



WEATHER Partly cloudy today; high 50. Snow showers tonight; low 30. Partly sunny tomorrow; high 40.

SHOOT OUT Catch a preview of the Wildcat basketball season and top SEC and nation teams. See "Shootin' For Two" inside.



FRi
November 8, 1996

Classified 7 SEC morning 6
Crossword 7 Sports 2
Divisions 4 Viewpoint 6

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UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

INDEPENDENT SINCE 1971

Students join fellow UK donors

By Anthony Zechella
Contributing Writer

Alright UK students, time to go through the things-to-do list for the upcoming semester: make schedules, find your dream job and give UK \$10,000 in order to become a Fellow.

This is exactly what four UK seniors are doing. Tonight at 6:30 at Heritage Hall, Carrye Jenkins, Whitney Hale, Heath Lovell and one other student who wants to remain anonymous, will become UK Fellows and attend their first Fellows Society Dinner.

Lori Kincaid, associate director of major gifts, said the students will join a 30-year tradition consisting of more than 4,200 contributors including such notable figures as Gov. Paul Patton, former Gov. Martha Layne Collins, UK basketball coach Rick Pitino and William T. Young as Fellows.

Kincaid said the list of UK Fellows runs the gamut from small children whose parents contributed money in their names to people in their late senior years.

On top of meeting some impressive people, the four students will be given a plaque, be invited to the annual banquet, and be given the opportunity to join the Faculty Club and Spindletop Hall.

"The main benefit of becoming a Fellow is that it allows a student to give something back to the university," Kincaid said.

UK students fellows

Four UK seniors have been named Fellows.

- ▼ Carrye Jenkins
- ▼ Whitney Hale
- ▼ Heath Lovell
- ▼ One anonymous student

Students interested in becoming a Fellow should contact the William Sturgill Development office or call 257-3911

\$240 for the first five years of the program and then \$880 for the next ten years.

For students between the ages of 25 and 30, the

payment is \$240 a year until their 30th birthday, at which time they have 10 years to pay the rest of the money.

Jon Zachem, director of major gifts, said just because the overall payment is deferred, this does not change the treatment of these Fellows.

"These people are UK Fellows just like anyone else," he said.

For Jenkins, an accounting senior, the plan is a perfect fit because the payments are spread out and she controls where the money goes.

"I knew I wanted to donate to UK because I want to see it continue to be successful. This (program) gave me the opportunity to channel my donation," Jenkins said.

"How they have it worked out is great because on top of the payment plan, I designate where my money goes, whether it be a certain college or department or wherever I decide."

Whitney Hale, a political science senior, also saw becoming a Fellow as an opportunity to give back to the university and insure its future success.

"I feel that I have learned a lot at the university by being involved in student activities and the Greek community. Being a Fellow helps to continue a tradition of excellence in academics, athletics, and student involvement at UK," said Hale.

NEWSbytes

STATE Fire sweeps bourbon warehouses

BARDSTOWN, Ky.—A spectacular fire swept through several buildings at a central Kentucky distillery yesterday, sending flames hundreds of feet into the air and a river of burning whiskey flowing across the complex.

"The runoff from the fire, the burning whiskey, ran downhill in all directions," said Bardstown firefighter Kerry Monin.

Monin said about 100 firefighters from more than a dozen fire departments were fighting the blaze about 1 1/2 miles south of Bardstown.

No serious injuries were reported at the distillery fire, about 35 miles south of Louisville, but two firefighters were treated for smoke inhalation. One of the distillery's co-owners was reportedly treated for smoke inhalation at the scene. The fire, which broke out about 2 p.m., spread quickly with winds gusting to 30 mph.

Each of the warehouses, about seven stories high, contains from 250,000 to 500,000 gallons of whiskey or distilled spirits, said Bardstown Volunteer Fire Department Assistant Chief Tim Conder. Bourbon also spilled into a nearby creek, setting the creek partly ablaze.

Witnesses reported barrels exploding and shooting into the air. Nearby homes were evacuated.

The company, Kentucky's only family-owned distillery, makes several best-selling bourbons, including Evan Williams and Elijah Craig.

Storm unleashes strong winds, floods

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—A potent fall storm packing damaging winds and heavy rains swept across Kentucky yesterday.

A tornado was reported in rural Simpson County but apparently did not touch down, the sheriff's office said. No injuries or damage were reported. A funnel cloud that never touched down also was reported in southern Taylor County in south-central Kentucky.

The storm unleashed high winds that toppled walls at an eastern Kentucky school and dumped heavy rains that caused flooding in western Kentucky. High winds overturned a small boat on the Green River in western Kentucky, and one of the three men aboard drowned, authorities said.

Mike Callahan, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Louisville, said the storm was triggered by a "strong, vigorous cold front."

He said having such a strong fall storm is "a little bit unusual."

Winds reaching 50 to 60 mph lashed portions of south-central and north-central Kentucky, prompting a series of thunderstorm warnings.

Some areas received more than four inches of rain by yesterday afternoon.

NAMEdropping

Dole to make Letterman appearance

NEW YORK—With no transition duties to worry about, presidential election loser Bob Dole is headed for an appearance with David Letterman.

Dole is a scheduled guest on "Late Show with David Letterman" tonight, along with broadcaster Ted Koppel and singer Mary Chapin Carpenter, Letterman spokeswoman Rosemary Keenan said yesterday.

Letterman's show is being broadcast from Washington tonight, part of a series of trips he's making around the country during the critical November ratings "swamp" period.

The show will be taped today.

Compiled from wire reports

Sanders Center expands

By Jennifer E. Smith
Staff Writer

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the new addition to the UK Sanders-Brown Center on Aging building got underway yesterday morning at the Kentucky Clinic.

UK President Charles Wehington, UK Chancellor Medical Center and Chancellor James Holsinger, and Aging Center Director Dr. William Markesbery spoke at the ceremony.

The UK Sanders-Brown Center on Aging opened in 1979 and, according to Wehington, has become "internationally regarded as one of the premiere centers for aging research."

Research at the center focuses mainly on strokes, Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease.

"The center is working hard to unravel the mysteries of these diseases," Wehington said.

With the new building comes further studies on other aspects of aging. Research on heart disease, atherosclerosis and healthy aging in general will increase.

The new addition will provide 20 new research labs and will bring new programs.

"The addition will provide much-needed expansion of laboratory space and technological advances," Holsinger said.

The new building will be 34,000 square feet, providing ample room for new laboratories.

The grants for the new building came from the National Institutes of Health, as well as from other



PLAYING IN THE DIRT Medical Center Chancellor James Holsinger, UK President Charles Wehington and other UK officials break ground for the Sanders-Brown Center on Aging yesterday.

private contributions. The NIH provided \$1.75 million; private contributions amounted to \$7.85 million.

The construction of the addition has been estimated to cost \$9.5 million.

"This is an extremely important milestone for the Sanders-Brown Center for Aging. The University administration has been extremely supportive of the center over the years. Without private support, we never would have gotten this far," Markesbery said.

The addition is expected to be completed in February 1998. The new laboratories will be modeled after those in the Health Sciences Research Building and will feature shared equipment rooms, shared environmental rooms and a central sterilizing facility.

Upon completion, the center will "improve quality

of life for Kentuckians," Holsinger said.

In addition to what the new center will bring to gerontology research, it will also provide new opportunities to UK gerontology doctorate students.

Chancellor Holsinger said the new center will have an impact on undergraduate students as well as the elderly.

"Our students, unfortunately, are going to be just like the rest of us, but they're just about 50 years behind us in the aging process," Holsinger said.

The benefits that come from the research at the Sanders-Brown research center will affect students in time. "By the time students grow old, we'll have found the answers to the questions that we've been searching for," Holsinger said.

Holsinger expects new courses for undergraduate students to stem from the addition.

Laser Quest hosts annual fundraiser

By Ginny Tulum
Contributing Writer

Students who want to help Lexington's children come to Laser Quest for the third annual Big Brothers/Big Sisters fundraiser.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Bluegrass is an organization that provides children from single-parent households with a "big brother" or a "big sister."

Ernie Hatfield, executive director of Big Brothers/Big Sisters, said children ages 6 to 13 are in need of mature adults to be positive role models.

Most of the children in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program come from families that are at or above the poverty level, Hatfield said.

There is no cost to the families who are a part of the program.

Currently, about 200 boys and 70 girls are in need of big brothers or big sisters.

Students are eligible to be big brothers or big sisters, but they need to be able to devote a large portion of their time to the program. Volunteers must live in the Lexington area for 12 months while they are a part of the program.

Fred Shank, a journalism senior from Washington, D.C., was a volunteer in the program and said



LOOKING ahead

Laser Quest for Big Brothers and Big Sisters costs \$6 and runs through Nov. 17 at South Hill.

he enjoyed seeing the children's smiling faces.

Shank helped with the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Haunted House and Easter Egg hunts.

For students who can't be involved in the program because of time constraints, Shank suggested they become a part of an organization that volunteers with Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

Even if students cannot volunteer with the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program, they can still help out by playing Laser Quest this week and next week.

This is the third year Laser Quest has been helping to raise money for Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

The organization has raised between \$7,000 and \$10,000 each year through Laser Quest.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters is operated by the United Way and receives about 40 percent of its funding through them, said Hatfield.

A portion of the money raised through the Laser Quest activity will go to operating funds for Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

Hatfield said funds also go to salaries of case managers and social workers.

"We need a good staff to make a difference," Hatfield said.

According to Hatfield, each child costs the program about \$700 per year. But the future of the child is worth every penny.

"Every child counts," Hatfield said.

"Every child is important."

The Laser Quest Big Brothers/Big Sisters Fund Raiser is going on now through Sunday, Nov. 17.

The cost is \$6 per person for a 20-minute game.

Telephone directories hit campus locations

By Kathy Reding
Assistant News Editor

The wait is over.

If students are tired of calling campus information for numbers it doesn't even have yet, they can now find the updated information on their own.

If students are tired of having people call their rooms and ask for the people who lived there their last year, the flood of these calls should slow.

The new campus telephone directories are finished and are on their way to all residence hall rooms and professors' offices.

Beginning yesterday and continuing today, members of Lambda Chi Alpha social fraternity and Alpha Delta Pi social sorority began distributing the Student Government Association's 1996 campus telephone books.

Alan Aja, SGA president, said the two Greek organizations are delivering the books to all on-campus residents.

Each organization will receive \$300 for its efforts.

Originally, Aja said he had taken \$600 out of his budget that had been put there to pay for phone book distribution, because he intended for SGA to do the job.

When the Senate passed the SGA budget, it added the money back into the budget for the task.

"They put in back in, so we had to spend it," Aja said.



By Monday everybody should have a phone book or access to one.

Alan Aja Student Government Association president

SGA decided to bid the job out to the fraternity and sorority that could guarantee them the highest number of volunteers to get the books to residence halls and Greek houses.

With this method, no particular group will be earning money for the work, but it will go to charities.

Aja said the Physical Plant Division is responsible for delivering the directories to all offices and UK employees.

Students who live off campus can pick up the new books at the SGA office or at Wildcat Calling.

"By Monday everybody should have a phone book or access to one," Aja said.

Aja said this year's books are out right on time, since they are scheduled to come out at the beginning of November.

In past years they have been distributed as late as the end of the month, he said.

The books take some time to prepare because the publishers have to wait for the different University departments to get the updated numbers.

A separate printer and publisher are responsible for putting the book together.

They are allowed to use SGA's name because SGA is paid more than \$15,000 for the directories.

"They publish it and get money out of the advertisements," said Aja.

"That's why they're free."

He said some universities charge students and faculty for directories.



Newsroom: 257-1915
Advertising: 257-2871
Fax: 323-1906
E-Mail: kernel@pop.uky.edu
Homepage: http://www.kernel.uky.edu

Editor In Chief Brenna Reilly
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Wildcats battle Bulldogs tomorrow

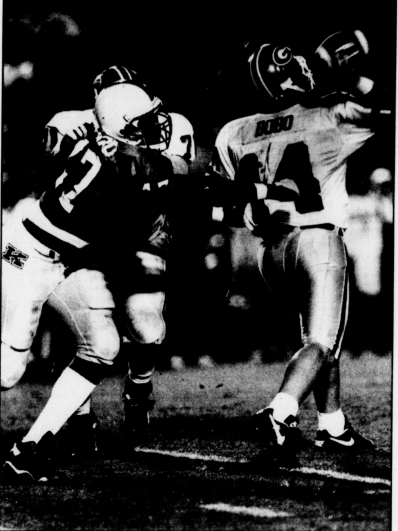
By Chris Easterling
Sports Editor

The UK football team (2-6 overall, 1-4 in the Southeastern

Conference) tries to win two in a row tomorrow when they face Mississippi State at 1:30 p.m. at Commonwealth Stadium. "We had some marked

improvement in our last outing," UK Coach Bill Curry said. "Hopefully, we'll continue to show improvement." MSU enters the game coming off of a 59-0 rout of Northeast Louisiana, a win that MSU Coach Jackie Sherrill said "obviously wasn't against a SEC team."

MSU (3-4, 1-3) is led by quarterback Derrick Taite, who has thrown for 527 yards on 42-of-90 passing. Running back Robert Isaac leads the Bulldog ground game with 349 yards.



SAM HAVERSTICK/Kentucky Kernel staff

SACK HAPPY UK defensive end Chris Ward is currently fourth in the SEC in sacks with six.

Coaching candidates update
UK Athletics Director C.M. Newton has been granted permission to speak to Tennessee offensive coordinator David Cutcliffe and San Francisco 49ers wide receiver coach Larry Kirksey about the head football coaching vacancy.

Next coach to go?
Sherrill may be the next SEC coach to receive a pink slip, as MSU fans have become increasingly upset with the six-year Bulldog coach. The disappointment stems from last year's 3-8 record, as well as the slow start the Bulldogs have gotten off to this year.

Coaching candidates update
UK Athletics Director C.M. Newton has been granted permission to speak to Tennessee offensive coordinator David Cutcliffe and San Francisco 49ers wide receiver coach Larry Kirksey about the head football coaching vacancy.

Willson to return for Cats
Senior free safety Kiyov Wilson has been cleared by doctors to play in tomorrow's game against MSU. Wilson suffered two broken bones in his hand against South Carolina, and he had to undergo reconstructive surgery. Some believed that he would be out for the rest of the season following the surgery.

Coaching candidates, Part Two
One name that has been tossed around as a possible replacement for Curry is Ohio State assistant Joe Hollis. Hollis has said that he would possibly be interested in the job, but has not officially been contacted by Newton.

Tough schedule
According to weekly computer rankings, which are published by the Seattle Times, UK has faced the sixth-toughest schedule in the nation. Only Georgia has a tougher schedule among SEC schools.

Apparently, a couple of Big 10 teams who have already made decisions on their coaches are also interested in stealing from the top team in the conference.

The Wildcats' slate has six teams that currently have winning records, five of whom the Cats have already faced. Tennessee (6-1) is the only team with a winning record they haven't faced yet.

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Pitino assistants taking over SEC

By Eddie Pells
Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Since UK won it all last year, it wouldn't be surprising to see a lot of people steal a page from Rick Pitino's playbook.

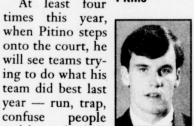
Donovan so much believes in Pitino's system that he's throwing conventional wisdom aside in Florida.

Donovan said, "But we're not really alike personality-wise. I don't think about doing things like he did when I'm at practice."

Having each spent time working for Pitino, Georgia's Tubby Smith and Florida's Billy Donovan already have a head start.

Most coaches without a lot of talented athletes would do what Lon Kruger did with the Gators last year — slow things down, shorten games and hope to be close at the end. But Donovan said he's convinced an up-tempo game based on Pitino's style will work better.

