

This will be the leadoff game of the second night of first-round warring. Kansas and Cornell play for the other lower bracket semifinal spot in the nightcap. Colorado and Oklahoma lead off Tuesday's show with Iowa State and Kansas State matched in the second upper bracket tiff. Consolation play will fill ~~xx~~ Thursday and Friday afternoons with ~~sk~~ the championship bracket moving to a climax Saturday night, following a third-place playoff between Friday night's semifinal losers.

Stewart's terrific early firing has led a general increase of Tiger averages at almost every point. Center Chuck Denny is 11.2 against a 3.1 figure last season. Eddie Ronsick and Bill Ross also are up. ~~kix~~ Stewart's backline mate, Lionel Smith, is close with 9.6 compared to a seasonal level of 10.2 last year. So is forward Redford Reichert at 6.0 against a 7.8 mean last season. Team offense is at 75.6, an increase of 4.1 points per game over the same route last winter. This is despite heavy losses. Gone are those four-year veterans, Bob Reiter and Med Mark, plus Lloyd Elmore, a fine backline defender. ~~kix~~ There also is the absence of a lad named Win Wilfong, who elected to further his education at Memphis State when mustered out of service last spring. Had he returned to Columbia as an anticipated the Tigers would have the greatest set of guards in league history. He is the nation's tenth-ranked scorer at the moment with a 27.7 average.

On paper, at least, Missouri doesn't look as potent as last year's club which was favored to win the conference flag, but finished two games behind Colorado. But Stewart, a smooth 6-4 199-pound hoss who can rebound, pass and defend as well as shoot, is one of those rare competitors who can lift an entire club. Could be the Tigers will arrive in the throne room a year ~~late~~ behind schedule.