

npr collect, sports desk, the times, okla. city, okla.

kansas city, mo., dec. 29... most of oklahoma's focus as it moved against kansas state in a first-round consolation match which was to lead off thursday's big seven basketball card, was centered on pivot leory bacher.

when wednesday night's remaining first-round returns were in, bacher's 32 in a losing cause against colorado tuesday, still stood as the meet's individual high through the first round. only two men, nebraska center rex ekwall, and missouri guard lionel smith, broke past 20 wednesday night as the tigers and kansas won as expected. ekwall nailed 25 in the 66-71 loss to missouri while smith was harvesting 22 as his backline mate, norm stewart sank to his seasonal low of 16.

seventeen was the high of ku's 75-58 flogging of cornell with three men sharing that figure. jayhawk forwards gene elstun and bill brainard each hit that figure while cornell's milt kohan, another frontliner, was gleaning the same.

bacher thus hoes into the third day of tourney action with a four point lead of colorado center george hannah. the latter's 28 against oklahoma was his all-time collegiate high. the hippo-hipped sooner pivot is expected to enjoy another heavy harvest against k-state's 6-9 sophomore center, jack parr, who is not distinguished for his defense.

by averaging anything beyond 27.3 in his three tournament appearances bacher can write a new single-meet record. this now stands at 82, a ceiling ku's clyde lovellette erected in 1950. he averaged 27.3 in so doing. only three other men, minnesota's maynard johnson; iowa state's chuck duncan,