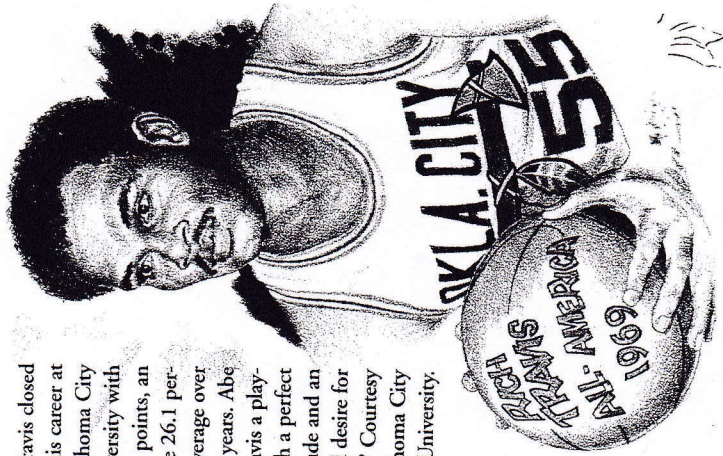


Rich Travis closed out his career at Oklahoma City University with 2,081 points, an incredible 26.1 per game average over three years. Abe called Travis a player "with a perfect attitude and an unequalled desire for victory." Courtesy Oklahoma City University.



Watson from Clayton, North Carolina.¹⁰

Oklahoma City University lost to Texas Christian University in the season opener and then reeled off back-to-back victories over Nevada-Southern and Abilene Christian College. The Chiefs scored 113 points in the Nevada Southern game. OCU beat Texas Christian University and Georgia Tech at home but lost to Long Beach State and Loyola of Chicago on the road.

In the 1968 All-College tournament, OCU beat Tulane, lost a second round game to Louisiana State University, and was victorious over St. Bonaventure 81-71 in the consolation game. It was the heroics of "Pistol Pete" Maravich that led LSU to the win over the Chiefs. Abe thought Maravich may have been the best player he ever coached against.

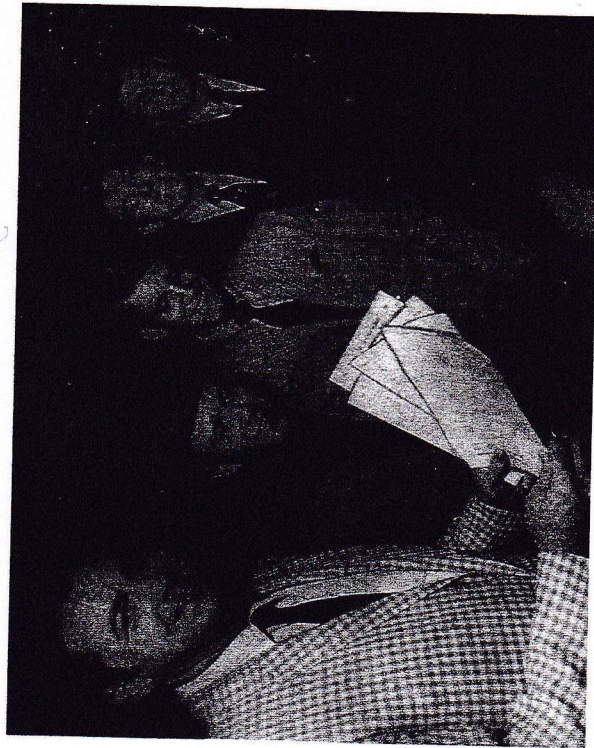
In the second semester, Melvin Workman of Oklahoma City became the Chiefs' best defensive player in wins over Loyola of New Orleans, Southern Methodist University, Abilene Christian College, Arkansas, Denver, Centenary, Creighton, and Air Force.

In early February, during an 80-59 win over Centenary, Travis became OCU's all-time leading scorer when he took a pass from Charlie Wallace and drove in for a lay-up with 3:01 remaining in the first half. Travis finished the game with 25 points and a career total of 1,899, besting Hub Reed's record of 1,887 points.¹¹

Against Denver, Travis hit a 17-foot jumper to push his career total points at OCU to 2,000, placing him in an elite group of college basketball players who had scored over 2,000 points by the late 1960s. The group included Oscar Robertson, Cazzie Russell, Bill Bradley, Elvin Hayes, Jerry West, Elgin Baylor, and Earl Monroe.

The Chiefs were 18-9 in 1968-1969, fueled by high scoring from Travis and Wallace, who scored almost 20 points per contest, and by the rebounding of Watson who grabbed an average of 14 rebounds per game.

In 1969-1970 the Chiefs returned to the friendly confines of Frederickson Fieldhouse on the OCU campus for their home games, a move approved by athletic department business manager and former star player Bud Koper. Koper had played pro basketball for the San Francisco Warriors for two seasons before a broken ankle put an end to his pro career.



Abe Lemons was happy after signing four Oklahoma City area players to national letters-of-intent in May, 1969. Left to right, Jim Lackey of Capitol Hill, Jerry O'Pry of Del City, Mike Polansky of Putnam City, and Larry Tribble of Midwest City. Courtesy *The Daily Oklahoman*.