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**Oral Roberts  
faces  
Louisville**

# the ORACLE

**Special NCAA  
Tournament  
Edition**

VOLUME 9, NUMBER 18

ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY, TULSA, OKLAHOMA

MARCH 12, 1974

## ORU to host Midwest Regional

Oral Robert University's Mabee Center, an infant of only 1½ years, will be the site this week for the 1974 Midwest Regional basketball tournament which leads to the NCAA major college championship.

Oral Roberts University, also a relative infant to major college basketball, will host the event which will bring together four of the top 16 teams in America.

The first round is scheduled for Thursday, March 14, with semifinal games at 7:05 and 9:30 p.m. These games will be telecast regionally by TVS, the independent network which has pioneered basketball broadcasting.

The championship game will be played at 1:10 p.m. Saturday, March 16, following a third-place game at 11:05 a.m. The title game will be telecast by NBC-TV.

The four participating teams will be the Big Eight champion

Kansas University, Missouri Valley champion Louisville, and independents Oral Roberts and Creighton.

Three independents were extended bids to the Midwest Regional. However, Syracuse lost to Oral Roberts at Denton, Tex., in the first round of competition. Creighton eliminated Southwestern conference champion, Texas, from further tournament action, by defeating it 77-61, also in Denton.

Las Vegas matchmakers have given UCLA 2-1 odds that the seven-time defending national champion will again win this year's tournament. Kansas, Louisville, and Creighton were given 12-1 odds, and Oral Roberts 30-1.

However, with a home court advantage such as the Titans will have, Coach Ken Trickey believes ORU could very possibly win the Midwest Regionals at Mabee Center.

### KANSAS

March 14, 7:05 p.m.

### CREIGHTON

### LOUISVILLE

March 14, 9:30 p.m.

### ORAL ROBERTS

March 16  
1:10 p.m.

Third place  
March 16  
11:05 a.m.

The Midwest winner will meet the Mideast champion in the semifinals, meaning a confrontation with UCLA can likely be avoided until the end.

In 35 years of national championship competition, the Midwest Regional has produced three national champions, two from the Missouri Valley Conference (Ok-

lahoma A&M, 1945 and 1946) and one from the Big Eight (Kansas, 1952).

It has been a busy March for the Mabee Center which also hosted the Region II Junior College championship tournament March 7-9. The 10,575-seat structure was also recently named as the site for the Coaches' All-

Star basketball game for three years beginning in 1975.

The regional tournament will bring to Tulsa an army of 250 to 300 newspaper, radio, and television reporters and photographers and thousands of basketball fans who will follow their teams.

It is a first for Tulsa and only the second time the regionals have been located in the State of Oklahoma. Mabee Center has already won a reputation as one of the finest basketball arenas in the nation.

Camelot Inn will be accommodating Louisville and KU traveling fans will be staying at Sheraton Skyline East. The Hilton Inn will serve as headquarters for the ORU Titans and visiting press. Creighton followers will be staying at Trade Winds Central.

Tickets for the tournament are \$5 per session and both Thursday and Saturday are expected to be sell-outs.

## Prayer Tower still stands; former mental patient shot

An off-duty Tulsa policeman shot and wounded a former mental patient who reportedly threatened first to blow up the Prayer Tower and then the Mabee Center Friday, March 1.

John Samuel Bietzel, 36, of New Philadelphia, Ohio, was shot twice—in the shoulder and in the arm—by Detective Chuck Hodges after Bietzel reportedly waved a briefcase he claimed contained nitroglycerine.

Bietzel was admitted to St. Francis Hospital in fair condition. He suffered a flesh wound to his shoulder and a broken arm. He will be examined by psychiatrists for possible commitment to a mental institution.

The incident occurred at 6:30 p.m. about an hour before sell-out crowds began flocking to Mabee Center for a concert by Elvis Presley.

Collins T. Steele, ORU vice-president for special events, said Bietzel was touring the Prayer Tower and became abusive with Mrs. Elsie Fisher, a guide-counselor.

When two campus security officers summoned by Mrs. Fisher arrived at the Prayer Tower, Bietzel showed the briefcase, claimed it contained a bomb, and announced he would blow up the Tower, Steele said.

The security officers backed

away, and Bietzel left the Tower saying he would blow up Mabee Center.

Bietzel was intercepted in a vacant parking lot near Mabee Center by Hodges and off-duty police detective Ron Vause, who were working security for the Elvis Presley concert.

Police said that when Bietzel saw he was to be stopped, he lobbed the briefcase grenade-style over the officers and made an apparent move for a gun.

