

'Cats Handle State Of Alabama—Whip Tigers, Tide. . .



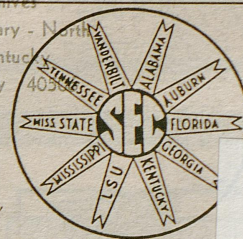
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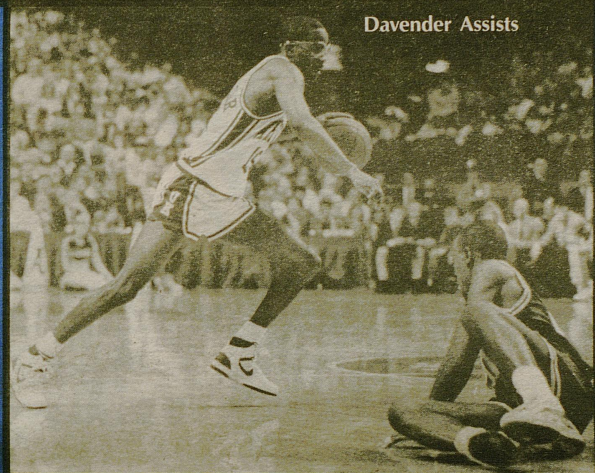
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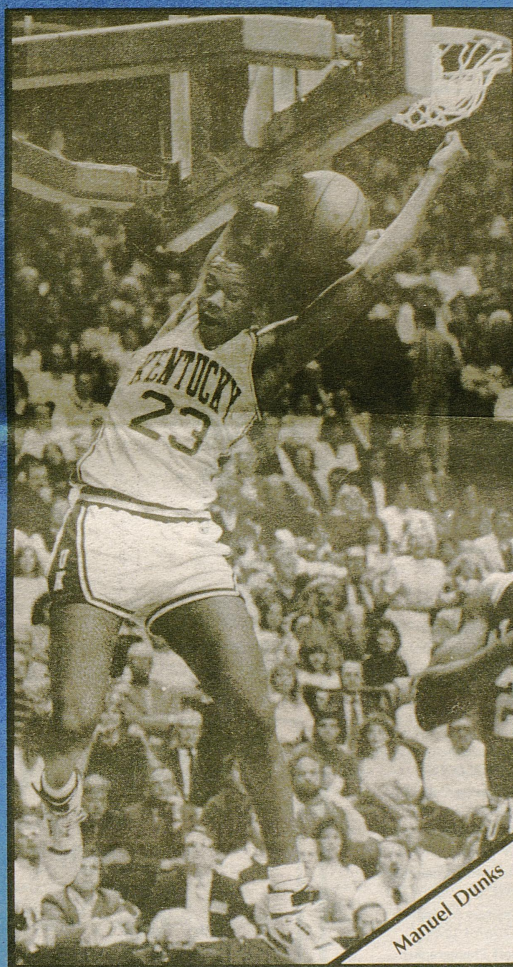
LEXINGTON, KENT



Davender Assists



Sutton Smiles



Manuel Dunks

'Cats Starting To Peak?



. . . Big Tasks Await Them At Tennessee, Florida

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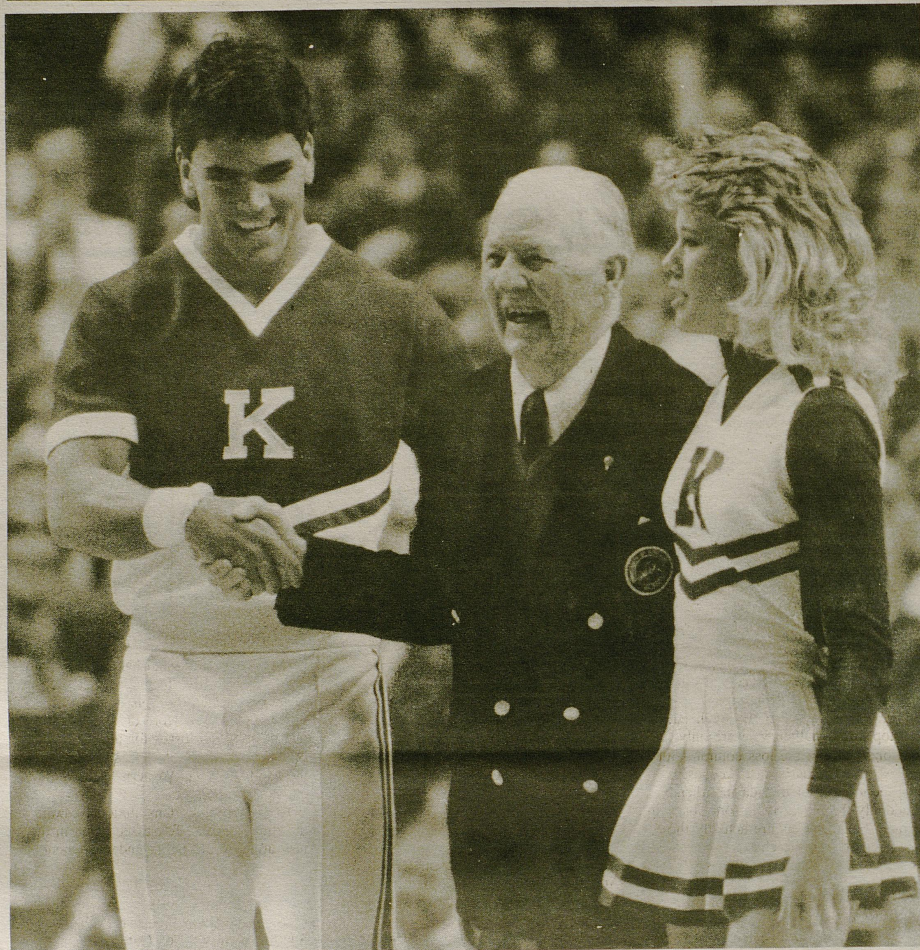
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'Happy' Time For 'Cats



Former Kentucky Gov. A.B. 'Happy' Chandler is all smiles during last Saturday's UK-Alabama game in Rupp Arena. The Wildcats defeated the Tide 82-68 to stay in sole possession of the SEC lead. Photo by David Sterling

The Ideal Gift

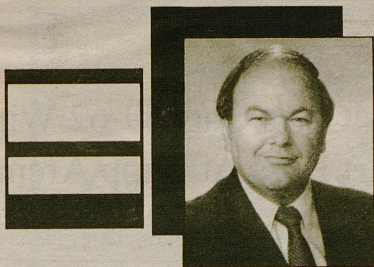
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OSCAR L. COMBS
CATS' PAUSE EDITOR/PUBLISHER

Knoxville And Gainesville—Toughest Test So Far

By the time the UK Wildcats wake up Sunday morning, they should have an excellent idea of just how good their chances are of winning the regular-season Southeastern Conference championship.

Going into this week's action, the Wildcats owned a flashy 18-3 overall record and a 10-3 mark in the SEC after sweeping games last week over Auburn and Alabama.

But that's history.

Facing the 'Cats this week is perhaps Kentucky's toughest assignment of the entire season, a pair of games on the road to what has been the league's top team—Florida—most of the season after first journeying to Knoxville, the 'Cats' most dreaded city in the entire country.

For Kentucky to establish itself as the solid leader in the conference race with less than three weeks remaining, it must win both games because a couple of clubs, namely Vanderbilt and LSU, have suddenly crept into the picture.

Going into games over the weekend, UK's top three challengers were only down one game in the loss column. But there was a great assist last Wednesday when Georgia upset Florida in Athens.

Suddenly, Kentucky is not only back in the race, but the 'Cats are actually the chaser rather than the chaser.

□ □ □

Of Kentucky's three losses this season, the 'Cats have already beaten two of the three teams and this Saturday they get the opportunity to even the score with the Florida Gators.

But first there is a small matter of the 'Cats making their annual trip to K-town.

Unlike trips to Knoxville during the Adolph Rupp, Joe B. Hall and early-Eddie Sutton eras, the Big Blue won't be playing in Stokely Athletics Center.

And that is welcomed news to both the 'Cats and their fans. Over the past 16 years, Kentucky has managed only two victories while taking on the Big Orange in K-town.

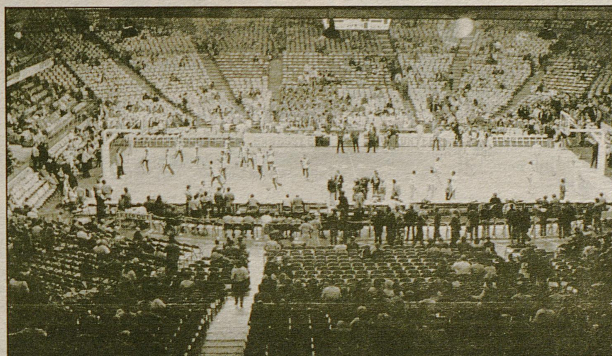
Kentucky did win two other games in Stokely, believe it or not, but only once in each of the last two decades. First, UK defeated Florida State in the Mideast Regional on the way to their 1978 NCAA national championship. The second victory came over the Indiana Hoosiers in the semifinals of the Mideast Regional during the 1982-83 season.

For Kentucky, the 'Cats hope to launch a new beginning in Tennessee's sparkling, new 25,000-seat arena.

Some people believe Tennessee won't enjoy as much of a homecourt advantage in the new arena because of its size. Some Kentucky fans agree that the Wildcats suffered a drop in homecourt advantage when the 'Cats moved from Memorial Coliseum to Rupp back in 1976.

UT coach Don DeVoe begs to differ. Says DeVoe, "I see it as an opportunity to have 25,000 fans screaming for Tennessee instead of the 12,700 in Stokely."

With that in mind, there are reports that Kentucky may see the largest number



Stokely Center's Now History, But What About The Knoxville Jinx?

of Big Blue fans at a Kentucky-Tennessee basketball game in Knoxville since the series began back in 1910. Reports are that Kentucky could have as many as 1,500 fans in the new arena.

Don't be surprised if the new arena enjoys its largest attendance of its young history.

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Looking back at the history of Stokely Athletics Center, I'm reminded of some of the most memorable games involving the Kentucky Wildcats.

Perhaps the biggest game of the Joe B. Hall era didn't even involve the Tennessee Vols. The game would have to be the Florida State (then coached by Hugh Durham), in the 1978 Mideast Regional when Hall's 'Cats were trailing at the half and he put his entire career on the line by benching three starters and inserting reserves Dwane Casey, LaVon Williams and Freddie Cowan to start the second half.

The gamble paid off as the 'Cats fought back and went on to win the national championship. Had UK lost that game, there are some who say Hall would not have been around to retire in 1985.

The most memorable game for me as a reporter with this publication came in 1981-82 when Melvin Turpin poured in 28 points and UK still lost 70-66 in a game which I didn't think Kentucky would ever lose.

Turpin simply was phenomenal throughout the 40 minutes, but it was at that point that I realized that Kentucky truly was jinxed in Stokely.

That all changed in 1985 when Eddie Sutton took his charges into Knoxville with Kenny Walker, Roger Harden & Co. and escaped with a 62-60 victory.

Then last year, reality returned as the Vols won a 75-68 decision. I guess it was only a fitting way to close the Kentucky-Tennessee series in Stokely.

Even with all those games, the most disappointing loss in history had to be the 69-62 loss suffered by Rupp's Runts in 1966 at a time when the 'Cats were bidding for an undefeated season.

The 'Cats rolled into Knoxville with a

perfect 23-0 record and had been pushed only twice by SEC teams. In fact, Kentucky had beaten the Vols a week earlier in Lexington by a score of 78-64. It was one of only two losses for the 'Cats, the other being the 72-65 defeat suffered at the hands of Texas Western in the NCAA championship game.

To say Kentucky fans anxiously await the first Kentucky-Tennessee game in the new arena would be an understatement.

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And then it will be a trip to the sunny South and the Florida Gators.

Just a couple weeks ago it appeared Norm Sloan's Gators were about to make a rout of the league race. Then Florida dropped three of its next four, including a stunning homecourt upset at the hands of Auburn.

Hopes ran high for the Gators during the preseason and dreams of their first-ever SEC title only heightened when Florida won the preseason Big Apple NIT. After that, there were some hot and cold moments.

But the low point definitely came last week when the Gators lost back-to-back games against Auburn and Georgia.

For Florida, this Saturday's battle with Kentucky will definitely be a win-or-else situation. A loss to Kentucky and the Gators can forget even a piece of the SEC title. In fact, a victory over Kentucky won't insure Florida of the title because the Gators still have to close the regular season on Sunday, March 6 in Baton Rouge, the same place they'll return four days later to play the SEC post season tournament.

For Florida, it would be a dream come true to get back in the driver's seat and enjoy a two-game regular season sweep over the 'Cats, something they haven't done since 1972.

For Kentucky, nothing would be sweeter than to put a lock on the league race by doing it the hard way, with a pair of victories over two of their most-hated rivals and on the road.

Stay tuned.

□ □ □

Coach Jerry Claiborne and his staff corralled one of their largest and finest recruiting classes since their arrival to the Bluegrass state six years ago according to recruiting coordinator Dick Redding.

Claiborne said he was very pleased with this year's crop, saying that they have great size, both height-wise and scale-wise. Claiborne also said he is very pleased with his signees out of junior college.

There are some who say this year's crop of Bluegrass state products are down from the past couple years. And even with that observation, Kentucky failed to sign several who opted to leave the state to pursue their goals elsewhere.

On that subject, Jerry said only he was pleased with those who signed with UK and that he wasn't interested in worrying about those not wearing the Big Blue.

The biggest disappointment had to be the loss of Kentucky's Mr. Football, Kurt Barber of Paducah Tilghman, who decided to head west and play for Southern Cal.

It is the second year in a row that the state's top player has decided to go elsewhere. Last season, Newport Catholic's Frank Jacobs signed with Notre Dame.

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HITS AND MISSES . . . With basketball recruiting starting to heat up again, it appears that Kentucky's wish list is pretty short, perhaps only Californian **Don MacLean** and perhaps Clay County's **Richie Farmer . . .** Entering last week's game against Auburn, Kentucky's top three free throw shooters were **Ed Davender, Rob Lock** and **Rex Chapman**, and they were all hitting within one-tenth of a percentage point of each other and all three were over the 83 percent mark.

Then guess what happens—the 'Cats hit only 11 of 21 against Auburn . . . Someone should tell SEC color analyst **Jordy Hultberg** that Georgia led the entire second half and actually beat Florida last week in the game he worked with **Tom Hammond**. If I didn't know better, I'd swear he must have played for **Norm Sloan** rather than **Dale Brown** and LSU . . . My vote, if it were taken today, for the SEC Coach Of The Year, would have to go to Vanderbilt coach **C.M. Newton**.

What he had done with a bunch of players (some would say they don't qualify as players because of certain basketball clichés) in winning 15 of their first 20 games has been nothing less than fantastic and I'm sure those rabid Vandy fans will agree. And Vandy is making sure the basketball world is aware of the three-point shot . . . When the going got tough, the tough got going for the 'Cats in the final five minutes against Auburn last week as they turned to an underclassmen combination. **Frosh Eric Manuel** and sophomore **Rex Chapman** scored all of UK's points in the final stretch. Chapman finished the game with a season-high 25 points and Manuel added 10.

Sweet Revenge

Chapman's 25 Points, Manuel's Late-Game Heroics Give 'Cats 69-62 Win Over Auburn, Revenge For Early-Season Homecourt Loss At Rupp Arena

By TCP Columnist Nick Nicholas

AUBURN, Ala. — The Kentucky Wildcats took a big, big step toward a Southeastern Conference championship with a 69-62 victory over Sonny Smith's Auburn Tigers last Wednesday evening. UK's win, coupled with Florida's loss at Georgia, put the 'Cats in sole possession of first place with a 9-3 mark, one game in front of Vanderbilt, one and a half ahead of the Gators.

Behind Rex Chapman's game-high 25 points, some late heroics by freshman Eric Manuel and 11 second-half turnovers by Auburn, the 'Cats never trailed while winning their 17th game in 20 tries. The victory especially was sweet for Kentucky. Not only are the Wildcats in first place but the seven-point triumph avenges an earlier one-point loss to the Tigers at Rupp Arena.

"That (Auburn's 53-52 win in January) was probably the worst loss we've had this year," said senior Rob Lock. "We watched the film today of the last five minutes of that game. It still hurts us to lose like that to them. We didn't play well at all.

"Revenge... it feels good to win, especially in Auburn against Auburn."

Tigers Stayed Close, But Couldn't Move Ahead

Auburn made a gallant try. Trailing 40-31 at halftime, the hosts patiently made a game of it. Using a triangle-and-two defense with man-to-man attention on Chapman and Ed Davender, Auburn battled back to just a two-point deficit with 7:54 remaining.

Time after time in the second stanza the Tigers would draw close only to slide back down the hill. At one point the Tigers had an opportunity to pull within a basket, but two missed free throws derailed the Tigers' grip. And earlier a technical on Chris Morris didn't help matters, either.

Jeff Moore, sidelined the last six weeks with a broken left hand (shooting trigger), returned with 15:28 left in the first half. He amazed the 12,599 on hand—including Smith and Eddie Sutton—with 18 points and seven rebounds in 28 minutes of action.

It was Moore's slashing-in-the-lane jam which pulled the Tigers to within two, 53-51, with 6:09 left. Kentucky's next trip down the court erupted Morris. Lock, playing the last 5:55 with four personals, went up for a shot in the paint and missed. He grabbed the ball and went up as Morris got a piece of the ball... and apparently a piece of Lock.

Obviously upset with the call, Morris, borrowing a scene from Florida's Dwayne Schintzius, cried, screamed and jumped up and down, all while Moore had a bear hug on his bewildered teammate.

Lock hit the two free throws awarded to him on the foul, but couldn't connect on the technical.

Said Morris: "That was the key right there. The only thing I can say about it was that I thought I had a good chance of blocking his (Lock's) shot. They called it because they thought I hit him on the arm. I don't think I did."

Chapman, Manuel Come Through For 'Cats

Though on the shoulders of a superb performance by Moore, a 6-foot-7 senior forward, Auburn couldn't control Chapman and Manuel's contributions.

"Manuel came through with the two biggest baskets of the game, I thought," said the Auburn head coach, who saw his club fall to 5-6 in the league, 12-8 overall. "I would say that was big. At that point they were up by five, though (actually four, 59-55). He didn't put 'em up by a lot but he did the job."

Indeed Manuel's back-to-back baskets were priceless. It was his two field goals eventually which broke the Tigers' backs.

Following a missed free throw by Chapman, Winston Bennett snared the rebound only to put up an air ball. Auburn, trailing 59-55 with 3:56 remaining, controlled the rebound and was off and running. Down by four Tiger center Matt Geiger drove for the basket but was tagged by Chapman, as his layup rolled off the rim.

Timeout Kentucky.

Geiger, a 63.3 percent free throw shooter this season, was put in a pressure situation for a freshman and missed both attempts. The two misfires took a little steam out of Auburn's crowd.

Lock tried to widen UK's lead to six with short jumper. The ball, though, caromed off in Manuel's direction. The 6-6 reserve neatly tapped in Lock's attempt. Then, the Wildcat advantage was increased to eight when Manuel, just moments after his tip-in, knocked down a 12-foot jumper. Nothing but net.

What once was an alarming four-point lead had been turned into a more comfortable eight-point advantage with 2:28 left.

Timeout Auburn.

"I feel confident," Manuel said, who noted that his 12-point and six-rebound performance was by far his best outing this season. "I was more impressed tonight than I have been in other games with my board play. I got a couple of offensive and defensive re-

bounds late in the game.

"That makes me feel great to come in and be a role player and to come out of it with a great game. I was tickled to go in there and get enough rebounds to help my team win."

Manuel connected on four of eight from the field, four of five from the charity stripe in 30 minutes of work.

Florida's Loss Gave Kentucky Extra Incentive

During the Auburn timeout, the Joel H. Eaves Memorial Coliseum P.A. announcer reported that Georgia had defeated Florida. If there was any hope of an Auburn comeback in the final two-plus minutes, it was lost when it was announced the Gators had been knocked off in Athens.

"When we heard that we knew we had to come out of here with a 'W,'" Manuel added. "We're at the top now and everybody will be chasing us from here on out."

The Kentucky lead ballooned to 10 when Chapman dippy-doodled his way underneath with a double scoop. After that the closest Auburn could get was five points 16 ticks remaining.

Afterwards, a happy Sutton talked about the victory, one of Kentucky's biggest of the 1987-88 campaign.

"We did a good job defensively of taking away their three-point shot," said the Kentucky coach, whose team held Auburn to one successful three-point goal in five tries. "They've been hitting a lot of three-point shots and have been looking for a lot of three-point shots. When you do that you're going to give up something. Perhaps we gave up some inside play to Moore, Morris and Geiger."

Auburn came into the contest hitting on 99 of 258 attempts from 19'9" range.

"We did establish an inside game, but we got some three-point shots ourselves," Sutton added. "Ed (Davender) hit two and Rex three."

Rex Wrecked Auburn's Gimmick Defenses

Ah yes, Mr. Chapman.

Chapman opened the game with jumper from the foul line and finished Kentucky's first-half scoring with a powerful slam dunk. So powerful that even many of the Blue and Orange in attendance gave a round of applause.

In between those two buckets, the 6-4 Owensboro sophomore added 13 points. While drilling seven of 10 field goals, three three-pointers, Chapman played the full 20-minute tilt, scoring 17 points, handing out three assists and committing only two turnovers.

"We didn't want to go to our gimmicks (defenses) as quick as we did," said Smith of trying to slow down Chapman. "We didn't want to put him on the foul line. The way they were running him off screens and the way people have been using gimmicks he's going to the free throw line a lot. We wanted to hold that and keep those fouls down as long as we could."

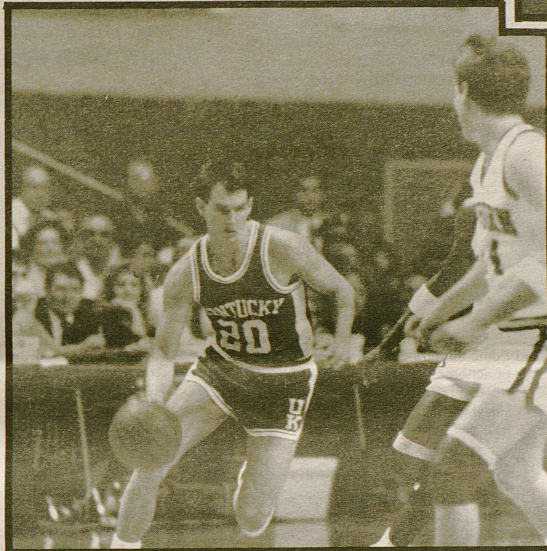
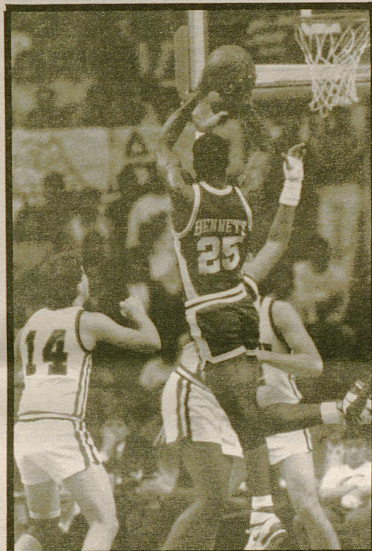
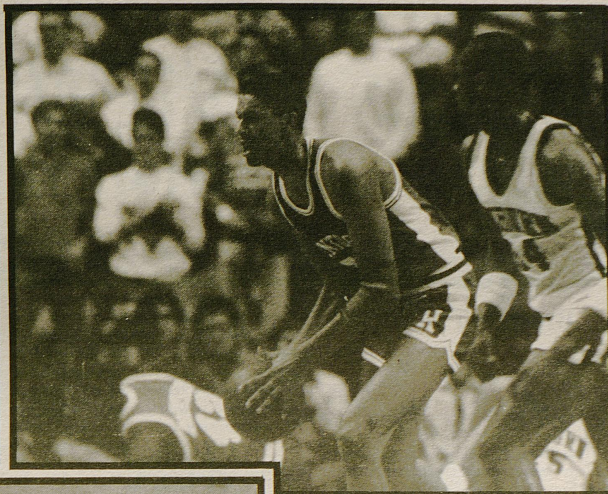
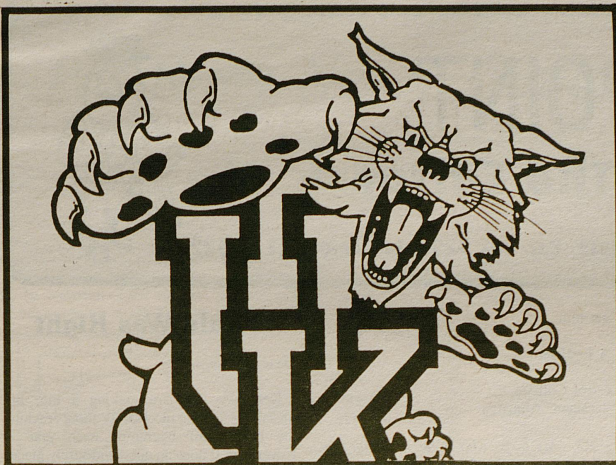
"We went to a zone (first half) and he hit a three-pointer. Even after we put the gimmicks on him he still scores 25. He had a great night. We tried everything to stop him."

