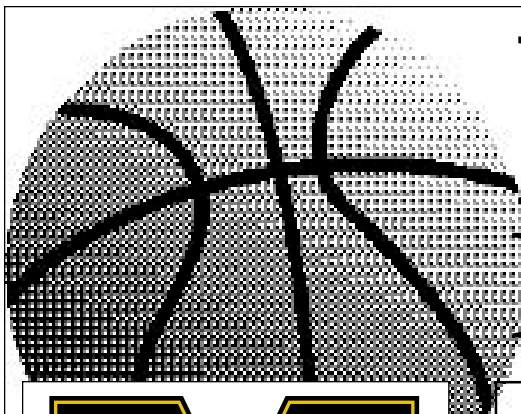




MIZZOU BASKETBALL



TIGER NEWS & NOTES 2001-02

#18 Missouri Tigers (15-5, 5-2) at #2 Kansas Jayhawks (17-2, 6-0)

Game# 21 — Jan. 28, 2002 — Lawrence, Kan.

TIPOFF: 8:00 p.m. (central time).

ARENA: Allen Fieldhouse (16,300). Opened in 1955. KU is 517-99 there alltime, including 32-14 vs. MU. KU defeated MU there last year, 75-59.

RADIO: Tiger Network (Mike Kelly, play-by-play/Gary Link, color). Carried on more than 50 stations statewide, and on the Internet at www.mutigers.com.

TV: ESPN. Brad Nessler, play-by-play/Dick Vitale, color/Michele Tafoya, sideline.

RANKINGS: MU is #18 (A.P.) & #20 (ESPN/USA Today); KU is #2 in both polls.

SERIES: KU leads, 153-90 alltime, but the teams have evenly split their 10 previous Big 12 Conference regular-season meetings.

COACHES:

Missouri: Quin Snyder (Duke '89), 53-31 at MU and overall (3rd season). Snyder is 2-2 vs. Kansas and Roy Williams.

Kansas: Roy Williams (North Carolina '72), 372-91 at KU and overall (14th season). Williams is 15-12 vs. Missouri, and is 2-2 vs. Quin Snyder.

DATE	OPPONENT/TELEVISION	TIPOFF
NOV. 3	EA SPORTS (Exhibition)	W, 93-82
NOV. 6	ILLINOIS ALL-STARS (Exhibition)	W, 88-68
NOV. 13	#TENNESSE-MARTIN (MSN)	W, 89-63
NOV. 14	#AIR FORCE (MSN)	W, 86-58
Nov. 20	%vs. #22 Alabama (ESPN+)	W, 75-68
Nov. 21	%vs. #9 Iowa (ESPN+)	W, 78-77
Nov. 24	^vs. Xavier (FOX SPORTS NET MIDWEST)	W, 72-60
NOV. 29	JACKSON STATE	W, 106-68

DEC. 1	GRAMBLING STATE (MSN)	W, 100-76
Dec. 3	at Saint Louis (ESPN2)	W, 69-67
DEC. 6	SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY (MSN)	W, 117-67
Dec. 15	#15 IOWA (ESPN)	L, 83-65
Dec. 22	vs. #9 Illinois (at St. Louis) (ESPN)	L, 72-61
Dec. 29	at DePaul (MSN)	L, 63-62

JAN. 2	COPPIN STATE (MSN)	W, 74-47
JAN. 5	+NEBRASKA (BIG 12/ESPN+)	W, 60-53
Jan. 9	+at Iowa State (MSN)	L, 71-67
Jan. 12	+at Kansas State (BIG 12/ESPN+)	W, 81-66
JAN. 16	+TEXAS A&M (MSN)	W, 74-50
JAN. 19	+COLORADO (BIG 12/ESPN+)	W, 92-77
Jan. 21	+at #6 Oklahoma (ESPN)	L, 84-71
JAN. 26	+KANSAS STATE (BIG 12/ESPN+)	W, 86-74
Jan. 28	+at #2 Kansas (ESPN)	8:00 p.m.

FEB. 3	#7 VIRGINIA (ABC)	1:00 p.m.
FEB. 6	+IOWA STATE (MSN)	7:00 p.m.
Feb. 9	+at Baylor (ESPN)	8:00 p.m.
Feb. 13	+at Nebraska	7:00 p.m.
FEB. 17	+#24 TEXAS (ABC)	2:30 p.m.
Feb. 20	+at Texas Tech (MSN)	8:15 p.m.
Feb. 23	+at Colorado (BIG 12/ESPN+)	3:00 p.m.
FEB. 25	+ #11 OKLAHOMA STATE (ESPN)	8:00 p.m.

MAR. 3	+ #2 KANSAS (CBS)	1:00 p.m.
M 7-10	at Big 12 tournament (Kansas City, Mo.)	tba

All times listed are Central time, and are subject to change.

#-NABC Guardians Classic 1st/2nd Round (Columbia, Mo.)

%-NABC Guardians Classic Semis/Finals (Kansas City, Mo. — Kemper Arena)

^John R. Wooden Tradition (Indianapolis, Ind. — Conseco Fieldhouse)

+ — Big Twelve Conference game.

MU-KU RIVALRY TAKES NATIONAL STAGE MONDAY IN LAWRENCE

One of the nation's most storied rivalries takes center stage Monday, as the Missouri Tigers (15-5 overall, 5-2 in Big 12 Conference play), travel to Lawrence, Kan. to take on the #2-ranked Kansas Jayhawks (17-2, 6-0).

Mizzou will be looking to keep within striking distance of the league-leading Jayhawks. The Tigers are coming off an 86-74 home win Saturday over Kansas State. MU has won 4 of its last 5 games and 6 of its last 8 since suffering a 3-game losing streak in December.

Kansas continued its perfect romp through Big 12 play Saturday with an 86-74 win of its own at Texas A&M. The Jayhawks have won four straight since losing at UCLA on Jan. 12th, and had won 13 straight prior to that defeat. KU boasts the Big 12's leading scorer (20.6 ppg) and rebounder (11.8 rpg) in junior forward Drew Gooden.

18 MISSOURI TIGERS (15-5, 5-2)

(Probable Starting Lineup/Just an SID's best guess) ^-Assists per game

P	NO	NAME	HT	WT	YR	HOMETOWN	PPG	RPG
G	4	Clarence Gilbert***	6-2	190	Sr.	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.	16.4	3.5
G	21	Kareem Rush**	6-6	215	Jr.	Kansas City, Mo.	19.4	4.8
F	23	Rickey Paulding*	6-5	212	So.	Detroit, Mich.	10.3	3.6
F	5	Travon Bryant*	6-9	243	So.	Long Beach, Calif.	6.4	4.6
C	50	Arthur Johnson*	6-9	265	So.	Detroit, Mich.	11.9	8.3

2 KANSAS JAYHAWKS (17-2, 6-0)

(Probable Starting Lineup/Just an SID's best guess)

P	NO	NAME	HT	WT	YR	HOMETOWN	PPG	RPG
G	10	Kirk Hinrich	Jr.	6-3	185	Sioux City, Iowa	13.9	^5.8
G	11	Aaron Miles	Fr.	6-1	175	Portland, Ore.	6.6	^5.7
G	13	Jeff Boschee	Sr.	6-1	185	Valley City, N.D.	12.9	2.8
F	4	Nick Collison	Jr.	6-9	250	Iowa Falls, Iowa	15.3	8.2
F	0	Drew Gooden	Jr.	6-10	230	Richmond, Calif.	20.6	11.8



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Missouri and the rest of the Big 12 Conference utilize Pivotal Communications' InfoConnection fax-on-demand service. To receive the latest information on the Tigers via FAX, using the handset on your FAX machine, dial (770) 399-3066 OR 1-800-300-2050. The Big 12 Conference passcode is 1212. Missouri's basketball numbers are as follows:

- 1725--Game Notes & Statistics
- 1726--Statistics Only
- 1727--Press Luncheon Quotes
- 1728--Roster/Schedule
- 1729--Coaching Staff Biographies
- 1730--Box Score from Most Recent Game

MU DOUBLE FIGURES IN PTS.

Tiger	2001-02	Career
Bryant	2	3
Gilbert	17	67
Johnson	13	28
Kroenke	0	2
Paulding	9	18
Rush	19	63
Stokes	7	13

MU DOUBLE FIGURES IN REBS.

Tiger	2001-02	Career
Bryant	0	1
Gilbert	0	2
Johnson	8	17
Rush	1	6
Stokes	1	1

MU DOUBLE-DOUBLES

Tiger	2001-02	Career
Gilbert	0	1
Johnson	7	13
Rush	1	5

MU-KANSAS SERIES HISTORY

Dating back to the days of the Civil War, the rivalry between the states of Missouri and Kansas has stirred the emotions of man, woman and child. Ten billion people in China could care less, but what can you do?

