



New Coach Parrack is trying to overcome lack of height with lots of hustle and drive. Here, during practice session, he urges a player to move with greater speed.

GO NOW -- GO HARD NOW!

A new era in basketball was begun when Doyle Parrack was hired as coach last spring. Now he is preparing an inexperienced team to win in the present season.

By PERRY ROBINSON

A NEW BASKETBALL ERA dawned unpretentiously at O.U. this fall. With the attention of the nation focused on the progress of Bud Wilkinson's mighty Sooners to a national championship and an Orange Bowl berth, new coach Doyle Parrack has been hard at work installing his system of basketball.

But Parrack, fresh from a highly successful 8-year tenure at the helm of the O.C.U. Chiefs, has not gone unnoticed. Students, their eyes still smarting from last season when the Sooners produced 3 wins and 18 losses, are awaiting with anticipation the latest edition of cagers.

Speculation, small fieldhouse, thin material, football emphasis—none of these things seem to bother the new mentor. When asked what he thought about being basketball coach at a school where football is king, Parrack replied, "I think it is an advantage; the football success of the Sooners helps us because it creates more interest in athletics and helps the other sports financially. We're not neglected in any way. The school, the

athletic department, Mr. Wilkinson—all have helped in every way. The basketball team must earn its recognition."

And earning it they are. Beginning in November, Parrack has put his sophomore squad through one of the stiffest preparatory periods in O.U.'s basketball history. An observer comes away a bit awed from the intensity of one of the practice sessions.

During one of the young coach's shooting drills, a miss earns its author pushups; another drill produces five laps around the court for an erring player when he loses the ball.

"We're going to be pretty thin this season and we're going to have to work harder. There's not much experience on the squad after Jimmy Peck and Leroy Bacher," he explained.

With Parrack's rich baritone voice rising and falling like an invisible bullwhip, the sophomores and the thin sprinkling of juniors and seniors have learned well the meaning of the coach's "Go now—go hard now!"

His face reflects a serious intensity and the same expression has begun to appear on the faces of his men. The practices proceed at a terrific pace, for Parrack wastes no time talking; as soon as he makes his correction, the squad is running at full speed again. When he bellows "stop!" the sweating young men stop, as if paralyzed. The stop means that Parrack has information to impart, and impart it he does, with a thoroughness that leaves no question.

The black-headed, square-jawed coach follows every play with utmost attention, urging his boys on to perfection. He dominates the fieldhouse much in the same fashion as does his former teacher, the fabled Iron Duke, Hank Iba. Parrack commands the instant respect of all in the range of his voice. Waving his hands energetically, he follows play from one free throw circle to the other, offering criticism and praise liberally. As a regular during the Oklahoma Aggies' golden years of national championships and 7-foot centers, Parrack learned well that basketball success is the result of hours of hard work.

Parrack's "brand" of basketball is based on sound fundamentals, a good man-to-man defense and a pattern offense run at a

'55 Basketball Games

- Dec. 5—Baylor at Norman
- Dec. 8—Rice at Houston
- Dec. 12—Ohio State at Columbus
- Dec. 10—Vanderbilt at Nashville
- Dec. 15—Arkansas at Norman
- Dec. 20—Oklahoma A&M at Norman
- Dec. 23—Illinois at Champaign-Urbana
- Dec. 27-30—Big Seven Tournament at Kansas City
- Jan. 7—Kansas at Lawrence
- Jan. 10—Kansas State at Norman
- Jan. 14—Iowa State at Norman
- Jan. 28—Iowa State at Ames
- Jan. 30—Kansas State at Manhattan
- Feb. 4—Missouri at Norman
- Feb. 9—Oklahoma A&M at Stillwater
- Feb. 13—Nebraska at Norman
- Feb. 17—Kansas at Norman
- Feb. 20—Colorado at Norman
- Feb. 25—Missouri at Columbia
- Mar. 3—Nebraska at Lincoln
- Mar. 5—Colorado at Boulder

deliberate speed. "They're moving into the style rather slowly but about as quick as I thought they would. I'm trying to simplify the offensive pattern a bit by cutting down

