

Cal will mount a prolific frontline headed by Bob McKeen, 6-7, 220-pound center, the greatest scorer in Bear history. He ranks 10th ~~avg~~ on the pre-meet scoring tables ~~at~~ on a 15.0 average. Larry Freind, 6-4½ forward, is ninth at 15.1. His stablemate, 6-2 Bob Blame, is moving at 10.6.

The fact that Colorado was able to right ~~up~~ itself in playing touch UCLA to a 3-point defeat, 63-65, after the California series shows the prognosticators were not far off the mark in rating the ~~Ex~~ Herd highly before the season. A gang of veterans, such as Bebe Lee is coaching, often lapses deeper into the ruck after disappointing defeats. Instead CU ~~it~~ pressed the Bruins all the way, once downing a 10-point lead in the second half. ~~Not~~ This is the same UCLA club that flogged Kansas State 86-57, in the season's opener for both, and split a two-game series with ~~the~~ San Francisco, recently-crowned All-College champions.

Colorado returns its top 11 men off a team good enough last season to tie Kansas at 10-2 for the conference crown. Halsonson stands fifth on the pre-tournament scoring chart at 18.6, and Forward Bob ~~Je~~angerard shock off an unproductive California series with 20 points in Los Angeles. The Buffs never have finished higher than fourth in this tournament. CU meet Oklahoma in the curtain-raiser at 8 p.m. Monday. Kansas State's hopes are built on a a refurbished spirit generated on the renovation of two four-year men, Forward Jim Smith and Center Jerry Jung, plus elevation of a 6-7 unlettered junior, Joe Powell to a starting berth.

Since Powell and Smith took over as regular frontliners, State has surged to three consecutive victories over Wyoming, Washington and Indiana. Most significant was the 91-~~75~~ 74 thrashing of the defending Big Ten champions. The 17-point spread was 14 greater than Missouri was able to whip Indiana on its home court. And the 70-50 sack of Wyoming, sixth-place team in the All-College, is the worst on the Cowboys record to date.