

MISSOURI VALLEY CONFERENCE NEWS

FROM
THE CONFERENCE NEWS BUREAU
DES MOINES, IOWA

- 3 -

Amos Goodfox and Bob Olson helped out at forward. The burden of the scoring, however, fell upon the shoulders of the two clever little forwards, Krueger and Smelser, and they came through in fine style. Krueger set an Oklahoma A. & M. scoring record for the season and in addition finished third in conference point-getters with 136, averaging 9.7 points per game.

The 1938 Punchers started by bowling over the crack Southwestern Teachers of Winfield, Kan., 40 to 25, and then trimmed Oklahoma City, 38 to 25; Colorado college, 29 to 18, and Colorado Mines, 50 to 17, before moving down to Oklahoma City to defend their championship in the all-college tournament. Arkansas, champion of the Southwest conference, and the Warrenburg, Mo., Teachers, who later won in the national collegiate tourney at Kansas City, were among the teams in the Oklahoma City meet, but that meant little to the Valley quintet. They marched through Baylor, 38 to 24; East Texas Teachers, 42 to 20; North Texas Teachers, 28 to 23, and Southwestern, Kan., Teachers, 26 to 22, to earn a second championship. The even split with Oklahoma U., which attracted record crowds for basketball in the Sooner state, and victories over Central, 31 to 23, and Westminster, 41 to 35, completed the Cowboy nonconference schedule.

In the conference, several of the Oklahoma Aggie games were close but only Grinnell could spill the champions. Creighton ran a game into overtime before losing, 37 to 35, while Tulsa shot the works in a contest at the oil capital but fell, 33 to 29. Drake outscored the Punchers from the field in their game at Des Moines, but lost on free throws, 30 to 23. Valley teams, however, foresee a good opportunity to break the Aggie monopoly next winter since four key men, Krueger, Smelser, Barringer and Kalsu, will be lost by graduation.

Bill Williams at Drake again produced a deft ball handling team which won 10 and lost four conference games to win fourth place and which retained a mathematical chance for the championship until a last disastrous road trip which saw the Bulldogs lose to Washburn and Creighton. The only other Drake setbacks were, of course, at the hands of the champions. In outside play the Iowans also were successful, winning four of six games to make the record for the season 14 victories and six losses. Outstanding victory of the Bulldog season was a 34 to 29 decision over Phog Allen's Big Six championship University of Kansas squad in a game played in Des Moines as a feature of the Register and Tribune's annual basketball coaching school.

Veterans started nearly every game for Drake, but the team was forced to make up in speed and cleverness what it lacked in size. Nick Miletich, a big, hard-playing guard, was the kingpin of the Bulldog outfit and was the only unanimous choice on the all-conference team selected by the coaches. The other Drake guard was L. D. Norris, a cockleburr on

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