

A Different Team Emerges

The originator of the old "age of miracles has passed" saying must not have known Kansas State's youthful basketball coach Jack Gardner and his methods of developing a Big Six basketball team. Wildcat fans will see tonight a vastly different team than the one that began the season not many weeks ago. When the Gardner squad clashes with Coach Harold W. Browne's elongated Nebraska Cornhuskers in Nichols Gymnasium the K-Staters will at long last feature a semblance of the style of play for which the west coast is famous.

While the Nebraskans tower high above the court and specialize in the unexpected, Kansas State can point to a definite improvement since the season opened. Pre-season prognosticators predicted the Huskers and the Kansas State team would be fighting each other for the Big Six basement spot.

Surprisingly enough, both the Wildcats and the Cornhuskers have shown their opponents they didn't appreciate the rating. Nebraska hadn't read the papers to the effect the Iowa State Cyclones were supposed to trim them, consequently didn't oblige the deflated Iowa Staters with anything but an upset victory. After beating Stanford, rated one of the nation's best teams, the lengthy Huskers cooled to the extent where Missouri's co-champions of the Big Six last season were able to win going away.

On the other hand, Coach Gardner's Wildcats, before tonight's game, are without victory and are determined to use a little of their agricultural knowledge to "husk the Huskers." The Kansas State team has also played the country's best, losing to Kentucky University and DePaul University of Chicago. The Wildcats pushed Oklahoma's "Boy Scats" until the last seven minutes of the game when Coach Bruce Drake's company pulled away from the tired K-Staters. "No Chance

for Wildcats" was the sentence on every Kansas University fan's lips but the Jayhawkers had to cash in on a free throw in the final four-seconds of the game to beat the stubborn Kansas State team.

The tall Nebraskans, to quote Webster are: "high in stature, reaching upward to a great height relative to the diameter of lateral extent." Al Randall, elongated pivotman, stretches six feet seven inches into the atmosphere. Don Fitz and Sidney Held, guards, both are in the "sub-stratosphere" class, standing six feet four inches above the court.

Frank Tallman, a forward, is a mite at six feet one inch and Harry Pithcaithley, the other forward, is the team's baby. He is only five feet ten and one-half inches tall. Pithcaithley, however, early this week ranked second among the conference scorers. He has averaged 9.5 points per game in the two contests thus far this season.

With Melvin Seelye and Norris Holstrom, guards, in the "Trojan" roles, coach Gardner has developed a defense that the two Big Six opponents played were not able to penetrate effectively for clear shots at the basket.

Erv Reid, veteran at center, has found his practice range and is due to start blasting the backboard. Chris Langvardt and Robertson are in the forward spots and can rip the netting at the slightest provocation. Danny Howe and Jack Horacek, a pair of point-makers from the sophomores, can relieve handily at forward.

The Huskers and Wildcats split their two-game series last year and each is using a new system this season. Coach Browne substitutes players like Elmer Layden of Notre Dame. An entire team of Cornhuskers will report to the officials.

Tonight's game will be the "battle of the basement," and Kansas State fans are hoping their coach will be cast in the role of "Jack-the-Giant Killer."—M. D. H.