

● PRELIMINARY PLANS are being made by Coach John Thompson, left, to attend several track meets in the near future. Charles Moss and Foster Gay listen to the coach's instructions as they prepare to practice. Tommy Bach, right, continues his warm-ups. Charles, shot-put and discus state record holder, plans to attend a meet in Stillwater, Oklahoma, March 1.

## Grizzlies are pre-tourney favorites for Big 7 contest

● WHEN BIG 7 TOURNAMENT time rolls around March 3-5, it will find none other than the Fort Smith Grizzlies in the "favorite" spot.

The site of this year's Big 7 tournament is Hot Springs, the home of the Trojans, one of the few teams to hold a win over the Bruins in conference play.

Pre-tourney spectators have it that Fort Smith will clean up their remaining conference tests and keep a clean slate throughout the tournament. In the event that Fort Smith doesn't secure this year's trophy, it will probably go to Little Rock or North Little Rock, the only two teams that half way have a chance of capturing the Big 7 title. Hot Springs, however, is considered a "dark horse" by some.

SEEMINGLY, it would take a lot for this team to get by such clubs as the Little Rock Tigers,

North Little Rock Wildcats and the Fort Smith Grizzlies, but the Trojans do hold wins over Little Rock and Fort Smith, both of which were big upsets.

And then there are the weak sisters of the Big 7 conference this year—Pine Bluff, a team with only memories on the bottom of the pile with Texarkana and El Dorado keeping the Zebras company. Although Pine Bluff is low man, the Zebras hold an early season win over the Bruins 57-56.

THE FACT still remains that anything can happen in this year's Big 7 cage tournament, particularly since it has been proven that the Grizzlies are not infallible. One thing seems certain—there will be many upsets.

## Ben Simpson given top boxing trophy

● IT WAS a dream that came true for a FSHS student.

And it came true for sophomore Ben Simpson, who was awarded the coveted Barney Sugarman Memorial Trophy for being the outstanding boy in the recent Golden Gloves tournament.

Ben is the first Fort Smith fighter to win this trophy since its existence. Simpson, who edged out Spiro's A. J. Greenwood in a close fight for the 118-pound novice title, was awarded the trophy by a secret committee for sportsmanship, competitive spirit and boxing ability.

Ben finished his first boxing series with a string of wins of which five were by knock-outs or technical knock-outs.

## Hot Springs player hurt in ball game

● BILLY EVANS, senior guard for the Hot Springs Trojans, has been released from St. Edward's Hospital. The plucky Trojan received serious head and back injuries during the second quarter of the Grizzly-Trojan game February 1 at Ramsey gym.

Because of this injury, Billy will not see action in the remainder of regular season play nor in the Big 7 tournament to be held in his home town March 3-5. He is an experienced player, having lettered in both his sophomore and junior years.

## SPORTLIGHTS

by Wendell Nance

● HAVE YOU WONDERED who the "bruisers" are that grab you as you enter Ramsey gym? Well, they're none other than "F" Club members whose new president, David Munford, is in charge of selling basketball programs.

ANOTHER QUESTION: Do you know who the short fellow with the glasses is: The one that is constantly running up and down in front of the Grizzlies' bench at basketball games? He's George White, student manager and Bruin statistician.

SOMETHING NEW: A sign reading "Grizzly Press" has been added to the table reserved for newspaper representatives at Ramsey gym. The purpose of this is to inform the visiting players that this table is not the official scorekeeper's table.

## Bears near end of season, 4 tough battles to come

● WITH ONLY a few games remaining on their cage schedule, the Grizzlies have yet to face North Little Rock, Little Rock, Tulsa Will Rogers and Van Buren.

The Bears' next outing will be with the mighty Wildcats of North Little Rock tomorrow night at 8 p.m. in Ramsey gym. The Wildcats are smarting from a recent 48-47 surprise setback on their own court at the hands of the Grizzlies. This game can make or break the Bears' Big 7 lead, and they will certainly try to hold down the Wildcats' leading scorer, Wayne Yates.

NEXT TUESDAY will find the Little Rock Tigers at Ramsey gym for the Grizzlies' last conference game.

An added attraction in this game will be the fact that four

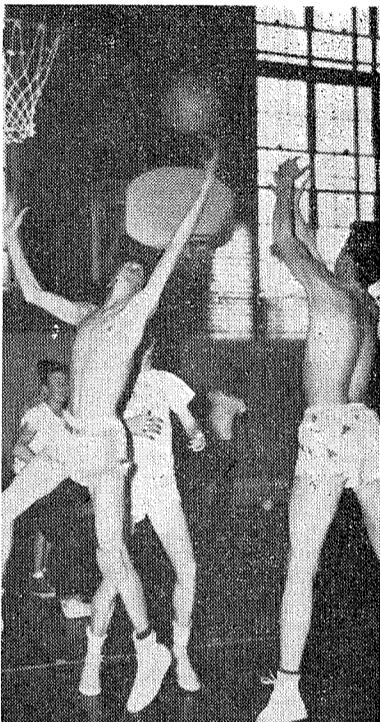
of the Big 7 leading scorers will be playing against each other. These top-notch players are the Bruins' Jim Gattis and Earl Furlow against Ray Wilson and Brooks Robinson.

