

Farmer plants
Ole Miss with
shot at buzzer

—page 4



Mills' 16 points
not enough as
State drops 'Cats

—pages 1

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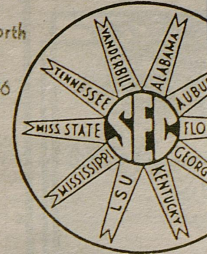
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The Cats' Pause

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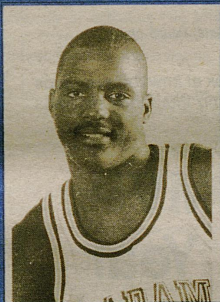


VOLUME 13 - NUMBER 27

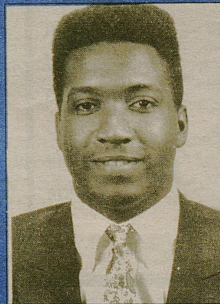
SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 1989

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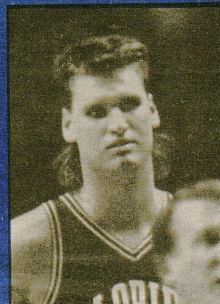
Jackson MVP of TCP all-SEC team



Michael Ansley, Alabama

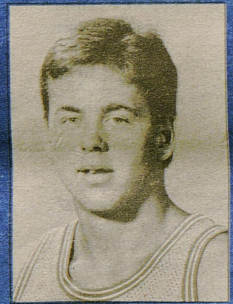
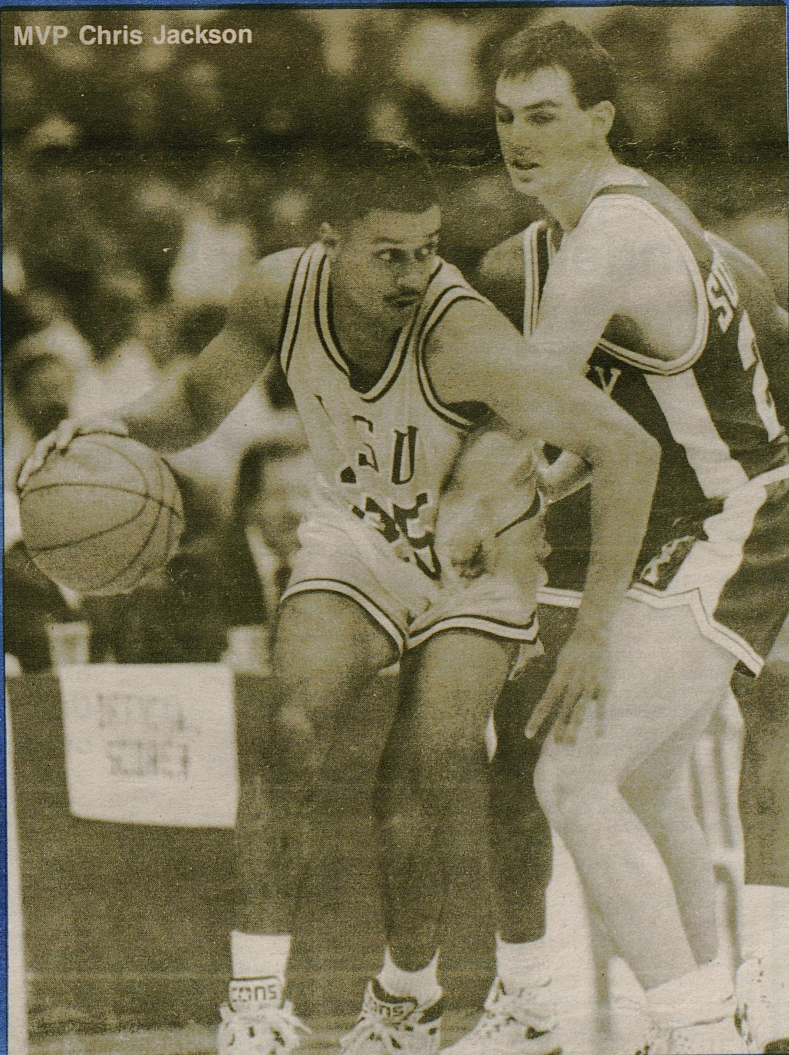


Gerald Glass, Ole Miss

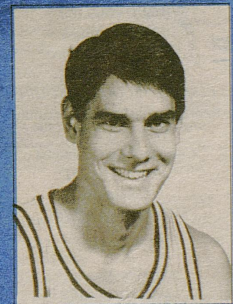


Dwayne Schintzius, Florida

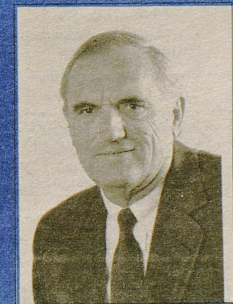
MVP Chris Jackson



Ricky Blanton, LSU



Frank Kornet, Vanderbilt

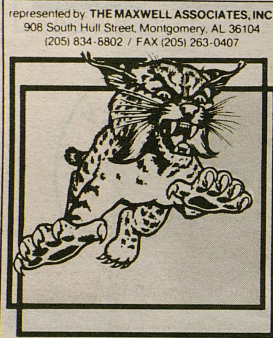


Wimp Sanderson, Alabama

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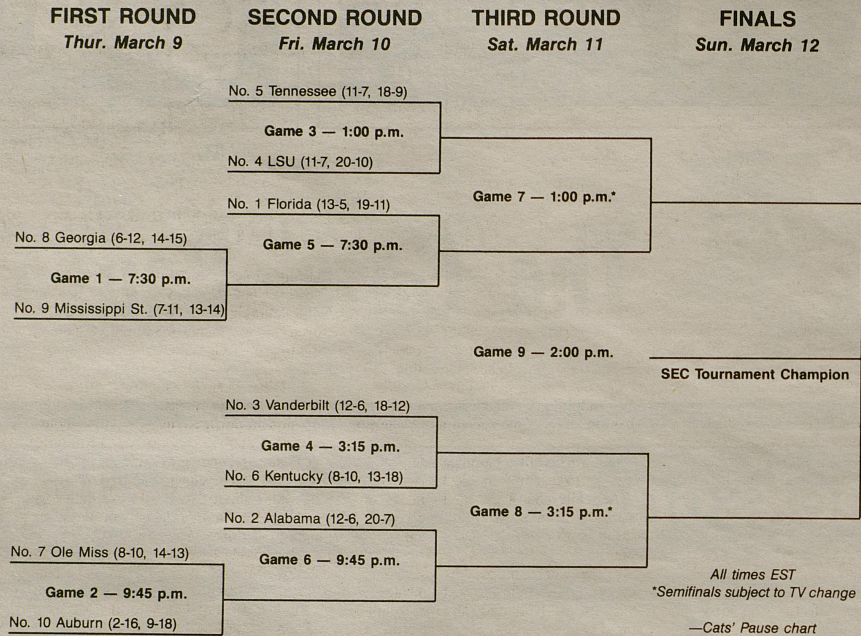
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1989 SEC tournament pairings



The SEC tournament tips off this week in Knoxville's Thompson-Boling Arena, and here's a look at how the matchups will be staged. For more on the tournament, including a preview of the UK-Vanderbilt game and thumbnail sketches of the other eight league teams, turn to pages 22-23.

TCP picks Jackson as SEC MVP, Sanderson as Coach of the Year

For their extraordinary performances on the court in 1988-89, *The Cats' Pause* has selected LSU's Chris Jackson and Alabama's Wimp Sanderson as the best in their fields in the SEC this season.

Jackson, who is evoking memories of "Pistol" Pete Maravich in Baton Rouge, is our Most Valuable Player after leading the conference in scoring during the regular season with a 29.8 per game average. Sanderson, whose Tide rebounded from a horrendous 6-12 year last season to finish 12-6 in 1988, is our pick as Coach of the Year.

Jackson is joined on the six-man team by teammate Ricky Blanton, Alabama's Michael Ansley, Ole Miss' Gerald Glass, Vanderbilt's Frank Kornet and Florida's Dwayne Schintzius.

Jackson, who was an All-American prep performer for Gulfport (Miss.) High, has burst on the SEC scene like perhaps no other freshman in the league's history. In addition to being tops in the SEC, Jackson's 29.8 scoring average was best in the country among freshman and was second in the nation overall.

SEC players topped the 30-point mark in a game 21 times this season, eight of those belonged to Jackson. He scored in the 50s three times, in the 40s twice and in the 30s three times.

Jackson's top scoring outputs are as follows:

- 55 vs. Ole Miss, March 4
- 53 vs. Florida, Dec. 10
- 50 vs. Tennessee, Feb. 11
- 48 vs. Louisiana Tech, Dec. 6
- 48 vs. Florida, March 1
- 38 vs. Vandy, Feb. 18
- 34 vs. Kentucky, Feb. 15
- 33 vs. Auburn, Jan. 7

1988-89 TCP All-SEC Team

Michael Ansley — 6-7, Sr., F, 20.4 ppg., 9.4 rpg.	Alabama
Ricky Blanton — 6-7, Sr., F, 20.9 ppg., 8.2 rpg.	LSU
Gerald Glass — 6-6, Jr., F, 28.4 ppg., 8.5 rpg.	Ole Miss
Chris Jackson — 6-0, Fr., G, 29.8 ppg., 4.2 apg.	LSU
Frank Kornet — 6-8, Sr., C, 16.8 ppg., 7.4 rpg.	Vanderbilt
Dwayne Schintzius — 7-2, Jr., C, 18.9, 9.4 rpg.	Florida

Most Valuable Player: Chris Jackson, LSU
Coach of the Year: Wimp Sanderson, Alabama

Jackson's game is not confined to scoring, however. He was also among the league leaders in the following categories: field goal percentage (49.8—20th), three-point field goal percentage (40.8—8th), free throw percentage (82.8—1st), assists per game (4.2—8th) and steals per game (1.7—5th).

After suffering through the first losing season of his coaching career last year, Sanderson took a team that was picked to finish seventh in the league during the preseason and contended for the league title until the last week of the regular season, eventually tying Vanderbilt for the league's second-best record at 12-6.

In addition to his on-court duties, Sanderson personally waged an attendance drive at Alabama...with remarkable success. The Tide averaged more than 14,000 fans for its nine SEC games, including sellouts for its last six dates. Alabama was the only SEC club to go undefeated at home during league play, stretching its 'home winning' streak to 17.

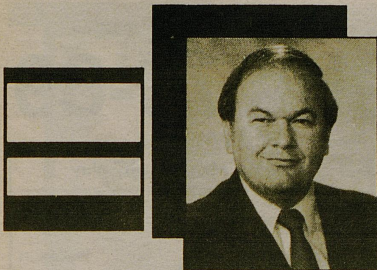
Stress fracture puts UK's Reggie Hanson out for rest of year

UK sophomore forward Reggie Hanson will miss the rest of the season because of a foot injury discovered last week.

Hanson suffered a stress fracture in the fifth metatarsal of his right foot and was fitted with a cast Feb. 28, the night before the 'Cats hosted Ole Miss, according to team physician Dr. Michael Ray. Hanson reported soreness in the foot following UK's loss to Syracuse Feb. 26.

Hanson, a starter in UK's first 29 games, was averaging 9.8 points and 4.5 rebounds per game prior to the injury.

The injury dilutes an already-weak Wildcat bench by forcing Deron Feldhaus, the only reliable front-court reserve besides Mike Scott, into the starting lineup.



OSCAR L. COMBS
CATS' PAUSE EDITOR/PUBLISHER

Wildcats get one more chance: SEC tournament

□ In a season which has seen almost everything go wrong, the Kentucky Wildcats will get one last chance of redemption this week when the Southeastern Conference will stage its annual postseason tournament on the University of Tennessee campus in Knoxville.

Coming off of a roller-coaster week which saw a pair of games decided in the final seconds, the Wildcats will give it one more of the traditional ol' college tries.

It won't be easy. Game after game, the Wildcats have vowed to fight back although one would be hard-pressed to illustrate proof.

Kentucky got back on the winning track last Wednesday by defeating Ole Miss 70-69 on a three-point shot by reserve Richie Farmer in the game's waning seconds.

The 'Cats suffered reverse results in Starkville Saturday as the Bulldogs bounced back from a 12-point deficit when Todd Merritt drilled a three-pointer at 0:02.

The week's action left UK with an overall record of 13-18 (8-10 in SEC play) going into the league's postseason tournament. It is the largest number of losses in Kentucky's history.

While UK is almost assured of its first losing record in more than six decades, there is a strand of hope for the eternal optimist, if there is one left these days. Kentucky could avoid the losing season, but it would have to win the SEC tournament and then win the first three games in the NCAA tourney. If such could happen, however, you could rest assured the 'Cats' record would not be 13-18 right now.

The regular season ended almost like it began last November in Springfield, Mass. There were encouraging signs, but the end result overshadowed any positive notes.

Actually, Kentucky's best stretch came in early- and mid-January when the 'Cats reeled off a 6-3 mark in their first nine SEC games. Included were a pair of road wins over Florida and Tennessee.

Some scribes (blush) were even giving consideration to a monumental rally which might include a regular-season championship.

It failed to materialize. Actually, Kentucky turned bottoms-up right at that point. Over the final 10 games of the season, the 'Cats turned up 2-8 and one of the two victories came on a last-second desperation shot.

Perhaps most disappointing was not the effort of Kentucky, for it got that, but the end results. The 2-7 mark in the second time-around of the league showed there was little, if any, improvement.

Kentucky has a very young and inexperienced team, but that is the type team which should show considerable improvement during the second time around. It didn't.

Another factor cannot be overlooked:

This particular SEC season isn't to be confused with the caliber of play usually seen in the Deep South.

Most experts will agree there is less overall talent in the league's starting line-ups than any time since integration. It was a year for the have-nots (like Mississippi State, Vanderbilt and Ole Miss) to sharpen their teeth and clean up on the victories.

Only Vanderbilt took advantage, but we'll get to that in a moment.

The really good news for Kentucky and its legion of followers is that the regular season is over and the new season is upon us.

It's one where the coaches are right, you can toss out the record books and start all over. Nothing in the past counts a single point.

□ □ □

□ **NORM SLOAN'S GATORS** are celebrating their first-ever SEC basketball regular-season championship, but they owe the title to a few ignorant Vanderbilt fans and the makers of some brand of tennis balls.

The Gators won the title with a 13-5 record with Alabama and Vanderbilt tied for second at 12-6. A fourth-place tie is shared by LSU and Tennessee at 11-7 with Kentucky and Ole Miss tied for sixth place at 8-10.

It wasn't supposed to be that way. By all rights, Vanderbilt should be the undisputed king with a 13-5 conference record followed by Florida and Alabama at 12-6.

Vanderbilt had Florida beaten in Nashville several weeks ago only to have a technical foul called on the Vandy crowd for tossing tennis balls onto the court with one second left, Vandy in the lead and with Vandy having control of the ball.

Florida shot a pair of technical free throws, the game went into overtime and the Gators won.

It seems like the Gators just can't win a big-time conference title legitimately.

Remember their football title a few years back? It came with a victory over Kentucky, during their football mess and the school was later stripped of the title by the SEC.

Yet, Florida did survive its way to the top in the basketball race this season. It wasn't a total shock.

In the preseason, most experts figured it would be Georgia, Florida and Tennessee.

Georgia has to be the most disappointing team in the league with Tennessee and Kentucky not far behind.

Particularly Tennessee.

This was supposed to be Don DeVoe's year to right his ship, enjoy a top finish, perhaps win the SEC regular season and tourney (since it is being played at Thompson-Boling Arena in Knoxville) and get a new contract.

The Vols have compiled an 18-9 mark,

but the 11-7 SEC worksheet has been anything but impressive. Perhaps most disappointing to the Volunteer fans has been the bright spot for Kentucky fans this season—the Wildcats' rare sweep of UT.

LSU has been its usual self. Dale Brown once again teases the world with his up-and-down circus acts. How about shocking back-to-back losses to Mississippi State surrounding astounding upset wins over Georgetown and UNLV? And then how about that 113-112 overtime loss to Ole Miss Saturday? You can never figure out this man.

This should have also been the year for the two Mississippi schools to make big noise. Yes, each beat Kentucky once and LSU lost three of four with the Mississippi schools. And each escaped the league cellar, but only because Georgia collapsed and Auburn has fielded its worst team in recent memory.

Despite all the changes in the league and the unusual amount of youth, had Kentucky compiled its usual 13-5 or so record, the final regular-season standings wouldn't have been all that unusual. But Kentucky didn't.

Most alarming about SEC basketball this season was the inability of league teams to be competitive against outside competition. With a few exceptions (most notably LSU's upsets over Georgetown and UNLV), the SEC has been beaten often.

We just might find out how badly when the NCAA announces its invitations this Sunday. Don't look for a half-dozen SEC schools to be included, more than likely it will be half that amount.

□ □ □

□ **A THIRD MEETING** between Kentucky and Vanderbilt, as baseball veterans would say, "and this is the rubber game of the series."

And a pretty emotional one perhaps. At this stage of the season, each contest could be the last one for Kentucky. I can't remember the last time UK has been in such a fix.

There were symptoms of such a situation back in 1985, but UK did have a 16-12 mark going into the SEC tourney and, of course, 16-12 gives you much better odds than 13-18.

This time, a loss and the 'Cats will put their sneakers away for the year. For the seniors, it'll be the final time to wear the Blue and White.

Teams react differently when such a time rolls around.

We can't help but remember two contrasting clubs of recent years in the SEC.

One was in 1985 when Auburn got on a roll and saved Sonny Smith's job. Sonny had announced his resignation during the middle of the season while under a lot of pressure. The university made no attempt to change his mind, until the Tigers rolled through the SEC tournament and made a big hit in the NCAA.

On the flip side of the coin was the play of Tennessee in the SEC tournament the last two years. Disappointments down the stretch, the Vols bottomed up in their first game and they appeared to be all too happy to close the season.

Which will it be for Kentucky this week?

One cannot overlook the other factor in this situation and that is the future status of Kentucky coach Eddie Sutton and his staff. Will the players win one for the Gipper?

Speculation continues to spread that Kentucky's next loss will be Sutton's last game as the head coach of the Kentucky Wildcats.

Only time will tell.

□ □ □

□ **AND ON TO** the future.

The good news for Kentucky: The 'Cats get to open with Vanderbilt in the SEC tourney and coach Sutton's club finds itself in a very favorable bracket, without the likes of Tennessee, LSU, Florida and Georgia.

Fact is, if Sutton could have penciled in the bracket himself, he couldn't have done a finer job. The 'Cats have escaped the teams which have in the past caused UK the most problems.

So in the lower bracket, it will be Auburn taking on Ole Miss for a right to meet Alabama in the second round. The survivor of those three clubs will meet the winner of the Kentucky-Vanderbilt game for a spot in the championship game on Sunday.

In the top bracket, Georgia and Mississippi State go at it and the winner will advance to the quarterfinals against Florida. The other quarterfinal game in the upper bracket has Tennessee playing LSU.

The winner will earn an automatic bid into the NCAA tournament next week. Any other SEC invitees will have to earn a bid on their overall records.

Right now, it appears that Florida, Alabama and LSU have better-than-average shots at making the field. Vanderbilt, most likely, is one of those on the bubble and would get a bid unless the Commodores are upset by Kentucky.

Vanderbilt has played a tougher schedule than say Alabama and Florida, but an early-round loss could be damaging.

Tennessee, at 18-9, looks good on paper, but the Vols have not played a strong schedule. Here again is a situation where an upset at the hands of LSU could prove costly to the homestanding Vols.

All those clubs have a good shot at the NCAAs, but the only hope for the remaining five is to win the automatic bid. And if say, Kentucky or one of the other four should stage a phenomenal rally, then one of those top five most assuredly will be disappointed when the NCAA bids go out.

Farmer's shot plants Rebs 70-69

Richie shaved his mustache, then shaved Ole Miss with a three at buzzer that gave 'Cats sixth place all to themselves

By TCP staff writer Pancho Easterwood

Kentucky's Richie Farmer trimmed his mustache and then shaved Ole Miss Wednesday night to make his roomie a happy man.

But Richie's game-winning three-point basket did more than lift the spirits of Mike Scott on Senior Night at Rupp Area.

The latest feat of the Clay County native also helped restore some of the magic that seemed to have gone out of his game.

The shot that didn't miss Ole Miss came after he had entered the game for Sean Sutton with 21 seconds to play.

It was vintage Farmer, a high arching 21-footer launched from three-point land that got all net on its way down with :01 left on the clock. Kentucky wins 70-69.

"I won it for my roomie, 'Chief' (Scott)," said Farmer in the joyous Wildcat locker room. "And for Jeff Ginnan (the other senior)."

Scott took the gift from his roomie and got this pleased look on his baby face. Two eastern Kentucky boys had made good...a tale of two cities, Manchester and South Shore.

"I was looking on this game as something I can tell my grandkids," said the 6-11 Scott. "Richie is a legend in Kentucky, especially eastern Kentucky. That will add much more to it...Richie hit the winning shot on my Senior Night."

Richie had been something less than a legend with his shooting of late. In fact, the jumper was only his first basket in the last five games.

But then who's counting? Certainly not Scott.

"I believe in my roomie," said Scott. "I had confidence in him. But I'm going to take him out to a steak dinner tomorrow night."

Farmer, who played only briefly, was bringing up the ball in the waning seconds when Kentucky coach Eddie Sutton called a timeout.

Time for the "Bama" shuffle, a play designed to jam the ball inside to pivot LeRon Ellis and hope for a layup to tie the game and send it into overtime.

However, Ole Miss had decided the ball inside was about as welcome as Happy Chandler at an NAACP rally. They converged on Ellis and he managed to kick it back outside to Farmer.

But Ole Miss guard John Matthews, who had turned to join his teammates on the double-team of Ellis, was all over Farmer when he got the ball with three seconds left.

"I was in his face, man," said Matthews. "I was close enough to where I could touch the ball. But he got it up quickly and shot it. He has a quick release."

Farmer's shot with one tick of the clock left sent the Rupp crowd of 23,022 fans—they must have counted Chandler's book-signers at Lexington Center—into a frenzy. And the "shot" brought the Wildcats bench onto the floor to tackle Farmer and leave him under an avalanche of bodies.

Mississippi star Gerald Glass just looked at the scene in utter amazement. He couldn't believe his 35 points, 23 in the second half, had come down to this mad scene.

"After he shot it I thought it looked good," said the 6-6 junior. "I was just hoping it would rim out. But those are the breaks." Matthews said Farmer was able to move

slightly to the side to get off the winning shot. Those inches meant a mile.

"I guess they will call it the Clay County special," said Farmer of the last-second maneuvering. "I throw it to LeRon and he throws it back. I thought he (Matthews) fouled me on the play...but it went in."

