

Kansas Quintets Are Underdogs At Big 7 Meet

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 18—For the first time in five years neither of the Sunflower powers, Kansas and Kansas State, will be favored to carry off the Big Seven tournament championship when conference squads converge on Kansas City's Municipal auditorium December 27-30.

Not that the Jayhawkers and Wildcats, who have split the last four tourney titles, will be soft touches. Kansas, in fact, is undefeated in four starts. Kansas State leveled its seasonal mark at 2-2 by defeating Washington Saturday night.

The Jayhawks dismantled LSU, 83-58, in their opener, wrought a mild surprise by outlasting Tulsa,

Past Champions

YEAR	WINNER	RUNNERUP	FINALS
1953	Kansas	Oklahoma	82-73
1952	K-State	Kansas	93-87
1951	Kansas	Missouri	75-65
1950	K-State	Minnesota	70-62
1949	Missouri	Oklahoma	44-42
1948	Oklahoma	Kansas	52-49
1947	K-State	Okla. A&M	50-43
1946	SMU	Kansas	49-46

73-66, and swept a week-end twin-bill from Rice, 77-67E, and 100-72. K-State rebounded from road losses to UCLA and Arizona with a 70-50 lathering of towering Wyoming and an 81-74 win over Washington in its first two starts before the home fans.

Missouri Is Potent

But these are ordinary feats in the face of recent Missouri achievements. The Tigers, mounting the best team in Sparky Stalcup's 8-year tenure, absorbed a fearful 77-49 walloping at the hands of Illinois in their opener, but since have vaulted high among the nation's elite.