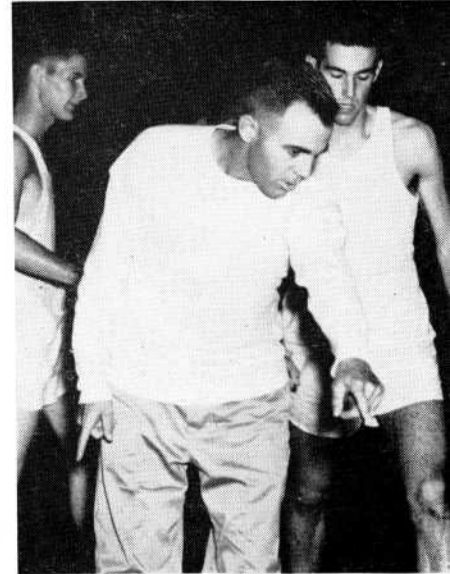
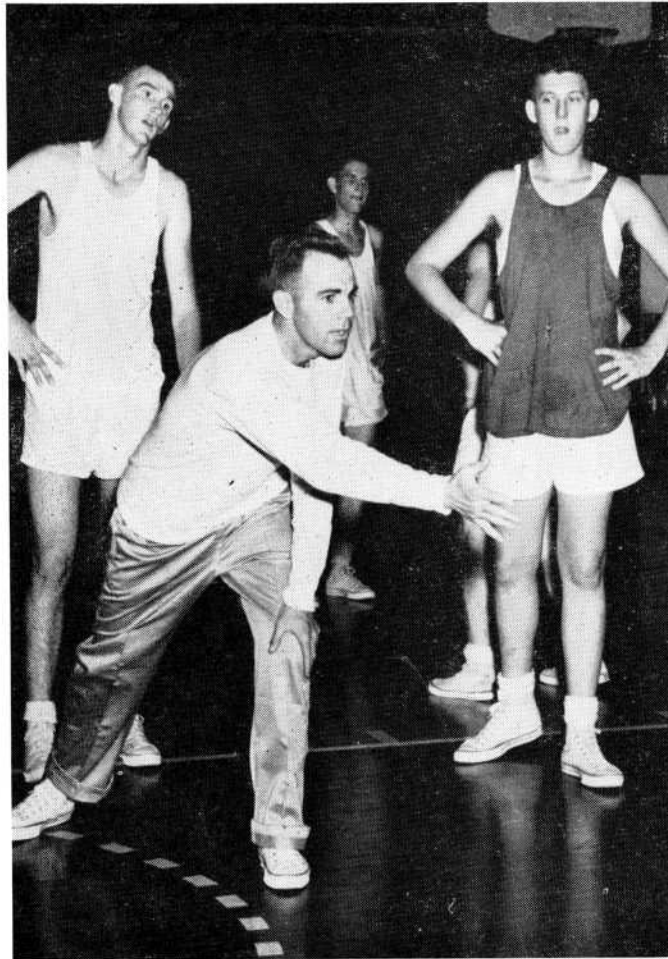
on options. However, our main problem has been improving our defense and fundamentals," Parrack said.

Whether Parrack, who spends his leisure time on his 500-acre ranch south of Tecumseh, will revamp the Sooners to such an extent that they will fill the row after row of empty seats in the fieldhouse remains to be seen.

The new coach reflects no pessimism. Instead, he enjoys new-found recruiting advantages and the substantial schedule that the Big Seven provides. "We need student and alumni support and we're going to try to interest them enough so that they'll want to see us play," Parrack said.

Disregarding such high-sounding terms as "basketball renaissance," Parrack is methodically going about his work, teaching his kind of basketball. And he knows basketball. An onlooker at one of the practices soon has the impression that "Genius at Work" signs should be placed at strategic points in the fieldhouse.

He inspires confidence. Like a dedicated architect with one purpose in mind, he strides briskly around the fieldhouse court, spending every possible minute building a winning basketball team.



Parrack's brand of deliberate offense and tight defensive play requires sound fundamentals. He is seen during practice, urging more hustle, explaining a play, and positioning his players during the walk-through of a play.