

big seven tournament preview  
for ke star  
# 1 of team series  
missouri

Barring a west coast sweep by Colorado....  
the Buffaloes tackle UCLA Tuesday in the windup of a three-game tour....  
and a upset defeat byx of Missouri by Houston Thursday in Houston, the  
Tigers will come into the ninth annual Big Seven tournament a perceptible  
favorite. The four-day extravaganza ~~spans~~ opens December 27 in Municipal  
auditorium.

There is no doubt now that the present Bengal  
edition is ~~Sx~~ Sparky Stalcup's best in his 9-year tenure at Tigertown.  
One is obliged to look back 15 years , in fact, to find a Missouri  
squad that compares with it. ~~Knx~~ George Edwards had the likes of  
Blaine Currence, Haskell Tison, Clay Cooper, Marty Nash, John Lobsiger,  
and Herbie Gregg in those days and won two co-championships with them  
in 1939 and 1940.

MU's known qualities wvre impressive even before  
the season started. Its early record is equally imposing. The Tigers won  
their fourth game in five starts, all from well-regarded opposition, last  
Wednesday with a 77-58 thumping of Arkansas at Columbia. Previously  
they chaired together three consecutive Big Ten scalps , most imposing of  
which is Iowa. The Hawkeyes fell, 97-94, at Columbia , as the Bengals  
established a new single-game scoring high. Indiana was nipped, 64-61, on  
the front side of the Iowa victory; Wisconsin, 67-56, on the back side.

Even before the Arkansas win , Missouri had leaped  
into sixth place in the Coaches' United Press poll and ninth in the Writers8  
AP balloting.

Stalcup's present club is built on seasoned  
experience of proven ability and youthful talent of blooming strength.  
Bob <sup>n</sup> eiter, the 6-9 center with the sweeping ambidextrous hook, and  
Med <sup>P</sup> ark, the 201-pound backboard hercules, are playing their fourth  
seasons. And they were good enough to letter as freshmen.