Jim Iverson saved State the next year, 55-53. And that was the Purple's best all-time team, going all the way to the NCAA finals. In '51 Drake's Shufflers skidded unbeaten Stanford into the discard in the opening round. The Indians had come into the meet undefeated.

Colorado and OU are much more closely matched this winter than last, on paper, at least. Still, the Buffaloes will rank as solid favorites, barring tremendous upheavals in the two clubs' few remaining engagements before tournament time.

Even though Colorado last four of five starters which took it to third place in the NCAA last year, it is starting a full team of lettermen. In contrast, Oklahoma is fusing two sophomores with one holdover letterman and two returning regulars in its starting five. Furthermore, Parrack shows only four lettermen on his entire squad, fewer than any conference team, and is carrying 10 sophomores on his 18-man squad. An 11th, Fred Hood, 6-4 200-pounder, will miss the tourney because of duty with Sooner football fortunes in the Orange bowl.

Parrack's rookie starters are Joe King, 6-6½ Norman forward who is Bacher's releif at center, and Joe Jones, 6-1½ Oklahoma Cityan. A third soph, Bill Pinkerton, 6-4 Oklahoma Cityan, came off the bench to score 18 points in last week's 69-59 vanquishing of Arkansas.

Ed Abbey, 6-4 Denverite, is the lettered junior starter. He plays opposite King in the front line. Bacher, the 6-5½, 230-pound pachyderm with the soft touch, is at center, of course, with Peck, a leaping little guy cut from the same cloth as the departed Lester Lane, pairs with Jones in the backline.