No Shuffle, But Sooners Stack Buffs

BY DON PIERCE
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KANSAS CITY.—Almost as strange as Oklahoma's upset victory over Colorado in the 1954 Big Seven tournament curtain-raiser here was the fact that the Sooners brought off the upset without use of their famed shuffle.

This attack invented by Bruce Drake back in 1950 and featuring a revolving pivot, had become a Redshirt basketball trade mark. There was no semblence of it in that 73-71 toppling of the Buffaloes, heaviest favorite in the four first-round contests.

"I changed for a couple of reasons," Drake explained in the center of his vibrating dressing room. Our opponents around the league have been laying awake nights devising defenses for it.

"Fact is, at least three teams, Colorado, Kansas and Kansas State, have added some phases of it to their own offense. Some of our opponents' freshmen know it as well as we do.

"THEN, TOO, we must have an offense that gives our best scorers the best chances to score. As everyone knows we're long on guard strength and short at the other three positions. I've changed the system to fit the material."

Drake would not be drawn into the technicalities of his new offense other than to say —"We key off the defense. We try to counter the moves of the defense with some variation.

Against CU the two guards, veteran Lester Lane, playing in his fourth tournament, and sophomore Jimmy Peck, a mere 5-9 midget, screened laterally for one another off the backline trying to shake loose the dribbler around the perimeter of the defense for running one-handers.

This pair also frequently hit the post then took a return pass to pop from behind a forward screen near the corners. They free-lanced down the middle considerably, too, shredding the lethargic Buffs badly thru the first half simply off a diagonal dribble thru the keyhole.

"We have got to have better shots than the other team," Drake pointed out, "because we can't fight on even terms off the boards."

The herd grabbed 17 more rebounds than did OU, at 55-38,