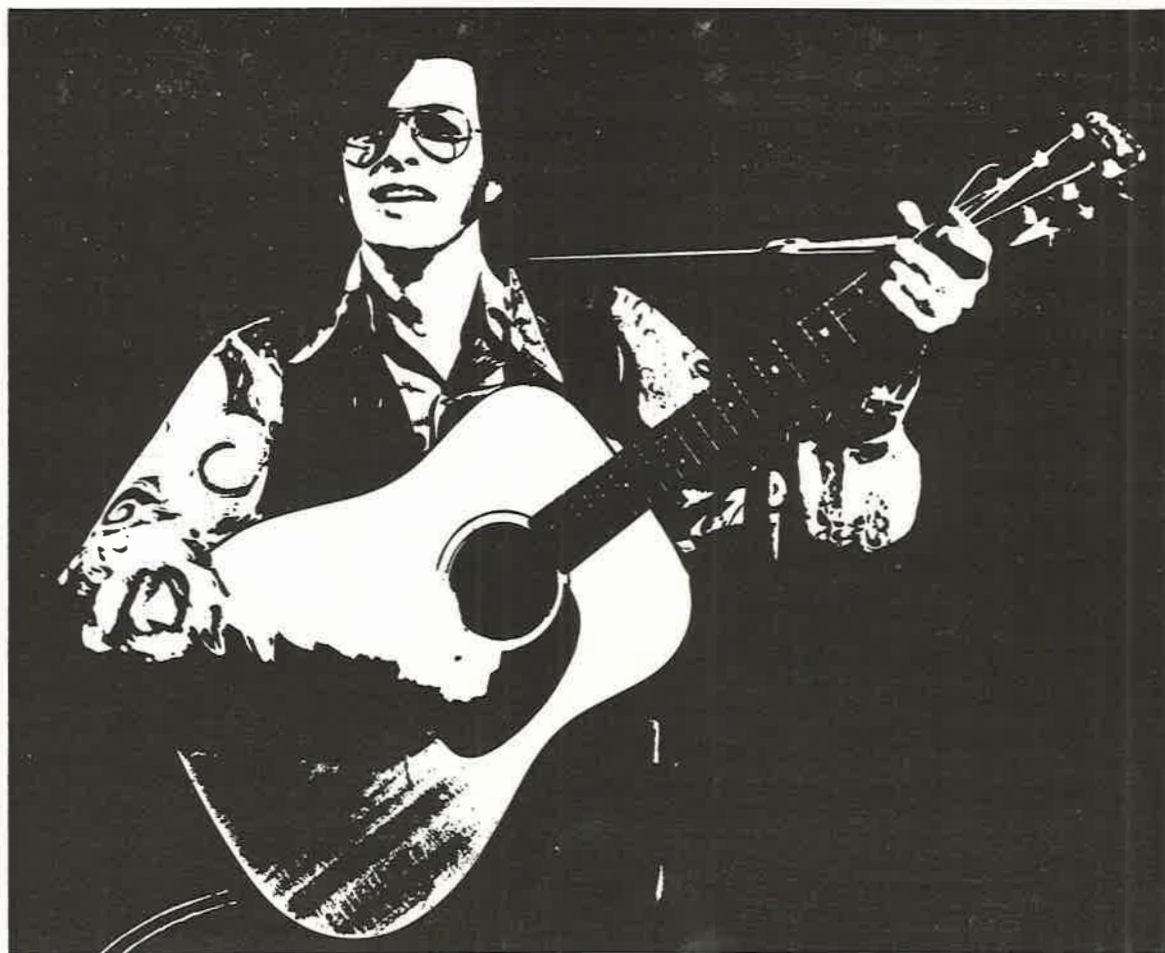
Hodges and Vause fired.

Officers said when he was hit by gunfire, Bietzel dropped to the ground and said, "There's no bomb in there. I'm just a psychotic. I've been in a mental institution." He was found to be unarmed.

Later, police reported, Bietzel said he had a tape recording from God for President Roberts to hear.

Before the arrival of the police bomb-disposal unit, another off-duty officer, Robert Fagan, carried the briefcase to a drainage ditch about 100 yards north of Mabee Center and opened it.

Fagan, 28, a 4-year Navy veteran who served in Vietnam and was a specialist in naval ordnance disposal technique, found there were no detonating devices on the briefcase locks before opening it.



### McPheeters to present 'Soul-winning Seminar'

Former drug abuser turned Christian, Charles W. McPheeters will conduct the "ORU Street Level Soul-winning Seminar" Friday night and Saturday after-

noon in Zoppelt Auditorium. The seminar will be free to students. McPheeters heads active street and coffeehouse ministries in Denver.



# Is it possible to do what's expected?

"There just aren't enough hours in the day."

This must be the universal cry of busy people. And from now till mid-May, some of the busiest are Oral Roberts University students.

But it seems only natural to assume that ORU students would be busier than most college students. I know of few colleges where students are expected to earn aerobic points, attend chapel, and still carry a full academic load. With all that is expected of whole men and women, ORU students soon become pros at cramming every minute with activity, attempting to get everything done.

Yes, God's people on this campus are busy. And I imagine God Himself isn't just twiddling His thumbs.

Just before spring break, a frustrated freshman friend who had failed to earn his 30 aerobic points came to me for some possible tips on how he could better manage his time. Even by limiting himself to 5 hours of sleep each night, he didn't have time to get everything done he felt he should.

