

Bruce Drake Resigns

O.U.'s basketball coach for the past 17 seasons resigned May 5.

As magazine goes to press, he has not announced future plans.

Bruce Drake, head basketball coach at O. U. for 17 years, resigned May 5. The 49-year-old Drake gave no reason for stepping aside, but in a statement made after President Cross announced his resignation Drake said, "After 17 years of coaching at

Oklahoma, I have decided to step down. I have enjoyed it thoroughly and cherish many friendships formed. Here is wishing the very best for next year's team and coach."

Drake has been at the University in

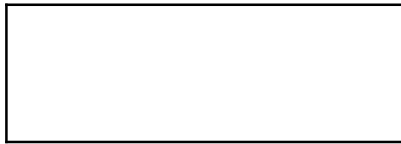


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some capacity since he enrolled as a freshman in the autumn of 1925. As an undergraduate he was one of the school's greatest all-around athletes of all times, starring in football, basketball and track. Drake was a standout on Oklahoma's last all-victorious team as a junior in 1928, and the next year captained Hugh McDermott's team to a second straight conference championship.

After graduation at O. U. in 1929 Drake immediately joined the physical education staff as an instructor. He helped McDermott as a part-time assistant basketball coach during the '30's. Drake succeeded McDermott as head basketball coach when the latter resigned in 1938. During his first 11 seasons the Sooners captured one Big Seven crown outright and tied for five other championships.

As only the fourth basketball coach in the history of the sport at Oklahoma, Drake's teams compiled a 200-181 record over the 17 campaigns.

Popular with fellow coaches, Drake was chairman of the National Basketball rules committee for five years before retiring last year. He also was treasurer of the group for a five-year period.

During the 1951-52 season Drake was president of the National Basketball Coaches Association. In March of this year he was coach of the West All-Stars in the annual East-West charity game in New York City.

This is the first change in a major head coaching post since 1947 when Wilkinson succeeded Jim Tatum as head football coach.