

Seward Mentor's Record: 2 State Crowns at Age 23

by a World-Herald Staff Member.

Coliseum, Lincoln—"I'm just the luckiest 23-year-old guy around," yelled Seward Concordia Coach Bob Baden after his Raiders wrapped up the Class C state title.

The 1958 grad of Concordia Teachers took over the coaching reins two years ago and already has two state crowns to his record. His team won the Class B baseball title last year.

Bob, the coach who used a novel "smile-smile-smile" technique to relax his boys in the middle of heated play, gives all the credit to "the best bunch of kids anywhere" for his amazing coaching record.

"I just fell in with the right bunch of guys and things were right from the start," he said.

Of the one-sided victory over Niobrara, he said:

"My boys were really keyed up. Then too, there was a big difference. We were a senior team and they were pretty young. They'll be back next year and we might not be."

Coach Baden's luck incidentally held even after the victory. A locked door blocked his boys' intentions of tossing him into the university swimming pool.

"And I don't swim so hot," said Bob.

School, Gym Sought

Although his students didn't win the championship trophy, Amherst Supt. Alexis Johnson hopes that the fine team record will

help win an even bigger award April 6—a new school and gym in a bond issue ballot.

"We could play only two games at home this year because of our poor facilities," he said. "If we get the new facilities it might make a difference next year."

"All our big boys are back. We only lose two boys off the first five and three off the first 10."

Off-Court Title

While the Holy Name basketball team was playing for a championship in the Coliseum, Rambler cheerleaders were wrapping up an unofficial title for good conduct.

They were presented baskets of fruit by the Cornhusker Hotel management as the best behaved kids in the hotel, the downtown tournament center.

The cuties were Kathy Haftings, Rosemary Gladieux, Marge Daley, Luray Sinclair and Sally Ratcliff. Rita Fowler is the other cheerleader but she did not stay in Lincoln.

Talent as Good

Nebraska's basketball talent is as good as Iowa's.

That was the first impression of University of Iowa Coach Sharm Scheuerman who saw the Thursday and Friday sessions.

Scheuerman said he could give a better comparison after next week's Iowa tourney. He declined to mention the players in which he is interested.