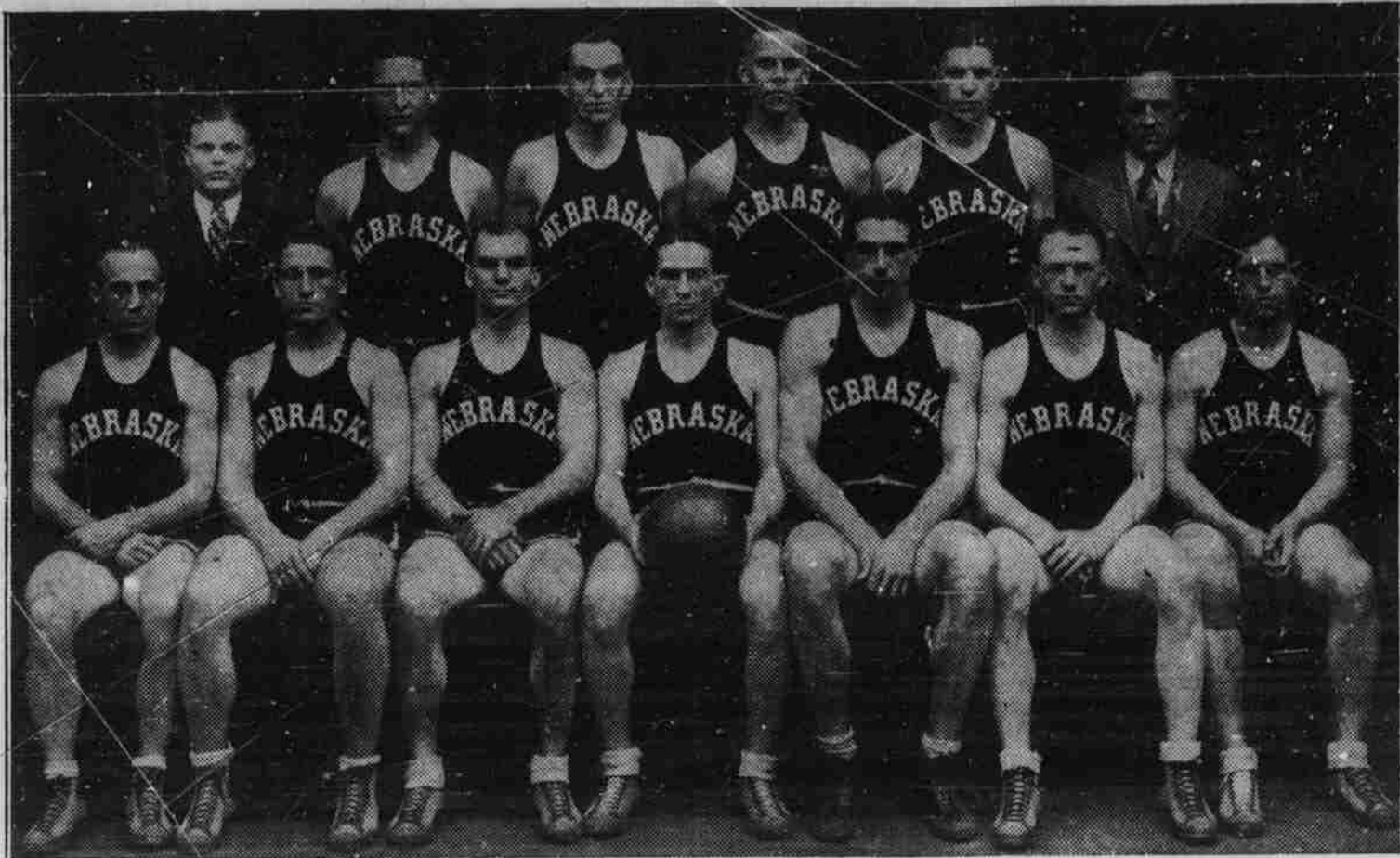


CAGERS FINISH SUCCESSFUL SEASON

By Jack Elliott

University of Nebraska Cage Squad



The Cornhusker basketball squad which just ended a successful season on the court. Next season with the exception of four men, the entire squad will be back. The Husker basketball team turned in a record of eleven games won and five lost. All the games on the lost column were conference games and counted against the Nebraska percentage in the Missouri Valley cage race. Standing: John Schroyer, student manager, Bob Krall, Kenneth Othmer, Carl Olson, Tom Elliott, Coach Charles Black. Seated: Merritt Klepser, Elmer Holm, Vinton Lawson, Captain Clark Smaha, Ted Page, Roy Andresen, John Brown.

BASKETBALL EDITION

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FOUR PLAYERS ON QUINTET TO GRADUATE

Smaha, Page, Andresen and Klepser Play Last Game as Huskers

TWO ALL-VALLEY MEN

Page and Smaha Are Named On 1927 All-Valley Basketball Team

Four basketball men will be lost to the Scarlet and Cream cage quintet with this year's graduation. They are Captain Clark Smaha, Ted Page, Roy Andresen, and Merritt Klepser. Captain Clark Smaha led the 1927 cage team through a successful season. Clark was one of the foremost forwards in the Missouri Valley and attracted attention all over the middle west by his uncanny method of snagging baskets on the run and from the side. His favorite shot was a one-handed one from the side of the court, which he made with regularity in every game. Smaha finished third in the high scoring column in the Missouri Valley scorers, rolling up a total of 123 points for his season's record. Fifty-one baskets were put through the netting by the stellar Husker captain, but basket shooting alone would not give due credit to the Nebraskan who figured so prominently in Coach Charley Black's court machine. Smaha was one of the best floor men in the Valley and could elude an opposing guard with the ease and skill of a finished player. One of the Husker captain's tricks was to feign a pass to one of his team-mates, thereby drawing the guards away to leave him for an open shot. This made Smaha one of the hardest forwards in the conference to guard and if the guard persisted in hanging on, the Nebraska forward would pull