

Basketball

Western champions of the United States! That's the Cougars. These are pictures made during the Stanford-WSC series in Pullman when Washington State captured the Pacific Coast title by knocking out the Indians in two straight contests.

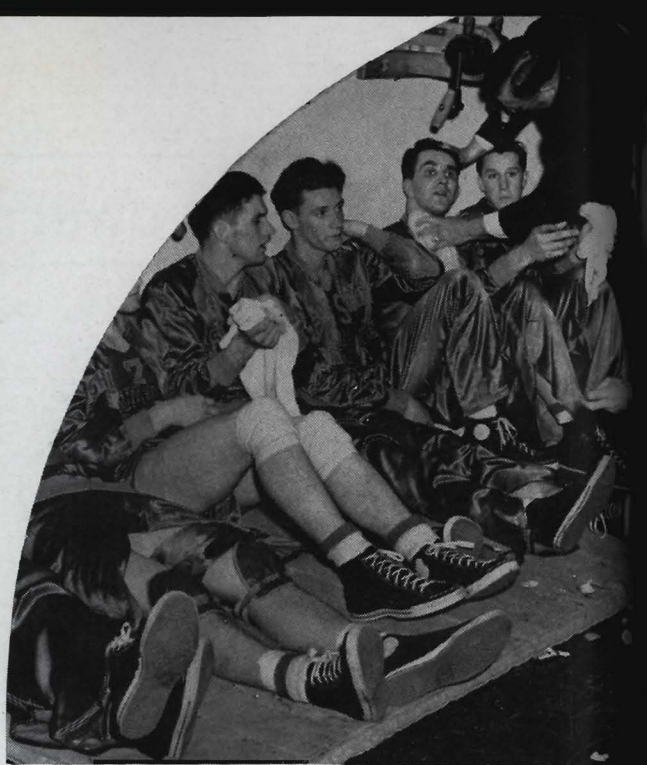
Reading clockwise from upper left—Dr. Wilbur Bohm administers the ointment and Jack Friel some inside information during the halftime. The players left to right—Kirk Gebert, Marv Gilberg, Paul Lindeman and John Hooper.

By Elton Troth, '41

THREE championships in three weeks! Such was the unprecedented and sensational record established on the 1941 intercollegiate basketball front by the spirited Cougars of Washington State!

The Crimson and Gray maplecourt kings went over the top in impressive fashion by winning their thirteenth consecutive contest and the Northern Division title March 7. A week later, March 14-15, the Friel-coached quintet bowled over the all-star studded Southern Division winners, the invading Indians of Stanford University, 46-43 and 44-40, to earn the Pacific Coast Conference championship for the first time in Washington State's history!

Then, on to Kansas City, Missouri, where March 21-22 the Cougars, still listed as the underdogs, went forth in NCAA competition to unleash a field goal bombardment that dumped the Creighton University Blue Jays,



champions of the Missouri Valley conference, 48-39, and then conquered the towering speed kings of the Southwest Conference, the Arkansas Razorbacks, 64-53. The double win gave Washington State the championship of the Western United States!

Another week's stay in the mid-western metropolis ultimately result-

ed in the unfortunate disintegration of the Cougars defense. In the one game, played March 29, that decided the National Collegiate basketball championship, Wisconsin's Badgers, Big Ten titlists and winners of the Eastern United States playoff, sneaked behind the Washington State defense and made backboard recoveries often enough to squeeze out a 39-34 victory over the Far Westerners. 'Twas a sad day in Pullman. But what about those pre-season forecasts?

Upper—Happiest fanette following the two-game series, Mrs. John B. Friel, '23 (Catherine Mathews). And Jack isn't mad either.

Lower—Men's gym had a capacity crowd for the two Stanford games. Photographer Ray Hutchison snapped this one just as festivities were getting underway. Note large assemblage in "press row" and Officials Frank Heniges and Emil Piluso, primed to start things rolling. They did a creditable job.



COACH Jack Friel's outfit was barely conceded a chance to finish in the upper bracket of the Northern Division conference standings. Even