

# ROUNDUP—OKLAHOMA CITY ALL-COLLEGE TOURNAMENT

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**O**KLAHOMA CITY—Unless Ringling Brothers own a corner on the expression, the only way to describe Oklahoma City's sixth annual All-College tournament is by use of the time-worn four words:

Bigger, better than ever.

Because that is what it was, this southwestern classic staged in the spacious downtown Municipal auditorium December 26, 27, 29 and 30.

Record turnouts (in all, 16,500 fans), a record entry as far as high-class competition is concerned, and record performances dotted the 18-team field as crack entries from Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, New Mexico and Colorado flashed topflight flipping form.

Twice the All-College packed in more than 4,000 spectators as Oklahoma City and environs suddenly became acutely basketball-conscious in spite of war conditions.

New marks started popping from the opening tipoff and the heavy gunning never stopped until highly-favored West Texas of Canyon had firmly established itself as new champion.

The colorful Buffaloes burst into the opening picture with a new team high as West Texas won the fans' favor with an eye-filling 70-37 blasting of East Central from Ada, Oklahoma.

Meanwhile cool, smooth operating A. and M. from Stillwater, Okla., siddled into a co-favorites' role as Hank Iba's set stylists handled dangerous Texas Christian in an adroit fashion, 32-25.

So there were the two titans, and alongside them ranged two slightly lesser favorites in Pittsburgh, Kan., and University of Texas.

And to the delight of spectators and sponsors alike, that is the way the All-College picture rocked along, right into the semifinals, which still have the basketball filberts fanning the air with their warmest superlatives.

There just haven't been any semifinals anyplace to match Oklahoma City's round that threatened to turn the championship into an anti-climax. On the bristling three-game card, West Texas had the scare of its life when Bill Stockman barely pulled the Buffs past Pittsburgh with a final split-second shot that yanked it out, 57-55.

This one had followed Baylor's 59-58 nose-out of Texas Tech in the consolation bracket, and when A. and M. and Texas U. pranced for the fans hardly were ready for the third straight sizzler of the night.

But that's what they were treated to, a highly-keyed Longhorn crew that didn't permit the Aggies more than thin daylight until the Cowboys leaped safely ahead at the whirlwind finish, 46-38. For the most part but three or four points separated the teams.

Finals, of course, were a masterpiece of perfect basketball as West Texas, tall and terrific, rolled back game A. and M., 37-31 before 4,200 fans.

That's the way it ended . . . that's the way it had opened . . . and that's the way the furious milling had carried on through all four days.

Increased revenue enabled the meet to pay out more expense money than ever before, with all 18 teams sharing in the melon, on a prerated basis, after all expenses were disposed of.

The field and drawing power is expanding each year because topflight teams of this section are eager to get in the early conditioning guaranteed by the meet. Every entrant is certain to play in four games, first-round losers dropping into consolation play and later losers being matched among themselves.

In charge of officials this year was Earl Jones of Kansas City's Spalding Bros., and his aids included Abb Curtis, Fort Worth; Ted O'Sullivan, Kansas City; Dick Pendleton, Norman, Okla., and Bat Shunatona, Wewoka, Okla.

Already the tournament is looking forward to a faster field for 1942, possibly to include a west coast quintet and one from the south, maybe Kentucky. When the usual after-tournament poll was taken this time there wasn't a team among the 18 that didn't file an early bid for repeat performances here next winter.

Quite a compliment in itself, and one to rank alongside that by Al Baggett, big, jovial—and capable—coach of the championship West Texans, who has this to comment:

"Say! My po' little ol' kids (they average six feet,