the trick that brought comment from sport critics all over the country, and that to dribble around his man and get under the basket for a shot. Brown of Iowa State who stopped the best forwards in the Valley, found it a difficult task to stop Smaha in the Ames-Nebraska game at Ames, and the Cornhusker leader slipped through for three tallies from the field before he was injured and taken from the game.

Plays Three Years on Team

Smaha graduates this spring after three years on the Nebraska basketball team. Last season Smaha was one of the outstanding forwards of the Valley and in 1925 he played regularly at the forward post. Next season, Coach Charley Black will have to develop a forward to fill the stellar Cornhusker captain's shoes.

Ted Page, giant Husker center, the tallest basketball player in the Missouri Valley cage race and the main cog on which the Nebraska quintet revolved is the second basketballer who has played his last game on the court for Nebraska. Page was the tallest center in the conference and was able to get the tip-off from every center that opposed him. The big center also figured in the scoring column the second high scorer for the Huskers and finishing in seventh place in the Valley high scoring column with a total of 102 points.

Pivot-Man Helped Teamwork

Page would get the tip in every game thus enabling his team to work their plays down the floor to perfection. Sport critics and coaches say that a team with the tip-off can figure on ten points more on an average of every game. So with Nebraska getting the tip in every game, a good deal of the scoring would be due to the Nebraska pivot-man.

Many a basketball game, the big Nebraskan would thrill Husker fans by getting one of his tip-in shots, of making a goal out of what apparently was a miss by one of his mates. His favorite shot was on the jump and to tip the sphere in from around the foul line. In the Washington-Nebraska game, the Nebraska center counted three times from the field by lengthening out shots from his team-mates that were falling a few inches short of the rim. Snatching the ball out of the air, he would sink it through the netting for his famous spectacular shot. Page's height and accurate basket shooting won a place for him on several All-Valley selections.

