



Oklahoma's center, Joe King, is also a promising journalism junior. Here he relates his personal reaction to playing against one of the most talented basketball players in America—Kansas' All-American, Wilt Chamberlain.

How It Feels To Play Against Chamberlain

By JOE KING

RECENTLY, with almost as much regularity as the old universal question directed at a tall man, "How's the weather up there?" people come to me and ask, "How does it feel to play against Wilt 'The Stilt' Chamberlain?"

I try to answer this without giving people the idea that I think he is unstoppable or that I think I could stop him. It's pretty difficult to explain this to people and they usually go away thinking, "Well, I only saw him play and I know as much about him as that guy."

This is probably true. But knowing about him and knowing how I feel when I play against him are two different matters, and I think I can explain the last.

When we play Kansas and Wilt, it's a case of having everything to gain and nothing to lose. Here is a team that is ranked Number One in the nation against one with a poor record. They have the highest scorer in basketball and many people call him the best player the game has ever known. So for both the team and Wilt the Stilt the standards are higher. What might be considered a good night for me is a poor one for him, and likewise for our two teams.

So I go into the game with Wilt in a fortunate position, personally. If I can hold him to 25 points, that would be 10 below his average,

and with those 10 points we might win. I can feel that I've done a pretty good job even if he scores 25 points, a good total for any other player.

However, if I tried to stop him alone, he would get 75 points, because I could not reach even high enough to foul him when he shot. I had to watch out or I would get hurt when he threw one down through the basket.

But with a team there is a way of stopping Wilt. Most everyone tries putting three or more men on him, but this plan is hurt by the fact that he can still jump and be as clear as if he were alone. If he's close to the basket when he jumps, there is no way of stopping him from stuffing the ball home. But if he can be moved out away from the basket where he is forced to shoot the ball, he is weaker.

So, with our four outside men putting a very effective press on the outside men for Kansas, Wilt had to come away from the basket to catch the ball. When a man tried to throw to him in under the basket, one of our men would make the pass impossible by pressing the passer closely.

Using this system, we held Wilt the Stilt to 22 points, at that time the second lowest game total of his career. But the big guy sure makes a person feel small. I think I know how it feels now for some 5-foot girl to come around a corner and bump into me suddenly.

Center Joe King puts up shot against famed Chamberlain defense. In regular season games, O.U. held Wilt to 33 points. At Kansas he could only score 11, lowest point production of the fabled sophomore's career.