

Jayhawks Are Unsteady Heading Into Tourney

JAYHAWK SCOREBOARD.

Record to Date—Ninety-one Northwestern 70; 56 Wichita 55; 74 Wisconsin 66; 61 S. M. U. 81; 66 Rice 75; 62 S. M. U. 58. W. 4, L. 2.

Returning Lettermen—(9) Bill Brainard, f.; Dallas Dobbs, g.; Gene Elstun, f.; Lee Green, f.; Blaine Hollinger, g.; Lew Johnson, c.; Ron Johnston, f.; Maurice King, g.; John Parker, g.

1955 Big Seven Finish—Fifth, 5-7; all games: 11-10.

Previous Tournament Finishes—1946-2nd; 1947-3rd; 1948-2nd; 1949-6th; 1950-3rd; 1951-1st; 1952-2nd; 1953-1st; 1954-7th (W. 18, L. 9, 667).

Remaining Pre-Tournament Games—None. First Round Opponent—Cornell, 9:30 Wednesday.

KANSAS, which has reached the Big Seven tournament finals more than any other team, has struggled fitfully to gain the 4-2 record it will carry into the tenth annual affair which opens Tuesday for a 4-day run in Municipal Auditorium.

The Jayhawkers, most high-ranked Big Seven team in the various pre-season polls, have been sharp only in their opening 91-70 annihilation of Northwestern, a club which has lost all five games to date. They were pressed to the limit to beat Wichita, 56-55; Wisconsin, 74-66, and S. M. U., in a return match, 62-58. Meanwhile S. M. U. meted out an 81-61 flogging in the teams' first meeting at Dallas and Rice beat them by nine, after once leading by 19, 75-66, at Houston.

Play in spurts.

Embroidered by a full complement of seasoned starters and more lettermen than any tournament team, nine, Kansas has been playing in spurts. It has not enjoyed a genuinely hot shooting night yet, something that was expected at least once or twice during the first six games. It is experiencing grief with both its defense and personnel and taking a fearful whipping off the backboards.

The Jayhawkers have out-rebounded only Northwestern and S. M. U., the latter by one carom in their second game . . . while falling far short against its other four opponents. This is traceable to two factors: (1) Lack of a modern-day giant, and (2) an attitude of non-aggression.

Lew Johnson, holdover varsity center, is 6-6½; not lofty by modern post standards. He is the Hawkers' tallest regular, which brackets them with Oklahoma and Missouri in that department. The unaccountable docility of this year's edition is a far cry from all previous Jayhawk editions of this decade.

Another unlooked-for item is absence of bench strength. Phog Allen, starting his 39th season at Mt. Oread, thought he was going

to be able to employ ten men at the outset of the season. Instead six or seven are carrying the entire load. Until some of the second liners arrive, the Ole Kinghawk of the Kaw will be playing with as little depth as any club in the league save Oklahoma.

The Potential Is There.

Even with their weaknesses showing, the Jayhawkers own enough potential to shoot down any tournament team. Their backline fire-power from Capt. Dallas Dobbs and the rising Maurice King is second only to that of Missouri's Norm Stewart at Lionel Smith (29.3 points per game against 35.8). The revolving pivot offense places an added burden on the defense since all starters save Dobbs can work well out of what once was called the keyhole. And the zone defense they have employed the last two games seldom offers a shooting gallery for any team. The zone also helps this club off the defensive boards where it can present no 200-pound regular as well as no real loft.

Dobbs, because of his outside shooting touch, is a rare weapon. His current 14.9 average is no eyebrow lifter, but he has been known to explode in torrid stretches of three or four games during which he fires at a 25-point average. Such a streak during the tournament could vault the Kansans into their sixth finals berth in ten meets.

King established a new career single-game high of sixteen in the loss at Dallas then followed with successive nights of twenty against Rice and S. M. U.

Gene Elstun, who scored fifty-eight points as a sophomore last year to finish fifth among meet scorers, handles one forward. Bill Brainard, who closed as a regular opposite him last year, started off in the same spot. However, his shooting tailed off to the point where Allen played Ronnie Johnston, junior letterman, most of the way against Rice and started Lee Green, 6-5 lettered junior, in the S. M. U. encore.

Cornell Is Capable.

Cornell, this year's guest team, appears capable of toppling Kansas in the finale of the 4-game first-round card, at 9:30 p. m., Wednesday. Missouri and Nebraska play the opener that night at 7:30. Colorado's defending conference champions open against Oklahoma at 7:30 p. m. Tuesday with Iowa State vs. Kansas State following.

TOP TEN SCORERS SINGLE TOURNAMENT.

	G	FG	FT	MFT	PF	TP
Clyde Lovellette, c, Kansas1950	3	37	8	4	11	82
Clyde Lovellette, c, Kansas1951	3	31	14	8	12	76
Maynard Johnson, c, Minnesota1950	3	28	19	5	6	75
Chuck Duncan, c, Iowa State1954	3	31	13	10	7	75
Dick Knostman, c, Kansas State1952	3	23	25	8	10	71
Lester Lane, g, Oklahoma1954	3	25	17	9	7	67
Jim Buchanan, g, Nebraska1951	3	28	11	4	8	67
Jim Ramstead, c, Stanford1951	3	25	17	10	3	67
Sherman Norton, f, Oklahoma1951	3	22	21	2	4	65
Gerald Tucker, c, Oklahoma1946	3	26	12	3	5	64
Clyde Lovellette, c, Kansas1949	3	25	14	6	10	64
Delmar Diercks, c, Iowa State1952	3	18	28	9	11	64
Lester Lane, g, Oklahoma1953	3	23	18	8	11	64