[Continued On Page 22]

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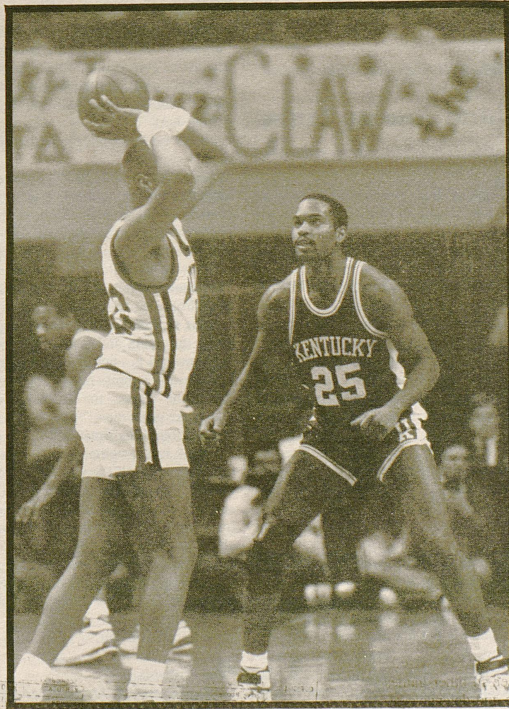
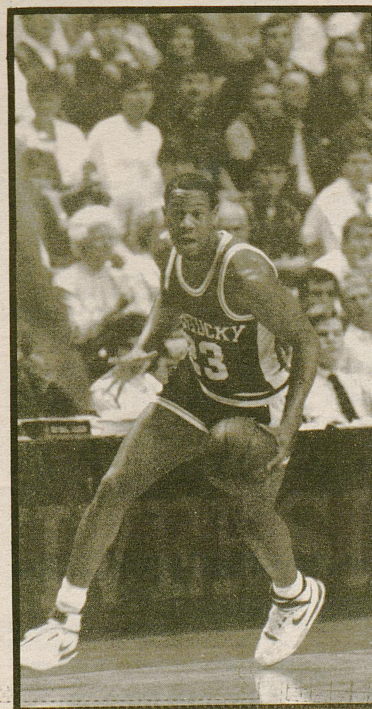
UK-Auburn Play-By-Play			
Time	Kentucky	Score	Auburn
19:50	Chapman 15 ft.	2-0	
19:33		2-2	Howard 17 ft.
19:17	Lock layup	4-2	
18:49	Lock 6 ft.	6-2	
18:14	Ellis follow layup	8-2	
18:00		8-4	Morris follow layup
16:02	Davender 21 ft.	11-4	
15:28	Lock FTA, FT	12-4	
14:17		12-7	Morris layup, FT
13:30	Chapman 12 ft.	14-7	
13:06		14-9	Morris tip-in
11:46		14-11	Moore FT, FT
11:31	Manuel tip-in	16-11	
10:38	Bennett 10 ft.	18-11	
9:38	Davender 20 ft.	21-11	
9:27		21-13	Moore dunk
8:46		21-15	Moore 8 ft.
8:20		21-17	Caylor layup
7:19	Chapman 21 ft.	24-17	
6:58		24-19	Caylor layup
6:43	Bennett 7 ft.	26-19	
6:30		26-21	Dennison 12 ft.
6:17	Davender 10 ft.	28-21	
5:46	Chapman 20 ft.	31-21	
5:27		31-23	Morris 12 ft.
5:09	Chapman 10 ft.	33-23	
4:54		33-25	Lynn reverse layup
3:32	Chapman 21 ft.	36-25	
2:50	Madison dunk	38-27	
1:47		38-29	Moore 15 ft.
1:10	Chapman dunk	40-29	
0:48		40-31	Howard 16 ft.
HALF 40-31			
19:43	Lock FTA, FT	41-31	
18:40		41-33	Dennison 3 ft. follow
16:39	Chapman 16 ft.	43-33	
15:55		43-35	Moore layup
13:40		43-37	Morris dunk
13:14	Manuel 10 ft.	45-37	
11:49		45-39	Howard 15 ft.
11:27	Lock 10 ft.	47-39	
11:10		47-41	Moore layup, FTA
10:30		47-43	Geiger 8 jump hook
10:10	Chapman 14 ft.	49-43	
8:59		49-45	Lynn layup
8:39	Davender 12 ft.	51-45	
8:20		51-47	Morris dunk
7:54		51-49	Lynn FT, FT
6:25	Bennett 15 ft.	53-49	
6:09		53-51	Moore dunk
5:42	Lock FTA, FT	55-51	
5:42	Lock FTA, FT	55-51	Technical: Morris
5:28		55-53	Howard layup
5:15	Chapman FT, FT	57-53	
4:57		57-55	Geiger 6 jump hook
4:37	Lock FT, FT	59-55	
3:16	Manuel tip-in	61-55	
2:26	Manuel 12 ft.	63-55	
1:18	Chapman layup	65-55	
0:55		65-57	Moore 12 ft.
0:45	Manuel FT, FT	67-57	
0:37		67-60	Caylor 21 ft.
0:17		67-62	Caylor layup
0:03	Manuel FT, FT	69-62	
FINAL 69-62			

—Cats' Pause chart



SWEET REVENGE
 (Top) LeRon Ellis Looks For Open Man.
 (Middle Left) Bennett Down Low.
 (Middle Right) Sean Sutton Zigzags Away From Pressure.
 (Bottom Left) Manuel Comes Through Down The Stretch With Two Big Buckets.
 (Bottom Middle) UK's Bennett Eyes Jeff Moore.
 (Bottom Right) In Two Games At Auburn Chapman Has Scored 51 Points.

Photos By Holly Heath





VIEWPOINT

Letters To The Editor

Mail All Letters To: VIEWPOINT, The Cats' Pause, P.O. Box 7297, Lexington, KY 40522



Bragging Rights

Dear Sir:

I would like to take this time to say that this is my first year as a subscriber of *The Cats' Pause*. This newspaper has got to be the best newspaper published in the country.

I have been a Wildcat fan ever since I knew what basketball was. Living only five miles from the Kentucky state line, a lot of people in my town can't understand why I support the 'Cats and not the Vols. My answer to that is that watching and listening to the Kentucky Wildcats basketball games and knowing the history background of the teams in the past are no doubt the best in the nation. In the Kentucky romp over the Vols on Jan. 16, 1988, I have a lot of bragging rights for who I root for. People just don't know what they are missing by not being Big Blue fans.

In closing, I want to wish the best to the 'Cats as they finish the season and upcoming years in basketball. Keep up the good work guys.

Sincerely,

Brent Callicott
Union City, Tennessee

Colorado 'Cat

Dear Sir:

I am a subscriber to *The Cats' Pause* and am living in the Colorado Springs, Colo., area. I am grateful for your publication as it keeps me informed about University of Kentucky basketball. I hope you will publish this letter as I am looking for other Big Blue fans in the area to join in watching the 'Cats. I presently don't know any 'Cats (I'm not sure there is such a thing as a Colorado Buffs fan).

What games are not broadcast on the networks or cable I receive from a friend in Kentucky on video tape. Perhaps there are Kentucky fans that would like to see these games. If there are, my telephone number is (303) 687-2190. Also, I got to see the Pan Am Trials last May and we all know that (Rex) Chapman made the team. I just want to say that I thought that Ed Davender looked sensational with his defense there as he does this season. Now he's scoring, driving, handling the ball. He's great and we need him badly if we are to have a shot at the SEC, Southeast Regional and Kansas City.

Sincerely,

Gregg Carter
Woodland Park, Colorado

Roadcourt Advantage?

Dear Sir:

I have noticed something rather strange this year as far as the 'Cats go, and I wonder if I am the only one. It seems that the 'Cats play more loose and less tense when they are on the road than they do at Rupp Arena. I believe there's more pressure on them to perform well at home than on the road, and their road record would indicate the same. Except for

Vandy, the 'Cats have played good basketball on the road. It isn't easy for a "Kentucky" team to go into Baton Rouge and pin Dale Brown's ears down the way they did, especially after LSU had recently handed Oklahoma a stunning loss. With the SEC coming down to the nitty gritty, I believe the fans at Rupp and around the state that call themselves 'Cat fans should get behind this team and not on them. Wildcat fans are the best in the country, bar none, and it is time to show it. We are all hungry for that crown in March and everyone wants it bad, but it is hard for a young player out there to make that big play or critical shot when he has his shoulders burdened with pressure. I am almost certain that nobody wants to win for the fans for than coach (Eddie) Sutton and each of his players do, they also are hungry. The players we have are very good basketball players and the freshmen, LeRon Ellis and Eric Manuel, will only get better, but we must realize that these players are human also and they know when fans are behind them or on them. There is a big difference between a high school gym with a few thousand fans and Rupp Arena with about 23,000 fans.

So come on, 'Cat fans, let's show this team that we are behind them all the way. Someone said of the 15 wins we have that a few of those games we just barely won. Which would you rather have, a narrow win, or a narrow loss? they are both Ws and Ls, whether it is one point or 25. This team can and will play to their potential and they are making progress now to do that, so let's get behind our 'Cats and show them that we are the best fans in the nation.

Go 'Cats!

A True Blue Wildcat Fan,

Johnny Kinsler
Chevrolet, Kentucky

Behind Enemy Lines

Dear Sir:

I am one of those people fortunate to be a native Kentuckian! Lexington, in fact, is my birthplace. I hope to come home soon.

I have been a Wildcat fan as long as I can remember. I have had several members of my family, on both sides, who attended UK. At this time, two second cousins. One of them, Joel Lipscomb, gave me one of his shakers. Thanks, Joel.

Like all loyal fans, I wear the Blue and White when I watch the games on TV. Even though I have not had the great opportunity to see a game in person, that does not affect my loyalty. I have resided in Alabama for more than 10 years, and I have not become an elephant or war eagle. No disrespect to those who are.

I have a Kentucky sticker in the back glass of car, so, there is no dispute as to my allegiance.

I have seen the Wildcats do their best and have seen them not, in my opinion, do as well as they could have. However, I love them anyway. I feel that Eddie Sutton has that love for UK and his players that coach (Adolph) Rupp had. It takes an intelligent coach to know what positions each member of the team is best suited for. We are fortunate to

get him.

A loyal fan,

Carol Collette
Saraland, Alabama

P.S.—My boss, who is an Alabama fan, allows me to put my UK material on the wall of the office.

Vitale Was Wrong

Dear Sir:

Hello up there in Big Blue Land! It has been awhile since I have written to *The Cats' Pause* because so many of you have been handling everything OK.

However, Mr. (Dick) Vitale's remarks during the UK-Notre Dame telecast concerning coach (Eddie) Sutton's longevity due to the "pressure" has moved me to offer a few comments.

(Vitale apparently questioned whether Sutton would be at Kentucky in five more years during the telecast—editor.)

The so-called pressure that surrounds the UK basketball program could be more aptly described as the following:

"Love," for we certainly love both the sport and the Wildcats.

"Dedication," for we are dedicated to excellence both on and off the court.

"Caring," now this is a biggie! We "Care" for our program. "We" meaning all Wildcat fans scattered here, there and yon, young and old, sane or . . . well, anyway, we care. The alternative to caring is apathy.

Those timid souls who don't like "pressure" would be happy here in Austin. The Texas gym is one of the few places you could have a basketball game and a skeetshoot simultaneously, with small chance of anyone getting hurt.

I think Eddie would prefer the "pressure" of this situation.

Actually, this so-called "pressure" means only that UK has more fans who are more concerned, more involved, more discerning, and more supportive than any other school that takes the hoop game seriously.

Many of us Wildcat fans understand the "pot-shots" taken at UK. People hated the New York Yankees for the same reasons. Jealous of their years of winning and being No. 1 for years and years.

I know this is a family-type publication, so I can't really express myself, but I would say this to the Vitales, the Musbergers, and all you other crybabies: "Eat your hearts out, you envious illegitimates."

I think it is a tremendous endorsement to our product at UK the way other folks regard us and "get up" for us. Like any UK fan, I suffer hurt, shock and disbelief whenever we lose. But I follow the basketball scene fairly close and dadgone it, these little setbacks are going to happen now and then. To revise an old saying: "When you're hot you're hot, and when you're not, the other guys are."

Your friend and fan,

Fred Williams
Austin, Texas

Vitale Was Right

Dear Sir:

Kentucky fans are making a big, big mistake by talking incessantly about reaching the Final Four beginning each year in November. It does no good and surely places additional pressure on the players and coaches. Face it, despite the overall excellence, the 'Cats have only reached that elusive goal four times in the past 30 years, thus it isn't something to reasonably expect on an annual basis. Such talk should be postponed until the team has won at least two games in the NCAA tournament.

Now that big-time coaches are hired to produce and move on, it is unquestionably foolish from another standpoint. If you have a "top five" coach such as Eddie Sutton, he obviously knows that he's expected to win a national championship eventually. If he doesn't do so in the first few years, he may decide the pressure and frustration aren't worth the money and move on to greener pastures where the big bucks are available, minus the pressure in Lexington.

The more I think of it, the more I'm convinced Dick Vitale was right when he said Sutton wouldn't stay more than about five years at Kentucky.

And in case you haven't noticed, it might be wise to cast an eye four hours south to observe which way the wind is blowing. If I were Doug Dickey looking for a man who could fill the seats at the new "Thompson-Boling Alley" I'd know exactly who I'd pursue."

Sincerely,

Gene A. Russell
Manchester, Tennessee

Don't Forget Adkins

Dear Sir:

Oscar, I was a caller on your Monday night call-in radio show recently regarding Paintsville's Keith Adkins. You and (co-host) Earl (Cox) acted like you didn't believe me. Here's the proof!

(Enclosed was an article saying that Adkins, who is averaging in excess of 32 points per game, is being hotly pursued by Indiana, Notre Dame, Vandy, Michigan State and Auburn—editor.)

So tell Earl not to rate (Richie) Farmer as the best player in the state until he has seen Adkins this season. Once he's seen Adkins, there will be no doubt who's the best. The media has made Farmer Mr. Basketball, just as they have already made Allan Houston Mr. Basketball for next season.

Please make mention of Keith on next Monday's radio show. And please have Earl eat his words that Keith will probably end up with a Southern Conference school. This kid is going to be a super college player. Please give him a little credit.

If you or Earl haven't seen him play, at least give him a little recognition based on this article I have enclosed. Believe me, there are many more I could enclose. This is just a sample. If Kentucky is looking for the best,

[Continued On Page 22]

Pat Riley Never Could Tame Florida's Gators

'Alligator Alley' Unkind To UK All-American

If I could have my druthers this weekend, I'd be sipping a cold one (tea, of course) in Pat Riley's living room while the Los Angeles Lakers' coach and I tuned our antenna in the direction of the satellite that was picking up the Kentucky-Florida basketball game being played in the Stephen C. O'Connell Center in Gainesville.



Russell Rice

Cats' Pause Columnist



For the uninformed, a rare breed indeed among TCP readers, Riley was an All-American forward with the beloved "Rupp's Runts," UK's NCAA runner-up team of 1966. The O'Connell Center, completed in 1979 at a cost of \$14 million, has become a showpiece for college basketball in the state of Florida.

"Wouldn't it be something," I'd say to Pat as the NBC commentators began their pregame analysis, "if we could set our time machine back 23 years, take O'Connell Center with us, and replay those three games in Gainesville in which you were, well let's face it, less than terrific in the old Florida Gym?"

Then I'd remind him that as a sophomore making his first trip to Gainesville in 1965, he described that awful facility as a "Lion's Den."

"Gators, Pat, not Lions," I'd say, "as in 'Alligator Alley.' Remember those exposed rafters, which were interspersed with huge heating ducts? And how about those small, slit-like windows which were located high up near the roof and through which light was filtered in a wierd fashion? Perhaps that's why you couldn't hit the side of a barn there. . . oops, jurors, disregard that remark." Sustained.

"ALL RIGHT, PAT, ISN'T IT A FACT that in those three games, you hit only two of 25 from the field and eight of 12 from the line for a 4.0 ppg. average, which is a far cry from your UK career average of 17.9 ppg.?" I'd continue.

Pat undoubtedly would want to change the subject, but I'd like to ask if he remembers how it felt to run onto the floor for the first time and be greeted by 6,000 Gator fans, shirt-sleeves blending with colored blouses, squeezed into a space designed for 5,000 and shouting "Gator Bait?" And how those fans were seated so close to the playing floor that their knees were in the backs of UK's radio announcers.

I bet Pat didn't know that Florida officials feared a riot each time the Wildcats came to town. The problem was in a ticket allotment of 4,000 to students and 1,000 to townspeople. The students always threatened to come early and occupy those seats that had been purchased by the townspeople. As once UF official explained, "We would have hundreds of empty seats against such teams as Georgia and Tulane, but when Kentucky comes to town, everybody wants a ticket." So what else is new?

After all the "Gator Bait" jeers that taunted the Wildcats, I remember well how the Florida fans started cheering as those 1964 Wildcats ran back onto the floor just before the game got underway in the "Alley." First there was a surprised look on the Wildcat faces, then our players turned and headed back off the floor as the cheering was for Dr. J Wayne Reitz, University of Florida president who was being escorted onto the floor to deliver a eulogy to Dr. John J. Tigert, who had died the previous day.

That was a coincidence, since Dr. Tigert, one of the outstanding athletes and scholars of his time, once filled the Chair of Philosophy at UK, where he also coached the girls' basketball team two years, the football team in 1915 (6-1-1) and 1916 (4-1-2) and the basketball Wildcats in 1913 (5-3). He also was in charge of roundball when assistants Jim Park and Bill Tuttle, respectively, did that actual coaching in 1916 and 1917. Dr. Tigert at one time was U.S. Commissioner of Education.

That was the only time the crowd was quiet, but who could blame them for letting off steam? The Gators had only won one of 22 games against UK, with the Wildcats taking the last 18 in a row, and the lone UF victory was in the SEC tournament in 1934.

THE GAME WAS AS ROUGH AS THE FANS WERE VOCAL, with a total of 58 fouls called. The Gators hit 34 of 48, the 'Cats 22 of 29 from the line as Florida won 84-68. John Adams, Terry Mobley and Riley fouled out while Randy Embry, Larry Conley and Tommy Kron were tooted for four each.

Sitting in the stands was Pat's brother Len, who had driven up from Tampa with his wife Katie. A former basketball player at Florida Southern, Len hadn't seen Pat in more than a year. He and Katie would see each of the three games Pat played in the Alley.

"He has let his hair grow," was Len's first observation. "I've never seen him in anything but a crewcut. I didn't recognize him at first."

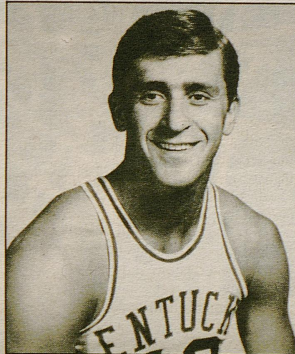
Could that have been the same Pat Riley who 20 years later would be described by Bill Livingston of the *Philadelphia Enquirer* as a coach with a "wethed" hair style that is never dampened by sweat but is slicked down with scented oils that gloss the ringlets in the back?

(We sympathize with Pat on the death of Len earlier this month while pointing out that the athletic Riley family also included father Lee, who played professional baseball, and brother Lee Jr., who played professional football for the Eagles, Lions and Giants.)

The Wildcats won in Gainesville the following year, the season of the "Runts," but the nightmare that was Alligator Alley was even worse for Pat. He hit a free throw to give UK a 1-0 lead, but that was the extent of his scoring as he missed all eight shots from

the field and the only other free throw that he attempted. He fouled out with more than three minutes remaining. Sophomore center Thad Jaracz took up the slack, hitting 11 of 15 from the field and four of six from the line for 26 points. Larry Conley added 17 while Louie Dampier scored 15. The 'Cats won 78-64.

THE 1967 SEASON WAS A DISASTER, not only in Alligator Alley, but on all fronts as the Wildcats finished 13-13, barely missing becoming the first UK team since 1927 to post a losing season. The loss of Conley and Kron from the "Runts" was crucial, but so was the physical condition of Riley, who suffered a back injury received in a water-skiing accident during the summer. Throughout that season, he was in constant pain, taking pills for relief in the daytime and strapped in weights and pulleys—in traction—each night.



Riley During His Days At UK, Left, And Today With The Lakers

When the Wildcats returned to Alligator Alley in January 1967, they had lost half of their 10 games, including the first loss ever to Florida on the home floor. Riley duplicated his shooting slump of the preceding year, going zero for eight from the field; however, he hit four of five from the line. The Gators won 89-72, becoming the fourth school in SEC history to beat the 'Cats twice in a season. Here are Pat's stats for games played in Alligator Alley:

Riley's Alligator Alley Stats

year	fg-fga/pct.	ft-fta/pct.	reb./avg.	pf	pts./avg.
1965	2-9/22.2	3-5/60.0	7/xx	5	7/xx
1966	0-8/0.0	1-2/50.0	3/xx	5	1/xx
1967	0-8/0.0	4-5/80.8	3/xx	4	4/xx
Totals	2-25/8.0	8-12/66.7	13/4.3	14	12/4.0

Compare the above with his lifetime stats at UK:

Riley's UK Varsity Career Stats

year	g/min.	fg-fga/pct.	ft-fta/pct.	reb./avg.	a	pf	pts./avg.
1964-65	25/835	160-370/43.2	55-89/61.8	212/8.5	27	98	375/15.0
1965-66	29/1078	265-514/51.6	107-153/69.9	259/8.9	64	106	612/21.1
1966-67	26/953	165-373/44.2	122-156/78.2	201/7.1	68	90	452/17.4
Totals	80/2866	590-1257/46.9	284-398/71.1	627/8.5	159	294	1439/17.9

□ □ □

MY FAVORITE STORY ABOUT PAT RILEY occurred when he was 10- or 11-years-old and doing a pretty good job on the basketball courts at Schenectady's Central Park, which he described as a real nice, manicured place where the middle-class kids played.

"I guess I was pretty obnoxious about it, telling everybody what to do," Pat recalled. "So my old man and brothers got tired of hearing it. My old man decided to take me down to Lincoln Heights, where the street kids played."

There was this one particular kid, a bully, who not only kicked his butt every day in the games, but also took pleasure in doing it. One day, he chased Pat all the way around the playground with a butcher knife. Pat ran all the way home, crying and, for a long time, didn't go back.