Kansas leads the overall series by a 153-90 margin, including 78-33 in games played in Lawrence. MU stands 14-32 alltime at Allen Fieldhouse, which is the 2nd-most wins by any opponent there. Only Kansas State (17-30) has more wins there than MU.

Missouri hopes to keep an impressive streak alive Monday. For each of the past 6 seasons (dating back to the last year of the old Big Eight), Mizzou has dealt Kansas its first conference loss of the season (1996-2001).

Five of those games came in Columbia, and twice (1997 & 1998), the MU loss was the only one that prevented Kansas from a perfect league record, as the Jayhawks went 15-1.

A SCHEDULING CHANGEUP

Monday will mark the first time in 9 years that MU and KU will play their initial meeting in Lawrence. For each of the past 8 seasons, the two rivals have met first in Columbia, followed by the rematch in Lawrence.

Each of the past 2 years, and 3 of the last 6 overall, have seen MU stuck with playing at KU's Senior Day. The tables have been turned this year, as KU is scheduled to play at Mizzou in the regular-season finale, on March 3rd.

GOING TOE-TO-TOE WITH THE JAYHAWKS

Missouri has proven to be the proverbial thorn in the side of ranked Kansas teams in recent history, as the Tigers have knocked off ranked KU teams 6 straight years, and 11 times overall since 1989.

Nine of those MU wins, including 1 each in 5 of the last 6 years, came against top-10 Jayhawk teams.

	MU	KU		
Date	Rank	Rank	Result	Site
1-29-01	nr	3	W, 75-66	Columbia
1-22-00	nr	7	W, 81-59	Columbia
1-24-99	nr	19	W, 71-63	Lawrence
1-19-98	nr	3	W, 74-73	Columbia
2-4-97	nr	1	W, 96-94	2OT Columbia
2-10-96	nr	3	W, 77-73	Columbia
2-20-94	12	4	W, 81-74	Lawrence
1-31-94	20	3	W, 79-67	Columbia
2-13-90	2	1	W, 77-71	Lawrence
1-20-90	4	1	W, 97-87	Columbia
2-1-89	5	18	W, 91-66	Lawrence

TALE OF THE TAPE

MIZZOU	KANSAS
15-5	Overall Record 17-2
5-2	Big 12 Record 6-0
W 1	Current Win-Loss Streak W 4
4-1	Last 5 Games 4-1
.458	Field Goal Percentage .506
.433	Opponent FG Percentage .406
.381	3-PT FG Percentage .388
.351	Opponent 3-PT FG Percentage .349
8.8	3-PT FGs Made Per Game 5.3
23.0	3-PT FGs Attempted Per Game 13.7
.719	Free Throw Percentage .700
38.9	Rebound Average 43.9
+5.2	Rebound Margin +9.3
13.5	Turnovers Per Game 17.8
14.9	Opponents Turnovers Per Game 18.1
79.2	Points Per Game 89.5
67.2	Opponents Points Per Game 74.6
+12.1	Average Margin +14.9

Additionally, if Mizzou carries an A.P. ranking into Monday night's game, they'll have a bit of history working for them. MU stands 3-2 alltime at Allen Fieldhouse against KU when both teams were ranked at tipoff.

Here's a glance at those games:

	MU	KU		
Date	Rank	Rank	Result	Site
2-25-95	14	1	L, 88-69	Lawrence
2-20-94	12	4	W, 81-74	Lawrence
3-8-92	11	3	L, 97-89	Lawrence
2-13-90	2	1	W, 77-71	Lawrence
2-1-89	5	18	W, 91-66	Lawrence

ONE LAST RIVALRY TIDBIT

Okay, at the risk of obsessing, we'd like to tout one more impressive fact concerning MU's competitiveness with Kansas of late.

Since the inception of the Big 12 Conference, in regular-season conference play, Missouri is an even 5-5 (.500) against Kansas. The rest of the Big 12 is 11-66 (.143) in that same stretch.

MU-KANSAS STATE POST-GAME NOTES

•Missouri used a strong 1st half surge to build a commanding lead Saturday at home vs. Kansas State, and held off a late Wildcat surge to post Mizzou's 18th-straight Hearnes Center win over KSU. The last K-State win at Hearnes came in the 1985 season.

•MU strung together a 13-0 run in a 4-minute 1st-half stretch to break open a 13-13



★-Denotes projected starters

TIGER ROSTER & QUICK FACTS

No.	Tiger	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown	Ppg.	Rpg.	Note(s)
2	Wesley Stokes	G	5-10	178	So.-1L	Long Beach, Calif.	7.1	3.1	Ranks 5th in Big 12 w/5.0 assists per game
4	Clarence Gilbert★	G	6-2	190	Sr.-3L	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.	16.4	3.5	Needs 20 pts. to become MU's 10th alltime leading career scorer
5	Travon Bryant★	F	6-9	243	So.-1L	Long Beach, Calif.	6.4	4.6	Leads team w/FG% of 60.9%; Had 8 pts., 5 rebs., 2 blocks Sat. vs. KSU
10	Ryan Kiernan	G	6-0	195	Jr.-1L	St. Charles, Mo.	1.7	0.5	Pro-rate stats to 40 minutes per game, and he's MU's top scorer (36.4 ppg)
11	Duane John	G	6-6	191	Fr.-HS	Toronto, Ontario	1.0	0.9	Gave huge spark off bench last Mon. at OU w/4 pts. in 2 minutes of play
12	Justin Gage	F	6-4	208	Jr.-2L	Jefferson City, Mo.	2.0	3.8	Has made 6-of-7 FGAs in Big 12 play; Has played in 7 games since Dec. 22
15	Josh Kroenke	G	6-4	195	So.-1L	Columbia, Mo.	2.0	1.3	Ranks 12th in Big 12 w/asst.-to-turnover ratio of 2.0-to-1
21	Kareem Rush★	F	6-6	215	Jr.-2L	Kansas City, Mo.	19.4	4.8	Ranks 2nd in Big 12 in scoring, 1st in 3FGs (3.2), 12th in 3FG% (.420)
23	Rickey Paulding★	G/F	6-5	212	So.-1L	Detroit, Mich.	10.3	3.6	Leads MU & ranks among Big 12 best in 3-FGs (43.8%) & FTs (80.4%)
24	Jake Jackson	G	6-2	191	Jr.-Sq.	DeSoto, Mo.	—	—	Walk-on is a former manager who is out for the year with a knee injury
32	Jeffrey Ferguson	F/C	6-10	236	Fr.-HS	Toronto, Ontario	1.9	1.9	MU's tallest available player has seen the court in 15-of-19 games
33	Najeeb Echols	G/F	6-7	232	Fr.-HS	Chicago, Ill.	3.4	3.5	Has scored 6 pts. in each of last 2 games; Started 1st 7 of season
35	Michael Griffin	G	6-3	180	So.-1L	Norcross, Ga.	0.0	0.0	Walk-on is a 2nd-generation Tiger; Father Mike played at MU from 1968-72
50	Arthur Johnson★	F/C	6-9	265	So.-1L	Detroit, Mich.	11.9	8.3	Leads Big 12 in blocks (1.9), and among best in rebs. & FGs (56.4%)

Head Coach: Quin Snyder (Duke, '89); 53-31 at MU, .631 (3rd season); 53-31 overall, .631 (3rd season)

Associate Head Coach: Tony Harvey (Cameron, '88)

Assistant Coaches: Lane Odom (High Point, '89); Marcus Perez (Army, '89)

READERS' DIGEST VERSION

In case you don't have the time, nor the stomach, to read through all the propaganda presented before you in these notes, we've done our best to pick through the drivel and offer you the "Cliff's Notes" version.

- Kansas leads the series with Missouri, 153-90, including 78-33 in games played in Lawrence. MU stands 14-32 alltime at Allen Fieldhouse vs. KU, which is the 2nd-most wins by any opponent there. Only Kansas State (17-30) has more wins there than MU.

- Missouri hopes to keep an impressive streak alive Monday. For each of the past 6 seasons (dating back to the last year of the Big Eight), Mizzou has dealt Kansas its first conference loss of the season (1996-2001).

- Monday will mark the 1st time in 9 years that MU and KU will play their initial meeting in Lawrence. For each of the past 8 seasons, the two rivals have met first in Columbia, followed by the rematch in Lawrence.

- Missouri has knocked off ranked Kansas teams 6 straight years, and 11 times overall since 1989. Nine of those wins, including 1 each in 5 of the last 6 seasons, came against top-10 Jayhawk teams.

- Since the inception of the Big 12 Conference (1996-97 season), Missouri is an even 5-5 (.500) against Kansas in regular-season conference play. The rest of the Big 12 is just 11-66 (.143) against KU during that same stretch.

