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**Montana State's Golden Bobcats:** History's greatest college basketball team boasted four Sig superstars.

The true greatness of the Montana State College Bobcat basketball team of 1927 to 1929 was attested to by the Helms Athletic Foundation which designated the Cats as the greatest college quintet of all time.

During two seasons the Bobcats compiled a record of 72 victories against four defeats and piled up a total of 2213 points to 1208 for an offensive record of 63.2 points a fray.

This scoring power was awesome indeed in the center jump era of low point production, but it becomes even more impressive when one considers it was not until Kentucky won the 1946 national title that the point production record was surpassed.

The Cats from Bozeman were the fathers of the fast break and were among the first clubs to employ a man to man defense.

The Bobcats defeated the national AAU titlists, the [Kansas City] Cook Painters, two games out of three, a feat which is unheard of today, for no college clubs of today, however good, dare share the hardwoods with the likes of AAU teams.

The 1929 team composed of [John] Ashworth "Cat" Thompson '29, 5.9, and Orlando Ward '30, 6.0, forwards; Frank Ward '30, 6.2, center; and guards John "Brick" Breeden '29, 6.2 and Max Worthington, 6.0, an SAE, is generally considered the strongest club of that fantastic era. The next year, with several players having graduated, the team was still strong enough to take an eastern swing and lose a one-point fray to Pitt, the national titlists. On that same jaunt the Cats licked Marquette, Purdue, Penn State and Nebraska, losing to Butler and Loyola.

Ott Romney *Utah* '12, brought Thompson and the Wards from Utah, to supplement another great Utahan, Val Glynn, '27, who later starred as a baseball pitcher, and then became a superintendent of schools at Harlowton, Montana. Several years ago he retired as Dean of Students at his alma mater, MSC.

Worthington was from Billings and Breeden from Bozeman, and another valuable team member was "Peck" McFarland, an SAE from Billings.

All Montana was "nuts" about their Bobcats, and so was the nation. Tremendous crowds saw them play everywhere, and we can recall having heard of fantastic prices being paid for tickets to see them perform their feats of legerdemain with a basketball.

The Cats so dominated the Rocky Mountain Conference one year they beat the Colorado Buffaloes in the playoffs 62 to 21 and 62 to 33.

And even as a “pick-up quintet,” without practice, they’d conjure up their skills and click as an awesome machine, overwhelming their foes, before standing-room-only crowds.

How they’d bust down the floor, making herculean passes the length of the court, speeding short bursts of lightning to one another, interspersing these feats with backward tosses which somehow always found their mark!

Thompson bending his knees, sighting goal-ward, and then “swishing.” Thompson one-handing net cutters, on or off balance. Thompson stealing the ball and simultaneously firing it to a mate.

Frank Ward’s beautifully “soft” one-hand corner toss.

Brick Breeden’s dexterity with the casaba and his defensive skills.

Max Worthington’s agility and quickness, his playmaking and how aggressive he was covering other players.

These are the five who one year were named as a unit to the All-Rocky Mountain Conference first team.