

Soft Touch With Basket Shots Makes Engleman of K. U. Threat to Scoring Marks

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Howard Engleman will pitch you pennies, marbles, softballs, basket balls or chalk—just as you prefer.

And to show why he is the leading scorer in the Big Six basket ball race with an average of 20 points a game the Kansas forward floated up a dozen softballs to a 3-inch sill above a door without a miss.

He did it with all the ease of tossing pennies at a crack—with the Grand Canyon as that crack.

It is this acute sense of co-ordination—his “soft touch,” Coach Phog Allen calls it—that makes Engleman a threat to every Big Six scoring mark.

On the basket ball court Engleman's shot is every bit as soft. The ball seems to cuddle up against the bankboard for a full second, peek into the hoop and then flutter through the netting.

Engleman's Shot Deceptive.

Allen also adds that Engleman's shot is one of the most deceptive in his 20 years of coaching because of the speed the senior forward displays in going down the floor.

And the lazy speed of the ball isn't increased one bit if it is released with the player off balance. Against Missouri he stuffed in a two-pointer while falling. Against Wichita University he fired while sitting on the floor. He connected, too.

It was at the latter contest that his mother, Mrs. Beulah Engleman of Arkansas City, Kans., defied a jinx and watched her son perform. When Howard was a prep star she seldom saw him play because her presence invariably coincided with his team's defeat.

Only once previously had she seen him as a college player—in the loss to Hank Iba's Oklahoma Aggies two years ago.

“Howard's teammates do all the work and then throw him the ball,” she said after watching her curly-haired son pour in 24 points that brought his season's total for 10 games to 191.

Record Appears Certain.

It looks a cinch for Engleman to cop the Big Six scoring record. Frank Groves of Kansas State set it at 154 points for 10 games in 1937. Howard has flicked in 102 in five games—which leaves him five in which to add only 56 more for a new mark.

During much of the 1940 season he was a substitute because of an injured knee. But it healed in time for him to win N. C. A. A. all-America honors in the drive which lifted Kansas to a runnerup berth behind Indiana.

Engleman, main reason Kansas is leading in the conference race with only a single setback, also is effective off the basket ball court. He's president of the school of business and the No. 1 man on the Jayhawk tennis team.