- MU's 3-pronged attack of Kareem Rush (19.4 ppg), Clarence Gilbert (16.4 ppg) and Arthur Johnson (11.9 ppg & 8.3 rpg) provide one of the best inside-outside threats around. Rush and Gilbert rank 1-2 in the Big 12 in 3-pt. field goals, while Johnson leads the league in blocked shots, and ranks among the leaders in rebounding and FG%.

- Clarence Gilbert scored a game-high 26 pts. last Monday at OU, and tied a school record by making 8 3-pt. field goals (in 13 attempts). He tied the record established three times previously.

- Clarence Gilbert is the Big 12's active leading career scorer (and ranks 11th alltime at MU), with 1,402 career points. He needs 3 pts. to move past former Texas standout Chris Mihm for 9th on the Big 12 list, and needs 20 points to move into MU's alltime career top-10.

- After outrebounding opponents in 13 of its first 17 games, MU was outrebounded in consecutive games by Colorado (45-28) and at Oklahoma (43-26). The two foes have outrebounded the Tigers by a massive 42-18 edge on the offensive glass. MU got back on track Saturday vs. Kansas State, as they outrebounded the Wildcats 38-36. MU improved to 12-2 this season, and 29-5 under Quin Snyder, when they win the battle of the boards.



MU IN THE RANKINGS

Week	A.P.	Coaches
Pre-Season	8	9
Nov. 12-18	8	8
Nov. 19-25	5	9
Nov. 26-Dec. 2	3	5
Dec. 3-9	2	3
Dec. 10-16	2	3
Dec. 17-23	8	9
Dec. 24-30	10	10
Dec. 31-Jan. 6	17	18
Jan. 7-13	17	17
Jan. 14-20	21	19
Jan. 21-27	18	20

SERIES HISTORY

KANSAS

(KU Leads, 153-90)

LAST 20 MEETINGS

3- 8-92	L, 89-97	at Lawrence
2-1-93	L, 69-86	at Lawrence
2-13-93	L, 63-67	at Columbia
1-31-94	W, 79-67	at Columbia
2-20-94	W, 81-74	at Lawrence
1-9-95	L, 89-102	at Columbia
2-25-95	L, 69-88	at Lawrence
2-10-96	W, 77-73	at Columbia
2-26-96	L, 65-87	at Lawrence

FIRST YEAR IN BIG 12 CONFERENCE

2-4-97	W, 96-94	20Tat Columbia
2-17-97	L, 67-79	at Lawrence
3-9-97	L, @60-87	at Kansas City
1-19-98	W, 74-73	at Columbia
2-8-98	L, 70-80	at Lawrence
1-11-99	L, 61-73	at Columbia
1-24-99	W, 71-63	at Lawrence
1-22-00	W, 81-59	at Columbia
3-5-00	L, 82-83	at Lawrence
1-29-01	W, 75-66	at Columbia
3-4-01	L, 59-75	at Lawrence

^ Big Eight Tournament @ Big 12 Tournament

at Columbia: KU leads, 58-51

at Hearnes: MU leads, 18-11

at Lawrence: KU leads, 78-33

at Neutral Sites: KU leads, 17-6

Big 12 Conference Games: Tied, 5-5

Big 12 Tournament Games: KU leads, 1-0

OPPONENT
INDIVIDUAL HIGHS

Pts:	31, Luke Recker, Iowa, 12-15-01
FG:	13, Tyray Pearson, Iowa St., 1-9-02
FGA:	23, Tyray Pearson, Iowa St., 1-9-02
3FG:	5, Two Times
3FGA:	10, Two Times
FT:	7, Four Times
FTA:	10, Five Times
Reb.:	18, Stephane Pelle, Colorado, 1-19-02
Asst:	9, Victor Tarver, Southern, 12-6-01
Blocks:	4, Kelly Ross, Jackson St., 11-29-01
Steals:	5, Jair Peralta, UT-Martin, 11-13-01

tie with 13:05 left to a 26-13 Mizzou advantage with 9:02 left. The Tigers shot a solid 54.8% from the floor in the 1st half (17-of-31), and ended the game just under 50%, at 49.1%.

•Free throws were a deciding factor in MU's win, as the Tigers hit 23-of-32 attempts on the day (71.9%), compared to just 12-of-23 for K-State (52.2%). Mizzou's last 12 points of the game came from the foul line, and the Tigers hit 12-of-14 freebies in the final 2:35 to seal the win. MU improved to 10-1 on the season (and 37-6 under Quin Snyder) when attempting more free throws than its opponent.

•After being outrebounded by an average margin of 17 in its last 2 games (45-28 to Colorado and 43-26 at Oklahoma), Mizzou returned to its prior form on the boards, as it outboarded K-State by a 38-36 edge. The Tigers held a 20-11 rebounding edge at halftime.

•Mizzou committed a season-low 6 turnovers vs. Kansas State. That's the lowest total ever under Quin Snyder, eclipsing the previous low of 7 established in 2000 at Texas Tech and matched earlier this year vs. Xavier. Only 3 different Tigers (Clarence Gilbert, Kareem Rush and Jeffrey Ferguson) were charged with miscues.

•Mizzou received a balanced scoring effort vs. K-State, as 4 starters scored in double figures on Saturday. Pre-season All-American Kareem Rush led the way with a game-high 22 points (including 18 in the first half). Sophomore Rickey Paulding chimed in with 15 points (including a career-high 3 3-pt. field goals), while senior Clarence Gilbert and sophomore Arthur Johnson had 14 apiece.

•Mizzou's win Saturday gave them the series lead over KSU, 108-107. It is the first time since 1961 (when MU led, 59-58) that the Tigers have held the edge in the longtime series.

GILBERT RANKS AMONG BIG 12 BEST

Senior guard Clarence Gilbert enters the Kansas game with 1,402 career points, which ranks him as the leading active scorer among Big 12 players.

Gilbert also ranks 10th on the alltime Big 12 scoring chart, and needs just 3 points Monday to pass former Texas star Chris Mihm for 9th place on the list. Mihm scored 1,404 points during his Big 12 days, while the alltime Big 12 leading scorer is Iowa State's Marcus Fizer, with 1,830 points.

Additionally, Gilbert continues his ascent up the MU career scoring chart. He currently needs 20 points to pass former MU great John Brown for 10th on the list.

MU VS. RANKED TEAMS

Missouri is 2-3 this season against ranked teams, winning on consecutive November nights vs. then-#22 Alabama (without injured Kareem Rush for the game's final 7 minutes) and then-#9 Iowa (on a miraculous comeback that's detailed elsewhere in these notes).

Mizzou later dropped consecutive games against ranked foes, with the first coming at home in a rematch with then-#15 Iowa and a week later against then-#9 Illinois at the Savvis Center in St. Louis. That preceded MU's 84-71 loss last Monday at then-#6 Oklahoma.

MU ROAD RULES

MU is 2-3 in road games this year, and is 10-15 overall in hostile territory under Quin Snyder thus far. That breaks down to 5-4 in 1999-2000, and 3-8 last season.

MU's road wins came at Kansas State (Jan. 12th) and at Saint Louis (Dec. 3rd). MU nabbed a 69-67 win at SLU when guard Wesley Stokes hit a 17-footer at the buzzer.

MU lost last Monday at then-#6 Oklahoma, 84-71, as the Sooners used an 18-4 run to close the first half that essentially was the difference in the game.

The other 2 road losses were nail biters that left the Tigers lamenting what might have been. On Dec. 29th, Mizzou shot only 33.3% from the floor (including 6-of-27 from 3-pt. range [22.2%]) in a disappointing 63-62 loss at DePaul.

The other road defeat came Jan. 9th at Iowa State, as the Cyclones came from behind to post a 71-67 win at Hilton Coliseum.

Missouri will need to improve on its shooting numbers, as it has shot a combined 41.5% in its previous 5 road games.

The Tigers have held their own on the boards in road games, outrebounding opponents by a 40.0-to-36.6 margin, but Oklahoma dominated MU on the boards last Monday, 53-26. Additionally, opponents have made almost just as many free throws in the 5 games (69-of-107) as the Tigers have attempted (51-of-75).

As is customary, MU is statistically better at home, where the Tigers are 10-1, as compared to road games.

Here's a comparison of some key stats in the Tigers' home and road efforts:

Category	Home	Away
Points	86.3	70.0
Opp. Points	65.1	70.2
Scoring Margin	+21.2	-0.2



MU FG Percentage	49.1%	41.5%
Opp. FG Percentage	42.3%	44.6%
MU 3FG Percentage	40.7%	36.4%
Opp. 3FG Percentage	35.8%	40.0%
Assists	16.9	12.8
MU FTAs Per Game	23.4	15.0
Opp. FTAs Per Game	16.7	21.4

Mizzou's sole loss at home this season came on Dec. 15th when the Tigers were trounced by then-#15 Iowa, 83-65. MU shot just 33.3% from the floor in the game, including a miserable 17.2% (5-of-29) from 3-pt. range.

