

can show a more rigid early card ~~with four of five starts on the~~
~~road~~ against the likes of Iowa, defending Big Ten champ; Oregon State
 defending PCC king, and BYU, 8th-ranked ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ the latest AP poll. Five of
 six pre-tourney starts are on the road.

Guest

With conference members, plus this year's ~~team~~ team,
 Cornell, scheduled for 13 more games before Tuesday this picture
 could change. But the Tigers, with Guard Norm Stewart leading ~~the~~
 pre-tourney scorers with a 25.5 average and Chuck Denny playing
 better than expected at center, command the most respect at this
 writing.

If they maintain that edge another week they will be
 facing not only what is taking shape as the best-balanced field in mee t
 history, but a high precedent hurdle as well. No defending champion
 ever has repeated successively. Fact is, only one repeat-seeker has
 reached the finals the year following its title haul. Kansas lost an 8
 87-93 verdict to Kansas State in ~~the~~ 1952, following a conquest in '51
 by its ~~olympic team~~ NCAA champions.

Missouri whaled Kansas State, 89-71, in last year's
 championship round to bag its first crown since 1949. It rolled over
 Nebraska, ~~78-58~~ 75-58, in the opening round, and throttled Oklahoma's
 Nimble Nubbins, 95-87, in the semifinal. The Stalcups came ~~with~~
 into last year's auditorium fixture with a 422 log, which inc uded wins
 over Iowa, Indiana, and Wisconsin. They were favored for the title
 and played smoothly to that pattern all the way. Two regulars, Center
 Bob Heiter and Forward Med Park are gone from that club.