With the graduation of the tall Nebraskan, there will be a vacant place on the 1928 Husker quintet that will probably never be filled. Very seldom is it that any school can turn out centers like the tall Page. Nebraska is known for the tall corn it grows, and now Valley schools are well aware of the fact that the Cornhusker state can grow some tall basketball men also.

Andresen Close Guard

Roy Andresen, Nebraska guard is the third Husker basketballer to be lost by graduation this spring, was one of the closest guarding men on the Scarlet and Cream five and his loss will leave a position open for candidates next winter as the running mate of Phil Gerelick. Phil and "Andy" worked together all season at the guard posts like veterans and were one of the best pair of guards in the conference. Very seldom did Andresen come down the long Nebraska court for shots, but was content to stay back on the court and keep down the score of the opponents and well did he handle his job. With the exception of the last two games, the Husker guards kept the opposing score down and turned in a season's record of 335 points scored against them, ranking Nebraska fifth in defensive strength.

Fast Reserve Forward

Merritt Klepser is the fourth man to graduate this year. "Klep" was a reserve forward and saw action in several games and displayed his wares as a fast man on the floor. Dribbling, passing and dodging opposing guards were some of the feats performed by the little Husker forward that made him a dangerous man on the court.

Brown Injured Late in Season

"Jug" Brown, the running mate of Captain Clark Smaha at the forward position was kept out of a number of games this season due to an injury to his knee and later in the season the Husker forward received a broken nose which hindered his participation in games. But regardless of his injuries "Jug" was in the game and fighting and in the final game of the season played one of the best games of his career. Brown was a careful of his career.

Graduates



Roy Andresen, the running mate of Phil Gerelick at the guard posts is another stellar Husker who will be lost to the Nebraskans next winter. Roy and Phil at the guarding job was "enough" said in the opinion of Husker fans all season. Andresen was the back guard on the Nebraska five and didn't come down the long court very often for shots, but playing the man and returning the ball to his team-mates was "Andy's" specialty. He handled his position like an expert and will leave a vacancy in next year's team that will be hard to fill.

Phil Gerelick, dependable and diminutive Cornhusker guard who figured in every battle the Nebraskans took part in this season. Phil played the floor, slipped up on opposing defense for his favorite long high-arch shot at the basket and covered his man with the speed and cleverness that was characteristic of his playing all season. With Phil and "Andy" at the guard posts, the Husker coach could always figure the opposing score would be low. Gerelick will be back in the Scarlet and Cream jersey next season.

Valley opponents in the 12 regular scheduled games. This is an average of almost 22 points to a game while the Jayhawk offense managed to score an average of 31 points to a game. A total of 373 points were rolled up by the men of "Phog" Allen during the 1927 season.

The Oklahoma Sooners grabbed the honors for the highest scoring team in the conference games they featured in during the 1927 season. The Sooner machine rolled up a total of 405 points in the 12 Valley games for an average of 33 points per game. The Nebraska team ranked as third in defensive strength with an average of 27 points scored against them, in the 12 conference games or for a total of 335 points.

Yunker, Missouri forward finished in fourth place with 116 points. The Tiger forward played in only ten games on account of the break of athletic relations between Missouri and Washington. He scored more points per game than any other player in the conference. To Bruce Drake, the flashy Oklahoma Sooner forward goes the honors of capturing the most free throws. The Sooner star garnered a total of 31 free throws, just one ahead of Yunker. Drake was one of the best forwards seen on the Husker court this season, and played one of his best games against the Cornhuskers when the two teams met on the Coliseum floor February 18. Captain Peery of Oklahoma Aggies was one of the Valley's high scorers of the 1927 season and finished behind Yunker with 111 points.

Kansas Had Defensive Team

The Kansas Jayhawkers had the leading defensive team in the conference and allowed but 260 points to be scored against them by their

Smaha One Of Leading Men In Score Race

"Al" Peterson, Kansas Jayhawk center led the scorers in the 1927 Missouri Valley basketball race closely followed by "Lefty" Byers of the Kansas Aggies and Captain Clark Smaha of Nebraska. The Jayhawk ace made his big total in the last three games of the season starting with Nebraska and finishing up with the Kansas Aggies.