MU'S 3-PRONGED ATTACK

Arthur Johnson, Kareem Rush and Clarence Gilbert combine to form one of the best inside-outside offensive attacks around.

MU's top 3 scorers combine to average 47.7 points per game. Rush leads the way at 19.4 per game, with Gilbert next at 16.4, followed by Johnson at 11.9.

Rush and Gilbert are ranked 1-2 in the Big 12 in 3-pt. field goals made per game. Johnson is climbing the charts in scoring, and ranks in the top 5 in rebounding, offensive rebounding and field goal percentage. He also leads the league in blocked shots.

When clicking like they can, the trio forms one of the country's most dangerous inside-outside combos. When Johnson is left one-on-one inside, he is a dangerous scorer. When teams double him, that often frees up Rush and Gilbert, who are arguably the most potent perimeter combo in the country.

THE QUIN SNYDER FILE

After getting out to a 9-0 start to the season, Mizzou was perched #2 in the Associated Press top-25 poll. That marked the highest an MU team has been ranked since the 1989-90 season. Additionally, when MU won the Guardians Classic in November with its miraculous comeback vs. Iowa, it gave the school its first in-season tournament championship since 1989.

The 15th head coach in Missouri basketball history, Snyder is 53-31 in his third season as a head coach. He earned his 50th career win on Jan. 12th at Kansas State.

Snyder guided Missouri to a 20-13 record in 2000-01, including the schools' first NCAA Tournament win since 1995, when MU defeated Georgia in the opening round.

He was named the national rookie coach-of-the-year by *Basketball Times* after leading the Tigers to an 18-13 record and an NCAA

appearance in the 1999-2000 campaign.

Snyder's mission is to take the Tiger program to the next level. And if that next level represents the Final Four of the NCAA Tournament, Snyder will be a repeat visitor. In 10 years at Duke, he took part in five Final Fours — three as a player (1986, 88, 89) and two more as a coach (1994, 99).

Snyder had served as Duke's associate head coach the previous two seasons, and was entrusted with numerous on-court coaching responsibilities, as well as recruiting duties for the Blue Devils by Head Coach Mike Krzyzewski. He was widely credited with recruiting the group of student-athletes (including 1999 national player-of-the-year Elton Brand) at Duke who compiled a 37-2 record in 1998-99 and finished as NCAA runners-up.

RUSH HOUR CONTINUES AT MIZZOU

Junior forward Kareem Rush was named MU's first-ever pre-season first team All-American by the Associated Press, and he's been named to the top-30 mid-season watch list for the prestigious Wooden Award.

He's coming off a solid 22-pt. performance Saturday vs. Kansas State, when he scored 18 1st half points on 7-of-10 shooting. He also added a game-high 6 rebounds.

Rush turned in a scintillating 29-point outing Jan. 19 vs. Colorado, as he sank 5-of-10 3-pt. field goals. He had 18 first-half points, and was the key player as MU put the game on ice in the opening stanza.

In his last 6 games, Rush has shot 44.9% from 3-pt. range (22-of-49). He has shot an even 50.0% in 5 of those games, with the only sub-.500 outing coming last Monday at Oklahoma, when he was held to 13 pts. and was just 2-of-9 from long distance (4-of-15 FGs).

Jan. 9th saw Rush turn in his best offensive performance of the season, as he scored a season-high 29 points at Iowa State, on the strength of 12-of-20 shooting, including 4-of-8 from 3-pt. range.

His offensive performance was a sight for sore Tiger eyes, as the Kansas City, Mo. native had been frustrated for much of the past month. After scoring 20 or more points in 4 of MU's first 9 games, he had surpassed the 20-point mark just once in the next 5-game stretch (Dec. 15-Jan. 5). He was held to a season-low 8 points in MU's Big 12 opener vs. Nebraska, marking just the 5th time in his MU career that he has been held in single digits.

Rush had experienced a rough stretch in MU's December 3-game losing streak, when

QUIN SNYDER RECORD BREAKDOWN

Overall	53-31
Non-Conference	28-15
Big 12 Reg. Season	24-15
Big 12 Tournament	2-2
NCAA Tournament	1-2
Home	33-7
Away	10-14
Neutral	10-10
vs. AP Top 25	6-19
Overtime	1-3
vs. Big 12 North	17-8
vs. Big 12 South	9-9

SNYDER VS. ALL OPPONENTS

Air Force	1-0
Alabama	1-0
Baylor	2-0
Coastal Carolina	1-0
Colorado	5-0
Coppin State	1-0
DePaul	1-1
Duke	0-1
Georgia	1-0
Grambling State	1-0
Illinois	1-2
Indiana	1-1
Iowa	2-2
Iowa State	1-4
Jackson State	1-0
Kansas	2-2
Kansas State	5-1
Kentucky	0-1
Morgan State	1-0
Nebraska	4-1
North Carolina	0-1
North Carolina-Asheville	1-0
Oklahoma	0-5
Oklahoma State	0-2
Princeton	1-0
Rhode Island	1-0
Saint Louis	2-1
Savannah State	1-0
SMU	1-0
Southern	1-0
Stetson	1-0
Syracuse	0-1
Tennessee-Martin	1-0
Texas	0-2
Texas A&M	4-0
Texas-Pan American	1-0
Texas Tech	3-0
Valparaiso	1-0
Virginia	0-1
Western Carolina	1-0
Winthrop	0-1
Wisconsin	0-1
Xavier	1-0



MU RECORD WHEN

	2001-02	Under Snyder
Ahead at half	131	40-10
Behind at half	24	12-21
FG% of .450 or more	101	28-4
FG% less than .450	54	25-27
Better FG% than opp.	110	33-5
Worse FG% than opp.	45	17-26
Opp. shoots less than .450	11-1	32-10
3FG% of .400 or more	92	27-6
3FG% less than .400	63	26-25
Try more than 20 3FGs	84	30-27
Try 20 or less 3FGs	71	23-4
Try more FTs than opp.	101	37-6
Try less FTs than opp.	44	13-24
Bench outscored opp. bench	64	21-14
Opp. bench outscored MU	81	28-15
Outrebound opp.	122	29-5
Tied or outrebounded	33	24-26
More TOs than opp.	52	16-14
Same or fewer TOs	103	37-17
Make less than 15 TOs	102	30-16
Make 15 or more TOs	52	23-14
Score 59 or fewer pts.	00	1-6
Score 60-69 pts.	24	7-13
Score 70-79 pts.	51	18-6
Score 80 or more pts.	80	26-6
Allow less than 50 pts.	1-0	4-0
Allow 50-59 pts.	30	8-1
Allow 60-69 pts.	71	23-6
Allow 70-79 pts.	42	12-9
Allow 80 or more pts.	02	5-15
Overtime	00	1-3
vs. AP Top 25	23	6-19
Home Games	101	33-7
Road Games	23	10-14
Neutral Site Games	31	9-10
Day Games	51	21-8
Night Games	104	31-23
On Monday	11	3-5
On Tuesday	20	6-3
On Wednesday	41	13-3
On Thursday	20	5-2
On Friday	00	3-4
On Saturday	63	21-10
On Sunday	00	1-4
On Mizzou Sports Network	62	19-6
On ABC	00	1-1
On CBS	00	1-4
On ESPN	03	2-11
On ESPN2	10	2-1
On ESPN+	60	16-4
Fox Sports Net	10	1-1
GAMES DECIDED BY...		
5 pts. or less	22	13-14
6-10 pts.	20	13-3
11-19 pts.	33	10-11
20 or more pts.	70	14-3

he shot just 29.4% from the floor (including 26.7% from 3-pt. range).

Rush had perhaps his best all-around performance in a Tiger uniform Nov. 24th when he led MU to a solid victory over Xavier in Indianapolis, with 24 points, 12 rebounds and 3 assists in 39 minutes. He also played excellent defense, holding one of Xavier's top scorers, Romain Sato, to a 4-of-13 shooting night.

Rush is averaging 19.4 points per game, which currently ranks him 2nd in the Big 12 Conference, a year after leading the league as a sophomore with a mark of 21.1 points per game.

The top 3-pt. shooter in the Big 12 thus far (3.2 threes made per game), Rush also ranks 12th in the league in 3-pt. percentage (42.0%).

Rush was named the Big 12 Player of the Week on Nov. 27th. The league award marked the fifth time the that Rush claimed a Big 12 weekly honor. A pre-season first team All-American, Rush was named Big 12 Player of the Week twice last season, and earned the league Freshman of the Week honor twice during his freshman season of 1999-2000.

Rush has now scored in double figures in 63-of-68 games in his Tiger career.

He enters Monday's game ranked 21st on the MU career scoring chart, with 1,259 career points. Here's a quick look at those Rush is within striking distance on the career scoring chart:

Rank	Tiger	Years	Points
20	Lee Coward	87-90	1,275
21	Kareem Rush	00-02	1,259
22	Jim Kennedy	74-77	1,209

KING OF THE ROAD?