Tulsa Will Rogers will invade Ramsey gym February 25, bringing with them their 6'5" center Tom Pontius, who is at present a leading scorer in Oklahoma circles and considered the most valuable player in that state.

Closing out their 1954-55 season, the Grizzlies will cross the river to Van Buren for a return game with the Pointers February 28.

IN JANUARY the Pointers found the Grizzlies a tougher team than they had in the past two years and also found themselves on the losing end of a 37-24 trouncing.

## Intramural is tied



● DONALD THOMAS reaches high for a rebound during an intramural game between the Golfers and the Drafters Friday. Other players are Larry Campbell (blue-jeans) and Garland Spelee, right, waiting for the ball. As the Grizzly goes to press, the intramural league is still in a three-way tie between the Inkslingers, Tracksters and Footballers.

## Grizzlies skin Texarkana, edge mighty Wildcats

● LOOKING LIKE the team they were predicted to be in pre-season standings, the Grizzlies defeated the Texarkana Razorbacks 53-47 last Thursday. This victory gained them their seventh conference win.

The Razorbacks' only threat came in Jim Poyntor, who scored 16 points, while center Earl Furlow and forward Jim Gattis had 18 and 15 points respectively for the Bears.

February 8 the Grizzlies won their fourteenth game of the season in a return game with the Fayetteville Bulldogs at Ramsey gym.

IN WINNING, the Bruins hit 40 per cent of their field goal attempts. Leading the way for the

Bears were Gattis with 18 points and Furlow with eight.

It was a crucial game the Grizzlies won over the North Little Rock Wildcats February 4 as they took over the Big 7 leadership. The Grizzlies saw an early 12-point lead melt in the closing stages but held on at the very end for the 48-47 victory.

High man for Bruin scorers was Furlow with 14 points, while Gattis, Bateman and Collier each netted 10 points.

NIP AND TUCK, back and forth went the game February 1 between the Hot Springs Trojans and the Grizzlies as the Trojans edged by in a last second shot to give the Bruins their second conference defeat, 38-37.

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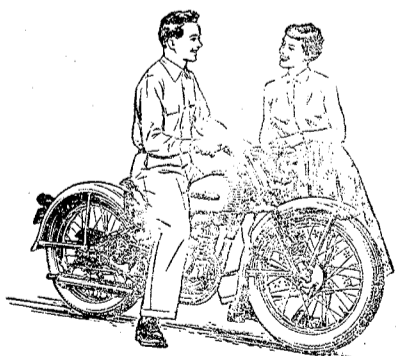
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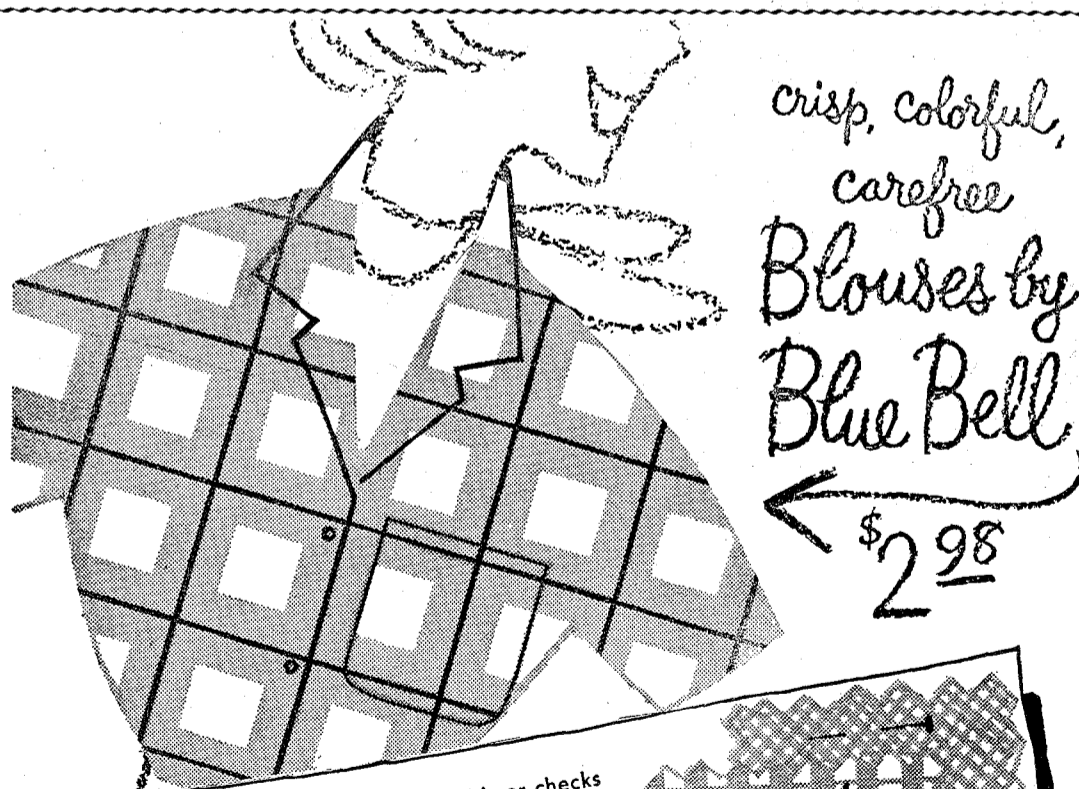


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