

Not a brawl, this, but a tangle of players in recent O. U.- Ohio State game.

Season of Surprises

EVEN THE MOST FANATIC of Oklahoma's basketball fans would probably be quick to tell you that the past two seasons at O. U. have been less than something to shout about. This is the third year for the squad to be guided by Coach Doyle Parrack, who, when taking the job, left behind him at Oklahoma City University several

almost miraculously fine teams and a whopping total of wins. But no one expected the Parrack touch to change O. U.'s scores overnight. Oklahoma has never played a weak schedule, but probably one of the toughest; teams in the Big Eight Conference are consistently very strong. Too, Parrack is known to begin his training of new men by stead-

When Doyle Parrack, Oklahoma City's fine basketball coach, decided to come to work for the University, no one expected him to produce miracles overnight with a failing team. In less than three years, though, he has put O. U. back in the basketeer standings. This season, many feel, will be one to remember.

ily, thoroughly building and polishing their defense knowhow. There are critical road trips to cope with while the team is learning, and there are the ever-changing rules of the game which lately have bewildered some who thought they knew the game well. And, perhaps most important, Parrack has had to try to instill the necessary "winning tradition" in Oklahoma players.

This season the winning tradition is there. Suddenly, Sooner basketees are looking great, and the game has come alive.

Said one fan the other night: "Few of us expected Parrack to produce this well this year."

At this writing, O. U. had played a dozen games. Nine of them were victories. The season was kicked off December 2 in Norman; on that night Oklahoma downed Arkansas. Then the team was off to Los Angeles, where on one night it licked Southern Cal., the next night was licked by UCLA.

Southern Methodist, Tulsa and Ohio State then lost to Oklahoma. The team traveled to Kansas City for a Big Eight conference, where Kansas—in the form of Wilt "The Stilt" Chamberlain—stopped the Sooners cold. (Forced into the consolation bracket with three other losing teams, however, O. U. picked up two wins before leaving.)

Thriller of the year came January 7 in Norman. Once again Oklahoma met Kansas. But this time Chamberlain was not playing, due to a leg infection, and Oklahomans received the exhilaration of winning over Kansas, 64-62.

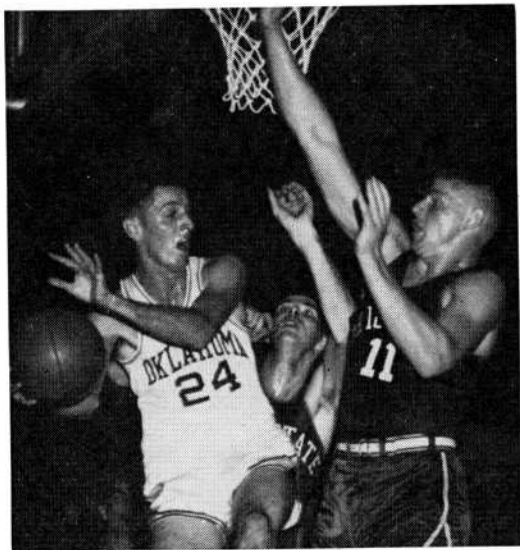
Hitting the road, Sooners beat Colorado at Boulder, lost to Nebraska at Lincoln.

The rest of the season looked rough. It included Oklahoma State (rated ninth in the nation by United Press); Missouri; Iowa State, always a good one; Oklahoma State again; Kansas State (rated fourth); Kansas again (rated third), and Iowa State again.

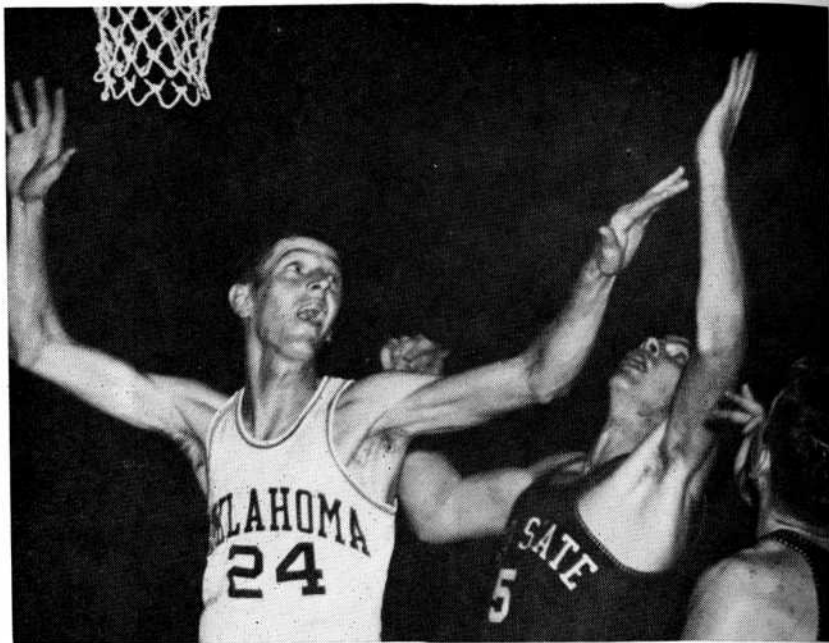
Whatever the outcome for the Sooners, one fact stood forth: Oklahoma is back in the basketball game.

