

Narrow Loss to C. O. P.

Only a double-overtime loss to College of Pacific in Berkeley last Friday separates Cal from an undefeated season also. The Bears fell, 77-84, in that one, then rebounded Saturday to whack St. Mary's, 64-51. Earlier they had beaten Oregon State and Oregon on the road, an impressive double.

C. U.'s test must be met on three fronts: (1) Playing a P. C. C. team on its home court long has been regarded as one of the most wicked assignments in college basketball; (2) Cal is ranked in a class with U. C. L. A., which is undefeated in its first three games, including an 86-57 manhandling of Kansas State; (3) in 6-7, 220-pound Bob McKeen, the Bears will mount a fine match for Burdette Halderson, the Buffs' 6-7 senior pivot and defending conference scoring champion.

Two years ago McKeen was a second-string all-American as a sophomore, scoring 234 points in Southern division play, the most ever notched by a second-year hand and the third highest of all-time in the lower bracket of the P. C. C.'s double-front. His 457 points that season gave him co-ownership of the school single-season record.

Near Luisetti's Mark.

Last year the huge pivot hit 437 points in 27 games to run his three-season total . . . he was eligible for varsity play as a freshman . . . to 1,179 points. He'll open the conference season with 543 tallies, only 69 lengths removed from Hank Luisetti's all-time record.

In Bob Blake, 6-2 junior forward, and Larry Friend, 6-4½ sophomore guard, McKeen boasts two capable aides who are traveling among the top scorers in composite individual scoring of tournament teams (see table below).

Another item that projects this series as the week end's top feature, of course, is the fact that Cal is this year's tourney guest team. If it sweeps both ends of the Colorado set, or even earns a split, it can be classed as good enough to reach the finals in Municipal Auditorium December 30. The ninth annual affair opens a 4-day run December 27.

The doubleheader at Berkeley will mark C. U.'s last action before it moves into tournament play. Kansas also will recess after standing against Rice Friday and Saturday in Lawrence.

Missouri, meanwhile, has wiped out any lingering doubts that it merits not only the tournament favorite's role, but No. 1 billing for the league race as well.