So I sat down with him to explore what was taking so much of his time. I asked him to list all the activities he felt he was required to do and to estimate the time required for each.

According to his calculations, of the 168 hours in a week, he listed 164 for activities even before he started the week. This left him only 4 hours for dates, concerts, plays, TV, brother-sister retreats, or free time.

My friend is an intelligent freshman and has an average academic course load. And if he doesn't have time for everything, just think how frustrating it must be to have all these required activities and a heavy academic load.

I'm sure a music or drama major can't possibly do all that's expected and still sleep more than 3 hours a night. With all but 4 hours a week preprogrammed, ORU is probably the greatest modern experiment in religious cloning.

No wonder some ORU girls never get asked out. No wonder the majority of students never see a daily newspaper. The trite excuse of "well, I don't have time" is valid.

For the first time in my career at this university, I began to seriously examine the whole-man concept. And I have come to a few conclusions.

The whole-man concept isn't bad. Although no one will ever become the perfect whole man—Jesus Christ—striving for wholeness does build character and inspire us to become the best we possibly can.

It isn't busyness that is bad. Christians who accept responsibilities and rise to challenges are likely to be very busy people.

What is bad, is that in all our busyness we forget just why we're striving to become whole men and women. We fail to remember that we aren't striving to be accepted by God, but we are reaching for perfection because we have been perfected already, through the grace of Jesus Christ. And He is going to love us just the same, with or without our aerobic points.

No, there aren't enough hours in the day to do all that's expected of an ORU student. So do your best out of love for Christ, be yourself, and don't lose any sleep over it.



## TU-ORU team up

by david j. markley

Unlike most conferences between leaders of crosstown schools, the recent "First Annual TU-ORU Summit Conference," established a meaningful relationship between Oral Roberts University and the University of Tulsa.

After an extensive interchange of our school structures and student governments, we are ready to activate the following ideas:

- 1.) Reciprocal library agreement.
- 2.) Joint booking of concerts, lectures, and movies.
- 3.) Coordinated school activities such as debates, "earthships" (workshops for things like learning the basics of cars, filing income tax properly, etc.), and TU sponsored dances.
- 4.) Joint Senate projects to coordinate talent on our campuses for the benefit of Tulsa and surrounding communities.

Those in attendance at our first meeting were Dan Carlson, Renee Colwill, Greg Bledsoe, Sue Bohling, Randy Sterns, Jim Moore, and myself.

## LETTERS

### Reader wants 'Show Me' encore

Dear Editor,

Those of us who were blessed with enough foresight and good connections were privileged to attend the musical "Show Me!" on Saturday night. On that afternoon it was discovered that Howard Auditorium was completely sold out with advance sales tickets. This came as a shock to the rumored 600 people who were turned away at the door, not to mention those students who found out during the day and did not bother to try to get in. There was talk of a second show at 10 o'clock but it was not carried out.

The point of the matter is that there are many people who simply did not have the opportunity to witness the superb musical and dramatic talent and experience the very real spiritual call and drive that was presented, although they had the desire to. I am asking for consideration of an all-school production of the musical if at all possible. I am certain that a further blessing would be received by those who would see it a second time, and the 1,500-2,000 students who missed the first opportunity will be quite thankful for a second production.

There are at least two ways that this all-school production could be presented. Both involve time in chapel. As the musical is nearly an hour and 15 minutes long, an unbroken performance on one day is possible but somewhat unlikely. A second, more likely and comfortable arrangement, would be splitting the musical at some logical point, determined by Stone Productions, and performing the parts Wednesday and Friday.

I realize that this decision must be left to the administration and "Show Me!" personnel. However, I would have them aware that

there is a desire on this campus that has been reflected in part in this request for consideration. May God bless your prayerful decision.

Thank you,  
Rodney Carbaugh

Dear Editor,

I was so disappointed by the disconnected comments of Name Withheld in last week's *Oracle*, my conscience compels me to respond not only to the young ladies at ORU, but also President Roberts and the Deans.

After having visited several Christian and secular campuses, I have been impressed with President Roberts' concern, discretion, and sound judgment in establishing the dress code as he has. Not only do the young ladies dress in attractive and current styles, I feel 99.44 percent do so modestly. Deans Inbody and Wallace have also done admirable jobs in enforcing the letter and spirit of the dress code.

Mrs. Mystery leveled a very unfair and unqualified judgment against President Roberts as well as the Deans. I wonder if she feels she is more qualified to establish rules than those persons whose very profession is the guiding and education of young adults.

I'm afraid the days when standing under a stairway won't reveal sheer-to-the-waist panty hose are gone with Victorian table-leg skirts, and the horse 'n buggy. It will be most difficult for the Mr. Name Withhelds of the world to go anywhere that their wives will not worry constantly about their taking their eyes off a book. She might even want to censor those Sears and Roebuck catalogs he's been looking at.

