

● OOPS, PARDON ME—a shot from the game against Little Rock in which the Grizzlies won the Big 7 championship by defeating the Tigers 60-43. Larry Whitley (13) and Earl Furlow go up for the ball while Frank Wiggins (15) and Jim Gattis wait for the tip. (Photo by Angel)

Bears off to Big 7 tournament

● ONE of the state's outstanding young coaches, Clarence "Ace" Parker, and his Big 7 champion Grizzlies have captured that much desired first round bye in the Big 7 tournament beginning tonight in Hot Springs.

If the pre-season favorite Bruins win their game tomorrow, they will be assured a shot at the tourney championship and a

try in the following state play-offs.

PAIRINGS for tonight's one-game elimination system will pit Little Rock against Pine Bluff in the upper bracket, North Little Rock versus Texarkana in the lower bracket, and Hot Springs versus El Dorado.

Tomorrow night the local Bears will see their first tournament

action against the winner of the Little Rock-Pine Bluff bout, while the winners of the other Thursday night games will tangle with each other to see who plays in the tourney finals the following night.

Predictions for the finalists in the tourney have narrowed to the Grizzlies against "Wayne Yates and Company"—the North Little Rock Wildcats.

Grizzly B's close season with 9 win-4 loss record

● WITH a comparatively small slate and a 9 win 4 loss record, the Grizzly B team has ended another successful season, according to Bruin statistician, George White.

Leading the scoring parade for the B team were sophomores George Gordon with 106 points, Ben Paddock, 87 points, and David Plunkett, 65 points.

Larry Holt, Fred Simpson, Neil Rodgers and Ronnie Tabor that is proof why Fort Smith always did and always will have championship teams."

In building up a team to replace the out-going squad, Coach "Ace" Parker will turn to these few B boys to make up his 1955-56 roster.

SINCE the state does not have a basketball powerhouse outside the Big 7, it would make a smoother road to the finals of the state tournament for Coach Parker's boys, if they win their first Big 7 tourney game.

Coach Parker's 10-2 conference record this year is an identical repeat of last year's co-championship efforts and furthers Coach Parker's brilliant six-year record. While building Fort Smith into a basketball dictatorship, Coach Parker has compiled a record that includes a state championship, a Big 6 and Big 7 championship and a co-championship.

18 teams scheduled to meet in state tourney play-off

● EIGHTEEN TEAMS are scheduled to meet in the five-day state tournament play-offs to be staged in Little Rock next Monday through Friday.

This year's host is the Big 7, which has invited eight districts in Arkansas to send their top flight teams to the state-wide meet.

There are 14 teams receiving first day byes while the Big 7's representatives will clash with the champions and co-champions of District 2.

IN ORDER to win the state finals, a team must play a rugged five-game schedule, including meeting the Big 7 teams, who are considered the strongest entrants. The Big 7 representatives will not play each other during the preliminaries of the state meet but are big favorites to bump heads in the tournament finals.

Last year's state champions, Jonesboro, set several new records, one of which is a 70.8 point average scored for all five games. They also claim the only undefeated team in Arkansas that ever went straight to the state finals, winning without a previous loss.

ANOTHER STATE record that the Bruins, with Jim Gattis and Earl Furlow, can shoot for, is one held by Charles Keller of Jones-

boro, 37 points scored in a single game in the 1949 state meet.

The Big 7, however, is not left out of the state record book, because Little Rock is the only team to win four consecutive titles while winning 16 straight games in state tournament play.

Inkslingers capture intramural crown

● IT TOOK two overtime periods before the scrappy Inkslingers could overcome the Tracksters yesterday in the intramural championship play-offs, 24-23. This was the first defeat of the intramural season for the Tracksters.

Captain Paul Johnson proved the difference as he dumped in 20 points. Bob Goldman accounted for three and Junior Cagle one. Other Inkslingers were Frank Hampton, Scotty Lester, Ralph Blansett, Don Bates and Larry Braden.

The Tracksters were never far behind as Melvyn Bell controlled the backboards and put in eight points. Bill Needham bucketed nine. Foster Gay, Wendell Nance and Bob Stoddard rounded out the Trackster quintet.



by Wendell Nance

● LOOKING at the University of Arkansas track roster, you can see Earl Bond's name. Earl, who wore the silks for the Grizzlies last year, is now on a full-time scholarship and is boasting a University record in the intramural two-mile run.

COACH STEED WHITE has announced that there will be a golf and tennis team this year, under the instruction of Coach Clyde Horton. Several meets will be offered boys interested in these sports.

HAVE YOU ever seen a square cinder track? Well, there's one on this year's Bruin track schedule.

Springfield, Missouri, has this oddity. It makes a runner run 40 yards farther than the starting point of the race. And figure this out—the track has five corners on a square track.

INCREASING HOPE for a repeat performance in the Big 7 race next year will rely upon this year's reserves and the experience they have acquired while playing B team basketball, for the team this year was composed entirely of sophomores.

One of the scrub's four losses was at the hands of the Fort Smith Junior High Cubs. Next year these Cubs are expected to make a great addition to the Grizzlies' reserve depth, including a brilliant young forward, Johnny Price, according to George.

