

Mizzou, Colorado Favored In Opening Games

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KANSAS CITY, MO. — Two games, featuring two of the conference's most seasoned teams, kick off the ninth annual Big Seven pre-season basketball tournament here tonight.

Missouri and Colorado, both boasting a pack of quick, rangy veterans, are favored in the opening burst of action in the four-day classic. Colorado plays Oklahoma at 8 p. m., and Missouri meets Nebraska at 9:45.

The two Sunflower entries, both occupying a dark horse role this time, don't get into the milling until Tuesday night. Kansas plays Iowa State in the first game, and Kansas State plays guest team California in the nightcap.

The two first-night winners play the opening semifinal game Wednesday night, and the two winners from Tuesday night play the Wednesday finale. The finals will be played at 9:45 p. m. Thursday.

Sellout crowds of around 10,500 are expected each night in Municipal Auditorium.

All tourney entries except Kansas State and California were on the scene late Sunday. K-State is due in this morning, and California will fly in this afternoon. All the teams had workouts planned on the auditorium planks prior to their first tourney game.

Missouri remained the slight popular choice to win the title

here for the first time since 1949, but practically every team was considered a good possibility. Colorado, California, Kansas and Kansas State were drawing the most notice behind the Tigers.

Kansas is the defending champion, by virtue of its 82-73 conquest of Oklahoma in last year's finals, but the Jayhawks will bring the greenest outfit of all to the meet this time, with a starting lineup that includes four sophomores.

Still, KU, in its 38th season under court master Phog Allen, isn't being counted out.

Kansas State is the only three-time winner in the tournament, having triumphed in 1947, 1950 and 1952. KU and K-State together have kept the title in the Sunflower state for four years, Kansas having finished first in 1951.

Both Missouri and Colorado will be trying to rebound in the tourney. The Tigers, after winning three of their first four against Big Ten opposition, last week dropped a double-overtime decision to Houston.

Colorado, which opened the season with three straight victories, just finished a disastrous trip West in which it dropped three in a row—two to California and one to UCLA.

California and Kansas pack the gaudiest records. Kansas

(Continued on Page 9, Col. 1)