Roger Miller wrote "King of the Road" a few years before Mizzou sophomore center Arthur Johnson came along, but Johnson is doing his best to lay claim to that title. The 6-foot-9 big man has amassed some rather impressive numbers in MU's 5 road games this year.

Despite being held to just 4 pts. and 4 rebs. last Monday at #6 Oklahoma, Johnson has still averaged 14.2 points and an impressive 12.6 rebounds per game on enemy ground. He's turned in double-double performances in 4 of 5 games (4 of his 7 on the year), and is shooting a solid 50.8% from the floor in those games. He's averaging 11.8 points and 7.5 rebounds and shooting 58.4% in MU's 11 home games.

Here's a quick breakdown of A.J.'s road performances:

Game	Pts.	FGs	Rebs.	Off. Rebs.
at SLU	14	6-11	16	5
at DePaul	20	10-17	18	7
at Iowa St.	10	5-13	10	4
at Kansas St.	23	10-19	15	7
at Oklahoma	4	25	4	0

DEAD ZONE DOOMS TIGERS

A 10-minute stretch sandwiched around halftime essentially was the difference in last Monday's loss at Oklahoma.

Mizzou played well early, and held a 27-26 lead with 5:18 left in the initial half. OU turned up the intensity, however, and MU couldn't match it, as the Sooners closed the half with an 18-4 scoring run to take a 44-31 halftime lead.

OU then pushed the margin to 18 points by outscoring MU 13-8 through the 15:05 mark in the 2nd half to take a 57-39 lead.

In doing the math, that means from the 5:17 mark of the 1st half, to the 15:05 mark in the 2nd half (a span of 10:12), OU outscored Mizzou 31-12. In the remaining 29:48 of the game, MU outscored the Sooners, 59-53.

REBOUND THAT BASKETBALL

After enjoying great success in rebounding for most of the season, Missouri had a rough 2-game stretch of late on the boards.

Mizzou outrebounded its opponent in 13 of its first 17 games on the year, and held a rebounding margin of +7.9 prior to its Jan. 19 game with Colorado. That ranked MU 4th in the Big 12, a year after ranking 11th in that category with a margin of -0.7 last season.

But MU's 2 games vs. Colorado and at Oklahoma saw the Tigers get out-boarded by a 88-54 margin against Colorado (CU, 45-28) and at Oklahoma (OU, 43-26).

Colorado held a massive 26-11 advantage on the offensive glass, which led to a 26-8 edge in 2nd chance points. Much of that came after MU had established a comfortable 27-point first-half lead, though.

OU grabbed 16 offensive boards last Monday, compared to just 7 for Mizzou, which certainly was a factor in its 13-pt. win.

The Tigers got untracked Saturday in its 86-74 win over Kansas State, as MU won the battle of the boards, 38-36. MU outrebounded KSU by a 20-11 margin in the first half, and improved to 11-2 this season, and 29-5 overall under Quin Snyder when outrebounding its opponent.



GILBERT DIALS LONG DISTANCE

Senior guard Clarence Gilbert did everything he could to will his team to a victory last Monday at Oklahoma, but his 26-point performance wasn't enough, as the Tigers fell, 84-71.

Gilbert, who has started at point guard in MU's last 5 games, tied a school record by hitting 8 3-pt. field goals in Norman. He ended the game 8-of-13 from beyond the arch, and tied the record he co-held with former Tigers John Woods and Brian Grawer.

With 275 career 3-pt. field goals, Gilbert is MU's alltime leader in the category. He also ranks 2nd alltime in the Big 12, behind Jeff Boschee of Kansas, who has 278 entering Monday's showdown in Lawrence.

Gilbert has made 189 of his career 3s against Big 12 teams, so we thought it would be interesting to see who he's been most successful against beyond the arch. Here's a breakdown:

Opponent	3FGs	# Games	Avg. P/G
Baylor	6	3	2.0
Colorado	15	7	2.1
Iowa State	20	6	3.3
Kansas	19	6	3.2
Kansas State	17	9	1.9
Nebraska	24	7	3.4
Oklahoma	17	6	2.8
Oklahoma State	6	3	2.0
Texas	4	3	1.3
Texas A&M	18	5	3.6
Texas Tech	12	4	3.0

HITTING THE FREEBIES

Missouri hit 23-of-32 free throws in Saturday's win over Kansas State (71.9%), including 12 of its last 14 attempts in the game's final 2:35. MU scored its last 12 points of the game from the line.

In its last 8 games, the Tigers are connecting at a 73.2% clip from the line as a team (120-of-164).

The recent success has lifted the season team success rate to a solid 71.9%, which ranks them 4th in the Big 12.

NUMBERS THAT DON'T LIE

Numbers don't always paint an accurate picture, but there are several statistical trends that have developed this season that indicate success for Mizzou.

The Tigers are 11-0 this season when:

•Shooting better than its opponent...

(33-5 alltime under Snyder)

Additionally, this season MU is...

- 13-1 when leading at the half...
- 12-2 when outrebounding its opponent...
- 11-1 when shooting 45% or better (29-4 alltime under Quin Snyder)
- 11-1 when attempting more FTs... (38-6 alltime under Snyder)
- 9-1 when shooting 40% from 3-pt. range...

GILBERT MAKES A POINT

Following Missouri's tough 71-67 loss at Iowa State Jan. 9th, MU Head Coach Quin Snyder was adamant about getting more leadership from his team. He turned to senior guard Clarence Gilbert as the one who would be in charge, and put the career shooting guard at the point guard spot.

Gilbert has started the last 5 games at the point guard position, and has responded quite nicely, in different ways.

He had 14 pts. Saturday vs. Kansas State, and added 3 assists and a team-high 6 rebounds. Gilbert commanded the ball down the stretch, and he made 4-of-4 FTs in the game's final minute to ice things as K-State was forced to foul.

Last Monday, Gilbert turned in a 26-pt. outing at #6 Oklahoma, when he tied a school record by hitting 8 3-pt. field goals (in 13 attempts).

Gilbert wasn't hitting his shots Jan. 19 vs. Colorado (2-of-14 FGs), but more importantly, he got his teammates involved as he rang up 6 assists, with zero turnovers in 38 minutes of play.

Gilbert led the team with 4 assists Jan. 16th vs. A&M, and added 11 pts. and 1 steal. He hit just 2-of-7 shots on the night, but did a nice job of getting to the foul line, where he hit 6-of-7 freebies.

Gilbert made his 1st career start at point guard Jan. 12th at K-State, and while he wasn't officially credited with an assist, he committed just 1 turnover in 33 minutes of play, and the Tigers displayed good ball movement and executed their halfcourt offense effectively. Oh by the way, he scored 19 points against the Wildcats, on the strength of 4-of-8 from 3-pt. range. He added 5 rebounds and led his team's improved defensive efforts.

After the game, Snyder talked about Gilbert taking over as a leader for this underclass-laden team. "Clarence's heart has to beat in everybody," Snyder said. "Putting him at the point was more about, 'It's your team.'"

Gilbert continues to ascend the MU career scoring chart, as he now ranks 11th alltime in MU history, with 1,402 points. He passed

BEST OF THE SNYDER ERA

FEWEST POINTS ALLOWED (GAME)

47	vs. Coppin St.	12:02
48	vs. Princeton	11:13:99
49	vs. Savannah St.	11:17:00
50	vs. Morgan State	11:27:99
50	vs. Texas A&M	1:16:02

LOWEST FG PERCENTAGE ALLOWED (GAME)

.286	vs. Valparaiso (18-63)	11:24:00
.292	vs. UT-Martin (19-65)	11:13:01
.298	vs. Savannah St. (17-57)	11:17:00
.312	at Colorado (24-77)	1:10:01
.339	Two Times	

FEWEST POINTS ALLOWED (HALF)

16	vs. Texas Tech (1st)	1:27:01
17	vs. Coppin St. (1st)	1:2:02
19	vs. Texas A&M (1st)	1:16:02
22	vs. Winthrop (1st)	1:4:00
22	vs. Kansas State (1st)	1:15:00

LOWEST FG PERCENTAGE ALLOWED (HALF)

.194	vs. Valparaiso (6-31)	11:24:00
.214	vs. Texas Tech (6-28)	1:27:01
.216	vs. UT-Martin (8-17)	11:13:01
.250	at DePaul (7-28)	12:29:01
.257	at Indiana (9-35)	12:18:00

MOST POINTS SCORED (GAME)

117	vs. Southern	12:6:01
112	vs. Iowa State (4-OT)	1:13:01
106	vs. Jackson State	11:29:01
100	vs. Grambling State	12:1:01
100	vs. Colorado	1:12:00

HIGHEST FG PERCENTAGE (GAME)

