

OKLAHOMA A. & M. COACH OFFERS FOOD FOR THOUGHT

By Joseph M. Sheehan

NEW YORK TIMES, Dec. 17, 1940.....

Basketball's oratorical season opened with a flourish -- and on an entirely new note -- at the initial speech-making session of the Metropolitan Basketball Writers at the Hotel Lincoln yesterday. The local coaches eschewed pleasantries and dispensed solid information for once, while a visitor, Henry Iba, of Oklahoma A. and M. supplied fireworks with a novel twist.

With refreshing frankness, the man whose team took the measure of City College's touted quintet last Saturday night told the scribes and his conferees that the men who teach basketball throughout the country were placing the future of the sport in jeopardy by unreasonable and uncalled-for "beefing" following a defeat.

"Basketball is too fine a game to be ruined by insignificant alibies," Iba declared. "Too often a losing coach places the blame on traveling conditions, smoke-filled arenas, sectional rules interpretations, officiating and what-not. We coaches should take hold of ourselves, concentrate on teaching what we know to our boys and forget about the alibies. They mean nothing and are certain to hurt the game."

If Iba had any one in particular in mind, he kept his thoughts well guarded. However, there is much to his thesis. At the same time the mentor of the Aggies emphasized the increasing difficulties of coaching on the major circuit. "We are up against the same problem as the football coaches had to face four years ago when the five-man defensive line came into general use," Iba said.

"We've run into seven different defenses in the last two years," he continued. "They're all variations of the zone and man-to-man, but each has to be met by different offensive tactics. It's getting so that basketball is the hardest course a boy takes in college and a coach has to devote more time to mapping a practice than a professor does in planning a lecture."

These last remarks by Iba agreed perfectly with an independent contribution, received by this department in yesterday's mail and herewith acknowledged, entitled "A Selected Bibliography on Basketball", compiled by Nat Holman, Assistant Professor, Department of Hygiene and Director of Basketball, the City College of New York."

This formidable mimeographed brochure, organized into twenty chapters treating on different phases of the game, presents a complete list of reference works on basketball--including books, magazine and newspaper articles, doctors' dissertations and motion picture films--numbering 379 in all.

EASTERN COLLEGE FIVES TO VIE FOR SILVER CUP

PHILADELPHIA, DEC. 17, AP--A silver cup has been presented to the Eastern Intercollegiate League as a trophy for the league championship, a committee of the Class of '28 of the University of Pennsylvania announced tonight.

The cup is in memory of the late Eugene J. Connell, who captained the 1928 Red and Blue championship quintet.

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