Smith also is sold on the Pitino method. He went to UK with Pitino in 1989 and watched him take the program from probation to a 22-6 record in two seasons. Smith went 79-43 and made two NCAA appearances in four years at Tulsa. When he moved to Georgia last year, he got a veteran team to start running. It resulted in a trip to the Sweet 16.



Pitino

At least four times this year, when Pitino steps onto the court, he will see teams trying to do what his team did best last year — run, trap, confuse people and keep the ball moving.

"From an athletic standpoint, we've got to do things to camouflage some of our weaknesses," said Donovan, who doesn't have any players returning who averaged more than 11 points last year. "I think you best camouflage those weaknesses by playing this style of play."

"Billy's style of play is similar to ours, which is like Kentucky's," Smith said. "I don't know if we all run it as effectively."

He said he wouldn't have it any other way.

While he believes in the up-tempo game, Donovan doesn't want to spend the rest of his coaching career known as a Pitino clone. He said anyone who looks closely will be able to tell the difference.

"I think we move people out so much because they can't wait to get away from me," Pitino said. "You work a lot of 18-hour days here. But they do a great job. I wouldn't be where I am now without a dedicated staff."

"I try to hire only future head coaches," Pitino said yesterday at Southeastern Conference media days.

"We're similar in that we both have strong backgrounds in basketball," Donovan said.

"I think we move people out so much because they can't wait to get away from me," Pitino said. "You work a lot of 18-hour days here. But they do a great job. I wouldn't be where I am now without a dedicated staff."

HAROLD'S ANNIVERSARY SALE

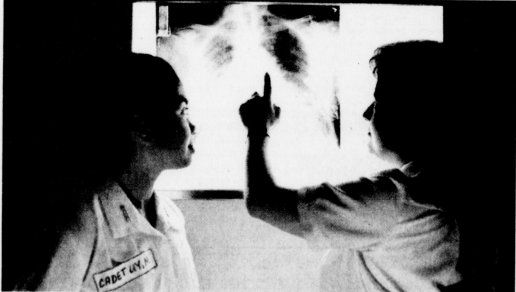
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Razorback Burns Vandy in tourney

By Jeff Vinson
Senior Staff Writer

The Arkansas Lady Razorbacks avenged a disappointing loss two weeks ago to Vanderbilt with a first-round victory over the Commodores in the opening game of the Southeastern Conference Women's Soccer Tournament.

In a scoreless tie decided in overtime by penalty kicks, Britany Burns' blistering groundstroke found its way past diving Commodore goalie Rebecca Leif to win it for SEC Western Division champion Arkansas 0-0 (4-3). It was only the second tournament game ever decided by penalty kicks.

"I was nervous, but I tried to put a front on," said Vandy head coach Ken McDonald. "The game was pretty much our season in a nutshell."

"On a given day on our schedule, with the exception of maybe the Top 10 or 15 in the country, we could beat anybody on a given day or lose to anybody on a given day."

Last season it was UK that sent Vanderbilt home from the tournament in Auburn, Ala., beating the Dores in the semifinals 1-0.

The heavily favored Florida Gators, beat the weather and Tennessee, scoring three goals in the second half of Game 2 of the SEC soccer tournament.

High winds and a torrential downpour forced officials to halt the match in the 73rd minute of action. Fans scattered for cover and players scurried off the field — first to team tents, then to awaiting buses — as sheets of rain drenched UK's new soccer stadium.

No. 8 Florida (18-2) advances to the semifinals where it will play the winner of today's UK-Auburn match. The Vols (7-12-1) finished their first season of women's soccer.

She has made a huge difference this season and I can't say enough about the way she played."

The Lady Razorbacks move on to the semifinals where they will play the winner of today's Georgia-Alabama contest.

As for the Commodores, who were bidding for their third conference tourney title in four years, the early exit ends their roller coaster season.

"We just weren't able to get going," said Vandy head coach Ken McDonald. "The game was pretty much our season in a nutshell."

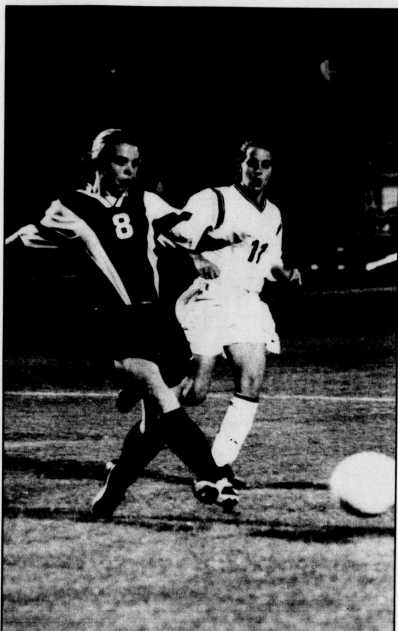
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BILL MARLOWE Kernel staff

TOUGH BREAK Vanderbilt was eliminated in the first round of the SEC Women's Soccer Tournament yesterday.

Seconds before the game was called, Jessica Fraser sent a rocket-shot into the right corner of the goal from 20 yards out to cap the Florida scoring.

Tennessee goalie Natalie Balash was under fire all game long. The Gators launched 14 shots on goal in the first half, 24 for the game. UT also played suffocating defense, not allowing a Volunteer shot on goal.

Pini added another score five minutes later with a rebound goal off a Danielle Fotopoulos miss.

Weather postpones some late games

By Rob Herbst
Assistant Sports Editor

The highlight or lowlight from yesterday's Southeastern Conference Women's Soccer Tournament just might have been a flying milk crate.

When the monsoon-like conditions hit the UK soccer stadium, a milk crate came out of nowhere, flew in the wind, and did a victory tour around the field taunting those soaked soccer buffs who were in attendance.

That signaled the end of soccer for the day. It occurred immediately after the Florida-Tennessee first-round matchup was halted at 73:07.

Because teams must play at least 70 minutes for a game to be official, Florida was awarded the 3-0 victory.

Two first-round games were postponed due to the inclement conditions. Georgia and Alabama will play at 1 p.m. today with the UK-Auburn game following at 3 — weather permitting.

The semifinals, originally scheduled for this evening, will be set at later time.

Balance of power

There is little question as to which division of the SEC is the strongest.

Coming into the tournament, the East had four teams that were either ranked nationally or receiving votes and both tournament wildcard teams came from the East.

When it comes to head-to-head play, the Eastern Division held a 15-2-1 record over the West.

But Arkansas carried the banner for the West as they went on to defeat Eastern Division member Vanderbilt.

History doesn't repeat itself

Though Vanderbilt entered the tournament as a wildcard and Arkansas was the No. 1 seed from the West, the Commodores were favored to win.

Two weeks ago Vanderbilt trounced the Lady Razorbacks 5-1 in Fayetteville.

Vanderbilt head coach Ken McDonald blamed his team's lack of effort for the loss.

"In the end, you saw a better effort from the Arkansas team," McDonald said. "They just battled more today and really deserved it. I thought they had a full game of battling while our team battled for only a half and the overtime."

Wind factor

With a strong north wind blowing yesterday, the team going into the wind had little opportunity to produce and sustain an offensive attack.

The stats don't lie.

In the first half of the game, Vanderbilt had the wind at their back and produced eight shots compared to the Lady Razorbacks' one shot.

But after the teams switched sides and the second half was complete, Arkansas led in total shots 14-10.

Twin killing

The first-round match between Florida and Tennessee was an old fashioned family feud.

Twins Rande and Keree Koepfel faced each other on the field for the second time this year.

Rande is a junior forward for the Gators and Keree is a junior forward for the Vols.

Before their previous matchup this year, the twins from Scottsdale, Ariz., had not competed against each other in almost 10 years.

...thank God we practiced PKs (penalty kicks) yesterday."



Janet Rayfield
Arkansas women's soccer coach

Cool Cats bring 7-1 record into weekend play

UK split in last two games on the road against St. Louis

By Ryan Kramer
Staff Writer

This weekend the Cool Cats welcome Michigan State into the "Cat House." The Cool Cats (7-1) are coming off a split with St. Louis last week.

The Cool Cats are in the heart of their season right now and are playing like they want to win. The offense and solid goaltending have pushed the team right where they want to go.

In the first series of this eight-game gut check, the Cool Cats swept Bowling Green by a combined score of 21-6. Last week in St. Louis, they managed to net 13 goals.

On Friday night the Cool Cats fell just short for their first loss of the season. The offense could not get its flow for the first time of the season. Saturday afternoon, the offense found

the groove that had eluded them the night before.

With Justin Hosie playing solid in the net, the Cool Cats rolled to a 9-4 victory. One of St. Louis' goals was a fluke: Hosie went to intercept a centering pass, and the puck trickled past him into the net.

Other than Friday's game, the Cool Cats seemed invincible, and on this Friday and Saturday night at midnight they look to keep on rolling over opposing teams in the fifth and sixth games of the stretch.

In addition to offense, the goalies have held solid ground. Sophomore Hosie has carried a lot of the load playing in three of the four games, allowing nine goals, including a one-goal performance against Bowling Green. Junior Chris Page played extremely well in his game against Bowling Green, grabbing 19 saves.

Coach Gord Summers does not want the team to let up right now, coming home. "Practice this week was really tough. We

with 18.6 points a game. Auburn's Pat Burke was the choice at center, while South Carolina guards Larry Davis and Melvin Watson rounded out the team.

The Gamecocks were chosen to finish second in the SEC East by all 14 writers.

They were followed by Tennessee, Vanderbilt, Georgia and Florida.

In the West, Auburn was picked second, followed by Alabama, Mississippi State, Ole Miss and LSU.

skated hard and he kept us going. But I really think I'm ready," Hosie said.

Hosie being ready is good news for the Cool Cats, because so far this season, solid play from the goalies has led to a huge offensive night, which has meant a big blow-out.

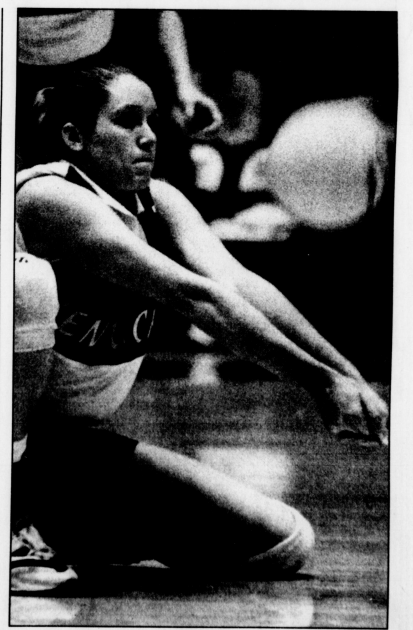
Michigan State comes to town as the Cool Cats' hardest series of the season by far. A number of the players have been looking towards this game for a long time, including defenseman Curtis Manning.

"We will have to see where we are at the Michigan State game. Coming back from St. Louis, we will be ready to play at home again," said Manning before the eight-game stretch began.

The Cool Cats will be looking forward to a packed house this weekend.

"The 'Cat House' has been empty for a while now, and the players cannot wait to get back home.

"The crowd pumps us up. We have a lot of showmen on this team, and there is nobody to show our stuff to on the road," Hosie said of the home-ice advantage.



JAMES CRISP Kernel staff

GETTING DOWN The UK volleyball team plays host to Tennessee tomorrow night at 6 p.m. at Memorial Coliseum. It will be the Wildcats' Senior Night. The Cats played UT last night in Knoxville.

Wildcats picked to repeat in East; Mercer selected to All-SEC team

By Eddie Pells
Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Defending national champion UK was a unanimous choice among beat reporters to win the Southeastern Conference's East Division, while the reporters picked Arkansas to win the SEC West.

Conference officials polled 14 reporters, who returned their ballots yesterday at the conference's annual gathering of media and basketball coaches.

UK sophomore forward Ron Mercer, who was considered the top prep recruit in 1994-95, was the only unanimous selection to the preseason All-SEC team. Also on the team were Alabama forward Eric Washington, the conference's leading returning scorer

with 18.6 points a game. Auburn's Pat Burke was the choice at center, while South Carolina guards Larry Davis and Melvin Watson rounded out the team.

The Gamecocks were chosen to finish second in the SEC East by all 14 writers.

They were followed by Tennessee, Vanderbilt, Georgia and Florida.

In the West, Auburn was picked second, followed by Alabama, Mississippi State, Ole Miss and LSU.

Bama's Washington needs help

Crimson Tide coach David Hobbs says if Eric Washington is going to enjoy a repeat of last year, when he was the conference's second-leading scorer, he's going to need some help.

"Everyone is going to come in knowing that you have to stop Eric Washington if you want to stop Alabama this year," Hobbs said. "If we don't have somebody else on the perimeter who can score — if we don't have somebody inside who can take some pressure off — it's going to be hard for him."

University of Kentucky Hockey 1996 Cool Cats Schedule

Friday, November 8	Michigan State
Saturday, November 9	Michigan State
Saturday, November 16	Indiana
Saturday, December 14	Louisville
Friday, January 12	Ohio State
Saturday, January 13	Ohio State
Saturday, February 1	Dartmouth
Friday, February 2	Kansas
Saturday, February 3	Kansas
Friday, February 10	Iowa State
Saturday, February 11	Iowa State

All games start at Midnight at the Lexington Ice Center

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Loosely based on the 1956 film of the same title, *Ransom* tells the story of a prominent, wealthy airline owner, Tom Mullen (Mel Gibson), whose son is nabbed. The kidnappers want \$2 million, with no cops or FBI involved — or the kid gets sliced to pieces. Mullen and his wife (Rene Russo) panic, then decide to give up the cash ... with the FBI's supervision.

The plan fails for both sides, and tensions begin to rise. After trying to go through the usual channels of law and failing, Mullen gives the bad guys the finger by turning the ransom money into a bounty reward for their heads. The film transforms into a classic showdown between good and bad, with a little deception to keep audiences honest.

The all-star cast doesn't disappoint. Russo is weak in opening scenes but comes back strong, and Gibson has only a few lapses in an otherwise excellent performance. The best performances, however, come from the stellar ensemble of supporters. Gary Sinise is despicable as the mastermind behind the abduction, and Delroy Lindo is solid as the FBI agent assigned to the case. Dan Hedaya provides one of the more memorable

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DANGEROUS GAMES Mel Gibson (above) stars as business tycoon Tom Mullen, who orchestrates a daring plan to get his son back from kidnappers. In *'Small Faces'* (below) Kevin McKidd plays Malky Johnson, the leader of the gang, the Tong.

'Ransom', 'Faces' make the grade

By Dan O'Neill
Assistant Arts Editor

Ransom
Touchstone Pictures
★★★★

A pack of high-priced movie stars, a conservative director and high expectations: the perfect setting for a bad film in Hollywood. *Ransom*, however, came up aces, thanks to some fine acting and a tension-filled script — or maybe it was just the pleasant shock of seeing mass quantities of blood in a Ron Howard film. Yes, the whiny-voiced redhead gets R-rated with a blood-gushing, gun-firing, kidnapping tale sure to make audience wince on more than one occasion.

While director Howard gets away from the fluff, his usual glossy touch is ever-present. The film just didn't look real or feel natural.

It was as if each scene had been played out on a movie set, with each move choreographed and followed to cue.

For a movie containing a number of bold plot twists, the end was surprisingly ordinary. The film's concluding images, which switch to black and white, are out of place and distance the film even further from any sense of reality.

But alas, if movies actually looked and felt real, box office receipts would go down the toilet. The majority of movie-goers attend films as an escape from the stresses of everyday reality, not to re-experience reality. In that sense, *Ransom* succeeds in every



area. For what it is — a pricey, high-profile Hollywood film — there haven't been many that have done it better.

