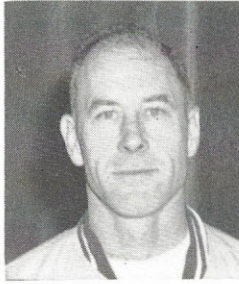


# Varsity Basketball

Inexperience, inconsistency, and just plain bad luck combined to make last season a disappointing one for the SW Cagers. However, many observers feel that the squad was much better than their 4-19 record indicates, and all signs point to a much better team next year.

Starting the season with only one returning letterman, Co-captain Jim Graves, the roundballers showed creditable form although losing to state champions C. B. C. in their opening game. But the ensuing games most often produced results which were little better, and occasionally much worse. High spots included two sound defeats of P. H. L. rival O'Fallon Tech. and a thrilling one-point, overtime triumph over the Central Redwings at the Hadley Field House. But almost everyone agrees that the best game of the season for the basketeers was the solid, team victory over Roosevelt, near the end of the season. A one-point overtime defeat by Affton and a close defeat by McKinley were also games in which the team showed its true potential.

The Longhorn offensive game was powered by Co-captains Graves and Herb Blase, who each maintained nearly a 20 point per game average. Guard Care "Ollie" Harris was the team's late season spark as he carried a 15 point average for the last five games.



Coach Ashley

Harris was also a defensive sparkplug, along with Bill "Moose" Luechtefeld, star center.

Mr. Ashley is fairly optimistic about the coming season. He says:

We should be in good shape as we aren't losing any first stringers, and seven lettermen are returning. I hope that Luechtefeld and Jim Nelson can develop a better all-around scoring punch to help out Graves and Blase. Harris and Dennis Spooner should be more experienced and versatile, and Ron Anderson could help by continuing his improved style of defensive play which he showed late in the season.

After the close of the season, it was announced that the team and the school had been chosen to receive the first annual Phillip J. Hickey Sportsmanship award for Basketball. Addressing the student body during an aud session honoring Coach Ashley and the team, and featuring Mr. Hickey, league manager Walter Williams, the cheerleaders, and the band, Mr. Young had this to say:

"We are proud of the spirit and good sportsmanship displayed by the team and its fans during a somewhat disappointing year. We know that they will maintain these high standards of conduct as they battle for the Public High League Title next year. The Roundup staff congratulates and commends the Southwest cagers for their fine display of team spirit and wishes them luck in the coming campaign."