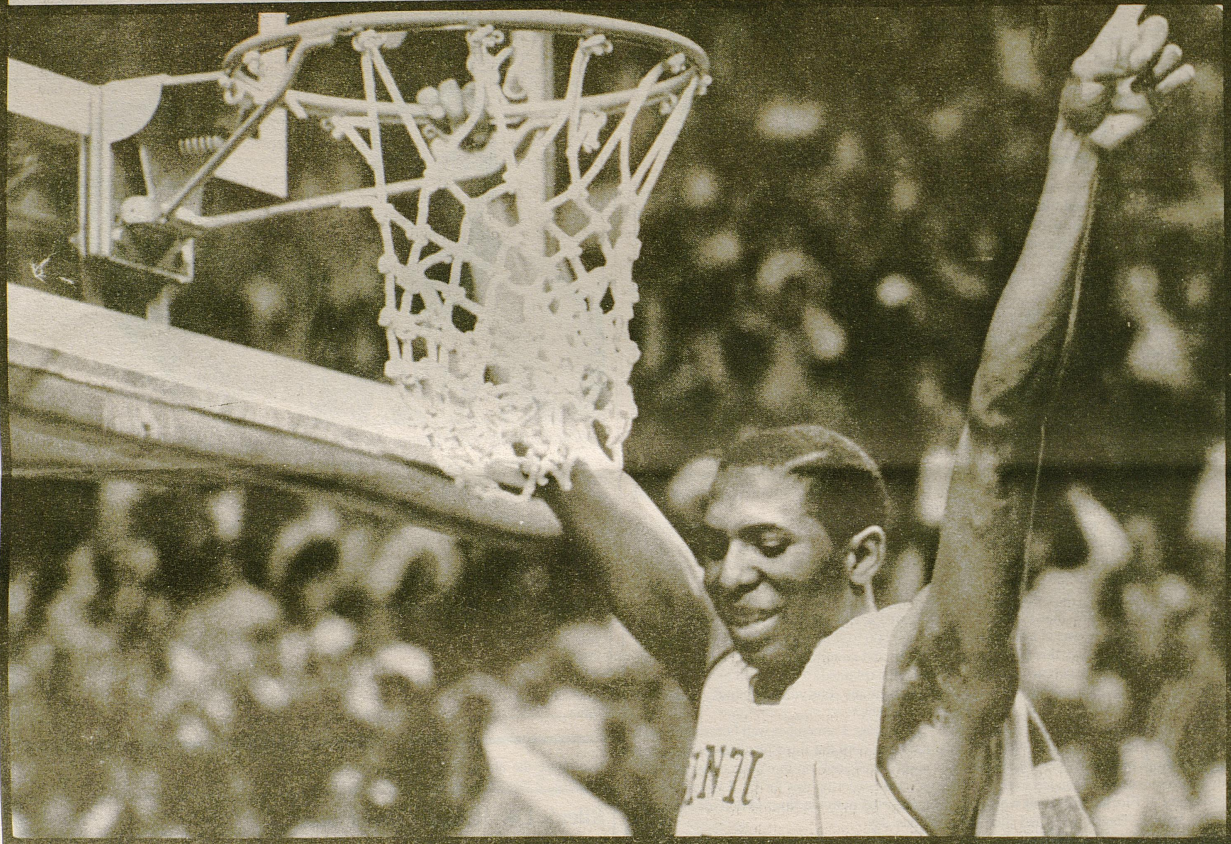
When father Lee and the brothers started dropping by to see how Pat was doing, the other kids told them he hadn't been around for some time.

"I still remember my old man talking to me," Pat said. "I was sitting in my room and he told me, 'I sent you there because I wanted to teach you not to be afraid.'"

Although he doesn't remember the name of that bully, Pat is sure he never made it to the NBA. He also remembers what happened before he got through playing at Lincoln Heights.

"Oh, I took care of my nemesis," he told Livingston. "For all I know, he disappeared into the Hudson River after that."

For The Wildcat Fan Who Never Gets Enough Of The Big Blue. . .



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Claiborne Sends SOS, Signs Six JuCos

Couldn't Find Veteran Offensive Linemen

Kentucky Coach Jerry Claiborne felt his Wildcats needed some immediate help next season in several key positions.

That's why the Cats have added six junior college players, the highest number Claiborne has ever recruited, to the 1988 roster.



Larry Vaught

Cats' Pause Columnist



"A junior college player is going to be much more mature than a true freshman," said Claiborne. "We needed help in specific spots and feel like we got just that."

"We were looking for certain needs and were able to get some good junior college players in positions where we needed help. You try to find junior college players in the area you need help the most. If we have done our job, these guys should be better than players coming in right out of high school."

Last year UK added tight end Charlie Darrington and quarterback Glen Fohr. Darrington led UK in receiving last year and Fohr is the top quarterback entering spring practice.

The star of this year's junior college class could be 5-10, 200-pound tailback Alfred Rawls of Northeast Oklahoma. He originally signed with Georgia two years ago but did not meet NCAA academic requirements.

With the loss of Mark Higgs, Claiborne felt Kentucky needed more depth at tailback even though he has Ivy Joe Hunter and Al Baker returning.

"Alfred is a hard working kid who wants to get better," said Claiborne. "We are looking forward to giving him that opportunity."

Rawls and 6-3, 256-pound defensive lineman Scott Booth of Northeast Mississippi Junior College have already enrolled at UK and will participate in spring drills.

"That's really the big advantage with a junior college player," said Claiborne. "If you can get him on campus and in spring practice it is a big edge."

Joining the team in August will be 6-0, 185-pound defensive back Albert Burks of Hinds, Miss., Community College; -1, 209-pound defensive back Tony Missick of Marion Institute in Alabama; 6-1, 225-pound fullback Rodney Shephard of Nassau Community College; and 6-5, 190-pound wide receiver Alfred Jones of Northeast Oklahoma, who is scheduled to sign today.

Kentucky, though, failed to land any junior college offensive linemen. UK has only one returning starter in the offensive line and had hoped to bolster that group from the junior college ranks.

"There were some good junior college linemen out there but if we couldn't get the ones that could help immediately, we didn't want to sign any," said Claiborne.

"The junior colleges have a lot more good players now because of the Proposition 48 academic guidelines. More players are going to junior colleges to get their grades up and the junior colleges now have more Division I-A athletes."

The Wildcats landed 13 in-state players, including tailback Craig Walker of Fairdale, lineman Chuck Bradley of Fern Creek and running back Tim Harris of Henry County.

The 6-1, 190-pound Harris, the state's leading scorer and rusher in 1986, missed part of the 1987 season with a knee injury. He still rushed for 4,662 yards in his career and scored 63 touchdowns but received little statewide recognition.

"His doctors have told us his leg is okay," said Claiborne. "He's an athlete. He can play offense or defense. He's the kind of player you like to have around because he can help you in a lot of different ways. He does a lot of things."

Larry French, head coach at Mercer County High School in Harrodsburg, had to face Harris in high school and always left the field impressed.

"He's fast but he's a hard runner," said French. "As the game went on, he always got stronger. I've always thought he would be a dandy player. I think UK really got a good player that not many people know a lot about."

One player people did know a lot about was Kurt Barber of Paducah Tilghman, the state's Mr. Football. Kentucky lost him to Southern California and also lost running back Anthony Carter of North Hardin and quarterback Marcus Wilson of Butler to Vanderbilt and lineman Joe Avilia of Ashland to Colorado.

"We are real pleased with the guys we got and can't worry about the ones we lost," said Claiborne. "The ones we got want to play for Kentucky."

The UK mentor landed six players from Ohio, including quarterback Ryan Hockman of Harrison. The others were 6-4, 260-pound defensive lineman Brad Schuford; 6-3, 205-pound linebacker Reggie Smith; 6-7, 232-pound defensive lineman Chuck Latimer; 6-4, 243-pound defensive lineman Greg Lahr; and 6-4, 240-pound tight end Eugene McClellan.

"This is one of the best groups we have ever got out of Ohio," said Claiborne. "Hockman won a lot of awards. Smith has good range and will be an excellent linebacker. Latimer is skinny but will grow. He runs very well for a big guy and has big hands and feet. He just needs time to develop. The others all have a lot of

potential."

Claiborne wouldn't predict which newcomers might make an immediate impact next season. "There are always some freshmen who help; not many, but some. If they do, that is just a bonus."

"You never know how good a group is until it plays. You just can't tell how good they are until they compete for two or three years. But we think we have a fine group."

He better. Time is running out on Claiborne at Kentucky. The Cats have had three straight losing seasons and seem destined for a fourth in 1988 unless Claiborne can work the same magic he did in 1983 and 1984 when UK went to bowl games.

Kentucky didn't land any of the nation's top prospects and for the second straight year lost some of the best in-state talent. Those things won't help Kentucky compete in the SEC.

No one works harder or runs a cleaner program than Claiborne. But, as others have learned, winning at UK is an almost impossible job. Claiborne has got close but will have to work harder than ever next season just to keep Kentucky respectable against a brutal schedule.



Mark Higgs

HIGGS HAS raised his stock with NFL scouts since the 1987 season ended. He played well in two all-star games and recently set a tryout record with a 43-inch vertical jump during workouts in Indianapolis.

Teammates Dermontti Dawson and Greg Kunkel also attended the tryouts in Indy.

ARIZONA, Brigham Young and Nevada-Las Vegas rank among the nation's best teams and recently held the top three spots in the Associated Press college basketball poll.

That would make one think college basketball in the west is finally gaining respect. Think again.

"Arizona deserved to be number one but they also play in one of the weaker conferences (Pacific-10)," said Kentucky Coach Eddie Sutton. "If they played in our (Southeastern Conference) league, the Big Ten, ACC (Atlantic Coast Conference) or Big East I'm not sure their record would be as good. BYU and Vegas also have great records but they are not dominant teams."

Florida Coach Norm Sloan also supplied material for the Arizona, BYU and Vegas bulletin boards.

"The west is weak," said Sloan. "If you are going to have an outstanding record that is the place to be. Their conference games are not that tough."

"Parity is going to be the norm in most of college basketball now. We have a lot of talented teams, and it is difficult to be a dominant team."

The SEC has not had a dominant team but Vanderbilt has impressed all the league coaches.

Vandy reminds Sloan of last year's Providence team that used the three-point shot to reach the Final Four. Alabama Coach Wimp Sanderson feels the Commodores are much like the team he had last year that lost only one league game.

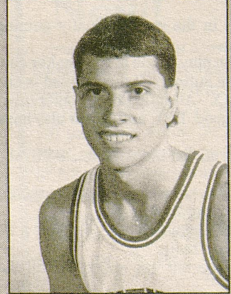
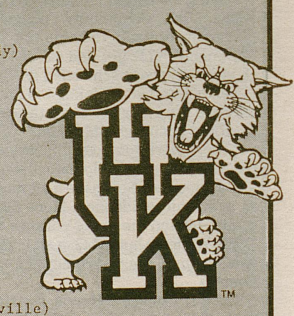
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WILDCAT BASKETBALL STATISTICS

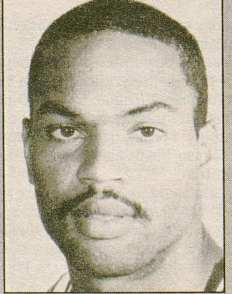
(Thru 21 games)

	G	GS	Min	Avg	FG	FGA	Pct	3PT	3PTA	Pct	FT	FTA	Pct	Reb	Avg	PF	D	Ast	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
CHAPMAN, REX	21	21	717	34.1	144	301	47.8	34	96	35.4	58	69	84.1	68	3.2	41	-	80	58	12	38	380	18.1
BENNETT, WINSTON	21	21	699	33.3	125	254	49.2	-	-	-	79	111	71.2	177	8.4	61	2	36	34	2	31	329	15.7
DAVENDER, ED	21	21	704	33.5	104	226	46.0	17	49	34.7	95	114	83.3	39	1.9	42	1	77	46	2	42	320	15.2
LOCK, ROB	21	21	539	25.7	74	135	54.8	-	-	-	80	101	79.2	141	6.7	70	5	15	39	19	19	228	10.9
MANUEL, ERIC	20	1	308	15.4	40	80	50.0	-	1	-	24	28	85.7	45	2.3	15	-	35	10	2	23	104	5.2
ELLIS, LERON	16	5	216	13.5	29	61	47.5	-	-	-	14	25	56.0	45	2.8	26	-	8	15	10	10	72	4.5
JENKINS, CEDRIC	21	11	360	17.1	27	64	42.2	-	-	-	31	38	81.6	78	3.7	41	1	19	19	14	8	85	4.0
MADISON, RICHARD	19	4	353	18.6	30	75	40.0	-	1	-	13	23	56.5	80	4.2	26	-	16	19	1	5	73	3.8
SCOTT, MIKE	11	-	62	5.6	10	20	50.0	-	-	-	3	4	75.0	18	1.6	8	-	2	5	5	4	23	2.1
SUTTON, SEAN	15	-	121	8.1	4	12	33.3	-	1	-	18	27	66.7	8	.5	4	-	29	10	1	4	26	1.7
MILLER, DERRICK	13	-	77	5.9	8	33	24.2	3	21	14.3	2	3	66.7	9	.7	8	-	3	7	-	-	21	1.6
HANSON, REGGIE	12	-	69	5.8	4	14	28.6	-	-	-	5	6	83.3	14	1.2	10	-	1	3	1	2	13	1.1
TEAM	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	45	2.1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
WILDCATS	21	-	4225	201.	599	1275	47.0	54	169	32.0	422	549	76.9	767	36.5	352	9	321	267	69	186	1674	79.7
OPPONENTS	21	-	4225	201.	546	1226	44.5	76	227	33.5	230	330	69.7	698	33.2	451	19	293	385	51	137	1398	66.6

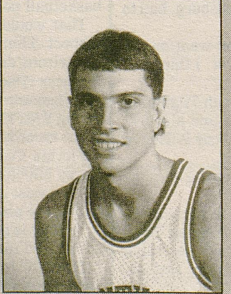
Date	Record	UK	Opp	Opponent	Margin	Top Scorer	Top Rebounder	Attendance
Nov. 28	1-0	86	59	Hawaii	27	18 LOCK, ROB	9 BENNETT, W.	23,049 (H)
Dec. 01	2-0	101	77	Cincinnati	24	22 CHAPMAN, REX	13 LOCK, ROB	22,865 (H)
Dec. 05	3-0	82	76	Indiana	6	22 DAVENDER, ED	10 JENKINS, CEDRIC	43,601 (N-Indy)
Dec. 12	4-0	76	75	Louisville	1	21 CHAPMAN, REX	11 JENKINS, CEDRIC	23,489 (H)
Dec. 18	5-0	85	71	Miami (Ohio)	14	28 BENNETT, W.	10 BENNETT, W.	23,995 (H)
Dec. 19	6-0	84	81	North Carolina-Charl	3	24 CHAPMAN, REX	16 MADISON, RICHARD	23,995 (H)
Dec. 28	7-0	100	58	Alaska	42	24 BENNETT, W.	11 JENKINS, CEDRIC	23,169 (H)
Dec. 31	8-0	81	74	Vanderbilt	7	24 DAVENDER, ED	17 BENNETT, W.	23,104 (H)
Jan. 02	9-0	84	77	Georgia	7	26 CHAPMAN, REX	10 BENNETT, W.	13,666 (A)
Jan. 06	10-0	93	52	Mississippi State	41	17 BENNETT, W.	8 JENKINS, CEDRIC	23,047 (H)
Jan. 09	10-1	52	53	Auburn	-1	20 BENNETT, W.	10 BENNETT, W.	23,379 (H)
Jan. 13	11-1	63	55	Alabama	8	17 DAVENDER, ED	5 LOCK, ROB	12,391 (A)
Jan. 16	12-1	83	65	Tennessee	18	23 CHAPMAN, REX	9 BENNETT, W.	23,819 (H)
Jan. 20	12-2	56	58	Florida	-2	20 BENNETT, W.	11 BENNETT, W.	23,433 (H)
Jan. 23	13-2	76	61	LSU	15	21 DAVENDER, ED	10 BENNETT, W.	13,853 (A)
Jan. 27	13-3	66	83	Vanderbilt	-17	18 CHAPMAN, REX	8 BENNETT, W.	15,646 (A)
Jan. 31	14-3	78	69	Notre Dame	9	23 DAVENDER, ED	7 LOCK, ROB	19,502 (H-L'ville)
Feb. 03	15-3	94	65	Ole Miss	29	16 BENNETT, W.	11 BENNETT, W.	23,133 (H)
Feb. 06	16-3	83	59	Mississippi State	24	21 DAVENDER, ED	11 BENNETT, W.	6,863 (A)
Feb. 10	17-3	69	62	Auburn	7	25 CHAPMAN, REX	7 BENNETT, W.	12,599 (A)
Feb. 13	18-3	82	68	Alabama	14	25 BENNETT, W.	9 BENNETT, W.	23,288 (H)



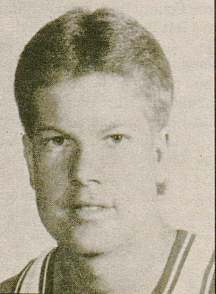
Leading Scorer:
Rex Chapman—18.1



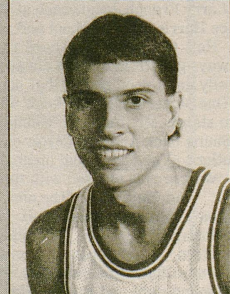
Leading Rebounder:
Winston Bennett—8.4



Assist Leader:
Rex Chapman—80

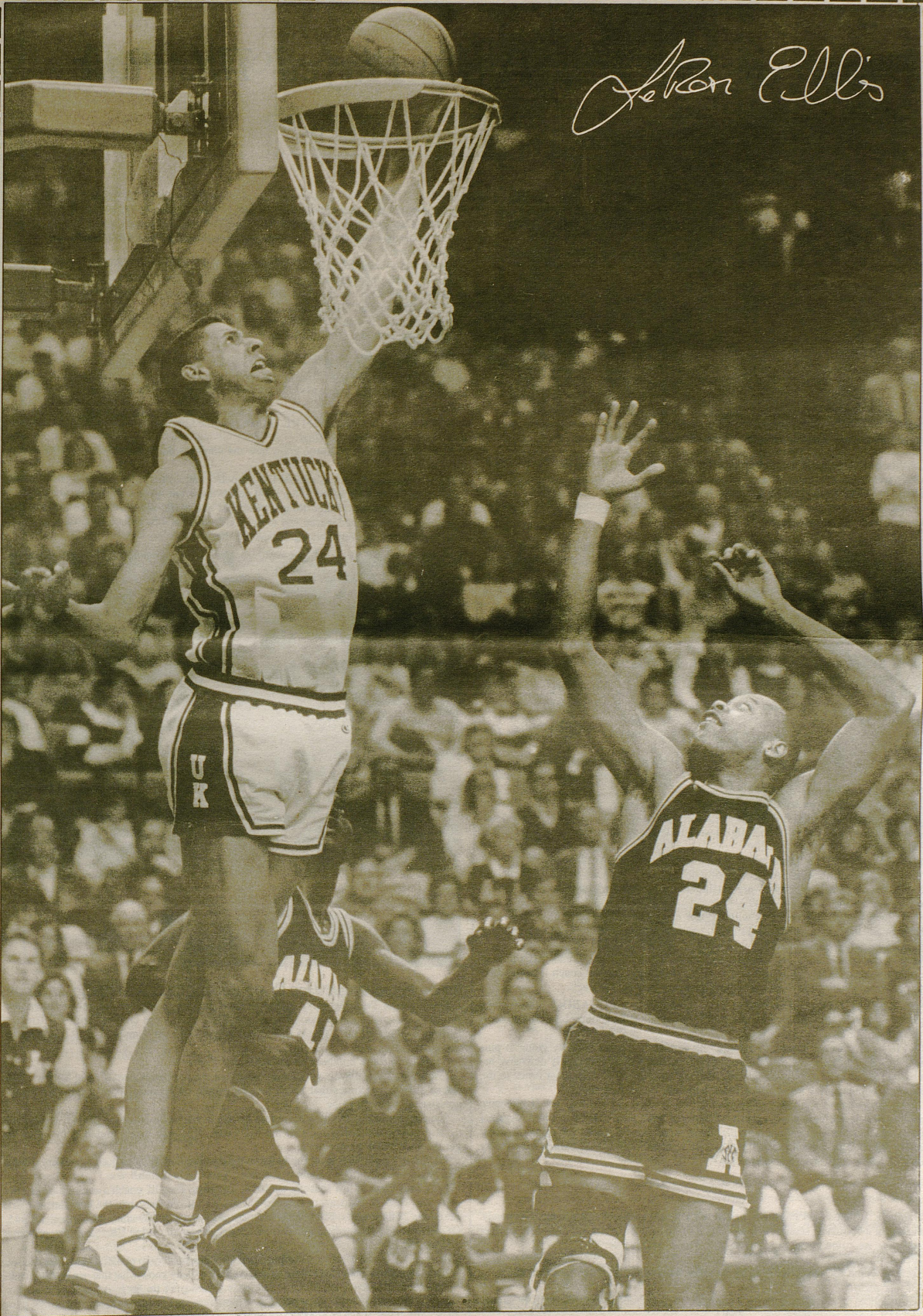


***Best FG Percentage:**
Rob Lock—54.8



°Best FT Percentage:
Rex Chapman—84.1

*minimum of 2 FG attempts per game. °minimum of 2 FT attempts per game.



John Ellis

Never Before Has Parity Played This Role

Says Sutton: 'I've Never Seen It Like This'

Several hours before his Wildcats were scheduled to tangle with Auburn, Kentucky coach Eddie Sutton sat outside his hotel room, glancing at the conference standings in *USA Today*. He was amazed with the print before his eyes.

Tourney-bound teams, plenty in this case, are on the verge of carrying double digit losses.



Nick Nicholas

Cats' Pause Columnist



All of this with less than a month between the NCAA tournament and the Wildcats and 63 other teams' invitations.

"Parity in college basketball . . . I've never seen it like this before," said Sutton. "There are going to be teams get in the NCAA tournament, and it's happened before on occasions, that have got defeats in double figures."

Examples?

"As far as independents, Notre Dame and DePaul have the best chance, yet both could end up being in double figures (losses)," he added. "In the Big Ten, Purdue and Michigan are 8-1 and 7-2 (conference play) 19-2 and 18-4 (overall) and then Iowa is 6-3 and 16-6. But these teams still have to play each other. Indiana is next at 5-4, 13-6. Ohio State is 5-5, 13-7. Illinois is 4-5, 14-8."

"My point is, here is the Big Ten which is probably going to get six teams in the NCAA, five for sure, well, some of those teams will end up with losses in double figures."

More examples?

"LOOK AT OUR LEAGUE," SUTTON SUGGESTED. "LSU, which is probably going to get into the NCAA Tournament, they're going to be in double figures. Auburn is 12-7 and they'll probably be in the NCAA. Let's turn to the Big Eight. There's Kansas 13-8, they might not get in. Oklahoma (2 losses), K-State (5) and Missouri (5) . . . that's what I mean when I say there's parity in college basketball."

Sutton, wanting to make sure I got the point, then instructed, "Let's look at the Big East and see what they've got."

"Pittsburgh and Villanova have six losses, Syracuse has five and Georgetown has six, St. John's six. They're all going to be in the NCAA Tournament and some of those teams may be in double figures."

Last season 24 teams entered NCAA play with 10 or more losses, compared to 21 with the same distinction in 1985-86. And if things keep going like they have so far then look for an increasing amount of double-digit losers in the 50th Anniversary of the NCAA tournament.

Now, try and pick four teams which will wind up in Kansas City. Just try.

"I told the group over here (Auburn Tipoff Club) that if everybody in the room picked four teams to be in Kansas City, a very small percentage of them would have one right," said the UK coach. "I believe that."

"Certainly, you have some teams with a better chance of getting there. But when you look at team that has to win four games in two consecutive weekends I don't think anybody is a cinch to get to Kansas City."

Sutton's three keys in the tournament are rebounding, solid defense and smart play at the offensive end. To be one of the elite four, the third-year Wildcat coach is hoping his boys can excel in all three areas, providing intensity is a part of each.

SHOT SELECTION USED TO BE THE 'CATS' NO. 1 BUGABOO. Sutton notes the former problem has improved to his satisfaction. Meanwhile, another concern has risen to the top of Sutton's complaint list.

