

Bob Vanatta Has High Cage Hopes

Coach says team taller, more experienced in '66-67 preview for Missouri Alumnus

THINGS ARE LOOKING up. That's smiling Bob Vanatta's cheery outlook for his '66-67 Tiger basketball team. Anyway you look at it, the coach couldn't be far wrong. Mizzou had one of its most miserable cage showings in history last season, winning just one of 14 Big Eight games to finish in the conference cellar—and were a sorry 3-20 overall.

But this is a new year, and Vanatta apparently has

more experienced and taller "horses" to go with the type of basketball he likes to play: the running game with big men who can grab the ball off the defensive backboard and roar back down the court.

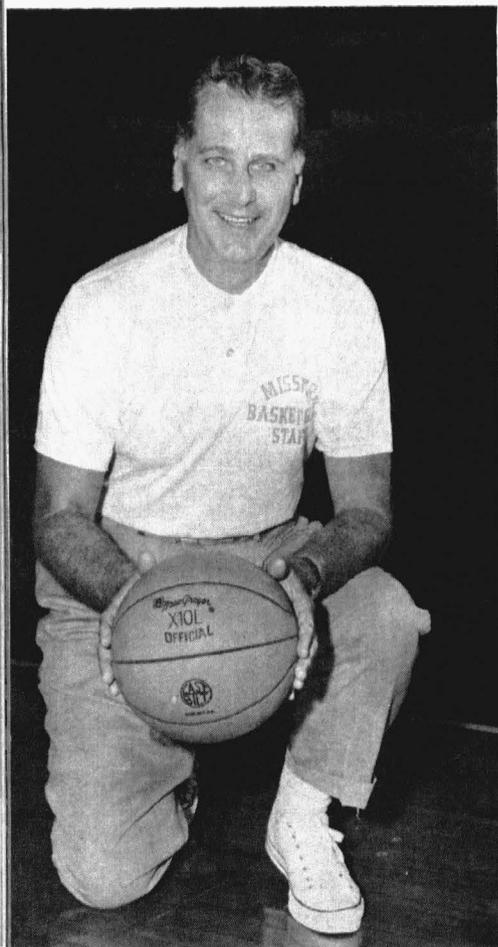
When drills opened October 15, Vanatta was cheered by the fact that six of seven lettermen were back and he had gained some badly needed height in the person of four tall junior-college standouts—three from the championship Moberly Junior College. The three are "swingman" (he can play guard or forward) Tom Johnson, 6-5, former St. Louis McKinley star; forward-center Larry Pierick, 6-7, of Union, Mo.; and forward Jim Chapman, 6-6, Sedalia. Then there's Gene Jones, who stands 6-7 and can play either forward or center. He's from Paducah Junior College in Kentucky.

Heading the corps of veterans are co-captains Ron Coleman, 6-1, and Rob Vanatta, 6-3, son of the coach. Coleman, former Jefferson City prep ace, is the leading Tiger scorer. He averaged more than 21 points a game last season and was the third best scorer in the conference. Vanatta, of Columbia Hickman, averaged eight-points-plus a game.

Other lettermen are forwards Gary Frazier and Bob Dinsdale, center Rich Milling and guard Henry Pinkney.

What may be the most interesting part of the cage campaign this season is the presence of the University's first seven-foot player: Booker Brown of Kansas City Central. The 19-year-old, 215-pound pivotman averaged better than 15 points a game in pacing the Tiger freshman team to a 5-3 record. Coach Vanatta says he has "high hopes" for the towering newcomer. Two other promising sophomores are 6-6 forward John Weston, who may also see a lot of action on the backline, and 6-2 guard John Duft. Weston led Springfield Parkview to the state high school championship two seasons ago. Duft, of Highland, Ill., was the top scorer on the Tiger yearling team last year. He averaged 20-points-plus a game.

In summation, Vanatta told the *Missouri Alumnus*: "We ought to have a better, more exciting team. We'll run more—just like the pros—and I hope to be using



Coach Bob Vanatta
Championship smile?



Glenn Cafer
Assistant Coach

the triple-lane fast break which former St. Louis University Billiken coach Eddie Hickey used to employ so effectively. I plan to get away from deliberate, pattern play type of offense. Defending champion Kansas should be real tough again. In fact, only Missouri and Oklahoma State are being left out of the 'championship picture' in pre-season conference polls."