The crowd, cheerleaders and 'Cats were not the only ones overjoyed with the finish.

Eddie Sutton, one of the more reserved members of the coaching profession, was hopping around with joy.

"The way I jumped out there at the end you'd think I was on a pogo stick," said Sutton...you would have thought we had just won the SEC."

Mississippi coach Ed Murphy had been on the giving and receiving end of many a nail-biter. Yet he still had a hard time wiping the taste of bitters out with a mouthful of Sprite, either.

"I'm very disappointed," said Murphy. "We played about as well as we can play. They hit a tough shot off a scrambled loose ball. It was dead center. A great shot. And it puts Kentucky in sixth."

The win means UK, now 13-17 overall and 8-9 in conference, will probably avoid playing the first night of the SEC tournament...and will face only three games instead of four.

But it also had a deeper meaning for Sutton, the beleaguered coach who is rumored to be on his way out in the wake of the NCAA investigation.

But is he? Will a crowd of boosters at a pre-game rally sway the UK administration? Will "Keep Sutton" bumper stickers and "Sutton Buttons" influence UK president David Roselle?

Doubtful. But if Murphy had his way they would.

"After 30 honorable years he (Sutton) deserves better," said Murphy. "I don't think he's had it from some of the people in this room (the post-game media room) and some of the people in other rooms and places."

Murphy also felt Sutton's fellow coaches had let him down—and said so in rather harsh tones.

"I don't think they have supported him like they should have," said Murphy. "There is a lot of jealousy out there...a lot of guys are jealous of the UK position. Yes, I don't think the support has been there. You do it right for 30 years and come up with nothing."

Murphy, who had a good seat, said Kentucky's refusal to give up spoke well of Sutton.

"For Kentucky to play that kind of basketball tonight given all the distractions and difficulties they have gone through is a testimony to leadership and coaching," said Murphy. "Kentucky has one of the finest coaches in America."

Sutton said he didn't have any special feelings about possibly winning at Rupp for the last time as the UK coach.

(Continued on page 25)

UK-Ole Miss play-by-play

Time	Kentucky	Score	Ole Miss
18:34	Sutton 20 ft.	3-0	
18:10		3-3	Glass 8 ft., FT
17:54	Scott 4 ft.	5-3	
17:14		5-6	Glass 20 ft.
16:23	Mills reverse dunk	7-6	
15:45	Mills dunk	9-6	
15:25		9-9	Jumper 21 ft.
14:48	Mills FT, FT	11-9	
14:39		11-11	Murphy dunk
13:42		11-13	Jumper 15 ft.
13:16	Ellis 12 ft.	13-13	
12:07		13-15	Jumper 14 ft.
11:32	Pelphrey layup	15-15	
10:26		15-17	Glass 9 ft.
10:01		15-19	Glass 8 ft.
8:50		15-21	Jumper FT, FT
8:32	Feldhaus layup	17-21	
8:11		17-23	Turner 5 ft.
7:48	Ellis FT, FTA	18-23	
7:10		18-25	Midlick 14 ft.
6:45		18-27	Glass 14 ft.
5:44		18-29	Murphy 14 ft.
5:16	Mills alley-oop dunk	20-29	
4:41	Ellis 4 ft.	22-29	
4:18		22-32	Matthews 21 ft.
3:26	Miller layup	24-32	
2:57		24-34	Turner 12 ft.
2:21	Miller layup	26-34	
0:49	Mills layup, FT	29-34	

HALF 29-34

19:08	Feldhaus layup	31-34	
18:26		31-35	Glass FTA, FT
17:48	Mills 7 ft.	33-35	
16:47	Feldhaus 8 ft.	35-35	
16:15		35-37	Glass 16 ft.
15:57	Ellis 14 ft.	37-37	
15:08		37-39	Turner 15 ft.
14:17		37-42	Glass 14 ft., FT
13:14	Scott follow layup	39-42	
12:48		39-44	Glass follow layup
12:38	Miller 19 ft.	41-44	
11:44	Mills 5 ft. follow	43-44	
11:19		43-46	Glass 14 ft.
10:53		43-48	Midlick 17 ft.
10:35	Feldhaus layup	45-48	
10:13		45-50	Sylve FT, FT
9:38		45-52	Glass 19 ft.
8:39	Ellis layup, FTA	47-52	
8:20	Feldhaus follow layup	49-52	
7:52	Mills layup	51-52	
7:35	Sutton 20 ft.	54-52	
6:59		54-55	Glass 16 ft., FT
6:05		54-57	Glass tip
5:51	Ellis FT, FT	56-57	
5:33		56-59	Turner follow layup
4:58		56-61	Matthews 10 ft.
4:33	Miller 20 ft.	59-61	
4:21		59-63	Sylve layup
3:49		59-66	Glass 21 ft.
3:32	Miller 19 ft., FT	62-66	
2:51	Ellis FT, FTA	63-66	
2:07	Mills FT, FT	65-66	
2:06		65-67	Glass FT, FTA
1:42		65-69	Glass 15 ft.
0:21	Miller 18 ft. follow	67-69	
0:01	Farmer 21 ft.	70-69	

FINAL 70-69

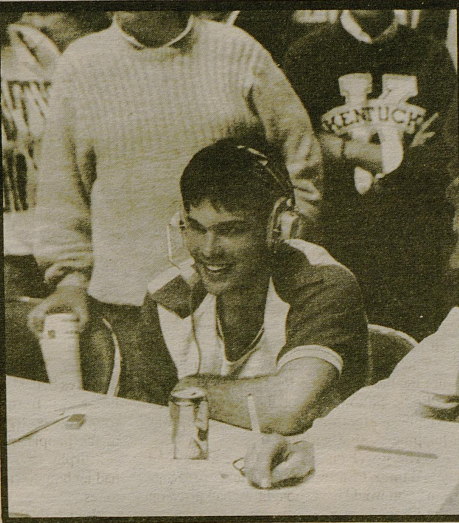
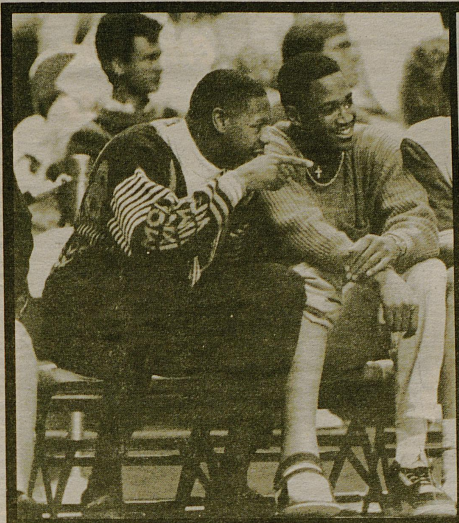
—Cats' Pause chart

VISITORS (Last Name, First)												
No.	pts	reb	ast	blk	ft	fta	pts	reb	ast	blk	ft	fta
31	Turner, Gerry	1	4	6	0	0	0	3	2	5	4	8
4	Glass, Gerald	1	14	22	2	4	5	7	3	5	8	35
1	Murphy, Sean	0	2	6	0	0	0	1	5	6	4	4
21	Matthews, John	9	2	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	5
22	Jumper, Tim	9	3	2	1	3	2	4	1	3	4	2
3	Malick, David	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	
34	Sylve, Bernard	1	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	4
TEAM REBOUNDS (included in Totals)												
TOTALS 23 55 4 8 9 13 17 21 17 67 13 10 3 8 200												
TOTAL FG %: 1st Half 45.3 2nd Half 53.8 Game 50.9												
3-PL FG %: 1st Half 60.0 2nd Half 33.3 Game 50.0												
FT %: 1st Half 100.0 2nd Half 60.0 Game 69.2												
Deadball Rebounds 2												

HOME (Last Name, First)												
No.	pts	reb	ast	blk	ft	fta	pts	reb	ast	blk	ft	fta
42	Mills, Chris	1	7	11	0	0	5	5	2	7	9	19
44	Ginnan, Jeff	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
50	Scott, Mike	0	2	6	0	0	0	0	4	2	6	0
4	Miller, Derrick	9	6	14	1	4	1	1	2	3	5	14
20	Sutton, Sean	2	4	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	6
25	Ellis, LeRon	4	10	0	0	4	9	2	4	3	12	
34	Pelphrey, John	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	3	1	2	
12	Feldhaus, Deon	5	2	0	0	0	6	4	10	4	10	
32	Farmer, Richie	1	3	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	
TEAM REBOUNDS (included in Totals)												
TOTALS 29 57 4 11 10 15 17 21 33 14 70 20 16 4 5 200												
TOTAL FG %: 1st Half 57.1 2nd Half 44.4 Game 49.1												
3-PL FG %: 1st Half 33.3 2nd Half 37.5 Game 36.4												
FT %: 1st Half 57.1 2nd Half 75.0 Game 66.7												
Deadball Rebounds 1												

OFFICIALS: Don Abernathy, Wally Hancock, & Sonny Hylton				
SCORE BY PERIODS				
1st H.	2nd H.	OT	FINAL	
62	35		67	
69	27		41	70

Technical Fouls: None
Attendance: 23,022



BUZZER-BEATER

(Top left, clockwise)

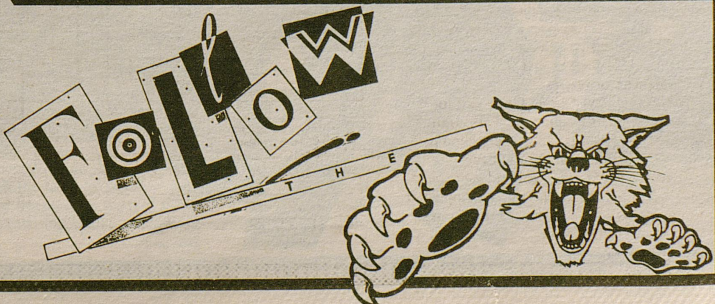
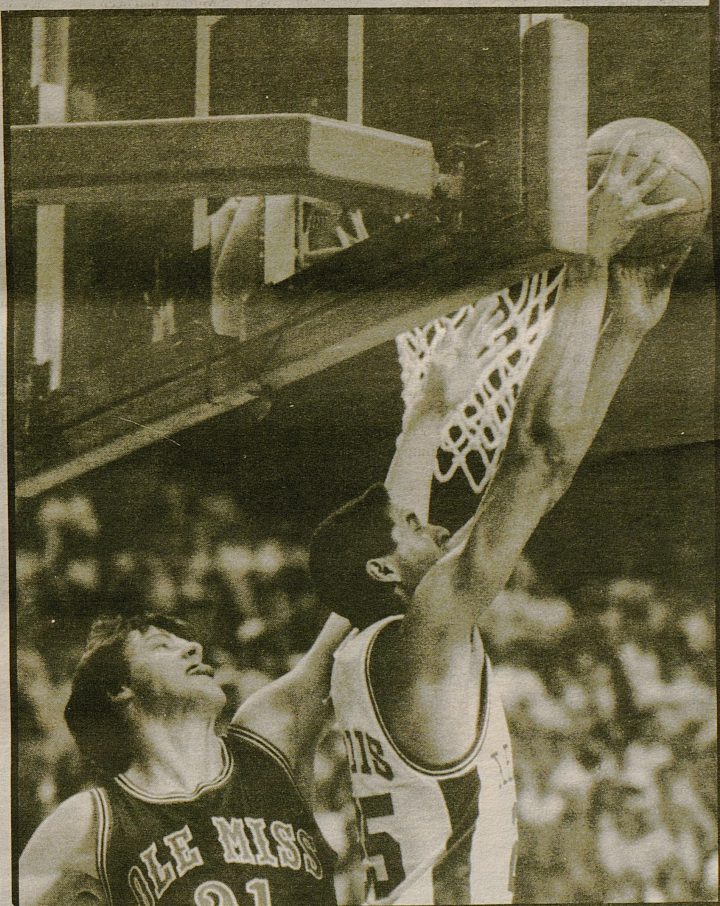
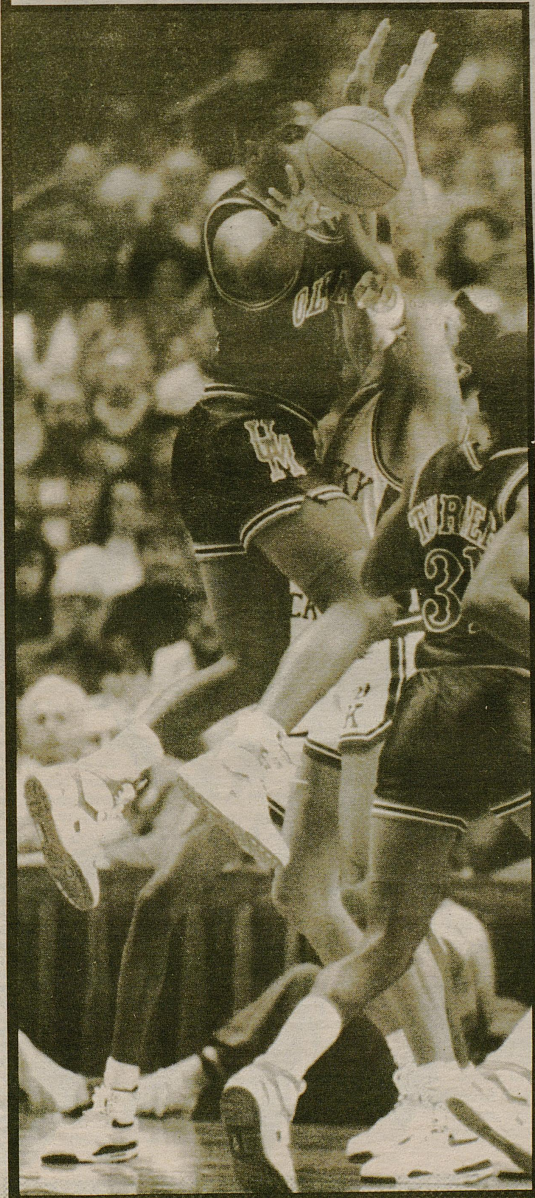
□UK's Eric Manuel and injured forward Reggie Hanson share a laugh during Senior Night. UK won over Ole Miss at the buzzer 70-69 thanks to...

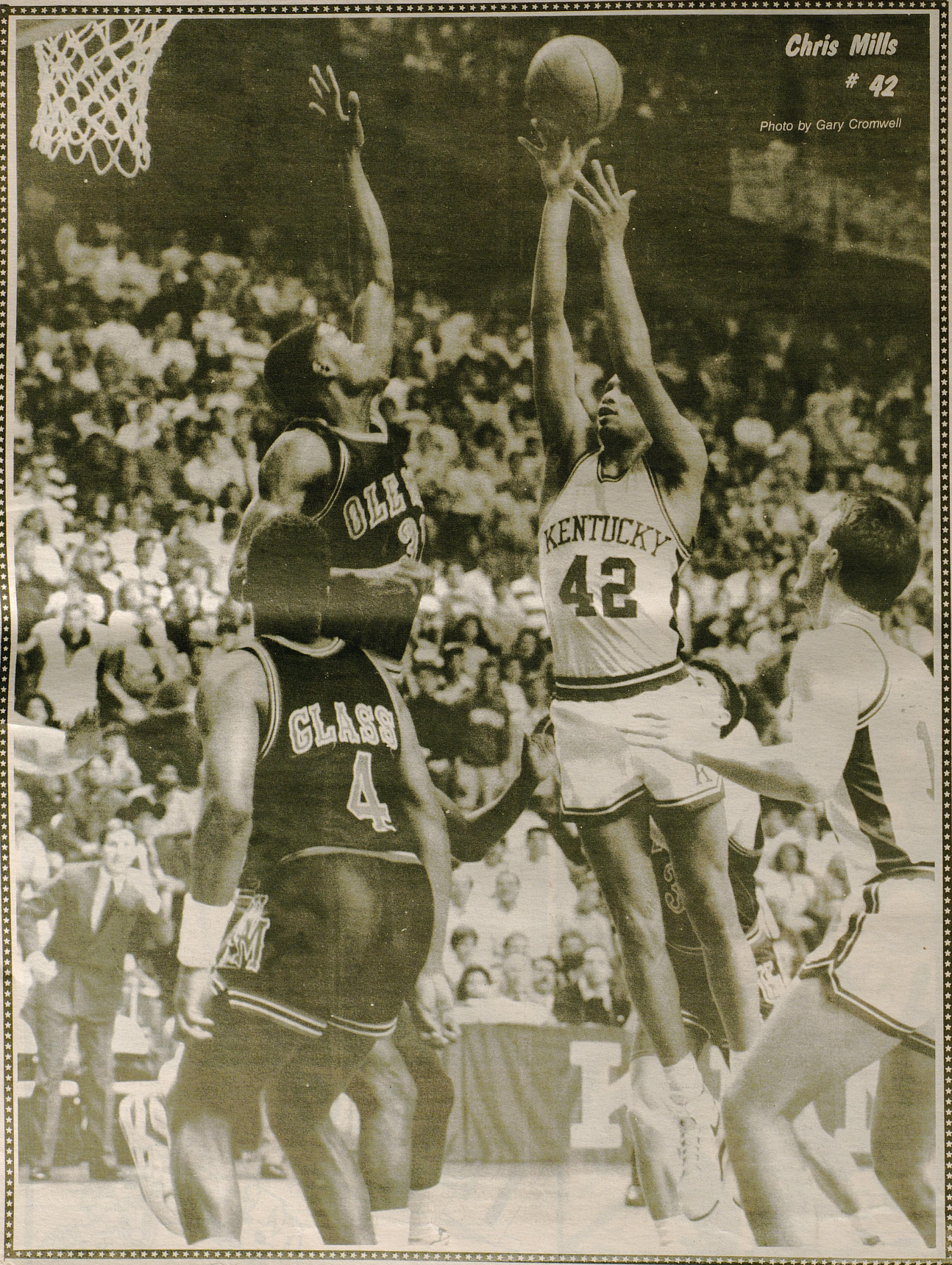
□...Richie Farmer's timely three-pointer. As expected, after a game-winning bucket, Farmer chats on the UK Network's star of the game show.

□Trying to get this basket in a roundabout way is LeRon Ellis. Sean Murphy attempts to disrupt Ellis with a hand in the face.

□Gerald Glass, who scored a game-high 35 points, dishes off to a teammate as Ellis tries to hold his ground.

UM-UK photos by Gary Cramwell





Chris Mills

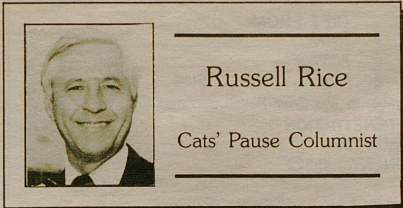
42

Photo by Gary Cromwell

Basil Hayden was UK's first hoop All-American...

...and last Wildcat coach to have losing season

When Ray Eklund resigned as Wildcat head basketball coach shortly before the opening game of the 1927 season, the University of Kentucky sought help from Basil Hayden, captain and star player on the Wildcat



Russell Rice

Cats' Pause Columnist

squad that six years earlier had won the first "Championship of the South."

Upon receiving "Momma's call," Hayden ignored the extenuating circumstances, put his insurance business on hold, and returned to the university, where he held the distinction of being named its first All-American.

After graduating from UK, Hayden had worked one summer for Dodge in Detroit, then returned to Kentucky and coached at Stanford and Clark County high schools before spending two years in the insurance business at Richmond. He accepted the UK coaching job "simply because they asked me to."

The former Paris High School star had lettered three years at UK under George C. Buchheit, who came to UK as an assistant to football coach Andy Gill in the fall of 1919 from the University of Illinois, where he was an all-western end in football and star of the basketball and track teams.

The custom in those days was for the football coach or one of his assistants to serve in a secondary capacity as head basketball coach. After coaching the Wildcat cagers to a 6-8 record in 1919, Gill turned the basketball team over to his new assistant Buchheit, who began his five-year reign as UK cage coach in rather unimpressive fashion, winning only five of 12 games as influenza took a toll of the squad in late season.

The university and the community became basketball-conscious the following year, when the 1921 Wildcats lost only to Centre, 29-27, at Danville, en route to a 13-1 season that included wins over Tulane, Mercer, Mississippi A&M and Georgia in the first SIAA tournament, which was held in Atlanta. The Wildcats defeated the Bulldogs 20-19 in the championship game on a free throw by Lexingtonian Bill King with time expired on the clock.

The victory spurred public clamor in Lexington for a new arena to showcase Wildcat teams, whose antiquated home facility was located in old Buell Army in Barker Hall.

Buchheit's high hopes for the 1922 season were crushed when Hayden received a knee injury prior to the first game and guard Sam Ridgeway, another starter for the 1921 championship team, was out for the season with an illness. While Hayden hobbled through the season, the Wildcats struggled to a 10-6 record, losing to Mercer 35-22 in the Southern tournament.

With Hayden graduated and Ridgeway out with a broken ankle, the 1923 season was a disaster, although the Wildcats were better than their 3-10 record indicated. They opened with a victory over Georgetown, lost to Tennessee 30-26 at Knoxville, and defeated Chattanooga 25-18 at home before losing the next nine in a row, longest losing streak in the school's history. They closed with a 30-14 victory over Sewanee. Although they came up short in the won-lost column, the Wildcats were outscored only 348-289 by their combined opponents.

The Wildcats bounced back with a 13-3 record in 1924 and Buchheit, who had served under three different football coaches in his five years on campus, was asked to remain after the university hired Harry Gamage, another former Illinois star athlete, to replace J.J. Winn as grid



Basil Hayden—shown here during his playing days at UK (left) and receiving a plaque from then-UK athletics director Cliff Hagan a couple of years ago in Rupp Arena—will always be remembered as UK's first All-American in 1921...but also as the last coach to guide the Wildcats to a losing season.

center; however, he finally decided to accept the head coaching job at Trinity College (now Duke University).

The Wildcats were coached the following two years by assistant football coaches C.O. Applegran (13-8 in 1924) and Eklund (15-3 in 1925).

Led by Burgess Carey, an All-American back guard the year before, the 1926 Wildcats opened with back-to-back losses to Depauw (A) and Indiana (H) and then swept their remaining 12 games before losing to Mississippi A&M in the third game of the Southern tournament.

Carey and four other starters—Jim McFarland, Will Milward, Len Tracy and Lovell "Cowboy" Underwood, along with substitute Foster Helm—from the 1922 Lexington Senior High School national champions had joined the Wildcats freshman team as a unit in 1923. McFarland was team captain in 1925, Carey in 1926.

Now an 89-year-old retired banker living in a nursing home in Paris, Hayden said the Athletics Council asked him to coach until they could get somebody else.