"We're looking to get better in all areas," he admitted. "If you're really going to pinpoint one area I'd like to see us improve it would be rebounding, especially defensive rebounding. We've been very good at times and we have been horrendous at times in the number of opportunities we've given other ballclubs on missed shots."

"Even the game we win against Ole Miss the other night (94-65) they get 21 offensive rebounds. But in the next game against Mississippi State they only have seven. Against Russia, which is the best rebounding ballclub we faced, we did a good job (nine offensive boards). We've done a good job at times but we've been inconsistent. I think it probably shows up more there than anywhere else."

□ □ □

Numbers, if they could converse, would tell a coach a lot about his team. Obviously, at the end of a 40-minute session we know that if one bunch tallies more points than another group then we come to the conclusion of a winner and a loser.

(Brilliant, Nick).

Well, to come up with a final score we must subject ourselves to more numbers.

Get the picture?

For instance, let's weigh Kentucky's foul ratio to its opponents, say, through 19 games. The scales easily favor the team in Blue.

Did you know prior to UK's victory at Auburn, the Wildcats had committed just 315

fouls compared to 411 by the opposition? Only in the 53-52 loss to Auburn in Lexington were the 'Cats guilty of more personal fouls (15 to 11).

So, if that's the case, then Kentucky must be shooting more free throws than its opposition. Good answer!

Albeit man-to-man defense is Eddie Sutton's bread-n-butter, the Wildcats, however, committed less fouls, thus, outshooting the opposition 492 to 296 from the charity stripe. While in one year the 'Cats, 16-3 at this writing, had made great strides from the line (386 of 492 for 78.5 percent). The amount of freebies helped, too.

You then ask, "Doesn't UK shoot more free throws, especially toward the end of the ballgame, because the other team has to play catch-up?"

Yes and no.

In the first stanza of 19 games, the Wildcats fired 219 attempts while opponents have combined for 119 tries. Hawaii (14 to 11) and Mississippi State (at Starkville, three to two) were the only teams to shoot more free throws than the Wildcats in the first 20 minutes.

BOTH INDIANA AND NOTRE DAME shot the same amount as the 'Cats in the first half of their respective meetings.

Next, you'll probably want to know how the numbers, in relation to fouls, stack up on the road?

Since Kentucky faced Indiana (at Indianapolis) and Georgia (at Atlanta) on different courts other than their home gyms we'll strike those two games from this category.

Jaunts to Tuscaloosa, Baton Rouge, Nashville and Starkville, through the heart of the Southeastern Conference, paved way to three UK wins and one defeat. In those four 'true' road encounters, the numbers again favored the 'Cats.



Inside Improvement Has Given Eddie's Club Advantage At Stripe

The Crimson Tide, Tigers, Commodores and Bulldogs combined for only 49 attempts. Yes, that's a small amount compared to the 'Cats, who were credited with 107 tries.

How 'bout at halftime? Try 35 free throws by the Wildcats compared to 19 by the home team.

Overall, do these numbers reveal anything? Probably.

"We've made the players very conscious about not fouling as much," said Sutton. "I'm not so sure that at times that hasn't hurt us a little bit because we're maybe not as aggressive as we need to be."

"One reason we're shooting more free throws is that we're jamming the ball inside better and maybe we're driving with the ball better. The way to get fouled is by either to get the ball inside or penetrate."

"If you're a perimeter shooting ballclub then you're not going to get fouled very much. Last year we were pretty much a perimeter shooting ballclub."

Let's look back at last season's statistics. By gosh, the UK coach's assumption is correct. The 1986-87 Wildcats committed 531 fouls, just one less than the cumulative mark set by the 27 opponents. From the charity stripe? Kentucky 509 attempts, Opponents 545. Of course, hampered with a 62.7 percent accuracy from the stripe UK lost plenty of bonus opportunities.

Through 19 games Kentucky had improved to 78.5 percent (386 of 492). More free throws, along with a nice touch, mean more points. And we already know what that can do for a club.

Discussed in the outset, a coach can learn a variety of things by looking at statistics. So . . . improvement in UK's inside game has caused more attention underneath, giving its guards more space to operate. Meaning? A balanced attack.

If numbers could talk that's what they might be telling us: *improvement*

Don't Look Now But UK In Catbird's Seat

I'm Telling You, UK Will Finish 15-3 In SEC

FOR THE FIRST time all season, Coach Eddie Sutton and his Kentucky Wildcats are sitting in the catbird's seat with a one-game lead over Vanderbilt in the Southeastern Conference race going into last Saturday's action.

The Cats avenged an earlier one-point loss to Auburn with a victory down



Dan Brandenburg

Cats' Pause Columnist



south last week, perhaps gaining back a little of the pride they lost when the Tigers came into Rupp Arena and ended UK's undefeated season and reign at No. 1.

Kentucky was 9-3 in the SEC, followed by C.M. Newton's Commodores at 8-4. Thanks to Georgia and coach Hugh Durham, the Florida Gators had dropped into a third-place tie with Dale Brown's LSU Bayou Bengals at 7-4.

With half of the six remaining conference games at home (including last Saturday's game against Alabama), there only seems to be one roadblock standing between the Cats and their umpteenth SEC crown — Florida.

UNLESS THE CATS give a repeat performance of their effort in the Auburn loss or lose the ability to throw the ball in the ocean like they did against Florida at Rupp or run into a herd of three-point bombers similar to the gang at Vandy, the match in Gainesville's Gator Alley could decide the league title — or determine Kentucky's fate at least.

A victory on the homecourt of Norm Sloane's charges could practically wrap up the regular season title for the Cats, although the end-of-the-year league tourney is still most important.

Last week's Associated Press poll had Kentucky holding steady at No. 10 and I can be content with that ranking because the Wildcats are now playing about as well as they have all season.

Most of the rumors, dissention and name-calling have died down and, hopefully, the team can just concentrate on basketball from here on out.

IT WAS GOOD to see Rex Chapman bomb away for 25 against Auburn, especially with Ed Davender and Winston Bennett having off-nights. He nows seems to be back in top form after a handful of sub-par shooting efforts.

Rex went through a mini-slump and then was stung by criticism of his shot selection earlier this year, and for several games afterwards he appeared to simply be hesitant to even put up a shot. And when he did shoot, he seemed to be trying too hard and thinking too much about whether it was a good shot or not.

Because of that, it took longer than usual for him to shake his slump. But now it's back to the same old Rex and his freewheeling, fire-at-will kind of play. He may not be shooting as much, but his shot selection is better and his percentage is on the rise. He also looks more comfortable in the offense and UK needs his shooting to stay at the top.

(KENTUCKY IS 9-0 this season when it shoots 50 percent from the field or better, but just 8-3 when hitting less than half. It also seems true that when UK's opponents are hot, the Cats get even hotter because they are 4-0 when the other team shoots better than 50 percent.)

Davender has also put his problems behind him, as evidenced by his sparkling 21-point performance against Mississippi State. Benched by Sutton for the second half of the Ole Miss contest for having a loose lip, Davender came back strong and his effort pushed him past Kyle Macy into 14th place on the all-time UK scoring list. He has a chance to get as high as 10th by the end of the season.

Although LeRon Ellis, the 6-11 freshman who has been drawing the starting assignment lately, was blanked by Mississippi State, his defensive contributions are well worth his time on the court. Playing the front man on Kentucky's 1-2-1 zone, Ellis' long arms and quickness have wreaked havoc with more than one opponents' offense.

AND EVERY TIME I look at Rob Lock's free throw stats, I still think I'm dreaming. Lock has raised his average more than 30 percent from last season and is also adding a lot more help from out on the floor, including being the "unofficial" team leader in charges taken.

Speaking of free throws, UK is still fourth in the nation behind only Butler, Grambling and Princeton as a team. Also, Davender, Lock and Chapman are 1-2-3 in the SEC at the charity stripe and Eric Manuel and Cedric Jenkins are both also hitting over 80 percent but don't have enough shots to make the standings.

I'm feeling bold, so I'll predict that the Cats will sweep through the rest of their SEC slate unharmed and finish at 15-3 — just as I predicted they would several columns ago.

NOTES AND STUFF

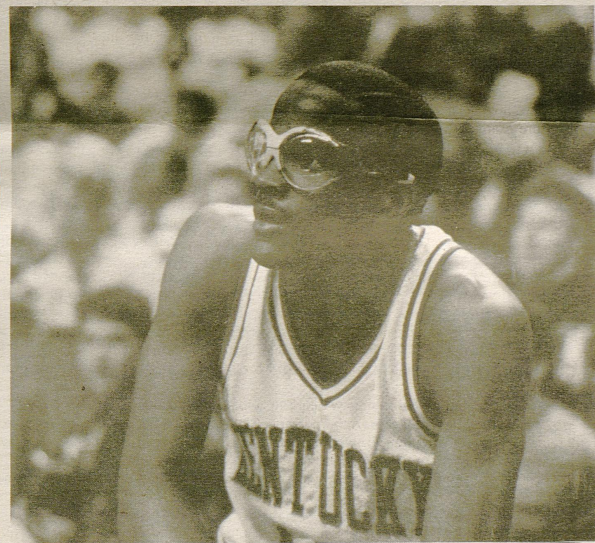
—While checking some facts for this article, I came across some interesting numbers and decided to find out on which SEC opponents' home court Kentucky has had the most success prior to this season. And the winner is ... Mississippi.

The Cats have compiled an 18-4 mark in Oxford, good for a percentage of 81.8 over the years. Next are Mississippi State (Starkville) at 23-7 (76.7) and Vanderbilt at 42-14 (75.0). We'll just try to forget that little clash in Nashville earlier this season.

The rest of the list, in order, is: Georgia (Athens), 21-9, 70.0; Florida (Gainesville), 21-10, 67.7; LSU (Baton Rouge), 19-10, 65.6; Auburn (Auburn), 16-10, 61.5; Alabama (Tuscaloosa), 21-14, 60.0; and, last but not least, Tennessee (Knoxville), 36-36, 50.0.

—**WITH THE CATS'** two losses to Florida and Auburn earlier this season in Rupp Arena, this year's edition of the Wildcats are on the verge of becoming only the third Kentucky team (1978-79 and 1984-85) in 12 seasons to have lost three games in the hallowed hall named after the "Baron."

—February has been a very good month to the Cats over the past decade as they have compiled a winning percentage of 81.9 with a record of 68-15. All-time figures for the month put Kentucky at 77.1, second only to December at 81.5. UK has won 73 percent of its games in January and 69.1 percent in March.



Ed Davender's Problems Are Now Behind Him

And according to the traditional UK schedule, the numbers make sense. Most UK teams open the season with a couple of sacrificial lambs and then blow through the UKIT. Then there is the January slump once SEC play begins and a revival in February. The figure is low in March because of the limited numbers of games and the fact that the season almost always ends with a loss in the NCAA tournament.

AND NOW ON to football, which has been a big topic lately with the beginning of the spring signing period in which UK coach Jerry Claiborne grabbed 28 recruits.

Since when is a touchdown not worth six points? Starting this fall, that would be the case in some instances where only two points would be awarded.

According to a rule adopted by the NCAA Rules Committee in January, a defensive team will get two points when they score a touchdown on a point-after-touchdown attempt.

Formerly, when the offense fumbled, had its kick blocked or threw an interception on a PAT, the play was over. Now, the defense can get two points by taking a blocked kick or an interception all the way in for a score. However, the rule does not apply to fumbles which cannot be advanced by the defense in any situation.

Davender Leads Way As

Senior Point Guard Scored Just Four Points, But Dished Out Career-High 10 Assists To Key Win

By TCP Staff Writer Jim Easterwood

When Kentucky coach Eddie Sutton talks, the 'Cats do more than listen.

They respond in a big way. Talk hasn't been cheap either. The 10th-ranked 'Cats now have the "fortune" of being tops in the SEC, 18-3 overall, and peaking at the right time with a five-game win streak.

Saturday afternoon Ed Davender, the high-scoring point guard (15.8 points per game), was the latest in a long line of 'Cats to heed Sutton's pregame advice. It came before the Alabama game.

"I told him about his role and how important it was to look for his teammates," said Sutton. "To set them up... that's the job of a point guard."

Easy Ed, the man with the Captain Marvel goggles, was simply marvelous in his new job of feeding the hungry 'Cats. Especially those who live inside the paint.

Davender has averaged 3.2 assists his first three years. But Saturday he wound up with 10 as the 'Cats rolled back the Tide 82-68 at Rupp Arena.

Davender-Led 'Cats Had Passing Game Going

"Ed did a tremendous job of running the ballclub and hitting the open man," said senior forward Winston Bennett.

Bennett was the biggest beneficiary of Sutton's chat with Davender. He scored 25 points, most of them coming after Rob Lock, Eric Manuel or LeRon Ellis had kicked the ball back out.

Easy Ed then would kick it back in, many times to Sir Winston. Davender ended the game with only four points, a layup and two free throws. But he worked the floor better than Wallace Wilkinson works an eastern Kentucky political rally.

He had eight assists at halftime as the 'Cats grabbed a 42-28 lead. He added only two more but could have had a bundle except for some bobbled passes and a pair of dubious charging calls.

But then, he may have been going for the single game assist record when he got those calls within seconds of each other late in the game.

Dirk Minniefield, now of the Boston Celtics, had 14 against Villanova in 1982. This was tied by Dicky Beal against Brigham Young two years later.

But who needs records? NBA scouts want to know if you can hit the Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, the Akeem Olatujuwon or the Kenny Walkers. They know Easy Ed can play defense. And shoot. But they want to see how well he can get that ball inside... like a true point guard.

Saturday he showed them after getting the word from Sutton.

It didn't take long for other Sutton messages to reach home either. Like that was no Valentine's Day greeting Sutton gave Bennett with less than three minutes elapsed in Saturday's game.

Bennett, Manuel Stood Out For Wildcats, Too

Bennett, usually as steady as he flows, was subbed for immediately when Sutton put out a PSS signal. That's for Poor Shot Selection.

"The bench is a great motivator," deadpanned Winston in the post-game media bash. "I took a shot after only the second or third pass and the coach took me out. He gets his point across by doing things like that. It causes us to follow through and do what he says."

Manuel, too, got a pregame message.

As the No. 1 man off the bench, the Macon, Ga., freshman has worked his way—at a 110 percent effort—into the favor of Sutton. He did it with his ball-handling, defense and all-out hustle.

But Sutton wanted more offense out of the 6-foot-6 guard-forward. After all, he had averaged 24 points a game for Southwest Macon High. Sutton conveyed his feelings.

Manuel listened. And against Alabama he responded... at least for a half.

He missed on his first attempt but then connected on his next four—all Moon-shot jumpers—to help the 'Cats to take a 18-8 lead with 12:40 left in the first half.

Manuel finished with 12 points (all in the first half) two assists, one blocked shot and three steals.

"Ed allowed me to have more shots," said Manuel. "He penetrated and opened up the outside shooting."

Sutton said he doesn't really know if the 'Cats are a better team overall with Manuel in the lineup. But he does feel the rugged freshman adds a new dimension on offense.

"We're a better team with him on the floor offensively," said Sutton. "When he's in there with Rex (Chapman), Rob, Winston and Ed we look smooth."

At the same time Sutton is not sure the team is better if he takes out 6-11 freshman Ellis, who started the past five games.

Ellis, who played 18 minutes, four less than Manuel, had eight points.

"I'm not sure by taking LeRon out of the lineup that we are a better defensive club with his ability to intimidate and rebound," said Sutton. "It may be easier for Eric to come off the bench although he may wind up playing more."

Kentucky, with Davender scattering the ball around like so much buckshot, played in the first half one of its finest stretches of basketball this season.

The 'Cats quickly raced to a 28-12 margin over Wimp Sander-son's freshmen-laden team. The Tide was beginning to ebb.

Great Game For 11 Minutes, But After That...

Kentucky hit on eight of its first 11 shots and took advantage of six Tide turnovers in their first nine possessions.

"We were just outmanned and got whipped," said Sanderson. "We wanted to keep the ball at low tempo but we weren't able to. No alibis, no excuses. We just lost to a better team."

Unfortunately, save for a brief five-minute spurt at the start of the second half, this 11-minute span at the start of the game was about the only good basketball played in the 40-minute contest. For basketball purists.

Fans who like the college "thump-thump" game in ragged clothing would have loved this one. Especially the last 15-minutes of the second half.

"In the first half we passed the ball about as well as we have all season," said Sutton. "We got the ball in the hands of people for high percentage shots. Our defense was excellent. But when we started subbing the second half it kind of got loose."

Loose? That's another word for sloppy. Also try boring.

The only excitement belonged to the Kentucky gamblers who gave the points (17 in this case) according to the Las Vegas line.

Would the 'Cats beat the spread or wouldn't they? They sure looked like spread-beaters when the score went to 60-34 with 15:42 to play. Bennett had 10 points in this span.

But Sutton cleared the bench and the Tide regrouped to make the final score presentable. The Tide even cut it to 10 (78-68) with a layup by Alvin Lee with 52 seconds to play.

Lee (who finished with 13 points) was one of four Tide players to score in double figures. Michael Ansley, who missed 10 minutes in the first half with foul trouble, had a team-high 18. Craig Dudley had 16 and Melvin Cheatum 15.

Chapman trailed Bennett with 17 points for the 'Cats.

On the negative side, Kentucky was outrebounded 38-33. Sutton especially didn't care for 18 offensive boards by the smaller Tide. So rest assured he will be talking to someone about that.

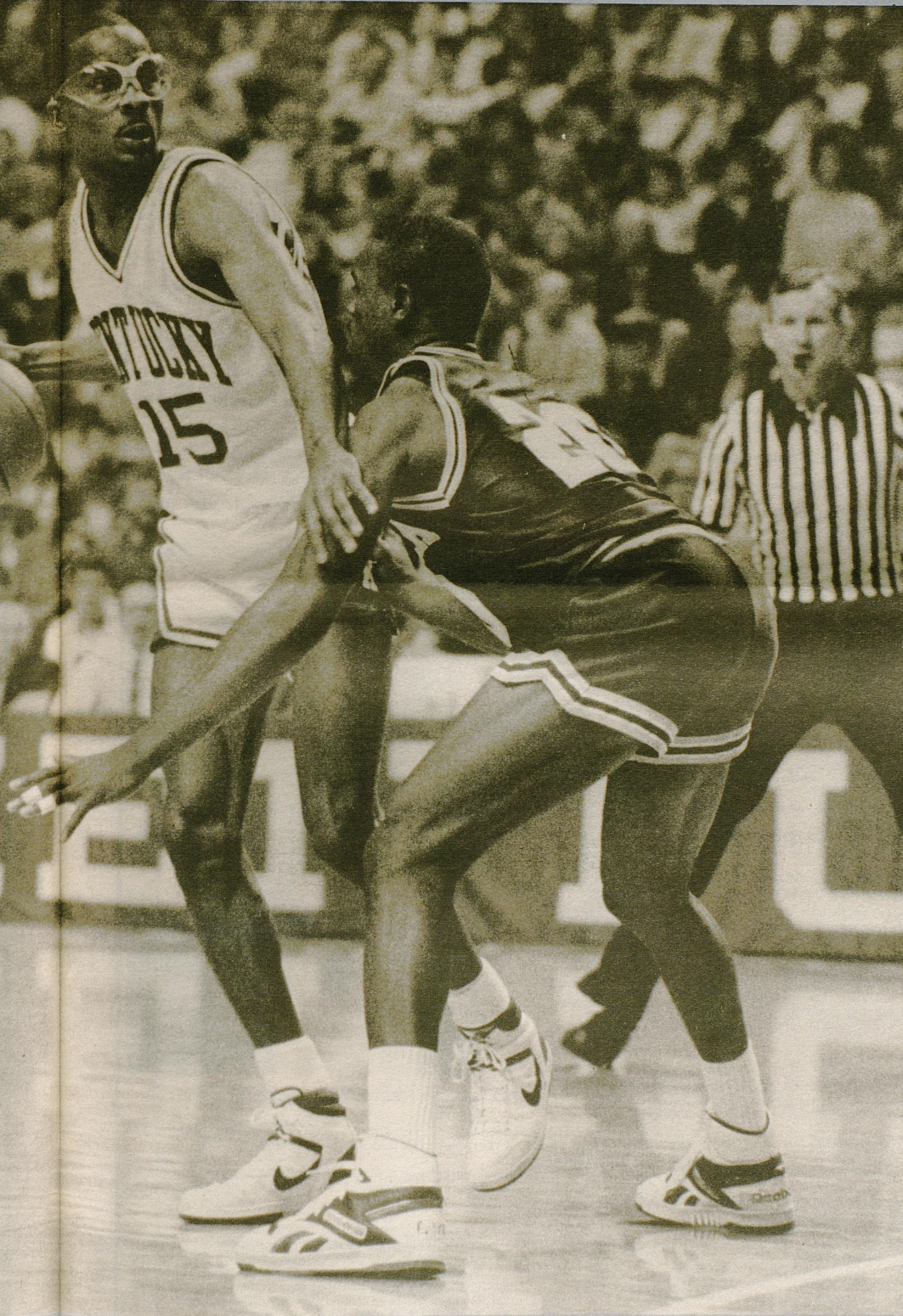
Who will the lucky person be this time?

