

Minnesota Lad Bierman Takes Sooner Cinder Squad Returns Five Lettermen

MINNEAPOLIS.—Ray Christesen, Minnesota's hustling little tow-headed frosh basketball guard, may have to weigh-in with both socks on and wringing wet to hit 150 pounds but all opponents will find it wise to smile broadly if they choose to call him "shrimp."

Midget of the rangiest squad in Minnesota's basketball history at 5 feet 8 inches, "Christy" was nearly lost in a towering forest of players when he reported for basketball in October.

Only 17.

The 17 year old freshman won the approving eye of Dr. Carl Nordly with his scrap and propensity for learning. When Veteran Matt Sutton suffered recurrence of a football leg injury in the third game of the season, against the Iowa Seahawks, Christesen moved up on the list of guards. By the time the Gophers were ready to take on Iowa in their conference opener last week at Iowa City, dynamic Ray was paired with Senior Butzy Lehrman at a regular guard position.

The ability of the St. Paul boy to "give-and-take" in the most rugged going against adversaries who dwarf him is no surprise to those who saw him perform as an all-city halfback at Murray high in St. Paul. There he won six letters—two each in football, basketball, and baseball.

Last summer he took a job at the Minnesota State Fair grounds as a laborer so that he might "toughen up" enough for college athletics. He passed up football at Minnesota to concentrate on studies and early basketball practices. Now, together with his high school pal, Joe Knoblauch, with whom he played three years of basketball and football, he is a Minnesota basketball fixture.

Youngest Starter.

The Gophers' candidate for "youngest basketball starter in the Big Ten" (he won't be 18 until June 18) "Christy," a prep standout at second base, plans to take a hand at conference baseball before Uncle Sam beckons.

Sooner Quint Is Not Tall Enough

NORMAN, Okla., Jan. 11—Out-rebounded by both Kansas State and Nebraska and suffering a costly one-point defeat to the former team, the University of Oklahoma's Roundball Runts were lagging a full game behind Iowa State and Kansas as the Big Six conference basketball race went into its second week.

Averaging only 5 feet 10 inches thru their starting five, which plays most of each game, Coach Bruce Drake's short-statured Sooners will try to find themselves during a long home stand that finds them meeting four consecutive Big Six foes before home crowds.

Runts vs. Huskers.

The Runts will clash with Nebraska Saturday at Oklahoma City's Municipal Auditorium, with Dr. F. C. "Phog" Allen's Kansas Jayhawkers here January 20, with Coach George Edwards' Missouri Tigers here January 26 and with Kansas State here February 10.

A study of Oklahoma's team charts in the Sooners' first 11 games reveals how important is offensive rebounding and how sadly the Runts have lacked it.

In Oklahoma's worst defeats this season, the 40-52 loss to Iowa Pre-Flight's Seahawks at Kansas City and the 28-43 trimming to Rice's rangy Owls at Oklahoma City, Drake's Runts were badly out-manuevered at the backboards, capturing only three offensive rebounds to the Seahawks' 18 and grabbing only seven to Rice's 20.

Oklahoma's highest margin of victory, the 61-31 trimming of Texas Tech at Oklahoma City, was achieved the night Drake's Runts hustled their season's high of 14 offensive rebounds.

In other words, a basketball team has to get the ball to score, and rebounding affords by far the

MINNEAPOLIS.—Bernie Bierman will return on Jan. 17 to the head coaching role at the University of Minnesota where he produced the nation's outstanding collegiate football record in the 10-year period before he left for active duty with the marine corps in 1941.

On the third Wednesday of the month Bierman, who has produced more national championship teams—five—than any other living football coach, will assemble in the field house at the University of Minnesota a squad of indefinite possibilities.

15 Navy Players.

Of the 33 lettermen from the 1944 squad which was coached by Dr. George Hauser, 15 are enrolled in the navy's V-12 program; one is a N.R.O.T.C. cadet; six are seniors; five were under-age freshmen; and six have civilian status.

These figures indicate that the Gopher outlook for 1945 hinges to a large degree on the future of the V-12 athletes, who may or may not be in school at Minnesota next fall.

Six Civilians.

The six civilians on whom Bierman is counting for 1945 duty are: Guards John Kutscheid and Fred Madsen; Bill Marcotte, end; Hudson Mealy, fullback; and Halfbacks Johnny Lundquist and Matthew Nolan.

When Bierman picks up the reins on the 17th he will be starting his 11th season as head coach at Minnesota, his alma mater. In his ten years at the helm between 1932 and 1941 he put his Maroon and Gold elevens at the top of the National football picture with a record of 63 victories, 12 losses, and 5 ties.

Six Championships.