Small Faces
October Films
★★★1/2

While it's inevitable for *Small Faces*, or any Scottish film for that matter, to draw comparisons to Danny Boyle's highly stylized cult hit *Trainspotting*, such a comparison would be unfair. To make things worse Kevin McKidd, who played Tommy in *Trainspotting*, also plays an important role in this film.

Putting that aside, *Small Faces* does just fine as a more personal project, without the incomprehensible accents of Begbie and Spud.

Directed by Gillies MacKinnon and co-written with brother Billy, the film is a semi-autobiographical coming of age story of growing up in Glasgow in the late 60s. The two don't break any new ground in this overdone genre, but their piece has an unusual quality that separates it from the rest — the ability to place likable characters, in an unlikely setting without too many clichés.

It tells the story of the three MacLean brothers living in Govanhill, a city overrun by gang warfare and drug addiction. The youngest, 13-year-old Lex, is torn between which of his older brothers to support.

In addition, a childish prank with a pellet gun, gets him into serious trouble with a vicious local

MOVIEreviews

★★★★ Sacred
★★★★ Triumphant
★★★ Respectable
★★ Impaired
★ Repulsive

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By Ro Arts E

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By Adi Staff W

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A truly final last call at The Wrocklage

By Robert Duffly
Arts Editor

For eight long years, there has been a place in Lexington where anyone could go to see upcoming bands like Soundgarden, Primus, Screaming Trees and The Replacements. Of course, when they performed nobody knew who they were, but they were there nonetheless playing their hearts out.

But now, another page of history turns as The Wrocklage forever closes its doors to the public tomorrow after nearly 2,000 concerts.

"Kentucky Central took over the building about three years ago and they're in bankruptcy proceedings so they're not able to do anything with it," said David Butler, owner of the club. "We tried to buy the building and remodel the upstairs, and finally we decid-

ed to sell the bar, but they weren't in a position to do these things so because of that we finally decided to dissolve the lease."

The Wrocklage has a simple history. There was no controversy surrounding the opening; it was just a couple of guys wanting a place to hear some good live music.

"I worked at the bar that was there before called The Bottomline," Butler said. "One night they just packed their stuff and left. So a couple of other bartenders and myself called the landlord on a whim to see if we could buy it and one thing we led to another and the next thing we knew (was that) we had a bar."

Up until recently, however, the bar has been the place to go to hear something other than mainstream music.

"It's changed a lot over the year as the music scene has changed a lot, too," Butler said. "At one time it was the only place you could go to hear original music."

Butler isn't the only person to share this sentiment. Ross Compton, president of UK's Student Activities Board, helped sponsor many concerts when he previously worked with WRFL, 88.1 FM.

"For many years, it was the only thing keeping the progressive music scene alive," Compton said.



LOOKING ahead

The Yonders will play The Wrocklage's final show on Saturday night.

The band is local, but not the sound

By Adam Little
Staff Writer

Engineers, painters and teachers. These are not the types of people that one would expect to play in a rock and roll band. However, these are the components which make up the illustrious group Rabby Feeber. With the traditional sound of percussion and rhythm, bass guitars and vocals, this local band proves that their sound is anything but just local.

The ambitious group first came together in 1992 when members of other local groups decided to coexist as one.

"We all brought our own experiences and abilities to the group," said Lawrence Tarpey, the vocalist for the group. "Everyone seems to get along just fine with each other even though the age gap ranges from 39 to 25."

Their current album, *Rabby Road*, is not one to be taken light-

ly. This is a well produced album with a wide variety of music ranging from strong aggressive tones to more softly noted passive tones.

This album is the second release of the group. Their first release, *Justus*, was a self produced album which displayed the band members' diverse talents combining to make a new sound that, in essence, is the sound of Rabby Feeber.

"It was a strictly live kind of album," said Tarpey about his band's first release.

Also self produced, *Rabby Road* includes such songs as "Master of Soloflex," "Headed to Chihuahua," and "Vampires with Stapleguns." These songs illustrate the ability of their very own.

"We used to sample a lot of music," Tarpey said. "But now, we are shaking things up a little bit."

Tarpey, a local painter, designed all the graphic artwork

for the entire cover piece of the album. The other group members are not exactly starving artists either.

Geoff Trumbo, the bass player, is an English professor at UK. Bryan Pulito, drummer by night, is a well-educated engineer.

Although each member has their own career and goals, the ultimate goal for the band as a whole is to be able to play music for a living. "Playing live is the thing that we love to do," said Tarpey.

Each member of Rabby Feeber has some artistic say in the writing of their music.

Although the other members write sometimes, Tarpey and Pulito are the primary writers. In the future, Rabby Feeber would ultimately like to play bigger venues and record for a living. They are not the type of band to keep their style completely static.

"We are trying to mix it up a little bit in our show and on records. We just aren't the type of band that will be the same forever," Tarpey said. "You have to make it interesting if you want people to listen to you."



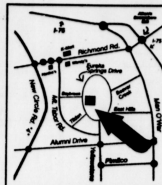
LOOKING ahead

Rabby Feeber will be playing at Arca 51 tonight.

EXCUSEUS

The Kentucky Kernel tries hard, but we're not always perfect. If we make a mistake, we want to correct it. If you've found a significant error, call us at 257-1915 after 10 a.m. Mondays through Thursdays and after noon on Sundays.

The University Choristers and Chorale fall concert is Friday at 8 p.m. in the Singletary Center for the Arts.



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Viewpoint



University studies program benefits all students at UK

After seeing the President of the United States speak on campus, I knew I had a mission to accomplish. I dashed back to my room, ignoring the pleas of the Secret Service to stay off the street so the President's motorcade could make it through safely.

any employer's list is communication skills. If you are unable to communicate well, it severely limits your opportunities.

My mission: to successfully register for the spring semester here at UK. I had to sandwich this between a run to Blazer Express and a 7:30 tip-off at Rupp Arena, with a phone call to a good friend somewhere in there.



Matt Ellison Contributing Columnist

That is why USP asks that you take a class dealing with interpersonal communication, in which you will learn the skills necessary to communicate with others. A class in geography is one of the USP requirements as well.

What if you are working for the National Park Service someday and someone asks you which President founded the National Park Service?

Skills developed in the USP apply to situations outside of employment as well.

What if you are in a bar and you see an attractive person who you would like to go out with? Go over to them and mumble your way through some knockout pickup line and see how successful you are.

Suppose you encounter a NAACP rally someday and you have no idea who the NAACP are or what they stand for? Is an understanding of American history really useful now?

In my hometown of South Bend, Indiana, sits the University of Notre Dame, where all freshmen are required to enroll in the Freshman Year of Studies, which is a rigorous program requiring students to take certain interdisciplinary courses regardless of their majors.

If an academically distinguished university such as Notre Dame requires their students to be versed in several disciplines, how out of line is it for a state flagship such as UK to follow a similar plan?

College is a great opportunity to gain more knowledge in a particular field.

But the opportunities are lost if you confine yourself to one specific discipline.

By becoming a well-rounded person, you will realize potential you probably never knew you had.

Contributing Columnist Matt Ellison is a journalism freshman, his views do not necessarily represent those of the Kentucky Kernel

Lighting up not healthy

Kernel logo with 'KeNTzCKY' and 'Established in 1894 Independent since 1971'. Below is the 'EDITORIAL board' listing: Brenna Reilly, editor in chief; Tiffany Gilmartin, editorial editor; Chris Padgett, news editor; Kathy Redding, asst. news editor; Gary Wall, asst. news editor; Lindsay Hendrix, features editor; Tracie Purdon, design editor; Ben Abes, on-line editor.

Over the past two weeks, UK's residence halls have been involved in a rash of arson incidents, leaving charred bulletin boards and worried students in its path.

These alarms, in addition to the already high number of false fire alarms each year, have made students think twice when instructed to leave their rooms.

In a recent alarm at Kirwan Tower, six students were found in their rooms on three separate floors of the residence hall.

These students can look forward to a long, drawn out process which will probably leave them listening to a presentation from the University Fire Marshall and getting a slap on the hand from Residence Life.

According to Jim Wims, Director of Residence Life at UK, there are no set penalties for those students found in their rooms during alarms.

Students who are found during alarms get their names taken and are "sentenced" by a review board.

The board, which is composed of Residence Life officials and students, meets and hears the student's side of the story and assigns a punishment.

We suggest that Residence Life set mandatory penalties for those students found in their rooms during an alarm.

In most cases, a decent fine coupled with a program put on by the fire marshal would make an excellent start.

If students are aware of an automatic penalty that would be imposed if they are caught, they might just be a little more receptive to the idea of evacuating when the alarm is activated.

Unlike in past years, where fire alarms were often the result of immature students, this year we are living among arsonists and it's only a matter of time before someone gets hurt.

So do us all a favor and get out before you get hurt. But the ultimate advice to students is that when the alarm sounds, get out.

As Fire Marshall Gary Beech said, it only takes one true alarm to put your life in danger.

If you stay in your room, you are taking your life in your own hands.

And if there is a fire, you just might get burned.

IN OUR OPINION

READERS' forum

In support of cannabis

President Clinton is correct in classifying tobacco as an addictive drug. The regulations that he has proposed are reasonable. What direction will these changes take us? Criminalization for use of all recreational drugs, except tobacco and alcohol, with complete access to those has never worked well.

The best result that could come from a change in drug policy is regulation rather than criminalization of all drugs. A licensing system based on knowledge, behavior and age would accomplish this. A DWI offender should lose his license to buy alcohol, not his license to drive to work.

At the same time those with cancer or AIDS or glaucoma would not have to go to the streets to purchase cannabis for the side effects. Had we listened to Gateway Galbraith, in 1991, and 1995, many in need of this illegal medicine would not be treated as criminals. Who was the winner?

Actor Woody Harrelson recently came out in support of the industrial uses of cannabis, but had nothing to say about its therapeutic benefits. Citizens of the land of the free should not be subject to arrest, trial, confiscation of property and incarceration for possession of this medicine.

Danny Pigman, Lexington

Campus not big Party

Before stepping foot on this huge campus of ours I had visions of wild parties, toilet-papered trees, campus rallies and late night study sessions. Aside from the last, the wild life and heated politics are just not there. I envisioned this "amaing college life" to be a constant temptation to do the unthinkable. I can't say there is nothing to do, 'cause believe me there is. I am constantly feeling like those crazy, loud fans from the movie "Major League," with a fraternity brother and I being

two of the few people that go to every football game. Like many people on this campus, the opportunity to go home on a weekend, is just not there.

I realize our great university does everything in its power to keep the students interested, but sometimes even that fails. For example, changing the Midnight Madness to 8:00! Beside that flop, the university does a pretty good job of making activities accessible to the student.

I guess I am going to have to come to grips with reality, that college life is not all that the movies make it out to be. However, you won't see me giving up. I will still be at every football game, hockey game I can possibly make it to.

I realize the possibility of everyone staying on campus is as hopeless as Dole beating Clinton, but I hope someday I can sit back and tell my children the crazy stories of my days at UK.

Quint Tatro, business freshman Sigma Phi Epsilon

Freedom takes a back seat to governmental safety rules

Well, you did it. You stuck with Bill Clinton for another four years, pending a jail term or two. But don't you see how the current administration treats you? They treat you as though you are too stupid to know what is OK to do to your own body. You are too dumb to raise your own children. And you have no capacity to make any adult decisions. That is why we have a government. Consider it "Brother Bill" watching us. Some might call it "Big Brother."

what she wants to do with her own body. Unless, she doesn't want to wear a seatbelt then the government steps in and says, "No, little girl, you must wear a seatbelt; you could get hurt." If I don't want to wear that seatbelt then fine. Let me die. I understand these are life-saving devices, they are put in the car for a reason. But they itch and restrain too much and I don't want to wear one.

Of course, I understand that I am a guy and that there was never any Supreme Court ruling saying that I have the right to choose what I want to do with my body, so no argument there, yet. Let's keep with the women, because they have been granted by

the Big Guy their own right to freedom. Let's say a woman wants to try some heroin. A bad choice, but nonetheless, a choice. Who is she going to hurt? Me or you?

Maybe, but there are already laws against that. In present day America, if this woman (don't forget, she has been given the right to choose) decides to take that heroin and sit in her apartment she could be thrown in jail. That is illogical and hypocritical.

What if she wants to have sex with someone and take a little money for it? What unwilling parties are involved? None. The customer understands that he wants to have sex. The woman understands that if she has sex, she will make money. They

agree, and as adults making any business deal, they should be able to. These are both choices made by adults that hurt no one but the willing parties involved.

Men, we have never been given the right to choose what we do with our own bodies so I have to take the argument back a couple of steps. As the feminists say, we are all equal and should have equal rights. They have been legislating and fighting for this for decades. So if they have the right to choose, then we should have the right to choose. When I hop on my Harley, I don't like to wear a helmet. It doesn't let the wind blow through my hair. Oh well, I have too. I am so unbelievably dumb that the government must place that helmet on my head and strap it on snugly.

It is reminiscent of when mommy dressed me up to go play out in the snow. If I refuse? I get a fine and eventually The Big Guy

INFORMED SOURCES "is disappointing for parents and dangerous for our kids."

Reed Hundt, the Federal Communications Commission chairman, said of the decision by the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States liquor industry to drop its decades-old voluntary ban on broadcast advertising, who said it wants to be as free to use radio and TV to promote its products as brewers and wine makers.

raise your children and you are simply the babysitter.

Women, you have not been given the right to choose, don't kid yourself. You still have to get a doctor to give you medicine and you still have to hide in your dorm with a towel under your door smoking your pot. There is a solution, however, look into the Libertarian Party. Although it gets a bad rap, it is an every voter registration form in 50 states.

Men, you are entirely not equal to women and they are entirely not equal to us. But one thing that we all have in common is that none of us have free reign over our own bodies, and none of us are smart enough to make bad choices for our own reasons. The kicker is that we let them do it to us, by electing Bill Clinton again you even helped them. Maybe they are right. We are pretty dumb and we are definitely not free.

Tim La Rose is an English senior and columnist for The Daily Collegian, his views do not necessarily represent those of the Kentucky Kernel

Table listing page numbers and corresponding page titles for the newspaper.