.646	vs. Colorado (31-48)	1:12:00
.611	vs. Southern (44-72)	12:6:01
.589	vs. Air Force (33-56)	11:14:01
.565	vs. Stetson (35-62)	12:30:00
.547	vs. Kansas (29-53)	1:22:00

MOST POINTS SCORED (HALF)

64	vs. Grambling St. (2nd)	12:1:01
61	vs. Southern (2nd)	12:6:01
60	at Nebraska (2nd)	2:5:00
58	vs. Jackson State (2nd)	11:29:01
56	vs. Southern (1st)	12:6:01

HIGHEST FG PERCENTAGE (HALF)

.706	vs. Illinois (2nd)	12:21:99
.650	vs. Colorado (2nd)	1:12:00
.643	vs. Colorado (1st)	1:12:00
.643	vs. DePaul (2nd)	12:6:00



MU INDIVIDUAL CAREER RECORDS

3-PT. FIELD GOALS MADE

1. Clarence Gilbert	'99-02	275
2. Brian Grawer	'98-01	210
3. Jason Sutherland	'94-97	190
4. Melvin Booker	'91-94	183
5. Kareem Rush	'00-02	178
6. Mark Atkins	'93-94	152
7. Lee Coward	'87-90	146
8. Derek Grimm	'94-97	140
9. Paul O'Liney	'94-95	122
10. John Woods	'98-99	119

3-PT. FIELD GOALS ATTEMPTED

1. Clarence Gilbert	'99-02	763
2. Brian Grawer	'98-01	501
3. Jason Sutherland	'94-97	469
4. Melvin Booker	'91-94	467
5. Kareem Rush	'00-02	412
Mark Atkins	'93-94	412
7. Lee Coward	'87-90	349
8. Derek Grimm	'94-97	335
9. Paul O'Liney	'94-95	317
10. John Woods	'98-99	313

STEALS

1. Anthony Peeler	'89-92	196
2. Brian Grawer	'98-01	195
3. Lynn Hardy	'85-88	194
4. Doug Smith	'88-91	178
5. Mike Sandbothe	'86-89	172
6. Jeff Hafer	'97-00	169
7. Jevon Crudup	'91-94	154
8. Derrick Chievous	'85-88	152
9. Melvin Booker	'91-94	147
10. Clarence Gilbert	'99-02	143

3-PT. FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE

1. Kareem Rush	'00-02	.432
2. Brian Grawer	'98-01	.419
3. Lee Coward	'87-90	.418
Derek Grimm	'94-97	.418
5. Jason Sutherland	'94-97	.405
6. Anthony Peeler	'89-92	.393
7. Melvin Booker	'91-94	.392
8. Paul O'Liney	'94-95	.385
9. John Woods	'98-99	.380
10. Mark Atkins	'93-94	.369

former Tiger legend Larry Drew Saturday, and now needs 20 points to pass John Brown for 10th place alltime.

Like most of his teammates, Gilbert struggled to find the mark in MU's 3-game December losing streak, as he was held to an average of 9.0 points on a combined 23.1% shooting (9-of-39 FGs), including just 18.5% from 3-pt. range (5-of-27 3FGs). That was a stark contrast to his superb shooting to begin the season, as he averaged 19.7 points in MU's first 9 games, shooting 47.2% from the floor, including a solid 40.6% from 3-pt. range.

Gilbert was named Big 12 Conference player of the week Dec. 10th for his play in leading MU to wins over Saint Louis and Southern.

Gilbert led MU in scoring each game, averaging 23.5 points for the week. He first had 18 points at SLU, and led the way down the stretch, as he scored 8 of MU's final 13 points in the win. Included in that were 6 consecutive points late in the game, as well as a pair of clutch foul shots with under a minute left.

He followed with a sizzling shooting performance against Southern, when he erupted for a season-high 29 points on 11-of-16 shooting (including 7-of-10 from 3-pt. range).

Here's an abridged look at the MU career scoring chart entering Monday's game:

Rank	Tiger	Years	Points
10	John Brown	1971-73	1,421
12	Clarence Gilbert	'99-02	1,402
11	Larry Drew	1977-80	1,401

Gilbert is on pace to statistically become one of the most productive players in Missouri history. Gilbert is already MU's career leader in three-point field goals (275), and if he matches last season's point total of 529, he would end his career ranking 8th on the alltime school scoring chart. He began the season ranked #28 on the scoring chart with 1,074 points.

Gilbert was the hero vs. #9 Iowa in the NABC Guardians Classic championship game, as he had a 27-point outing. He hit the game-winning free throw after being fouled with just :00.8 seconds left in the game. He was named the tournament MVP for his performances in Kansas City, where he averaged 22.5 points against two ranked teams.

Gilbert's game-winning free throw against Iowa got the headlines, but it was his leadership down the stretch that was really evident, as he helped will his team to the title.

He helped lead MU's improbable comeback win vs. Iowa with a steal, and two baskets in a 45-second stretch. He grabbed a crucial

defensive rebound with time running down, and raced down court to draw the foul just before the buzzer that set up his winning free throw.

Against #22 Alabama the night before, he led MU with 18 points, and grabbed a season-high 9 rebounds, including four huge defensive boards in the final two minutes as MU fought off a Crimson Tide charge after Kareem Rush was knocked out of the game.

MORE ON GILBERT

To help illustrate just what a solid overall player Clarence Gilbert has been in his career, consider the fact that he is on pace to end his Tiger career in the top-10 in scoring, 3-point field goals, assists and steals. He would join former All-American Melvin Booker as the only Tiger to rank in the top-10 of each of those categories.

Here's a look at where Gilbert currently ranks in each of those categories entering Monday's game:

Category	Gilbert Totals	Gilbert Rank	# Needed for 10th
Points	1402	11th	20
3-pt. FGs	275	1st	n/a
Assists	271	12th	50
Steals	143	10th	n/a

Gilbert was named one of 30 senior players as candidates for the first-annual Senior CLASS Award, to be awarded to the nation's top senior. The award stands for Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School, and is being sponsored by broadcaster Dick Enberg and the Kansas City Club.

COMPARISON SHOPPING

Mizzou began the year with 9 straight wins, but fell on hard times during a 3-game losing streak to close out December.

Here's a statistical look at what MU has managed in its 15 wins, compared to its 5 losses:

Category	15 Wins	5 Losses
Points	83.9	65.2
Opp. Points	64.7	74.6
FG Percentage	48.5%	37.7%
3-pt. FG Percentage	41.2%	30.5%
Opp. FG Percentage	42.1%	46.7%
Reb. Margin	+8.7	-5.4
Assists	16.4	10.8
FT Attempts	21.4	15.4
Opp. FT Attempts	17.4	24.6
Kareem Rush FG%	46.7%	36.0%
Clarence Gilbert FG%	41.7%	29.0%



JOHNSON-JOHNSON: AN MU DOUBLE-DOUBLE

Sophomore center Arthur Johnson is laying claim to being one of the best big men in not only the powerful Big 12 Conference, but the nation, as well.

Johnson has tallied 3 straight double-doubles in points and rebounds two different times this season. He had his latest string broken 3 games ago vs. Colorado, as he scored 20 points, but was held to a season-low 3 rebounds.

After a 14-pt. outing Saturday vs. Kansas State, Johnson is now averaging 13.4 points and 7.9 rebounds in Big 12 Conference play. He has 7 double-doubles on the season.

His performance Jan. 12th at Kansas State was nothing short of dominant, as he scored a career-high 23 points and added 15 rebounds. He hit 10-of-19 shots on the day, was a perfect 3-of-3 from the foul line, and added 2 blocks to his Big 12-leading total for the year.

On Jan. 15th, ESPN College Basketball Analyst Digger Phelps named Johnson as the most improved player in the nation in an online chat on ESPN.com.

A look at the statistics show that the Detroit, Mich. native ranks among Big 12 leaders in 5 different categories.

Heading into the weekend, Johnson led the Big 12 in blocked shots (2.00) and ranked among leaders in offensive rebounding (2nd — 3.9 p/g), total rebounding (4th — 8.5 p/g) and field goal percentage (4th — 56.5%).

Johnson had a huge outing Dec. 29 at DePaul. A.J. tallied 20 points vs. the Blue Demons (on 10-of-17 FGs), and added a season-high 18 rebounds (just one shy of his career best). His efforts kept the Tigers in the game, especially in the first half when his teammates were not playing well offensively. He scored 10 straight points for MU at one stretch in the first half.

He grabbed 16 boards Dec. 3rd at St. Louis, and added 10 vs. both Grambling and Jackson State. All 10 of his rebounds against Grambling came on the offensive end.

His 14-point, 16-rebound outing vs. SLU was a key reason why MU won the game, as the Tigers were a season-worst 1-of-10 from three-point range. MU outscored SLU in the paint, 42-28 on the night.

