

Guard Hal Halstead canning five zooming long goals, four from near the center circle. Then Oklahoma became the rallying team. With the surging speed for which they are noted, the white-shirted Sooners scudded down the floor like speed boats on rough water, lurching and bobbing crazily but holding their balance and achieving field goal after field goal despite their terrific pace. They quickly caught up and passed Missouri, 29 to 28, and in five more minutes had shot into a lead of 39 to 29. Here the Tigers, who are never licked, rallied and pulled up 40-43 at the bell.

Meanwhile Doctor Allen's Kansas team grimly began to move up on the leaders. Cashing in on home games, Kansas nosed Nebraska 49-46 and beat Iowa State 46-37 at Lawrence and in a third game there knocked Oklahoma out of the league leadership and themselves tied Missouri for it by flogging the Sooners 59 to 45. Howard Engleman, Kansas sophomore forward, scored 27 points in this game.

It was not until February 18 that the home court jinx was convincingly conquered. On that date Missouri beat Nebraska at Lincoln 46 to 36 and one night later trimmed Kansas State at Manhattan, 39 to 29. The Tigers then repeated against Kansas State at Columbia, 46 to 37. That set the stage for the final Missouri-Kansas game at Columbia March 2. Each team had won six and lost three. The winner was assured of a tie for the championship and would win the title outright if Oklahoma lost either of its remaining games, both of them on the road.

Missouri surprised the midlands by ruthlessly belting Kansas out of the running, 54 to 30. Coach George Edwards' driving Tigers swirled into leads of 29-11, 36-16 and 49-19. Missouri was white hot and keyed high and in spite of her vast lead kept attacking relentlessly clear up until the middle of the last half.

Then all eyes were on Oklahoma. Could the Sooners, who hadn't won a single conference road game, take Nebraska and Kansas State on the latter teams'