

npr collect, sports desk, the times, okla. city, okla.

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kansas city, mo., dec. 31... if oklahoma continues to write the same "A" for effort it emblazoned on its big seven tournament scorecard, it the sooners will lay a decisive role in the 1954 conference pennant race.

even though bruce drake's gang clattered all the way to the finals before losing to kansas, 73-62, here wednesday night, few are bracketing the redshirts as title contenders. ou is being paired with nebraska a notch below ku, kansas state and missouri, which emerged from the eighth annual meet as the probable "big three" in the upcoming league scramble.

the impression is that the sooners do not have enough physique.... their tallest regular is 6-6.... nor squad depth, to win the flag over the cruel 12-game haul. they are, however, going to have much to say about who does win the bunting. playing ou at norman will be no fun even for more heavily-manned conference foes. ou can be expected to knock over at least one of the contenders at norman and quite possibly two.