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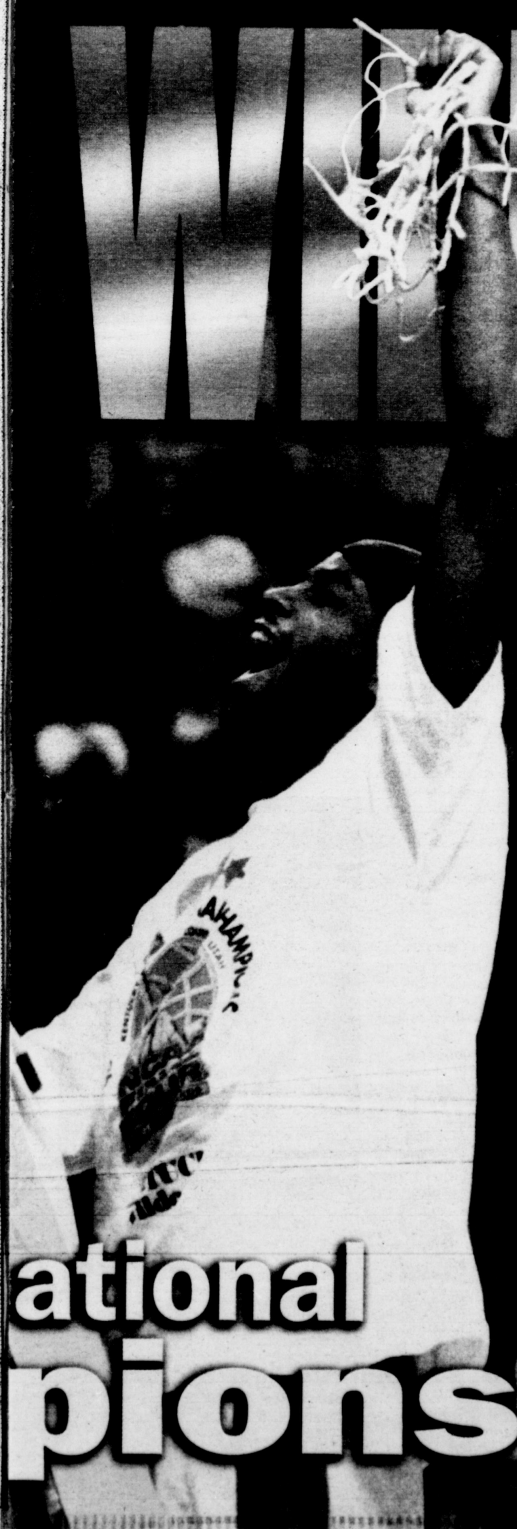


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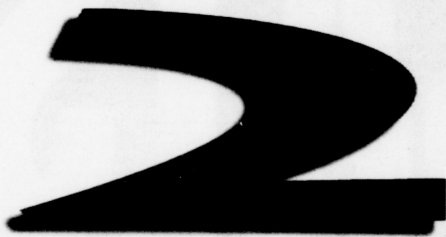


Table of Contents:



Frontcourt full of holes for UK 3

Mercer ready to break out 4

Backcourt to carry Cats 6

Anderson "Mr. Charisma" 7

Turner looking to lead team 9

Shooting for Two 10

It's the year after 11

Departed players leave big holes to fill ... 12

Fans will have chance to follow Wildcats .13

Departures leave SEC down 14

Women looking to improve 15

Women's basketball still the best in SEC .17

Leaving early for the pros becoming trendy .18

Parity rules supreme 19



UK schedule loaded with top competition

Glancing at this year's UK men's basketball schedule, one would get the impression that Coach Rick Pitino and his staff are not about to let the national championship affect their opinion about scheduling top competition.

At least 12 teams who participated in last year's tournament dot the Wildcats' schedule for this season, including a rematch against championship game foe Syracuse on Thanksgiving night at the Great Alaska Shootout.

The schedule is loaded with potentially difficult opponents at the beginning of the season.

The Cats' opener against Clemson in the Black Coaches' double-header at the RCA Dome on Nov. 15 should give the team a tough test. It's the earliest a UK team has ever opened the season. The Tigers return their top nine players from last year's tourney team, which lost to Georgia in the first round.

After Clemson and a home exhibition against Australia, UK runs through a stretch of five games away from the friendly confines of Rupp Arena. Included during this stretch are three games in Alaska, and then a trip to the home of the NBA Champion Chicago Bulls, the United Center, to play four-time Big 10 champion Purdue in the Great Eight.

Following the Boilermakers comes the annual border war at Freedom Hall against Indiana on Dec. 7, before the Cats finally return to Rupp to play Wright State and Notre Dame before the semester break.

While the team is enjoying the Christmas holiday, it will participate in a couple of pseudo-tournaments against Georgia Tech in the Jeep Cherokee Classic in Atlanta and Ohio State in the Rock & Roll Shootout in Cleveland.

After a likely butt-whipping of the Buckeyes, the Bluegrass will celebrate New Year's Eve by watching the state's two favorite teams — UK and Louisville — duke it out at Freedom Hall.

Following the U of L game, UK kicks off the Southeastern Conference against Tennessee in Lexington. The Big Orange could be one of the most improved teams not only in the SEC, but in the country.

The rest of the conference schedule really doesn't provide many interesting matchups until Super Bowl Sunday, Jan. 26. That afternoon, UK will renew its rivalry with Arkansas in Bud Walton Arena.

But the Hogs aren't the only SEC team

that could provide problems for the Cats. On Feb. 4, UK could find itself locked up in a war which could help determine the Eastern Division title when it visits South Carolina.

Carolina makes its return trip to UK for Senior Day on March 2.

After the Arkansas game and the trip to Columbia, S.C., Rupp will play host to one its biggest non-conference games in a while when Villanova comes calling on Feb. 9.

The Philadelphia Cats have the look of a top five team with the addition of Tim Thomas, one of the top high school players last season.

The final three regular-season road games all are at locations that have been anything but kind to UK teams in the past.

The first is when the Cats venture into Tuscaloosa, Ala., to face the Crimson Tide. After the Tide, Vanderbilt's Memorial Gymnasium is the next test for UK, before the final road game at Tennessee.

After that, Carolina and the SEC Tournament is all that will remain between UK and the NCAA Tournament.

Sports Editor Chris Easterling is a journalism sophomore.



Chris Easterling
Sports Editor



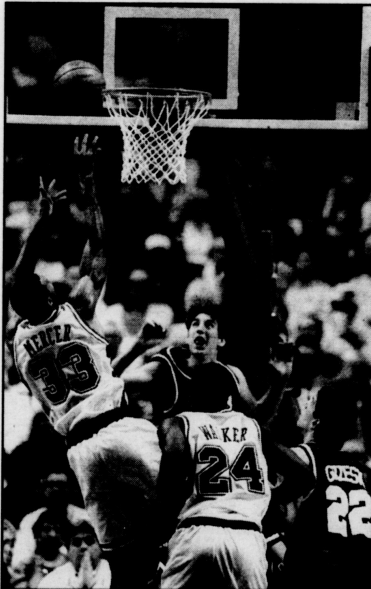
File photo

BLUEGRASS WAR UK and Louisville will face off on Dec. 31 in Freedom Hall.

1996 Basketball Preview Staff

Editor- Chris Easterling
Writers- Jill Erwin, Dave Gorman, Rob Herbst, Neil Medley, Aaron Sanderford, O. Jason Stapleton, Jay G. Tate, Heath Tingle
Photographers- Matt Barton, Stephanie Cordle, David Coyle, James Crisp, Helena Hau, Sam Haverstick

Cover Photo- James Crisp
Design- Tracie Purdon and Robin Jones
Graphics- Rusty Manseau and Robin Jones
Production- Robin Jones, Jacob Clabes, Rusty Manseau, Eric Schoenborn
Copy Editors- Chris Campbell, Brett Dawson and Jeff Vinson



File photo

SLAM DANCE Ron Mercer will be one of the standouts in the frontcourt for the Cats. Mercer will be looked upon to play both the three and four spots during the season.

Frontcourt full of holes for UK

Pitino hopes that Magloire, Mohammed will help

By Heath Tingle
Contributing Writer

UK's woes in the frontcourt might keep this year's squad out of the Final Four. With Walter McCarty in New York and Antoine Walker in Boston, the Cats could be hurting.

The biggest bright spot returning to the UK team lies in the person of sophomore forward Ron Mercer. Mercer, highly touted this year by many major preseason publications, will be the focal point of this year's team.

"Ron has the potential to be the greatest that Kentucky has ever had," UK Coach Rick Pitino said.

Also returning to the team to help fortify the middle is senior Jared Prickett. Prickett spent last season on the bench as a medical redshirt, rehabing an injured left knee.

As a freshman in 1992-1993, Prickett played in every game and started 10 of the 34. As a sophomore he started 25 out of the 33. And as a junior he

played in all 33 games. The only question might be whether or not his off-year has helped or rusted his skills.

The next big question mark will be the play of newly-signed center Jamaal Magloire.

A prep star from Toronto, Magloire averaged 23.8 points per game in high school. He will be counted on heavily in order for the Cats to succeed.

"Jamaal will have to become a student of our style, quickly," Coach Rick Pitino said.

Then there is Nazr Mohammed.

Mohammed, a project center from Chicago, has made some strides, shedding 75 pounds since coming to UK. His main on-court action for the Cats last year came in the Midwest Regional semifinal against Utah. In four minutes of action, Mohammed recorded two blocked shots.

The majority of his minutes, how-

ever, came as a member of the JV squad. There, Mohammed averaged a double-double with 23.1 points and 11.5 rebounds.

Behind Prickett at power forward will be Oliver Simmons. The big redhead from Nashville got his feet wet last year, seeing action in the waning minutes of games.

This year the sophomore will be needed for a key backup role.

Pitino cited the lack of strength and needed improvement in conditioning as problem spots for Simmons.

The final frontcourt player on the team is Scott Padgett, who is back after sitting out a year to concentrate on studies.

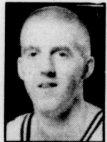
He will be expected to provide minutes of relief for Simmons and Prickett at the power forward spot.

The problem the Cats face will be if Magloire does not come along as fast as the coaches would like.

Then the team would have to do some restructuring of the power forward and center positions, perhaps featuring Prickett at center at times.



Padgett



Simmons

← ←
Jamaal will have to become a student of our style, quickly.
▼
Rick Pitino

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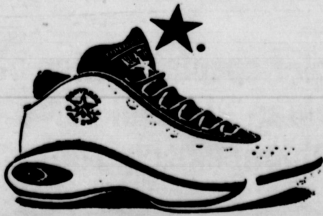
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Mercer set for break-out

Sophomore to build from Final Four success

By Chris Easterling
Sports Editor

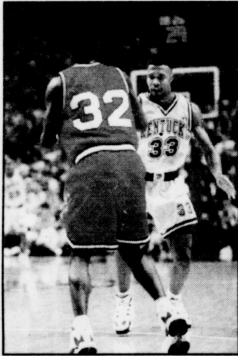
Get ready, Cat fans, to see the real Ron Mercer this season.

Last year, with all the talented players which composed the UK men's basketball roster, Mercer was never really able to showcase his incredible talents which made him the top high school player in the nation coming out of Oak Hill Academy.

But in the Final Four, more specifically, the championship game against Syracuse,

Mercer put on a show, averaging almost 15 points in the two

games in the Meadowlands. Against the Orangemen, Mercer scored a career-high 20 points, along with three three-point baskets.



File photo

THE MAN Ron Mercer will be looked upon to lead UK this year.

This year, UK Coach Rick Pitino has made no secret about playing Mercer for almost the entire game. When asked to be more specific, Pitino said "over 30 minutes a game." Last year, Mercer only played in an average of about 19 minutes.

In fact, last year, no player averaged more than 27 minutes a game.

"Ron has had some practices which have been astonishing to me," Pitino said.

"Ron has the potential to be the greatest (player) Kentucky has ever had."

And that's saying a lot, considering all talented players such as Jamal Mashburn, Dan Issel and Jack Givens.

Mercer said the system was part of the reason why he had problems in the first year exploding onto the scene.

"It's kind of difficult as a freshman to come here and play," Mercer said. "It was difficult for any freshman to come here and play. It was difficult for Antoine (Walker), Tony (Delk), Jamal Mashburn.

"I needed that first year to come in here and learn the system," he said. "Now that I have learned the system, I know how to play it."

He also said one of his big problems was concentrating too much on scoring instead of some of the little things which help win games, such as rebounding.

"From my first game, coach was upset because I was low on assists and low on rebounds," Mercer said. "I was thinking score before rebound."

#33 Ron Mercer
6-7 • Forward

KENTUCKY basketball

Ron Mercer • so.
Nashville, Tenn.
(Oak Hill Academy)



Points 20
3 pt. goals 3
Rebounds 3
Assists 3
Blocks 2
Steals 3

YEAR	PPG
95-96	36-12
94-95	107-234
93-94	45.7
92-93	23-68
91-92	33.8
90-91	51-65
89-90	78.5
88-89	104-2.9
A	50
BS	8
S	34
TP-PPG	288-8.0

↑ ↑
I think Ron is definitely ready to burst out and have an incredible year...He is a remarkable talent.
Rick Pitino

But scoring is what Mercer is going to be counted on to do this year, since the top four scorers off last year's team have all left for the professional ranks.

But scoring is what Mercer does best, at least while he was in high school. At Oak Hill, he averaged 26.3 points a game during his senior year.

When he got to UK, the scoring figures went down, partially because of the limited playing time he received because of the depth which the Cats possessed at both forward.

He finished the year averaging eight points a game, but steadily began to pick it up during the postseason, culminating in the performance he gave against the Orangemen, which had it not been for Delk's seven three pointers, could have warranted a Most Valuable Player award.

So as the 1996-97 season gets underway, there is a new opportunity for Mercer, which should keep Wildcat supporters on the edge of their seats throughout the year.

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Magloire the lone UK recruit

By Jill Erwin
Staff Writer

Less than a year after being crowned the best college team in America, UK's only incoming freshman is an import.

Jamaal Magloire hails from Toronto, Canada, and is widely regarded as the best high school player ever to come out of Canada.


He played his high school ball on a court less than half the size of Memorial Coliseum's.

"It was the most incredible thing I've ever seen," Pitino said.


The size of the court is not the only change that Magloire is facing. He is also trying to adjust to the population difference between Toronto and Lexington, as well as the different style of play here at UK.

"I'm just getting started at being team-oriented instead of playing as an individual," he said. "It's a big change, but my coaches and teammates have been helping me."

He has come a long way



#42 Jamaal Magloire
6-10 • Center



Jamaal Magloire • Jr.
Toronto, Ont., Canada
(E. School of Commerce)

High School Stats
PPG. 23.8
RPG. 14.7
BS 7.2
A 3.0

Achievements:
Led his team to its second consecutive Ontario Golden Ball title, the equivalent of a state title in the United States. One of only two high school stars named to the Canadian National Team.

Jamaal is one of the best freshmen we've ever had here. He just needs a little time to learn the system.
Rick Pitino

already.

He started out playing pickup games on the Havenbrook Blvd. courts, but has since gained experience this past summer as a member of Canada's National Olympic basketball team. Included in his summer was a 16 point, eight rebound game against Argentina.

"Playing against NBA players helped me a lot," Magloire said. "I'm still learning. I realize it's not going to happen in the first day."

However, he has been improving by leaps and bounds. He comes into a system in which the center is expected to step out

and handle the ball, as opposed to having the ball dumped down low for an easy dunk.

"There's a lot of running and pushing the ball," he said.

"I feel that's what you need, not only to excel as a team, but also to excel at the next level."

That "next level" isn't something Magloire is worried about right now. He is happy to be here and he feels no pressure to be a star right away.

"There's no doubt in my mind that I'm going to do real well this year," Magloire said.

"Personally, I deal with pressure well. That's what motivates me and that's what pushes me."

Mohammed will be called upon to play

By O. Jason Stapleton
Senior Staff Writer

After the departures of Mark Pope and Walter McCarty last season, the Wildcats are looking for a big man to step up and take over the center position.

One of the candidates for that job is 6-foot-10 sophomore Nazr Mohammed.

Mohammed was a crowd favorite last season in Rupp Arena. Every time the big man put up a shot, the cry of "NAZR" rang throughout Rupp Arena.

The fans were enamored with the big man from the Windy City. Whether it was his bulk or his catchy name that gained Mohammed this notoriety is unclear, but one thing is sure: even though his frame is by all means mighty, he's a project who must improve to give the Cats power in the paint.

Instead of bulking up for the role, Mohammed decided to trim down, or more accurately, Coach Rick Pitino decided Mohammed was going to trim down.

And trim was exactly what Mohammed did in the offseason.

"Nazr has shed a person," said Pitino. "He's gone from 315 to 240 pounds. He's turned a lot of fat into muscle and he'll get quicker and better each year he is in our program."

Mohammed is going to have to make further strides this year in order to man the middle for the Cats.

Based on his performance last season, Mohammed might not be up to the task. He averaged just 2.3 points and 1.5



File photo

PROJECT Nazr Mohammed has lost some weight in order to play. rebounds per game as a Wildcat last year while seeing 5.5 minutes of action a contest.

