

How many ambushes await favorites in the eight annual Big Seven basketball tournament which gets out of the starting gate Saturday in Kansas City's Municipal auditorium? What odd outcroppings of team performance and bizarre player incidents will mark the affair?

Those are the magnates that again will draw sellout houses in the 10,000-capacity roundball palace at least three of the four playing nights and continue to project the affair as one of the nation's finest, despite its comparatively youthful existence.

This is the meet that already has produced two high-scoring overtime matches without precedent in regular league play, Kansas' 90-88 win over Kansas State in the 1951 semifinals and Stanford's 103-102 edging of Iowa State in the first consolation round of the same meet.

This is a tournament in which Iowa State, a team that hasn't won a league cage flag since 1945 and has dropped 13 consecutive conference decisions to Kansas State, is the only club which holds an edge over the Wildcats in tourney play. It is only 1-0, the Cyclones having captured the only match between the two. But State is 0-7 against a combination of Missouri and Kansas while State holds a bulge over all other comers.

The meet also has seen a stellar performer like Missouri's Win Wilfong blanked from the field for a full game. And it once produced an all-tournament team, the 1949 five, that did not include a single member of Missouri's championship five.

Also consider these rare facts: Only post-men ever have won a meet individual scoring championship. Yet none holds the single-game point record. Three men, Oklahoma's Sherman Norton, the record-holder with 39; Minnesota's Maynard Johnson and Kansas State's