In this time the cagy "Silver Fox" produced six Big Ten champions—1934, '35 (tied with Ohio), '37, '38, '40, '41—and four undisputed National titlists—in 1934, '35, '36, '41. His undefeated 1940 powerhouse received extensive recognition as top team in the country.

greatest opportunity to achieve this all-important possession.

This is proved in Oklahoma's team statistics to date. In their 11 games this campaign, the Runts have relinquished the ball to their combined opponents 329 times on rebounds, 109 times on errors, 54 times on jump balls and 24 times on violations.

With their smallest starting five in years, Oklahoma is nearly always out-rebounded and to win must compensate for it with good ball-handling, shooting, guarding and tactics, a whaling big order.

Goose Tatum's 15 Points a Game Is Tops

(Courtesy Bomb Bay Messenger)

Maintaining their average of 63 points a game, the Wings have scored 945 points in the 15 basketball games played to date. Opponents have been able to score 535 against the Wings, an average of 36 points per game.

Goose Tatum continues to lead the Wings in individual scoring with a total of 231, averaging almost 16 a game. He has tallied 97 field goals and 37 free throws.

All five members of the starting lineup, Tatum, Lumpp, Kraft, Ehlers and Ahearn, have scored more than a hundred points apiece. Ahearn, with the lowest total of the quintet, has played in one less game than the other starters.

NORMAN, Okla.—With five lettermen returning, Coach John Jacobs' University of Oklahoma indoor track and field squad has been practicing since December 1.

Clarence Vicklund, Big Six outdoor mile and two-mile champ; Dave Day, Oklahoma AAU 400 meters king; Bill Wilson, pole-vaulter; Bill Sylvester, quarter-miler and Jack Coe, quarter-miler are all back.

Lose Heard.

However the Oklahomans have lost Charley Heard, their high point scorer of last year, because of an operation for correction of a football injury to his ankle.

The Sooners have also bidden goodbye to such Oklahoma high school talent, recently enrolled but since departed to military calls, as J. D. Cole of Shawnee, Oklahoma interscholastic hurdles record-holder; Eldon Ferguson of Tulsa Central, state interscholastic cross-country and class A mile and 880 champion; Ivan Evans of Putnam City, Oklahoma interscholastic 440 champ the last two years; Bill Waters, Oklahoma City Capitol Hill, state shot put champ; Laddie Harp of Fairview, state high school B 100 and 220 king; Winston Hudson of Healdton, state class B 880 champ, Bob Williams of Weatherford and others.

Others ineligible.

Also, Jacobs apparently will lose because of poor grades some promising high school boys who recently came in via Navy V-12. Jack Osborn, navy trainee who was fourth in the Big Six outdoor two-mile last year, has announced he will not report for track. Basil Sharp, rangy hurdler-sprinter from Pawnee, hasn't reported yet because of a football injury.

The green Sooner squad of 30 men now reporting includes Max Culver, Muskogee; Virgil Grene, Howard Clark, Cliff Barnhart, Howard Hopps, Jr., and Bill Kinchelo all of Oklahoma City; Bill Snyder, Ridge Farm, Ill.; Terry VanBuskirk, Kansas City; John Dempsey, Limestone, N. Y.; Steven Little, Carmel, Calif.; Tom Bump, Waterloo, Iowa; Donald Keys and Bion McBride of Wichita, Kas.; Frank Leach, Lexington, Ky.; Homer Sparkman, Anadarko; Dan Harley, Hayworth, Ill.; Claude Martin, Elyria, Ohio; John Uphoff, Los Angeles; Joe Richardson, Sherman, Tex.; Bob Collins, Wilkingsburg, Pa.; Marvin Cole, Flippin, Ark.; Herman Johnson, Oakland, Calif.; Jim Robinson, Gould; and Fred Hawley, Pasadena, Calif.

Boucher Attends Land-Grant Meet

Chancellor C. S. Boucher left Lincoln Tuesday night to attend a meeting in Washington, D. C. of the executive committee of the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities of which he is president. The meeting is being held Jan 11 to Jan. 14 and the Chancellor will return to Lincoln Tuesday, Jan. 16.

Concert . . .

(Continued from Page 1.)

Weldin.

BASSOONS: Albert Reddish.

HORNS: Maxine Stone, James Welch, Frank Loeffel, Rodney Maas.

TRUMPET: Jack Killian, Margaret Modlin.

TROMBONES: Carroll Brown, Leola Sneed, Richard Bush, Harold Bauer.

TYMPANI: Phyllis Fischer.

HARP: Beverly Murray.

ORGAN: Myron Roberts.

PIANO: Dorothy Taylor.

*Members of the University faculty.