SEASON OF SURPRISES

Continued



Pulling back, Basketeer Gene Hudson attempts a fast, necessary getaway from two opponents beneath basket.



Treading air, Hudson (Number 24) is frozen in ballet-like grace by the camera. Last season's No. 3 scorer of the squad, Hudson moved from O. C. U. to O. U. with Parrack.

Triplets? No, That's Hudson All Over

ALL THROUGH THE CURRENT season, whenever the University sent its basketball squad out to meet one from another school, crowds of fans were certain of seeing three O. U. starters—Joe King, Denny Price and Gene Hudson.

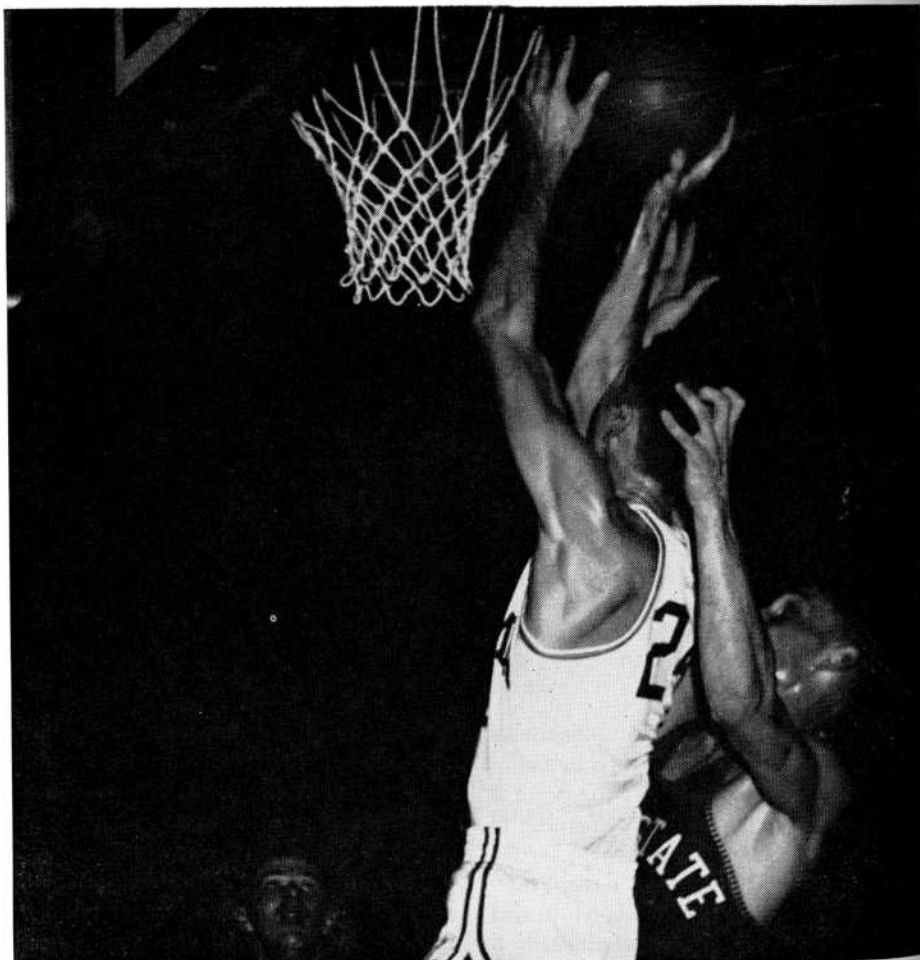
Earlier in the season they were certain of a fourth, also—Don Schwall. Then professional ball prospects swept him out of the picture altogether.

