

The Sports Review

By Harold Keith, '29



FOR the first time in 18 years, Oklahoma has a new basketball coach.

Hugh McDermott, the cagey little Scot who has coxwained fast-breaking Sooner cage teams since 1922, resigned this month to accept a promotion as head of the University's department of physical education for men.

Bruce Drake, for the past nine years instructor in the men's physical education department and also swimming and golf coach, became the new Sooner basketball coach. He played forward on McDermott's championship Oklahoma team of 1929.

Bennie Owen, who formerly headed the physical education department in addition to his duties as director of intramurals, will continue his outstanding administration of the latter department. Owen was the only intramural athletic director in the Big Six conference who was also burdened with the physical education directorship.

All these changes were announced by President W. B. Bizzell and will go into effect July 1, 1938.

"Our first problem in physical education is to secure physical equipment and build up our personnel," McDermott said when his appointment was announced. "Soon as it is practical we hope to offer a master's degree in physical education for men at the University."

McDermott has carefully schooled himself in physical education, spending five summers at the University of Wisconsin where in 1936 he was awarded a master's degree in education and physical education. Also he has had courses in the University of Illinois physical education department and has done extensive research toward an M.D. degree in the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine.

Drake, the new basketball coach, said that he would continue to coach the same fast-breaking style that has made Oklahoma teams known and feared in the Big Six loop.

"I'd be a chump to change the style Mac has taught so successfully," the young coach declared.

McDermott, the retiring coach, resigned just after developing a top notch club, his Sooner Boy Scats, a colorful sophomore aggregation, placing second in the Big Six

Hugh V. McDermott, '20 (above), has turned over to Bruce Drake, '29 (below), the strenuous job of coaching the University basketball team

last year with eight victories against two defeats. McDermott's last team set a new Big Six scoring record of 45.6 points per game, was the only team in the loop able to pin a defeat on Kansas, and split two hot contests with Hank Iba's Oklahoma Aggies, Missouri Valley champions.

Drake will inherit the entire Boy Scat squad with the exception of Bill Martin, all-Big Six guard, but even then will not have quite as rosy prospects as Dr. F. C. "Phog" Allen of Kansas who lost only Fred Pralle from his championship 1938 club and has the finest freshman team of Jayhawker history blossoming into full flower next year.

The Sooner baseball team split six contests with the Oklahoma Aggies. At Norman the Aggies won 8-7 and 6-5 in the first game of each series, with the Sooners coming back to take the last ones, 1-0 and 11-7. At Stillwater the procedure was reversed with the Sooners winning the first, 6-5, when Jack Baer walked, and stole second, third and home, but the Farmers came back next day to triumph 3-2.

Oklahoma closed its season May 20 and 21 with two games against Iowa State at Norman.

On the Pacific Coast jaunt the Oklahoma golf team lost to Stanford, 5 to 13, and to California, 4 to 14, but rallied to defeat Southern California, 10 to 8, and U.C.L.A. 15½ to 2½. They also won a dual meet from Southern Methodist university besides thrashing the Oklahoma Aggies and Oklahoma City University soundly on the same day, Coach Drake splitting up his squad into two teams. The Sooners were favored to sweep the Big Six championship, with Iowa State and Kansas both a menace, however.

Tournament winners

Debate teams from O.U. won first place in the national tournament conducted by Delta Sigma Rho, honorary forensics fraternity, at Madison, Wisconsin, this spring.

The O.U. debaters, Paul Cummings, Don Wright, John Horwitz and Jack Luttrell were undefeated in the tournament. Horwitz won third place in oratory. Cummings, Wright and Jack Luttrell all advanced to the final round in the public discussion contest and Wright won first place and Luttrell third.

It was the second consecutive year in which O.U. debaters won the national tournament. They were coached by Walter Emery.