

MISSOURI VALLEY CONFERENCE NEWS

FROM
THE CONFERENCE NEWS BUREAU
DES MOINES, IOWA

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Chicago, Ill., 23 to 22, in the consolation. Immediately afterward they left New York, N.Y., by airplane and managed to reach Kansas City, Mo., for the N.C.A.A. district playoff game with Kansas the next night. The Aggies, representing the Valley, and Kansas, co-champion of the Big Six, played a thrilling game before Phog Allen's pupils pulled out the "rubber" decision in an overtime period, 45 to 43. The Jayhawks went on to the national finals, eliminating the Southern California "wonder team" in the western playoffs.

Key man on the crack Cowboy team was the Indian guard, 6-foot 2-inch Jesse Renick of Marietta, Okla., who won an all-conference position unanimously for the second consecutive year. Big Jesse paired with another senior, 6-foot Howard (Danny) Doyle of Dale, Okla., to give Oklahoma A. & M. the greatest set of guards in the school's history. Renick led the team in scoring while Doyle also was picked on the all-conference team.

The third Aggie to make the all-conference five was Harvey Slade, senior forward from El Reno, Okla., rated the top floorman in the loop. The other starting forward usually was a junior, Gene Smelser of Oklahoma City, Okla., but a sophomore, L. J. Eggleston, saw a great deal of action and promises to become one of the greatest scorers Iba has ever coached. The fourth forward, Art Johnson, also a senior, was another crack shot.

Six-foot 5-inch Vern Schwertfeger, a junior college transfer from Satanta, Kan., and a letterman, Howard Francis, junior 6-foot 4-inch player, divided time at center. Jack Hopkins, Bud Millikan and Leroy Floyd were the first substitutes called upon at guard.

By winning 26 of 29 games in 1940, Iba ran his coaching record for 13 years to 278 victories and only 61 defeats, a lifetime average of .820, an astounding mark in a game where upsets abound.

Creighton University of Omaha, Neb., wound up second with a record of eight victories and four defeats. This mark was a tribute to the coaching ability of little Eddie Hickey, whose team appeared headed for nowhere at the start of the season but which climaxed a campaign of steady improvement by beating the famed Kansas U. Jayhawks, 35 to 33. The Jays lost twice in the conference to the champion Aggies and were upset by Washburn and St. Louis, but beat Drake, Tulsa and Washington twice in the double round-robin. They beat Denver and Colorado State but fell before Michigan State twice, Iowa State, and Kansas State.

Asa Kelley, center, and Vinson Roach, guard, two boys who made their senior year a brilliant one, led the Creighton attack, although they were helped out considerably by a junior college transfer from Kansas, Forward Brownie Jaquay. At the other forward was the veteran Marshall Kittleson, while a sophomore star of great promise, Gene Haldeman, filled out at guard. Norman Engelbretson, Bob Fitzgerald, Don Fleming, Gene Ziesel and Leo Seib were leading replacements. The 1940 Creighton freshmen were rated the greatest

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