OFFICIAL NCAA BASKETBALL BOX SCORE												
Date Feb 13/88 Site Lexington, Ky												
VISITORS (List Name, Pos)												
No.	NAME	PTS	FG	FT	REB	AST	BLK	STL	PF	TP	A	B
44	Chapman, Rex	17	8-13	2-2	3	5	1	1	1	1	15	1
15	Ansley, Michael	18	4-11	0-0	10	11	7	4	11	4	18	1
41	Assis, Keith	3	1-4	0-1	0	0	2	1	3	5	2	0
12	Walters, Gary	0	0-1	0-1	0	0	2	2	2	3	1	0
24	Dudley, Craig	16	7-18	0-0	2	2	5	2	7	3	14	4
22	Lee, Alvin	13	5-10	1-1	2	2	0	0	2	13	2	1
21	Lancaster, Brent	3	1-3	0-0	2	2	1	1	2	3	4	1
23	Rich, Darby	0	0-3	0-0	0	0	2	2	3	0	0	0
52	DeGauze, William	0	0-3	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEAM REBOUNDS (included in Totals)												
TOTALS 24 58 11 5 23 22 181 20 18 23 68 19 12 17 200												
TOTAL FG % 1st Hal 33.3 2nd Hal 33.3 Game 33.3												
3PM FG % 1st Hal 0.0 2nd Hal 0.0 Game 0.0												
FT % 1st Hal 0.0 2nd Hal 0.0 Game 0.0												
HOME (List Name, Pos)												
No.	NAME	PTS	FG	FT	REB	AST	BLK	STL	PF	TP	A	B
24	Ellis, LeRon	1	1-3	0-0	2	3	1	1	2	4	8	1
22	Bennett, Winston	25	9-14	0-0	7	8	5	4	9	1	25	2
44	Lock, Rex	0	0-1	0-0	2	4	1	4	5	1	4	2
8	Chapman, Rex	0	0-1	0-0	2	4	5	0	1	1	17	4
15	Davender, Ed	4	1-2	0-0	2	3	1	0	1	5	4	10
4	Miller, Derrick	1	1-3	0-0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0
22	Sutton, Eddie	0	0-0	0-0	1	3	1	0	1	1	1	2
23	Manuel, Eric	5	1-1	0-0	2	2	1	4	6	1	12	2
16	Hanson, Reggie	1	1-2	0-0	3	4	1	1	2	2	5	0
15	Madison, Richard	1	1-3	0-0	0	0	0	3	3	2	3	0
15	Scott, Mike	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
55	Jenkins, Cedric	1	1-2	0-0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0
TEAM REBOUNDS (included in Totals)												
TOTALS 18 55 21 6 24 36 119 19 13 21 82 24 14 6 8 120												
TOTAL FG % 1st Hal 52.7 55.5 2nd Hal 32.8 46.3 Game 50.3												
3PM FG % 1st Hal 0.0 2nd Hal 0.0 Game 0.0												
FT % 1st Hal 0.0 2nd Hal 0.0 Game 0.0												
OFFICIALS: Don Kullledge, Larry Vane												
Line Shortages												
Technical Fouls: Sanderson (Alabama)												
Alabama 28 140 11 68												
Kentucky 42 105 11 82												



Wildcat Happiness

As 'Cats Top Tide 82-68



UK-Alabama Play-By-Play			
Time	Kentucky	Score	Alabama
19:26		0-2	Ansley 9 ft.
19:01	Bennett 17 ft.	2-2	
18:27	Chapman 20 ft.	5-2	
17:02	Bennett 3 ft.	7-2	
16:10	Manuel 16 ft.	9-2	
15:53		9-4	Dudley 11 ft.
15:33	Davender layup	11-4	
15:05	Lock FTA, FT	12-4	
14:26		12-6	Ansley follow layup
14:07	Manuel 18 ft.	14-6	
13:55	Manuel 8 ft. bank	16-6	
12:57		16-8	Dudley 12 ft.
12:39	Manuel 16 ft.	18-8	
12:18	Chapman FT, FT	20-8	
11:43	Bennett FT, FT	22-8	
10:30		22-10	Dudley FT, FT
9:53		22-12	Ansley layup
9:37	Ellis layup	24-12	
9:30	Chapman 12 ft.	26-12	
8:32	Bennett 8 ft.	28-12	
7:56		28-14	Cheatum follow layup
7:32	Bennett 18 ft.	30-14	
7:20		30-16	Askins reverse layup
6:44		30-18	Lee 18 ft.
6:29	Lock dunk	32-18	
6:13		32-20	Lee layup
5:56	Manuel FT, FT	34-20	
5:14	Manuel dunk	36-20	
4:32		36-22	Dudley 10 ft. bank
3:46		36-24	Cheatum dunk
3:19	Bennett 16 ft.	38-24	
2:39	Ellis FT, FT	40-24	
1:19		40-26	Cheatum layup, FTA
1:17	Bennett FT, FT	42-26	
0:46		42-28	Dudley 8 ft. follow
HALF 42-28			
19:47	Lock FT, FTA	43-28	
19:47	Davender FT, FT	45-28	Technical—Ala. bench
19:29	Bennett 18 ft.	47-28	
18:46	Bennett 17 ft.	49-28	
18:26	Ellis alley-oop dunk	51-28	
17:50		51-30	Cheatum 10 ft.
17:36	Bennett FT, FT	53-30	
17:27		53-32	Dudley 10 ft.
17:13	Chapman 21 ft.	56-32	
17:00		56-34	Cheatum FT, FT
16:43	Ellis 15 ft.	58-34	
15:13	Bennett 14 ft.	60-34	
14:52		60-36	Dudley 10 ft.
14:20		60-37	Ansley FT, FTA
13:53	Bennett 9 ft.	62-37	
13:32		62-39	Lancaster 16 ft.
11:46		62-41	Lee 18 ft.
10:44	Miller 16 ft.	64-41	
10:12		64-43	Dudley 10 ft.
9:48	Chapman FT, FT	66-43	
9:16		66-44	Cheatum FT, FTA
8:50	Madison dunk	68-43	
8:24		68-46	Cheatum 10 ft.
8:06	Bennett FTA, FT	69-46	
7:52		69-48	Lancaster FT, FT
7:08		69-50	Ansley FT, FT
6:52	Chapman layup	71-50	
6:40		71-52	Cheatum 15 ft.
6:26		71-54	Ansley FT, FT
6:14		71-56	Ansley FT, FT
5:58	Chapman 14 ft. FT	74-56	
5:15	Hanson FT, FTA	75-56	
2:46		75-59	Ansley layup, FT
2:23		75-61	Ansley FT, FT
1:40		75-63	Lee FT, FT
1:24	Hanson FT, FT	77-63	
1:11		77-66	Lee 20 ft.
0:57	Sutton FT, FTA	78-66	
0:52		78-68	Lee layup
0:46	Hanson 18 ft.	80-68	
0:11	Jenkins layup	82-68	
FINAL		82-68	

—Cats' Pause chart



cat Happiness Is—Ten Assists By Ed Davender As UK Passed By 'Bama 82-68

Bounce, Bounce, Bounce. . . UK On Right Path

Report On Grid 'Cats Not Good, Again

Mid-February is upon us and Kentucky and University of Louisville fans are starting to look toward the NCAA Tournament. Some coaches are too. Among them is UK's Eddie Sutton who talked last week about next month's basketball showcase.



Bob Watkins

Cats' Pause Columnist



"Four, maybe five teams from the Southeastern Conference will be invited to the NCAA," Sutton said before the Alabama game. "It's just my opinion, but if everything was the way it is today (in the SEC standings), I would say four, maybe even five."

Hmmm. Certainly Kentucky, Florida and Vanderbilt look like good bets. But LSU, Auburn and Tennessee, all had 12-8 records before the weekend. I'm not so sure.

Sutton views

The Kentucky Coach offered interesting views on other subjects during a meeting with reporters before the Alabama game.

✓ "We're going in the right direction," he said. "I'd like to be 20-0, but you can't replay those (three losses)."

UK lost to Auburn by a point, Florida by two and Vanderbilt by 17. "Nobody would have beaten Vandy the night we played them," Sutton said. "But golly, I think our team is playing better now than it was two weeks ago. Of course you're never satisfied."

✓ On UK's "got one back" victory at Auburn. "Rex (Chapman) had a sensational game. He played under control and took the shots he needs to be taking. It was just a good game for him on a night when we needed it because two other of our starters didn't play so well."

Sutton was referring to Winston Bennett and LeRon Ellis. ✓ LeRon Ellis. "He's not as tough mentally or physically as he's going to have to be," Sutton said.

✓ Eric Manuel. UK's newest ascending star, in a four game stretch through Feb. 10 (Auburn), had 33 points, 13 rebounds and nine assists.

"The way we run our offense, Eric just makes it smoother," Sutton said. "He's not shooting as much as I'd like him to, but he sure hit a couple of big ones for us down the stretch at Auburn."

One of the most encouraging subtleties about Manuel is, in 260 (plus) minutes playing time, he has committed eight turnovers.

"For the playing time he's getting, that's remarkable," Sutton said.

✓ Recruiting. To perhaps bolster UK's perimeter game next season, will Kentucky sign any more players this year?

"We may not sign any more players," Sutton said. "And we might sign three. But we're not going to just sign bodies."

"Let me say again that players in our state will always get top priority, but I've never believed, whether you're in North Carolina or Indiana or wherever, that you can recruit solely your own state and win."

✓ Three-point line. Sutton had a prediction. "I think the distance will be increased next year. Some three-point shooters this year won't be next year."

Louisville Cards

Finally, a Sutton remark about the NCAA Tournament brings us to the University of Louisville.

"When you look around the country I think you're going to see some teams coming out of conferences (into the NAAs) with double figure loss records," he said.

Comment When we start "looking around the country" for teams with double figure losses that will be in the NCAA field, look no further than River City.

No team in America played the kind of schedule Louisville has this season. And Coach Denny Crum's Cardinals, 13-8 at this writing, will be (and deserve to be) in the NCAA this year.

UK football report

What's the report card look like on the University of Kentucky's football recruiting harvest?

UK football coach Jerry Claiborne wrapped up his recruiting campaign last week. "We had what I think is a fine recruiting season. The best one we've had since I came here."

Included in the 28 signees are a record (for Claiborne) five junior college players and 12 linemen prospects.

"Because of Proposition 48 the quality of junior college players is much improved," Claiborne said.

"The big thing we're proud of is that we signed 12 linemen. And most of them are over 230 pounds and they're taller than any group we've had."

What about the in-state harvest? UK lost a number of excellent prospects to out-of-state schools including Mr. Football, Kurt Barber?

"I'm real pleased with the guys we got," Claiborne replied. "They're the ones who wanted to come to Kentucky to play. We can't worry about the ones who didn't."

The names and sizes are impressive enough, but it's still "wait and see" at best since, who's heard of or found on a blue chip list anyway, the names of these young men.

Hard to gage

In the best of times it is difficult to gage how UK's football signings stack up. But

the indicators are not especially good (again).

✓ Proving, even in Kentucky, that Mr. Football can be as highly thought of as any prospect in the country, for the second year in a row, he is leaving the state. Kurt Barber, a linebacker from Paducah Tilghman, is going to Southern Cal. Last year's Mr. Football, tight end Frank Jacobs, chose Notre Dame where he rose to second team.

✓ And, the defection is not limited to Mr. Football. Kentucky lost four high schoolers to out of state schools, three to Vanderbilt. Anthony Carter of North Hardin joins Marcus Wilson, a quarterback/defensive back from Louisville, and tight end Dave Legay of Covington to the Commodores. And the state's biggest lineman, Joe Avila (6-7, 270) from Ashland, is headed to Colorado.

But, if sizes and statistics mean anything, then perhaps there is help on the way for Claiborne's team.

✓ Eugene McClellan, 6-4, 240-pound tight end was a four year starter at Cincinnati Country Day and was named to Ohio's all-state team. Country Day was 10-1 last season, 11-1 the year before.

✓ Brad Shuford is a 6-4, 260-pound defensive lineman from Cincinnati Greenhills High School where he doubled at tight end and defensive end. He led his team last year with 46 solo tackles and five fumble recoveries.

✓ Quarterback? At this writing UK has signed two. Brad Smith is a 6-3, 185-pounder from Lakeland, Fla where he passed for 1,052 yards. Ryan Hockman is a 6-3, 190-pounder who is a three year starter from Harrison, Oh. where he completed 115 passes last season for 1,331 yards and 16 touchdowns.

Readers (right) write

Under the heading, "And the UK faithful shall rise up and smite the treasonous heathen," I heard from several fans, some of them in technicolor.

■ **Joye Hodge, Big Clifty, Ky.**, wrote to say Eddie Sutton had "made a point" by benching Ed Davender for the second half against Ole Miss.

"I like Ed Davender, but I realize that lately he's had a chip on his shoulder. It's the coach's job to help his players deal with their problems."



Jerry Claiborne Pleased With Recruits

"I realize you write many articles to get a reaction from your readers. You succeeded with me. I read your article and felt it was unfair."

Comment Good points.

Except one. The reason for writing a column is to offer a point of view for the reader to examine and compare to his or her own. The reason for publishing reactions to them in this space is to give the reader who cares enough to write the same forum to express another view.

■ **Andy Byler, Albany, Ky.**, wrote to object to the notion that Kentucky was sputtering in January while Louisville was beginning to show tournament-time form.

"Yes, UK was sputtering in January, but I don't see where Louisville is on the rise. If you call losing five of 10 games 'on the rise,' you'd better get your head checked. I don't dispute that Louisville is playing better than they were at the start of the season. And the suggestion that Rob Lock should be sent on a world cruise until April by Tim Burks of E'town is outrageous and downright stupid."

[Continued On Page 22]

We feel that news about the sports programs at the University of Kentucky should be required reading for all of the state's high school students. So, the staff of *The Cats' Pause* is starting a program we call "Big Blue Penetration."

Below, we have listed all the high schools in the state of Kentucky, and it is our aim to give every high school student in the commonwealth the opportunity to read *The Cats' Pause* by making the paper available to every high school library in the state. In order to accomplish this, it will be up to our subscribers to carry out "Big Blue Penetration" during the coming months.

If you would like to see *The Cats' Pause* in one or more high schools in your area, fill out the subscription blank provided to the right and return it with the appropriate payment. We will begin sending it to the school(s) and we'll notify the school librarian about your gift.

Each time we receive a gift subscription, we'll fill in the boxes next to the schools listed until "Big Blue Penetration" is a complete success.

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YES, I want to send a gift subscription to one or more of Kentucky's high schools. I have enclosed \$25 for each subscription of 35 issues per year.

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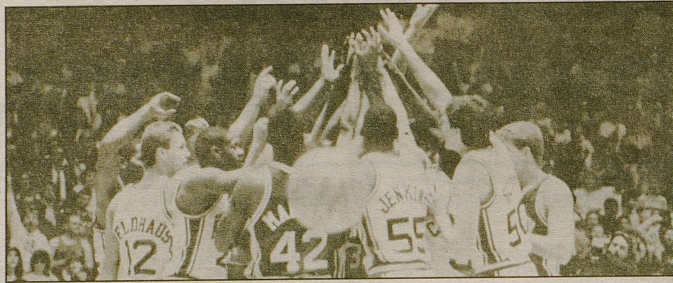
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Augusta | <input type="checkbox"/> Dixie Heights | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ky. School for the Blind | <input type="checkbox"/> Ludlow | <input type="checkbox"/> Providence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ballard Memorial | <input type="checkbox"/> Dorton | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ky. School for the Deaf | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lynn Camp | <input type="checkbox"/> Pulaski County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barbourville | <input type="checkbox"/> Drakesboro | <input type="checkbox"/> Knott County Central | <input type="checkbox"/> Lyon County | <input type="checkbox"/> Raceland |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bardstown | <input type="checkbox"/> East Carter | <input type="checkbox"/> Knox Central | <input type="checkbox"/> M.C. Napier | <input type="checkbox"/> Red Bird |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barren County | <input type="checkbox"/> East Hardin | <input type="checkbox"/> LaRue County | <input type="checkbox"/> Madison | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reidland |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bath County | <input type="checkbox"/> Edmonson County | <input type="checkbox"/> Laurel County | <input type="checkbox"/> Madison Central | <input type="checkbox"/> Riverside Christian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beechwood | <input type="checkbox"/> Elizabethtown | <input type="checkbox"/> Lawrence County | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Madisonville-North Hopkins | <input type="checkbox"/> Rockcastle County |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Belfry | <input type="checkbox"/> Elkhorn City | <input type="checkbox"/> Lee County | <input type="checkbox"/> Magoffin County | <input type="checkbox"/> Rowan County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bell County | <input type="checkbox"/> Elliott County | <input type="checkbox"/> Leslie County | <input type="checkbox"/> Marion County | <input type="checkbox"/> Russell |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bellevue | <input type="checkbox"/> Eminence | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Letcher | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marshall County | <input type="checkbox"/> Russell County |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Clinton County | <input type="checkbox"/> Heath | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Louisville Male | <input type="checkbox"/> Oneida Baptist Institute | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> West Hopkins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conner | <input type="checkbox"/> Henderson County | <input type="checkbox"/> Louisville Mercy Academy | <input type="checkbox"/> Owen County | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Western Anderson |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corbin | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henry County | <input type="checkbox"/> Louisville Moore | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Owensboro | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Western Hills |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Crittenden County | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jackson County | <input type="checkbox"/> Louisville Southern | <input type="checkbox"/> Paris | <input type="checkbox"/> Williamstown |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cumberland | <input type="checkbox"/> Jefferson County | <input type="checkbox"/> Lou. Southwest Christian | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pendleton County | <input type="checkbox"/> Wolfe County |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Danville | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jenkins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Louisville St. Xavier | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pikeville | |

KENTUCKY

A L E N D A R



February

		Women's Basketball: Ole Miss (H)	Basketball: Ole Miss (H) UK-TV Delayed		Women's Basketball: UAB (H)	Basketball: Mississippi St. (A) SEC-TV
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Women's Basketball: Georgia (A)	7	8	9	10	11	12
			Basketball: Auburn (A)			Basketball: Alabama (H) SEC-TV
Women's Basketball: Auburn (A)	14	15	16	17	18	19
			Basketball: Tennessee (A) SEC-TV	Women's Basketball: Tennessee (H)		Basketball: Florida (A) NBC-TV
	21	22	23	24	25	26
		Women's Basketball: LSU (H)	Basketball: LSU (H) SEC-TV	Women's Basketball: Middle Tenn. (H)		
Basketball: Syracuse (H) CBS-TV	28	29				
Women's Basketball: Va. Tech (H)						

Previous Games

- Jan. 2: Basketball—UK def. Georgia 84-77
- Jan. 4: Women's Basketball—Louisiana Tech def. UK 95-63
- Jan. 6: Basketball—UK def. Mississippi State 93-52
- Jan. 7: Women's Basketball—Mississippi State def. UK 68-61
- Jan. 9: Basketball—Auburn def. UK 53-52
- Jan. 10: Women's Basketball—Marshall def. UK 58-57
- Jan. 13: Basketball—UK def. Alabama 63-55
- Jan. 13 Women's Basketball—Alabama def. UK 74-54
- Jan. 16: Basketball—UK def. Tennessee 83-65
- Jan. 16: Women's Basketball—Illinois State def. UK 84-78
- Jan. 18: Women's Basketball—UK def. Belmont 84-78
- Jan. 20: Basketball—Florida def. UK 58-56
- Jan. 23: Basketball—UK def. LSU 76-61
- Jan. 23: Women's Basketball—Florida def. UK 68-64
- Jan. 27: Basketball—Vanderbilt def. UK 83-66
- Jan. 30: Women's Basketball—UK def. Tennessee State 88-70
- Jan. 31: Basketball—UK def. Notre Dame 78-69
- Feb. 2: Women's Basketball—Ole Miss def. UK 75-67
- Feb. 3: Basketball—UK def. Ole Miss 94-65
- Feb. 5: Women's Basketball—UK def. UAB 76-59
- Feb. 6: Basketball—UK def. Mississippi St. 83-59
- Feb. 7: Women's Basketball—Georgia def. UK 86-70
- Feb. 10: Basketball—UK def. Auburn 69-62
- Feb. 13: Basketball—UK def. Alabama 82-68
- Feb. 14: Basketball—Auburn def. UK 93-67



Eddie Sutton

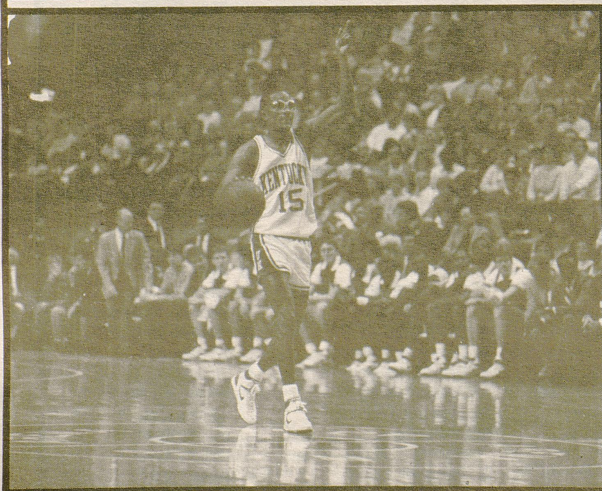
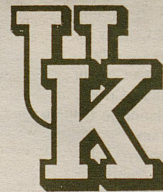


Sharon Fanning

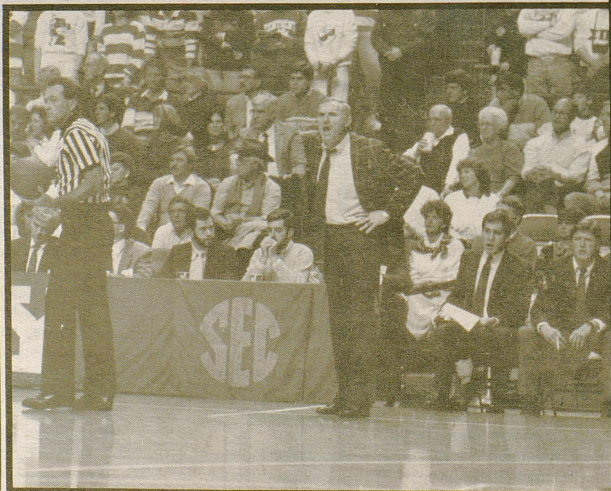
*Bama-UK Photos By Gary Cronwell & David Sterling



KENTUCKY WILDCATS



Playmaker Davender Has Things Under Control



Tough Season For Wimp And His Young Crimson Tide Club

Meet The Press

Claiborne Says Height, Size, Experience Most Promising Aspects Of The 28 Newcomers To Wildcat Program, Six Of Them From Juco Ranks

By TCP Columnist Mike Estep

While it's true that most everyone around the commonwealth had their minds on basketball last Wednesday night—Eddie Sutton's troops were in Auburn to take on the Tigers—it was national signing day for the nation's football recruits. And so just hours before Kentucky took over sole possession of first place in roundball, UK football coach Jerry Claiborne called a press conference at Commonwealth Stadium to announce how he and his staff had done in the recruiting derby.



Here's what Claiborne had to say about UK's 28 signees:

Maybe I can tell you in a couple of years: Rating talent is always a risky business. Sometimes you expect a high school star to be a college standout and he never produces. Sometimes you take a chance on a sleeper and he develops into a superstar. So when Claiborne was asked to rate the incoming class, he took the safe way out.

"I think you won't know how good this class is until they play," Claiborne said. "We rate this as a fine freshman group. And we're looking forward to working with them. But you really don't know how good they are until they compete on the varsity level. And you'll know that two or three years down the road."

We don't worry about those guys: Always the positive thinker, Claiborne refused to comment on the ones that got away—such as tight end Kurt Barber of Paducah, Kentucky's Mr. Football this season—instead preferring to talk about the those players that signed with the Wildcats.

"We're real pleased with the guys we got from Kentucky, we really are," the coach said. "We don't worry about the ones we're losing because there's nothing we can do about that; they can't play for Kentucky. We're really happy with the ones we got and we feel like they're young men who really want to come to the University of Kentucky and help our program here. We're just tickled to death with them."

Ohio wasn't too bad, either: Aside from Kentucky, which produced 13 recruits, Ohio was the most plentiful recruiting spot, as five signees hailed from the Buckeye State.

Claiborne said he was very pleased with the players he was able to lure from Ohio.

"We think it's one of the best years we've had (recruiting in Ohio) since we've been here," he said. "We got Ryan Hockman, who's won a lot of individual awards there at Harrison High School. We think he's an outstanding quarterback. And also Brad Shuford and Eugene McClellan from Cincinnati—these young men have good size. Shuford's about 6-4 and 260, and McClellan's 6-4 and 240. So we think they've got good potential as outstanding players in the college ranks."

"And in the Cleveland area, we got Reggie Smith. He's got good range, he's about 6-3 and 205 pounds. We think he could be an excellent linebacker. And Chuck Latimer, one of those skinny guys, he's about 6-7 and only weighs about 235 pounds right now. But he's one of those young men that we think can grow, and he can move very well, runs real good."

"And then we got Greg Lahr, from Pickerington, Ohio, a 6-4, 243-pound lineman. We feel

like his best football is ahead of him."

Got some big 'uns: As you look down the list of signees, 11 of the 28 recruits stand 6-4 or better, something Claiborne was especially pleased with.

"We're really happy with their size," Claiborne said, "especially the heights, of the most of the guys that we've signed. Because when they've got that height and good leverage, why we think they've got the opportunity to be real good outstanding prospects."

"I think height-wise, it might be as much height as we've ever recruited. I think we've got 12 or 13 linemen, and they're all 6-5 or better. Now we might get 'em here and they might not be as tall as their listed. You can't really tell."

Where you gonna play this guy? One of those big guys was Chris Reedy of Elizabethtown. Claiborne was asked to comment on 6-5, 235-pound all-state linebacker-lineman.

"We really don't know where we're gonna play Chris," Claiborne said. "He played linebacker in high school and he's 6-4, 6-5 and weighs about 235 pounds. We're just happy to have him on our football team. We think he can be an offensive lineman, he can be a defensive lineman, he can be a linebacker. We've got quite a few places he can play."

A new trend? Six junior college transfers dot the list of newcomers this season, something that steers away from Claiborne's pattern of recruiting high school seniors and molding them into his system by utilizing a redshirt year.

But Claiborne said that because the 1988 squad will be weak at several positions, he decided to go out and recruit juco players who already have experience and maturity.

"We had real good with Charlie Darrington last year, and we felt like we kinda needed some immediate help," Claiborne said. "Like a young man like (Rodney) Shepard (a 6-1, 225-pound fullback from Brooklyn, N.Y.). He's more mature than a high school senior, he's got good size and we felt like he might be able to help us more than a player right out of high school."

