

## PROSPECTUS

Lack of material, both in size and quality, the past two seasons found Missouri finishing up in the Big Six cellar for the only times in Coach George R. Edwards' sixteen years as Headman. This year the material which Edwards is working with, as he prepares for the seventeenth campaign, is definitely top grade, both in size and quality. But there is one qualifying factor to consider before tabbing Missouri as a potential championship-contender. That factor is spelled inexperience.

Seventy per cent of the Missouri basketball team this season will be made up of men who have never competed in Intercollegiate Athletics before. Only one member of the Tiger squad has had two years of college varsity experience, that player being center Lee Roy Storm. Only two other members of the team have had one year of varsity play behind them, Capt. Earl Stark, a guard; and Ed Matheny, a forward. The rest of the first ten men Coach Edwards believes will carry the brunt of the seasonal play are comparatively untried sophomores in eligibility.

There is gold, however, in those hills. For the last year Missouri was blessed with what probably was the greatest freshman basketball team in the school's history. As a matter of fact, the yearling cagemen twice played the Varsity and both times walked off the court victoriously. The way these newcomers go, so will go Missouri.

Naturally, Coach Edwards is hopeful of the squad developing into a powerful aggregation. He believes there is every possibility that such will be the case. But he cautions against over-optimism, especially in the early season contests, when the players will be orientating themselves to the Missouri style of play and to big-time competition.

The Tigers of 1942-'43 will be big and fast, bigger than they have been in a good many years and perhaps as fast as the championship teams of 1939 and 1940. If the sophomores come through, the Bengals may again scale the heights. If not, the team still will be stronger than last year's and can be considered a fine choice to wind up in the first division of the Conference.

The Missouri chances for getting off to a good early start are further handicapped by the fact that three good ball players will not be in shape for immediate competition because of football duties. They are Ralph Carter, a two-time letterwinner, and Jim Austin and Wilbur Volz, a pair of sophomores who starred on last winter's great freshman quintet. Austin and Volz, more than Carter, are expected to give the team a decided lift when they are ready for duty.

It is very likely that only one letterman, Capt. Earl Stark, will be in the starting lineup this winter and early spring, unless senior center Roy Storm continues to beat off the challenge of sophomore Orrel Hahn, who has yet to display the outstanding form of his freshman days. At the other guard, Pleasant Smith, a lanky sophomore, appears to have the inside track, although stocky Walter Robinson may make trouble for him. At forward, letterman Ed Matheny will have to beat off the challenge of Thornton Jenkins and Bob Garwitz to land a start-