"I knew all those good players, including members of Senior High's national championship team, had graduated, and it was going to be tough," he said. "We had to play Cincinnati one week after the Council called me. I started the game with a lineup of football players. They were Paul Jenkins and Ray Ellis at forward, Elmer Gilb at running guard, Clair Dees at back guard and Foster Helm at center. We hadn't had time to put anything together."

Ailing with tonsillitis on the day of that opening game, Hayden directed the team by penciled messages to Jenkins, but the instructions were of little use as Red Bolton, the visitors' big center, consistently outjumped

the shorter Helm in those days of a center-jump after each goal scored.

After rolling to a halftime lead, the Bearcats outscored the Cats 20-3 in the second half for a 48-10 victory, worst defeat UK had suffered since losing to Wabash by 46 points two years earlier.

The Wildcats lost three more in a row—to Indiana, Cincinnati and Princeton—before stopping the streak with a victory over Florida. They again lost four in a row before taking a two-point decision at Centre; lost the next four, beat Centre again, and then dropped their finale to Tennessee.

"I couldn't get a good effort out of them all season," Hayden said 48 years later. "They had no incentive, except at Centre, which had beat them in football (7-0). I remember in that second game the Centre coach didn't let his boys shoot until they were in close to the basket. By the time he changed his mind, it was too late."

Throughout the season, the Wildcats displayed a remarkable ability to miss crisp shots, walk with the ball, step on opponents' toes and commit personal fouls. Described as a comedy of errors by the local press, the team compiled the worst record (3-13) in UK's basketball history. The loss total of 13, tied in 1967 and 1974, stood as a UK record until this year. And unless the 1988-89 'Cats win the season finale at Mississippi State, win the SEC tournament and win at least one game in the NCAA tournament, it will be the first losing season since Hayden's 1927 club.

As Adolph Rupp and Joe B. Hall said during the 13-13 seasons in their tenures as Wildcat coaches: "We're setting records, but they're the wrong kind," a sentiment echoed by current Wildcat coach Eddie Sutton.

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.

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- Breckinridge County
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- Buckhorn
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- Bullitt East
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- Carroll County
- Casey County
- Caverna
- Cawood
- Central City
- Central Ky. Christian
- Christian County
- Clay County
- Clinton County
- Conner
- Corbin
- Cordia
- Covington Catholic
- Covington Holy Cross
- Covington Holmes
- Covington Latin
- Crittenden County
- Cumberland
- Cumberland County
- Danville
- Daviess County
- Dawson Springs
- Dayton
- Deming
- Dilce Combs
- Dixie Heights
- Dorton
- Drakesboro
- East Carter
- East Hardin
- Edmonson County
- Elizabethtown
- Elkhorn City
- Elliott County
- Eminence
- Estill County
- Evarts
- Fairview
- Feds Creek
- Fleming County
- Fleming-Neon
- Fordsville
- Fort Campbell
- Fort Knox
- Frankfort
- Franklin County
- Franklin-Simpson
- Frederick Fraize
- Fulton City
- Fulton County
- Gallatin County
- Garrard County
- George Rogers Clark
- Glasgow
- Graham
- Grant County
- Graves County
- Grayson County
- Green County
- Greenup County
- Greenville
- Hancock County
- Harlan
- Harrison County
- Harrodsburg
- Hart County
- Hazard
- Heath
- Henderson County
- Henry County
- Hickman County
- Highlands
- Hopkinsville
- Hughes-Kirk
- Jackson City
- Jackson County
- Jefferson County
- Jeffersontown
- Jenkins

- Jessamine County
- Johns Creek
- Johnson Central
- June Buchanan
- Kentucky Country Day
- Ky. School for the Blind
- Ky. School for the Deaf
- Knott County Central
- Knox Central
- LaRue County
- Laurel County
- Lawrence County
- Lee County
- Leslie County
- Letcher
- Lewis County
- Lexington Bryan Station
- Lexington Catholic
- Lexington Henry Clay
- Lexington Lafayette
- Lexington Sayre
- Lexington Tates Creek
- Lincoln County
- Living Waters Christian
- Livingston Central
- Lloyd Memorial
- Logan County
- Lone Oak
- Louisville Assumption
- Louisville Atherton
- Louisville Ballard
- Louisville Brown
- Louisville Butler
- Louisville Central
- Lou. Christian Academy
- Louisville Collegiate
- Louisville DeSales
- Louisville Doss
- Louisville duPont Manual
- Louisville Eastern
- Louisville Evangel Christian
- Louisville Fairdale
- Louisville Fern Creek
- Louisville Highview Baptist
- Louisville Holy Cross
- Louisville Holy Rosary
- Louisville Iroquois
- Louisville Male
- Louisville Mercy Academy
- Louisville Moore
- Lou. Pleasure Ridge Park
- Louisville Presentation
- Louisville Sacred Heart
- Louisville Seneca
- Louisville Shawnee
- Louisville Southern
- Lou. Southwest Christian
- Louisville St. Francis
- Louisville St. Xavier

- Louisville Trinity
- Louisville Valley
- Louisville Waggener
- Louisville Walden
- Louisville Western
- Ludlow
- Lynn Camp
- Lyon County
- M.C. Napier
- Madison
- Madison Central
- Madisonville-North Hopkins
- Magoffin County
- Marion County
- Marshall County
- Mason County
- Mayfield
- Maysville
- McCreary Central
- McDowell
- McLean County
- Meade County
- Menifee County
- Mercer County
- Metcalfe County
- Middlesboro
- Millard
- Millersburg Military Inst.
- Model Laboratory
- Monroe County
- Montgomery County
- Monticello
- Morgan County
- Mountain Christian Acad.
- Muhlenberg Central
- Mullins
- Murray
- Nelson County
- Newport
- Newport Central Catholic
- Nicholas County
- Ninth & O Baptist Academy
- North Bullitt
- North Hardin
- Notre Dame
- Ohio County
- Oldham County
- Oneida Baptist Institute
- Owen County
- Owensboro
- Owensboro Apollo
- Owensboro Catholic
- Owsley County
- Paducah Tilghman
- Paintsville
- Paris
- Pendleton County
- Phelps
- Pikeville

- Pineville
- Portland Christian
- Potter Christian
- Powell County
- Prestonsburg
- Providence
- Pulaski County
- Raceland
- Red Bird
- Reidland
- Riverside Christian
- Rockcastle County
- Rowan County
- Russell
- Russell County
- Russellville
- Scott
- Scott County
- Shelby County
- Sheldon Clark
- Silver Grove
- Simon Kenton
- Somerset
- South Hopkins
- Spencer County
- St. Camillus
- St. Henry
- St. Mary
- St. Patrick
- St. Romuald
- Taylor County
- Todd County Central
- Tollesboro
- Trigg County
- Trimble County
- Union County
- University Heights
- Villa Madonna
- Virgie
- Walton Verona
- Warren Central
- Warren East
- Washington County
- Wayne County
- Webster County
- West Carter
- West Hardin
- West Hopkins
- Western Anderson
- Western Hills
- Wheelwright
- Whitesburg
- Whitesville Trinity
- Whitley County
- Williamsburg
- Williamstown
- Wolfe County
- Woodford County

When Ralph Carlisle talks, you better listen

Says Earl Jones was tops in prep ranks

Who is the best basketball coach ever to coach the game in Kentucky's high schools? That covers a lot of time, from the very first State Tournament in 1916 to next week's Sweet Sixteen at Rupp Arena.



Earl Cox

Cats' Pause Columnist

Ralph Carlisle says that he knows. And when Ralph Carlisle speaks, everyone who knows of his reputation listens. He is the man who would get my vote as the all-time best because he guided three Lexington Lafayette teams to championship glory. No other coach has won more than that, and only two, both friends of Carlisle, matched him.

The late Neal Arnston, who guided duPont Manual to three titles, and the late Paul Jenkins, who coached two champions at Ashland and one at Male High, are the other three-time winners.

Carlisle insists that Earle Jones is the best — the absolute best — man ever to coach at any Kentucky high school (and remember that includes a fellow named John Wooden, who made his coaching debut with the Dayton, Ky., High School Green Devils).

"Two others were close," said Carlisle, "but Earle Jones was the best. Bob Schumann of St. Xavier and Paul Jenkins were close, but Jones was the best. He had teams in four championship games, and won one championship, with Maysville in 1947. And Earle did it without much talent and without any size. His other three teams in the final were Kavanaugh in 1930, and Maysville in 1938 and 1948.

"Bob Schumann won the championship with St. Xavier in 1935 and was runnerup to Inez in 1941 and to Hindman in 1943," added Carlisle.

Schumann now lives in California; he was honored a few years ago when he was inducted into St. Xavier's Hall of Fame.

Bob Mulcahy (Seneca), Robert Graves (Louisville Central), Jim Huter (Male) and Bobby Watson (Owensboro) are the only multiple coaching winners since Carlisle won his third title in 1957. Mulcahy is a Carlisle protege, having starred for Lafayette's 1950 champions.

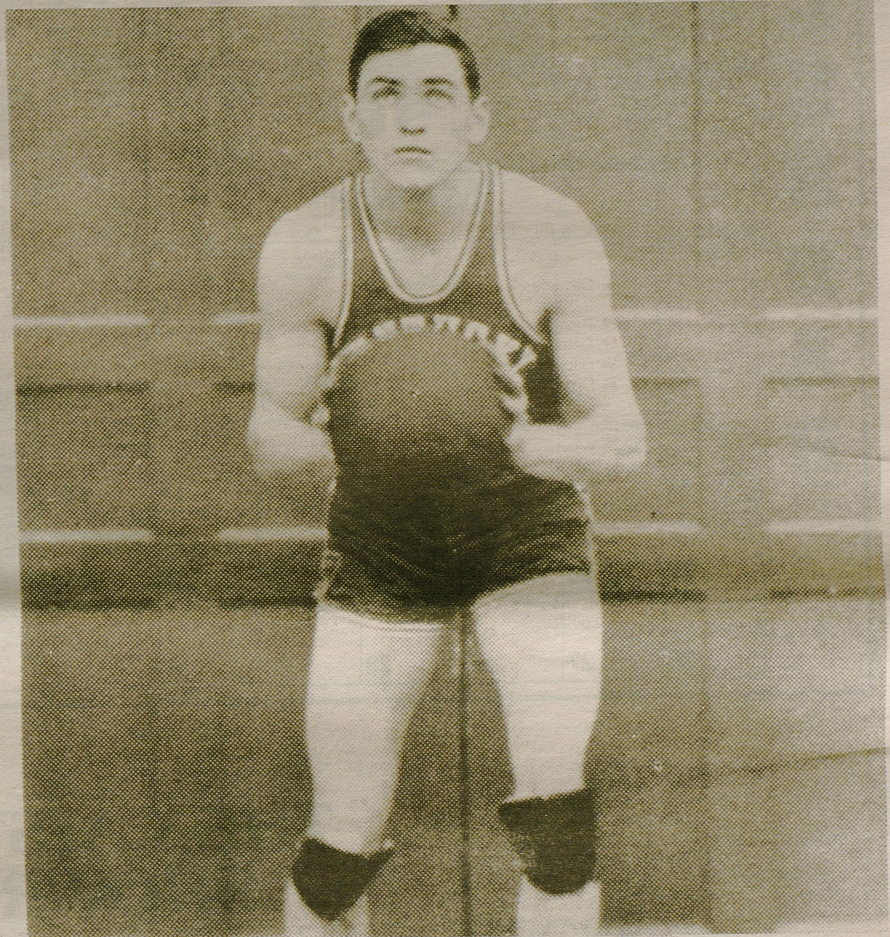
Jones will be honored Tuesday night at the Marriott Griffin Gate in Lexington when he is inducted into the Dawhares-Kentucky High School Athletic Hall of Fame. Unfortunately, Jones can't attend; he is in a Maysville nursing home. But a large contingent of his fans and former players, including John Crockett, a Louisville resident who is a retired vice president with First National Bank, will be at the banquet.

Jones owns more State Tournament coaching victories, 19, than any other coach.

Eight people associated with Louisville also will be inducted Tuesday, including Paulie Miller of Flaget fame. He is the only coach to have coached a Heisman Trophy winner and a football All-American (Paul Hornung), a baseball All-Star (Gus Bell) and a basketball All-American (Jerry Harper). Hornung, who was a charter member of the Hall of Fame last year, will be in Lexington to cheer for Miller as well as for his friends, the Jones twins, Harry and Larry, who starred for Manual and UK in just about every thing.

Bev Ramser Schechter, the only female winner of four tennis singles championships, will be inducted; she played for Presentation.

Westley Unsel, who led Mulcahy's Seneca teams



Ralph Carlisle, pictured here during his playing days at UK, says Jones got the most out of his talent. On Tuesday, March 14, Jones will be inducted into the Dawhares-Kentucky High School Athletics Hall of Fame.

to back-to-back titles, and Butch Beard, who paced Breckinridge County to the 1965 championship, and football great Leonard Lyles will represent the University of Louisville in the induction ceremonies. Lyles was a Central High standout in track and football.

One other Louisville product, the multi-talented Kenny Kuhn of Male High, will be inducted. He could have had his choice of sports in college — basketball, baseball or football — but chose to sign a bonus contract with the Cleveland Indians.

Others who will be honored will be Gay Brewer, E.A. "Uncle Ed" Diddle, Stella Gilb, Tommy Bell, Jerry Claiborne, Howard Crittenden, Lyman Ginger, Delmas Gish, Bill Harrell, Preston "Ty" Holland, Joe Billy Mansfield, Lawrence McGinnis, Donna Murphy, Frank Ramsey and McCoy "Red" Tarry.

It'll be a night to remember in the history of athletics in Kentucky's high schools, and a crowd of over 800 will be there.

When Holland retired after over 30 years as football coach at Murray High, he was Kentucky's win-

ningest coach. Garnis Martin of Bardstown, who has since passed Holland, was a charter Hall of Fame member and will be there to greet Holland.

TWO OF A KIND — Two men have caused University of Kentucky President David Roselle more trouble than all the UK students and Kentucky residents combined. And wouldn't you know that basketball coach Eddie Sutton and trustee Happy Chandler are cronies?

REDS TICKETS — Tickets for Cincinnati Reds games are on sale at several places around Kentucky, but the most unexpected place is the Louisville Redbirds' ticket office at the Fairgrounds (it's near the leftfield pass gate). It's open from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 10-9 on game days. Lazarus in Oxmoor also sells Reds tickets.

Ed Peak of the Redbirds reports that the Beach Boys will perform at Cardinal Stadium on May 19.

KENTUCKY

A L E N D A R

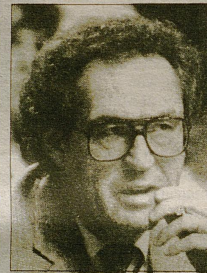


MARCH

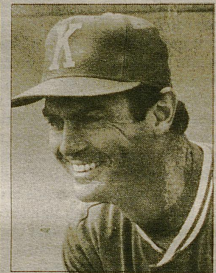
SUN.	MON.	TUE.	WED.	THUR.	FRI.	SAT.
			Basketball: Ole Miss (H) 7:30 p.m. UK-DEL. Baseball: Ark. (N) 2 p.m. Women's BB: SEC Tourney	Women's Basketball: SEC Tourney	Baseball: Florida (A) 7:30 p.m. SportsChannel Women's Basketball: SEC Tourney	Basketball: Mississippi St. (A) 8:30 UK-DEL. Baseball: Florida (A) DH Women's BB: SEC Tourney
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Basketball: SEC Tournament Finals 2 p.m. Knoxville ABC Baseball: Texas A&M Tourney	Baseball: Texas A&M Tourney	Baseball: Texas A&M Tourney	Baseball: SEC Tourney Knoxville TBA Baseball: Indiana (A) 3 p.m.	Baseball: Western (A) 3 p.m.	Basketball: SEC Tourney Knoxville TBA Baseball: Texas A&M Tourney	Baseball: LSU (H) DH 1 p.m. WDKYTV Ch. 56
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Baseball: LSU (H) 2 p.m. WDKYTV Ch. 56	Baseball: Eastern Mich. (H) DH 1 p.m.	Baseball: Indiana St. (H) 4 p.m.	Baseball: Indiana St. (H) 4 p.m.	Baseball: Middle Tenn. (H) 4 p.m.	Baseball: Alabama (A) DH 3 p.m.	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Baseball: Alabama (A) 3 p.m.	Baseball: Eastern (A) 3 p.m.	Baseball: Morehead (A) 3 p.m.	Baseball: Morehead (A) 3 p.m.	Baseball: Marshall (A) 3 p.m.		
26	27	28	29	30	31	

PREVIOUS GAMES

- Feb. 1: Basketball—UK def. Mississippi State 73-61
- Feb. 4: Women's Basketball—Georgia def. UK 92-70
- Feb. 5: Basketball—Georgia def. UK 84-72
- Feb. 7: Women's Basketball—UK vs. Tennessee Tech 83-68
- Feb. 8: Basketball—Vanderbilt def. UK 81-51
- Feb. 11: Basketball—Florida def. UK 59-53
- Feb. 14: Women's Basketball—LSU def. UK 86-72
- Feb. 15: Basketball—LSU def. UK 99-80
- Feb. 17: Women's Basketball—UK def. Alabama 89-85
- Feb. 18: Basketball—Alabama def. UK 71-67
- Feb. 19: Women's Basketball—Virginia Tech def. UK 75-66
- Feb. 20: Basketball—Auburn def. UK 77-75
- Feb. 22: Basketball—UK def. Tennessee 77-71
- Feb. 24: Baseball—UK vs. Louisville postponed, snow
- Feb. 25: Women's Basketball—Auburn def. UK 89-70
- Feb. 26: Basketball—Syracuse def. UK 89-73
- Feb. 26: Baseball—UK def Penn State 8-5, 7-2
- Feb. 27: Baseball—Penn State def. UK 12-9
- Feb. 28: Baseball—Arkansas def. UK 8-4
- Mar. 1: Basketball—UK def. Ole Miss 70-69
- Mar. 1: Baseball—UK def. Arkansas
- Mar. 1: Women's Basketball—Florida def. UK 67-64
- Mar. 3: Baseball—Florida def. UK 10-9
- Mar. 4: Basketball—Mississippi State def. UK 68-67
- Mar. 4: Baseball—Florida def. UK 12-6
- Mar. 4: Baseball—UK def. Florida 7-4



Eddie Sutton



Keith Madison

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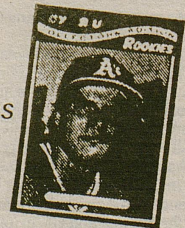
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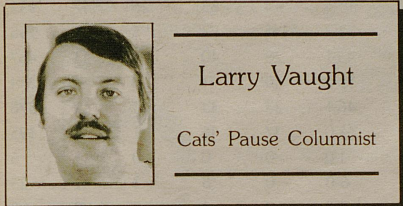
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Nicholasville Road

Kentucky ties thicker than water for three 'Cats

Support continues to grow for UK coach

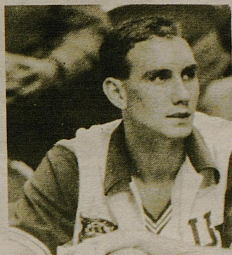
No matter how much he tries to keep the thoughts out of his mind, John Pelphrey can't help wondering about the future of the University of Kentucky basketball program.



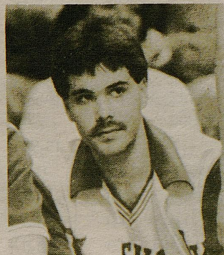
Larry Vaught

Cats' Pause Columnist

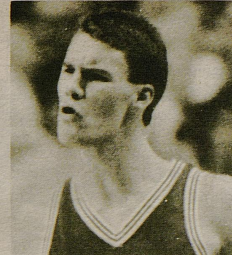
**They
Bleed
Blue**



John Pelphrey



Richie Farmer



Deron Feldhaus

"I just try not to think about what might happen," said Pelphrey, a redshirt freshman at UK. "To me it is already a bad situation and I worry that things might get a lot worse before it is all over.

"It scares me, really. I love Kentucky basketball and everything that goes with it. I grew up loving UK and know how much UK basketball means to fans in this state. That's why I can't help thinking about the next couple of years even though I know I shouldn't be until this season ends."

The current NCAA probe, questions about Coach Eddie Sutton's future and more losses than any other UK team has ever sustained have made this a season to forget, not remember, at Kentucky.

"The year has been rough on all of us," said Deron Feldhaus, another native Kentuckian and redshirt freshman. "All people have talked about is the problems we have had.

"We're tired of getting beat, talked about and kicked around. It's really been a strain on all of us."

The strain won't end until the NCAA issues its final ruling and Sutton's status is decided by Kentucky. When those two things happen, each Wildcat will then have to decide whether he'll wear the blue and white again next year.

Junior guard Derrick Miller has already indicated he'll be back next year no matter what happens when the season ends. Miller came to UK from Georgia but likes it at UK and sees no reason to leave with only one year of eligibility left.

Many assume Feldhaus, a prep standout at nearby Mason County, and Pelphrey, an All-State performer at Paintsville, wouldn't leave because of their loyalty to UK. The same goes for Richie Farmer.

Other Wildcats don't have longstanding ties to UK. Many wonder if they will stay if the NCAA hands out a harsh penalty or if Sutton and his staff don't return.

Pelphrey understands those feelings and is as loyal as most Kentuckians think he is.

"I can understand that thinking and basically that is how I do feel," said Pelphrey. "That's a feeling I have grown up with. It would be hard for me to go somewhere else and play."

Feldhaus says he's "95 percent sure" he'll return next season.

But both Pelphrey and Feldhaus are close friends of sophomore point guard Sean Sutton, the son of the UK coach. If Eddie Sutton is forced to leave and his son transfers, it would test both Pelphrey's and Feldhaus' loyalty to UK.

"Sean is really close to me and it would really hurt me if him and Coach Sutton left," said Feldhaus. "Sean is probably my closest friend on the team and I really like him. Coach Sutton has been blamed for a lot of stuff he hasn't done and it has hurt him and Sean. I don't really know what I would do if they both had to leave."

"If everything went as bad as possible I guess Coach Sutton would leave," said Pelphrey. "Whether Sean would leave or not I don't know but it would be hard on me if he did. But I don't think I could leave."

That's a feeling Richie Farmer knows. He came to UK after a distinguished career at Clay County and

was last year's Mr. Basketball. He's also almost a folk hero in the state because of his legendary high school career.

He's spent most of this season sitting and watching, something that has upset some UK fans and media members who feel he should have played more. Farmer, though, has never complained publicly and he has no plans to leave Kentucky.

"I'm pretty sure I'll be back next year," said Farmer. "There has been a lot of people care about me and want to see me do well at UK."