Sport writers and coaches throughout the Missouri Valley recognized Peterson as one of the foremost scorers and floor men this season. He was picked by nearly every critic for the All-Valley team and in the Missouri-Kansas game, the big blond-headed pivot-man distinguished himself as one of the greatest basketball players of Jayhawk history. Almost single handed the Kansas scoring ace scored 22 points to turn back the Tigers from Missouri. Again in the Kansas Aggie game as in the Nebraska game the Kansas center snagged five baskets from the field to run up his total for the season. In 12 games he collected 54 baskets and 18 free-throws for a total of 126 points and high scorer of the season.

Byers Close Second

"Lefty" Byers, the Aggie Wildcat scoring ace who was close behind Peterson, scored one less than the Kansas center. Byers scored consistently all season and was leading the Valley for several weeks, but dropped behind when the tall Kansan went on his basket rampage. The Kansas Aggie forward scored one less than Peterson, but the leader but only collected 15 free throws, three less than Peterson for a total of 125 points.

Smaha Third in Line

Clark Smaha, Cornhusker captain was third in the line of high scorers with a total of 123 points. Clark was another one of the consistent Valley scorers all season and was the mainstay of Nebraska's scoring machine, collecting fifty-one baskets and twenty-one free-throws in the twelve Missouri Valley conference games he played. Page and Smaha were Nebraska's big scorers and both finished high in the scoring column. Smaha averaged 11 points a game all season and nearly five baskets in every game. Page, the second high scorer for Nebraska finished seventh in the race with a total of 102 points or 47 baskets and 8 free throws. The Husker center sank the least number of free throws than any other player in the first high ten.

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FINAL INDIVIDUAL STANDING

Player	G	fg	ft	Pts
Peterson (Kansas)	12	53	20	126
Byers (Kan Ags)	12	55	15	125
Smaha (Nebraska)	12	51	21	123
Yunker (Mo)	10	43	30	116
Peery (Okla Ags)	12	42	27	111
Drake (Oklahoma)	12	37	31	105
Myers (Drake)	12	37	28	102
Page (Nebraska)	12	47	8	102
King (Okla Ags)	12	36	17	89
Holt (Oklahoma)	12	30	22	82
West (Oklahoma)	12	31	18	81
Elliott (Ames)	12	34	10	78

Opening Left In Cage Ranks By Graduation

With three stellar basketball men graduating this spring, Coach Charley Black will have a real task on his hands to replace these players next fall when the crowd of the basketball re-unions its talent on the Coliseum hardwood. Ted Page, the tallest basketball player in the Missouri Valley, will leave the pivot position open by his graduation this year. Clark Smaha, one of the high scorers in the conference and leader of Husker scorers, and Roy Andresen, Nebraska guard, will leave vacancies in the Husker quintet for next season.

Phil Gerelick, letterman of two years and Elmer Holm will be back for the guard positions and are two fast guards that Black can figure on to hold down these positions. Kenneth Othmer and "Jug" Brown, two Husker forwards from this year's team will be back for the forward work, and Tom Elliott who played as reserve center this season will be back for the center job with Olson another promising forward for next season's aggregation.

The freshman material this winter looked better than ever before and Coach Beag was with his yearling team every night, drilling them on the fundamental plays, passing and shooting.

Nebraska Captain



Captain Clark Smaha who led the Nebraska Cornhuskers through the 1927 basketball season. Smaha was one of the cleverest forwards in the Missouri Valley and one of the high scorers finishing third close behind Byers of the Kansas Aggies. Fifty-one baskets and twenty-one free throws for a total of 123 points was the record the Husker captain hung up for his last year on the team.