Not-ashamed-to-give-my-name,  
Steve Stockley

Dear Editor,

I would like to express my gratitude to you and your staff for the selection of letters to the editor. I know, appreciate, and understand the choices you have to make. Regardless, I bring to your attention the article of February 22 dealing with short skirt length which you deemed worthy of publication for the benefit of the ORU community.

It is evident that this article has bared many facts that are at least self-evident to most male students on this campus. I would like to affirm the attitude of that article in a way that could help all students concerned, and work in everyday life.

I know and am persuaded that short skirt length in itself is not wrong or bad. Nevertheless, there are many among us who are persuaded that short skirt length is both wrong and bad. Consequently, these persons are truly grieved by this unavoidable situation. Certainly, out of consideration in pure Christian love it would be a grave error to cast such a stumbling block that could thereby destroy many of those among us for whom Christ also died. What would be right would be not to do any sort of thing whereby another person stumbles, is offended, or is in some other way made weak.

In the light of this truth, it could be possible to seek those things which make for peace, unity, and progressive growth among all students on this campus. Furthermore, those who could truly serve Christ with respect to virtually anything (especially short skirts and dresses) would be both acceptable to God and approved among men as faithful stewards of those things delivered to them by God.

With love to all concerned,  
Douglas D. Jones

## the ORACLE

march 12, 1974

volume 9, number 18

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# Titans down Syracuse in overtime

## Back to Mabee Center for homecourt advantage

While most Oral Roberts students were enjoying Spring Break last Saturday night, the Titan basketball team advanced to the ICAA regionals by nipping Syracuse in overtime 86 to 82. North Texas State's "Superpit" at Denton, Tex., was the site.

ORU began sluggishly. Syracuse took the upper hand and frequently led by 5 points or more. An effective 2-3 zone defense by Syracuse hampered ORU. Despite little Titan success in working the ball inside, Sam McCants and Al Boswell bombed shots from outside to keep ORU in the game. Suddenly ORU came alive and captured the lead, retiring to the dressing room at halftime 43 to 41.

Dennis DuVal, the superguard of Syracuse, would not allow ORU to retain its lead. The flashy 6-3 guard gave the Titans

troubles trying to defend him. Al Boswell picked up four fouls defending the Syracuse star, and had to switch with Sam McCants. McCants almost stopped DuVal completely, only allowing him 4 points. Later McCants said, "I worked a little harder on DuVal. He was keeping them in the game and we just had to shut him down."

Both teams failed in chances to win in regulation time. Syracuse forward Rudy Hackett missed four field shots at crucial times during the game. ORU stalled for the final shot to win, but Sam McCants missed a long outside shot and the game went into overtime.

Thirty seconds into the overtime period, Duane Fox quickly sank a 15-footer to put ORU ahead for good. This was no indication of how the game went

in the next few minutes though. Fred Saunders, the 6-8 transfer forward from Southwestern Louisiana, fouled out a short time later, his sixth time in 16 games.

McCants scored on a one-handed pump shot and the Titans led 78 to 74. Greg McDougald added another 2 points on free throws which gave ORU a momentarily comfortable 6-point lead. Just as the game looked certain that ORU would win, Syracuse caught up and trailed by only 2 points with 1:02 left. McCants was fouled, sank 2 free throws, and ORU led again by 4. Twelve seconds later Anthony Roberts broke loose and scored on a lay-up.

Although the Titans led 84 to 78, Syracuse would not give up. Jim Lee, 6-foot Syracuse guard, sparked a comeback when he

scored an important outside shot. Syracuse scored on a steal when ORU inbounded the ball, and the Titans led by a narrow 2 points with 11 seconds remaining.

Dennis DuVal fouled out in a desperate attempt to steal the ball from McCants. Sam coolly pumped in two free throws to cinch the game for ORU 86 to 82.

After it was all over, Titan Coach Ken Trickey commented, "I didn't enjoy coaching this game. It was tough, I had to work tonight. Maybe I'm too much of a fan, but I couldn't sit back and enjoy this one. I sure didn't enjoy the game when we were 4 points down with 5 minutes to go, but when the overtime came, we went out there to play."

All Titan center Eddie Woods could say was, "It's back to mag-

nificent Mabee Center! We never lose at home!"

Sam McCants led ORU scoring with 25 points, followed by Al Boswell with 17, Duane Fox with 14, Eddie Woods with 11, Anthony Roberts with 9, Greg McDougald with 8, and Willis Collins with 2.

The superstar of Syracuse, Dennis DuVal, took the game's scoring honors with 28 points.

Coach Trickey now faces Louisville Thursday night. Trickey optimistically stated, "Think what it would mean to all the little schools if ORU could win the regional and go to the final four. We're certainly not overawed by the mighty Big Eight or the powerful Missouri Valley. They're great teams and I don't relish playing any of them, but we're not awed by them."

ORU now stands 2-2 in post-season games.

