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season for the Cyclones, so the points he scored have to be made up. Jeff Hornacek is one of the best guards in the conference and his play also will be a key.

5: Colorado

It might be do or die for Tim Apke and, unlike his counterpart on the Colorado football team, it looks like he'll die. What do you think Apke would give for his old job at Creighton?

6: Oklahoma State

Things have gone steadily downhill for the Cowboys in recent years and the slide will continue in 1985-86. Paul Hansen probably needs a post-season bid to guarantee his return as coach.

7: Kansas State

If some newcomers mature quickly, the Wildcats could become first-division contenders. But don't expect it to happen and expect Jack Hartman to wish he had stayed off the sidelines.

Women:

The class of 1985 has left Big Eight women's basketball, taking several of the conference's top stars with it.

Missouri's Joni Davis, Iowa State's Tonia Burns, Colorado's Lisa VanGoor and Nebraska's Deb Powell all have one thing in common: they were all leaders on the court for their respective teams.

But they share another characteristic, too. All of them completed their collegiate careers last year.

Based on that, one could say the Big Eight will have a down year. But it's actually quite the contrary. Each team returns at least one player who made significant contributions last year.

Nebraska coach Kelly Hill said there's another reason.

"There are a lot of key players missing but there's a lot of new talent coming up," she said. "I don't think there's a team in the conference that hasn't improved because of their recruiting."

Here's a team-by-team conference rundown of who returns where and what they did there last year.

1: Oklahoma

Yes, the Sooners women's team has its answer to Wayman Tisdale — call her Mrs. T if you will — Jaquetta Hurley. Hurley, a senior, led the Sooners in scoring last year, averaging 17.2 points a game.

Oklahoma, runnerup to Missouri during the regular season, is the favorite to win the conference this year, Hill said.

"They have the most speed of any team in the nation," Hill said. "They're definitely the pick of the conference."

Hill said the Sooners have beefed up a week non-conference schedule and, because of that, will probably be nationally ranked this year.

Besides Hurley, other returning starters include Viki Streets and Lisa Allison.

2: Missouri

The Tigers, who finished the year with a 22-9 record and the Big Eight regular season championship, lost everybody's All-American when Davis left.

Although Davis, who used to tape her long blonde hair to keep it out of her face, has graduated, the Tigers return two capable scorers. Sarah Campbell averaged 15.4 points and Renee Kelly 13.5 points a game last year.

3: Iowa State

No, their nickname isn't "Lady Cyclones" — just Cyclones. They were 12-16 last year, and probably won't be much better this year with the loss of Burns.

Hill said she was glad to see Burns go.

"She set a new record every time she played against us," Hill said.

Iowa State returns two double-figure scorers from last year's squad — Jane Lobenstein (11.5 points) and Monica Missel (10.5).

4: Kansas State

Kansas State, 16-13 last year, returns two of the conference's strongest players. Guard Cassandra Jones scored at a 17.1 clip last season and her back court running mate, Carlisa Thomas, averaged 10.5.

5: Colorado

The Lady Buffs tried to spell V-A-N-G-O-O-R last year, but finished with a 6-22 record.

Two players Colorado coach Ceal Barry hopes will bring them some respectability this season are LeAnn Banks and Kris Holwerda. Banks scored 13.4 points a game and averaged 9.6 rebounds last year. Holwerda averaged 6.5 points and ran the offense from her guard position.

Another player, who has the potential to develop into a force, is forward Melinda Balm. She stands 6-4.

6: Kansas

The Jayhawks have not only the conference's tallest players — 6-5 center Kelly Jennings — but also have the highest scoring returnee in Vicki Adkins. Adkins averaged 20.4 points a game last year and led Kansas to a 19-10 record.

7: Oklahoma State

The Lady Cowboys (oops, I mean Cowgirls) were 7-11 last year. Hill said they sign a lot of junior college players, so they have a lot of question marks as to who their starters will be. Jackie Glossen and Kathy Schultz are their top returnees.

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