FINAL MISSOURI VALLEY STANDING

Team	G	W	L	Pct
Kansas	12	10	2	833
Oklahoma	12	8	4	667
Missouri	10	6	4	600
Nebraska	12	7	5	583
Kansas Aggies	12	6	6	500
Drake	12	6	6	500
Oklahoma Aggies	12	6	6	500
Iowa State	12	1	7	300
Washington	10	2	8	224
Grinnell	12	2	10	246

Tallest Center



Ted Page, the six foot seven inch Nebraska center, the tallest basketball man in the conference and the main cog in the Nebraska basketball quintet. Page out-jumped every center he opposed, slipped in baskets from the court, tipped in shots that were missed by his team-mates, and followed in shots with the ability of a veteran of the court. Page was the second high scorer for the Huskers and finished seventh in the Missouri Valley scoring with a total of 102 points. Page and Peterson were the two high scoring pivot-men in the conference and were picked as candidates for the All-Valley teams.

High School Players Open Tourney Today

(Continued on Page Four.)

Louisville vs Talmage	4:40 p. m.
Blue Hill vs Panama	5:00 p. m.
Ohio vs Riverton	7:00 p. m.
Wood Lake vs Maywood	7:20 p. m.
Coleridge vs Benton	8:20 p. m.
Cortland vs Hooper	8:40 p. m.
CLASS M	
Coliseum No. 5	
Hallam vs Goehner	8:00 a. m.
Lynch vs Elk Creek	8:20 a. m.
Hickman vs Yutan	9:20 a. m.
Bennett vs Dodge	9:40 a. m.
St. Mary's (O'Neill) vs Waco	10:40 a. m.
Clark vs Maxwell	11:00 p. m.
Holmesville vs Wellfleet	1:00 p. m.
Diller vs Howell	1:20 p. m.
CLASS N	
Coliseum No. 5	
Dunning vs Dasher	2:20 p. m.
Trumbull or Plymouth vs Johnson	2:40 p. m.
Clatskanie vs Berwyn	3:40 p. m.
Dorchester vs Thayer	4:00 p. m.
Grafton vs Cedar Bluffs	5:00 p. m.
Prague vs Elsie	5:20 p. m.
Campbell vs Elkhorn	7:30 p. m.
Bradshaw vs Primrose	7:50 p. m.
NOTE: Trumbull and Plymouth will play a preliminary game Wednesday, March 9th at 7:00 p. m. on Coliseum floor 5.	
CLASS O	
Y. M. C. A.	
Lewellen vs Springfield	8:00 a. m.
Tamora vs Blue Springs	8:20 a. m.
Comstock (Dry Valley) vs Juniata	9:20 a. m.
Burling vs Hampton	9:40 a. m.
Gurley vs Henderson	10:40 a. m.
Goodview Cons. vs Inavale	11:00 a. m.
Belwood vs Wagle Creek (Loup City)	11:20 p. m.
Dalton vs Palmyra	1:20 p. m.
CLASS P	
Y. M. C. A.	
Walton vs Bruno	2:20 p. m.
Brusham vs Br...	2:40 p. m.
Chapman vs Riverdale	3:40 p. m.
Bellevue vs Hubbard	4:00 p. m.
Farwell vs Hyannis	5:00 p. m.
Amherst vs Duncanson	5:20 p. m.
Mullen vs Lisco	6:20 p. m.
Unadilla vs Denton or Glenville	6:40 p. m.

Basketball Captain To Be Chosen Soon

The election of the 1928 basketball captain will be held within the next few days according to unofficial reports from the athletic department. With the graduation of Clark Smaha, Ted Page and Roy Andresen, the candidates will be limited to Phil Gerelick, Cornhusker guard who just completed his second year on the Scarlet and Cream and is a guard of All-Valley caliber, John "Jug" Brown, captain of the 1927 Nebraska football team who has also finished his second year on the basketball team. Tom Elliott, Elmer Holm and Kenneth Othmer are the other letter men who will be back on the court next season.