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# Come fly with Coach Sutton

**His traveling Creighton Bluejays  
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Creighton Bluejays are experts at packing suitcases. At least they should be, as much as this Omaha, Neb., team travels.

No team is supposed to like traveling the way they do, but with a 22-5 record and a coach who doesn't mind playing on the road, Creighton is the top-ranked, at-large team in the Midwest Regional.

"Oh, I know a lot of coaches must think I'm insane with this traveling thing," admits Creighton Coach Eddie Sutton. "But we're an independent with 14 kids on our roster from 11 different states and with 65 alumni groups across the country who want to see us play. So we go everywhere, and we've gotten a

reputation for it. And any time we travel I think of it as an education for our players, not just as a sightseeing tour."

The beneficiaries of this *Come Fly with Me* philosophy—players like Forward Gene Harmon, who beat Houston 78-77 with a long jumper on television last season, or Doug Brookins, who muscled in 25 points against Marquette—have in truth seen a large part of the world. During the last 3 years Creighton has played in 20 states, logged more than 65,000 miles in the air, made a South American jaunt (entertaining the Chilean national team at home in exchange) and ended this year's road trip season with two games in Hawaii.

Harmon, a Schuyler, Neb., product who has a chance of making the pros, feels that playing far and wide, has given him the kind of exposure he would never have had in a conference like the Big Eight or Missouri Valley.

In fact, traveling is so much a part of the Bluejays' basketball program, one brochure for the team reads that "a basketball prospect should reflect on what traveling means to him before he signs with the Jays . . . Creighton University is in Omaha, a fine city . . . but one located a considerable distance from other major basketball powers."

The big game of the season for Creighton has been its 75-69 victory over Marquette at Milwaukee Arena. The loss was only Marquette's second at home in 101 games and virtually clinched Creighton an NCAA bid.

The Bluejays are a patient, passing team. And next to UCLA, some think it may be the best around.

For this small Jesuit school (2,500), it has been 10 years since it has been invited to an NCAA tournament. In three previous appearances, it never advanced past the second round.

But with all the traveling the Creightons have done, the Bluejays should have an advantage in Mabee Center and probably won't be easily shaken.

"Once you've played in Brazil or before any of those crowds south of the border, going into any U. S. college arena doesn't seem nearly so bad," believes Sutton.



Creighton Coach Eddie Sutton teaches his players to like traveling. The former Tulsa Central High coach is a rumored prime candidate to take ORU's resigning Coach Ken Trickey's job next year.

## the calendar

### WEDNESDAY

Chapel: Speeches and elections for ASB, AMS, AWS, & ACS offices.  
Classical Guitarist: Fernando Marrufo, Zoppelt, 7 p.m.

### THURSDAY

Senior Recital: Leeann Tindell (voice), Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

Senate: Zoppelt 103, 5:30 p.m.

NCAA Tournament: Kansas University vs. Creighton, 7:05 p.m. and Louisville vs. Oral Roberts, 9:10 p.m., Mabee Center.

### FRIDAY

State Regional Music Contest: Howard Auditorium, all day.

Undergraduate Record Exams/Senior Tests

Movie: "Skyjacked," Howard Auditorium, 8 p.m.

Faculty Recital: Betty Knott (organ), Boston Avenue Methodist Church, 8 p.m.

### COMING EVENTS

March 16: "The Prisoner of Second Avenue," Mabee Center, 8 p.m., Broadway Theatre.

March 18: Junior English Proficiency Exam, Zoppelt 101-102, 7-9 p.m.

March 20: Cheech and Chong, Assembly Center, 8 p.m.

## Education Department lengthens student teaching time period

After careful consideration, the Education Department has embarked on a new student teaching program. Previously, the student's teaching semester included 6 weeks of course work and a subsequent 9 weeks of student teaching. This program has been revised so that students spend the entire 15 weeks student teaching.

Most student teachers prefer the new system because it provides them with more teaching experience. Ted Goodrich, a resident counselor involved in the new program, has said: "Although the new system is more demanding of a student, I find it

is a valuable teaching experience because it provides you with almost twice as much field experience. It also makes us better and more marketable teachers."

Another advantage of the new system is that the semester can be divided into two 7-1/2-week intervals when the student has an opportunity to teach in two different types of schools.

Laurel Samuelson, one of the first students involved in this program, feels that varied teaching experience is necessary: "With teaching jobs scarce you can no longer choose which elementary level you want to teach; you just take what is available."

