

# Opens Mar. 3

## 7-Foot Giant Leads 'Cager of Year' Poll

BY HARRY WILSON.

Who will be the No. 1 basketball player of the 1944 season?

What young man will follow in the footsteps of Ralph Vaughn, 1940; Gene Englund, 1941; Bob Gerber, 1942, and Andy Phillip, 1943?

As final returns pour in from the All-America Board, which is selecting the squad that will face the world-champion Fort Wayne Zollners in the College All-Star Basketball Classic on December 1 at the Chicago Stadium, interest centers around the choice of the player of the year.

At the moment, half a dozen men, from widely scattered points, are in the running for top honors. Within the next few days, the decision should be reached. As the late ballots come in, it appears as though the honor will be won this season by the closest margin to date.

### KURLAND LEADS POLL

Currently leading the poll is Bob Kurland, seven-foot giant from Oklahoma A & M College, who led Coach Iba's charges to the Missouri Valley Conference championship last year. Trailing Kurland very narrowly are Dick Ives, scoring star of the University of Iowa; Leo Klier, Notre Dame's flash; Audley Brindley of Dartmouth, and Bob Brannum of Kentucky. Any of this quartet could easily overtake Kurland by the time all ballots are in.

It is interesting to note the choices of some of the nation's prominent coaches for the No. 1 spot on the All-Star team. John (Honey) Russell, who sent such great stars as Ed Sadowski and Bob Davies to thrill Chicago All-Star fans, picks Audley Brindley of Dartmouth as the greatest in the nation.

