

Oddly, Missouri is one of the ~~league~~ few league teams not endowed with a genuine big man in the pivot. Denny, a 6-5½, is the tallest regular. However it ~~is not~~ does not list a single midget, even in the backline and is resplendent with brawn, ~~and~~ which has come to be an important item under the boards. Denny scales 223. His replacement, John Stephens, is 6-5½ by 207. Ronsick weighs 194; Reichert 180; Ross 183; ~~and~~ Smith 182, and Roger Engelhoff, best prospect off last year's frosh, 189.

Stalcup was concerned at the outset over the pivot from the 6-9 where Reiter led team scoring last year on an 18.0 average and topped the rebound department as well. Off early indications, however, it appears that Denny, a lways a willing workhorse who puts out 100 percent and Stephens, will patch that ~~gap~~ even better than expected. Denny, foul-prone through his first two years, hasn't drawn five in a game yet.

The backline with Stewart and the versatile Smith is the league's best. Ross, after scoring only 11 points in ~~16~~ 16 games last year, has advanced to the point where Stalcup is mounting three capable forwards. Ronsick and Reichert are the other two. Engelhoff may be a fourth solid hand before the season is far ~~xx~~ advanced.

Only two items can hurt the Tigers 1) ~~Defensing~~ a ~~x~~ good pivotman of 6-8 or taller, and 2) Lack of enough ~~supporting~~ scoring support around Stewart, especially when he runs into those ~~inevitable~~ inevitable cold nights.

Missouri is facing a ~~xxxx~~ tournament hoodoo that says no champion repeats. But the Tigers are in the best position to defend since Kansas State's 1951 edition dropped a 90-88 overtime semifinal to Kansas in quest of its second straight.

BIG SEVEN TOURNAMENT DEFENSIVE RECORDS

Fewest points yielded game - 33 by Oklahoma A & M vs.

Iowa State, 1947