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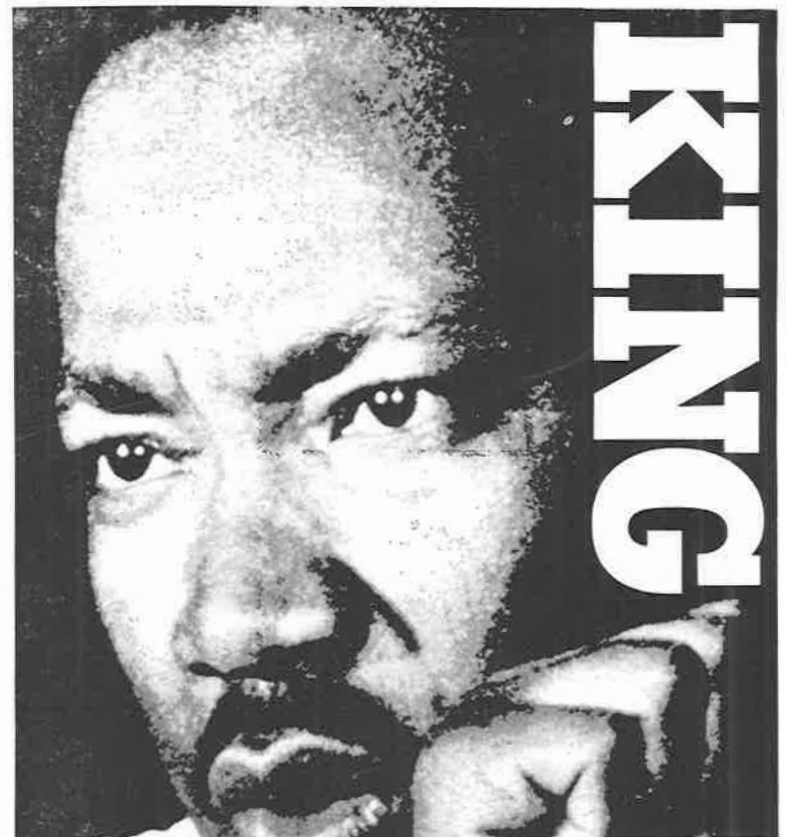
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# Jayhawks big on rebounding talent

"It's so good to see you back where you belong" is the phrase on the lips of Jayhawks fans this year. In true Kansas University tradition, the Big Eight champions have been led this year by their pro-size front line, reminiscent of the last KU team to win the Big Eight—in the days of Roger Brown, All-American Dave Robisch, and the deadly 1-3-1 zone trap. After a 3-year absence from postseason play, this year's crew has wiped away the memory of a subpar interval for this traditional basketball power, and one that made basketball famous.

## Louisville: short but superquick

With no starter over 6-5, Missouri Valley champion Louisville brings the shortest, but probably the quickest, team to the Midwest Regional. Nationally ranked all season, Louisville has offered a respectable argument to the idea that a team must have a big center. Coach Denny Crum's forces have used their superior quickness to give them excellent position where their outstanding jumpers have fared well.

The Cardinals are led by All-Missouri Valley performers Junior Bridgeman and Allen Murphy. Murphy was "sophomore of the year" last year in the Valley, and he and Bridgeman have led a balanced, but high-scoring, attack this year. Bill Butler is a spectacular leaper at 6-1 and mans a forward position as the only senior starter. However, the Cardinals return four starters from last year's NIT team and definitely rate as a veteran squad. Ball-handling whiz Terry Howard is the only starter not scoring in double figures, but is the quarterback and can score if needed. Freshman Wesley Cox at 6-5 has filled the center spot for the diminutive Cardinals. His high school All-American and Mr. Kentucky Basketball credentials, dispel any apprehension over his size. Hitting 50 percent on the season, no starter hits fewer than 48 percent, which makes them one of the better shooting squads in the nation.

With a nation-leading 29 consecutive winning seasons, Louisville has that winning tradition. Last year's second-place Valley team played in its eighth straight postseason tournament. Two years ago the Cardinals reached the NCAA finals, marking the first time a rookie coach had carried a team so far. But considering Denny Crum's last job involved sitting on the bench next to UCLA's John Wooden, perhaps such success is only to be expected. The Cardinals lost only one Valley game this year, despite playing in some of the most feared pits in college basketball.

Other than a small front line, the only major weakness of the Cardinals is its excessive ball handling mistakes. It is these frequent turnovers which may offset their exceptional shooting talent.

After a year of experience, 6-10 Danny Knight and 6-10 Rick Suttle have emerged as dominators of the lane, and have combined with zone-buster Roger Morningstar, and 6-8 newcomer Norm Cook, the outstanding Illinois roundballer last year, to provide the powerful rebounding and patient inside scoring that are Coach Ted Owens's trademark.

With only one senior starter, ballhandler-deluxe Tom Kivisto, the Jayhawks have consistently found the spark to overcome from a strong bench. Clutch play by leaper Tommy Smith and

quasi-reserve Suttle, has repeatedly allowed KU to put the headshake on the other neck and the handshakes in the KU dressing room.

Five players score in double figures for Kansas, giving them the balanced attack that is essential to tourney play. Any of several players can emerge as king for a day, and all have performed admirably in pressure situations which are sure to arise at tourney time. While relying on a stifling zone defense and patient team offense, Kansas's experience with the Big Eight's 20-second shooting clock leaves no

doubt that it can score quickly when necessary.