He said he thought he was not ready for big-time college ball last year. This year however, looks to be a different story.

"I wasn't really ready for it last year as far as physically or mentally," he said, "but now I feel I'm a lot more prepared for it."

Mohammed's favorite thing about playing on last year's team was getting to go up against the likes of McCarty, Pope and Antoine Walker every day.

"It helped me a lot going against those guys every day," Mohammed said. "Being on a national championship team with guys as big as them really helped me out a lot."

Lost time frustrated Prickett

By Chris Easterling
Sports Editor

For Jared Prickett, last season was somewhat of a bittersweet moment.

On one hand, Prickett's team did capture the school's first national championship in 18 years when they defeated Syracuse 76-67.

But on the other hand, Prickett wasn't able to enjoy the win like the rest of his teammates. That's because the 6-foot-9 senior from Fairmont, W. Va., had to sit out the last 31 games due to an injured knee.

The knee was actually injured during the previous summer, but it never properly healed, causing Prickett severe pain and forcing him to take a medical redshirt. The injury sidelined him following the Georgia Tech game.

But he's back this year and ready to make up for the time he



#32 Jared Prickett
6-9 • Forward



Jared Prickett • sr.
Fairmont, WV.
(Fairmont West)

Points 22
3 pt. goals 1
Rebounds 20
Assists 6
Blocks 3
Steals 7

YEAR	94-95	95-96
G-S	33-5	5-0
FG-A	91-171	6-12
PCT	53.2	50.0
3FG-A	2-8	0-1
PCT	25.0	0.0
FT-A	37-62	5-7
PCT	59.7	71.4
REB-AVG	157-4.8	8-1.6
A	56	3
BS	16	2
S	39	1
TP-AVG	221-6.7	17-3.4

lost due to the injured knee. In the first exhibition game of the season against Athletes in Action, Prickett scored 13 points, including 5-of-8 from the free throw line.

"I was a little frustrated, but it's great to be back," Prickett said after the AIA exhibition. "I've been so anxious to get on the court all summer."

But it was on the glass where Prickett expects to play the biggest role for the Wildcats this year.

Against AIA, he grabbed 12

rebounds, including nine on the offensive end, to lead the team.

As a sophomore against Arkansas, Prickett became a monster on the boards, ripping down 20 rebounds in the Cats' loss.

Prior to his injury, Prickett was averaging 10 minutes a game, and only 3 points and a little more than one rebound a game.

But now that the knee is healed, one can only imagine what Prickett could accomplish this year.



#13 Nazr Mohammed
6-10 • Center



Nazr Mohammed • so.
Chicago, IL
(Kenwood)

Points 9
3 pt. goals 0
Rebounds 7
Assists 2
Blocks 2
Steals 2

YEAR	95-96
G-S	16-0
FG-A	13-29
PCT	44.8
3FG-A	0-0
PCT	0.0
FT-A	11-24
PCT	45.8
REB-AVG	24-1.5
A	3
BS	4
S	4
TP-AVG	37-2.3

We have to have tremendous improvement from Nazr, and I think everything else will fall into place.
Rick Pitino

Backcourt to carry Wildcats

Big losses in frontcourt leave guards to carry the load for team in 1996

By O. Jason Stapleton
Senior Staff Writer

With the frontcourt decimated by the NBA draft, it will be up to the UK backcourt to take up the slack this year.

"We've got some new guys up front," said senior point guard Anthony Epps. "And we've got an experienced backcourt so that's got to be our strongest part."

With the exception of Tony Delk, all of the guards are back from UK's championship run a season ago.

Depth, depth and more depth makes the UK's backcourt formidable. Though UK doesn't have any big time scorers in the backcourt like Dominick Young and Kendrick Brooks of Fresno State, the squad makes up for its lack of scoring punch with interchangeable parts.

Few teams can boast two quality

true point guards like UK's Epps and Wayne Turner.

At shooting guard the Cats have a plethora of weapons to launch at opponents. Derek Anderson, Allen Edwards and Cameron Mills will split time, giving the Cats a well-stocked offensive cupboard.

But all paths to the basket go through Epps.

This is Epps' fourth year in the system and he showed last season that he was the man best suited for running the offense.

"Anthony Epps is a winner, period," Coach Rick Pitino said.

Epps will be looked upon for senior leadership and said he will be up to the task.

"I think I've been up for it ever since I've been here," Epps said. "I know what it takes to be a great leader, now I just got to go out there and apply it on the ball court."

"If I don't do that, I know Wayne Turner is going to be waiting to come in for me."

Turner is the other side of the point guard equation for the Cats. If he improves his play from last season, he should be able to get quite a bit of playing time behind Epps. And it's possible, Pitino said recently, that Turner will see time as the starter.

At shooting guard it looks as if another senior, Anderson, will receive the majority of minutes.

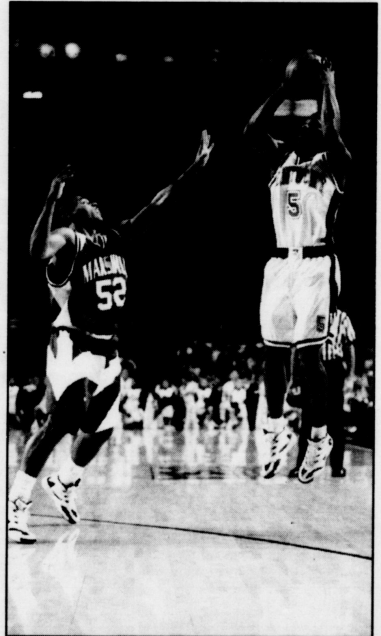
He averaged 9.4 points per game last season, starting most of those games at small forward. With the emergence of Ron Mercer, though, Anderson has been relegated to the No. 2 slot.

Pitino said Anderson is an exciting player to coach because he is able to "make things happen." That's the main reason he will get the nod at shooting guard.

Waiting in the wings, however, is a supporting cast filled with, yet again, more experience.

Mills should get more playing time in this, his third year.

Edwards, too, will see more minutes — possibly some at the small forward spot. In his third year in the program, he should be ready to make some contributions.



File photo

SHOOTER Wayne Turner is one of the backcourt stars.

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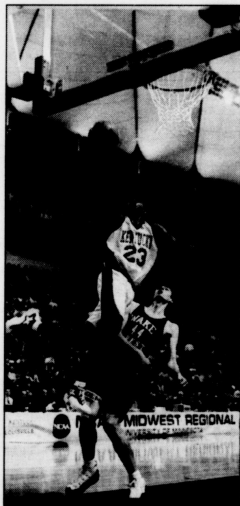
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Anderson 'Mr. Charisma'

Senior leads team in personality

By Jill Erwin
Staff Writer



UK Coach Rick Pitino calls him "Mr. Charisma."

Pitino even said, "If there is a player more suited to our style of play, I don't know who it would be."

When UK attracts a prime recruit, he draws the assignment of showing the new guy around.

He showed up at Media Day wearing a two-inch afro.

Then again, what else would you expect from senior swingman Derek Anderson?

"I've never had a problem being myself," Anderson said. "I don't hurt anybody. I'm just going to be D.A."

Pitino agrees. "There is no one on this team with more personality or charisma than Derek Anderson," he said.

Anderson, perhaps more than any other player, sacrificed his game for the good of the team during last season's championship run.

High-flying dunks and show-boating plays from his Ohio State playing days fell victim to getting others involved in more team-oriented play.

"It was difficult," Anderson admitted. "It's supposed to get better as the years go on and it seemed like I regressed as far as scoring, but I grew up a lot mentally."

Fans can expect to see his scoring average go back up, as well as see more instances of his million-watt smile.

He's looking forward to a better opportunity for showtime on the court. He and Ron Mercer have already wowed the crowd with highlight film dunks in the Blue-White scrimmages this year.

Anderson has a little something extra to look forward to this season.

UK faces his ex-coach Randy Ayers and the Ohio State Buckeyes in Cleveland in the Rock & Roll Shootout.

Anderson transferred to UK following his sophomore season with OSU. But he said it won't turn in to a case of redemption: "Derek vs. OSU." After all, none

#23 Derek Anderson
6-5 • Grd/Fwd

KENTUCKY basketball

Derek Anderson • sr.
Louisville, KY
(Ossa/Ohio State)

Points	18
3 pt. goals	3
Rebounds	8
Assists	5
Blocks	1
Steals	5

YEAR	89-94	95-96
G-S	22-22	36-24
FG-A	108-232	117-230
PCT	46.6	50.9
3FG-A	21-62	23-59
PCT	33.9	39.0
FT-A	92-113	80-102
PCT	81.4	78.4
REB-AVG	108-4.9	122-3.4
A	107	88
BS	2	7
S	45	61
TP-AVG	329-15.0	337-9.4

File photo
D.A. Derek Anderson is a team leader.

of his teammates from his two years at Columbus are still on the team.

"Seeing Coach Ayers on the other sideline will mean a lot to me," he said.

"It will be emotional at the beginning, but I know I've got to do my job."

Ohio State is just one roadblock on the way to Anderson's ultimate destination — a second national championship. He has every intention of returning to the NCAA Championship game, taking everyone else along for

the ride. But don't think it's going to be easy.

"I'm keeping it in my mind," he said. "I'm not going to say it, but in my heart, I think we can. I just have to instill it into some of the younger players."

This much is certain — Anderson leads by example and has fun doing it.

"You can always have more fun," he said.

"If you had fun last year, you know how to do it this year — do the same thing, but do it better."


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#25 Anthony Epps
6-2 • Guard

KENTUCKY basketball

Anthony Epps • sr.
Lebanon, KY
(Marion Co.)

Points	17	
3 pt. goals	3	
Rebounds	7	
Assists	13	
Blocks	1	
Steals	6	

YEAR	94-95	95-96
G-S	33-6	38-25
FG-A	60-145	70-163
PCT	41.4	42.9
SFG-A	32-80	43-105
PCT	40.0	41
FT-A	68-80	58-71
PCT	85.0	81.7
REB-AVG	70-2.1	111-3.1
A	138	175
BS	1	2
S	45	55
TP-AVG	220-6.7	241-6.7

Epps still fighting to earn respect

By Neil Medley
Contributing Writer

Since his arrival at UK in 1993, many different forces aligned to keep Anthony Epps out of the starting point guard position.

As a freshman, Epps had to surrender a great amount of playing time to Travis Ford, who was a senior captain.

"I got to learn a lot from Travis," Epps said. "Playing behind him gave me the experience and maturity I needed."

Over the next two years, he occasionally had to step aside while the team experimented with Tony Delk, Jeff Sheppard and Wayne Turner at the point.

During last year's championship run, however, it was Epps who solidified the point and led the team.

Having been surrounded by scorers in past seasons, Epps was asked to concentrate mainly on defense and distributing the ball. He led the team in assists (175) and had 55 steals last season, while scoring 6.7 points per game.

Now Epps thinks it is up to him to provide even more experience as a point guard and leader on the floor this season.

"This year, I am going to have to score more and lead the team with my play," Epps said. "It is also up to me to strip the ball and to make big plays on defense."

Epps, a co-captain on this year's team, benefits from having the confidence of his coach and fellow teammates.

"Next to the definition of winner in Webster's dictionary should be Anthony's picture,"

UK Coach Rick Pitino said.

Others, like Derek Anderson, believe the intensity Epps brings to the court is crucial to a successful season.

"He is a great floor leader and will sacrifice anything for the good of the team," Anderson said.

Epps, before helping to lead the Wildcats to a national title, led Marion County to a Kentucky state title in 1993. Because of his success on both levels, Epps hopes to continue his basketball career in the professional ranks.

"Playing in the NBA is definitely a dream of mine," he said.

But before he pursues those dreams, he has immediate plans to help this team recapture the success of last year.

"Though the team has lost four players to the NBA, you'd be surprised how similar of a team we have," he said. "We have a lot of experience and a lot of talent."

He stresses that any team under Pitino will be a very competitive team.

"Coach is a very intense person," Epps said. "He demands a lot from everyone and gets the most out of his players."

Epps said the defense is key to success in Pitino's system and this team has the quickness and the experience to dominate.

Though he believes this team will be prepared, Epps doesn't think there is any extra pressure on the team to repeat this year.

"If we don't repeat this year, I don't believe that it will be a down year," he said.

Edwards glad he's still a Cat

By David Gorman
Staff Writer


After a bit of pondering, transfer Allen Edwards decided to stay a Wildcat. And with good reason.

Edwards should see a significant increase in playing time in his third season at UK. The Miami native can play the two, three or four spot, and with the loss of four NBA draft picks and with Jeff Sheppard being red-shirted, things look promising for Edwards.

"I'm pretty much a wing player," Edwards said. "But this season I will be seeing some time at the four spot also, about eight or nine minutes. I don't really play it in practice, it's just about learning the plays overall."

Over the summer, Edwards played and worked out in his hometown with players from the University of Miami and the NBA's Miami Heat. Playing against pros gave him extra confidence for a season in which he will be expected to step up.

He also improved his jumper



#3 Allen Edwards
6-5 • Grd/Fwd

KENTUCKY basketball

Allen Edwards • Jr.
Miami, FL
(Miami Senior)

Points	11	
3 pt. goals	1	
Rebounds	5	
Assists	6	
Blocks	1	
Steals	2	

YEAR	94-95	95-96
G-S	23-0	35-1
FG-A	13-30	37-80
PCT	43.3	46.3
SFG-A	5-12	7-23
PCT	41.7	30.4
FT-A	4-6	34-46
PCT	66.7	73.9
REB-AVG	13-0.6	40-1.1
A	14	41
BS	0	3
S	4	14
TP-AVG	35-1.5	115-3.3

and got a lot stronger over the summer. All the improvements to his game, along with his experience this summer against the players from the Heat should make him more of a threat.

Coach Rick Pitino looks to use four guards and a center, as the big men are more traditional this season than last. This means Edwards probably will see more action.

"We could move Edwards to four (power forward)," Pitino said. "We couldn't do that for long periods, but would you rather have a talent like Allen in the game or a guy not as talented?"

With size and skill, Edwards can present matchup problems for opposing squads. He is big enough to play solid post defense and can step out on the wing and play as a guard or forward.

Edwards is excited about the possibilities with the new offense Pitino wants to try.

"It creates a lot of problems for the other team to have a big lineup," Edwards said. "Maybe they have a 6-foot-8 guy guarding you out on the wing. I think I can pretty much beat him off the dribble every time. If they try to take advantage of me in the post, we're going to double down, (so) it shouldn't hurt us."

Sheppard to sit out this year

By Chris Easterling
Sports Editor


Jeff Sheppard will sit out the 1996-97 season as a redshirt, as announced by UK Coach Rick Pitino prior to the Cats' exhibition opener against Athletes in Action Monday night.

As late as last Friday after the final Blue-White scrimmage, the coach had said that he was "99 percent" sure that he wasn't going to redshirt the 6-foot-3 guard from Peachtree City, Ga. But on Sunday, Sheppard decided that it was best for him.

"I didn't want to," Pitino said following the 79-62 win, "but he told me I had no choice, that I had to do it. So I obliged. I think it is in the best interest for Jeff. He wants to do it."

Pitino said certain factors led to the decision.

"He is a special young man," he said, "and has sacrificed since he's been here, and deserves spe-



#15 Jeff Sheppard
6-3 • Guard

KENTUCKY basketball

Jeff Sheppard • sr.
Peachtree City, GA
(McIntosh)

Points	21	
3 pt. goals	5	
Rebounds	5	
Assists	5	
Blocks	0	
Steals	5	

YEAR	94-95	95-96
G-S	33-27	34-1
FG-A	99-225	65-125
PCT	44.0	52.0
SFG-A	28-78	22-44
PCT	35.9	50
FT-A	49-65	36-58
PCT	75.4	62.1
REB-AVG	75-2.3	70-2.1
A	89	65
BS	9	5
S	45	16
TP-AVG	275-8.3	188-5.5

cial treatment from us. He deserves a chance to start and a chance to play professionally, and both of those things couldn't have been accomplished this year."