START ME UP: PAULDING GETS IN STARTING LINEUP

Earlier in the year, sophomore Rickey Paulding had established himself as one of the nation's top 6th-men. But his solid play warranted more playing time, and he's now been promoted to a starter, as he's started the last 7 games for MU.

The likeable Detroit, Mich. native has averaged 13.0 pts. in his last 3 games, and is coming off a solid 15-pt. outing Saturday vs. Kansas State. He nailed a career-best 3 3-pt. field goals and added 4 rebs. and 2 assists (with no turnovers) in 32 minutes of play.

The statistics weren't quite as glowing for the explosive sophomore in his 1st 4 starts, as he averaged 6.5 PPG on 33.3% FGs from Jan. 5-16, compared to 10.9 PPG and 54.7% FGs in his first 12 games off the bench.

The Detroit, Mich. native earned his 1st start of the year Jan. 5 vs. Nebraska, and he responded with a 9-pt., 6-reb. effort vs. the Huskers. He had missed MU's Jan. 2 game vs. Coppin State to attend the funeral of his grandmother.

Paulding is currently 4th on the Tiger squad with an average of 10.3 points per game, up from his freshman scoring mark of 7.0 points per game.

And while he's still MU's human highlight reel (re: countless amazing alley-oop jams throughout the year), his improvement in shooting has been arguably the most impressive part of his game this year.

Paulding currently leads Mizzou (and ranks among Big 12 leaders) in both 3-pt. shooting (43.8%) and foul shooting (80.4%). His 3-pt. rate is more than twice his production of 21.4% a year ago. Overall, Paulding is connecting at a solid 50.8% rate from the floor.

He turned in a career-high 22-pt. outing on Dec. 15th vs. #15 Iowa, in which he sank 8-of-12 shots on the night. He was one of MU's few bright spots on the night, and scored 10 points in a stretch in the first half that helped pull MU to within 5 points of Iowa, the closest MU would get all night.

BRYANT ADDS A SPARK

Mizzou's 6-foot-9 power forward Travon Bryant is unquestionably one of the most mild-mannered and polite kids around. But don't mistake his pleasant demeanor as weakness, because when he steps onto the basketball floor, Bryant has been an enforcer of late.

Since MU's disappointing loss at Iowa

MU INDIVIDUAL CAREER RECORDS

SCORING AVERAGE

1. Willie Smith	'75-76	23.9
2. Derrick Chievous	'85-88	19.8
3. John Brown	'71-73	19.7
4. Kareem Rush	'00-02	18.5
5. Charles Henke	'59-61	18.1
6. Ron Coleman	'65-67	17.7
Norm Stewart	'54-56	17.7
8. Jeff Strong	'85-86	17.5
Henry Smith	'70-71	17.5
10. Doug Smith	'88-91	17.1

BLOCKED SHOTS

1. Steve Stipanovich	'80-83	149
2. Doug Smith	'88-91	129
3. Jevon Crudup	'91-94	116
4. Arthur Johnson	'01-02	103
5. Gary Leonard	'86-89	95
6. Chris Heller	'90-94	89
7. Monte Hardge	'95-96, 98-99	72
8. Sammie Haley	'95-96	69
Greg Cavener	'82-85	69
10. Dan Bingenheimer	'85-86	66

BLOCKED SHOTS AVERAGE

1. Arthur Johnson	'01-02	1.9
2. Steve Stipanovich	'80-83	1.2
Sammie Haley	'95-96	1.2
4. Jevon Crudup	'91-94	1.1
5. Doug Smith	'88-91	1.0
Dan Bingenheimer	'85-86	1.0
7. Chris Heller	'90-94	0.9
Simeon Haley	'95-96	0.9
9. Monte Hardge	'95-96, 98-99	0.8
10. Gary Leonard	'86-89	0.7
Tate Decker	'97-98	0.7

REBOUNDING AVERAGE

1. Al Eberhard	'72-74	10.1
2. John Brown	'71-73	10.0
3. Charles Henke	'59-61	9.8
4. Ray Bob Carey	'62-64	8.5
5. Henry Smith	'70-71	8.4
6. Doug Smith	'88-91	8.2
Malcolm Thomas	'84-85	8.2
8. Arthur Johnson	'01-02	8.0
Jevon Crudup	'91-94	8.0
10. Clay Johnson	'77-78	7.8



MU IN THE BIG 12

(Thru Games of Jan. 27)

TEAM STATISTICS

Scoring Offense	5th	79.2
Big 12 Games Only	5th	75.9
Scoring Defense	4th	67.2
Big 12 Games Only	1st	67.9
Scoring Margin	4th	+12.1
Big 12 Games Only	3rd	+8.0
Free Throw Percentage	3rd	.719
Big 12 Games Only	4th	.725
Field Goal Percentage	5th	.458
Big 12 Games Only	5th	.452
Field Goal Percentage Defense	11th	.433
Big 12 Games Only	6th	.445
3-Pt. FGs Made Per Game	3rd	8.8
Big 12 Games Only	2nd	9.1
3-Pt. FG Percentage	3rd	.381
Big 12 Games Only	1st	.427
3-Pt. FG Percentage Defense	8th	.351
Big 12 Games Only	9th	.398
Rebounding	7th	38.9
Big 12 Games Only	9th	35.1
Offensive Rebounds	6th	14.75
Big 12 Games Only	8th	12.00
Rebounding Margin	6th	+5.2
Big 12 Games Only	7th	+0.7
Blocked Shots	4th	4.40
Big 12 Games Only	5th	3.86
Assists	8th	15.00
Big 12 Games Only	8th	13.86
Steals	7th	7.40
Big 12 Games Only	5th	7.71
Assist/Turnover Ratio	6th	1.11
Big 12 Games Only	6th	1.07

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS (Top 15 Rankings Only)

Scoring

Kareem Rush	3rd	19.4
Clarence Gilbert	9th	16.4
Kareem Rush (Big 12)	4th	19.6
Clarence Gilbert (Big 12)	13th	15.3

Rebounding

Arthur Johnson	5th	8.3
Arthur Johnson (Big 12)	9th	7.9

Offensive Rebounding

Arthur Johnson	3rd	3.80
Arthur Johnson (Big 12)	6th	3.57

Field Goal Percentage

Arthur Johnson	4th	.564
Arthur Johnson (Big 12)	7th	.538

Free Throw Percentage

Rickey Paulding	10th	.804
Clarence Gilbert	11th	.803
Kareem Rush (Big 12)	5th	.900
Rickey Paulding (Big 12)	7th	.895
Clarence Gilbert (Big 12)	15th	.771

Assists

Wesley Stokes	5th	5.00
Wesley Stokes (Big 12)	11th	3.71

Steals

Kareem Rush (Big 12)	2nd	2.00
Rickey Paulding (Big 12)	10th	1.57

3-Pt. Field Goals Made

Kareem Rush	1st	3.15
Clarence Gilbert	2nd	3.05
Clarence Gilbert (Big 12)	1st	3.43
Kareem Rush (Big 12)	2nd	3.29

3-Pt. Field Goal Percentage

Rickey Paulding	5th	.438
Kareem Rush	10th	.420
Rickey Paulding (Big 12)	5th	.500

Blocked Shots

Arthur Johnson	2nd	1.90
Arthur Johnson (Big 12)	11th	1.00

State on Jan. 9th, Bryant rededicated himself to bringing energy, emotion and physical play to the mix for his team, and the spark he's provided has been quite vital.

In 2 of MU's recent games, he's been involved in brief scuffles with opponents when things have gotten heated. Nothing involving cheap shots, mind you, just hard-nosed play that's been a missing ingredient in the past few years for Mizzou.

Overall, Bryant is averaging 6.4 points and 4.6 rebounds per game for the season. He leads MU in shooting, with a season mark of 60.9% from the floor, including 40.0% from 3-pt. range (2-of-5 3FGs).

He's coming off a productive 8-pt., 5-reb., 2-block outing Saturday vs. Kansas State. He was limited to 14 minutes of play due to foul trouble, and fouled out for the 3rd time in his last 5 games.

Bryant has showed a marked improvement from the foul line this year, as well. He's shooting 61.3% from the free throw line, maybe not an eye-popping number, but a drastic improvement from his rate of 28.1% last season as a freshman. He's made 9 of his last 12 free throws in MU's last 6 games.

12-GAGE RETURNS WITH A BANG

All-Big 12 wide receiver Justin Gage joined the basketball team just prior to MU's Dec. 22 game with Illinois, and he has provided immediate dividends for the hoops squad.

He's averaging 3.8 rebounds per game in his 8 outings, which is the 3rd-highest total on the team — behind only Arthur Johnson's 11.0 in those games.

MU Coach Quin Snyder wasn't sure if he would play Gage vs. the Illini, but when Tiger center Arthur Johnson got his second foul with 15:51 left in the first half, up popped Gage as MU's first sub of the contest.

