

KFKU - Dec. 9, 1943

Hello, radio friends and sport fans:

May I acquaint you with the personnel of this year's 1943-44 basketball squad at the University of Kansas. Our team is made up of civilians, V-12 Naval Unit boys, and V-5 Naval flyers. Undoubtedly this is the youngest team that has ever reported at the University of Kansas. Only Harold "Sparky" McSpadden, formerly of El Dorado, Kansas, and now a chemical engineer, and George Dick, the honor captain of the football team, are the returning members of last year's varsity basketball team. Sparky was a substitute until Armand Dixon was called for his induction, and George Dick, of McLouth, got into but a few games. Sixteen men were recommended for last year's varsity award. The starting five of last year were John Buescher, Charlie Black, Ray Evans, Otto Schnellbacher and Armand Dixon. These boys carried the load in the majority of games. When Charlie Black was taken ill with pneumonia Sparky McSpadden got a part-time assignment, and when Armand Dixon left Sparky became a regular. George Dick played in very few of the regular games.

The line up for this year has been varied. No boy on the squad has played a full game, but Sparky has played longer than any of the other boys. He is more nearly a regular than anyone else.

Don Barrington, of Kansas City, Kansas, one of our V-12 boys, is a standout. Don played fullback on the varsity football team, and is a fine rebounder in basketball.

Dean Corder, of Welda, Kansas, is by far the lightest and the smallest man physically, on the squad. He plays quarterback, and calls the plays on the offense. Some of his admirers think of him as active TNT. His father is superintendent of schools at Welda, Kansas. Dean is a civilian but is in the naval reserve.