"I've never really thought that much about next year because I've tried to concentrate on this season to get as much out of it as I can. But I see no reason to leave."

"I've got a lot of support and that has helped keep me going when I haven't played this year. I'd really like to say thanks to all those people who have supported me and I want to stay here and show them I mean that."

Don't think Farmer is implying, though, that he is unhappy about anything that has happened this year. "Everybody on this team likes each other," said Farmer. "We don't fight or get jealous of each other the way some people make it sound. We like each other. That's one thing that has kept us going."

Still, Farmer, Pelphrey and Feldhaus had different visions of life at UK when they signed with Kentucky. They dreamed of SEC and NCAA championships, not all-time losing marks. They prepared to face media members, not NCAA investigators.

"Coming to UK is what I always wanted," said Pelphrey. "This was like a dream come true. I still hope there are a lot of good times ahead for me and everyone else here."

"I try not to even mess up my mind thinking about who will be coaching, whether we will be on TV or who we can recruit. If I thought about that all the time I would go crazy."

"But I can't lie and say thoughts about next year don't enter my mind sometimes. It's impossible not to think about the future and sometimes it is scary."

"I'll just be glad when this whole deal is finalized and we can go back to putting everything together."

BETTY BAKER of Danville, Ky., doesn't claim to be a basketball expert. However, she does love University of Kentucky basketball.

That love for the Wildcats is the main reason the Danville woman has started a petition drive in support of UK Coach Eddie Sutton.

"The petition just says that we support Coach Sutton and would like to retain him," said Baker. "I've never done anything like this before."

"I love Kentucky basketball and have for over 20 years. I just feel this whole situation this year is tearing up our basketball program."

"I feel he's a very good coach. I respect the man to

no end for the way he has conducted himself this year. The man has been president of the NABC (National Association of Basketball Coaches) and on the NCAA rules committee.

"I find it hard to believe he would do anything intentionally wrong, especially when he would know the consequences of that better than anybody."

"I'm not into a power struggle or anything like that. I don't believe in that. I just felt strongly that I wanted to show my support for Eddie Sutton and I'm doing that."

More fans seem to be rallying behind Sutton, who claims the support is really for the team and that he doesn't want to get into a "pushing and shoving match" with anyone.

Based on the recent mail I've received, though, the support is aimed directly for Sutton.

Here are some of the letters of support for Sutton I've received in recent days from central Kentuckians:

• Mrs. Gabe Hoskins, Danville: "Eddie Sutton should stay. Let he who is without faults cast the first stone. Coach Sutton hasn't done anything wrong. I've been a UK fan since 1924. In the 1920s UK had two losing seasons. One in 1989 won't be a disaster. The sun will come up tomorrow."

"Cliff Hagan should have stayed. Sutton should stay. I wish people would get off his back."

"Trials, tribulations, abuse and violations are all you read any more about college sports. I don't know where reporters get all this."

• Mary Cleland Adams, Harrodsburg: "I don't think Eddie Sutton should resign. I think he should head the program next year if he wants to. I have always been a fan of UK. It's always seemed to me it has measured up well with all schools, particularly in the SEC except Vanderbilt, in having bonafide student-athletes."

"It seems the university and many fans have persecuted rather than promoted Coach Sutton and the players. I admire Coach Sutton and his son Sean. I think they are all champions regardless of the final game tallies."

• Glenna Kissinger, Stanford: "I have followed the UK Wildcats since I was a teen-ager about 30 years ago," wrote Kissinger. "I have seen the good and the bad. Now this year I have seen the ugly. I have cried with each loss. I think I may have even died a little. But in no way do I blame Coach Eddie Sutton."

"I think it is so unfair what the NCAA and media have done to one of the finest and nicest coaches in the NCAA. And one which I think we are lucky to have. You don't throw out the baby with the bath water."

"I think he has done a terrific coaching job. They (the players) had so much pressure put on them from everybody with all the rumors and stupid NCAA rules. It has taken its toll on everybody."

"Let's put this mess behind us and give Sutton the kind of support he needs and go back to being number

(Continued on page 25)

KENTUCKY BASKETBALL STATISTICS

(Final regular season stats, 31-game total)

player	Overall: 13-18			Home: 9-6			Away: 2-9			Neutral: 2-3			SEC: 8-10		
	g-gs	fg-a	pct.	3fg-a	pct.	ft-a	pct.	tp-avg.	reb-avg.	pf-d	a	to	blk.	stl.	min.
LeRon Ellis.....	31-29	191-370	51.6	0-2	00.0	109-159	68.6	491-15.8	171-5.5	99-4	62	66	34	34	968
Chris Mills.....	31-31	172-358	48.0	16-52	30.8	82-115	71.3	442-14.3	259-8.4	102-7	91	105	25	45	1085
Derrick Miller.....	31-28	168-358	46.9	53-135	39.3	52-71	73.2	441-14.2	104-3.4	60-2	64	62	3	25	936
Reggie Hanson.....	29-29	114-222	51.4	0-0	00.0	57-76	75.0	285-9.8	130-4.5	98-4	44	63	25	47	932
Sean Sutton.....	30-30	68-142	47.9	16-39	41.0	25-46	54.3	177-5.9	51-1.7	72-2	141	73	1	40	966
Deron Feldhaus.....	31-1	44-90	48.9	2-4	50.0	19-29	65.5	109-3.5	99-3.2	45-1	28	40	4	13	467
Richie Farmer.....	26-0	23-78	29.5	15-50	30.0	24-28	85.7	85-3.3	18-7	18-0	10	11	0	4	234
Mike Scott.....	31-5	35-78	44.9	0-0	00.0	14-20	70.0	84-2.7	77-2.5	46-1	23	33	13	9	378
John Pelphrey.....	21-1	12-29	60.0	2-4	50.0	8-13	61.5	34-1.6	22-1.0	24-0	17	16	1	3	195
Chris Jones.....	2-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	00.0	3-5	60.0	2-1.0	3-1.5	1-0	0	0	0	1	6
Johnathan Davis.....	11-0	1-4	25.0	0-0	00.0	3-4	75.0	5-5	14-1.3	6-0	0	8	1	1	25
Jeff Ginnan.....	3-1	0-0	00.0	0-0	00.0	1-2	50.0	1-3	2-7	2-0	0	1	0	0	8
Anthony Mathis*.....	2-0	0-0	00.0	0-0	00.0	0-0	00.0	0-0	0-0.0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Team.....	31								68-2.2						
KENTUCKY.....	31	828-1720	48.1	104-286	36.4	397-568	69.9	2157-69.6	1017-32.8	573-21	480	481	107	223	6200
OPPONENTS.....	31	825-1787	46.2	161-467	34.5	428-610	70.2	2239-72.2	1048-33.8	561-15	465	447	67	255	6200

*Walk-on Anthony Mathis is academically ineligible

KENTUCKY SCHEDULE, RESULTS

Date	Record	UK	Opp.	Opponent	Margin	Top Scorer	Top Rebounder	Att. (Site)
Nov. 19	0-1	55	80	Duke	-25	LeRon Ellis, 17	Chris Mills, 11	8,908 (N)
Nov. 25	1-1	56	54	Iona	+2	LeRon Ellis, 22	Mike Scott, 7	3,765 (N)
Nov. 26	1-2	60	63	Seton Hall	-3	Chris Mills, 21	Reggie Hanson, 6	3,250 (N)
Nov. 28	2-2	89	71	California	+18	Derrick Miller, 36	LeRon Ellis, 8	3,652 (N)
Dec. 3	2-3	65	81	Notre Dame	-16	LeRon Ellis, 22	Reggie Hanson, 7	45,214 (N)
Dec. 7	2-4	82	85	NORTHWESTERN (LA.) ST.	-3	LeRon Ellis, 37	Reggie Hanson, 8	18,932 (H)
Dec. 10	3-4	78	60	WESTERN CAROLINA	+18	LeRon Ellis, 19	Mike Scott, 5	18,253 (H)
Dec. 16	3-5	54	56	BOWLING GREEN	-2	Reggie Hanson, 14	Chris Mills, 15	20,875 (H)
Dec. 17	4-5	91	78	MARSHALL	+13	LeRon Ellis, 33	Chris Mills, 20	18,945 (H)
Dec. 20	4-6	52	75	INDIANA	-23	Chris Mills, 22	Chris Mills, 11	23,212 (H)
Dec. 27	5-6	85	77	AUSTIN PEAY	+8	LeRon Ellis, 34	Chris Mills, 10	18,178 (*H)
Dec. 31	5-7	75	97	Louisville	-22	Derrick Miller, 23	Chris Mills, 10	19,502 (H)
Jan. 4	6-7	76	65	GEORGIA	+11	Reggie Hanson, 20	Chris Mills, 12	21,209 (H)
Jan. 7	7-7	70	61	VANDERBILT	+9	Derrick Miller, 27	LeRon Ellis, 10	23,338 (H)
Jan. 12	8-7	69	56	Florida	+13	Derrick Miller, 30	Derrick Miller, 8	11,751 (A)
Jan. 14	8-8	62	64	LOUISIANA STATE	-2	LeRon Ellis, 20	Chris Mills, 11	24,288 (H)
Jan. 18	8-9	64	76	Alabama	-12	Derrick Miller, 19	Chris Mills, 7	15,043 (A)
Jan. 21	9-9	66	65	Tennessee	+1	Derrick Miller, 23	Chris Mills, 7	24,464 (A)
Jan. 25	10-9	86	76	Auburn	+10	Derrick Miller, 16	Chris Mills, 11	23,506 (H)
Jan. 28	10-10	65	70	Mississippi	-5	Derrick Miller, 21	LeRon Ellis, 10	7,375 (A)
Feb. 1	11-10	73	61	MISSISSIPPI STATE	+12	LeRon Ellis, 21	LeRon Ellis, 9	22,017 (H)
Feb. 5	11-11	72	84	Georgia	-12	Chris Mills, 19	Chris Mills, 8	9,812 (A)
Feb. 8	11-12	51	81	Vanderbilt	-30	Sean Sutton, 14	Chris Mills, 8	15,646 (A)
Feb. 11	11-13	53	59	FLORIDA	-6	Chris Mills, 17	Chris Mills, 11	23,547 (H)
Feb. 15	11-14	80	99	Louisiana State	-19	Derrick Miller, 26	LeRon Ellis, 13	13,050 (A)
Feb. 18	11-15	67	71	ALABAMA	-4	Derrick Miller, 18	Reggie Hanson 10	23,232 (H)
Feb. 20	11-16	75	77	Auburn	-2	LeRon Ellis, 23	Derrick Miller, 7	6,136 (A)
Feb. 22	12-16	76	71	TENNESSEE	+5	LeRon Ellis, 23	Chris Mills, 13	22,148 (H)
Feb. 26	12-17	73	89	Syracuse	-16	Derrick Miller, 21	Chris Mills, 8	30,695 (A)
Mar. 1	13-17	70	69	MISSISSIPPI	+1	Chris Mills, 19	Deron Feldhaus	23,022 (H)
Mar. 4	13-18	67	68	Mississippi State	-1	Chris Mills, 16	Chris Mills, 11	7,363 (A)

*Dec. 27 game vs. Austin Peay was played in Louisville's Freedom Hall but is counted as a home game

1 New Rupp Arena attendance record

SEC record

REMAINING GAMES

Mar. 9-12 SEC tournament (Knoxville)

Senior night just about concludes troublesome year

Game card needed for changing roster

THE REGULAR SEASON is now, mercifully, history and we only have to deal with the Southeastern Conference tournament before we can put this year away for good.



Dan Brandenburg
Cats' Pause Columnist

Then, a couple of months down the road, C.M. Newton will have taken his spot as the new Kentucky athletics director, the NCAA will have made a decision on the UK investigation and things will, hopefully, get back on track again.

Although everyone will remember all of the "most losses" records set, this season will carve its niche in the history books more because of what happened off the court.

All kidding aside, the whole saga really would make a pretty good book.

Here's a list of possible chapter titles: 1. Rex goes pro, 2. the Emery package, 3. Proposition 48 gets Kemp and Woods, 4. Manuel sits out season, 5. Kemp finds gold, heads to junior college, 6-16. The NCAA investigation, 17. Assorted injuries: Sutton, Pelphrey, Hanson, 18. Hagan resigns, Newton hired, 19. The Walk-Ons: Ginnan and Jones, 20. The Records: Bad and Worse.

You're welcome, Eddie. A royalty check would be nice.

REGARDLESS OF THE above, at least the Wildcats did manage to close out the home schedule in style.

Richie Farmer, a freshman from the mountains who won over the hearts of Kentucky fans everywhere, swished a three-pointer with two ticks left on the clock to down Ole Miss 70-69 last week.

It was a fitting finale for someone who has probably been under more pressure than any player except Chris Mills this season.

And it was Senior Night, with walk-on Jeff Ginnan and transfer Mike Scott being honored. The traditional paper hoops and all the pomp and circumstance were there, but the tears weren't. It just wasn't the same without Happy Chandler singing "My Old Kentucky Home."

And while Judy Rose did a fine job with the song, her role replacing Chandler could be likened to Joe B. Hall replacing Adolph Rupp. It's hard to follow a great act, especially after the kind of season UK has had.

Although Happy has been the victim of much criticism lately because of a racial slur he allegedly uttered, that was not the reason for his absence. From what I can find out, Chandler's poor health necessitated the change which was made months ago.

SOMEONE SUGGESTED THAT coach Eddie Sutton should have had a hoop, too, as he may also have been making his Rupp Arena swan song.

However, while most seem to think that Sutton is on his way out, his supporters had never been very vocal until last week when a hastily-arranged "Support Sutton" rally was organized.

But, it appears, his supporters may have been big only in voice, not in numbers.

Even with the rally being held in the hotel adjoining Rupp Arena right before the UK-Ole

Miss game, it garnered only a crowd of about 200.

But, apparently, all 200 had tickets for the game because Sutton got by far the loudest applause during pre-game introductions.

Sutton also opened the game with a class move as both Scott and Ginnan got starting nods. Ginnan had played only three minutes in two games this year, but was on the court for the opening five minutes last Wednesday. Unfortunately, he didn't score.

Mississippi coach Ed Murphy had heard plenty about Kentucky's ceremonies on Senior Night, but had never actually got to see them. Last week, while his team was relaxing in the lockerroom, Murphy watched from a hallway just off the court.

* * *

THE KENTUCKY ROSTER has been through so many changes this season, it took me 10 minutes last week just to figure out how many players were in uniform at the end of the year.

However, I'm expecting even more changes next season.

UK was expecting to have 14 players in uniform when this season opened — seven returnees, three redshirts and four freshmen — but that didn't quite work out.

Rex Chapman went pro, Proposition 48 got Sean Woods and Shawn Kemp and Eric Manuel decided to sit out because of questions about his ACT test. That only left 10, so UK added three walk-ons.

However, academics even claimed one of them. Injuries also sidelined Sean Sutton, John Pelphrey and Reggie Hanson for part of the year, leaving only nine scholarship players in uniform.

Now for next season.

If the NCAA investigation turns out as I expect, plan on having a whole new coaching staff for starters. And now for the lineup.

OF THE 12 that finished the season, only nine can return (less senior Mike Scott and the two walk-ons). Add to that freshmen recruit Jeff Brassow, Prop 48er Woods (Kemp has headed to junior college) and Manuel for a total of 12 again.

Of that 12, I expect Brassow and Woods to play their initial season. Plus, Kentucky products Richie Farmer, Deron Feldhaus, Hanson and Pelphrey should stick around, Derrick Miller has said he's not going anywhere and why should Johnathon Davis leave?

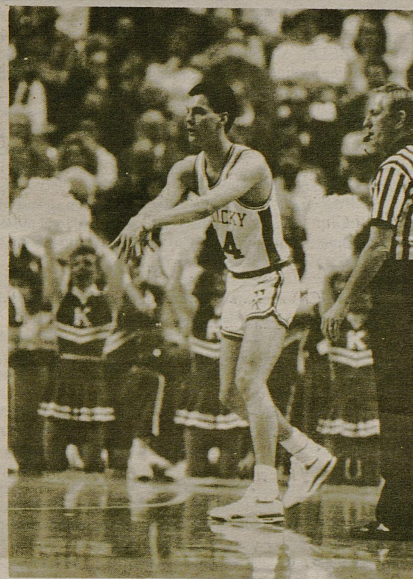
That leaves Sean Sutton, Chris Mills, Manuel and LeRon Ellis in limbo.

If Eddie Sutton gets the ax, I expect Sean to leave as well. Also, he may not have any choice but to sit out next season because it's alleged he gave false and misleading information to the NCAA.

If Manuel is found to have cheated on his ACT test, his penalty would probably be one year of eligibility. And since he sat out this year, he would probably be eligible to play next season and that's what I'm betting on.

MILLS' FUTURE ALSO hangs on the NCAA probe. If he is found guilty, he may not be able to play at Kentucky or anywhere else next year so you can't really count on him.

Ellis is really on the bubble. If UK gets two years probation, he can transfer somewhere else and play immediately. If UK only gets one year, he would have to sit out a season if he transferred. He has plenty of Kentucky connections with his mom in Lexington, his brother at Kentucky Wesleyan and his sister at UK, but look for him to



Starting Jeff Ginnan—A class move

head out if UK gets two or more years of probation.

That comes out to just eight players that will probably be around for next season, plus the four above and anyone else who signs with the Cats.

Kentucky would have just 12 players maximum, plus any new signees, so it may be walk-on time again. Stay tuned.

* * *

SHORT TAKES AND LOOSE ENDS

—Another former University of Kentucky football star has found a new home in the NFL. Mark Higgs signed a two-year contract with the Philadelphia Eagles after being left unprotected by the Dallas Cowboys.

It may be the break Higgs needed since he was going nowhere as Herschel Walker's backup in Dallas. Last season, Higgs had no carries, no receptions and two kickoff returns for 31 yards.

—Did anyone notice the unique father-son matchup last week? It was Ole Miss coach Ed Murphy and son Sean against UK coach Eddie Sutton and son Sean.

—I was saddened to hear that "Superfan" Steve Rardin's streak of attending 627 consecutive Kentucky basketball games finally came to an end after more than 20 years. Rardin because ill on the Syracuse trip and was hospitalized.

—It would have been no big surprise if Ole Miss had knocked off UK last week. The last time the Rebels won in Lexington was 1927, the last year Kentucky had a losing record.

—**GOING INTO LAST** Saturday's game at Mississippi State, Chris Mills was just 29 rebounds shy of the UK record for freshmen. Mills had 248 (8.3 per game), which is closing in on Sam Bowie's marks of 276 and 8.1 per game set in 1979-80. Mills was also the SEC/Jefferson-Pilot Rookie of the Week last week.

'Turnabout is fair play,' W

After miracle finish against Ole Miss, UK comes up empty versus MSU on Merritt's three-pointer

By TCP Associate Editor Nick Nicholas

STARKVILLE, MISS.—Last week's favorite phrase in the Magnolia State must have been, "turnabout's fair play" or "what's good for the Wildcats had to be good for the Bulldogs."

Well, you get the message. Todd Merritt's three-point goal in the final seconds gave Mississippi State a 68-67 knockout over the Kentucky Wildcats. Merritt's baseline bucket, of course, sent a deafening roar throughout Humphrey Coliseum.

Earlier in the week, UK pulled off a last-second win against MSU in-state rival Ole Miss. The Wildcats had a chance to level the same fate on the Bulldogs. It wasn't meant to be because with two seconds left Richie Farmer's 15-footer never came close.

The game had no bearing on Kentucky's standings in this week's SEC tournament. But to lose when they had the "W" all but typed in the stat sheet has to be demoralizing to the Wildcats.

This loss was even harder for the players to absorb, when reminded they controlled a 64-57 lead with 1:36 left.

OPPORTUNITIES SLIPPED by, especially missed free throws by Sean Sutton, LeRon Ellis and Deron Feldhaus in the final 2:02. A putback by Reginald Boykin (64-59) and a three-point goal by Tony Watts (64-62) added more life to the once dying 'Dogs. And MSU's dominance on the offensive boards was significant in the game's final stages.

One of Doug Hartsfield's rebound was paramount. Grabbing a long rebound and scoring inside, the Bulldog guard was fouled by Feldhaus, his fifth. Hartsfield completed the three-point play to pull MSU within one 66-65 with just 39 seconds remaining.

"We gave them too many second opportunities," said Eddie Sutton, who watched the Bulldogs grab 14 offensive boards compared to his team's six. "Our big guys got in foul trouble but they didn't rebound very well, either."

Merritt's clutch bucket concluded a 11-3 run. MSU was given new life when Ellis missed a bonus attempt with UK clinging to a 67-65 lead. Twenty seven seconds were left and the Bulldogs eyed to get the ball to their best inside threat, Cameron "Smoke" Burns. "It was no set play," said MSU's Richard Williams. "We were really trying to get the ball inside to Cameron to tie the score. But Todd jumped up and made the shot."

UK's smothering 2-3 zone put out the fire on any chances of Burns zapping in an easy basket. So, Merritt, with John Pelphrey rushing to apply pressure, put up the three-pointer. The shot cleanly ripped through the cords, sending the entire Bulldog bench off the tartan floor. UK immediately called timeout.

"When I caught the ball in the corner I knew time was getting kind of low," said Merritt, tracing back to the game-winning play. "I saw (Greg) Lockhart in the post. Really I was planning on throwing it to him, because Lock's good around the basket, drawing fouls and stuff like that."

"When I took a dribble to try and draw the defender (Pelphrey) to where I could pass it in, he really didn't step out on me. So, I just stepped behind the line and shot it."

THE 'CATS ALMOST delivered their own trick with Farmer, the team's magician of one game's past.

Two ticks were left to be counted when UK alertly called timeout to diagram one last play. Inbounding the ball under the MSU basket, Chris Mills launched a picture-perfect bomb to Ellis, who was stationed at the free throw line. Both Farmer and Miller were trailing on each side of the UK center. He immediately spotted Farmer open 15 feet away from the basket. The freshman's attempt, unlike his game-winner against Ole Miss, fell short, barely glancing off the bottom of the net.

Never up, never in.

"I was trying to hurry it a little bit," Farmer said. "I just missed it."

If it had won the game, Kentucky still would have played Vanderbilt in Friday's second game (tipoff is at 3:15). Ole Miss' one-point triumph over LSU 113-112, a close turnabout from its loss to UK, meant that the 'Cats would play the Commodores, not LSU.

Mississippi State, 13-14, 7-11 in the league, will be opposite Georgia in Thursday night's opening round.

Burns scored a game-high 20 points to pace the Bulldogs. The 6-foot-7 sophomore also found time to grab seven boards, six more than the combined total from Mike Scott (1) and LeRon Ellis (0).