Sheppard, who would have been a senior this season, would have backed up Derek Anderson at the off-guard position. Pitino hasn't been bashful about saying that Anderson would see a large number of minutes in every game, thus leaving Sheppard with very little playing time.

"I'm excited about getting a chance to play again next year,"

Sheppard said, "to be able to work on my game for a whole year and concentrate on getting better."

Entering this season, Sheppard had averaged 5.9 points and 1.8 rebounds a game in his three-year career.

In last year's run for the national championship, Sheppard played in 34 of the 36 games. He averaged 5.5 points and 2.1 rebounds in a little more than 12 minutes a game.

He started at the point guard position in 27 games his sophomore year, averaging 8.3 points.

Turner looking to lead team


By Jay G. Tate
Staff Writer

For years, San Francisco 49ers quarterback Steve Young played a back-up role to a heady player named Joe Montana. People knew Young was good — he had proven himself prior to the NFL — and knew the day would come when he would lead his team to success.

Five years later and a world away, UK point guard Wayne Turner sits and waits for the call.

The 6-foot-2 sophomore received lofty ratings from many analysts coming out of Boston's Beaver Country Day last year. His agility and quickness led to predictions of big-time first-year contributions, but the emergence of Anthony Epps cut short Turner's playing time.

Although Epps led the Cats through the NCAA tourney, it's unclear who will be the starter. Pitino said the competition



#5 Wayne Turner
6-2 • Guard

KENTUCKY basketball

Wayne Turner • so.
Boston, Mass.
(Beaver Country Day)

Points	13
3 pt. goals	1
Rebounds	8
Assists	5
Blocks	1
Steals	3

YEAR 95-96

G-S	35-8
FG-A	65-122
PCT	53.3
SFG-A	1-4
PCT	25.0
FT-A	25-40
PCT	62.5
REB-AVG	52-1.5
A	56
S	4
TP-AVG	40
TP-AVG	156-4.5



Even if I don't get the starting job, I'll get enough playing time and learn some things from (Epps)."

Wayne Turner

between Turner and Epps is fierce. Turner, who averaged 13 minutes per game last season, is making a strong push to get the starting nod.

"Even if I don't get the starting job, I'll get enough playing time and I'll learn some things from (Epps) that'll make me a better player," Turner said. "When I'm on the sidelines, I just watch how he runs the offense and gets people in the game — he's a great player."

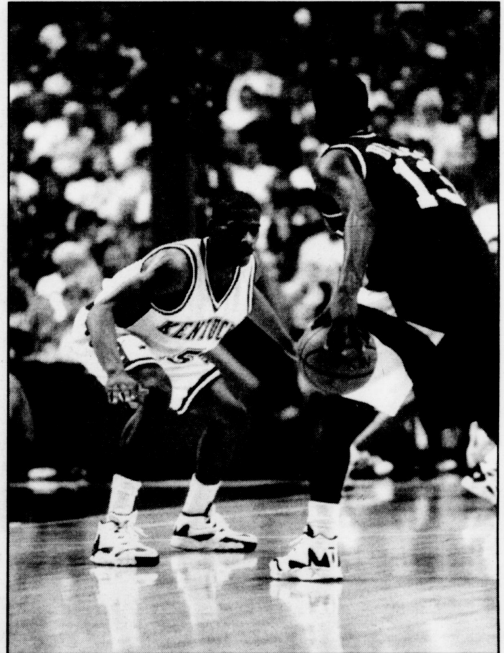
Keeping an explosive player like Turner on the bench is a tough decision. And should Epps

win the starting job, Pitino may try Turner on shooting guard this season. Turner welcomes any opportunity for playing time, though he concedes the point better suits his game.

"I like (shooting guard), but I don't think my shooting is really good," Turner said. "But I have the slashing ability and the scoring ability to play that role."

Turner keeps practicing, keeps playing and keeps waiting for his chance to lead the team.

And when it comes? Turner smiles and says, "I'll be ready for it."



File photo

WAITING IN THE WINGS Wayne Turner is waiting for his chance to lead.

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SHOOTING FOR

By Aaron Sandorff
Staff Writer

It was the pinnacle of sport for the Bluegrass, a Commonwealth of individuals united in support of their heroes.

Showers of joyful tears stretching from Paducah to Paducah washed away 18 years of almost for UK's storied basketball program as the buzzer sounded.

UK '76, Syracuse '77, Coach Rick Pitino's Wildcats — National Champions. Lexington erupted into a mass of drunk-on-humannity which this quiet, family-oriented town had not seen since 1978.

Congratulations, the celebration is over.

What they lost

Come are UK's top three scorers, its top four rebounders, its top three passers and most of its frontcourt. Three seniors — forward Walter McCarty, forward Mark Pope and guard Tony Deik joined sophomore forward Antonio Walker in an exodus to the professional ranks.

They took 56 percent of the Wildcats' scoring and rebounding, 75 percent of its assists with blocked shots and 58 percent of its assists with them to the pros.

"When you have four NBA draft picks that you have to replace, and three of them were (in) the senior class, that's a lot to replace," Pitino said. "But we also have a lot coming back."

What's back

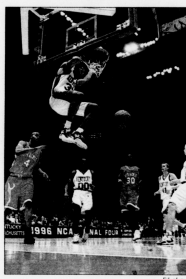
Senior guard Derek Anderson and sophomore forward Ron Mercer are Pitino's Trump cards from a deck not quite as stacked.

Anderson is the team's leading returning scorer and rebounder, but Pitino said his greatest asset may be his charisma and personality.

"Derek is the type of player who will be on one side of the court, sprint to try and make a play, not make it, and still start laughing," Anthony Epps said. "I think a lot of players feed off the way he acts."

The second-year transfer from Ohio State said he hopes that by diving on the floor, his teammates will see that they need to make the same effort for playing time and helping the team.

"I love this game so much, you will never see me taking a break," Anderson said. "Athleticism doesn't take over your heart."



SNIP-HIGH The Cats hope to take their high-flying act back to the NCAA title game in March.

Mercer is a talented young dazzler who called last season a "learning process" and said this year he plans to assume a greater role. "He knew it was more important for him to get better and learn than it was for him to think of being a superior in his first few months of basketball," Pitino said.

The coach went on to compare Mercer's maturity level to former Wildcat standout Jamal Mashburn, who plays for the Dallas Mavericks.

"He is not in any rush, he knows he is going to be a great pro, he knows his time will come, so he's concentrating on the present tense, getting better and making sure his team wins," Pitino said.

Epps even finds himself in awe of Mercer and Anderson. "I kind of get in trouble a little out there on the court watching those two do some of the things they do instead of being more active on the offensive end," he said. "I'm just standing back watching, going, 'G'od, fella, give me something, give the crowd something.'"

The often-overlooked senior point guard, Epps, is another key cog in the UK machine. "He knows how to make other people better. He makes the right decisions. He is tough-minded and a very bright young man," Pitino said.

Pitino called him one of the best leaders in college basketball. "My mentality since I got here was to distribute the ball, and I consider Ron and Derek the go-to-guys this year," Epps said. "If they don't get the ball, then I'm not doing my job."

While Epps is an old-fashioned guard, his backup, sophomore Wayne Turner, is a point man with a different focus.

Pitino described the pair as complements to one another, adding that where Epps tries to lead and get others the ball, Turner has a scoring mentality, and uses his quickness to beat his man to the basket.

He compared the two UK ball-handlers to a pair of New York Knicks he coached, Mark Jackson and Rod Strickland.

Though Jeff Sheppard will redshirt this season, Allen Edwards returns for his junior season and will play shooting guard or forward. Pitino said Edwards may be a key frontcourt reserve, given the Cats' inexperience in the blocks.

UK's frontcourt features one familiar face, one new face and one face with a new body.

This season marks the return of power forward Jared Prickett from a medical redout last season. Prickett said he couldn't even join the celebration after the title game until someone helped him hobble over to the pile on one good knee.

"He knew it was more important for him to get better and learn than it was for him to think of being a superior in his first few months of basketball," Pitino said.

"My obligations are more to rebound and block shots than to score 20-40 points like I had to in high school," the 6-foot-10 center said.

Coupled with revamped sophomore center Naeir Muhammad, who lost 75 pounds since coming to UK, Magloire gives Pitino his first set of true centers to work with.

"They were interchangeable parts," Pitino said of his former system of post players. "We could create matchup problems for people by doing it that way, but now it's a lot different with a player like Jamal or Naeir who is definitely a five man center."

Two words — Scott Padgett. "We're thin up front, and at that spot, foul trouble is a part of the game," he said. "He can step away from the basket and knock down the shot, he can ball-fake and he can pass."

Pitino went on to say his team will not have good depth until December the earliest. Padgett could become academically eligible.

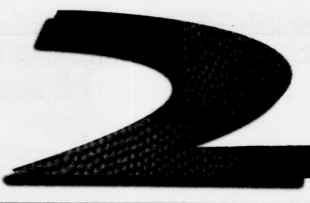
Substitution patterns should remain similar, with the major exceptions being Mercer and Anderson who will consistently log 30 minutes per game.

Pitino said there is a formula for a championship that holds true 90 percent of the time, and it requires three NBA draft picks to win a title at the collegiate level. The 1995-96 Wildcats had four.

Mercer and Anderson are the early standouts in his mind, but a third has yet to surface.

"This year's team is certainly not as deep, not as physically talented or as experienced as last year, but we aspire to get to that point by the end of the season," Pitino said.

"Can we get there?" That's the \$99,000 question.



One year after a championship

Though the outcome of the UK basketball season remains to be seen, Duke is the only team in the past ten years to repeat a national championship.

1996	UK	?
1995	UCLA	Lost in 1st round
1994	Arkansas	Lost in championship game
1993	North Carolina	Lost in 2nd round
1992	Duke	Lost in 2nd round
1991	Duke	Won championship
1990	UNLV	Lost in national semifinals
1989	Michigan	Lost in 1st round
1988	Kansas	On probation
1987	Indiana	Lost in 1st round
1986	Louisville	Did not qualify for post season

What happened to repeat? "We're thin up front, and at that spot, foul trouble is a part of the game," he said. "He can step away from the basket and knock down the shot, he can ball-fake and he can pass."

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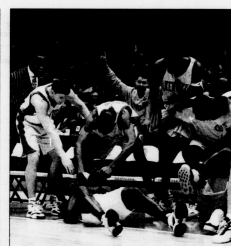
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MASS OF HUMANITY UK players celebrate during last year's national championship game against Syracuse.

It's the year after

Well UK fans, you're about to endure what UCLA, Arkansas, Duke and every other team lucky enough to cut down the nets as national champions has had to go through — the year after the championship.

This season, from the time UK tips off against Clemson until the buzzer sounds to end the last tournament game the Cats participate in, they're going to have a huge target on their chests. Every team will mark the date on its calendar when UK is the opponent.

It's no longer just UK coming to town, it's now "the defending national champions" who will be coming to an arena near you. And now, the Cats have suddenly become every-one's biggest rival, whether it be Louisville or Canisius.

Now that the Cats have won one championship, the pressure now switches to trying to pull off the elusive repeat, which only one team — Duke — has done since the UCLA dynasty in the 1970s. Also adding to the

pressure is the expectation that once the Cats get into the NCAA tournament, they have to do well. The last thing a UK fan would want to see is a repeat of the Marquette debacle of 1994.

What would be even worse for the fans would be for UK to go the route of Louisville or Kansas and not even make the NCAAs.

But enough about the past. As far as the present is concerned, UK does have a lot of tools needed to build a championship season.

Like Arkansas had Corliss Williamson, or Duke had Christian Laettner — genuine superstars — Ron Mercer is UK's man. And like the Blue Devils' Bobby Hurley and UCLA's Tyus Edney, UK has a top point guard in Anthony Epps.

And like winning coaches Nolan Richardson and Mike Krzyzewski, the Cats are led by one of the top coaches in college basketball, Rick Pitino.

One body the team lost a number of key players from last year's No. 1 squad. But what the team returns is sufficient enough to propel the Wildcats at least into the Final Four, if not farther.

But for Cat fans, all you can do is hold on and enjoy the ride. The UCLA dynasty in the 1970s. Also adding to the

What the Wildcats are saying about this season:

"This year's team is not as deep, not as physically talented or as experienced as last year, but we aspire to get to that point by the end of the season."
Rick Pitino

"If we don't repeat this year, I don't believe that it will be a down year."
Anthony Epps

"We can't overlook anybody, because once we step out on the court, the (opposing) team is going to play their best game because of who we are."
Ron Mercer

"We're a real close team, and everybody looks up to everybody. The seniors definitely have to step up and provide leadership, and (they) will do the best job (they) can at that."
Jeff Sheppard

"I think we have a great chance to repeat as NCAA champions...we're still an unselfish basketball club."
Wayne Turner



Sports Editor Chris Easterling is a journalism sophomore.

Departed players leave big hole to fill

By O. Jason Stapleton
Senior Staff Writer

Lots of hype goes along with winning a national title, and a lot of it centers around whether or not UK can repeat its championship feat this season.

If the Cats are going to win it all again, they will have to replace four highly successful players who have moved on to professional careers.

Tony Delk, Mark Pope, Walter McCarty and Antoine Walker were among the biggest keys to the Wildcats' success and now they are gone.

The Boston Celtics snagged Walker early in the draft with their No. 6 pick. Delk, named the Final Four's Most Outstanding Player, now bombs away for the Charlotte Hornets. The New York Knicks grabbed McCarty in the 19th slot with one of their three first-round picks. Pope was drafted in the second round by the Indiana

Pacers, but elected to play pro ball in Turkey.

This leaves UK with some gaping holes to fill.

"I don't have that many concerns defensively," Coach Rick Pitino said. "My concerns are a lot more at the offensive end."

Pitino said he is afraid that the teams passing will not be as good as it was last season.

"We were averaging 24 assists per game," Pitino said. "We shot just a shade under 50 percent, because of our experience, and not just because of shot selection, but also because we were such a great passing team."

Pitino said one of the reasons the Cats were so good passing the ball was because of the big men, McCarty and Pope. When the two arrived at UK they were poor passers, but by last year each had learned to distribute the ball, he said.

Pitino was also proud of the way the team got high-percent-



File photo

GOODBYE Walter McCarty is one of four players who does not return from last year's team.

age shots last year, namely dunks.

"We had more dunks last season — back door dunks and back screen dunks — than we had the first six seasons combined," Pitino said.

"And it was because of a respect for McCarty and Pope."

Former JV players say experience helped

By O. Jason Stapleton
Senior Staff Writer

Last year the UK men's basketball program tried something a little out of the ordinary in fielding a junior varsity team, UK's first in more than 20 years.

The team consisted of several varsity players as well as several walk-ons.

If you were one of those who enjoyed going and watching the JV team play such powerhouse teams as Lees College and Cuyahoga Community College, then you're out of luck, because the JV team has been dissolved after one year.

The players themselves weren't exactly disheartened by the removal of the JV squad.

"Actually I'm happy the JV team is gone," said sophomore forward Oliver Simmons, a member of last year's JV team.

"At some times it was actually hard for me to know if I was

going to JV practice or if I was going to varsity practice," he said.

He also said there were problems with knowing which games he would be playing in since the players were only allowed to play in a certain number of games under NCAA regulations.

Even though the players may not have liked being a part of the JV team, some still think it helped them improve their skills.

"Last year it helped me out as far as it helped me learn the system," sophomore center Nazr Mohammed said. "It also helped me get minutes while I was not playing on the varsity team."

