

npr collect, sports desk, the times, okla. city, okla.

kansas city, mo., dec. 27... now firmly established as tournament favorites, kansas state may make a more impressive debut thursday night in its first round thrust against nebraska, than did oklahoma in upsetting stanford in wednesday's feature here. but the wildcats won't show any more scrap, ~~hustle and resourcefulness~~ deftness and will that did ~~a~~ bruce drakes, sooners.

the purple pillagers from manhattan set sail for their second successive big seven meet title at 8 p.m. ~~again~~ if they win they'll move ~~against~~ opposite kansas in an upper bracket semifinal friday night. missouri and iowa state complete thursday's twin-bill at 9:45 p.m. ou gets the winner of this one.

it is doubtful if any team will cause a bigger stir in this year's four-day affair than did the redshirts in nudging the heavily-favored indians ~~in~~ 77-71 heart-stopper. stanford not only was slated to win, just about as it chose, but was regarded as the meet's best bet for a finalist.

thanks to sherman norton's two-record scoring performance and stan grossman's four-goal passing in the last frantic six minutes, the tournament ~~new~~ will see the guest team in losers' bracket play.

the cardinals came into the meet with an unblemished 8-game victory streak. ou came in ~~in~~ somewhat bloody from three road lacerations at the hands of illinois, iowa and nyu. the drakes went to the post ~~they~~ they had won only one of five starts until their ~~suspenseful~~ conquest.

the victory not only snapped ou's three-game ~~losing~~ losing streak, but it handed the conference a much needed prestige hike in ncaa circles. up to wednesday league clubs had lost 16 of 30 starts against major opposition.