Coach White announces 1955 grid schedule

● THE 1955 football schedule, announced by Coach Steed White, is as follows:

Memphis Tech High, Sept. 9, here; El Dorado, Sept. 16, here; Pine Bluff, Sept. 23, there; Subiaco, Sept. 30, here; Little Rock, Oct. 7, here; Tulsa Will Rogers, Oct. 14, here; Texarkana, Oct. 21, there; Van Buren, Oct. 28, there; Hot Springs, Nov. 4, here; North Little Rock, Nov. 11, there; Fayetteville, Nov. 18, here.

FSHS athletes turn to track as basketball season ends

● AS SPRINGTIME arrives in Bruin land, many FSHS athletes turn their minds to track.

Five track meets are on this year's track itinerary: Big 7 relays April 2; University of Arkansas relays April 9; Fort Smith annual invitational meet April 15; dual track meet at Springfield, Missouri, April 22; and state meet April 29.

If man power and returning lettermen could win this year's track slate, the Bruin thin clads would make it with ease. In all, there are eight returning lettermen on the squad.

ior lettermen who are going into their third season with Coach John Thompson are sprint men Foster Gay, Tom Cutting and Wendell Nance, along with the Big 7 shot put and discus record holder Charles Moss and hurdlers Don DeCamp and Bob Moore.

Also showing great possibilities are junior letterman Tom Bach in the short sprints and relays, Eddie Jeter, half-mile and quarter-mile, Jarrell and Darrell Williams, soph stars working for a sure spot on the relays and hurdle team, and Ronald Ray and Roger Lee, sophomores who will command the pole vault pit.

Tiger, Wildcat victories win title for Bears

● CONSIDERED the top defensive team in the state, the Fort Smith Grizzlies proved the worth of Coach "Ace" Parker's man-to-man defense by walking away with the championship of the Big 7 conference.

The season ended with a 10-2 conference record, one of the wins by one point, both losses by one point.

It was 5'8" senior guard, calm and cool Ronnie Bateman, who led the Bruins to the title with a thrashing of the Little Rock Tigers 60-43, February 22 in Ramsey gym. This was the last conference game for the season.

TO WIN the championship, however, it also took a win over highly-rated North Little Rock February 18, which the Bruins accomplished in an uneasy 71-64 victory in Ramsey gym. It was nip and tuck until the beginning

of the third quarter, when Wayne Yates, who had bucketed 21 points in the half and had also collected four fouls, fouled out. From there it ceased to be a defensive-offensive game and turned into a wild, free-throwing contest to see which team could score the most points. Despite a last minute rally by Wildcat Tommy Worrell, the Grizzlies came out on top.

EVEN THOUGH Collier and Furlow each scored 18 points, three others copped top recognition in defensive play: John King, junior guard; Terry Holt, 6'2" junior, strong on backboard controlling; and ever-ready junior Harold Owens.

After spotting the Van Buren Pointers a 10-point lead at the half Monday, the Grizzlies found their lead slipping under the hands of Lester Beckham and Pete Collier. From there the

Pointer gym turned into a madhouse, until the Bears finally came out on top 36-34. Holt was the star with 12 points. King, who attempted only two shots in the game, hit the second for the one that evened the score, and Collier hit two free throws that won the game.

IT WAS TRULY a battle of defensive champions as the Tulsa Will Rogers Ropers clashed with the Grizzlies Friday in Ramsey gym. The Ropers, co-champions of the Oklahoma Six and best defensive team in the state, completely outplayed the Bruins, as the Bears turned in their poorest performance of the season, losing 48-40.

THE BIG DIFFERENCE, as always, was 6'5" Jack Pontious, rated one of the best players in the nation, who scored 28 points.

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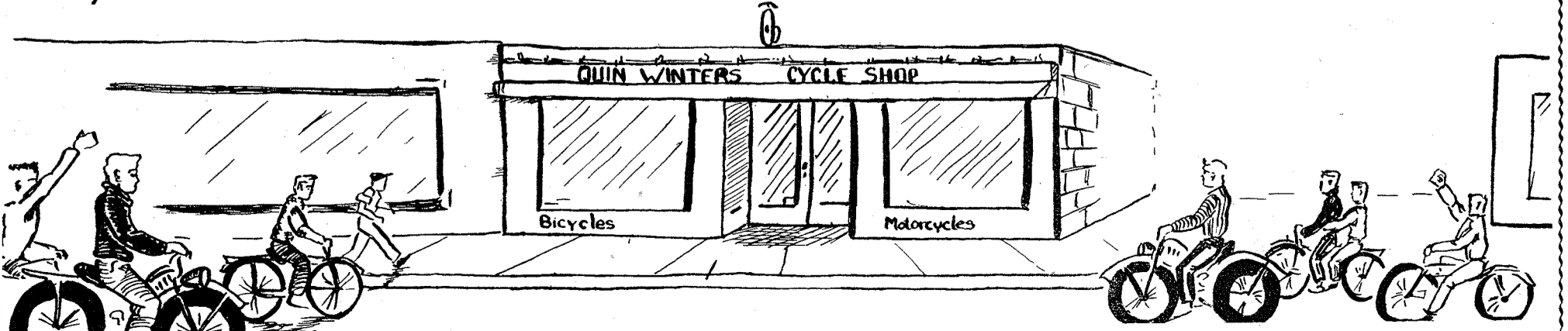
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