Vanatta, who will be aided by a new assistant coach this season, Glenn Cafer, appears happy that the so-called experts are ignoring the Tigers. If experience and added height mean anything, the Bengal basketball team may surprise more than a few people in '66-67. □

THE 1966-67 BASKETBALL ROSTER

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Class	Home Town
Brown, Booker	C	7-0	215	19	Soph.	Kansas City (Central)
Chapman, Jim	F	6-6	190	20	Jr.	Sedalia (Smith-Cotton)
Coleman, Ron** (co-capt.)	G	6-1	176	21	Sr.	Jefferson City
Cook, Mike	F	6-6	175	20	Jr.	Collinsville, Ill.
Dinsdale, Bob*	F	6-2	190	21	Sr.	Maryville
Duff, John	G	6-2	185	19	Soph.	Highland, Ill.
Frazier, Gary*	F	6-5	208	20	Jr.	Ursa, Ill.
Hull, Harold	F	6-4	205	19	Soph.	Maryville
Johnson, Tom	F-G	6-5	205	20	Jr.	St. Louis (McKinley)
Jones, Eugene	F	6-7	205	18	Jr.	Brookport, Ill.
McDaniel, Bob	G	6-1	175	19	Soph.	Rogersville
Milling, Rich*	C	6-8	225	21	Sr.	Selma, Ala.
Owens, Bill	F	6-4	190	20	Jr.	Normandy
Pinkney, Henry*	G	6-0	190	20	Jr.	Natchez, Miss.
Pierick, Larry	F-C	6-7	215	20	Jr.	Union
Vanatta, Rob* (co-capt.)	G	6-3	170	21	Sr.	Columbia (Hickman)
Weston, John	F	6-6	185	19	Soph.	Springfield (Parkview)

*—denotes varsity letters won.

THE SCHEDULE

Dec. 3	ARKANSAS at Columbia
Dec. 5	INDIANA at Bloomington
Dec. 10	ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY at Columbia
Dec. 12	UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT at Columbia
Dec. 15	RUTGERS UNIVERSITY at Madison Square Garden, N. Y.
Dec. 19	SEATTLE UNIVERSITY at Seattle
Dec. 21	UNIVERSITY OF SANTA CLARA at Oakland, California
Dec. 23	UNIVERSITY OF THE PACIFIC at Stockton, Calif.
Dec. 27 to 30	BIG EIGHT TOURNAMENT
Jan. 7	IOWA STATE at Columbia
Jan. 10	KANSAS STATE at Manhattan
Jan. 14	KANSAS at Columbia
Jan. 28	NEBRASKA at Lincoln
Jan. 31	IOWA STATE at Ames
Feb. 4	OKLAHOMA STATE at Columbia
Feb. 7	OKLAHOMA at Columbia
Feb. 11	COLORADO at Boulder
Feb. 14	KANSAS STATE at Columbia
Feb. 18	OKLAHOMA STATE at Stillwater
Feb. 25	KANSAS at Lawrence
Feb. 28	NEBRASKA at Columbia
March 4	COLORADO at Columbia
March 6	OKLAHOMA at Norman

'Tiger' Tour to Visit Europe

"CHARTER FLIGHT MISSOURI ALUMNI departing for London now boarding at Gate 7."

The date: June 23, 1967. The place: Kennedy Airport. The flight: Air France Boeing 707 jet. Destination: Europe, for 23 days of fun and adventure with fellow Tigers—a first for Missouri alumni.

Boarding the jet will be excited travelers who have never been abroad before, taking the Grand Europe tour encompassing England, Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, Lichtenstein, Austria, Italy, Monaco and France. Those with a curiosity and desire to see the northern countries will have chosen instead a Scandinavian Holiday including England, Holland, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Norway and France.

The experienced traveler will be following the Independent itinerary, spending two days in London with the group before striking out on his own. He will rejoin them again in Paris prior to departure for home.

First class accommodations will be provided for all traveling abroad together on the charter flight from New York. They may come to Kennedy by pre-arranged group flights from central points or independently. In London and at other specified points along their routes they will welcome Missouri alumni living abroad.

Together in London they will experience a gala get-acquainted dinner prior to embarking on separate tours, and will rejoin for a farewell party in Paris July 15.

Included in the package tours are first class hotel rooms with private bath, deluxe motorcoach transportation, most meals, the services of a professional escort, guides, tips, taxes and all major expenses. Independent sight-seers will be on their own except for the days of planned activity in London and Paris.

Cost of the tours are: Grand Europe, \$799; Scandinavian Holiday, \$877; and Independent charter flight with London and Paris events, \$365. Compared to other commercial tours, the Tiger Special Excursion is \$300 less expensive because of the charter flight.

Only one jet trip is planned for 1967 and reservations will be limited to those making early commitments. Further information may be obtained by calling or writing the tour coordinator: Mrs. Mary Klausman, 982 Kinstern, St. Louis, Mo. 63131, YOrktown 6-8547, whose husband, Dale, is first vice-president of the University of Missouri Alumni Association of St. Louis.