"They're a couple of years older than high school seniors and we feel like they may be able to come in and help us right away. We were able to get some junior college people at positions where we thought we could get some immediate help. That's why we signed more of them than we usually do."

Claiborne said Proposition 48 has caused more football players to attend junior colleges, and that's why it appears that four-year schools are signing more jucos.

"There are a lot more football players, because of Proposition 48, going to junior colleges," Claiborne said. "They had to stay there and graduate. So they improved their study habits. I think the quality of jucos is certainly better."

(Twenty) Eight is enough: With a few scholarships still open, Claiborne was asked if he would like to sign a few more players before the signing period ends in August.

"Not right now," Claiborne said. "We always save a couple (scholarships) just in case we get a chance to sign anybody else. But right now, we're not anticipating anyone else right now."

Don't ask me: "You gotta be kidding, me" the coach said with a sarcastic laugh, cutting off a reporter before he could finish asking the coach if he thought any of the freshman signees would be able to help next season. "I have no idea. That's all up to them."

1988 University of Kentucky Football Signees

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown (School)
1.	Alfred Rawls*	TB	5-10	200	Jr.	Pitts Ga. (NE Oklahoma A&M JC)
2.	Scott Booth*	DL	6-3	256	Jr.	Bradenton, Fla. (NE Mississippi CC)
3.	Ryan Hockman	QB	6-3	190	Fr.	Harrison, Ohio (High)
4.	Chuck Bradley	DL	6-6	270	Fr.	Louisville (Fern Creek)
5.	T.J. Maynard	DL	6-6	245	Fr.	Flatwoods (Russell)
6.	Dean Wells	FB	6-4	225	Fr.	Louisville (Holy Cross)
7.	Jeff Weihe	DL	6-5	248	Fr.	Louisville (Holy Cross)
8.	Craig Walker	TB	6-0	205	Fr.	Louisville (Fairdale)
9.	Brad Smith	QB	6-3	185	Fr.	Lakeland, Fla. (High)
10.	Brad Shuford	DL	6-4	260	Fr.	Cincinnati, Ohio (Greenhills)
11.	Eugene McClellan	TE	6-4	240	Fr.	Cincinnati, Ohio (Country Day)
12.	Travis Hahn	OL	6-3	230	Fr.	Louisville (St. Xavier)
13.	Matt Branum	OL	6-3	237	Fr.	Florence (Boone County)
14.	Rich McCune	OL	6-3	250	Fr.	Jackson (Breathitt County)
15.	Reggie Smith	LB	6-3	205	Fr.	Cleveland, Ohio (Benedictine)
16.	Chuck Latimer	DL	6-7	232	Fr.	Lorain, Ohio (Admiral King)
17.	Albert Burks	DB	6-0	185	Jr.	Monroe, La. (Hinds CC)
18.	Tony Missick	DB	6-1	209	Jr.	Miami, Fla. (Marion Institute)
19.	Todd Perry	OL	6-5	240	Fr.	Elizabethtown (North Hardin)
20.	Chris Reedy	LB	6-5	235	Fr.	Elizabethtown (High)
21.	Greg Lahr	DL	6-4	243	Fr.	Pickerington, Ohio (High)
22.	Tim Harris	TB	6-0	190	Fr.	New Castle (Henry County)
23.	Brad Armstead	DB	6-2	175	Fr.	Henderson (Henderson County)
24.	Rodney Shepard	FB	6-1	225	Jr.	Brooklyn, N.Y. (Nassau CC)
25.	Mickey Dean	TE	6-5	235	Fr.	Sarasota, Fla. (High)
26.	Alfred Jones	SE	6-5	190	Jr.	Oak Ridge, Tenn. (NE Oklahoma CC)
27.	Jody Matthews	DL	6-1	245	Fr.	Villa Rica, Ga. (High)
28.	Sterling Ward	DB	5-11	170	Fr.	Lexington (Bryan Station)

*Junior college transfers, count toward 1987 total.

"Again, we can't predict anybody. We've always had some freshmen that have helped us, not many, but some. And if they come along that well, that's a bonus for us. But we're just gonna have to see how well they come along for us when they get here and work against varsity competition."

Film at eleven: Because the state of Kentucky has no spring football, and because the high school regular-season ends before college coaches are allowed to leave campus in order to recruit, Claiborne said many of the recruits UK signed this season were scouted on film only.

"Some of 'em were signed by just viewing film," he said. "And if they all turn out to be good players and everything, then I don't guess we've been hurt that much. But the big thing you get to see when you go see a ballgame is you can hear the contact, see the effort and you can really just get more out of a football game by watching it that you can on film. You can find out more about the work habits if you can drop around to practice and watch a kid practice. So we probably don't really know as much about this group. I don't think anybody's really going to know the affect of this rule until later."

If Claiborne had his druthers, he said he would change the rule that keeps recruiters on campus for so long.

"The rule I've been trying to get is don't (allow recruiters to) leave campus until Thursday after practice," he said. "Then you're on campus, you're coaching the players you have. Your plans are over by Thursday afternoon. Then leave and if you

don't have to come back until Sunday, that's OK. The reason why I say Sunday is that up in Chicago, in some of those Catholic leagues, they play Sunday ball."

"So you don't want a rule to hurt anybody, but it would keep the coaches on the campus and you don't have that full-time recruiter, some guy that's on the road all the time. And that's what the presidents get upset about. They say, 'Hey, you're coaches leave Tuesday or Wednesday. You don't need them to coach. All you're doing is using them for recruiting.' I use 'em for coaching. I think that they should be used for coaching. I think you need 'em for coaching. We certainly do."

"So I'd like to see the rule changed so we can go out and see some kids play. We didn't get to see anybody play this year except for playoff teams. Everybody's season is over in the state of Kentucky except playoff teams (by the time coaches can leave campus to recruit). That shakes you up a little, not being able to see the teams play. It gives you, actually, a chance to see more players out of state than in the state."

Mapping out a strategy: Claiborne gave an interesting insight into how he and his staff plan what positions they will recruit most heavily:

"We put our whole squad up on the board," he said. "At each position we put up our seniors, our juniors, our sophomores and red-shirt freshmen. And then we decide and try to figure things out. You don't always go exactly by your table, but we always try to say 'We need so many linemen, so many backs' and then we try to use that as a guideline."

A Capsule Look At 1988 University of Kentucky Football Signees

BRAD ARMSTEAD

DB, 6-2, 175, Fr., Henderson (Henderson County): Three-year starter at Henderson County High. Used primarily as quarterback during senior season, leading the Colonels to an 8-3 record and District 4-A, Region I title. Accounted for more than 1,700 yards of total offense in 1987. Rushed for 1,300 yards and scored 14 touchdowns. Rushed for more than 100 yards in nine of 11 contests in 1987. Second-team Associated Press all-state, all-western Kentucky, all-district and permanent team captain during final prep season. Most Valuable Offensive Back last three seasons.

SCOTT BOOTH

DL, 6-3, 256, Jr., Bradenton, Fla. (NE Mississippi CC): Already enrolled at the University of Kentucky and will participate in spring drills. First-team all-state in 1987 at Northeast Mississippi Community College. Helped lead the Tigers to a 6-5-1 record and spot in state playoffs. Named Most Outstanding Defensive Lineman as a sophomore. Played in similar "wide-tackle-six" alignment at Northeast Mississippi. Honorable mention all-state as a freshman. Originally signed with Murray State out of high school. Two-year letterman at Manatee High School. Worked as offensive tackle as junior (1983) leading the Hurricanes to a 14-0 record and Florida state championship. Switched to defensive tackle as a senior. First team all-area as a senior.

CHUCK BRADLEY

DL, 6-6, 265, Fr., Louisville (Fern Creek): Three-year starter as offensive tackle and nose guard. Helped lead the Tigers to consecutive 7-3 records in final two prep seasons. Named to the Louisville Courier-Journal all-state first team as offensive tackle in 1987. Second-team Associated Press all-state. Most Valuable Player in District 2-4A, Region II as a senior. Named to Kentucky All-Star squad which plays the Tennessee All Stars in July.

MATT BRANUM

OL, 6-3, 237, Fr., Florence (Boone County): Two-year starter at center and long snapper at Boone County High School. Helped the Rebels to a 13-1 record in 1987 and a 4-A state runner-up spot. First-team all-state as selected by AP UPI and Courier-Journal. Also named to Kentucky Post all-star team, Cincinnati Enquirer all-state team and the WLVY Greater Cincinnati all-area team. Named to the Kentucky All-Star team. Member of the National Honor Society and Future Business Leaders of America.

ALBERT BURKS

DB, 6-0, 185, Monroe, La. (Hinds C.C.): Two-year starter. Played both cornerback and safety at Hinds CC last season. Made 60 tackles, 50 solos. Credited with three interceptions in 1987. Last season Burks led Hinds to a 10-3 mark. Had three INTs during first year at Hinds. Named honorable mention all-state. Played high school ball for Wassman in Monroe. Had six interceptions during senior season.

MICKEY DEAN

TE, 6-5, 235, Fr., Sarasota, Fla. (High): Two-year starter as tight end at Sarasota High School. Lettered three seasons. Helped the Sailors to a pair of district co-titles (1985 and 1987). Caught 10 passes for 200 yards and one touchdown as a senior. Graded 80 percent-or-better in 1987 from his tight and position. Led Sailors to a 7-3 record during senior season. Second-team all-area selection. Had 15 receptions, including three for touchdowns as a junior. Honorable mention all-area in 1988. Named to "Who's Who Among American High School Students."

TRAVIS HAHN

OL, 6-3, 230, Fr., Louisville (St. Xavier): Two-year starter as

offensive tackle. Led the Tigers to a 24-4 record his final two seasons, including the state championship as a junior. Coaching staff selected him as Offensive Lineman of the Week seven times during the 1987 season. Second team all-state by Louisville Courier-Journal and AP. Selected to Kentucky All-Star team. Offensive Lineman of the Week six times as a junior. All-district and third team Courier-Journal all-state in 1986.

TIM HARRIS

TB, 5-11, 188, Fr., New Castle (Henry County): Three-year starter as tailback. Rushed for 1,259 yards on 140 carries during 1987 season in only seven games. Missed four games with a slight knee injury during senior campaign. Named second team all-state by Courier-Journal in 1987. All-North Central Kentucky Conference past three seasons. As a junior, led Kentucky in rushing with 2,422 yards on 271 carries and in scoring with 198 points. Had 32 touchdowns rushing in 1986. Careerwise, rushed for 4,662 yards and 65 touchdowns. Third team all-state by Courier-Journal following junior season.

RYAN HOCKMAN

QB, 6-3, 190, Fr., Harrison, Ohio (High): Three-year starter at quarterback for Harrison High. Completed 115 of 280 passes (500 percent) for 1,331 yards and 16 touchdowns during 1987 regular season. Led the Wildcats to an 8-3 record and spot in Ohio state playoffs. Twice during career threw for five touchdowns in a single game. Threw for 301 yards and five scores versus Hamilton Ross as a junior. Named Super Prep Magazine All-American as a senior. UPI first-team all-state. Dial Ohio Player of the Year and Cincinnati Enquirer first team all-city in 1987. Squad's MVP and Western Metro Conference Offensive Player of the Year as a junior and senior.

ALFRED JONES

WR, 6-5, 190, Oak Ridge, Tenn. (Northwestern Oklahoma): At the JC school. Jones caught 16 passes last season for 269 yards and five touchdowns. As a freshman he was a teammate with Kentucky's tight end Charlie Darrington. Clocked in the 40-yard dash in 4.55 seconds.

GREG LAHR

DL, 6-4, 243, Fr., Pickerington, Ohio (High): Three-year starter as an offensive guard and defensive tackle. Named first team all-state by UPI and AP. First team all-district and All-Ohio Capital Conference as a senior. Also selected to the Columbus Dispatch all-star team. Squad's Most Outstanding Defensive Lineman. Second team all-conference as a junior and sophomore. Member of National Honor Society.

CHUCK LATIMER

DL, 6-7, 232, Fr., Lorain, Ohio (Admiral King): Two-year starter as offensive and defensive tackle. Registered 55 tackles as a senior, including 16 quarterback sacks. Helped lead the Rams to an 8-2 record and the Erie Shore Conference championship in 1987. First team All-Erie Shore Conference, All-Lorain County and All-northeast Ohio following his senior campaign. Helped Admiral King High post an impressive three-year record of 25-5.

T.J. MAYNARD

DL, 6-6, 250, Fr., Flatwoods (Russell): Started as center and defensive tackle the last two seasons. Three-year letterman. Selected second-team all-state by AP and UPI as a senior. All Ohio-Kentucky Athletic Conference and all-area as well. Named squad's MVP and permanent team captain in 1987. Honorable mention all-area and all-conference as a junior.

EUGENE McCLELLAN

TE, 6-4, 240, Fr., Cincinnati, Ohio (Country Day): Started for four seasons as a tight end and linebacker. Helped lead the Indians to respective 11-1 and 10-1 seasons and berths in

the state playoffs during his junior and senior campaigns. All-state, all-conference and all-city as a senior. Named Lineman of the Year for Division I in Ohio. Named all-conference and honorable mention all-city as a junior. Helped Country Day post a four-year record of 91-12.

RICH MCCLINE

OL, 6-3, 250, Fr., Jackson (Breathitt County): Started the last two seasons as an offensive and defensive tackle. Lettered four years and was a starter since midway through his freshman season. Finished 1987 with 91 total tackles, including 14 tackles behind the line and eight quarterback sacks. Had 60 solos and 31 assists. Selected UPI first-team all-state. AP honorable mention all-state. Selected to play in the Kentucky All-Star game. Member of the National Honor Society. Academic All-American as a sophomore.

TONY MISSICK

OL, 6-1, 209, Jr., Miami, Fla. (Marion Military Institute): Will transfer to the University of Kentucky in August. Two-year starter at Marion (AIA) Institute as a free safety. Averaged just less than 10 tackles per game as a sophomore. Finished the season with one interception against Sanford. Was a quarterback-free safety as a senior at American Senior High School. Missed final five games during senior season with a knee injury.

TODD PERRY

OL, 6-5, 240, Fr., Elizabethtown (North Hardin): Started the last two seasons as an offensive tackle. Missed the first eight games of the 1987 season with a knee injury which required surgery. Returned to action in season-finale. Knee is back at 100 percent. Selected to All-Big Eight Conference team. Honorable mention all-state as a senior. Honorable mention all-scholastic for northern Ohio. As a junior, had 76 tackles. Honorable mention all-league in 1986. Member of National Honor Society. Named Academic All-American by the National Secondary Council.

ALFRED RAWLS

OL, 6-5, 200, Jr., Pitts, Ga. (Northwest Oklahoma A&M): Is currently enrolled at the University of Kentucky after transferring in January. Rushed for 808 yards on 121 carries (6.67 yards per carry) and scored nine touchdowns in a washbone at a junior. Helped lead the Golden Norsemen to a 9-2 record and a victory over Hinds (Miss.) in the Mid-American Bowl. Broke the Mid-American Bowl record for rushing yards, gaining 244 yards and scoring two touchdowns. Was a teammate of UK tight end Charlie Darrington as a freshman. In high school, rushed for 3,740 yards during career and scored 62 touchdowns at Wilcox County High. All-State as a senior.

CHRIS REEDY

LB, 6-5, 235, Fr., Elizabethtown (High): Started as offensive guard and linebacker the past three seasons. Helped lead the Panthers to a 12-1 record during his senior season and the state 2-A semifinals. First team all-state by the Louisville Courier-Journal. Named AP second-team all-state in 1987. Selected to Kentucky All-Star squad. Intercepted four passes from his linebacker post in 1987. Honorable mention all-state as a junior.

RODNEY SHEPARD

RB, 6-1, 225, Hempstead, N.Y. (Nassau CC): Shepard was primarily used as a blocking back, ran the pigskin about eight to 10 times a game. Nassau was 7-4 last year. In the 40-yard dash Shepard runs a 4.65. His coach, Jim Anselmo, says he's just a "mean kid. I don't know who they've got there. But I look for Rodney to come in and play."

BRAD SHUFORD

DL, 6-4, 260, Fr., Cincinnati, Ohio (Greenhills): Started as

a tight end and defensive end the past two seasons. Recorded 46 tackles in 1987, including seven for losses and two quarterback sacks in the Pioneers' 50' defensive scheme. Recovered five fumbles. Named All-Western Metro Conference first-team on defense and second team on offense. Honorable mention all-city as selected by the Cincinnati Enquirer. Squad's Best Defensive Lineman award. Honorable mention all-city as a junior.

BRAD SMITH

QB, 6-3, 185, Fr., Lakeland, Fla. (High): Two-year letterman as a quarterback. Led the Dreadnaughts to an 8-2 record as a senior and a three-way district championship. Completed 70 of 101 passes for 1,152 yards and seven touchdowns in 1987. Honorable mention all-area. Squad's Most Improved Offensive Player as a senior. Served as backup quarterback during junior season as Lakeland captured the Florida 5-A state championship with a 13-1 record. Academic All-American. Who's Who Among American High School Students.

REGGIE SMITH

LB, 6-3, 205, Fr., Cleveland, Ohio (Benedictine): Three-year starter. Started the past two seasons as a tight end and linebacker. Helped lead Benedictine High to a 32-6 record and three consecutive state playoff berths. Finished 1987 with 100 tackles, including 28 solos and 72 assists. Recorded two quarterback sacks. Missed three games of senior year with a knee injury. All-Independent League on offense. Honorable mention all-scholastic for northern Ohio. As a junior, had 76 tackles. Honorable mention all-league in 1986. Member of National Honor Society.

CRAIG WALKER

TB, 6-0, 203, Fr., Louisville (Fairdale): Four-year letterman as tailback. Finished prep career with 5,773 yards rushing and 60 touchdowns. As a senior, rushed for 2,070 yards and scored 20 TDs. Led the Bulldogs to district title and 11-2 record. Had a streak of 24 consecutive games of 100 yards-or-more rushing snapped in final prep contest versus Boone County. First team all-state by AP and Louisville Courier-Journal. Selected to Kentucky All-Star team. Gatorade Circle of Champions Kentucky Player of the Year. Mr. Football Finalist. Rushed for 1,895 yards in 1986 with 21 touchdowns. Courier-Journal first team all-state and all-district as a junior.

STERLING WARD

DB, 5-11, 170, Lexington (Bryan Station): Three-year letterman who was selected on the honorable mention all-state team. Played strong safety and wing back. Picked on Lexington Herald-Leader all-city team. Was State 4-A Champion in triple jump. He recorded a 49-2 1/2 feet.

DEAN WELLS

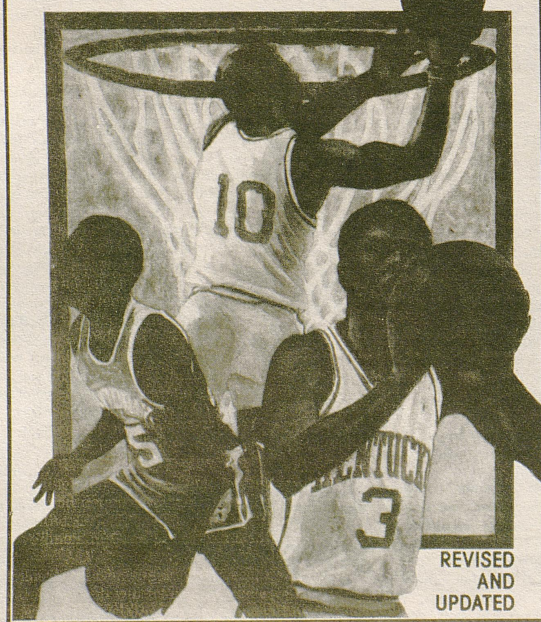
FB, 6-4, 225, Fr., Louisville (Holy Cross): Started as fullback and defensive tackle the past two seasons. Helped lead the Cougars to a 9-4 record and regional championship as a senior. Averaged 5.3 yards per carry and scored three touchdowns from fullback slot in 1987. First team all-state by AP and Courier Journal. USA Today honorable mention All-American. All-district and permanent team captain. National Honor Society. All-state academic team.

JEFF WEIHE

OL, 6-5, 248, Fr., Louisville (Holy Cross): Started as an offensive tackle and defensive tackle the past two seasons. Helped lead the Cougars to a 9-4 record and regional title in 1987. Six times mentioned by coaching staff as Offensive Lineman of the Week during the 1987 season. Second team Courier-Journal all-state team and first team all-district as a senior. Named to honorable mention all-district team as a junior.

KENTUCKY BASKETBALL'S BIG BLUE MACHINE

By Russell Rice



REVISED AND UPDATED

Strode Publishers announces the release of "Big Blue Machine: Kentucky Basketball," the most complete and comprehensive volume available on the proud winning heritage of UK basketball. Written by Russell Rice, UK's Special Assistant to the Athletics Director, this book takes the reader from the early rough house years of basketball at UK to the first championship of the South won by the Wildcats in 1921, through all of the historic eras including Adolph Rupp's reign, Joe B. Hall, and the current winning era of Eddie Sutton and star player "King" Rex Chapman.

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'Cats Get Sweet Revenge At Auburn

[Continued From Page 4]

Chapman and Davender's performance (eight points, no miscues) paced Kentucky in the first half. Three times the Wildcats enjoyed 11-point leads, following Tiger-shattering plays. First was Chapman's 21-footer at the 3:32 mark, giving the visitors a 36-25 advantage. Next, a Manuel steal immediately was turned into a Richard Madison dunk. Score it 38-27 with 2:50 left. And last a Madison defensive rebound was converted into Chapman's thrilling slam with 40 seconds remaining (36-25).

Meanwhile, Moore and Morris kept the Tigers within striking distance, scoring 10 and nine points, respectively.

UK was guilty of 10 fouls to the hosts' five, but the monumental statistic in the first half was Auburn's inability to get a shot from three-point territory, while the duo of Chapman-Davender combined for five bonus shots.

UK-Auburn Notes & Quotes

Auburn coach **Sonny Smith** was very impressed with Kentucky's defense. Said Smith after the defeat: "Their pressure on the ball

is good. It does not allow you to throw a real sharp pass. Their over-play on the post is good." . . . Speaking of inside play, forwards **John Caylor**, **Chris Morris** and centers **Matt Geiger** and **Jeff Moore** combined for 44 of Auburn's 55 attempts from the field, hitting 19. . . **Moore's** comeback bordered on the unbelievable. One day before the game, Moore obviously was favoring his shooting hand, which was wrapped with a protective cloth. Smith told *The Cats' Pause* that day that he thought Moore might play but probably wouldn't be effective. But when Geiger was whistled for his second foul at the 15:28 mark, Smith had no choice but to insert Moore. "It's amazing that he scores 18 points and plays 28 minutes," **Eddie Sutton** said after the contest. Moore said he didn't start shooting until the Friday before the game. Not until Tuesday did he have the cast removed. "I didn't know I was going to play that much," Moore noted. "I played 28 minutes and I was looking to play anywhere from 10 to 20. We should have won, but we played really bad. . . we didn't deserve to win. Anytime you play that bad against a good team like Kentucky you're going to pay."

