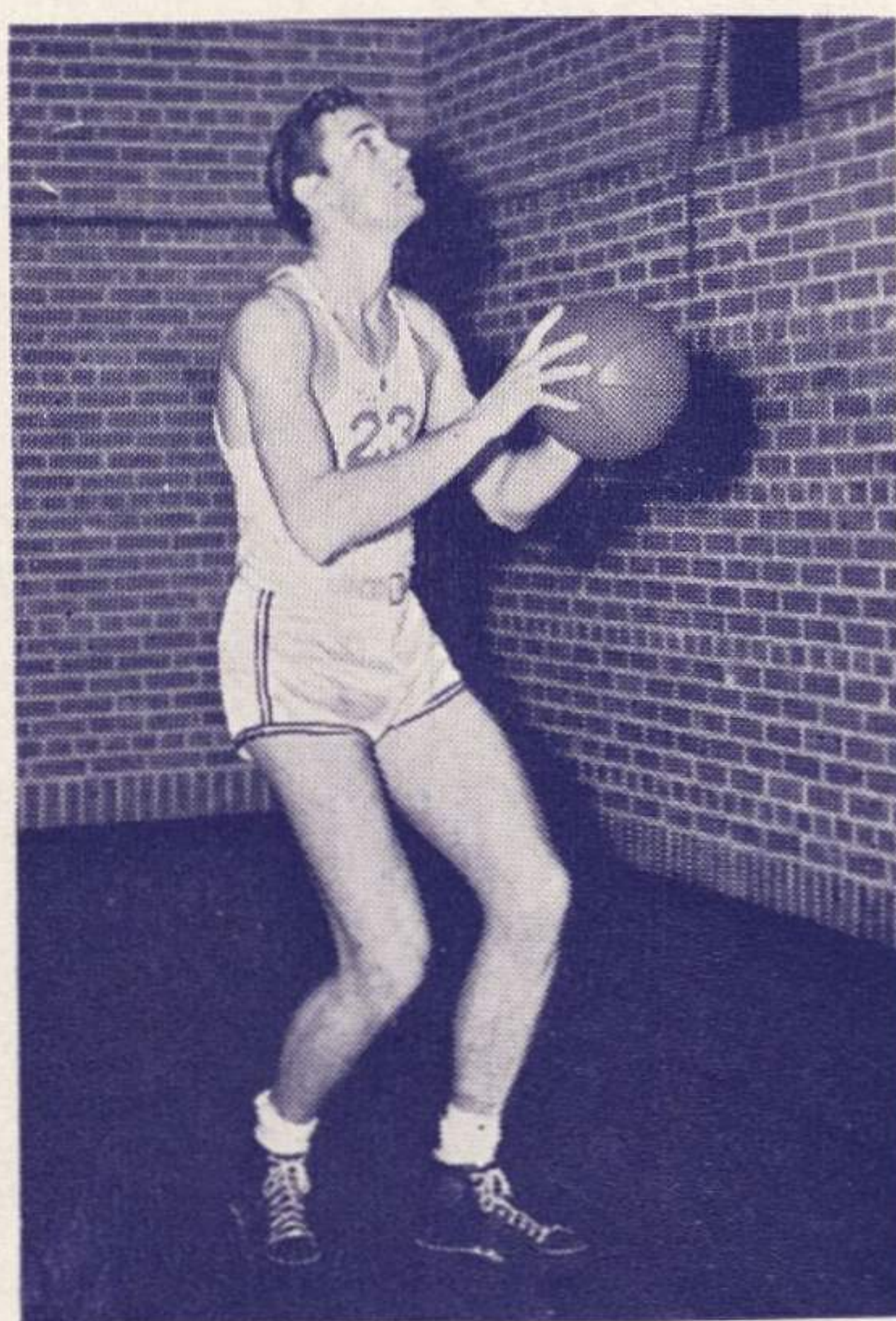


# BASKETBALL IN SOUTHWEST SECTION IS NOW ROBUST SPORT

## Confabs of Coaches and Officials Bring Vast Improvement of Play

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**S**OUTHWESTERN basketball went rugged this season, much to the delight of the fans, the players and even the coaches. It was great, college players agreed, that a man didn't have to become a mouse when he put on his basketball uniform, and went out on the court to play.

An off-the-record pow-wow between coaches and officials last spring is the reason that Southwestern—and that largely means Texas—teams played more interesting basketball than usual. Coaches suggested that the officials save some of their wind to recite bedtime stories to the children when they got home after a game instead of using it all tooting their whistles, officials agreed.

This winter there was a noticeable drop in the number of fouls called. No longer did a whistle blow the second two players got their hands on the ball. Officials waited for the boys to at least tug at the ball before they called it a tie-ball. They weren't so technical on "traveling" and other items that in the past had brought forth a sharp blast on what often appeared to be a little more than suspicion. Teams in this sector long had suffered when they went forth into other parts of the nation to play what was supposed to be the same game they had been engaging in back home. Officials in other sections were more lenient; their whistles were slower. The southwestern teams were at a distinct disadvantage. That is no alibi; merely a fact that fellows like Clair Bee, "Phog" Allen and Sam Barry noted.

**James W. St. Clair**, Long-time Southern Methodist coach, member of the National Rules Committee and Executive Secretary of the Southwestern Basketball Officials Association thought something should be done about it. So did the officials and they

have been working for some time toward the goal of standardized officiating over the country. This, of course, in cooperation with basketball leaders in all sectors. This winter several officials from the neighboring Big Six conference worked in the Southwest conference. In some instances these neighbors from the immediate North were paired with Southwest Conference officials. They learned from each other, one giving a point here and another one there. All in all, it seems to have been an excellent step. More interchanging, while it might be expensive, would help.

Robustness of the game in contrast to the disgustingly polite sport exhibited on the same courts a year ago was the main development in basketball in the Southwest there was little change in the styles of play as used by major teams. West Texas State's "tallest team on earth" gave its border conference and other rivals the jumping jitters with its somewhat simple game—winning formula of averaging about ninety shots per game and making a neat percentage of them good. The Canyon quintet, coached by Al Baggett went into Madison Square Garden against Long Island U. on January 28th, with a record of 17 victories against one defeat and with an average score of 67 points per game.

The University of Arkansas Razorbacks continued to feature their jump shots, with every member of the squad being proficient as this kind of goal-popping so well taught by coach Glen Rose. Rice Institute Owls tutored by Bustor Brannon, played along fire department lines—and well. Other Southwest conference teams, including Southern Methodist, Baylor (under a new coach, Bill Henderson), the Texas Aggies (coached for the first time by Marty Karow), Texas Christian (another new mentor, H. R. McQuillan), and the University of Texas used a bit more deliberate and orthodox styles of play, although all employed a fast break at times.

The Lone Star Conference and the Texas Conference again had successful seasons. There were no drastic changes in officiating technique in these five basketball circuits, for their teams never have been compelled to play as gingerly as those in the whistle conscious Southwest Conference.