

Kansas Jayhawkers wrested a narrow 40-38 victory from Kansas State on the latter team's court. Then eleven more consecutive games were played in which the visiting club always lost.

Oklahoma, tutored by youthful Bruce Drake, former Sooner court great, in his first year of coaching, came nearest snapping the jinx in her first meeting with Missouri, the club with which she is destined to share the championship. Playing on the Missouri floor January 14 before the largest Tiger crowd of all time, Oklahoma had coolly and competently built a lead of 18 to 5 when her regulars were withdrawn for second teamers three minutes before the first half ended. Missouri quickly scored five points against the Sooner subs. However the Oklahoma regulars returned in the second half and led 28 to 17 with only nine minutes of the game remaining. Here the cleaner guarding of the Missourians decided the issue. The Sooners lost Herb Scheffler, big center, and Forward Garnett Corbin on personal fouls and the Tigers, increasing the pressure beautifully, were even with Oklahoma 31 to 31 at the gun. The Sooners scored first in the extra period but Missouri then hit three field goals, the last two by Little Bill Harvey, to win 37 to 33. Significant in the box score was the fact Missouri committed only seven fouls and lost no players during the frenzied milling. Oklahoma made 14 fouls, twice as many, and lost two of her best players when she needed them most.

Then Oklahoma encountered a string of games on her home court and quickly overhauled the leaders. The Sooners licked Nebraska 56 to 39 with Guard Marvin Mesch setting up goal after goal with gifted passing. They nosed Kansas State 37 to 35 on an extra period basket by Mesch, defeated Iowa State 60 to 41 with Forward Jimmy McNatt setting a new Big Six individual record of 29 points for one game, and on February 11 again faced Missouri, eager to avenge the extra-period defeat at Columbia.

But on the Oklahoma court, Missouri was the flint runner. The gold-shirted Tigers were superb in the first half, leading 20 to 7 at one point with