

BASKETBALL IN EAST DIFFERENT THAN O.U. BRAND, SAYS DRAKE

That metropolitan basketball is a strange and different game from the Big Six conference brand with small courts and quaint officiating interpretations that confuse and mystify visiting teams, was the observation of Bruce Drake, University of Oklahoma basketball coach, upon his return here from the East where his Sooners split holiday inter-sectional clashes with Temple and Fordham.

"We had a swell time and were treated royally," Drake said, "but we found our game totally unfit for the small 84-foot courts we had to play on at Philadelphia and Madison Square Garden. Also we ran up against eastern rule interpretations that seemed as far divorced from ours as football is from rugby. The officiating was honest, but the interpretations vastly different."

Sooners Give Up Idea

"We had to abandon our set plays almost altogether because we were fouled so much for 'picking off.' On the offense, if one of our boys moved over in front of an opponent and stood still, the eastern officials fouled us for blocking. Even if you get to a spot first, they call it an illegal block."

"Missouri's screening game suffered just as badly as ours. In their game against New York university, they were fouled so much in the first half for 'picking off' that their offense was ruined."

Drake said the Metropolitan officials almost totally disregarded physical contact.

"The eastern teams crucify a post man, particularly with the elbows, and the player who can charge his opponent and wrestle the ball away from him is a hero there. This interpretation didn't handicap us, however."

Drake says the eastern teams use very little post play, but depend mostly upon cuts, running blocks and long set shots.

East Uses Spot Passes

"They are better set shots than our teams out here," he opined. "Their set shots are delivered about chin high with lots of wrist action and little knee bend. If you turn your back on the ball to follow one of their cutters into the basket, they like to feed this cutter with a spot pass and he won't let on the ball's coming until it's right in his hands. It's all man-for-man defense there."

Although he saw Southern California break Long Island's 43-game winning string, Drake thought New York university, Missouri's opponent, was the best team he saw on the trip. He also thought Ben Auerbach, New York university's guard, was the finest player he saw, with Vaughn of Southern California and King, Long Island Negro, close.

Drake said the Sooners played "sorry ball" on the trip.

"We looked good against Fordham until we played out when leading twenty points in the second half," he said. "We had only three practices on our whole trip and got badly out of condition. Also some of our boys were 'scared' and it was hard for any of us to get our minds on the game, there were so many things to see."

"I guess we were kinda like 'Alice in Wonderland.'"

Alexander Hamilton Junior High's players each scored at least 16 points beating Deady 138 to 37. --Houston, Texas, January 26, 1939