Gage ended up playing 17 minutes vs. Illinois, and grabbed 7 rebounds and added 1 steal in his time.

Gage, a 6-foot-4, 208-pound forward, is playing two sports for the third straight year. He is the only Tiger, along with Kareem Rush and Clarence Gilbert, to play in each of Quin Snyder's three years at Mizzou.

He had a 4-pt. outing last Monday at #6 Oklahoma in 14 minutes before fouling out.

Prior to that, he had an outstanding game Jan. 12th in Manhattan, where he gave the Tigers a huge spark off the bench in MU's 81-66 win. Gage scored a season-high 6 pts. and added a career-best 8 rebounds in 16 minutes

of play. He was a perfect 3-of-3 from the floor and added a blocked shot in addition to his usual hard screens and hustle plays.

Gage missed the 2nd half of the Dec. 29 game at DePaul, and the 2 subsequent MU games, due to a strained right hip flexor suffered in the 1st half of the DePaul game. He returned to the floor Jan. 16 at Iowa State, and had 2 pts. and 1 rebound in 14 minutes of play.

Gage played in a total of 49 games the past two years for Snyder, and averaged 2.1 points and 2.3 rebounds per game. On the gridiron, he has led the football team in receiving each of the past two years, including 74 receptions in 2001 for 920 yards and 5 touchdowns. His receptions mark was just one catch shy of the MU single-season record.

STOKES TAKES TO NEW ROLE

After having a tough stretch on both ends of the floor in his last few games, sophomore guard Wesley Stokes was taken out of the starting lineup by Quin Snyder to take some of the pressure off. He's come off the bench in MU's last 5 games and has responded nicely to his new role.

The crowd favorite had 5 pts., 4 assists (with no turnovers), 2 steals and 1 rebound in an effective 15 minutes Saturday vs. Kansas State.

Prior to that, he had 8 pts. and added 4 assists Jan. 19 in 25 minutes of play vs. Colorado. He followed last Monday at #6 Oklahoma with a team-best 5 assists in 17 minutes.

He had a 13-pt. outing Jan. 16th vs. A&M, on 6-of-8 FGs. The 13 points was more than Stokes had scored in his last 3 games combined (12 pts.) and was the most since Dec. 1st when he had 13 vs. Grambling.

Stokes played 22 minutes Jan. 12th at KSU, and dished out 6 assists with zero turnovers. He added 1 point on a free throw.

His sharp-shooting was nice to see, as Stokes had been hoping to break from shooting struggles that saw him make just 19.4% of his attempts in a 7 game stretch from Dec. 15-Jan. 12 (7-of-36 FGs). In that same stretch he shot 16.7% (3-of-18) from 3-pt. range and averaged 4.0 points a contest.

Those rough looking shooting numbers were a stark contrast to the success Stokes enjoyed in MU's first 9 games, when he averaged 9.6 points and shot a solid 49.2% from the floor (31-of-63 FGs) and 32.1% from 3-pt. range (9-of-28 3FGs).

On Jan. 5th, Stokes turned in a solid 11-point outing vs. Nebraska in MU's Big 12



opener. He had 4 assists and added 7 rebounds, which was a team-high tying total on the game. He was clutch from the foul line with the game in the balance, as he calmly sank 4-of-4 free throws to help seal the Tiger win.

The dynamic playmaker dished out a career-high tying 11 assists (with just 2 turnovers) in MU's Jan. 2nd win over Coppin State. His unselfish efforts were vital toward MU's first 50 percent shooting night since Dec. 6th.

His assist total of 100 on the year (a per-game average of 5.0 which ranks him 5th in the Big 12 Conference) has long surpassed his freshman assist total of 67.

In early December, Stokes enjoyed quite a week (Dec. 3-9) in MU's wins over Saint Louis and Southern.

Stokes earned national attention on Dec. 3rd when he drained a 17-footer at the buzzer to keep #2 Missouri undefeated with a win at SLU. He followed those heroics by scoring 10 points and dishing out a career-high 11 assists Dec. 6th vs. Southern.

He became just the 8th player in MU history to record double figures in points and assists in a game. The last Tiger to accomplish that feat was Melvin Booker, who had 21 points and an MU-record 13 assists vs. Illinois on Dec. 22, 1993. Booker did have the benefit of three overtime periods to amass his stats, for what it's worth.

Stokes' assist total tied for the 4th-most in a single game at Missouri. Here's a look at the top-five individual assist games:

Assists	Tiger	Date	Opponent
13	Melvin Booker	12-22-93	Illinois
12	John McIntyre	12-30-87	Alabama State
12	Larry Drew	3-8-80	Notre Dame
11	WESLEY STOKES	1-2-02	Coppin State
11	WESLEY STOKES	12-6-01	Southern
11	5 Other Times		

A DAUNTING LIST OF FOES

A quick glance at the top-25 rankings reads virtually like Missouri's schedule. As many as eight past or future opponents on MU's docket currently reside in either the Associated Press Poll and the ESPN/USA Today Coaches' Poll.

Here's a quick glance at the murderer's row of foes:

Opp.	AP	ESPN	Game (Result)
Kansas	2	2	Jan. 28 / March 3
Oklahoma	6	6	L, 84-71
Virginia	7	7	Feb. 3
Illinois	9	8	L, 72-61
Oklahoma State	11	11	Feb. 25
Alabama	14	14	W, 75-68

Texas	24	nr	Feb. 17
Iowa	nr	24	W, 78-77, L, 83-65

TAKING CARE OF THE BALL

Missouri is taking quite good care of the ball thus far, as Quin Snyder's group is averaging just 13.5 turnovers per game. That's just slightly more than the school record of 13.3 turnovers per game set in the 1999-2000 season.

Here's a look at the best turnover averages by Tiger teams:

TO Avg.	Season	Final Record	Conf. Finish
13.3	1999-2000	18-13	6th
13.5	2001-02	???	???
13.7	1989-90	26-6	1st
14.1	1982-83	26-8	1st
14.2	1992-93	19-14	7th
14.5	1987-88	19-11	4th

A COMEBACK FOR THE AGES

The evening of Nov. 21st saw Missouri stage an incredible rally to gain an improbable 78-77 comeback win over 9th-ranked Iowa in the championship game of the NABC Guardians Classic in Kansas City, Mo.

The Tigers trailed Iowa by 11 points (73-62) with just 2:15 remaining, but a frantic series of events took place quickly, and when the dust settled, the game was tied with :00.8 seconds left on the clock, and MU's Clarence Gilbert was standing at the foul line to shoot two free throws. He missed the first after a series of three Iowa timeouts, but got the second one home and MU knocked away a desperation full-court heave to get the dramatic win.

All told, Mizzou outscored Iowa 14-4 over the last 2:11, and forced three turnovers.

Here's a re-cap of the key plays after Iowa's Glen Worley scored on a putback at the 2:15 mark to give the Hawkeyes a seemingly safe 73-62 lead:

Time Play	Score
2:11 Stokes 2 FTs	Iowa, 73-64
1:57 Gilbert steal and layin	Iowa, 73-66
1:53 Iowa turnover	
1:43 Stokes 2 FTs	Iowa, 73-68
1:23 Stokes steal and assist on Gilbert dunk	Iowa, 73-70
1:06 Iowa 1-of-2 FTs by Recker	Iowa, 74-70
:50 Iowa 1-of-2 FTs by Pierce after MU miss	Iowa, 75-70
:44 Rush 1-of-2 FTs	Iowa, 75-71
:41 Iowa 2 FTs by Hogan after MU fouls	Iowa, 77-71
:36 Rush 3-pt FG from downtown KC	Iowa, 77-74
:30 John forces jump ball w/Recker and wins	
:24 Paulding 3-pt FG from Echols	Tied, 77-77
:07 Gilbert rebounds Iowa missed FG by Worley	
:00.8 Gilbert 1-of-2 FTs after being fouled	MU, 78-77
:00.0 Iowa desperation heave tipped away by Paulding	

TIGER FACT-OF-THE-GAME

• MU has dealt Kansas its first conference loss of the season for each of the past 6 years (1996-2001). In 1997 & 1998, MU was the only Big 12 team to defeat KU.

• MU has lived up to its half of the MU-KU rivalry, as the Tigers have defeated top-10 ranked Jayhawk teams 9 times since 1990, including 5 of the last 6 years.

MU MILESTONES

• Clarence Gilbert needs 20 points to move past John Brown for 10th place on the MU career scoring chart. Gilbert enters the Kansas game in 11th place, with 1,402 points, trailing Brown's total of 1,421.

• Clarence Gilbert needs 3 points to move past Chris Mihm of Texas for 9th place on the Big 12 career scoring chart. Gilbert enters the Kansas game in 10th place, with 1,402 points, trailing Mihm's total of 1,404.