The second-half spurt by Chris Mills single-handedly gave UK

Final SEC standings

Team	Conference		Overall	
	W-L	Pct.	W-L	Pct.
Florida.....	13-5	.722	19-11	.633
Alabama.....	12-6	.667	20-7	.740
Vanderbilt.....	12-6	.667	18-12	.600
LSU.....	11-7	.611	20-10	.667
Tennessee.....	11-7	.611	18-9	.667
Kentucky.....	8-10	.444	13-18	.419
Mississippi.....	8-10	.444	14-13	.519
Mississippi State.....	7-11	.389	13-14	.481
Georgia.....	6-12	.333	14-15	.483
Auburn.....	2-16	.111	9-18	.333

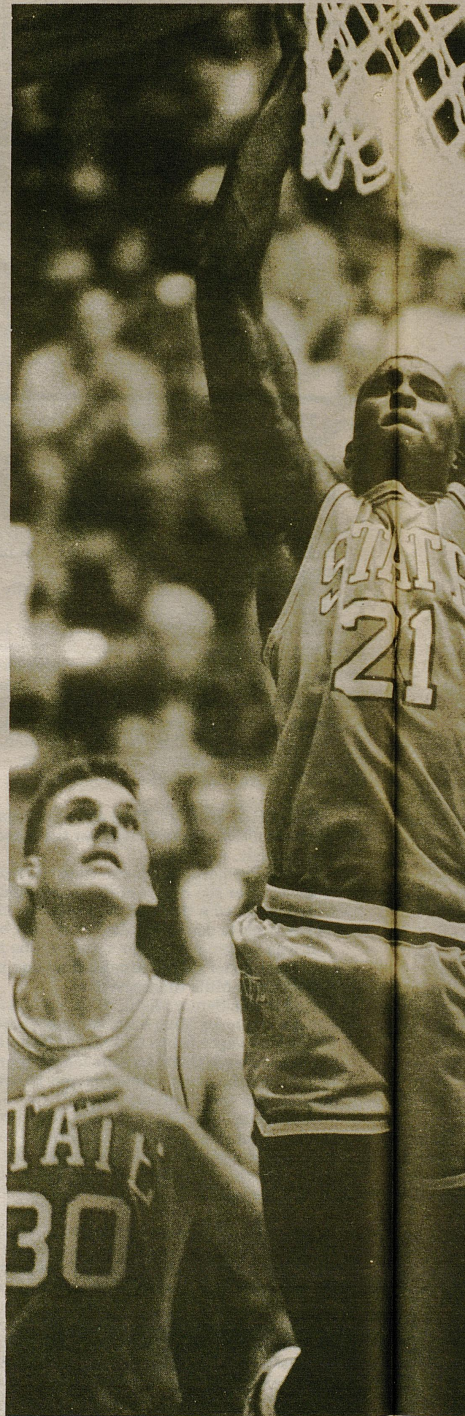
a 10-point lead. Eight straight points by Mills, the owner of a double-double (16 points, 11 rebounds), gave UK a 41-31 advantage. "We got the ball to him inside," said Sutton. "In the first half he wasn't inside. In the second half we put him in there and we did a nice job of getting him the basketball."

A Hartsfield three-pointer and a Greg Carter 16-footer put the snarl back into the Bulldogs' bite. Even though the Big Blue came into the game not so "Big" (13-17 before the loss), it still had "Kentucky" tagged upon their chest. "This is the first time anyone on our team has beaten Kentucky, except Chris Hall. I don't care what kind of year Kentucky has had. Anytime you beat a Kentucky team you have a win over one of the nation's premier programs.

"This win means a lot to us." Besides Mills' 16, Feldhaus and Sutton hit for double digits, scoring 11 points apiece. Feldhaus netted 10 in the first half, including six from two three-point plays.

Kentucky's inside attack was plagued by foul problems in the initial 20 minutes. Both Ellis and Scott were recipients of three fouls apiece while Feldhaus was whistled for two. Kentucky, meanwhile, overcame foul difficulties to claim a 33-31 halftime lead.

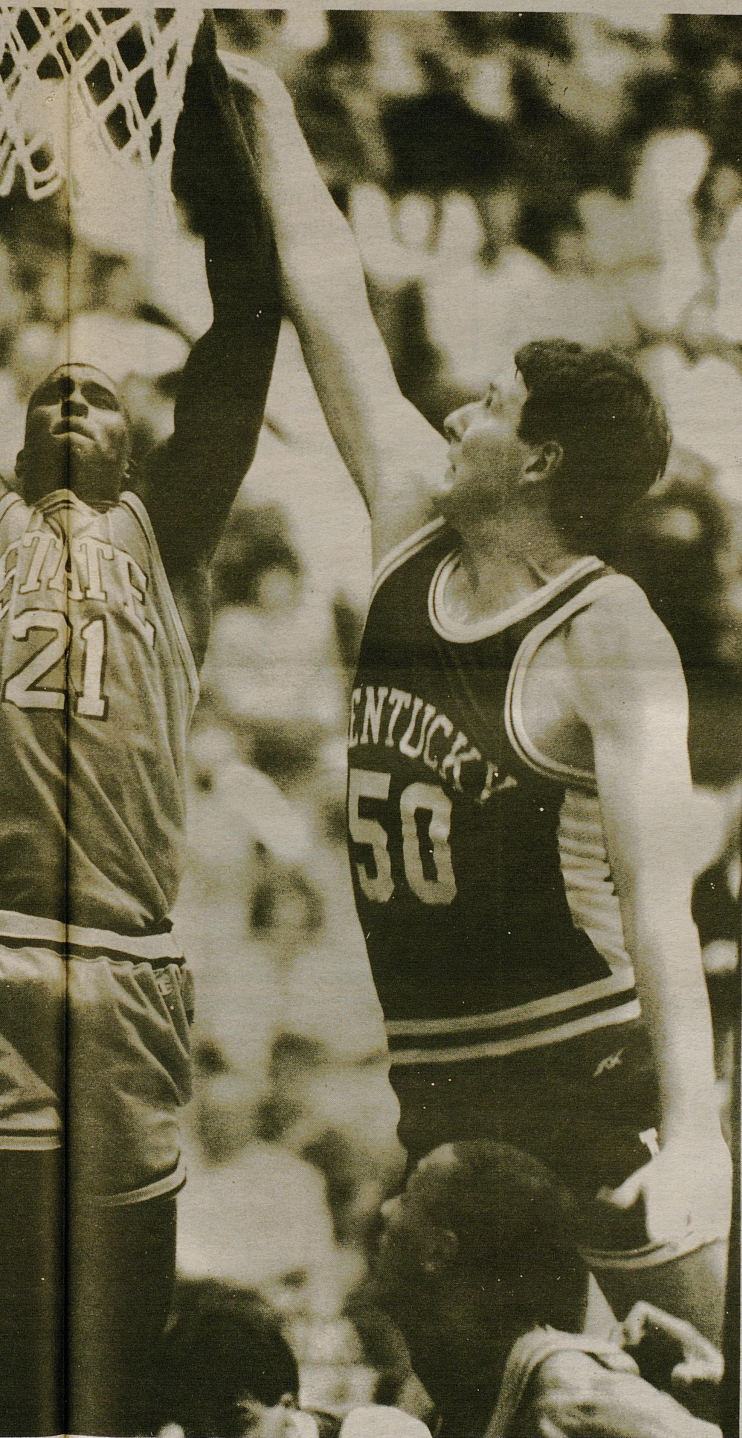
DEFENSIVELY, the UK coach had but one option: squander his philosophy in favor of a 2-3 zone for 30-plus minutes. Never had an Eddie Sutton coached team played so much zone. And before the 'Dogs caught fire in the game's final moments, Kentucky's zone, collapsing inside, worked. Seven times MSU fired three-



Mississippi State was smokin'; Cameron Burns finished with game-high figures in points (20) as his baseline three-pointer in the final moments which

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50	SCOTT, Mike	9	26	2	2	2	1	1	5	4	20	HARTSFIELD, Doug	3	6	2	4	1	1	3	4	3																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																				
54	PELPHREY, John	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	3	6	30	MERRITT, Todd	3	7	3	6	1	2	3	4	9																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																				
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'Wildcats clipped 68-67



Cameron Burns style, on this jam by the sophomore over Wildcat senior Mike Scott. Burns scores in points (20) and rebounds (11). Looking on is Todd Merritt (No. 30). It was a crucial moment which sealed Kentucky's fate.

UK-MSU photo by Russ Houston

pointers in the first half. Seven times it missed.

"That was to their advantage," said Merritt, contributor of three three-pointers in the second stanza. "In the first half we had so many good open jump shots and we couldn't stick any of 'em in. We expected them to stay in it; they let us have those shots.

"When we get it into Cameron down low he's impossible to stop. They just kept sagging off. Then I hit a few and so did Doug (Hartsfield, two) and Tony (Watts) came in and hit a big three-pointer.

"When the game was on the line we hit our perimeter shots."

During the first half, though, it looked like UK might deliver a KO of its own.

BEFORE PICKING up his third foul with 2:53 left in the first half, Ellis reeled off six consecutive points to give UK a 25-20 lead. Up until then he had been held in check because of foul problems and State's multiple defenses.

The Wildcat advantage was stretched to eight when Farmer connected from three-point territory. However, his accurate bonus shot evidently woke up these sleeping 'Dogs.

Greg Lockhart, inspired in his final game before the home folks, scored two of his six first-half points on a layup. Chris Hall then hit the front end of a bonus opportunity. His second attempt bounced off to the side, which Burns then stung the 'Cats with an offensive board and slam, closing the gap to 28-27.

A Mills' 10-footer and a three-point play by Feldhaus pushed the 'Cats in front at the half, 33-31.

UK-MSU NOTES

□UK's loss to State can easily be tracked to the 'Cats' inability to hit the offensive boards. The Wildcats outshot the Bulldogs from the field—57.8 percent to 42.6 percent. But while UK was hitting 26 of 45 shots from the field, State took 16 more shots, connecting on 26. Believe it or not, the 'Cats hit 13 of 20 shots in the second half for 65 percent.

□How big was the win for State. Let's ask senior **Greg Lockhart**, one of three seniors honored before the game. "Out of all of the wins since I've been here this is the most important win for us. I've been here four years and I haven't won (against UK) until tonight. This is also a big win for the guys who are still going to be here. For our program, it says a lot. Our program is on the rise. It's not where it needs to be, but it's getting there."

□The other MSU seniors honored were **Reginald Boykin** (four points) and **Chris Hall** (one point). Prior to team introductions, the three veteran MSU players were recognized at midcourt with their families.

□UK freshman **John Pelphrey** let it be known that he can be counted on for the upcoming SEC tourney. He scored six points and grabbed three boards in 11 minutes of action. "I thought John and **Richie (Farmer)** played well," said **Sean Sutton**. "It might have been John's finest game of the year."

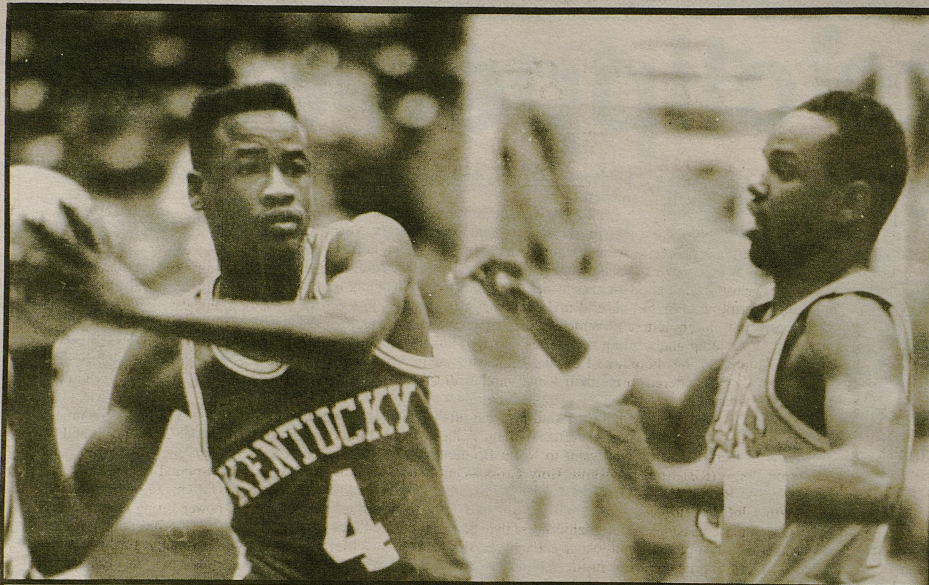
□Farmer on the damage of this loss heading into Knoxville: "It would have been nice to win the game tonight going into the tournament. That would have given us some momentum—stringing a couple of SEC wins together in a row. But we'll just have to get back on the practice floor this week...have some good practices to get ready and try to win the tournament."

□MSU's **Chancellor Nichols** suffered a sprained ankle in the second half and missed the rest of the game. Concerning Thursday's game against Georgia, Nichols will likely see action.

UK-Miss. State Play-By-Play

Time	Kentucky	Score	Miss. State
19:50		0-2	Ch. Nichols layup
18:03	Miller 10 ft.	2-2	
17:47		2-4	Burns FT, FT
17:33	Sutton 18 ft.	4-4	
16:31	Feldhaus layup	6-4	
16:09		6-6	Burns 6 ft, FTA.
15:52	Feldhaus layup, FTA	9-6	
15:30		9-8	Ch. Nichols 10 ft.
15:05	Miller FT, FT	11-8	
14:17	Sutton layup	13-8	
13:52		13-10	Burns 5 ft.
13:39		13-12	Lockhart dunk
12:42		13-14	Carter follow layup
12:28	Feldhaus 17 ft.	15-14	
12:00		15-16	Ch. Nichols FT, FT
9:36	Pelphrey 15 ft.	17-16	
7:29		17-18	Burns 4 ft. bank
7:03	Scott 10 ft. fadeaway	19-18	
6:23	Ellis FT, FT	21-18	
5:47	Ellis 10 ft.	23-18	
5:21		23-20	Burns 5 ft. (goaltend)
4:38	Ellis 14 ft.	25-20	
4:04	Farmer 20 ft.	28-20	
3:24		28-22	Lockhart layup
2:53		28-23	Hall FT, FTA
2:51		28-25	Burns layup
2:24		28-27	Burns dunk
2:03	Mills 10 ft.	30-27	
1:40		30-29	Carter, FT, FT
1:37	Feldhaus layup, FT	33-29	
1:10		33-31	lockhart slam
HALF		33-31	
19:45	Mills 12 ft.	35-31	
18:57	Mills 14 ft.	37-31	
18:15	Mills slam	39-31	
17:46	Mills follow layup	41-31	
16:48		41-32	Burns FT, FTA
16:41	Sutton layup	43-32	
15:59		43-35	Hartsfield 20 ft.
15:23		43-37	Carter 16 ft.
14:51	Mills layup	45-37	
14:01	Mills 3 ft. (goaltend)	47-37	
13:39		47-39	Burns 10 ft.
13:20	Sutton layup, FT	50-39	
13:06		50-42	Merritt three-pointer
11:37	Miller 12 ft.	52-42	
10:59	Mills 4 ft.	54-42	
10:21		54-45	Merritt 20 ft.
9:58	Scott 10 ft. fadeaway	56-45	
9:32		56-48	Burns layup, FT
9:26		56-49	Burns FTA, FT
7:54		56-50	Boykin layup
7:15	Pelphrey FT, FT	58-50	
6:42		58-52	Lockhart follow up
6:12	Pelphrey 12 ft.	60-52	
5:09		60-55	Hartsfield 20 ft.
3:49	Sutton 12 ft.	62-55	
2:38	Ellis FT, FTA	63-55	
2:18		63-57	Lockhart 12 ft.
2:02	Feldhaus FT, FTA	64-57	
1:34		64-59	Boykin layup
1:10		64-62	Watts 21 ft.
:53	Farmer FT, FT	66-62	
:39		66-65	Hartsfield layup, FT
:27	Ellis FT, FTA	67-65	
:02		67-68	Merritt 20 ft.
FINAL		67-68	

—Cats' Pause chart



STUNG IN STARKVILLE

(Top left, clockwise)

MSU's Greg Lockhart tries to block Derrick Miller's view as the junior attempts to dish off the ball. UK lost in the final seconds, 68-67.

Chancellor Nichols was forced to leave midway in the second half with a sprained ankle.

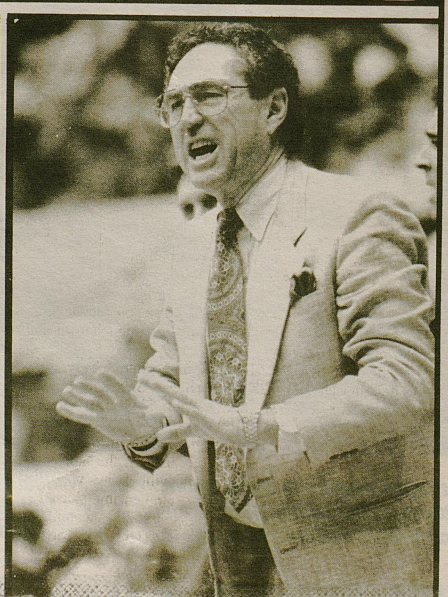
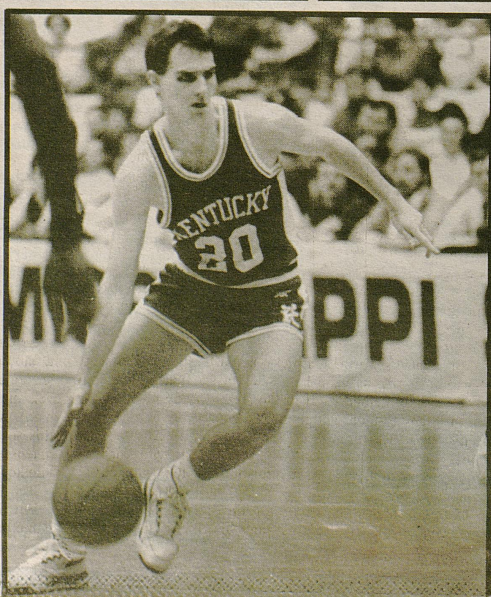
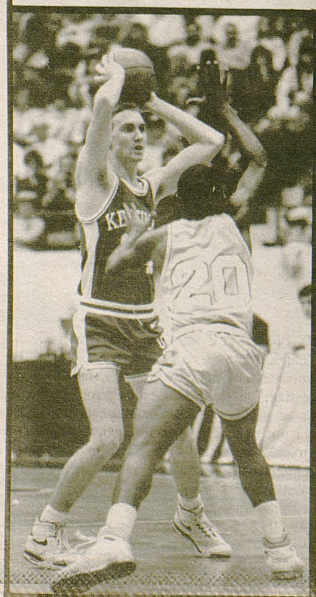
Sutton was forced to play zone for most of the game because of foul woes.

Sean Sutton penetrates inside.

Off the bench, Pelphrey turned in an outstanding effort.

In his first UK start, Feldhaus poured in 11 points before fouling out.

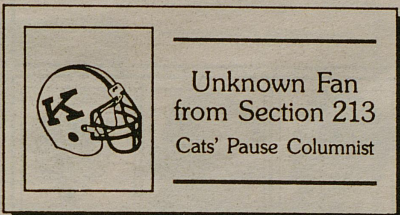
UK-MSU photos by Russ Houston



If recruiting is name of the game, UK is on its way

Has Kentucky football turned the corner?

ONCE AGAIN it is a pleasure to grace you with my presence as a football columnist in *TCP*. Since we last met some three months ago, life in the sports world has been very eventful for this writer. First, there was the



high school football playoffs at Louisville Fairgrounds which were as good or better than anytime I can remember. (I understand a strong bid will be made to bring the playoffs back to Commonwealth Stadium)

Then there was all the bowl games. Also, there was the best Super Bowl we've seen in recent years.

Most importantly to me, meanwhile, is UK's latest efforts in the recruiting wars.

This brings us to one of the, if not the most, important aspect in the life of any football program—recruiting.

Recruiting is the lifeblood for each gridiron program.

When you have been in the coaching business as long as Jerry Claiborne you've seen about everything. For many years he's analyzed talent, diagramed X's to defeat O's (and vice versa) and organized programs on and off the field. However, not making light of these mentors and their respective staffs, in most instances coaching does not win football games.

Good athletes win football games.

What about the athletes which make up this year's UK recruiting class? Pardon me, but what are those expressions I see coming from coach Claiborne?

Is that a smirk or a smile? Is that a wink or is there a foreign article in his eye? Is that pep talk something you'd normally hear from a typical Big Blue fan or is it a verbal expression of substance? Whatever the signs, we know there is a definite break from Claiborne's traditional tight-lipped demeanor.

In terms of need, this recruiting effort has to be termed a very successful one. Speed was needed and the coaches went out and obtained plenty of quickness. Four players have been clocked with 4.4 (in the forty-yard dash) or better speed.

Tight ends were needed for depth purposes. No problem. UK's coaches signed three tight ends, two from one junior college. And word has it that the offensive line coaches were extremely happy to get bookend tight ends—Bobby Henderson (6-foot-3, 240 pounds) and Rodney Jackson (6-3, 240). Both played for Tyler Junior College (Texas).

Getting TE Terry Samuels (6-2, 225) from Louisville Male was a bonus because at one time he appeared headed to Tennessee.

Here's a quote on Samuels by coach Claiborne:

"I don't even like to say this—that an incoming freshman might help us—but Terry Samuels is a talented athlete."

Samuels had 21 catches for 400 yards and four touchdowns, had a 70-yard kickoff return for a touchdown and also returned punts.

Concerning the defensive line, immediate help was needed and fast. The UK staff believes Sherman Williams, a 6-3, 270 JC transfer from Chowan Community College (N.C.), will fill that void.

One position which is noticeably up for grabs is at quarterback. Kentucky wanted Jeff Brohm, the much-talked about quarterback from Louisville Trinity who went to U of L. He couldn't have supplied immediate help, however. For that matter nor could any incoming quarterback, including Earl Wheeler of Oklahoma State.

Most "true" freshman quarterbacks face a redshirt season. A major program which depends on a "true" freshman at quarterback is in dire straits.

Upon close examination, it should be noted that this year's recruiting class has several multi-dimensional players. Ten players lettered in track...more precise: the sprint, long jump and triple jump phases of track. Five more lettered in the shotput and discus. Eight lettered in basketball. One lettered in baseball while another did the same in wrestling.

Among in-state talent, Claiborne said he went after 15 and signed 12. The three losses were: William Pollard (TE-WR) from Ft. Knox who went to Notre Dame; Aaron Payne (RB) from Louisville Holy Cross—Ohio State; and Brohm (QB)—U of L.

Win a lot, lose a few.

