

Not a single team will come into the meet unbeaten. As a matter of fact, only Kansas State at 4-1, and Iowa State at 2-1, owned winning records through games of December 19. Colorado was winless in four starts through the same date.

Opponents are hoping for a Kansas defensive sag this year, after one and a half seasons of being subjected to the most merderous ~~defensive~~ picketing the conference ever has seen. In losing ^{restriction has} to Tulane and LSU and beating Tulsa, ~~the~~ ^{restriction has} 'ayhawkers ~~have~~ shown slight resemblance to the dread ~~the~~ Porcupine Patrol of ~~the~~ last season. Chief reason is lose of the two most stinging quills, guards Dean Kelley, and Gil Reich.

Dallas Dobbs, Bartlesville, Okla. sophomore, is a fine prospect ~~as~~ as one replacement. But it will be a while before he ~~approaches~~ approaches the covering status established by the 1952 and 1953 personnel. Meanwhile, the Kansans still are searching for a capable fifth man.

Kansas State, meanwhile, is striving to reel -in the ^{underclassmen} slack caused by Dick Knostman's loss ~~with~~ by employing three ~~juniors~~ in each start. Jerry Jung, 6-11 Hutchinson product, opened at the pivot but since has given way to Roger Craft, sinewy 6-7 Garden Cityan. Both are splitting time with Jim Frary, 6-7 sophomore.

Here is the picture of that situation in the scoring column. This trio is averaging 14.4 points per game, exactly seven fewer than Knostman notched last year, and 9.2 points below his ~~1952~~ 1952 tournament average of 23.6. Normal improvement by any two of the three, however, could make the position solid.