Simmons also said that despite its downside, the JV team had its advantages.

"I think it was good in that we got to play in games," he said. "It was good that we didn't miss the whole year for me and Nazr."



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Fans will have chance to follow the Wildcats

By David Gorman
Staff Writer

There's good news for Cat fans who want to support their defending champions away from Rupp Arena — trip deals are available but won't last long.

For more information, call Commonwealth Travel at (606) 277-1735.

Indianapolis BCA Classic

Next Friday, UK fans can go see the men's basketball team play the Clemson Tigers in the Indianapolis BCA Classic.

The price is \$80 per person. This deal includes round-trip bus transportation from Lexington to the RCA Dome. The tickets are lower level for UK-Clemson, preceded by an Indiana-Connecticut battle.

The bus will depart Lexington from the flag pole at Commonwealth Stadium four hours prior to the first game. The bus leaves for Lexington immediately after the second game.

Great Alaska Shootout

And if the BCA Classic wasn't enough, then how about a journey northward for a Thanksgiving trip to Anchorage, Alaska for the Great Alaska Shootout.

Surprisingly, the weather is not nor-

mally severe in November and could actually be warmer during your visit than in Kentucky.

Here are the prices:

▼Double Room \$1,100/per person

▼Triple Room \$1,030/per person

▼Single Room \$1,350

Included in this price is airfare and transportation to and from the games.

Expect higher costs or less desirable flight schedules after the first 200 people.

Chicago Great Eight

In early December, the Cats will go up against Purdue, and Mississippi State will take on Wake Forest in the DirecTV Great Eight in Chicago.

This one costs \$320 per person (based on double occupancy). Included in the price is airfare, accommodations and transportation to and from the game.

Cleveland Rock & Roll Classic

Cat fans will have a chance to visit Cleveland's new Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and Museum when UK plays Ohio State in a doubleheader Dec. 28 in Gund Arena.

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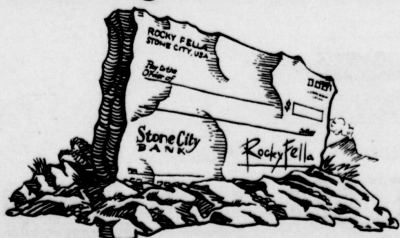
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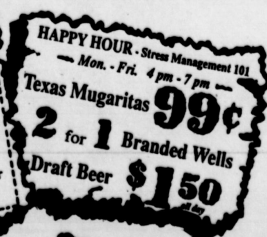
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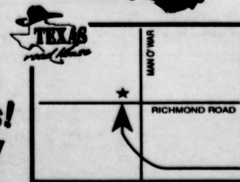
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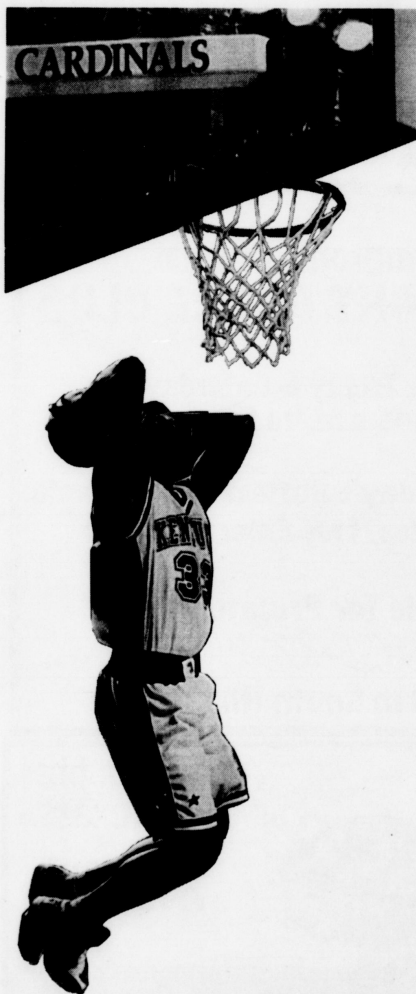
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Departures leave SEC down

By Rob Herbst
Assistant Sports Editor



No one can claim the Southeastern Conference had a down year last season.

After all, it's not too often when a conference sends two teams to the NCAA Final Four.

But things might change this year for the SEC as most experts foresee the conference sliding down the ranks a bit.

The class of the conference obviously is UK. The Cats may have lost three starters from last year's championship squad, but UK had tremendous depth last year and pine-riders from last season's squad will get quality minutes.

With Derek Anderson and Ron Mercer leading the Cats, there should be no problems offensively. The question comes in the middle.

If either Nazr Mohammed or freshman Jamaal Magloire can become a presence at center, the Cats can breeze through conference opponents.

An up-and-coming South Carolina team could claim second place behind the Cats in the SEC East. The Gamecocks have a terrific returning trio of guards in Larry Davis, B.J. McKie and Melvin Watson.

USC also returns the No. 2 scoring center in the league in Nate Wilbourne.

The Gamecocks will likely parlay a second-place finish in the SEC into a birth in the NCAA Tournament berth.

In the past, when Tennessee basketball was the subject, one always thought of UT's powerful women's program. But now head coach Kevin O'Neill has people in Knoxville thinking about the men's team as well.

The Vols lose four starters from a 14-15 team last year but make up for it with a stellar recruiting class. It is one of the best recruiting classes in the nation led by frontcourt players Charles Hathaway, C.J. Black and Isiah Victor.

This may not be the year for UT, but it's only a matter of time.

After the top three in the East, it's a crapshoot between Georgia, Vanderbilt and Florida to see who can avoid finishing at the bottom.

Georgia advanced to the Sweet Sixteen last season but all five starters from that team are gone. Head coach Tubby Smith begins the rebuilding job this year.

Vanderbilt is always Vanderbilt. The Commodores made it to the NIT last year and lost guard Frank Secker who led the team in scoring, assists, steals, three-pointers and minutes played. The Commodores also lost Malik Evans, who led Vandy in rebounding and shot-blocking.

Florida begins the Billy Donovan

era. The former Rick Pitino assistant takes over a 12-16 team and will have a problem at center with the loss of Dametri Hill.

Unlike the SEC East Division, the West is up for grabs.

Any one of four teams could win it with Arkansas being the slight favorite.

The Hogs surprised many by going to the Sweet 16 and they return the nucleus of last year's team.

Auburn has arguably the best center in the SEC in Pat Burke, and guard Wes Flanigan led the league in assists last year. The biggest question for the Tigers is just who will replace shooting guard Lance Weems who averaged 13.4 points per game.

Alabama lost center Roy Rogers and that could kill them this year. The Tide brings in three junior college forwards this year, making 'Bama hard to prognosticate.

Last year's surprise in the SEC was Mississippi State, which went to the Final Four. But the Bulldogs lost a ton from last year's squad, namely Erick Dampier and Dontae Jones.

Fighting to stay out of the cellar will be Ole Miss and LSU.

Ole Miss returns five starters, but that squad went 12-15 last year. And for the Bayou Bengals, the Randy Livingston/Ronnie Henderson era is over. It could be a long year in Baton Rouge.



Preseason Conference Picks:

MEN'S SEC EASTERN DIVISION:

	VOTES
1. KENTUCKY (6)	36
2. SOUTH CAROLINA	30
3. TENNESSEE	24
4. VANDERBILT	14
5. (TIE) FLORIDA	11
6. (TIE) GEORGIA	11

MEN'S SEC WESTERN DIVISION:

1. (TIE) ARKANSAS (3)	32
1. (TIE) AUBURN (3)	32
3. ALABAMA	25
4. OLE MISS	15

1st TEAM

F- Eric Washington,
senior, Alabama

F- Ron Mercer,
sophomore, UK

C- Pat Burke,
senior, Auburn

G- Larry Davis,
senior, South Carolina

G- Kareem Reid,
sophomore, Arkansas

SEC Preseason Awards

PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

Ron Mercer, UK

COACH OF THE YEAR:

(TIE) CMI Ellis, Auburn

and Kevin O'Neill, Tennessee

FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR:

Charles Hathaway,
Tennessee

Women looking to improve

By Rob Herbst
Assistant Sports Editor

The UK women's basketball team unveiled a run-and-gun style last season that produced exciting plays but few wins.

Under first-year head coach Bernadette Mattox, the Cats compiled a subpar 8-19 record.

This year Mattox and the players are optimistic that they can turn around the program.

"The way we're looking right now is really encouraging to me," said UK junior forward Shaunda Roberts, who led the Cats in scoring last year. "Coach has stressed that in every practice we should come out and get better and I feel that we're doing that."

Along with Roberts and her 17.8 points per game, the Cats return junior center Kim Denkins.

Denkins averaged 15.4 points and grabbed nine rebounds a game. Besides Denkins and Roberts, UK is full of inexperienced talent.

"I still have too many young people coming in to play," Mat-

tox said. "So I really don't have an idea yet of where we're going to be."

As far as the young players, UK will be led by freshman point guard Natalie Martinez. The Albuquerque, N.M., native and all-stater three straight years is expected to be the starter.

Alongside Martinez in the backcourt should be Nikki Hay. The junior college transfer from Northeastern Oklahoma Junior College was a second-team junior college All-American.

Complementing Roberts at forward, UK has sophomore Shawn Manning and junior Vonda Jackson.

Manning averaged 6.3 points and 4 rebounds per game, but made strides toward the end of the season. She was the only freshman to finish the season as a regular in the starting lineup.

Jackson comes back to the team after an injury-plagued sophomore season. She missed 10 games with a fractured thumb.

"Vonda's playing the best basketball of her career right now," Mattox said. "I am extremely

pleased with Vonda Jackson's work ethic on the floor."

The biggest addition to the front court could be the return of sophomore Tiffany Wait.

Her season was cut short last year due to stress fractures. She played in the Cats' first six games and scored in double figures in four of those games.

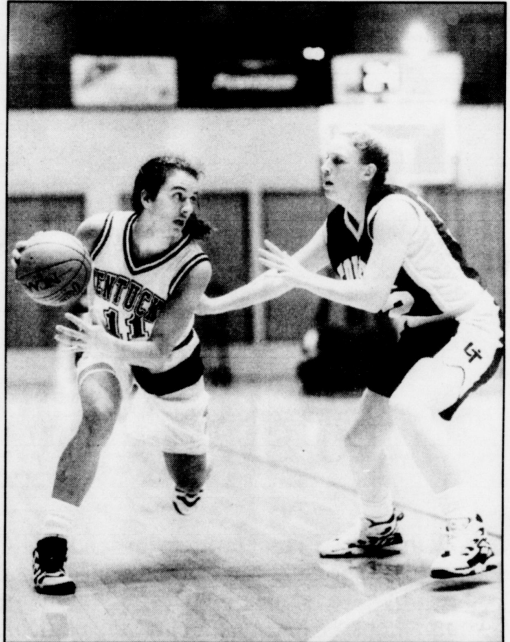
"If we had Tiffany Wait last year, we would have been a different team," Mattox said. "She would probably lift the level up two notches."

The biggest problem UK might face is a lack of depth. The Cats have only 10 players and start the season with a couple of injuries.

But Mattox thinks the difference between last year and this year's squad is attitude.

Now UK has a desire to win.

"This year there's more of a hunger to win," Mattox said. "And understanding that when you're within five or down by five, you have the same rights as any to winning. Our veterans have grown to understand that and they're just not going to be satisfied with being in reach."



File photo

COMING BACK Tiffany Wait returns after suffering a foot injury.

Roberts to continue big role

By Rob Herbst
Assistant Sports Editor
and Jill Erwin
Staff Writer

UK's women's basketball team lost some key seniors from last year's team, including Christina Jansen and Julie Swarens-Beickman.

The Cats will put a young team on the floor this season and are looking for leadership from their returning players.

In steps Shaunda Roberts. "The team is approaching it like a family unit," Roberts said. "I think that's really going to help us, coming together and being there for each other."

The junior from Toledo, Ohio, figures to play a major part in the team's success this year. She was UK's leading scorer last year, as well as the second leading rebounder.

She scored more than 30 points twice, including a career-high 32 against Syracuse.

Roberts' shooting is much improved this year, and UK Coach Bernadette Mattox credits that to Roberts' work in the weight room this summer.

"It has made her stronger," Mattox said. "It has improved her endurance and she can go longer."

That's saying a lot, considering Roberts played all 40 minutes in five games last year.

Roberts is one of the returning players whom Mattox will count on to improve



Roberts

the team's killer instinct.

"Last year, we didn't really 'go for the jugular,' as I like to call it," Mattox said. "We were just happy to be within five points, but our veterans have grown to understand what winning is all about."

"We want to go out and beat these teams," Roberts said. "We want to earn respect from them, respect that we deserve."

Because of the determination to beat teams rather than to just be competitive, there is an attitude change.

"We have this attitude that we want to go out and dominate and do the best we can in every game and every practice," Roberts said.

"I feel that it'll help us out in game situations."

For teams to be truly successful, one Cat can't do the job alone.

While Roberts is respected by her teammates, she doesn't see herself as the only one.

"Everybody's a leader in some form or another," she said. "The coaches encourage everyone to go out there and lead the team. We're a team, and we're going to go out there and help each other every way we can."

But Roberts is the leader, and part of her job description includes bringing the freshmen along.

"The older players have really tried to pull us under their wings," said freshman point guard Natalie Martinez. "They've tried not to classify us as freshmen."

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Denkins looks to forget

By Rob Herbst
Assistant Sports Editor

Kim Denkins wants to forget last year. It wasn't what the UK center did on the court that makes her want to forget, because she had a fine year.

The 6-foot-3 junior from Carlisle, Ky., averaged 15.4 points and nine rebounds a game. She also had a career-high 31 points against North Carolina State and was named to the second team All-Southeastern Conference as a sophomore.

Those aren't statistics to forget. An 8-19 record last year, though, is what Denkins wants to forget.

"We don't look back on last year. We're looking forward to this year," Denkins said. "We have a new young squad and look to focus on what we need to do this year."

To lead the young squad, the Cats return their two top scorers in Denkins and junior Shaunda Roberts.

Because of her experience and talent, Denkins will be looked upon as a key player again this season. UK head coach Bernadette Mattox said the points won't come so easy for Denkins.

"People are going to start targeting in on her. Instead of having one person guard Kim, they're going to start sending two people in on her," Mattox said. "Now

she's going to look to score but at the same time she's going to have to distribute."

Denkins may be targeted this year, but the Nicholas County High School graduate doesn't feel any extra burden to score.

"I don't really feel that I have a lot of pressure because we have a lot of people who can shoot this year," Denkins said. "It's not going to be as much me and Shaunda this year. I think the whole team will be a factor this year."

Last year Denkins made a great improvement on her shooting percentage compared to her freshman year.

During the 1994-95 season, Denkins shot 42.7 percent from the field. Last year she raised it to 51.3 percent, a team high.

But that percentage last year could have been higher, and that's what Denkins must work on this season.

"Kim has to become a finisher," Mattox said. "Last year she missed a lot of chippers. This year she knows that she can't miss those chippers and she's gotten much better."

Denkins had a fine year last year but there was not as much attention turned to her. This year all eyes center on Denkins and she knows that.

"I'm usually not the person that wants to be a leader," she said, "but this year I know I need to step up."

Freshmen to blend in with old

By Rob Herbst
Assistant Sports Editor

For the UK women's basketball coach Bernadette Mattox, it will be a matter of blending the old with the new.

The Cats return their two top scorers in forward Shaunda Roberts and center Kim Denkins, plus three other veterans who are acclimated to the UK program.

But Mattox and company also bring in five newcomers who must learn the system in a hurry for UK to have success.