The Jayhawks' only league loss was to veteran K-State on the home court of Jack Hartman's defending league champs. Their other four losses have included a near upset to powerful Notre Dame 3 days after Notre Dame's defeat of UCLA, and early-season losses to highly regarded Vanderbilt and Indiana.

Ted Owens, one of the game's best-respected mentors, is known to have a tremendous recruiting program. He comes to the Midwest regional as the most experienced tourney coach.

## Registrar announces enrollment figures; applications up

Spring enrollment figures show 2,206 full-time students at ORU, 180 of them new, according to the registrar's office. Applications are up 30 percent over last year, and enrollment for next year is expected to include almost 2,500 full-time students. Braxton and Shakarian Halls will each have an extra floor added this year to accommodate the increase.

There are 786 freshmen, 576 sophomores, 444 juniors, and 400 seniors. Seventy foreign students represent 34 countries. Three-hundred seventy-six full-time students are commuters.

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# Man, did you miss Elvis!

by ruth figi

You missed some exciting times, ORU students, when you left for spring break. You missed Elvis, twice. Yes, that old (nearly 40) king of rock and roll breezed into Mabee Center and though tickets were \$10 each, no one complained of not getting his money's worth. But here are the details!

As I walked towards Mabee Center, my mind flew back to junior high days, when my girlfriend could talk of nothing but Elvis. She had all the albums, all the pictures. She was hooked, and I knew she was crazy. I had a flashback of Elvis on the Ed Sullivan show, girls screaming and screeching, struggling to get near him. Would it be the same now, so many years later?

## See Elvis up close!

Outside Mabee Center, a short little man was selling Elvis posters for \$2. "I wish I had one!" I found myself saying out loud. There were Elvis buttons for \$1, a mini-photo album for \$2, and a regular album for \$3. The Elvis fever hit. I wanted it all, and I didn't know why. "You're a college senior," I scolded myself. "You don't want those things!"

We found our places, the Burch brothers (from Tulsa) and Charlotte and I. It was a dream come true, that anyone had even bought me a ticket! The place was jam-packed. Our seats were 12 rows from the back, and no sooner had we said to each other, "Why didn't we bring binoculars?" when another member of the Presley party headed our way with a big box around his neck, crying, "BENACKULERS! See Elvis up close! It's like sitting in the front row! Only \$4."

"Probably has his picture painted on the lenses," said one of the Burches. We tried them out, then handed them back to the man, deciding it wasn't worth it. It would have brought Elvis maybe two rows closer.

## 86,000 x \$10

Coming on the stage were the instrumentalists, some in all black outfits studded with rhinestones. With a deep, professional voice, the MC welcomed the crowd. "This magnificent Mabee Center," he said, "has the nicest acoustics of any building we've been in, and I think the nicest people!" The crowd cheered.

"We're starting our current tour with our first performance tonight," he continued, and Elvis will be doing 24 concerts in 20 days. All of those concerts are sold out, thanks to his fans! More applause.

"Sunday he'll be at the Astrodome in Houston, singing at two performances of 43,000 each," he told us. I multiplied 86,000 by \$10 and almost fainted, and Elvis hadn't even come on the stage yet!

The MC was making a last call for "super souvenirs." "You'll love and cherish these long after the concert is over," he told us. "These are collector's items, available for the first time any-

where. And we only have 100 of these beautiful big Elvis scarves left. It has Elvis's name on it, and it's only \$7.50!" The crowd groaned, but people rushed to the table in front, the scarves were gone, and it was 8:30.

## 'Something good . . .'

As the lights dimmed, the announcer cried, "Give a warm Tulsa welcome to comedian Jackie (somebody) and Mr. Jackie came out and said, "Something good is going to happen to you!" Then added, "We were going to have Richard Roberts on the program, but we couldn't afford him!" Many jokes later, he left, the band picked up the beat, and the "Sweet Inspirations" ran on stage. White tops and white slacks, a lot of choreography, a good blend, three or four songs, and they were done. ELVIS! You could almost hear the crowd's pulse, but the house lights came on, and the crowd groaned at the MC's "It's intermission time!"

Not many left their seats. On stage now, sitting on tall stools to the left, was a trio of men, on the right the Stamps Quartette, the Sweet Inspirations, and an additional female high-voice singer. The lights went out, the band swung into "2001," the drums beat heavily, a giant spotlight focused on the entryway, and out he came, running up on stage in a gorgeous white suit, studded with gold, trimmed in gold, and with gold on the inside of the flares on his pants. The crowd screamed, clapped, whistled, and flashbulbs popped by the hundreds. Even if you don't care for Elvis, you'd have to admit that that atmosphere was charged, charged, CHARGED!

The first song was an unintelligible combination of "yeah, yeah, yeahs." Before the second song, girls behind the stage yelled, "TURN AROUND! TURN AROUND!" He gave them a quick fourth-of-a-second look, and the screams came again. I couldn't help laughing . . . and neither could Elvis!

