

Basketball



COACH CHAMBERS

If the record of the 1926-27 Bearcat basketball team is compared with that of the great quintet that won the Buckeye championship the year before the work of this season's squad is not particularly impressive. If, however, its record is stacked up against that of other Ohio teams or against that of the average Cincinnati court team it will be realized that Cincy really had another high class basketball outfit and the season deserves to go down in the books as one of the most successful ever experienced by a U. C. cage team.

The Bearcats played 18 games, winning thirteen and losing only five. All five defeats, however, were administered by B. A. A. teams, so that the Red and Black failed to retain the championship in that loop finishing in a tie with Wittenberg for third place with a percentage of 500. Denison, Buckeye title holder, was the only team on the schedule whom Cincy failed to defeat. The Baptists trounced Coach Chambers' pets twice, but defeats at the hands of Wesleyan, Wittenberg and Ohio U. on foreign floors were all averaged when these teams met the Bearcats in their own lair. The loss to Denison was the only one Varsity has suffered on her own floor for two years.

Although the team's won-and-lost record does not compare favorably with that of the 1925-26 squad, this year's squad proved itself stronger both offensively and defensively by averaging 41.2 points a game to 37.1 points by last year's five and holding the opposition to 26.5 points a game as against 27 points made by the opponents of the champion team of 1925-26. In the Buckeye circuit the Bearcats compiled the best defensive record of any of the six teams and also ran up the two highest single game scores of 55 and 54 points. In 11 games Varsity scored 40 or more points and in five of these the 50 mark was passed. None of Cincy's opponents were able to score as many as 40 points and only five of them succeeded in garnering more than 30.

U. C.'s record outside the B. A. A. was unmarred by defeat. Her non-league victims included Berea, Kentucky State (twice), Georgia Tech, Princeton, Wilmington, Muskingum, and the Central Y. M. C. A. The Buckeye teams to taste defeat at the hands of the Red and Black were Miami (twice), Ohio U., Wesleyan, and Wittenberg.

The team started the season with three of the five positions occupied by veterans from the great team of the previous season. Captain Jonah Mehl and "Sunny" Dial were at the forward berths and the gigantic "Red" Bolton again held down the pivot job. Ethan Allen and "Wes" Schmid had been lost to the team through graduation so that Coach faced the task of finding new men to take the places of these stellar guards. Sid Meyers, who was Schmid's understudy the year before proved himself worthy of being chosen one of these men, while Micky Dine, a sophomore, started the season as the other one.

Although all these men performed capably in the early games, Cincy's lineup was destined not to remain as stable as it had the year before, when the five regulars played through most of the games. Two other new men, Dan Early and Dick Franz, came to the front rapidly and put up such a fine brand of basketball that they could not be kept on the bench. Early finally replaced Captain Mehl as a regular forward while Franz alternated with Dine as guard. Bolton, Dial, and Meyers played such consistently good basketball at the other three positions that their berths as regulars were never threatened. Bolton and Meyers started every game, while an injury received at the end of the season was the only thing that kept Dial from so doing.

"Red" was easily the outstanding star of the team. His six-feet-four proved a veritable mountain of strength on the defense, while on the attack he scored more than twice as many points as any of his team mates, tallying 249 points on the season or an average of almost 14 a game. Dick Dial with 110 points stood second in the scoring column. "Sunny's" fine floor work and great defensive play made him one of the most valuable players in the B. A. A. Sid Meyers, the only other player on the team to pass the century mark in scoring, was also an extremely valuable cog in the team's floor attack and on the defense. He served as active captain in most of the games.

Dan Early played some fine basketball as forward, especially in mid-season, and he should develop a really great player before he winds up his college career. Captain Jonah Mehl showed flashes of his old form on several occasions, but on the whole he was not the brilliant performer that he had been the year before. However he usually gave a good account of himself whenever called on. "Micky" Dine and Dick Franz both proved capable guards, although neither of them came up to the standard set by the great Ethan Allen. These players, like Early, have two more years of basketball ahead of them and seem destined to become even better performers than they were this season.

Dick Bryant, center, and Shorty Neumark and Ralph Diserens, forwards, were carried on the first string squad all season and broke into the lineup occasionally. Bryant, especially, saw considerable action as Bolton's understudy. Bob Mills, forward, Lee Grasfeder, center, Bill Gervers, guard, and Bob Sachs, center, each got into one varsity game but were not on the squad throughout the season.



ALLEN, Assistant Coach