Guards Seek Scoring Title

Tourney Boasts Four Backcourt Aces

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IF you still believe in position identification in basketball, four guards are scheduled to stage the finest mass demonstration of backline scoring since the founding of the Big Seven tournament when the eighth annual affair yanks up the curtain Saturday in Kansas City's Municipal auditorium.

This quartet includes Gene Stauffer of Kansas State; Fred Segar, Nebraska; Les Lane, Oklahoma, and Dutch Van Cleave, Iowa State.

All four are riding among the conference's pre-tournament top ten scorers. And at least one of them should make the stoutest bid for the meet individual scoring crown since Nebraska's Jim Buchanan missed by nine points against Kansas' Prolific Pachyderm, Clyde Lovellette, two years ago.

Scoring Leaders

Name, Pos., Team	G	FG	FT	TP	Avg
Born, c, Kansas..	3	29	19	77	25.6
Reiter, c, Missouri	4	27	17	71	17.7
Van Cl've,g,Ia. St.	4	26	19	71	17.7
Segar,g, Nebraska	6	37	21	95	15.9
Stauffer, g, K. St.	5	27	24	78	15.6
Lane, g, Oklahoma	4	24	13	61	15.3
Johnson, c, Neb...	6	28	33	89	14.9
Waller, c, Okla...	4	22	15	59	14.7
Jeangerard,f, Colo.	5	16	30	62	12.4
Prisock, f, K. St.	5	15	26	56	11.2

Of this gang, only Segar, the 6-4 Cornhusker, finished among the circuit's scoring elite in league play last year, with a 13.1 average for ninth position. None crashed the tournament's top ten last December.

Altho the guards have three representatives among the Top Ten tournament career scorers, Kansas State's Ernie Barrett, and Colorado's Wayne Tucker, along with Buchanan, they never have made much splash in any single meet. Buchanan's 1951 effort is the high-water mark and he is the lone outcount delegate on the Top Ten single-tournament scoring tabulations.

With anything approaching their early pace, any one of the four must be conceded a chance at the tournament point pennant. Van Cleave will come in tied for second on the conference pre-tournament scoring tables with a 17.7 average in four games. Segar is fourth with 15.9 in six; Stauffer fifth with 15.6 in five, and Lane sixth with 15.3 in four.

Van Cleave is likely to see his average shrink under stress of more severe competition since the Cyclones have met only Colorado A & M, Creighton, Grinnell and Drake. The other three have been shooting against major targets in almost every start. Segar has collected his last 37 points on the road against Oregon State and Oregon.

Stauffer will be under closest scrutiny since he is the leading pointsmith of the defending champions who are given a better-than-average chance of becoming the first team to bag two titles in succession.