He grabbed the mike, sang a deep, "Well," the crowd screamed, flashbulbs popped. "Well, well," he tried again. They screamed some more. "Well," he sang and said, "Oh, I already said that, didn't I?" And finally launched into a rocking rendition of, "You ain't nothin' but a hound dog!" At the end of song 2, he stabbed his guitar in the air, and threw it on stage to someone standing to his right. (Good thing!)

## 'You give me fever!'

Lights splashed various colors on Presley as he sang. And what I heard in between screams, I found myself liking. All the spots were focusing deep red on him now, as Elvis sizzled his way through, "Fever!" He sang "Amen," "Glory, Glory, Hallelujah" as if he meant it, while a giant spotlight focused on the American flag hanging above the platform.

Elvis introduced a song from his latest album, something about the Lord helping him to make it through one more mile, one more smile, and, "I never thought I

needed help before," he crooned. "With a humble heart and bended knee, I'm begging you please, help me." I was getting good vibrations! The girl next to us let us borrow her binoculars for a few seconds.

The mood changed. "Well, hello there!" Elvis beamed, and sang as he began walking out to the edge of the platform. Girls and women of all ages ran to the front, screaming to touch him, or catch one of his scarves. As he removed a scarf, an assistant on stage would give him another one. Some of those who streaked (pardon the expression), to the front, had scarves of their own, and Elvis would mop his brow, and give them back.

## Does the splits

About 10 or so "Elvis Guards" had to grab many of the girls around the waists, and carry them back about four or five aisles. I found myself wanting a scarf too, "just to parade around the ORU campus and say, 'Got this from Elvis!'" but when I saw those "bouncers," all boldness left me. Besides, I was wearing platform soles, and it had been an ordeal just to climb the stairs, much less race down them!

Well, if Elvis was mobbed by females, he brought it on himself. He wiggled one knee, swung his arm around until I was sure he'd dislocate it, knelt on the floor, practically did the splits, and the crowd loved it. Actually, he didn't do anything a cheerleader doesn't do, except that he had long pants on.

The song "Sweet Caroline" was a hit. Can you visualize this? On the chorus, each time the band would hit, "Sweet Caroline, bah, bah, bah," Elvis would sort of do a cross between the mashed potatoes (remember that one?) and the Charleston, while slithering over to the left, and all of Mabee Center broke loose. Soon the crowd was anticipating the "bah, bah, bahs" and yelling before Elvis could get into his "just stepped off my horse" position.

## 'Why me, Lord?'

Elvis needed a breather, and said, "I'd like J. D. Sumner and the Stamps Quartette to sing one of my favorite songs, 'Why me, Lord?'" Mr. Sumner had the lowest bass voice ever to float frog-like through Mabee Center, but the chorus was beautiful, as Elvis joined in, "Lord, help me Jesus, I've wasted it . . ." The crowd applauded and my thoughts turned to a prayer, "Lord, I hope Elvis will be in heaven. Really!"

Presley broke forth into, "I can't help loving you," and a girl rushed past the ushers, broke through the guards, reached up to Elvis, clutched the scarf he handed her, and then she jumped wildly up and down with her precious souvenir.

In just minutes, it seemed, Elvis was announcing his final song. His assistant brought a large white, gold-studded cape to him, and Elvis began, "But I can't help falling in love with you." The drums rolled, Elvis knelt on stage, his arms stretching the

gold-lined cape above him. The girls screamed for the last time (and I did too, just to say that I did!) and rushed toward the stage, but, the MC announced, "Ladies and gentlemen. Elvis has left the auditorium."

## Seeing him twice

At 1:30 Saturday afternoon, I was determined to see Elvis again. Entering as an usher this time, I sat through the jokes, the trio, and the Stamps Quartette, but something was different about this performance, and it wasn't that the performers had changed their outfits, and Elvis had red-lined flares and cape this time. No, these memories would last forever. I would impress my roommate, my parents, and anyone who would listen with my "Elvis, live at the Mabee Center!" tape. I checked the sound level of my recorder, said, "Testing, 1, 2, 3" into the mike, played it back, and in triumph recorded the concert.

I hurried back to the dorm, plugged in the recorder, and

heard my own voice, "Testing, 1, 2, 3." Elvis would be singing next!

Silence. There was no sound. Not one note had been saved.

Yes, I'd lost "that lovin' feelin'" off my tape, and it was "gone, gone, gone, whoah, whoah, whoah."

But believe me, I saw Elvis twice. I've got his poster on my door to prove it!

## ORU to host music contest

Oral Roberts University will host the high school district music contest March 15 and 16 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. High School musicians from the Tulsa district will compete in vocal competition March 15 and instrumental March 16. This is the ninth year ORU has hosted the event.

An expected 2,000 persons will be on campus the 2 days. University music professor Bill Shellenbarger is directing the contest.

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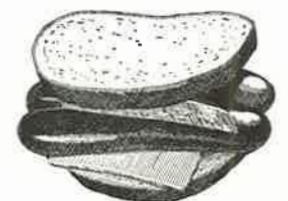
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