

Under the railbirds' microscope tighter than any other single player will be Bill Johnson, 6-7 Nebraska center. The lean holds the sharpest individual to to the entire conference race. With Johnson playing close to his potential, the Cornhuskers would be in a position to bid for the title. For they are physically endowed ~~and~~ suffered only one damaging loss from last year's club in Guard Joe Good.

Johnson averaged 13.9 points last year, but was frequently phlegmatic under the backboards and on defense. He is traveling at a 14.7 clip to date this season, but opponents won't get a look at ~~his~~ an answer to the other factors until they see him under tournament pressure.

Missouri can replace one of its los

~~has~~ Missouri already has plugged one of its losses, Forward Gene Landolt, with a sparkling sophomore, Norman Stewart, 6-4 Shelbyville, Mo. native. However, the Tigers certainly are missing Win Wilfong, all-tournament and all-league guard last year, who averaged 11.1 points ~~They key where~~ ~~at~~ ~~its~~ ~~vax~~ ~~ent~~ ~~ter~~ ~~va~~ ~~nd~~ ~~the~~ ~~v~~ ~~er~~ ~~s~~ ~~o~~ ~~n~~ ~~e~~ ~~s~~ However, Sparky Stalcup's gang can post an improved record if Bob Reoter, ~~knx~~ ~~ots~~ 6-8 pivot, shows normal defensive improvement. He averaged 13.2 last year. He averaged 17.7 through MU's first four games to date and will carry that figure into ~~the~~ Kansas City.

Oklahoma's veterans still must fight without a genuine big man, the 6-6 Bob Waller being their tallest regular. However, normal improvement, designed ~~to~~ ~~im~~ ~~prove~~ ~~the~~ ~~m~~ ~~an~~ ~~g~~ ~~er~~ ~~along~~ ~~the~~ ~~knx~~ ~~usual~~ Bruce Drake lines of nifty ball-handling, passing and shooting, can pitch the Sooners high in the race.

Unless they ~~show~~ flash some surprises in tournament play, Iowa State and Colorado, are not regarded as good enough ~~knx~~ for