One thing consistent about Claiborne is that he doesn't favor the "package deal" philosophy. Each year he tends to let recruiting take care of itself.

There is a question in the minds of the skeptics as to the progress the 'Cats are making. In the words of Forrest Davis, a recruiting analyst from Birmingham and publisher of *Prep Sports Recruiting*, he likes what he sees in the UK program. Said Davis: "If Kentucky continues to do what it is doing they will get there."

□ □ □

RECRUITING IS A VERY INEXACT science if you strictly rely on how a player is rated on paper. If ratings of yearly classes were always on target then the Auburns, LSUs, Georgias, Alabamas, etc, would blow the 'Cats right off the field each time they met. One thing to note, though, is that if you like to follow football recruiting it's a very intriguing concept.

Most recruiting analyst use a five-star system to rate players.

★ A five-star player is expected to start sometime during his freshman season and is a good bet to play pro ball.

★ A four-star player will contribute as a freshman and start as a sophomore.

★ A three-star player will contribute as a sophomore and start as a junior.

★ A two-star player may start as a senior.

★ A one-star player may play sometime in his career but will never start.

These ratings are measured by a computer. Analyst input facts from various sources. This is what makes the ratings of the recruiting analyst so subjective since they don't see most of these players firsthand.

Computers can't measure the size of a youngster's heart or the level of mental toughness. An athlete may run the 40-yard dash in 4.4 seconds, but the computer doesn't show a player's ability to move laterally to catch a ball, to think quickly or to run in an elusive fashion.

According to *College Sports of America's Blue Chip Report*, Kentucky inked three of the top 500 players. One of those three is Eric Carter, a 5-11, 190-pound runningback from Louisville Male. Carter has been clocked in the 40 in 4.4 seconds. He also ran third in the 55-yard dash in the recent Mason-Dixon games behind Aaron Payne (Payne was not listed in the Top 500).

The other two recruits to make the Top 500 are Barry Rich and Phillip "Duce" Williams. Rich (6-3, 250-pound lineman) is from Monroe County. He played linebacker one game and collected 20 tackles. Williams was named to the *Pittsburgh Press'* "Finest 44" and *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's* "Fabulous 22."

For what it's worth, Kentucky failed to sign a five-star player. The UK staff did land six four-star performers.

UK greatly helped itself in the area of wide receivers. Brian Evans (6-foot, 175-pound wideout) from Louisville's PRP turns the 40 in a blazing time of 4.39. Other burners include Scott Gilley (5-11, 180, wideout) from Tampa, Fla., and Kurt Johnson (5-7, 160, wideout) from Paducah.

They say Johnson can cut on a dime and leave nine cents change. He also returns punts and kickoffs. His

4 X 400 relay team recently captured all of the 400-meter relay heats in the Mason-Dixon games. Johnson won the long jump and the triple jump events.

Indeed, Paducah is said to be the Florida of Kentucky in terms of burning quickness. Johnson is a prime example of the latter statement.

High School football in Kentucky is improving as noted by the number of big-time football schools which are beginning to enter the Bluegrass to recruit.

To wit:

Jason Dumbrowski, 6-4, 255-pound lineman of Louisville Trinity visited USC, Clemson and Michigan but signed with Kentucky.

Jon Collins, 5-11, 260-pound lineman of Madisonville visited Ohio State and Michigan before picking the Big Blue. He is the state power-lifting champion with a 410-pound bench press and a 700-pound squat.

Marty Moore, 6-2, 225-pound linebacker from Ft. Thomas Highlands even verbally committed with Alabama but changed his mind and signed with the 'Cats.

Reportedly, Kentucky is looking to use its last scholarship on a punter (if one can be found).

□ □ □

OVERALL, RECRUITING Max Emfinger, says Florida State captured No. 1 status in the signing wars. He says the Seminoles signed eight five-star players. The next closest signed only four five-star players.



Even Claiborne is boasting

From someone else's viewpoint...recruiting analyst, Tom Lemming, says Notre Dame won the recruiting battles. And depending who you listen to, either LSU or Auburn had the best recruiting season, in regard to the SEC.

Now then, with all those results let's see what these guys do in the next four or five years. That's the real telling factor.

□ □ □

SPRING PRACTICE for UK starts March 22nd and it should shape up to be very interesting. If a solid leader at quarterback emerges, the '89 season should be very interesting. There are a couple of rookie running backs who sat out last year that should turn a few heads this season, not only UK fans and coaches, but opposing defenses, too. Yes, Kentucky has more than its share of talented running backs.

I can't wait for next season.

But first things first, let's all plan to attend the spring game on April 22. See you there.

THE CATS' PAUSE
SPORTS WEEKLY



spotlighting
University Of
Kentucky Sports

CATS' PAUSE SCOREBOARD

HOME

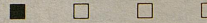
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VISITORS

10

PERIOD

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**TCP Board
Of Experts (?)**



*Reader's
Choice*

*Oscar
Combs*

*Nick
Nicholas*

*Mike
Estep*

*Todd
Hallum*

*Gary
Cromwell*

*Hoop
Demon*

Last week	15-10 (.600)	16-9 (.640)	14-11 (.560)	18-7 (.720)	12-13 (.480)	13-12 (.520)
Total	254-96 (.726)	255-95 (.729)	247-103 (.702)	255-95 (.729)	238-112 (.680)	235-115 (.671)

AUBURN VS OLE MISS (SEC TOURNEY, K-TOWN)	OLE MISS 8	OLE MISS 6	OLE MISS 5	OLE MISS 4	OLE MISS 8	OLE MISS 4
GEORGIA VS MISSISSIPPI STATE	MISS. STATE 1	MISS. STATE 7	GEORGIA 6	GEORGIA 8	GEORGIA 10	GEORGIA 4
TENNESSEE VS LSU	LSU 4	TENNESSEE 3	LSU 5	TENNESSEE 3	LSU 3	TENNESSEE 2
VANDERBILT VS KENTUCKY	KENTUCKY 1	KENTUCKY 5	VANDERBILT 3	KENTUCKY 2	VANDERBILT 5	VANDERBILT 6
SEC TOURNAMENT WINNER	ALABAMA	TENNESSEE	ALABAMA	TENNESSEE	LSU	ALABAMA
N.C. STATE VS MARYLAND (ACC, ATLANTA)	N.C. STATE 7	N.C. STATE 6	N. C STATE 9	N.C. STATE 10	N.C. STATE 6	N.C. STATE 6
NORTH CAROLINA VS GEORGIA TECH	N. CAROLINA 4	N. CAROLINA 3	GA. TECH 3	N. CAROLINA 4	GA. TECH 2	GA. TECH 4
DUKE VS WAKE FOREST	DUKE 8	DUKE 5	DUKE 9	DUKE 7	DUKE 11	DUKE 6
VIRGINIA VS CLEMSON	CLEMSON 6	CLEMSON 4	VIRGINIA 2	VIRGINIA 3	VIRGINIA 1	CLEMSON 1
ACC TOURNAMENT WINNER	DUKE	N. CAROLINA	GA. TECH	N. CAROLINA	DUKE	N.C. STATE
ST. JOHN'S VS BOSTON C. (BIG EAST, NEW YORK)	ST. JOHN'S 8	ST. JOHN'S 9	BOSTON C. 4	BOSTON C. 3	ST. JOHN'S 9	ST. JOHN'S 4
SETON HALL VS CONNECTICUT	SETON HALL 7	SETON HALL 2	SETON HALL 5	SETON HALL 9	SETON HALL 2	SETON HALL 6
SYRACUSE VS PROVIDENCE	SYRACUSE 12	SYRACUSE 7	SYRACUSE 6	SYRACUSE 11	SYRACUSE 11	SYRACUSE 6
PITTSBURGH VS VILLANOVA	PITTSBURGH 4	PITTSBURGH 3	PITTSBURGH 5	PITTSBURGH 2	PITTSBURGH 5	VILLANOVA 1
BIG EAST TOURNAMENT WINNER	G-TOWN	G-TOWN	PITTSBURGH	SYRACUSE	G-TOWN	G-TOWN
IOWA ST. VS OKLAHOMA ST. (BIG 8, KANSAS CITY)	OKLA. ST. 8	OKLA. ST. 6	OKLA. ST. 6	OKLA. ST. 4	OKLA. ST. 3	OKLA. ST. 4
OKLAHOMA VS COLORADO	OKLAHOMA 17	OKLAHOMA 16	OKLAHOMA 13	OKLAHOMA 22	OKLAHOMA 15	OKLAHOMA 6
MISSOURI VS NEBRASKA	MISSOURI 14	MISSOURI 12	MISSOURI 4	MISSOURI 10	MISSOURI 12	MISSOURI 4
KANSAS STATE VS KANSAS	KANSAS ST. 4	KANSAS ST. 2	KANSAS ST. 9	KANSAS 2	KANSAS ST. 3	KANSAS 6
BIG EIGHT TOURNAMENT WINNER	OKLAHOMA	OKLAHOMA	MISSOURI	OKLAHOMA	MISSOURI	MISSOURI
S. CAROLINA VS S. MISS. (METRO, COLUMBIA, S.C.)	S. CAROLINA 8	S. CAROLINA 9	S. CAROLINA 14	S. CAROLINA 10	S. CAROLINA 5	S. CAROLINA 4
MEMPHIS STATE VS LOUISVILLE	LOUISVILLE 6	LOUISVILLE 2	LOUISVILLE 2	LOUISVILLE 4	LOUISVILLE 1	MEMPHIS ST. 3
METRO TOURNAMENT WINNER	LOUISVILLE	LOUISVILLE	FLORIDA ST.	FLORIDA ST.	LOUISVILLE	FLORIDA ST.
ILLINOIS AT MICHIGAN	MICHIGAN 8	MICHIGAN 3	MICHIGAN 7	ILLINOIS 2	ILLINOIS 3	MICHIGAN 6
INDIANA AT IOWA	IOWA 3	IOWA 2	IOWA 6	IOWA 4	INDIANA 7	IOWA 3

SEC coaches will put on a show at the tourney

And when it's all said and done, 'Bama will win

If you wonder why basketball coaches make all the money, watch the Southeastern Conference basketball tournament.

Live or on TV. It doesn't make any difference. Agony



Stan Torgerson

Cats' Pause Columnist

is agony.

Wimp Sanderson will stalk back and forth along the sideline, his face contorted with rage and disbelief at the absolute stupid inefficiency of the referees, whomever they are. He is as good a show as the game itself.

Ed Murphy will rise from his seat and implore the men in black and white for justice which his actions say he never gets. A giant of a man, he slaps his hands and tries to inspire his team at all times.

Dale Brown will sit quietly, waiting for a timeout so that he can drop to one knee, look into the faces of his five and play cheerleader, extorting his troops to their greatest effort. Then as play resumes, a call will go against his Tigers and Dale will do his best to call the official over for a conference but will probably be ignored. He is constantly flashing hand signals which I'm not sure anyone really understands.

Hugh Durham will stand most of the game. He will shout. He will point. He will do everything but put on a Georgia uniform and run out on the floor. He will coach the full 40 minutes and, win or lose, he will not smile.

Norm Sloan will be the tournament's great stone face. When his Gators make an error, miss a crucial free throw, blow a layup or whatever, Sloan will stand and stare at the offending player. His expression will not change but the message in his eyes is plain to see and simple to read.

Eddie Sutton is the businessman coach. He remains on the bench unless he wishes to speak to a player. At that point he will rise, turn his back to the game and tell the player what it is he wants him to know. Sutton is seldom excitable but he is always studying the game.

Richard Williams is somewhat the same. He does not shout, parade the sidelines or throw his fists in the air. He meets his kids as they come out of the game and he will, occasionally, cast a few remarks to an official. In the main, however, he is one of the SEC's quieter coaches.

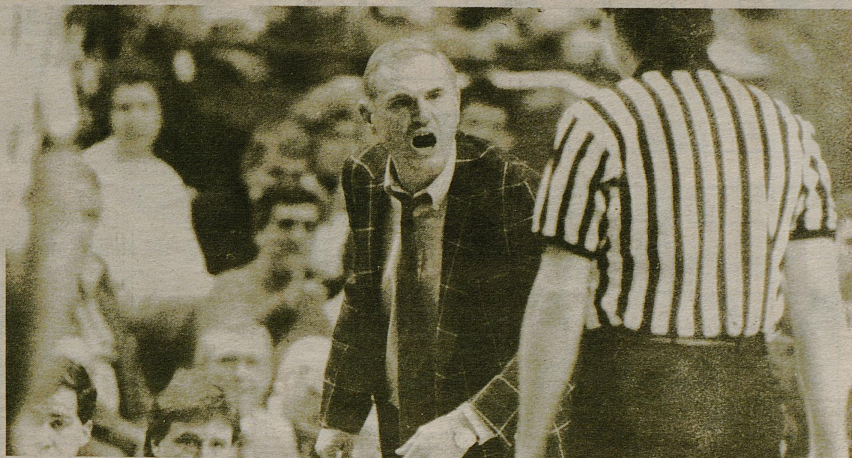
Don DeVoe is another man who spends a lot of time on his feet. He coaches his players from tipoff to final gun, always pointing and yelling instructions. When he disagrees with a call you can see he's unhappy, but he is rarely furious.

C.M. Newton is a master of the on-your-feet-arms-folded glare. When Vanderbilt gets a bad call, Newton will give a smile of pity to the offending official, shake his head slowly and then look down at the floor with a what-can-you-expect attitude. He is also a pointer. His head tipped back ever so slightly, Newton is the thinking man's coach.

Sonny Smith is also a smiler. He can say "ridiculous" with his face as well as any coach in the SEC. He doesn't jump officials. He merely puts on that how-could-you look and gets his message across. He genuinely likes the kids who play for him and makes a point of greeting them when they leave the game.

But regardless of their techniques, their idiosyncrasies and their styles, all of them are aware that they have 40 minutes to prove they are capable of handling their jobs.

The problem is that everyone in the grandstand is a coach. John Smith from Out Back, Ala., can't imagine himself as a brain surgeon or flying a rocket to the



Alabama coach Wimp Sanderson will show up in Knoxville wearing one of his now famous checkered sports coats. He will stalk back and forth on the sidelines. He will rant and rave at the officials. And then he will coach his team to the SEC tournament championship.

moon, but he can damn well coach that team better than ol' Wimp or Sonny does.

I recently saw a letter in the LSU paper (*Tiger Rag*) in which a fan suggested that if Dale would just have his boys set a few more screens for Chris Jackson, why Chris could score at least 10 more points per ballgame.

I wonder why Dale didn't think of that? How did LSU ever win 20 games without someone to help Dale plan strategy?

Coaches make a lot of money, a lot more than writers, but we have erasers on our pencils while no coach has the privilege of telling an official: "Let's go back and replay the last two minutes because I want to do something differently."

I'd like the money. But in all honesty, at tournament time I'd rather be sitting at press row than on the team bench.

NOT FOR BROADCAST:

□ If this is published in your favorite paper before the tournament, my choice to win it is **Alabama**. I like the inspirational approach to tournament and that's **Wimp Sanderson's** specialty. He's had the Tide in the championship game five out of the past eight years. That's why **Dale Brown's** teams are so successful in tournament play. The man is a master of inspiration. Brown's problem this year is a lack of depth and, when you play three days in a row, you need a bench which LSU doesn't have. **Florida** is in the same boat. 'Bama does have reserve strength and it will show up this week. **Vanderbilt** has a chance as does **Tennessee**. No one else does. The others are capable of winning a game or maybe two, but they don't have enough to go all the way...

□ Look for four SEC teams to make the NCAA tournament. **LSU, Alabama, Florida** and **Vanderbilt** will be in. **Tennessee** will go to the NIT and either **Kentucky** or **Ole Miss** will join the Vols, probably Kentucky...

□ **Sean Tuohy** of Ole Miss (1979-82) holds the SEC record for assists with 830 in 117 games. I saw every game Tuohy played and he was great but, in my opinion, **Chris Jackson** is better. Tuohy was a straight-ahead passer. He took advantage of openings and defensive lapses. But Jackson is a master of the misdirection pass, the look-one-way-and-feed-the-other assist. He also is the best at handing off while in the air. Time and time again he appears to be taking a shot but ends up flipping the ball into the open man's hands. You may enjoy watching Chris shoot, but concentrate on his passing sometime and you'll enjoy it every bit as much...

□ **LSU** continues to lead the league in free-throw efficiency, hitting about 78 percent. Only one team in conference history, the 1974 **Vanderbilt** squad, has ever averaged more than 80 percent from the free throw line for the season. The Commodores hit 80.2 percent that year, still the conference record...

□ **Alabama's** basketball sweep over **Kentucky** marked only the second time in history the Tide had beaten the Wildcats twice during the regular season. The first time was 1974...

□ **SEC** basketball official **Danny Hooker** was formerly assistant business manager of athletics at Ole Miss...

□ The **Kentucky** team that recently lost to **Syracuse** hardly resembled the team that beat the Orangemen last year. **Kentucky** returned only four of its 62 points and five of its 28 rebounds from last year's victory...

□ The **Florida** football coaching staff is defending itself against charges they had a very bad year recruiting. Said Florida recruiting coordinator **Tim Cassidy**: "I've had No. 1 recruiting classes and I guess this one is considered lousy, but I worked as hard or harder than I did when we had the No. 1 class in the country..."

□ **Alabama** forward **Michael Ansley** is nicknamed Baby Face. When asked about his hobbies he listed "romancing" as one of them. Just a typical American boy...

□ **Tennessee's** **Dyron Nix**, one of the three SEC players who have an all-conference berth locked up (the other two being **Gerald Glass** of Ole Miss and **Chris Jackson** of LSU), has scored in double figures in 76 of the last 80 games, including his last 35...

□ **Ed Murphy** is going to have to recruit some help for **Glass** and **Tim Jumper** this spring. Ole Miss did not sign any players early and it's obvious the Rebels can't win playing two-against-five as **Glass** and **Jumper** have done so many times this year. They're both great but they can't do it alone...

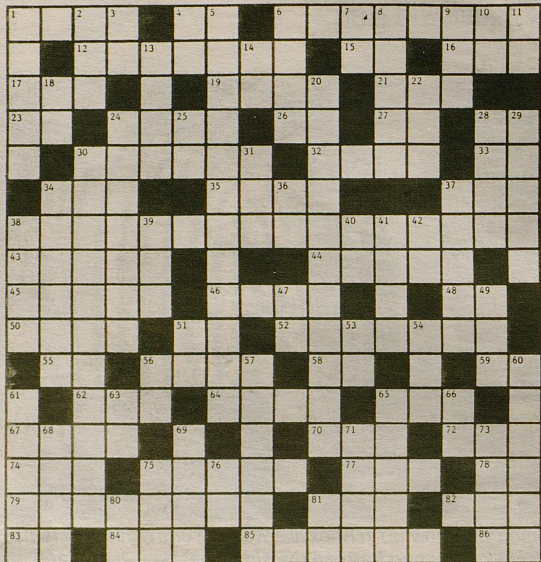
□ **Frank Kornet** is **Vanderbilt's** leading scorer with a 16.7 average. But through their first 26 games he had tried only six three-point shots, making one. Meanwhile, teammate **Barry Booker** had fired 149 three-pointers, making 65, and **Barry Goheen** had taken 112, making 47...

□ **THE LAST WORD:** Mississippi State coach **Richard Williams**, responding to criticism of his program:

"I'm going to play the people that **Richard Williams** thinks he ought to be playing. And if that's not who the other people want in there, then that's just too bad. I don't tell them how to run their business."

TCP CROSSWORD PUZZLE

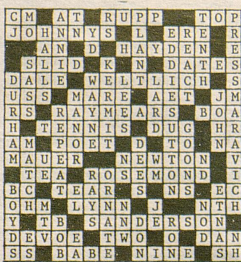
By Dan Krueckeberg



THE SEC TOURNAMENT THROUGH THE YEARS

- | | |
|--|--|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Zoo creature | 1 _____ 16 rebounds in '85 was record for an SEC tourney game |
| 4 Initials of Ole Miss Downell; made record 16 Fts in '81 tourney game | 2 Snake |
| 6 _____ last tourney title came in '87 | 3 Initials of MVP of last year's tourney |
| 12 With 42 pts., apiece, Hagan and Turpin were top one-game _____ in SEC tourney | 4 See 86 Across |
| 15 Title abbr. | 5 MVP of the '87 SEC tourney |
| 16 Cats dominated the tourney in the Rupp | 6 As soon as possible |
| 17 Hat | 7 Initials of Vandy's all-tourney Miller |
| 19 Paper quantity | 8 Oliver had record 44 boards in '87 tourney |
| 21 Cereal grass | 9 Cats _____ Georgia in '88 tourney finals |
| 23 _____ hit 16 of 18 from line in '86 finals | 10 Initials of winningest SEC tourney coach |
| 24 Don | 11 Continent abbr. |
| 26 Geometric ratio | 12 Gen |
| 27 Initials of an '88 Cats all-tourney star | 14 _____ x of 3 Down |
| 28 Initials of Georgia guard/'83 tourney MVP | 18 Initials of '87 tourney's top scorer |
| 30 Leading scorer of '84 SEC tourney | 19 Anthony of LSU |
| 32 Trio function | 20 Won sole SEC tourney in '81 |
| 33 Roman num. for Auburn's appearances in SEC tourney finals | 22 Mr. Lincoln |
| 34 Fetch | 24 _____ 41 Pts in '52 is tourney record |
| 35 Won record 16 SEC tourney titles | 25 Roman num. for years for Wah Wah on all-tourney team |
| 37 She | 28 _____ Nam |
| 38 Once took 7 straight SEC tourney titles | 29 Georgia's _____ SEC tourney title: '83 |
| 43 '83 tourney top scorer: Whasley | 30 '82 tourney M |
| 44 See power | 31 Negative vote |
| 45 Prepares for publication | 34 "Return to _____" |
| 46 Are '75-'13 in tourney action | 36 Initials of Vols all-tourney 'White |
| 48 Abbr. for school with only tourney title in '85 | 37 Ship part |
| 50 Hometown of Cats '41 all-tourney star Huber | 39 Constitution |
| 51 Had all 5 players on '47 all-tourney team | 40 Abbr. for "left" |
| 52 Earned tourney MVP honors in '81 | 41 First name of 30 Down |
| 55 Abbr. for "radio frequency" | 42 Initials of a star Cat during years when SEC tourney was not played |
| 56 Newspaper piece | 47 See 36 Down |
| 58 Initials of Georgia's all-tourney Patrick of '88 | 49 This great land |
| 59 See 18 Down | 51 Took '79 SEC tourney finals over Cats |
| 62 Roman num. for tourney titles for 'Bama | 52 Initials of 50 Across |
| 64 Cry out | 54 Taxing group |
| 65 Won only SEC tourney in '80 | 56 Roman num. for tourney finals for Ole Miss |
| 67 Scored 37 pts. in '49 tourney finals | 57 Courts |
| 70 Famed hoops coach Hank | 60 LSU was the '80 tourney _____ |
| 72 SEC team | 61 Made record 30 Fts in '52 tourney |
| 74 Short for "Gilbert" | 63 Roman num. for total Fts in Cats-Auburn tourney game of '84 |
| 75 Single performances | 65 Soup spoon |
| 77 Wedding words | 66 Abbr. for school with 4 tourney titles |
| 78 Nurse abbr. | 68 '50 Cats all-tourney first team member |
| 79 All-tourney Collins or Junior when Georgia Tech was in SEC | 69 The Cats have been in the _____ finals |
| 81 " _____ or none" | 71 Spivey scored record 37 pts. in '50 finals |
| 82 Requires "OT" | 73 Former Ole Miss star Laird |
| 83 Common abbr. | 75 Lanka |
| 84 Humor | 76 Used to call attention (Biblical) |
| 85 LSU's '80 tourney MVP | 80 Initials of 43 Across |
| 86 Initials of leading scorer of '86 tourney, MSU's Chauncey | 81 Double vowel |

Last Week's Answers



Wildcat senior Jeff Ginnan



Wildcat senior Mike Scott

It was a night to remember for UK in not-so-memorable year

By TCP Associate Editor Nick Nicholas

For one night, Kentucky basketball was back...back to memories comparable to its rich tradition.

