

# LOWLY O. U. STATE

Sooners Haven't Won a Game in Four Starts but Always Do Well in Tourney Here.

## A SAD LACK OF HEIGHT

It's the Smallest Team in Oklahoma History and Is Geared to Les Lane, a Fine Shooter.

*(This is the second of a series of analyses of team personnel of the clubs which will participate in the annual Big Seven conference tournament. The 4-day affair opens December 27 in Municipal Auditorium.)*

### SOONER SCOREBOARD.

Record to Date—64, Baylor 80; 66, Wisconsin 77; 79, Baylor 86; 84, Minnesota 102.

Returning Lettermen (8)—Larry Hamilton g; Lynn Hart, f; Lester Lane, g; J. D. McConnell, f; Joe Mobra, f; Fred Muller, f; Jerry Newman, g; Sam Thompson, c.

1954 Big 7 Finish—Sixth, 4-8; all games, 8-13.

Previous Tournament Finishes — 1946, fifth; 1947, fifth; 1948, first; 1949, second; 1950, fifth; 1951, fourth; 1952, eighth; 1953, second. (14 W., 10 L., .583.)

First Round Opponent—Colorado, 8 p. m., December 27.

Oklahoma, the traditional upset team of Big Seven tournament history, will again wear that guise into the ninth annual meet, which opens a 4-day run in Municipal Auditorium next Monday.

The Sooners can hope for nothing else. They do not own the size nor ability to cope with the likes of Missouri, Colorado and California. Furthermore, they will come into the affair carrying four consecutive losses. Latest was a 102-84 hammering by Ohio State Saturday in Norman. Before that they fell to Baylor, 64-80, and 79-86, and to Wisconsin, an easy victim for Missouri, 66-77. Complicating this misery is the fact that three of those decisions went down the drain on their home planks. Significant is the fact that they played Baylor tighter at Waco—seven points—than they did at Norman—sixteen points. All this adds to a perfect upset cloak.

### Reason to Be Cautious.

Regardless of record or physique, other conference teams have learned to be wary of O. U.'s tournament thrusts. The Sooners wrought one of the biggest reversals in meet annals in 1951 by dumping Stanford's fast-breaking Indians, 77-71, in a first round game which saw forward Sherman Norton notch a single-game record of thirty-nine points. Bruce Drake's band cut the Cardinals to ribbons that night for thirteen 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 N. C. A. A. runner-up club, they scored a near miss in the first round before Jim Iverson's late basket pulled out a 55-53 verdict.