

Basketball teams from the Missouri Valley sector will invade Madison Square Garden for the first time this year. The present season is expected to find basketball in this section on a par with any in the country.

In the Big Six conference five strong teams will battle for the league pennant. Only Kansas State appears to be devoid of title hopes. Oklahoma and Missouri, co-champions of the Big Six last year, suffered few losses by graduation and both have fine sophomore reinforcements.

Consequently, the Sooners and Tigers stand a good chance of being even stronger than they were last year. Oklahoma has Jimmy McNatt, all-Big Six forward; Herb Scheffler, rugged center; and Marvin Mesch and Marvin Snodgrass, guards, back from last year's starting five.

McNatt and Mesch can be counted on to roll in the points and Scheffler is the best rebound man in the conference. A good scorer in his own right, Scheffler is most valuable for his ability at taking the ball off the backboard. Oliver Curtis, a 6 foot 4 inch lad, is rated the best of the Sooner Sophomores. Scheffler also is 6-4.

Missouri has three regulars back to build its team around. Foremost is John Lobsiger, captain for the second year. Lobsiger was all-Big Six guard last year and should repeat. He is 6 feet 3 inches tall, a crack scorer and a good man on defense.

Bill Harvey, agile forward, and Blaine Currence, 6 foot 5 inch center, are the other two regulars back. Currence developed tremendously as the season progressed last year. The tall boy is an end on the Tiger football team and he will miss basketball practice until some time in January if Missouri is invited to the Orange Bowl, as expected.