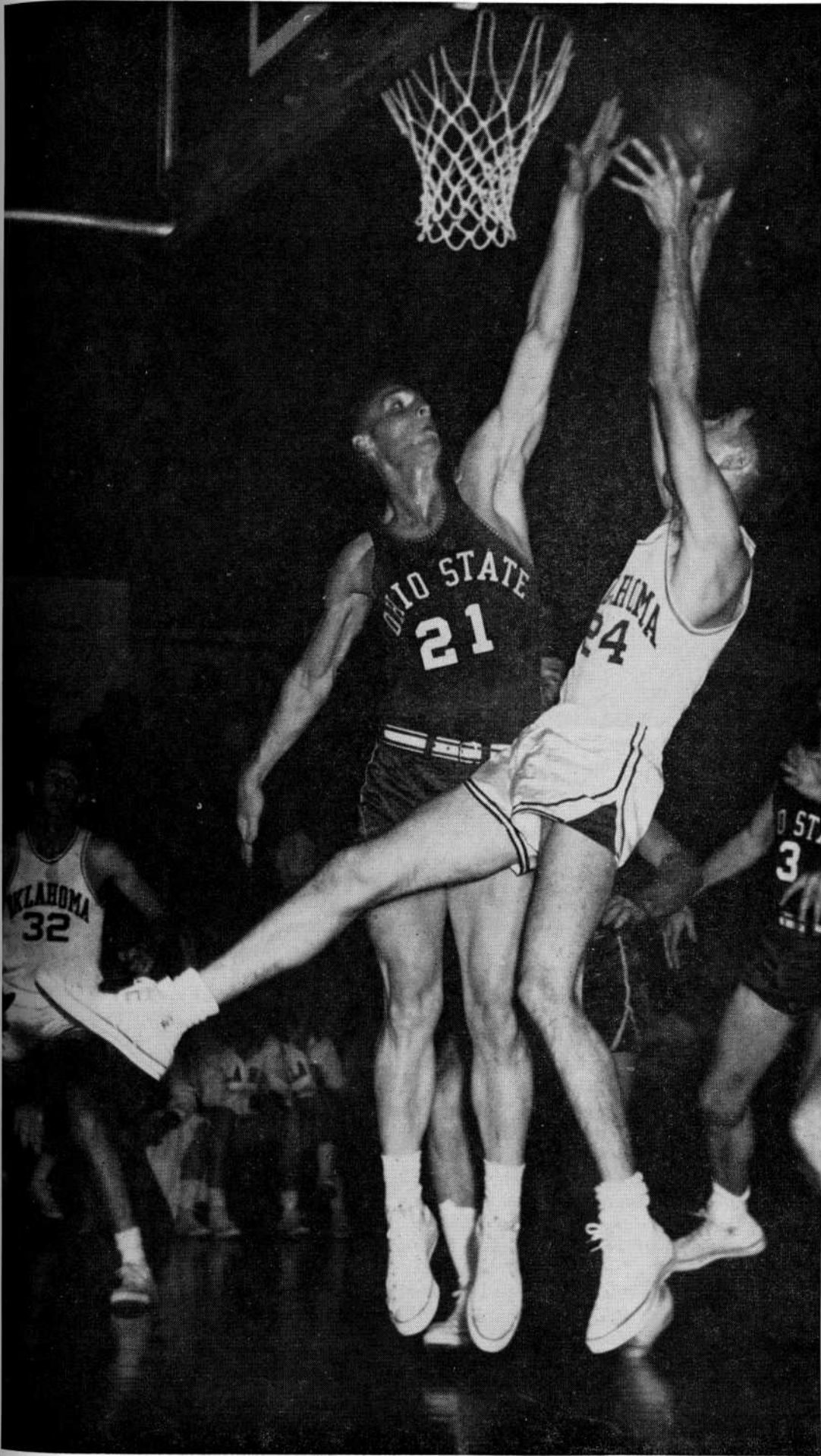
All are fine players; each has his following. Yet in a recent game (the one against Ohio State which came just two days before Christmas) one man seemed to stand out momentarily, or so it appeared to the camera, anyway.

Lean Gene Hudson, Ada senior, seemed everywhere. The photographer who made these pictures was surprised to find that the majority included Hudson.

The explanation, though, was simple. Tireless and brilliantly fired up for the game, Hudson made it a point to get into as many important plays as possible. Crouching, running, in flight, he was there when the game grew exciting.

As Hudson desperately tries to score, the camera creates a misconception. The Ohio Stater wasn't pulling hair; he merely had his hand up there.





As teammate Joe King (left) tensely observes, Hudson tries for a basket, and practically loses his balance in attempt.