The emotions of senior night and a last-second jumper to gun down Mississippi washed away players, coaches' and fans' thoughts of an NCAA investigation for at least one night.

UK's 70-69 thriller paved way for a long-awaited celebration in the 'Cats' locker room. Losers of seven of its last eight games, Kentucky had reason to cheer. Not only did Richie Farmer's game winning shot cap off a special day for seniors Mike Scott and Jeff Ginnan, but it virtually assured the 'Cats a Friday afternoon date in the SEC tournament instead of an early bout on Thursday.

Unlike previous disappointments, UK was able to pull this one out. Farmer called timeout with 13 seconds to go, just after Tim Jumper missed a free throw. Eddie Sutton designed a play for LeRon Ellis inside, either to tie the game or possibly pull off a three-point play to give UK the win in regulation. Farmer pushed the ball inside to Ellis. A double-team attack awaited the sophomore center, who thus was forced to dish it back to Farmer.

Plan A was ditched. Plan B? Well, it may not have been in the script but the Clay County freshman released a 21-footer.

Three, two, one...swish. "It looked good from where I was," said Ole Miss forward Gerald Glass, who scored a game-high 35 points. "I was hoping it would rim out or something, but it went it. Those are the breaks."

Glass and his teammates watched in dejection as the ball turned both the net and Ed Murphy's stomach inside out.

Farmer backpedaled, clinching his fist. His teammates followed, eventually catching up with Farmer with a victorious pile on.

"Tell'em about it, Rich; tell'em about the picket fence," said John Pelphey to Farmer in reference to the movie "Hoosiers."

Instead of running the picket fence to perfection like outmanned Hickory High did, Pelphey and later Farmer acknowledge this winning shot was dubbed "The Clay County Special."

February was a sour month for UK, both on and off the court. Only two games were in the 'Cats' victory column, plus the NCAA investigation was as hot a topic as ever.

March was a new and welcomed month.

Kentucky for a chance had something to smile about.

"It was like we had just won the conference championship," said a relieved Eddie Sutton.

Five to 10 years from now, Scott and Ginnan will look upon this game as meaningful as any championship. The two were placed in the starting lineup, along with Chris Mills, Derrick Miller and Sean Sutton. "It was a great feeling," said Scott. "I'm sure it's going to be something that I'm going to remember for the rest of my life."

Ginnan, a walk-on who was awarded a scholarship earlier in the semester, will never forget this special night in his life.

After busting through a personalized paper hoop and standing center stage alongside Mike Scott during "My Old Kentucky Home", Ginnan was set to take the hardwood. What he probably hadn't figured was that Glass, the league's second best player, would be guarding him.

No big deal.

"I'm not taking anything away from Gerald Glass, he's a great player, but it could have been Magic Johnson, Michael Jordan. I wouldn't have noticed. That's how excited I was."

Thanks to Farmer, the night for Kentucky was even more exciting.

WILDCAT NOTES: Reggie Hanson will miss the rest of the season with a stress fracture of the fifth metatarsal in his right foot. The sophomore forward sustained the injury in UK's 89-73 setback at Syracuse. With the loss of Hanson, Deron Feldhaus will step into a starter's role for the first time. Feldhaus has played well of late. In 33 quality minutes against the Rebels, he scored 10 points and pulled down 10 boards. He also turned in a fine performance at Syracuse. "I look forward to that," said Feldhaus of being placed in first-string status. "Not anything against Reggie, he means so much to the ballclub, but I've been waiting for playing time all year and now's my chance. Now I've got to get out there and prove myself..." Derrick Miller hit two clutch baskets, including an off-balance two-point goal with Gerald Glass close by. Said Miller: "Everybody was in the game emotionally. When we were down we did something tonight that has never happened: we came to the sidelines saying, 'Hey, we're going to win it.' That's all we kept saying..." For the first time in four years Richie Farmer shaved his mustache, one day before the Ole Miss-UK encounter. Would Farmer shave it before every game now? Mike Scott said: "I don't know. He said he feels naked."

Mysteries aplenty as teams enter league tournaments

Thanks, Big Ten, for not having a tourney

□For those of you who wondered about the quality of **Jay Burson's** play, I give you Ohio State in the aftermath of his season-ending injury...
 □If someone isn't concerned about Louisville's



Larry Donald
 Cats' Pause Columnist

mysterious February slide, they ought to be. And the Cardinals didn't lose a Jay Burson either. The Louisville skid, by the way, pretty much ended any chances **Pervis Ellison** had to become national Player of the Year and he had made a major comeback in that campaign. Now voters will split the ticket between Duke's **Danny Ferry** and Arizona's **Sean Elliott**...

□It is very difficult to get a handle on this West Virginia team. The Mountaineers have accomplished a great deal, not only winning on the road but doing so impressively. Granted, the Atlantic 10 Conference isn't stacked with powerhouses, but winning away from home just isn't an easy task at any level in college basketball. Yet when **Gale Catlett's** team had a chance to move into the Top 10, they came up with an indifferent effort and lost to Temple. Catlett knew going in that McGonicle Hall would be a difficult place to win, but he had to be disappointed that his team played in such a listless manner. I mean, this was the season's biggest game...

□In honor of conference tournament week, I'd like, once again, to salute the Big Ten Conference which remains the only league not to have a postseason event. Some would suggest the Big Ten is well behind the times, but my feeling is, ethically speaking, that league is well ahead of its contemporaries...

Although he was *Basketball Times* national Coach of the Year last season, I'm not sure Arizona's **Lute Olson** hasn't done an even better job this year. Who among us figured the Wildcats would make it all the way to a number one rating? Twice?...

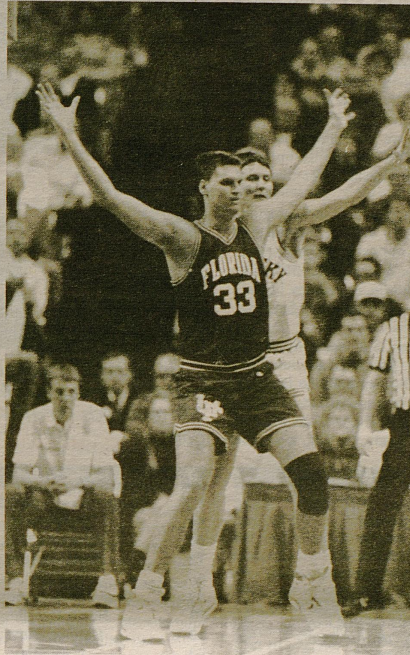
□On the other end of the Wildcat spectrum, is there a more disappointing team than Villanova? Coach **Rollie Massimino's** club gave us a tipoff with an early-season loss to Southern Illinois and never really made it to the level of play most anticipated. The loss at Boston College sealed their NCAA fate, I believe...

□He won't get the postseason honors, but down the stretch Florida **Dewayne Schintzius** has played very well. I think the Gators could be a tournament surprise, although their backcourt problems pose a major liability. Incidentally, if Schintzius decided to make himself eligible for the NBA's draft, he would likely be the top pick. His size and ability would be just too tempting for any NBA team to pass up...

□The same day future Georgia Tech star **Kenny Anderson** learned he had passed the SAT test his New York City Archbishop Malloy team was knocked out of the Catholic League championship. He goes down, by consensus, as the best guard ever to come out of NYC and the expectations are probably already over the limit of reasonableness in Atlanta. It's been suggested he'll do for the Jackets what **Chris Jackson** did for LSU and without benefit of any special form of clairvoyance, I can tell you that's wrong. Anderson will be surrounded by better talent than Jackson and will not, if Georgia Tech is going to be successful, match Jackson's rookie year numbers...

□Remember who told you the Big Ten team which was able to win at Minnesota would be the conference champion. You could, as the baseballers like to say, look that one up...

□With thanks to my pal **Randy Holtz** of the *Rocky*



Those who are hot—Schintzius' Gators

Mountain News, I present the following quote as evidence that **George Raveling** has not lost his sense of humor. Before his USC team embarked on a recent string of games which included Notre Dame, UCLA and Arizona, Raveling said: "I feel like **Dolly Parton's** baby at feeding time. I look up and say, 'Is all that for me?'"...

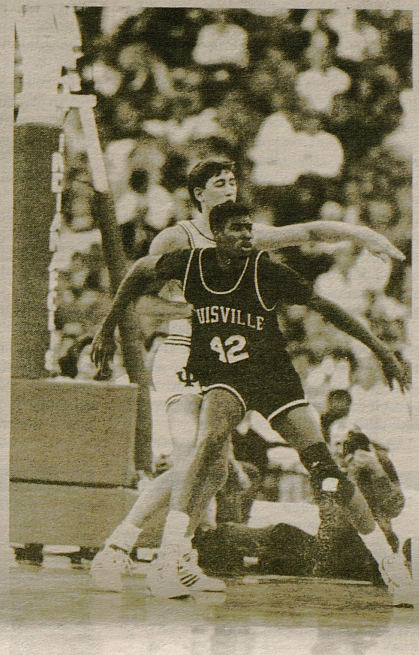
□It's been two years since **Ronnie Arrow** departed the junior college ranks (San Jacinto) to coach in Division I (South Alabama) and he's already put a trophy in the Jaguars showcase. USA, rather quietly, won the Sun Belt's regular season title behind the guard tandem of **Junie Lewis** and **Jeff Hodge**, which has been rated by various basketball people among the nation's five best. Next year those two will be gone, but Arrow has a wave of junior college players coming in and who better to handle that bunch than him? It is interesting that some programs (notably Oklahoma) can prosper while making use of jucos while in other cases the rush to import these two year players seems to destroy the program...

□Don't be surprised if Rutgers sneaks into the NIT which would be a major accomplishment for **Bob Wenzel** in his first year. Next season, with three talented transfers becoming eligible, the Scarlet Knights might make a serious run at the A-10 title...

□The vacant coaching position at Division I Rider College reportedly pays \$24,000 per year with a \$3,000 recruiting budget. Tell me this school is giving its all to be big time...

□I doubt any team has had a more unusual year than Siena. First the team has no nickname (historically the school's athletic teams have been called "Indians", but that was dropped before the year) and on at least two occasions **Mike Deane's** club has played games where no spectators were allowed in and had two other games postponed because of a measles quarantine. Now it has spread through the entire North Atlantic Conference forcing the postseason tournament to be played without benefit of spectators in Hartford. Despite all, Siena appears headed for postseason play, probably the NCAAs, but almost certainly the NIT...

□The hottest prospect among the nation schoolboy



Those who are not—Ellison's Cardinals

juniors is 7-4 **Shawn Bradley** of Castle Dale, UT. I had occasion to watch the youngster play at last summer's Nike Camp and he's definitely a prospect. Despite his size and youth, Bradley's agility is good and he runs the floor well. As he fills out the possibilities seem great. Early the assumption was that Bradley would play for one of the Utah schools, but now the likelihood is that he'll sign with one of the national heavyweights...

□I heard a lot about Arkansas State and Louisiana Tech this winter, but a glance at the American South standings shows that New Orleans is on top. That's quite an accomplishment for first-year coach **Tim Floyd** who took over after the troubled exit of **Art Tollis**...

□Despite injury and a season in the shadow of NCAA probation, Cleveland State's **Mouse McFadden** has played very well, averaging more than 22 points a game...

□North Carolina A&T's string of eight consecutive NCAA tournament appearances ended when the Aggies were bumped out of the Mid-Eastern Athletic postseason tournament. Coach **Don Corbett's** club went a disappointing 9-17 this year...

□Despite winning 21 games, St. Louis may find itself sitting home in the postseason. A disastrous loss at Detroit put a black mark on the Billikins...

□Proof of stats being for losers comes from the Mid-American Conference. The two leading scorers in that league are from Ohio University and yet the Bobcats are dead last in the standings...

□Maryland Baltimore County has a 17-10 mark this year and that becomes even more impressive when you consider the team has played only 11 home games...

□Arkansas and Pittsburgh are longshot teams which could be dangerous in the NCAA tournament in case anyone asks...

□Four Big Ten teams have won more than 20 games and Ohio State would have been in that category with Burson in the lineup. I don't know if that's a tribute to the quality of play or prudent scheduling. In either case, no other league managed more than three teams with 20 wins...

SEC TOURNAMENT

Kentucky vs. Vanderbilt

'Cats have chance to start over against Vandy

It's finally over. Mercifully, for Kentucky, the worst regular season in more than 60 years is now history.

"It's like I told the team in there just now: Everybody is 0-0, you can throw the records out the window," UK coach Eddie Sutton said minutes after Mississippi State defeated the 'Cats 68-67 Saturday night.

For Kentucky, which can still earn a 10th-straight trip to the NCAA tournament by winning three games in Knoxville, it's now sudden-death time. The Wildcats, seeded No. 6 in the tourney, take on third-seeded Vanderbilt, 18-12 and 12-6, at 3:15 p.m. Friday.

The Wildcats, short on luck all season, appear to have been dealt a favorable hand in the tourney. Kentucky was shut out this season against Alabama and LSU, the two other teams it could have played, but earned a split with the Commodores.

After learning of his team's draw, coach Sutton first pointed out the parity of the league's top clubs, then conceded that his 'Cats matched up well against Vandy.

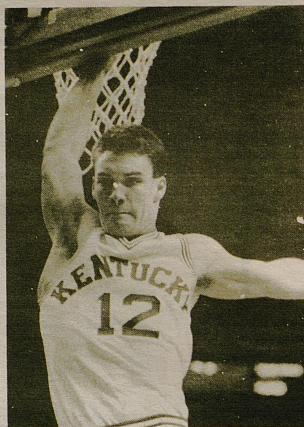
"I really don't think it makes as much difference who you play. Everybody's about the same, there's not that much difference," coach Sutton said.

"We split with Vanderbilt. Some teams, I think, we might be able to play a little bit better. I think Vanderbilt is a team that we can play fairly well against. We played well at home and in Nashville we probably played about as poorly as we played all season."

The two UK-Vandy games sum up Kentucky's Jekyll-Hyde season better than any others.

In the first matchup, Jan. 7 in Lexington, the 'Cats bolted out to a 16-point first-half lead and then held on to upset the 'Dores 70-61. The win gave UK a 2-0 record in SEC play and, at least temporarily, erased any ill feelings of early upsets to Northwestern State and Bowling Green.

A month later, Feb. 8 in Nashville, it was a far different story. Vanderbilt got out of the gate early, took a 21-point halftime lead and cakewalked to a 81-51 win, largest in school history over Kentucky. The win was the first of five in a row for Vandy. For UK, it was the



UK's Deron Feldhaus, now a starter, is averaging 9.7 points and 7.7 rebounds in his last three games.

second of six consecutive defeats.

Kentucky's most consistent player, on both ends, has been freshman forward Chris Mills. Mills lead the 'Cats with 8.4 rebounds per game and is tied for second in scoring with guard Derrick Miller at 14.2 points per game.

Center LeRon Ellis leads UK in scoring with 15.8 ppg., but both he and Miller have been streaky. Ellis did have a good series against Vanderbilt (17 pts., 10 rebs. in game one; 10 pts., 7 rebs. in game two), but Miller was a mystery, leading the 'Cats with 27 points in the win over Vandy but being shut out from the field and being limited to one point in the loss in Nashville.

UK's other starters, point guard Sean Sutton and forward Deron Feldhaus, have been on a late-season tear. Sutton runs the club and leads the 'Cats in assists, and after a poor start, is UK's best three-point shooter. Feldhaus, who moved into the starting lineup when Reggie Hanson went out for the year with a stress fracture, is averaging 9.7 points and 7.7 rebounds in his last three games.

Vanderbilt is led by three seniors—center Frank Kornet inside and the Barry Boys, guards Barry Booker and Barry Goheen, out-

(Continued on page 25)

GAME 1 BOXSCORE

Jan. 7, 1989 — Rupp Arena

Boxscore table for Game 1 showing player stats for Vanderbilt (61) and Kentucky (70).

Summary boxscore for Game 1: Vanderbilt 61, Kentucky 70.

FG shooting: Vandy, 43.4; UK, 47.1, 3-pt. FG shooting: Vandy, 38.5; UK, 42.9. FT shooting: Vandy, 50.0; UK, 88.9. Assists: Vandy, 17 (Wilcox 7); UK, 10 (Ellis 4). Turnovers: Vandy, 8; UK, 7. Technicals: none. Officials: Don Rutledge, Allie Prescott, Don Ferguson. Att.: 23,338.

GAME 2 BOXSCORE

Feb. 8, 1989 — Nashville, Tenn.

Boxscore table for Game 2 showing player stats for Vanderbilt (81) and Kentucky (51).

Summary boxscore for Game 2: Vanderbilt 81, Kentucky 51.

FG shooting: UK, 32.8; Vandy, 50.9. 3-pt. FG shooting: UK, 20.0; Vandy, 55.6. FT shooting: UK, 66.7; Vandy, 63.0. Assists: UK, 10 (Hanson 2, Mills 2); Vandy, 19 (Booker 4, Goheen 4). Turnovers: UK, 16; Vandy, 12. Technicals: none. Officials: Don Rutledge, Larry Ware, Tom O'Neill. Att.: 15,646.

KENTUCKY RESULTS

Table of Kentucky's season results, including 13-18 overall and 8-10 SEC record.

VANDERBILT RESULTS

Table of Vanderbilt's season results, including 18-12 overall and 12-6 SEC record.

a-Hall of Fame Tipoff Classic: Springfield, Mass. b-Great Alaska Shootout: Anchorage, Alaska. c-Big Four Classic: Indianapolis, Ind. d-Freedom Hall: Louisville. Home games in CAPITALS. Losses in bold type.

KENTUCKY-VANDERBILT PREGAME TIDBITS



□ Kentucky leads the overall series, which dates back to 1912, 100-31. The teams split their two previous games this season, Kentucky winning 70-61 in Lexington, Vanderbilt winning 81-51 in Nashville.

□ Since the SEC tournament was renewed in 1979, Vanderbilt and Kentucky have met once in tourney play. The Commodores edged the 'Cats 60-55 in the second round of the 1981 tourney in Birmingham.

□ Vandy has lost its last five starts in SEC tourney play, bowing out in the first round each of the last four years. The Commodores' last victory in the postseason event was a 77-57 decision over Ole Miss in the 1984 tourney in Nashville. Vandy is 4-10 since the renewal.

□ On the other hand, Kentucky has been the most successful team in tourney play since the renewal. The 'Cats have won three tournament titles—1984 in Nashville, 1986 in Lexington and 1988 in Baton Rouge. UK is 14-7 since the

renewal.

□ Since Eddie Sutton took over for Joe B. Hall following the 1984-85 season, the UK skipper has compiled a 6-2 record against the Commodores. In his eight years at Vanderbilt, coach C.M. Newton is 1-15 against his alma mater. Newton was 8-21 against Kentucky during his 12-year stay at Alabama, bringing his career record against the 'Cats to 9-36.

□ Barring a near-miracle, Kentucky's string of NCAA appearances will end at nine. With a 13-18 record entering the Vandy game, the Wildcats will have to win the SEC tourney to receive a ticket to NCAA play. UK was last left out of the NCAA tournament in 1979. The 'Cats' string of postseason appearances is also in jeopardy. Kentucky has been in either the NIT or NCAA tourneys every year since 1974.

□ Vanderbilt, at 18-12, is virtually assured of its second consecutive NCAA bid, and its third consecutive postseason appearance.

PROBABLE STARTING LINEUPS

Table showing probable starting lineups for Kentucky and Vanderbilt.

Reserves: G—Richie Farmer, 6-0, Fr., 33, 0.7, 30; C—Mike Scott, 6-11, Sr., 2.7, 2.6, 50; F—John Pelphrey, 6-7, Fr., 1.6, 1.0, 34; F—Johnathon Davis, 6-6, 0.5, 1.1, 33; F—Jeff Ginnin, 6-8, Sr., 0.3, 0.5, 44; G—Chris Jones, 6-3, Fr., 1.0, 0.7, 21. Coach: Eddie Sutton, 4th year.

Table showing probable starting lineups for Vanderbilt.

Reserves: G—James Amstler, 6-5, So., 0.0, 0.2, 24; F—Steve Grant, 6-6, So., 2.0, 1.8, 31; Todd Milholland, 6-10, Fr., 3.3, 1.4, 32; G—Morgan Wheat, 6-5, Fr., 2.9, 1.6, 35; F—Charles Mayes, 6-7, So., 2.5, 1.3, 40; C—Alberto Ballestra, 6-10, Jr., 2.0, 1.4, 42; C—Fred Benjamin, 6-11, So., 1.8, 1.1, 55. Coach: C.M. Newton, 8th year.

SEC TOURNAMENT
Team-by-team scouting reports

Alabama

Records: 20-7 overall, 12-6 SEC
Who the Crimson Tide plays: Ole Miss-Auburn winner

Head coach: Wimp Sanderson
Probable starters: Guards: Alvin Lee (6-5, 185, Sr.), Gary Waites (6-2, 170, So.); Forwards: Robert Horry (6-9, 200, Fr.), Michael Ansley (6-7, 225, Sr.); Center: David Benoit (6-8, 220, Jr.)

Key reserves: Keith Askins, (6-6, 190, Jr.); Melvin Cheatum, (6-8, 195, So.); Marcus Webb, (6-7, 240, Fr.)