Before the start of the Kentucky-Auburn game, Los Angeles Raider, Kansas City Royal and former Tiger back **Bo Jackson** was seen walking around Memorial Coliseum. . . Kentucky Gov. **Wallace Wilkinson** must be after Wildcat fan **Steve Rardin's** record. Wilkinson was one of the first in the locker room to congratulate the 'Cats. Wilkinson has also been at many home games, and earlier in the year, traveled with the 'Cats to Atlanta for the Georgia game. . . By the way, **Rardin** now has been in attendance in 586 consecutive Wildcat games. . . Before UK's game, **Cedric Jenkins** was on press row watching his "little" sister **Tammye** score 13 points, including six of nine attempts from the field. Tammye, a 6-4 freshman on the 13th-ranked Georgia club, couldn't pull the Lady Dogs through, as they lost to No. 3 Auburn 89-70. . . While the UK staff was not pleased with the officiating, Smith said "I'd take this officiating every night." Auburn was whistled for 17 fouls while UK committed 16. . . Smith also said when playing the Wildcats you have to play physical. "**Winston Bennett** will drive you like a nail if you don't." . . Bennett, however, was feeling the effects of the flu, ac-

ording to Sutton. The 6-7 senior was held to six points, but he did manage to grab a team-high seven boards. . . In two games in Auburn, **Rex Chapman** has totaled 51 points. Bothered by a virus, Chapman scored a career-high 26 against the Tigers in Auburn last season. . . Sutton on the importance of the victory: "Knowing that we have to go to Tennessee and to Florida and to Ole Miss, I thought this game was very important. I told our staff that we've got to win this game tonight somehow, because I felt by winning it, even if Florida wins, it keeps the pressure on them a little bit. . . At half-time, the winningest coach in Auburn history, **Joel H. Eaves**, was honored. With the ceremony, Auburn's Memorial Coliseum is officially rededicated as Joel H. Eaves Memorial Coliseum. Eaves, who posted 214 victories in 14 seasons, guided the Tigers to their first SEC basketball title in 1960. Today, he resides in Athens, Ga. . . On the plane back to Lexington, freshman **John Pelphrey** turned to assistant **Jimmy Dykes** and said, "Coach, we're going to have to get you an SEC championship ring to replace that Arkansas one." Dykes played for Sutton at Arkansas.

Viewpoint

[Continued From Page 6]

three-point shooter in the state, it will sign Adkins. If it is looking to keep its streak alive of signing Mr. Basketballs, it will sign Farmer. I personally believe the media pressure is so great that they will have to sign Farmer, but this does not automatically mean he's the best player in the state.

Please answer this question on the show Monday: If Adkins isn't any good, why are the likes of Notre Dame, Indiana and Vandy after him? It's a shame that a good player like Keith can't get any recognition from media in his own state after leading the state in scoring the entire season, from start to finish.

Yours Truly,

Jim Mike Williams, CPA
Paintsville, Kentucky

Thanks, Dad!

Dear Sir:

I am currently a student at Virginia Commonwealth University, pursuing a degree in the health-care field. I was born and raised in Frankfort, Ky. Leaving my family, horses and the beautiful Bluegrass land for college was a heartbreaker. The thoughts of not being able to follow Kentucky basketball horrified me.

Athletics have always played an important part in my life. Ever since I was little my parents have taken me to UK games, whether it be basketball or football. I used to memorize the players' names and their numbers, and my parents would quiz me on the way to the games. I also used to attend

the famous midnight scrimmages, follow them in the newspapers and watch their games on the delayed telecast with my Dad (even though I had witnessed the spectacular event in person).

Now that I am in college and in another state, I've been forced to resort to just the sports section of the newspaper to find out any news about Kentucky. It has been very hard to keep up with the 'Cats. However, I have been fortunate enough to pick up a couple of games which were televised nationally. My neighbors don't seem to understand the thrill of watching a steal by (Ed) Davender or a three-pointer by (Rex) Chapman. Though the UK spirit did rub off a little on my roommate who can now name all the starters (something a preschooler in Kentucky knows!). Even though she doesn't understand the tremendous inner feeling of being a True Blue fan, or have experienced the chills that are sent through the body as 23,000 people rise to their feet in Rupp Arena to chant "Go Big Blue!" she does recognize how important it is to me.

When I am at home in Kentucky for vacations, my Dad assures me of a lower arena ticket. However, now, back in Virginia I am able to enjoy Kentucky sports in its entirety through *The Cats' Pause*. Thanks, Dad, for the present and for allowing me to remain a UK fan by this subscription. Also, many thanks to *The Cats' Pause* for keeping me up to date on all the Wildcat action. No matter what state I'm in, I'm behind the 'Cats all the way!

Sincerely,

Michelle D. Judy
Richmond, Virginia

Larry Vaught

[Continued From Page 9]

"The inside-outside threat of Will Perdue and their guards makes Vanderbilt a tremendous threat to win any game," said Sanderson.

Sutton thinks Vandy could be a major factor in the NCAA Tournament if it continues to hit the three-point shot the way it did when it beat UK and Florida.

"The teams that get on a roll and get a few breaks get to Kansas City (for the Final Four)," said Sutton. "If Vanderbilt is on a roll at tournament time, it could be in Kansas City. Just analyze what they did to us and Florida."

Veteran Vanderbilt Coach C.M. Newton isn't ready to make reservations for Kansas City. "I have said all along that we are a good, solid Division I team," said Newton. "I have no idea about Kansas City."

"We are playing really good basketball right now but we did during some of our losses, too. Our team has remained calm, and there is not a lot of difference be-

ween now and when we were 0-3 in the SEC."

Newton says experienced guards, the improvement of Perdue and the arrival of freshmen Steve Grant and Charles Mayes have made Vandy a Top Twenty team this season.

"We are just better than we were last year," said Newton. "You don't win in this league with inexperienced guards like we had last year. But they had to play to get experience."

"Being ranked is nothing more than recognition from outsiders. It's always nice to be recognized but it doesn't mean a lot. I'll be very interested in the polls, though, going into the NCAA Tournament."

And no one in the SEC has any doubts about whether or not Vanderbilt will be in the NCAA this year.

Bob Watkins

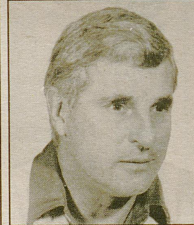
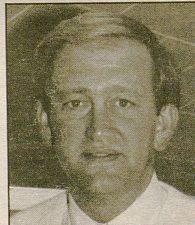
[Continued From Page 16]

■ **Charlie Walls of Vine Grove, Ky.** writes: "After reading Jim Terhune's article in Sunday's Courier-Journal on Shawn Kemp (University of Kentucky basketball signee) we have to wonder why UK recruits people like that. This kid doesn't show much promise academically. And smarts used to be a part of what counted at UK. You only get one chance for a big player because after one has been signed the others are difficult to get (attract) for that position. We probably could have had (Will) Perdue or the big kid at Florida (Dwayne Schintzius) who beat us awhile back. But UK doesn't go after those guys anymore. I hope I'm wrong about Kemp."

■ **Mrs. William Q. Shaw of Hodgenville, Ky.** writes: "I am a UK fan and thought (your column) about (Eddie) Sutton was 'right on the mark.' I hope he sees it and reads it. Also that he pays some attention to it."

"I think he has done more in the last two weeks to de-moralize his team than to improve it. I will say that I know nothing about coaching and only played a little basketball—and that many, many years ago in Bowling Green—but I do enjoy it and keep up with all the teams and the NCAA each year. My husband and son both went to UK and we all are, and have been real fans for a good while."

Comment And thank you for writing.



Reader Puts Hacker (Left) In Same Category With Vitale, Knight

■ **Jim Hicks, Louisville,** writes in reference to a column last week with Ralph Hacker, color analyst for Kentucky football and basketball games on the Kentucky Network.

"Please use anyone in Kentucky as an expert on sports except Ralph Hacker. The old cheerleader is in the same league as Howard Cosell or Dick Vitale when it comes to knowing sports. About one minute of him on the radio is enough to turn up the TV sound. As I said, use anyone. Suggestions: Abe Lincoln, Phyllis George, Jim 'Pop' Malone, Man of War, Bob Knight, Big Dan Boone, Earl Cox, Bozo the Clown or Gary Hart, just for a few."

"Please, anyone except 'Right you are, Cawood!'"

Comment II Thank you for writing.

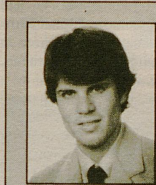
Comment III I sincerely appreciate every sports fan who cares enough to take advantage of this forum.

And so it goes. ■

Notre Dame Leads Nation's Recruiting Parade

Hockman Only UK Signee Among Top 162

Next to the opening fall Saturday of college football, the Feb. 10 signing date is the second-most awaited day for all college football fans. It's a day that brings optimism to every school in the country, with hopes of building the foundation of a national championship team. And according to Allen Wallace, the editor and co-publisher of the Costa Mesa, Calif.-



Todd Hallum

Cats' Pause Columnist



based *Superprep* publication, regarded as one of the nation's foremost recruiting magazines, this year's crop of incoming freshmen might be one of the better classes to come out in years.

Although potential college prospects have until April 1 to sign a national letter of intent, Wallace believes Notre Dame will be the top team this season in corraling the nation's best talent. According to Wallace's estimations, the Fighting Irish are expected to sign 10 of *Superprep's* top 162 players that he rates in his well-known publication. Along with Notre Dame, the high school football recruiting guru foresees Clemson, Penn State and UCLA also reaping some bountiful harvests. Despite the fact that Notre Dame is not going to be signing a highly-rated quarterback, keep in mind the Irish played two young signal callers after Terry Andrysiak got injured during the middle of last season.

One other surprising note Wallace mentions is that national champion Miami did not receive one verbal commitment from his top 162 players. However, he reminds his readers that Miami should always do well by just plucking some of the outstanding players in its home state of Florida. How can anyone imagine the Hurricanes not recruiting well during any off season?

Back to Notre Dame, Wallace indicates that the Irish inked one of the South's better prospects in 6-foot-7, 235-pound tight end Derek Brown from Merritt Island, Fla. For you basketball fans, Merritt Island is also the same city that produced Vanderbilt's fine center, Will Perdue. Wallace then says Notre Dame helped itself by getting some of the better offensive linemen in the country from such states as Florida, Texas and Illinois. The group of linemen includes Gene McGuire, a 265-pound offensive lineman from Panama City, Fla.; Graylin Johnson, a defensive back from Port Arthur, Texas, and Lindsay Knapp from Deerfield, Ill.

Wallace says Brown runs a 4.6 40-yard dash and has played every defensive line position, including noseguard. He rates McGuire as the state of Florida's best offensive lineman and Johnson as the best all-around athlete in the Lone Star State. Although Johnson did play some quarterback for his high school team, Wallace believes he will play safety, where he intercepted seven passes this season.

CLEMSON ONCE AGAIN HAD ANOTHER EXCELLENT CROP as the Tigers continued to dominate the recruiting in the ACC. Of their better recruits, Wallace says the South Carolina school signed his publication's Mid-Atlantic Offensive Player of the Year in 295-pound Les Hall of Columbia, S.C., who is a mammoth lineman. He also writes that Danny Ford's coaching staff inked *Superprep's* Mid-Atlantic Defensive Player of the Year as well, when defensive end Al Richard of Clinton S.C., decided to cast his lot with the Tigers.

Also included as some of Clemson's premier recruits are kicker Chris Gardocki, of Stone Mountain, Ga., and defensive lineman Chester McGlockton of Whitesville, N.C. Gardocki had some impressive numbers this past season, connecting on a 59-yard field goal and punting for a 45.8-yard average.

Penn State, who was coming off a rather mediocre season by Nittany Lion standards, went out and signed another fine class of freshmen, although some other recruiting experts disagree with Wallace and believe that instate rival Pittsburgh found the better high school talent.

Nonetheless, the school lived up to its reputation of getting some of the better linebackers in the nation. According to Wallace, Joe Paterno and Co. did nothing to alter that reputation. Penn State got early commitments from linebackers Eric Renkey of Pittsburgh, Eric Gash from North Carolina and Ivory Geathers of John's Island, S.C. Renkey is the stand-out of the threesome, as his North Hills High School team was ranked No. 1 in the nation by *USA Today*. His prep coach, Jack McCurry, feels he is one of the better players he has ever coached.

Penn State also latched on to two solid defensive linemen in John Gerak of Youngstown, Ohio, and Anthony Matesic of Oradell, N.J.

AN INTERESTING TWIST HAS BEEN OCCURRING on the West Coast front as Wallace says UCLA is trying to destroy USC's reputation as being a running back school. Wallace feels that distinction falls with UCLA this year as the Bruins received a verbal commitment from Kevin Williams of Spring, Texas, who he terms a "franchise" player. Wallace had nothing but rave reviews on Williams and believes he is a player who could turn a program such as UCLA into an instant national title contender.

Also heading out to Westwood are quarterback Bret Johnson, who ESPN's "Scholastic Sports America" program has profiled as one of the country's better signal callers, and offensive lineman Berian Jacobs out of Newhall, Calif. Johnson put together some incredible stats, passing for over-2,000 yards despite missing four games with a knee injury.

Fans looking for University of Kentucky signees in Wallace's publication will find only

quarterback Ryan Hockman of Harrison, Ohio, in the top 162.

Here are where some of the top talent across the nation is headed, according to Wallace:

All-Southwest Offensive Player of the Year: Running back Ike Lewis, Wilmer Hutchins, Texas—OKLAHOMA.

All-Southwest Defensive Player of the Year: Linebacker Joe Bowden, North Mesquite, Texas—OKLAHOMA.

Northeast Offensive Player of the Year: Tony Sacca, Delran, N.J.—PENN STATE.

Far West Offensive Player of the Year: Running back Glyn Milburn, Santa Monica, Calif.—STANFORD.

Far West Co-Defensive Players of the Year: Marcel Wade, Oakland, Calif.—ARIZONA. Ivory Irvin, Oakland, Calif.—ARIZONA STATE.

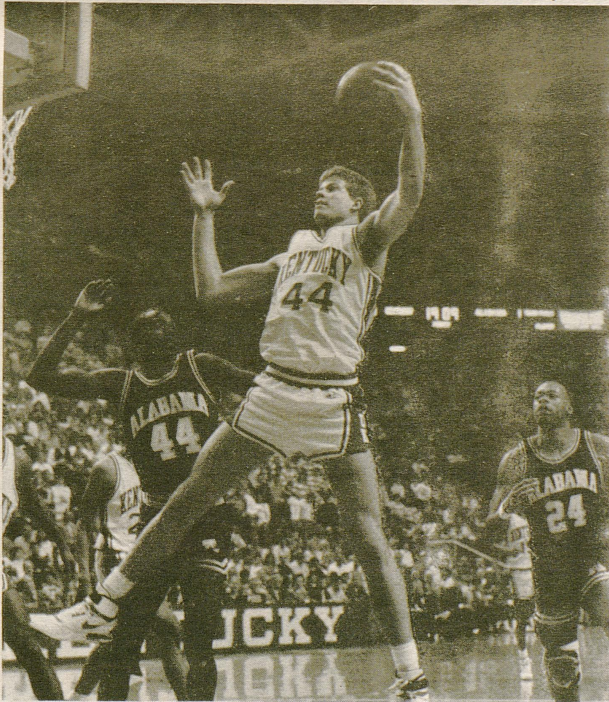
Midwest Offensive Player of the Year: Quarterback Scott Hoffman, Elgin, Ill.—FLORIDA.

Midwest Defensive Player of the Year: Linebacker Payton Minter, Chicago, Ill.—PURDUE.

Superprep Player of the Year: Linebacker Todd Collins, Dandridge, Tenn.—UNDECIDED. However, TENNESSEE appeared to be the odds-on favorite.

□ □ □

UK BASKETBALL TIDBITS: The hard-to-believe category reveals that Louisville walk-on Shannon Fraley has received more playing time this season for the Cardinals than his Pulaski County teammate Reggie Hanson has seen with Kentucky. That was the case in games played through Feb. 3. It's no knock against Hanson, who will develop into a fine player for UK, but ironic that of the two players who led their prep team to the Kentucky state title two years ago, the one without a scholarship is playing more. However, it should be noted that U of L had a spell of six games in eleven days, and Denny Crum elected to play his reserves more than usual because of the hectic schedule. In what has been a pleasant surprise to UK's basketball season, Rob Lock has transformed himself from the team's worst free throw shooter last season to one of the best this season. At this writing, UK's Ed Davender (83.8 percent), Lock (83.7) and Rex Chapman (83.6) were 1-2-3 in the SEC. Lock has attributed his vast improvement (he converted just 49.3



Senior Rob Lock Has Led Kentucky's Resurgence At Foul Line

percent of his freebies last year and had a career average of 47.8 percent entering this season) to renewed confidence at the stripe and overcoming the fear of shooting an air ball before a large TV audience. Lock's turnaround has impressed coach Eddie Sutton. "It's a remarkable feat," Sutton said. "He's the best example (of UK's improved free throw shooting). Lock was the head of the list of who to foul last season. Last year he was hoping they'd do it. This year, he knows they're going in."

When No. 1 Everybody Wants A Piece Of You

Losing Coaches, Though, Need Friends, Too

What's it mean to be ranked No. 1? Well, on the morning that **Temple** was elevated to that lonely and lofty position in the polls there were 100 copies of *USA Today* at the front door of McGonicle Gym to greet the team as it arrived for a 5:30 a.m. practice. And one day later coach **John Chaney** was swamped with calls from well-wishers including



Larry Donald

Cats' Pause Columnist



boxing's **Sugar Ray Leonard**. Asked if he knew Leonard, Chaney smiled and said, "not until now."

Everyone loves the bandwagon. . .

Pro scouts give high marks to Eastern Michigan's **Grant Long**. They project him as a high second-round draft pick who has a good chance to play in the NBA. In a sense that would be history repeating itself since it was just a few years ago when Long's uncle John was taken in the second round by Detroit and is still in the league today. . .

By appearing in the NBA All-Star game former North Carolina All-American **Brad Daugherty** has finally put to rest all those accusations that he was "too soft" to make it with the play for payers. . . That Ohio State remains very much in the tournament picture at this point suggests to me that **Gary Williams** has done his finest coaching job ever. . .

By the way, have I mentioned that Pitt's **Paul Evans** should be seriously considered in Coach of the Year balloting? . . . Despite its impressive record and rush into the Top Twenty, I can't forget the awful game **Kansas State** played at **Purdue** during the Christmas holidays. Obviously it isn't fair to judge on one game, but that performance was so anemic it just won't leave my memory. . .

Villanova's **Rollie Massimino** calls this his most satisfying year in coaching. Bedeviled by the **Gary McLain** story in *Sports Illustrated* and a team which won only 15 of 31 games last year, Massimino has presided over a major turnaround by the Wildcats this year. 'Nova crawled into the Top Twenty in early February and seems certain of an NCAA tournament bid. . .

Lamar has emerged as the surprise early leader in the new American South Conference. Former North Carolina State assistant **Tom Abatemarco's** team is on course for a 20-win season behind the efforts of 6-foot-10 center **James "Hully" Gully**. It will be interesting to see the fate of the champion in this league and perhaps that of the runner-up. Because it is a new conference there's no automatic invite for the winner. It's hard to imagine the champion in this grouping wouldn't get one of the at-large bids, but with the squeeze of teams with legit tournament credentials an oversight is possible. . .

After a modest two-game losing streak in mid-season, **Oklahoma** seems to have regained



In 1987-88 Plenty Of Good Times Have Rolled Massimino's Way. . . its earlier form. The Sooners are an improved defensive team, but as LSU showed, if you can control the tempo and handle their pressure coach **Billy Tubbs'** team can be had. Still you can't automatically eliminate OU as a Final Four possibility. . .

UNLV's **Gerald Paddio** had an interesting observation recently when he said the team's goal was to convince the coaching staff it was better than they thought. Usually those things work the other way don't they? . . . Wonder if **Vincent Askew**, now out of basketball, has any

regrets about his decision to depart Memphis State early for a career in the NBA? And what might have been for the Tigers had only **Askew** stayed around and two others, **Marvin Alexander** and **Sylvester Gray**, not become involved with an agent?

Personal history was made recently when I saw a Big Five doubleheader in Philadelphia's **Palestra**. Never before, in 18 years knocking around the college basketball world, had I seen a game in this venerable building. **LaSalle**, with talented sophomore **Lionel Simmons** bested **St. Peter's** in the opening game and then **Princeton** beat **Penn** by three in the second game. The Tigers and Quakers have a long and deep rivalry in the Ivy League, but this year Penn's retooling while coach **Pete Carril's** team, again, has dead aim on a



. . . So Is North Carolina Charlotte's Mentor Jeff Mullins

league title and another NCAA tournament spot.

Is this basketball comparable to the big time world of the ACC, Big Ten or SEC? No, but it is basketball in the sort of perspective which used to surround the game and that's refreshing. . . Incidentally there were a couple of recognizable names on the rosters. **Walt Fraizer** (son of the ex-NBA star) plays for Penn while **John Thompson** (son of the Georgetown coach) is a starter for Princeton. . .

In a year where tournament unpredictability will reach new levels, a team which bears watching is **North Carolina State**. Coach **Jim Valvano** has, along with Louisville's **Denny Crum**, been the most successful tournament coach of the decade. He has the capacity to get his club hyped up for a short run and this time around Valvano probably has as much pure talent on the floor as he's had since 1983. We all know what happened then. . .

The race for this year's biggest bust among college players has come down to Missouri's **Derrick Chievous** and Wyoming's **Fennis Dembo**. You might keep their performances in mind the next time you read about a player who overcomes his flaky persona with sheer talent. It doesn't work that way. . . New Orleans' **LaDell Eckles** ought to be in that category as well. . .

He won't win the award, but yet another deserving candidate for Coach of the Year is North Carolina Charlotte's **Jeff Mullins**. The old Duke sharpshooter has taken this moribund program, which had fallen dramatically from the glory days of 1977's Final Four, and has put it atop the Sun Belt standings. The 49'ers, despite a good record last year were shut out of postseason play. That won't happen this March. . .

No collegian has improved his game more this season than Villanova's **Tom Greis**. The 7-2 sophomore has an amazing shooting touch. He's also a rarity among big men because once he receives the pass he's not often inclined to bring the basketball down below his waist where the little guys can slap at it. . .

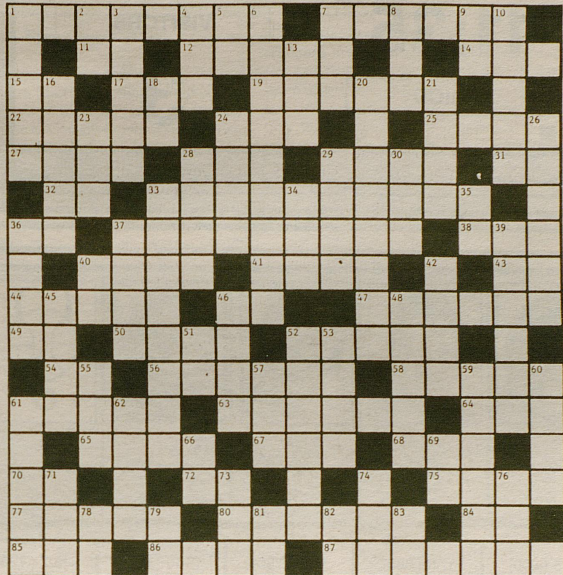
The end is in sight for Rutgers' **Craig Littlepage** as another long, losing season drowns on. Interestingly Marquette's **Bob Dukiet** is listed as a prime candidate to replace him. Dukiet, of course, is under heat in Milwaukee because the Warriors' program has slipped badly and he's shown no capacity to recruit. Rutgers, as you might have guessed, needs some players. . .

At **Seton Hall**, the student faculty voted 8-4 to have basketball coach **P.J. Carlesimo** fired. Although it means nothing officially there seems to be a growing chorus of those in favor of not renewing his contract which expires at season's end. Carlesimo has done an outstanding job attracting talent here, but simply has not been able to put the program over the top. The Pirates continue to be no factor in the Big East. Chances seem good that he'll be gone. . .

Friends of **Jim Webb**, runner-up to **Kent Benson** as Indiana's Mr. Basketball in 1973, are putting together a benefit for him. The 33-year old Webb has cancer, is out of a job and has no insurance. Donations may be sent to the Jim Webb Benefit Fund, Box 354, South Bend, Ind.

