

The Bears, who meet Kansas State in the final first-round game Tuesday night—the tourney opens Monday—could go all the way to the finals. Chances are they will be obliged to whip both the Kansas schools, if they do, a feat that hasn't been accomplished since S. M. U. turned the trick in the meet inaugural in 1946. K. U. will be favored over Iowa State in the remaining lower bracket contest Tuesday.

The plain truth is that Cal has enough power to sideline both Sunflower fives. In Bob McKeen, a 6-7, 220-pound, 3-lettered senior, it will present a center in a class with the loop's two big men of the moment, Bob Reiter, of Missouri, and Colorado's Burdette Haldorson. McKeen outscored Haldorson, though inconclusively, 33-29, in their 2-night duel last week end at Berkeley. He is only three-tenths of a point behind Reiter at 15.7 on the tournament-personnel scoring lists through games of December 18.

As a sophomore, McKeen was a second-string all-American choice. He has been all-Southern division twice. He will go into the 1955 conference season only sixty-nine points removed from Hank Luisetti's all-time P. C. C. career record of 612 points. His sophomore seasonal average of 17.6 is a Cal record. And his 457 points that year was a record-equaller for a Bear player.

His frontline mates are bob Blake, 6-2, 180-pound junior, and Larry Friend, 6-4½, 185-pound sophomore southpaw. The latter is averaging 15.2 points . . . good enough for thirteenth on the present all-tournament scoring list . . . Blake 10.1. Friend was an All-Southern California JC selection two years ago. Blake was an all-leaguer at Long Beach City college the same season.