Bench Warming With Dick Dilsaver

Gather around all ye people, feast your eyes with the poundings of our typewriter. Wouldn't it be a shame if you were to miss what will probably be the last of Bench Warmings for many a moon. Yes, we know it wouldn't. But come second semester or high water, we'll soon be bound for the Great Lakes or other points of naval training to launch a new career—that of a gob.

Thanks to all the loyal readers, loyal meaning that they at least read the column once, for taking time from your cramming and coking to look into the inner pages of The Nebraskan and find out how the alma mater had fared in her contests of football and basketball or to see if Gamma Zeta Nix had won in her intramural ventures against another Greek team.

Tho the women in the Rag office would slit your throats if they had a chance and always demand a coke if they have to rewrite a head of ours. It's still been fun getting into the games on a press card and then coming back to the inner sanctum to pound out a story to all the readers of The Nebraskan.

It's been worth all the cigaret-

mooching of Pat Chamberlin and Les Glatfely just to write to our heart's content—or should we say to the content of Andy and Goody. But enough of the dilly-dally. Glad to have been here. See you after the war. Let's get to our business, the sport's world.

Wednesday night the Lincoln Air Base Wings and Patterson Field Air Tec provided Nebraska basketball fans with a nice game of courtplay, nice being spelled sensational.

Two happy thoughts exist from the contest. The Wings won and Coach "Chuck" Taylor of the Air Tec is asking for a re-match on the Nebraska court. This should satisfy anybody and everybody. The Air Tec get another chance at the Wings, the Wings get another chance to prove the Air Tec's first time wasn't a mistake and Joe Fan should get to see another wow of a ball game.

Professional football along with its colleagues, pro basketball, pro baseball, and other play for pay games have been in the spotlight recently as to whether the boys who play the games should be made to go into defense work of the armed services. No definite stand has been made of the issue.

Intramurals Get Started on Court

The whistle was blown to intramural basketball Tuesday night with first competition beginning then.

The Brown Palace quintet had comparative ease as they took one of the openers from Cornhusker Co-op. 21-8. Beta Theta Pi nipped the Phi Gams in a close one by a 24-21 score.

Two games were to be played Thursday night to complete the week schedule.

Next week on Tuesday night, Kappa Sigs and Beta Sigs will battle it out along with a contest between the Sigma Nu and Sigma Chi quintets.

Zeta Beta Tau will meet Theta Xi Thursday night with Pioneer Co-op and the Sig Alphas providing the second game of the evening on the coliseum floor.

All games start at 7:30. Equipment cage will be open at 7:00.

Charity Shots No Trouble for OU

NORMAN, Okla., Jan. 11—When the University of Oklahoma basketball team sluiced 17 consecutive free throws thru the hoops against Kansas State at Manhattan, Kas., January 2, it set what is believed a new Big Six conference record for charity shot consecutivity.

Coach Bruce Drake's Roundball Runts missed their first four free throws at Manhattan, then potted 17 in a row before Ed Lindenberg dubbed No. 18. Five different players were in on the record. Harold "Scooter" Hines, 5 foot 5½ inch forward, hit six, Jack Landon four, Don Buelow three, Bill Whaley two and Howard Binegar two.

26 Out of 39.

The Oklahomans have netted 26 of 39 free throws in Big Six play so far this season for 66 percent, good considering the fact all were made away from the home

court and that because of their short stature, the Oklahoma players must stand farther away from the goal.

And yet the Sooners have been guilty of some very poor charity shooting this season. They hit only 18 of 37 free tosses for 48.6 percent in their three All College tournament games against Texas Tech, Arkansas and Rice at Oklahoma City late in December.

Drake Means Business.

Drake has always emphasized good free-throwing. Last year his Big Six co-champs hit 105 of 150 free throws in their 10 conference games for an average of exactly 70 percent, very good. The Sooners bucketed 15 of 17 against Kansas, 18 of 24 against Missouri and 9 of 10 against Kansas State, Kenneth Pryor, all Big Six freshman forward, hit 17 of 21 in league play, Allie Paine 28 of 35, Grover Ramsey 22 of 28 and Jack Landon 19 of 26.

Best Nite in 1943.

Oklahoma's best night in 1943 was 13 of 14 against Kansas State and 19 of 23 against the Norman Navy Zoomers. In 1942 the Sooners hit 11 of 13 against the Oklahoma Aggies, 15 of 16 against Kansas and 18 of 21 against Missouri. In 1941 the Sooners cashed 8 of 9 against Kansas State at Manhattan, 12 of 14 against Iowa State and 14 of 17 against Kansas.

In 1940 Drake's team set a Big Six record for one game by hitting all ten of their free throws against Iowa State at Norman for 100 percent. Marvin Mesch looped in five, Marvin Snodgrass two, and Herb Scheffler, Dale Carhile and Matt Zollner one each.

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