T C P C R O S S W O R D P U Z Z L E

By Dan Krueckeberg



SEC HOOPS '88 (NO. 2)

ACROSS

- 1 First name of 80 Across
- 7 Namesakes of DeVoe's junior Brown
- 11 Initials of 36 Down
- 12 Are nice to have in closing seconds of all games
- 14 Pig's favorite place
- 15 Initials of C.M.'s fine jr. Booker
- 17 Fine 6-2 freshman guard Greg Bell
- 19 Mischievous one
- 22 A top SEC freshman
- 24 Attempt
- 25 Tank's school
- 27 Thin
- 28 Former Hoosier star Scott
- 29 One who plays for Iona
- 31 Initials of 59 Down
- 32 Initials of former LSU star Nikita
- 33 One of the SEC's finest
- 36 Abbr. for "road"
- 37 Will be missed at Auburn
- 38 Abbr. for "liquefied petroleum gas"
- 40 First name of an SEC coach
- 41 Is Vandy's early-season win over UNC an _____ of things to come?
- 43 Abbr. for "each"
- 44 Danger
- 46 Initials of 22 Across
- 47 6-6 Gator junior Chris
- 49 Abbr. for "public relations"
- 50 _____ rebounding is for the Vols
- 52 Lexington's Rupp _____
- 54 Big Ten state abbr.
- 56 Graduates
- 58 Commodore guard Scott
- 61 Get out of here!
- 63 Relative
- 64 Body of water
- 65 First name of 3 Down
- 67 Heavy beer
- 68 Relative of the moose
- 70 Ole Miss mentor Murphy
- 72 Initials of playing son of 70 Across
- 75 Slang for "movie theatre"
- 77 Gas guzzlers
- 80 MSU's fine 6-3 junior guard
- 84 ACC state abbr.
- 85 One of SEC's finest shooters
- 86 First name of 72 Across
- 87 Wimp's favorite color

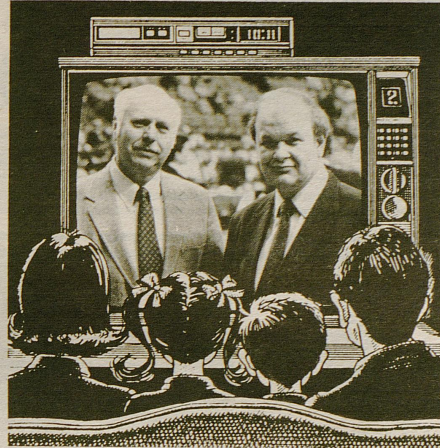
DOWN

- 1 Fine sr. guard Roderick Barnes
- 2 Abbr. for an SEC state
- 3 Sophomore backcourter for LSU
- 4 _____SEC
- 5 See 46 Across
- 6 Returning conference steals leader
- 7 Curve
- 8 By way of
- 9 Coaches V.M., C.L., P.L., etc.
- 10 Corn plant part
- 13 24 hours
- 16 Cats are nice _____ of youth and experience
- 18 The _____ U Buckeyes
- 20 Vol Svaeregen came from JUCO ranks
- 21 Comic strip character
- 23 _____ and order
- 24 A tall _____
- 26 Aims for more consistency at LSU
- 28 6-8 Ole Miss junior Paul
- 29 UAB's Bartow
- 30 _____ backcourt mate is 85 Across
- 33 Bulldog coach
- 34 4 of some halftime show equipment
- 35 Overhead railway
- 36 Biggest name in SEC history
- 37 Schintzius is Florida's _____ shot blocker
- 39 Wears size 2 1/2 sneakers
- 40 Initials of UT's big man
- 42 Box
- 45 Fine 6-8 soph. Burdette of Georgia
- 46 _____ team comes off 8-10 mark of last year
- 48 NI MVP Dawson
- 51 Short for "extra large"
- 52 "Bama's" only starter from last year
- 53 Ceremony
- 55 Dog talk
- 57 Actress Farrow
- 59 Initials of Wimp's sophomore Keith
- 60 First name of an SEC coach
- 61 Don't do it near the ref
- 62 Relating to aircraft
- 66 Initials of young Wildcat Sean
- 69 Initials of super SEC freshman Chatman
- 71 Payable
- 73 Business degree
- 74 Dear _____
- 76 Abbr. for "noncommissioned officer"
- 78 SWC state abbr.
- 79 See 66 Down
- 81 "_____ the bench"
- 82 Initials of Auburn junior Carpenter
- 83 Abbr. for an European country

Last week's solution



Searching Your Dial For "Cats * Cox * Combs"?



Look For Us On These Cable Television Systems:

System—City	Channel	Airtimes
Times Mirror Cable (Dimension)—Ashland	26	Fri., Sat., Sun. 6 p.m.
Storer Cable Communications—Bowling Green	6	Fri. 4:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. before UK games
Cable One Productions, Inc.—Burgin	6	Fri., Mon., Wed. 7 p.m.
Clarksville Cablevision—Clarksville, Tenn.	10	Sat. 10:30 a.m.
Store Cable of Northern Kentucky—Covington	6	Fri. 7 p.m.
Cable One Productions, Inc.—Danville	6	Fri., Mon., Wed. 7 p.m.
Fleming Home Entertainment—Flemingsburg	19	Fri., Mon. 6 p.m.; Sat noon
Tel-Com, Inc.—Harold	5	Fri. before & after weekly sports game; Sat. morning
Cable One Productions, Inc.—Harrodsburg	6	Fri., Mon., Wed. 7 p.m.
Horizon Communications (TCI)—Henderson	24	Tues., Wed., Fri. 7 p.m.
Smith Radio & TV—Hi Hat	9	Fri. 4:30 p.m. & 8:30 p.m.; Sat. 10:30 a.m.
TV 12—Hindman	12	Fri. 7 p.m. & 10 p.m.; Sat. 10:30 a.m.
Pennyroyal Cablevision—Hopkinsville	10	Fri., Mon. 5:30 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.
Maynard Cable TV—Inez	6	airtime unavailable
Irvine Community TV—Irvine	8	Twice Fri.; Sat. morning
Storer Cable Communications—Louisville	11	Fri. 7 p.m. & 11:30 p.m.; Sat. 10:30 a.m.
Madisonville Cablevision—Madisonville	2	Fri. 5:30 p.m., Sat. 10:30 a.m.
Mayfield Cablevision—Mayfield	34	Fri. 5 p.m. & 9 p.m.; Sat. 11 a.m.
Limestone Cable Vision—Maysville	10	Fri. 6:30 p.m., Sat. 7 p.m.
McKee TV Enterprises—McKee	9	Twice Fri., Sat. morning
Union CATV, Inc.—Morganfield	7	Fri. 2 p.m. & 10 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.
Murray Cablevision Co.—Murray	34	Fri. 5 p.m. & 9 p.m.; Sat. 11 a.m.
Owensboro Cablevision—Owensboro	36	Fri. 6:30 p.m. Wed. 7 p.m. (follows College Sports)
Comcast Cablevision—Paducah	13	Fri. 6:30 p.m., Sat. 9:30 a.m.
Centel Cable Co.—Richmond	4	Fri. 7:30 p.m., Sat. noon, Sun. 1:00 p.m.
Cencom of Kentucky—Shelbyville	13	Fri. 8 p.m. & 9:30 p.m. Sat. 11 a.m.
Union CATV, Inc.—Sturgis	6	Fri. 2 p.m. & 10 p.m.; Sat. 11 a.m.
Teleclub of Radcliff—Radcliff	16	Sat. 12:30 p.m. Tues. 6:30 p.m., Wed. 9 p.m.

SPORTS PREVIEW

CATS' PAUSE SCOREBOARD

HOME

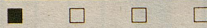
11:35

VISITORS

10

PERIOD

3



THE CATS' PAUSE
SPORTS WEEKLY



spotlighting
University Of
Kentucky Sports



Readers
Choice



Oscar
Combs



Nick
Nicholas



Mike
Estep



Todd
Hallum



Gary
Cromwell



Hoop
Demon

Two Weeks Ago
Season Total

18-7 (.720)
203-72 (.738)

20-5 (.800)
204-71 (.742)

17-8 (.680)
200-75 (.727)

19-6 (.760)
203-72 (.738)

15-10 (.600)
209-66 (.760)

18-7 (.720)
212-63 (.771)

KENTUCKY AT FLORIDA	FLORIDA	7	FLORIDA	3	KENTUCKY	4	KENTUCKY	2	KENTUCKY	2	KENTUCKY	4
LSU AT ALABAMA	LSU	1	LSU	3	ALABAMA	3	LSU	4	LSU	6	LSU	3
TENNESSEE AT AUBURN	AUBURN	10	AUBURN	7	AUBURN	11	TENNESSEE	1	AUBURN	4	AUBURN	2
VANDERBILT AT GEORGIA	GEORGIA	3	GEORGIA	2	GEORGIA	5	VANDERBILT	3	VANDERBILT	1	VANDERBILT	3
OLE MISS AT MISSISSIPPI STATE	OLE MISS	2	MISS. ST.	1	OLE MISS	3	OLE MISS	2	MISS. ST.	2	OLE MISS	3
MARYLAND AT NORTH CAROLINA	CAROLINA	14	CAROLINA	9	CAROLINA	6	CAROLINA	7	CAROLINA	6	CAROLINA	8
GEORGIA TECH AT N.C. STATE	N.C. STATE	4	N.C. STATE	7	N.C. STATE	8	GA. TECH	1	N.C. STATE	4	N.C. STATE	6
DUKE AT KANSAS	KANSAS	1	DUKE	3	DUKE	2	DUKE	5	DUKE	8	DUKE	4
VIRGINIA AT CLEMSON	CLEMSON	1	CLEMSON	1	VIRGINIA	2	CLEMSON	4	CLEMSON	2	VIRGINIA	3
LOUISVILLE AT SOUTH CAROLINA	S. CAROLINA	3	S. CAROLINA	5	LOUISVILLE	1	LOUISVILLE	3	LOUISVILLE	2	LOUISVILLE	6
WESTERN AT SOUTH ALABAMA	SO. ALABAMA	2	WESTERN	2	SO. ALABAMA	4	WESTERN	1	SO. ALABAMA	4	SO. ALABAMA	2
GEORGETOWN AT PITT	PITT	9	PITT	2	PITT	10	PITT	5	PITT	4	G'TOWN	1
PROVIDENCE AT VILLANOVA	VILLANOVA	2	VILLANOVA	3	VILLANOVA	3	VILLANOVA	8	VILLANOVA	7	VILLANOVA	1
TEMPLE AT NORTH CAROLINA	CAROLINA	6	CAROLINA	2	CAROLINA	8	TEMPLE	3	CAROLINA	3	CAROLINA	2
INDIANA AT PURDUE	PURDUE	8	PURDUE	6	PURDUE	2	PURDUE	7	PURDUE	11	PURDUE	6
IOWA AT MINNESOTA	IOWA	3	IOWA	8	IOWA	7	IOWA	10	IOWA	7	IOWA	6
NEW MEXICO AT OKLAHOMA	OKLAHOMA	9	OKLAHOMA	14	OKLAHOMA	17	OKLAHOMA	15	OKLAHOMA	12	OKLAHOMA	10
ARKANSAS AT BAYLOR	ARKANSAS	1	ARKANSAS	6	BAYLOR	4	ARKANSAS	4	ARKANSAS	5	ARKANSAS	3
ARIZONA AT UCLA	ARIZONA	8	ARIZONA	7	ARIZONA	13	ARIZONA	6	ARIZONA	8	ARIZONA	6
OKLAHOMA STATE AT MISSOURI	MISSOURI	7	MISSOURI	2	MISSOURI	11	MISSOURI	5	MISSOURI	10	MISSOURI	1
LSU AT KENTUCKY	KENTUCKY	8	KENTUCKY	12	KENTUCKY	16	KENTUCKY	9	KENTUCKY	5	KENTUCKY	10
ALABAMA AT OLE MISS	OLE MISS	4	OLE MISS	3	OLE MISS	9	OLE MISS	8	OLE MISS	2	OLE MISS	2
AUBURN AT VANDERBILT	VANDERBILT	9	VANDERBILT	5	VANDERBILT	8	VANDERBILT	4	VANDERBILT	1	VANDERBILT	8
TENNESSEE AT FLORIDA	FLORIDA	14	FLORIDA	11	FLORIDA	2	FLORIDA	8	FLORIDA	7	FLORIDA	10
MISSISSIPPI STATE AT GEORGIA	GEORGIA	8	GEORGIA	12	GEORGIA	13	GEORGIA	11	GEORGIA	5	GEORGIA	6

Back Thru The Wildcat Years

Five Years Ago

*The Kentucky zone defense, plus the hot hands of Jim Master and Kenny Walker, led the 'Cats to a 73-61 victory over the Florida Gators in the O'Connell Center on the Florida campus. UK's aggressive zone forced the Gators to shoot 20-foot jumpers and did not allow them to utilize their strong inside game. Kentucky held a 33-28 halftime lead and slowly built on it the rest of the game. Four UK players were in double figures, led by Walker and Master with 18 points each. Walker also grabbed eight rebounds to lead the 'Cats in that category.

*Kentucky won its fifth game in a row, handing Vanderbilt an 82-63 whitewashing in Rupp Arena before a crowd of 23,782. Again it was Jim Master and Kenny Walker leading the way as Mast hit eight of 10 shots for 22 points and Walker scored 16 points and grabbed a career-high 18 rebounds. He

became the first 'Cat to grab more than 13 rebounds in a game this season. UK started fast and with the score 15-8 in UK's favor, the Wildcats outscored the Commodores 25-7 and took a 44-21 halftime lead. Vandy shot only 19.4 percent in the first half. The Commodores could get no closer than 53-39, but Master then hit from the top of the key and Walker had a stuff and sank two free throws. The win moved the Wildcats to 10-4 in SEC play and 18-5 overall.

*The Lady Kats said goodbye to seniors Valerie Still, Lea Wise, Patty Jo Hedges and Terri Naiser with a 77-55 blowout of Auburn in front of 8,223 at Memorial Coliseum. Still led all scorers with 21 points and also had 10 rebounds. Wise added 10 points and nine assists, while Hedges score 12 and dished out seven assists.

Eight Years Ago

*Kentucky traveled to Las Vegas and turned

the tables on the Runnin' Rebels of UNLV with a 74-69 win, UK's seventh in a row and the 24th on the season. Sam Bowie, recruited heavily by Jerry Tarkanian at Vegas, hit on a variety of dunks and outside shots to lead the 'Cats with 23 points. Kyle Macy added 14 points and Fred Cowan chipped in with 11 as Kentucky hit on 14 of 19 second-half shots from the field, after leading 42-40 at the half. Sidney Green led Vegas with 17.

*Kentucky jumped out to a 20-2 lead and then went on to ease by Vanderbilt 91-73 in a game played in Memorial Gymnasium in Nashville. UK freshman Sam Bowie was awesome in perhaps his best performance of the year. Bowie finished with 20 points and nine rebounds and was intimidating from the outset, blocking six shots in the first half alone. Kyle Macy led the 'Cats in scoring with 22, hitting nine of 13 shots. Fred Cowan added 20 points and Dirk Minniefield 11. Mike Rhodes scored 18 for Vandy.

*In a game in which coach Joe Hall could find few faults, the Wildcats blasted Florida 95-70 after jumping out to an early 43-25 halftime lead. Nine Wildcats played over 10 minutes and seven over 20 as several players performed well coming off the bench. While Sam Bowie led all scorers with 19 points, Derrick Hord came off the bench to toss in 18. Fred Cowan, Kyle Macy and Jay Shidler also scored in double figures for the winning 'Cats.

Nine Years Ago

*UK survived a late scare from Ole Miss to win 82-77 in the first round of the SEC tournament. Ole Miss cut a 16-point UK lead to 80-77 with under a minute to go before Kyle Macy sank a pair of foul shots with five seconds left. Macy was brilliant, scoring a career-high 32 points.

*In one of the most classic games ever seen in the South, Kentucky outraced Alabama 101-100 in a wild shootout in the second round of the SEC tourney. It was racehorse basketball at its best. UK hit a sizzling 68.3 percent on 43 of 63, while Alabama converted 41 of 71 for 57.7 percent. Truman Claytor scored 25 points to lead Kentucky. Kyle Macy added 22. Reggie King led the way for the Tide, scoring 38 points and hauling in 11 rebounds.

*UK dumped a highly-ranked and heavily-favored LSU team 80-67 behind the guard tandem of Kyle Macy and Truman Claytor. The game was actually not as close as the final score would indicate. UK jumped out in front 15-14 and led the rest of the way. With 18 minutes gone in the game, the 'Cats stunned everyone by leading 51-30. Macy was sensational again, hitting 10 of 15 shots from the field and scoring 29 points. Claytor finished with 20 points. UK managed to win without the services of freshman sensation Dwight Anderson, who broke his wrist in the game's opening minutes.

Twelve Years Ago

*In one of the most entertaining games of the year, Kentucky hit 65 percent from the floor and defeated Auburn 93-82 in Memorial Coliseum. Jack Givens led UK with 27 points, hitting 12 of 18 from the field, and Mike Phillips added 24, making 12 of 17 field goal attempts. James Lee bulled his way to 17 points and seven rebounds. Mike Mitchell led Auburn with 28 points.

Thirteen Years Ago

*Over 15,043 spectators in Tuscaloosa, Ala., and a regional-television audience watched as Kentucky nipped the Crimson tide 84-76 to tie for the SEC lead with fifth-ranked Alabama. Both teams are now 13-2 in con-

ference play.

Kentucky once trailed by 12 points and by five at the half. Bob Guyette came off the bench to get 17 points and Kevin Grevey, benched for almost 20 minutes, came back to score 16. It was the 20th win for the 'Cats, their 25th 20-win season.

*UK went almost 10 minutes without a basket and lost its first-place tie with Alabama for the SEC lead, dropping a 66-58 decision to Florida in Alligator Alley. Gene Shy led the Gator upset with 20 points, while Kevin Grevey matched that mark to lead UK.

Fourteen Years Ago

*When the two teams met earlier in the year in Lexington, Kentucky blasted Ole Miss 93-64. So when the 'Cats packed their bags and headed for Oxford, Miss., it was payback time for the Rebs. Ole Miss freshman Gary Yoder swiped the ball away from Kentucky's Kevin Grevey with 1:15 left in the game and the 'Cats clinging to a 60-59 lead. Rebel coach Bob Jarvis elected to freeze the ball until :17 showed on the clock, and who else, Yoder drove the basket and threw up the winning shot.

Seventeen Years Ago

*Tom Payne, Kent Hollenbeck and Mike Casey starred as UK defeated Georgia 107-95. Payne led the 'Cats in scoring with a season-high of 34 points. Hollenbeck contributed 28 and Casey had 21. Payne also pulled down 15 boards.

*Kentucky dominated the glass and hit 54.3 percent of its shots from the field to run its SEC record to 12-2 by handing LSU its worst defeat of the season by a score of 110-73. Tom Payne scored 39 points, the high for any team member this year, and equalled his own season high of 19 rebounds, which he had done three previous times. Bill Newton led LSU with 24 points.

Eighteen Years Ago

*Behind 47 points from Dan Issel, Kentucky defeated Alabama 98-89 to wrap up the third straight SEC title for the Wildcats. UK is now 14-1 in league play.

*Al McGuire pulled his Marquette team out of the NCAA tournament because the Warriors were denied a spot in the Mideast Regional. Marquette had split two games with UK the previous two years in the Mideast, and McGuire said the UK coach Adolph Rupp may have had something to do with his team not being invited back to the region.

*UK has overtaken UCLA for first place in the Associated Press college poll, while the Bruins continued to hold the top spot in the *United Press International* rankings. Kentucky has been no lower than third this year. UCLA saw its 21-game win streak snapped by Oregon, falling 78-65 to the Ducks.

Thirty-Two Years Ago

*Paced by a 25-point outburst by sophomore guard Vernon Hatton, UK downed Mississippi State 86-65 before 7,000 fans in Lexington. UK never trailed in winning for the 16th time in 19 games. Hatton hit eight of nine shots from the field. Bob Burrow scored 15 points and Jerry Bird kicked in 10 as 11 different Wildcats scored. Jim Ashmore scored 24 points for State.

*Dick Heise scored with :12 left to give DePaul an 81-79 win over Kentucky in Chicago. For Adolph Rupp's 'Cats, which had beaten the Blue Demons 16 straight times, it was the fourth loss of the season. UK led 76-66 with five minutes to go. Vernon Hatton, the flashy UK sophomore guard, scored 32 points. Bob Burrow was the only other 'Cat in double digits with 25.

WILDCAT QUIZ

1. True or False? Kentucky Coach Eddie Sutton has never lost a game at Florida's O'Connell Center.

2. What Big Ten team did Florida eliminate from the NCAA tournament last season?
a) Indiana
b) Illinois
c) Purdue
d) Northwestern

3. What former NBA player holds the Gator record for the most free throws attempts in one season?
a) Neal Walk
b) Rick Barry
c) Ronnie Williams
d) Andrew Moten

4. Who was Florida's last SEC Freshman of the Year?
a) Ronnie Williams
b) Vernon Maxwell
c) Andrew Moten
d) Bob Hoffman

5. In reference to Dwayne Schintzius, someone once said: "Before he's through at Florida he'll be the dominate center in college basketball." Who said this?
a) Dwayne Schintzius
b) Will Perdue
c) Winston Bennett
d) Norm Sloan

6. Which Gator player holds the school record for the most games played in a career?
a) Chip Williams
b) Eugene McDowell
c) Andrew Moten
d) Malcolm Cesare

7. Florida assistant Monte Towe was a part of a national championship team as a player. What team was he on?
a) North Carolina
b) Marquette
c) North Carolina State
d) UCLA

8. What NBA player holds the O'Connell Center record by an opponent for the most rebounds in one game?
a) Charles Oakley
b) Kenny Walker
c) Charles Barkley
d) Carlos Clark

9. Who was the Gators' leading rebounder two years ago?
a) Joe Hobbs
b) Kenny McClary
c) Eugene McDowell
d) Randall Leath

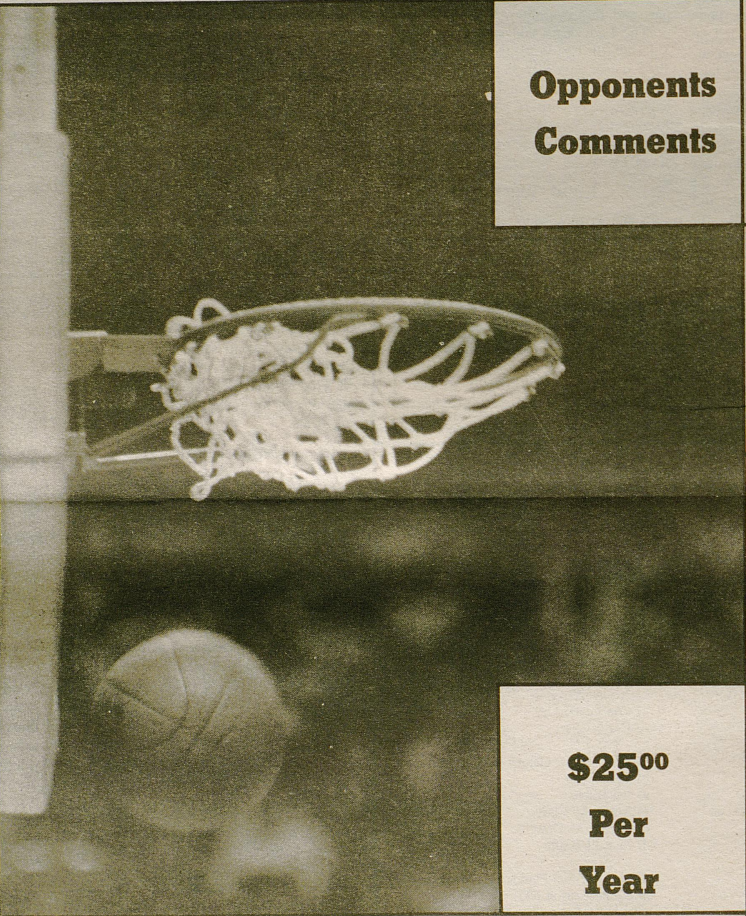
10. True or False? Florida has never appeared in the postseason NIT.



Answers

1. False (UK lost at Florida last year 74-50).
2. North Carolina State (1974).
3. Eugene McDowell.
4. Ronnie Williams.
5. Charles Barkley (17).
6. Andrew Moten.
7. Kenny McClary.
8. False.
9. Andrew Moten (1984).
10. Norm Sloan.

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