HUSKERS END YEAR FOURTH IN CAGE RACE

Missouri Valley Race Closest In History; Every Game Changed Standings

WIN FINAL CONTEST

Basketeers Finish Successful Season by Winning From Drake March 5

Nebraska's Scarlet and Cream jerseyed basketballers finished a successful season by trimming the Drake Bulldogs at Des Moines 46 to 32 on March 5. By the loss of the Ames game on the Iowa trip, the Huskers went into fourth place and finished there. The Missouri Valley cage race of 1927 was one of the closest in history. Every week-end saw a big up-set in the conference standing.

Kansas with nine straight victories after losing to Iowa State and Nebraska in the second and third games of the season, walked off with the 1927 championship of the Missouri Valley for the sixth consecutive time, tying for it in 1921 with the Missouri Tigers. The season from the start was filled with upsets and the dope bucket spilled every week-end. At the beginning of the season, the Oklahoma Sooners were favored to win, and one by one they dropped until it looked as if the Kansas Aggies were going to cop the coveted title. Then Nebraska and Missouri took their turn at the title, but the Kansas Jayhawkers hung around in the first division and jumped into first place the last week of the conference race.

Tigers Have Lead Race

Missouri played but ten conference games due to a break in athletic relations with Washington University. The Tigers led the race until the last two weeks, with six victories and two defeats. Then their Oklahoma trip ruined their hopes for the 1927 title when both southern schools took the count of the Missouri Tiger.

Nebraska got off to a fair start and by mid-season was considered one of the strongest quintets in the Valley, taking Kansas, Oklahoma, Kansas Aggies and Missouri to a cleaning. The Huskers finished in fourth place, going behind the teams that they had beaten twice, on the home court and on foreign courts, Oklahoma and Missouri. Nebraska's fourth place came because of their inconsistent playing, losing to their weaker sisters of the conference. Drake, Iowa State, Kansas Aggies and Oklahoma Aggies took the Husker five into camp during the season, and also were defeated by Nebraska once.

Won Seven, Lost Five

The Huskers won seven Missouri Valley conference games and lost five for a percentage standing in the cage race of .583. The Missouri Tigers twice fell before the powerful Husker machine in non-conference games, Washington in two non-conference games, and the Grinnell Pioneers in one. Every team that Nebraska played this season was beaten at least once by Charley Black's men.

The Scarlet and Cream quintet opened the 1927 season on the home court losing to the Kansas Aggies 34 to 23. Later in the season the Nebraska team journeyed down to the Wildcat camp at Manhattan, and took their conference game from the Aggies by a comfortable margin. The second and third games of the year were played in Missouri where the Huskers took a pair from the muddy state, beating Washington and the Missouri Tigers. On January 19 the Huskers took their second road trip of the season to the Missouri Valley champion stronghold for a conference game with the Kansas Jayhawkers. For the second time and the last time this season the Kansas team was defeated, Nebraska winning 27 to 24. With a standing now of .500 in the conference, the Nebraskans took on the Drake Bulldogs on the home court. The Drake-Nebraska game was the fluke game of the season, the Huskers losing to the weaker Drake team 31 to 32. With but thirty seconds to play and the Huskers leading, the Bulldogs got the ball out of bounds and carried it in for the winning basket. The Iowa State Cyclones came to Lincoln to help the Huskers raise their standing in the Valley cage race, and after the game, the Nebraska five was again standing .500 percent, with a 35 to 19 win over the Iowa team.

Third Trip in South

The third road trip of the season was in the south where Nebraska met and won from the Oklahoma Sooners and the next night lost to the Oklahoma Aggies to break even on the trip and remain in the even percentage class. Returning to Lincoln, the Cornhuskers began a winning streak that didn't stop until they had won six games, then the conference champions came to stop the onslaught the Nebraskans had launched. Grinnell, Kansas State, Missouri, Oklahoma, Oklahoma Aggies and Washington were the victims of the Husker team before the defeat by the Jayhawkers.