

Sophomore Oscar Steals the Thunder

Robertson Named Player Of Year

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Oscar Robertson, 19-year-old, Cincinnati sophomore who stole the college basketball headlines from Wilt Chamherlain and other stars during; the 1957-58 season, today was named "Player of the Year" in the annual United Press poll.

Robertson is the first sophomore ever to win the honor. He received 123 votes in nation-wide balloting by 251 sports writers and sportscasters.

Elgin Baylor of Seattle was runner-up with 55 votes and Dave Gambee of Oregon State was third with 12. Guy Rodgers, Temple's All-America, was fourth with 10 and Don Hennon, Pittsburgh's All-America, was fifth with eight. Bailey Howell of Mississippi State followed with five. Chamberlain, seven-foot Kansas All-America, and Pete Brennan of North Carolina were next with four each.

Robertson, a quiet youngster from Indianapolis Ind., probably made the loudest individual splash in college basketball since. Bill Russell's brilliant play paced San Francisco to the 1955 and 1956 NCAA championships.

Many observers rated Robertson's performances the most polished ever produced by a sophomore. Although he averaged more than 35 points a game, the six-foot, five-inch star is not just a "point-happy" shooter. He also led his team in rebounds and assists and also was the top rebounder as well as scorer in the rugged Missouri Valley Conference.

Here are some of Robertson's feats:

- His regular season total of 898 points was the most ever scored by a sophomore in major college competition.
- He set records on five floors, including a 56point performance against Seton Hall at Madison Square Garden. This was the highest total ever recorded in the New York arena by any player, collegiate or professional.
- He scored 50 points against Wichita in the latter's field house to help Cincinnati clinch the conference championship. In this game. he scored 22 of Cincinnati's last-26 points to erase a 10-point Wichita lead.
- He scored SO points against Kansas State and 56 against Arkansas in the NCAA tournament last weekend. He set two all-time NCAA tournament records during his spree against Arkansas. He bettered the scoring mark of 48 points set by Temple's Hal Lear in 1955 and his 21 field goals topped the previous high of 20 set by Bob Houbregs of Washington in 1953.
- He averaged 35.14 points while leading Cincinnati to a 25-3 record in regular season and tournament play. He will become the first sophomore to win the major college scoring title unless Baylor scores 116 points in two NCAA tournament games Friday and Saturday at Louisville, Ky.