

This is the Cinderella gang that leaped all the way from a last place finish in 1953 to a co-title in '54, the school's first since joining the old Big Six in 1948. This was a double boot-strap act since CU also dropped its first seven games last season, a sorry beginning for a team that was to vault all the way into the NCAA Regionals at Stillwater at the season's end.

Halderson, Jeangerard, and Harrold are the Guard Tom Forward Bob Jeangerard this winter. Halderson, Harrold and Jeangerard are playing their fourth seasons. There are four other seniors on this squad. It must shoot the works for its losses will be terrific at the season's end. The tournament, in which CU never has finished higher than fourth, would be a good place to start down the glory road.

Halderson, who leaped from obscurity to the league point crown last season on a 21.3 average in conference play and a 46-percent accuracy pace from the field overall. In so doing he edged out more established aces such as Missouri's Bob Reiter, B.H. Birm of Kansas and Bill Johnson of Nebraska. He is averaging 18.6 thru CU's six pre-tourney games.

Behind him is George Hannah, 6-7 lettered junior, who scored 82 points in 20 games last season as a sophomore and is rated highly improved this term. This pair may be as good a pivot punch as Kansas State's Jerry Jung and Roger Craft.

The frontline quartet includes Jeangerard, Juniors Mel Coffman and Jim Ranglos, and Bob Yardley, 6-3 Navy returnee, who is listed as a senior. Jeangerard was the Buffs' second-high scorer last season at 12.8 and is one of the finest defenders in the conference. He averaged 11.7 thru the early going this season. Coffman and Ranglos both are veterans of established worth. Yardley has come along swiftly