

Regardless of record or physique, other conference teams have learned to be wary of OU's tournament thrusts. They wrought one of the biggest in meet annals in 1951 by dumping ~~xx~~ Stanford's fast-breaking Indians, 77-71, in a first round game which saw Forward Sherman Norton notch a single-game record of 39 points. Bruce Drake's band cut the Cardinals to ribbons that night for 13 layups off their famed Shuffle.

In 1949 they clipped favored Kansas State, 55-50, in the second round, and the following year, when the Wildcats had their NCAA runner-up club, they scored a near miss in the first round before Jim Iverson's late basket pulled out a 55-53 verdict.

Drake will ~~bring the smallest~~ floor the smallest team in the tournament. Tallest man on the roster is LeRoy Bacher, 6-5 ~~sophomore~~ sophomore center, who will not be eligible until the second semester. Fred Muller, 6-3 converted forward, and Ed Abbey, 6-4 sophomore, will handle most of the post play.

One happy item in this lack of size is that ~~post~~ tall pivot play is not essential in the Shuffle since OU's centers often operate from high in the keyhole. But it is a wicked handicap on the boards.

~~Most dangerous~~ If this team owned firebrand speed ... which it doesn't .... it would ~~xxx~~ closely resemble the famed Boy Scouts of the late thirties, finest fast-break squad the league ever has harbored.

It will mount one dangerous sharp-shooter, tho, in Lester Lane, the prolific little guard from Purcell, Okla. This 5-10 senior won the tourney individual scoring championship last December on 64 points, snapping seven straight years of dominance by towering centers. Thru his first three games, Lane was continuing the same tattoo. He leads all tournament personnel with a 23.0 average.