Leading the new breed of Cats will be junior college transfer Nikki Hay. The forward, who transferred from Northeastern Oklahoma Junior College, was a second-team All-American, an All-Region II first-team and All-Bi-State Athletic Conference Eastern Division first-team selection last season.

Last year Hay averaged 12 points and 4.9 rebounds per game. Mattox thinks Hay will become UK's third scoring option and will make the Cats a much improved team.

"She just brings a different element to our game," Mattox said. "She's one of those players who are going to make others around her better."

It would be safe to say the competition Northeastern Oklahoma Junior College faced is nothing compared to the teams UK will take on this year.

Hay does not concern herself with that. She thinks the transition from junior college to Southeastern Conference play will be smooth.

"Basketball is just basketball," Hay said.

"But I guess it's just because I've had two years of basketball experience that I've adjusted quick."

The other newcomer who can expect to start is freshman Natalie Martinez.

A 5-foot-8 point guard from Albuquerque, N.M., Martinez averaged 15 points and 8.7 assists during her senior year at Rio Grande High School.

Martinez also led her high school to a 21-5 state record and a fourth-place finish in the New Mexico state tournament. For her accomplishments at Rio Grande, Martinez had her jersey retired at the school.

In what is unquestionably the best conference in women's basketball, a freshman at the point guard position will likely have some ups and downs.

"You know when you're playing the point in this conference and at this level, it's tough," Mattox said. "So she's got a lot to battle with early on. We as a staff are very patient with her."

While Mattox is being patient with Martinez, the freshman is feeling comfortable in her position.

"I really don't look at it as any pressure at all," Martinez said. "I feel real comfortable with the style of play and feel real comfortable with the girls on the team."

Other freshmen joining the Cats this year include forward Patrice Boyd, guard/forward Robyn Embry and center Katie Vieth.

Vieth spurned offers from Penn State and North Carolina State to come to UK. During her senior year at St. Henry High School, she was named All A Region MVP and named to the All A State Tournament team.

SEC

Women's basketball still the best in SEC

By Rob Herbst
Assistant Sports Editor

It is no secret the Southeastern Conference is tops for women's basketball. But some of the numbers to prove that point are absolutely scary:

▼An SEC team has earned appearances in 14 of 15 NCAA women's Final Fours and has had representation in a nation-high 10 Championship games.

▼In the '90s, SEC teams have a 1,087-299 record against non-conference opponents.

▼Last year a conference-record eight SEC teams were ranked at one point in last year's AP and CNN/USA Today top 25 polls.

Playing a Top 25 team night in and night out makes it difficult for someone like UK head coach Bernadette Mattox to rebuild her team from the outhouse to the penthouse.

"It's tough," Mattox said. "Any of the top eight teams in our conference in any other conference would probably be No. 1 or No. 2 in those particular conferences."

This year the level of talent will be no different in the SEC.

Alabama comes in as the favorite. Last year the Crimson Tide finished with a No. 10 ranking, a 24-8 record and a trip to the Sweet 16.

It was not a bad year for folks in Tuscaloosa by any stretch of the imagination. But expectations are extremely high this year.

Not only does Alabama return All-American Shalonda Enis and three other starters, but the addition of the state's Miss Basketball in Nicole Carruth and junior college player of the year in Nartasha Mills should be enough to keep the Tide rolling through the SEC.

Most experts see Georgia falling right behind Alabama. The Lady Bulldogs are coming off a disappointing 83-65 loss to Tennessee in the National Championship game.

There is one key difference between last year and this year. The difference is Saudia Roundtree. UGA does return four

starters from last year's squad, but in Roundtree it lost the SEC and national Player of the Year.

Never count Tennessee and head coach Pat Summit out of the picture. Last year's national champion is at a loss, though, as it does not return its starting backcourt in Latina Davis and feisty point guard Michelle Marciniak.

When a team like the Vols has Chamique Holdsclaw it always has a chance. As a freshman she put in 16.2 points per game and grabbed 9.1 rebounds.

After the top three teams, take a pick between Vanderbilt, Florida and LSU.

Perennial powerhouse Vandy is rebuilding this year after last year's trip to the Elite Eight. The Commodores must replace three starters this year, including All-American Sheri Sam.

Florida returns five starters from last year's 21-win team, which made it to the SEC Tournament semifinals.

LSU thinks it got robbed from an NCAA berth. The Tigers finished with a 21-11 overall record, but a 4-7 conference record kept them away from the dance. This Tiger team also returns four starters who should put them somewhere in the tourney.

Auburn, Arkansas and Ole Miss follow close behind the elite teams.

Last year Auburn advanced to the Elite Eight, but with only two returning starters, it could be a long year in Auburn.

Arkansas could be a sleeper this year. The Razorbacks went 21-13 last year and much of that was done without honorable mention All-American Christy Smith. Her season ended with a torn anterior cruciate ligament on Jan. 28. But she returns this year to lead the Hogs.

Ole Miss finished fourth in the SEC last year but lost two-time All-SEC player Yolanda Moore, who led Mississippi in scoring and rebounding for two straight years.

With all of those teams fighting for position, it could be a very long year for UK, Mississippi State and South Carolina, who figure to be cellar-dwellers this year.

Women's All-SEC 1st Team



Holdsclaw



Frett

Forward:
Chamique Holdsclaw,
sophomore, Tennessee

Forward:
LaKeisha Frett,
senior, Georgia



Milton

Center:
DeLisha Milton,
senior, Florida



Canty

Forward:
Dominique Canty,
sophomore, Alabama



Smith

Guard:
Christy Smith,
junior, Arkansas

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1. Alabama
2. Georgia
3. Tennessee
4. Florida
5. LSU
6. Vanderbilt
7. Auburn
8. Arkansas
9. Ole Miss
10. Mississippi State
11. Kentucky
12. South Carolina

SEC Preseason Awards



COACH OF THE YEAR:

Nick Moody,
Alabama

Leaving early for the pros becoming trendy



File photo

C-YA Antoine Walker is one who left early for the NBA.

There's a trend in collegiate basketball that threatens to change the game as we know it. Each spring, college underclassmen face the decision to either leap into the professional ranks or continue to honor their commitment to the university.

Basketball fans and mindful citizens everywhere continue to marvel at the salaries commanded by these youngsters. Despite wide-spread attention given to the problem, the cycle continues to swipe young players from the top of the NCAA talent pool.

Consider that in the '90s, nearly 150 underclass student-athletes declared for the NBA draft. Some of them (Juwan Howard, Jerry Stackhouse) have been selected and found success. Some (Jason Osbourne, Scotty Thurman) have not.

This whole thing hasn't been at issue very long. A few guys in the '70s elected to turn pro before completing college — or in some cases, skipped college altogether. But more than half of all the early entries have come this decade, and the trend is more prevalent today than ever.

Before further pressing the issue, though, should these kids be able to do this? Is it reasonable for a student-athlete to break ties to the university and

pursue the big dollars the NBA has to offer?

If Stephon Marbury can get the big salary in the NBA, despite the fact that his game has not fully matured, why not get paid to improve rather than piddle in the college ranks?



Jay G. Tate

Sports Columnist

In addition, a career-ending injury in college is every prospect's nightmare. If you are going to tear an Anterior Cruciate Ligament, do it while under a guaranteed professional contract.

But if the student-athlete is not at fault, a decision must be made on how to curb the problem.

The NBA is hereby acquitted.

Talented players who draw consumers' interests are at the heart of the NBA's interest. Officials want players who can draw fans

and if those players happen to be 18, it's not the league's fault.

To its credit, the NBA has acknowledged the problem and has taken proactive steps to ensure its new women's professional league doesn't end up this way.

"We're going to have an age limit and stick to it — which is college graduates or 22 years of age," NBA Commissioner David Stern said. "We're going to try to get this one right at the beginning."

The poster child for supporters of early college exits is Michael Jordan. He left North Carolina early but cautions players who consider making the same move.

"(The players) have to make their own decision — I can't say to not take that chance," Jordan said during a recent trip to Louisville. "They need to make sure they have a chance to go back and get their education. They need to be prepared for the rugged roles we have to go through at our level."

So now that we have discounted the players and the NBA, the only entity remaining is the NCAA. They have been inconsequential in the attack on underclass declaration. Now's the time they should begin to consider allowing universities to dole out stipends to the college athlete.

The idea has certainly met its fair share of critics. Yes, players in all varsity athletics should be eligible — the varsity gymnast and varsity basketball players ought to get the same amount of money.

And though the universities will have to foot the bill, it will hit all the institutions equally. Revenue, albeit meager, could cajole several players into staying in the college environment where they belong.

After all, any improvement would be welcome.

Sports Columnist Jay G. Tate is a journalism senior.

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Parity rules supreme

Parity is a word used frequently to describe the situation in NCAA Division I basketball.

Basically, it means a lot of teams have a lot of talent and the threat of an upset lingers even more dauntingly over Top 25 teams.

More kids are devoting their efforts to basketball at the prep level, which allows smaller programs to land better recruits, thanks to a swelling talent pool.

If Charles Darwin were around, he would certainly be a college hoops fan. It is the truest manifestation of his "survival of the fittest" philosophy. The giants of college basketball (UCLA, Duke, Syracuse) no longer get easy games from the smaller programs (Tulsa, Eastern Michigan, Richmond). Everybody wants a piece of the championship pie — and they're willing to do anything to get it.

Though several teams will move through the Top 25 this season, there will be a handful of programs that will stay near the top of the polls.

Here's a few:

Kansas: My pick for the national championship, the Jayhawks theoretically return all five starters from last year's team that went 29-5. But All-America point guard Jacque Vaughn will be sidelined until December, the result of a wrist injury incurred during an offseason pick-up game.

In Vaughn's place, sophomore Ryan Robertson will run the show. Robertson lead the team in three-point percentage last season (45.2) but remains unproven in his ball-handling and leadership skills.

But Kansas' attack is hardly a one-man show. He will be surrounded by the likes of Jerod Haase, Paul Pierce, Raef LaFrentz and Scot Pollard.

Haase, who had a subpar season for the Jayhawks last season, claims to have dedicated the summer to improving his outside game and should regain his sophomore form.

Cincinnati: A major power that keeps getting stronger. The Bearcats are anchored again by junior Danny Fortson. Last season, as Conference USA's Player-of-the-Year, he shot 53.9 percent from the field and proved he can bang down low with the best.

But UC will need more than Fortson in the post. With Art Long graduated, Kentucky native Jackson Julson eases into

the center position, but at a smallish 6-foot-9 may have some trouble stacking up against the bigger trees.

Two other key positions will be filled with JUCO stars. Highly-touted swingman Ruben Patterson moves into the three and Charles Williams replaces the steady Keith LeGree behind the wheel.

Also, don't forget Lexington native Darnell Burton. Though he will begin the season as the Bearcats' top reserve, he should snag nearly 30 minutes per game and be given the green light to bomb away from beyond the arc.

Wake Forest: Tim Duncan elected to play his senior season, causing opponents go back to the drawing board to devise a system to slow him down. Duncan was the total package last season, averaging 19.1 points, 12.3 boards and 3.8 blocks per contest. Look for him to tear up the ACC this year as well.

But if the Demon Deacons are going to make a major bid for the championship, they'll need a healthy Tony Rutland.

After successful surgery to his knee in the offseason, Wake head coach Dave Odom says he's ready. Will he be a step slower? If not, he and shooting guard Ricky Peral may become the most productive backcourt in the NCAA.

Other notables:

UCLA: The Bruins return all five starters from last year. They had a solid regular season, but lost a memorable one to Princeton in the NCAA tournament. An early season matchup with Tulsa will serve as a measuring stick. Look for them to run the table in the PAC-10.

Illinois: The Illini return all their starters as well, including Kiwane Garris — among the best point guards in the college ranks. Look for Lon Kreuger to edge Michigan for the Big 10 title.

Villanova: The Wildcats lost Eric Eberz and Kerry Kittles, but they retain the steadiness of point guard Alvin Williams, which should help them win the Big East. In addition, Nova managed to land super-frosh Tim Thomas, which equates into instant offense. But don't get used to seeing him in Philadelphia — he'll be in the NBA this time next year.

Sports Columnist Jay G. Tate is a journalism senior.



Jay G. Tate
Sports Columnist

Preseason Top 25:

	VOTES
1. KANSAS (4)	123
2. WAKE FOREST (1)	115
3. (TIE) CINCINNATI	113
3. (TIE) UCLA	113
5. KENTUCKY	95
6. (TIE) NORTH CAROLINA	90
6. (TIE) UTAH	90
8. MICHIGAN	84
9. VILLANOVA	83
10. FRESNO STATE	79
11. IOWA STATE	71
12. STANFORD	58
13. DUKE	55
14. SOUTH CAROLINA	45
15. NEW MEXICO	41
16. (TIE) CLEMSON	34
16. (TIE) MASSACHUSETTS	34
18. IOWA	31
19. TEXAS	30
20. GEORGE WASHINGTON	21
21. ARKANSAS	16
22. LOUISVILLE	12
23. ARIZONA	9
24. MINNESOTA	6
25. MIAMI (OHIO)	2

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NCAA Preseason Awards

PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

Tim Duncan, Wake Forest

COACH OF THE YEAR:

Jerry Barkanman, Fresno State

FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR:

Tim Thomas, Villanova

1st Team All-America

F- Keith Van Horn, Utah

F- Danny Fortson, Cincinnati

C- Tim Duncan, Wake Forest

G- Brevin Knight, Stanford

G- Jacque Vaughn, Kansas

KENTUCKY



1996 UK Basketball Schedule

(Plug in scores)

Nov. 4 - 7:30	Athletes in Action ___ at UK ___
Nov. 15 - 9:00	UK ___ Clemson ___ (Indianapolis)
Nov. 20 - 8:00	Australia National ___ at UK ___
Nov. 27-30	Great Alaska Shootout
Nov. 28 - 9:00	UK ___ Syracuse ___
Dec. 3 - 9:30	UK ___ Purdue ___ (Great 8)
Dec. 7 - 7:00	UK ___ Indiana ___ (Louisville)
Dec. 9 - 8:00	Wright State ___ at UK ___
Dec. 14 - 8:00	Notre Dame ___ at UK ___
Dec. 21 - 7:30	UK ___ Georgia Tech ___
Dec. 23 - 8:00	UNC Asheville ___ at UK ___
Dec. 28 - 7:00	UK ___ Ohio State ___ (Cleveland)
Dec. 31 - 4:30	UK ___ Louisville ___
Jan. 4 - 1:30/4:00	Tennessee ___ at UK ___
Jan. 7 - 9:30	Mississippi State ___ at UK ___
Jan. 9 - 7:30	Cantelus ___ at UK ___
Jan. 11 - 1:00	UK ___ Ole Miss ___
Jan. 14 - 9:30	UK ___ Georgia ___
Jan. 18 - 3:00	Auburn ___ at UK ___
Jan. 22 - 7:30	UK ___ Vanderbilt ___ (Cincinnati)
Jan. 26 - 2:30	UK ___ Arkansas ___
Jan. 29 - 7:00	UK ___ Florida ___
Feb. 1 - 3:00	Georgia ___ at UK ___
Feb. 4 - 9:30	UK ___ South Carolina ___
Feb. 6 - 7:30	Western Carolina ___ at UK ___
Feb. 9 - 3:00	Villanova ___ at UK ___
Feb. 12 - 8:00	LSU ___ at UK ___
Feb. 15 - 4:00	Florida ___ at UK ___
Feb. 19 - 8:00	UK ___ Alabama ___
Feb. 22 - 3:00	UK ___ Vanderbilt ___
Feb. 25 - 9:30	UK ___ Tennessee ___
Mar. 2 - Noon	South Carolina ___ at UK ___
Mar. 6-9	SEC Tournament (Memphis)

1996 N Cham