

Five teams, or one more than half the entire field, are conceded a chance of winning the ninth annual Big Seven tournament which opens when the holiday fixture opens Monday for a four-day stand in Municipal auditorium.

Missouri, a solid favorite a week ago, still holds a slender edge for the No. 1 role. Following Thursday night's 76-84 double overtime loss to Houston at Houston in the final pre-tournament game for tourney teams. Pressing closely behind the Tigers in this order are California, the 1954 guest team; Colorado, Kansas State and Kansas. Only stumming from reversals will put Iowa State, Nebraska or winless Oklahoma into Thursday night's finals.

Here is the tournament bracket:

This is the most wide-open tournament situation since 1949 when Missouri tipped Oklahoma, 44-42, for the crown. Here is the tournament bracket;

8 p.m. Colorado vs. Oklahoma

9:45 p.m. Nebraska vs. Missouri

Tuesday

8 p.m. Kansas vs. Iowa State

9:45 p.m. Kansas State vs. California

Missouri, ranked among the nation's top ten in both the latest AP and UP polls, found itself a notch closer to the onrushing field, after the loss at Houston. Normally there would be scant significance in a tight double-overtime defeat. But the Cougars were playing their sixth game in seven days and could manage no better than seventh place in the All-College meet at Oklahoma City, where they tumbled before sophomore OCU, 65-72 and Wichita, 87-91, before turning on Oklahoma A & M, 57-48.

Furthermore, the Bengals got all