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Big 8 Preview

Men:

Analysis by Bob Asmussen
and Mike Reilley
Senior Reporters

"The king is dead. Long live the king."

The old saying might best describe Big Eight basketball in 1985-86.

Wayman Tisdale said goodbye to Oklahoma a year early and said hello to a bunch of NBA dollars. With Wayman safely tucked away, Kansas should be able to dominate the league race.

Not that Wayman was the only player at Oklahoma. The Sooners return Darryl Kennedy, an all-Big Eight player with the nickname of Choo. The Sooners also will welcome back Anthony Bowie, David Johnson, Linwood Davis, Shawn Clark and a healthy Tim McCallister.

Here's how the Big Eight should shape up this season:

1: Kansas

The Jayhawks return everything from last year's NCAA team and that caused Larry Brown to stick around for a third year for the first time in three jobs. Ron Kellogg and Danny Manning give the Jayhawks the finest pair of forwards in the conference, and maybe the country. At center, Kansas features Greg Dreiling, who has improved each of his years at Kansas. Dreiling has the muscle to guard some of the conference's top centers and can be an effective scorer. In the backcourt, Kansas returns Cedric Hunter and Calvin Thompson. Thompson is the Kansas version of Mr. Clutch, winning several games during the years with last-second heroics. If Kansas has a problem, it is depth in the forward and center positions. Mark Pellock is injured and will miss the season. Junior college transfer Archie Moore and freshman Jerry Johnson should help out the Kansas depth problem. Not only are the Jayhawks a lock for the conference title, but they could also end up being the NCAA champion as well.

2: Oklahoma

Don't cry for the poor Sooners, they'll

be OK. With Tisdale this season, the Sooners would have been great, maybe even unbeatable. Without Tisdale, the Sooners might be great but they also will be beatable. What Tisdale did for Oklahoma besides the obvious was keep teams occupied. Billy Tubbs' value as a coach will be shown this season as he leads the team to another NCAA berth. Maybe the Sooners won't return to the regional final but, then again, maybe they will. Tubbs and Oklahoma are likely to do anything this season, except stall.

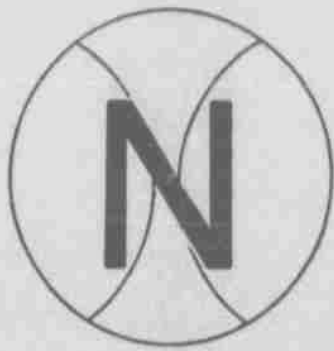
3: Missouri

The Tigers aren't being treated very well by the basketball magazines and that's a surprise. With players like Derrick Chievous, Jeff Strong, Lynn Hardy and Dan Beingenheimer the Tigers can't help but be good. While Missouri isn't a threat to the hierarchy of the NCAA, they do pose a potential threat to the Top 20. Strong is a streak shooter who seemed to be on last season when Missouri had a crucial game. Chievous showed signs of brilliance last season but for every brilliant play, there was an equal and opposite stupid one. Beingenheimer is like a less-talented Dreiling. He has the size and shooting ability to develop into a fine player. The loss of Malcolm Thomas will hurt on the boards but will help in every other area. Thomas would go into isolation at times during games last year and that was disruptive to the young team. The loss of Greg Cavener will only help the Tigers shoot better from the free throw line.

4: Iowa State

Iowa State could be in for a long season or it could be in for a nice one. What it will come down to is how well Johnny Orr is able to replace Barry Stevens. Stevens was a force the entire

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