Strengths: With its inside attack, Alabama has the tourney's most feared game underneath. Ansley, Horry and Benoit are quick and aggressive in the paint. If a team can outthrust these guys on the boards then the opponent should be applauded. Ansley, a consistent 20-point performer, is a pleasure to watch. From the outside, Lee, last season's top three-point shooter in the league, can erase a 10-point gap by himself with his long bombs. Waites has handled the point well. Second only to Vanderbilt, Bama's bench gives Sanderson a big edge with possibly three games in three days. Sanderson can bring in Askins and Cheatum, proven veterans who can give quality minutes. Watch out! Askins, too, is known to be a three-point specialist.

How to stop Crimson Tide: The big key is to keep Bama's inside players off the offensive boards. Like we said, they're quick with their hands and feet. And if Lee strokes his first couple of shots, man-to-man pressure is must on this senior. If Lee and Askins can't find their range then a 2-3 zone is not a bad idea to throw at Sanderson's club. If the opponent's inside attack can hold its ground against Bama's, it might consider taking the rock inside early, hoping to draw a few fouls. Lee's defense is suspect, so an opponent might want to keep that in mind. The best bet would be to spread the offense in hopes of penetrating for high-percentage shots.

Chances in tournament: Very good. However, the Crimson Tide has been horrendous on the road. Tennessee manhandled the Tide late in the season 84-69. Losers in six of nine games on the SEC road, Bama may have better luck on a neutral site. Unless it plays the Vols, Alabama could fare well in Knoxville on its way to an NCAA invitation.

Auburn

Records: 9-18 overall, 2-16 SEC
Who the Tigers play: Ole Miss

Tigers' coach: Sonny Smith
Probable starters: Guards: Derrick Dennison (6-4, 185, Jr.), Keenan Carpenter (6-3, 180, Sr.); Forwards: Kirt Hankton (6-4, 210, Jr.); Zane Arnold (6-7, 210, Jr.); Center: Matt Geiger (6-11, 215, So.)

Key reserves: Robert McKie (6-7, 260, Fr.)

Strengths: The coach is the best thing the Tigers have going for them. Smith is an excellent motivator and is a veteran of tournament play. Carpenter has demonstrated an ability to score points in bunches, lighting up LSU for 44 big ones early in the season en route to a 190 ppg. average. Geiger was averaging in excess of 20 ppg. during the non-conference portion of the schedule, but tailed off to 15.9 during SEC play. One thing you can always count on from an Auburn team: They will go to the glass with reckless abandon. This year's Tigers led the SEC in rebounding with 40.5 boards per game, an average of 4.5 more than their opponents.

How to stop Tigers: When they're not busy stopping themselves (46.6 percent from the field, 9th in the league; -3.8 turnover margin, also 9th), which has been often, many teams have been successful using pressure defense and a running attack to overpower the depthless Tigers.

Chances in tournament: If fans of the other nine teams need tickets, grab up

Auburn's after Thursday night's game.

Florida

Records: 19-11 overall, 13-5 SEC
Who the Gators play: Georgia-Miss. St. winner

Head coach: Norm Sloan
Probable starters: Guards: Clifford Lett (6-3, 176, Sr.), Renaldo Garcia (6-2, 170, So.); Forwards: Livingston Chatman (6-8, 235, So.); Dwayne Davis (6-7, 215, So.); Center: Dwayne Schmitzius (7-2, 265, Jr.)

Key reserves: Mike Kerr (6-6, 215, Fr.), Brian Hogan (6-2, 175, Fr.)
Strengths: No doubt about it, Florida is on a roll. Despite a nonconference setback against Stanford and a 83-63 loss at Alabama, Sloan's Gators have reeled off 11 of 12 conference conference games. Give Sloan credit. On the court his program earlier appeared headed toward the cellar. Off the court? Perhaps it was falling alongside Kentucky to see which team had the most off-the-court problems. Then, the Gators came from nowhere to win its first-ever basketball crown. The improved outside shooting of Garcia and Lett have taken a great load off of the Gators' inside attack. Lately, Schmitzius has been playing the way everyone thought he could and would. Sloan's jolly green giant has soared to an all-time high, confidence-wise. So, too, have Davis, the nation's leader in field goal percentage as of last Saturday, and Chatman. Anyone who tries to power it inside against this trio is in trouble.

How to beat the Gators: Obviously, bench strength, however, is missing for the Gators to make a serious run at a possible Final Four appearance. But an SEC tournament championship is not out of the question. Once Sloan gets past Kerr, a linebacker for Galen Hall's football Gators, and Hogan, a hot-and-cold shooter, he's in trouble. Sending the Gators to the charity stripe isn't a bad idea. Of the five starters only Lett is hitting above the 70 percent mark (72 percent). Schmitzius, though, is improving—69 percent, which goes to prove that he's mentally on the right track. Like we said, Garcia and Lett have improved, but they're not spectacular. Throwing a 2-3 zone—encouraging the Gator guards to bomb away from the perimeter—might be the best bet for the opponent. Also, keeping the Gators on defense as much as possible might tend to tire this strong but shorthanded crew. And if the Gators are forced to use reserves, they can be beaten.

Chances in tournament: Excellent. Just don't throw tennis balls on the playing floor during the game. Why? Ask Vanderbilt and LSU.

Georgia

Records: 14-15 overall, 6-12 SEC
Who the 'Dogs play: Mississippi State

Head coach: Hugh Durham
Probable starters: Guards: Litteral Green (6-2, 180, Fr.), Pat Hamilton (6-2, 175, Sr.); Forwards: Rod Cole (6-4, 175, Sr.), Marshall Wilson (6-8, 200, So.); Center: Alec Kessler (6-10, 225, Jr.)

Key reserves: Neville Austin (6-10, 210, So.), Jody Patton (6-4, 180, So.)

Strengths: When you start with Georgia you automatically turn to Alec Kessler. Averaging 19 points and nine rebounds a game, Kessler has continued where he left off last season. Teamed with Green, Hamilton, Wilson and Cole, this club's talent belies its poor record. Maybe Durham, who can draw the Xs and Os with the nation's best, can get his club clicking for the SEC tourney. When Durham is looking to throw an opponent out of sync, he sics Hamilton on the opponent's playmaker. And when help is needed from the bench, Patton can come in and light up the scoreboard from three-point range (47 percent).

How to stop the 'Dogs: Like most of the

team's this week in Knoxville, the number of Bulldog reserves is slim. Green's stats have gone down since the strong beginning to his college career. Barely a 40 percent shooter from the field, Green will be trying to regain his touch this week. SEC coaches will tell you the best way to stop Georgia is to slow down Kessler. Thus, a 2-3 zone might seem appropriate at first. The whole Georgia club must turn in a fine effort if it expect to play Wednesday. The other Bulldogs in the tournament, Mississippi State, are coming off a high after defeating Kentucky 68-67. MSU will be trying to show Georgia who actually is the top 'Dog.

Chances in tournament: Not too good, thank you. Georgia will have to practically take a 180-degree turn to advance this year.

LSU

Records: 20-10 overall, 11-7 SEC
Who the Tigers play: Tennessee

Head coach: Dale Brown
Probable starters: Guards: Chris Jackson (6-0, 170, Fr.), Lyle Mouton (6-4, 215, So.); Forwards: Wayne Sims (6-7, 243, So.), Ricky Blanton (6-7, 213, Sr.); Center: Vernel Singleton (6-5, 202, Fr.)

Key reserves: Dennis Tracey (6-1, 180, So.), Richard Krajewski (6-10, 215, So.), Geert Hammink (6-11, 225, Fr.)

Strengths: At the top of the list has to be The Preacher Man himself, Tiger coach Dale Brown. How else can you explain the success of an inexperienced team with no true center that started the season with almost as many Proposition 48 sitouts as scholarship players? Brown has taken a team that has next to no depth and turned it into one of the best run-and-gun bunches around as LSU led the league in scoring with 93.8 ppg. The Tigers don't have much depth, but they make up for that with as good a starting combination as you'll find in the league. LSU has two legitimate all-SEC performers in Jackson, who led the league and was second in the nation in scoring with 29.8 ppg., and Blanton, who hustled his way to averages of 20.9 ppg. and 8.2 rpg. The Tigers also have nice role players in Singleton (10.6 ppg., 7.5 rpg.), who plays center after being listed as a guard in preseason, and Sims (13.4 ppg., 7.8 rpg.), a widebody in the paint. Brown will shuttle in players occasionally, but usually only to give his starters a brief rest. Since SEC play started, Tracey, a former walk-on pressed into duty with all the preseason turmoil, is the only player to contribute much statistically off the bench.

How to stop the Tigers: Ask Mississippi State coach Richard Williams, whose 'Dogs swept LSU this season. Seriously, though, the Tigers have a lot of weapons. Jackson and Blanton give them an outstanding perimeter game and Sims, Blanton and Singleton can do a number on you inside. Probably the best way to best LSU is to stop their transition game, which means you must keep them off the glass and keep the ball out of Jackson's hands, although several teams have been able to win against the Tigers by beating them at their own game—outrunning them.

Chances in the tournament: That's also hard to put a finger on. Traditionally, Brown has done his best coaching when his teams had their backs up to the wall—underdogs in tournament situations where they had to pull a string of upsets. This year, Brown's team will probably be considered the favorite in most matchups. The biggest hurdle the Tigers face will be in their first game, when they line up against Tennessee on the Vols' home floor. If LSU can get past Tennessee, the Tigers could win it all.

Mississippi State

Records: 13-14 overall, 7-11 SEC
Who the 'Dogs play: Georgia

Head coach: Richard Williams

Probable starters: Guards: Greg Lockhart (6-2, 170, Sr.), Tony Watts (6-1, 155, Fr.); Forwards: Cameron Burns (6-6, 213, So.), Greg Carter (6-5, 206, So.); Center: Carl Nichols (6-8, 223, So.) or Chancellor Nichols (6-8, 242, So.)

Key reserves: Doug Hartsfield (6-1, 193, So.), Todd Merritt (6-9, 211, So.), Chris Hall (6-3, 179, Sr.), Reginald Boykin (6-3, 181, Sr.)

Strengths: The Bulldogs are young—10 of their 14 players and all but one of their starters are underclassmen—but they are fairly deep, at least by 1988-89 SEC standards. One major improvement over seasons past is in field goal percentage. The Bulldogs, once known for their bricks, are third in the league in putting the ball through the hoop (49.6 percent). And it's a good thing, too, because with one of the smallest lineups in the conference, the Bulldogs are not adept at retrieving the ball if they do miss. If MSU can get the ball to Burns, mark it down. "Smoke" uses 67.2-percent shooting to average 15.3 ppg. He gets offensive help from Lockhart and Watts.

How to stop the 'Dogs: A lot of teams have thrown up a zone against the 'Dogs, with fair success. If you can cut off the passing lanes and keep Burns and Lockhart from getting their hands on the ball, you can take your chances with the MSU guards, who still don't protect the ball very well, yet.

Chances in the tournament: With all the youth, the Bulldogs are still a year or two away from doing much damage. Being stuck in the first round, which means an extra game, cancels out any chance the 'Dogs had.

Ole Miss

Records: 14-13 overall, 8-10 SEC
Who the Rebels play: Auburn

Head coach: Ed Murphy
Probable starters: Guards: Tim Jumper (6-3, 198, So.), John Matthews (5-10, 167, So.); Forwards: Gerald Glass (6-6, 241, Jr.), Greg Turner (6-5, 199, So.); Center: Sean Murphy (6-11, 230, So.)

Key reserves: Bernard Sylve (6-7, 185, Fr.), Hunter Atkins (6-3, 185, Fr.), David Midlick (6-1, 171, Fr.)

Strengths: Glass. The transfer from Delta State might not be as spectacular as a well-known as Chris Jackson, but he is in the same class. Jackson edged Glass out for the SEC scoring title, but the Rebel forward, probably out of necessity, does more things. He was in the top 10 in every SEC statistical category and he even sings a little gospel music on the side. Jumper, who has been hampered by a severe knee injury all season, is the only other Reb with big offensive numbers, but coach Murphy's disciplined offense seems to get the job done.

How to beat the Rebels: Since its virtually impossible to slow Glass down, much less stop him, you have to concentrate on the other players. Let Glass get his 35 or 40, but make sure his teammates don't beat you. Aside from Glass, Ole Miss doesn't shoot the ball particularly well (last in the league) or rebound it, either (7th), a deadly combination in any league.

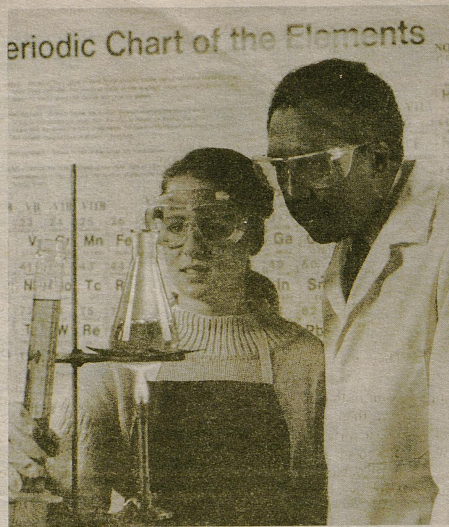
Chances in tournament: In Murphy's estimation, not very good. The Rebels are forced to win four games in four days, which is very unlikely. Their best bet is to get to Auburn, to solidify an NIT invite.

Tennessee

Records: 18-9 overall, 11-7 SEC
Who the Vols play: LSU

Head coach: Don DeVoe
Probable starters: Guards: Clarence Sweatener (6-3, 180, Sr.), Travis Henry (6-3, 165, Sr.); Forwards: Dyron Nix (6-7, 210, Sr.), Mark Griffin (6-8, 210, Sr.); Center: Doug Roth (6-11, 255, Sr.)

(Continued on page 25)



He's the man with a roomful of bugs, rocks and newts.

On the walls of his room are charts of chemical formulas, the life cycle of plants and weather regions of the world.

Unlike the other teachers, he wears a white lab coat with his name over the breast pocket.

He once had his class lay out the solar system in the parking lot with a basketball as the sun and each of the planets scaled to size and distance.

On his desk is the neatly lettered motto he lives by: "There are too many interesting things to learn about for school to ever be boring."

Some girls in his class dread dissecting the frog. And if the truth were known, a few of the boys do, too.

Three times a year he assigns major projects. And each year, he has students whose projects win top awards in state competitions.

If you ask anyone in the school who's the toughest teacher, you'll hear his name.

If you ask whose class they enjoy the most, you'll hear his name again.

He's the science teacher.

But if you ask him what he does, he won't answer it that way. He'll give you a smile and say that he fans the spark of the imagination.

Science teacher, newt raiser or spark fanner — to us, he has one of the most important jobs in Ashland's America.



Teachers change lives.

A message from Ashland Oil and its Kentucky employees working for SuperAmerica, Ashland Petroleum, Valvoline Motor Oil and Ashland Chemical divisions.



Kentucky 70, Ole Miss 69

(Continued from page 4)

Instead he accentuated the need to win for Scott and Ginnan—the two seniors—and Richie's need to make his roomie a winner in his final game at home.

But it was not one of those "gimmies" he likes to get in golf.

Kentucky never could get ahead to apply the pressure on Mississippi. They were always playing catch-up. Even at the end.

Kentucky was trailing 69-67 with 21 seconds to play when the 'Cats used one of their nine lives.

Mississippi's Tim Jumper missed the second of two free throws and Ellis was there for his fourth, and most important, rebound. Coach Sutton then opted for his timeout. And Farmer did the rest.

"It was a fitting end to the way the season has gone at home," said Sean Sutton, who had eight assists. "We've lost four close ones so this one is special."

Sean Sutton said he was gratified with all the crowd support inside and outside Rupp.

"The people make this program...they make it so special," he said. "It was a big night for them and for us...and a bigger one

for Mike and Jeff. They went out a winner and we're happy for them."

His dad likened the win to a dying man gasping for his last breath.

"These guys deserved a win like that," said coach Sutton. "They lost some tough ones like that this year. You are almost on the deathbed and somebody breathes life back into you."

And that was the way it went all night. The Rebels appeared on the verge of putting the game away several times in the last few minutes. But the 'Cats had more lives than Steve Garvey has girlfriends.

Mississippi had just taken a 66-59 lead with 3:49 to go on a three-point bucket by Glass.

But UK guard Derrick Miller, held in check for most of the night, came through with a three-point play. Mississippi led 66-62.

Ellis connected on one of two foul shots and Chris Mills, who led Kentucky with 19 points, canned two free throws. Mississippi led 66-65 with 2:07 left.

Glass temporarily shattered this comeback with a 10-foot jumper but Miller then came up with his biggest shot of the season.

Sean Sutton missed a shot but Miller

grabbed the rebound, went up in heavy traffic, and made a difficult 10-footer with Jumper hanging all over him.

"Somehow, Derrick makes those shots," said Sean Sutton. "I don't know how he does it. He hit a lot of big shots down the stretch."

With 23,000 fans screaming for the 'Cats to foul, Deron Feldhaus finally hacked Jumper. Although Feldhaus had 10 points and 10 boards replacing injured Reggie Hanson, this was his biggest move of the night.

Jumper then missed the second free throw to open up the door for Farmer, who said he was feeling "naked" from shaving his mustache off the night before.

"I think he should grow it back for the SEC tournament," said Scott.

Think again Mike. Unlike Samson, Richie didn't lose any strength by de-hairing himself. That's the naked truth, so help Margo Adams.

Ole Miss looked like a runaway train at one point in the first half when a Glass' jumper gave them a 27-18 lead with 6:44 to play.

But fortunately for Kentucky, Glass also picked up a charging call on the play—his third personal—and had to sit down. Sean Murphy's hook made it 29-18 a minute later

but then UK fought back to close to within 34-29 at halftime.

Two buckets by Miller and a three-point play by Mills figured in the 'Cats' sprint just before intermission.

Two great inside moves by Feldhaus and a layup by Mills knotted the score at 35-35 early in the second half. But Mississippi looked to the Glass again and he reflected more misery. In fact, he was the big reason the Rebs trailed only once (at 54-52) the second half.

"I knew we had to have this game...to finish sixth," said Glass. "I came to play...I was ready to go." Glass had eight boards and three steals to go with his 35 points.

"He played as well against us as anybody has since I've been here," said coach Sutton, now nearing the end of his fourth season at Kentucky.

In the end, UK couldn't break Glass. But the 'Cats turned to their Manchester Farmer to plow Ole Miss under...with a shot heard around Clay County.

So, Richie, keep that upper lip hairless. It could be the good-luck charm the 'Cats need in Knoxville at the SEC tournament.

Larry Vaught

(Continued from page 11)

one in basketball where Kentucky belongs."

• **Alma Jones, Danville:** "In my opinion Eddie Sutton should return to UK next year. He has proved to be a fine person and a great coach. UK should get rid of Dr. Roselle.

"I am a fan of UK basketball and have been for many years. The reason the team is losing is because before every game they (the media) come on with something different for them to worry about.

"I think it would be hard to get another coach for Kentucky after the way Eddie Sutton has been treated. Get rid of Roselle and bring Martha Layne Collins in there to straighten this mess out."

• **Amanda Reeves, Lancaster:** "I have a strong opinion for Eddie Sutton to return to UK next year. He is the best coach UK has ever had and they won't find a better one.

"He isn't getting a fair shake. The university should fire David Roselle and (UK spokesman) Bernie Vonderheide. Roselle should never, never have been president."

• **Mrs. Ed Boone, Danville:** "I think Eddie Sutton should return next year. He has done a great job with

the Cats under the circumstances.

"It had always been his dream to coach at the University of Kentucky, so I certainly do not think he would do anything to jeopardize his coaching position."

Not everyone shares that feeling, though. Joseph Robinson of Danville is a lifelong UK fan. But he thinks Sutton is to blame for Kentucky's problems and losing season.

"There is a large dark cloud that hangs over Lexington these days," wrote Robinson. "I am 40 years of age and have been a fan all my life. I have seen bad times and good at Kentucky.

"For this large dark cloud to go away Eddie Sutton should resign. I believe that if Eddie Sutton doesn't resign the dark clouds will never go away."

Still, support for Sutton has increased dramatically the last month. To me that's significant because the fans pay the bills and support the program.

Fans can't dictate decisions for Dr. Roselle at UK but he certainly cannot ignore this outpouring of support as he tries to decide the fate of Sutton and his staff.

Dan Brandenburg

(Continued from page 13)

—Did anyone notice that when Richie Farmer sank his game-winner last week, he did it without his trademark mustache? Although Farmer denies it, the rumor mill says it had something to do with a blonde cheerleader.

—I really commend the UK sports information office for not being afraid to mention the undesirable records the team has been setting this season. They've even managed to do it with a little humor, packaging all the related information into a section labeled "Nasty Notes."

—When you've had a bad season and are planning to have a coach speak at your year-end awards banquet, you don't want one who had a better season than you did. Maybe that's why Auburn's Sonny Smith will be the guest speaker at UK's banquet April 6 at the Hyatt Regency. Smith's repertoire of one-liners probably didn't hurt, either.

—One man's All-SEC team: Chris Jackson and Ricky Blanton of LSU, Gerald Glass of Mississippi, Barry Goheen of Vanderbilt and Dyron Nix of Tennessee.

My Player of the Year? Jackson by a nose over Glass.

Best of the Rest: Frank Kornet, Vandy; LeRon Ellis and Chris Mills, UK; Mike Ansley, Alabama; Alec Kessler, Georgia; Dwayne Schintzius and Dwayne Davis, Florida, and Keenan Carpenter, Auburn.

'Cats begin 'new' season against Vandy

(Continued from page 22)

side. Kornet leads the 'Dores in scoring (16.8 ppg.) and rebounding (7.4 rpg.). Booker and Goheen average 14.2 and 14.8 points, respectively, and head up the league's second-best three-point shooting attack.

A pair of juniors round out Vandy's experienced starting unit. Derrick Wilcox (8.7 ppg., 3.7 rpg.) joins Booker and Goheen in the backcourt. Forward Eric Reid (10.0 ppg., 6.1 rpg.) helps Kornet on the front line.

Neither team is expected to play much man-to-man defense. With only Richie Farmer, John Pelphrey and Mike Scott seeing much duty off the bench, Kentucky, which favors the 2-3 matchup, doesn't have enough bodies. Vanderbilt has the depth, but with the three-guard offense, runs into matchup problems down low. The Commodores used a 1-1-3 alignment to harrass UK into 32.8-percent shooting from the field in Nashville.

Kentucky hopes to dictate the tempo and keep the score in the 60s by being patient and working the shot clock on offense. Vanderbilt, which averages 77.6 points per game, figures to try to force the 'Cats into a running game.

In the end, it may come down to experience and endurance. With the loss to Vanderbilt in

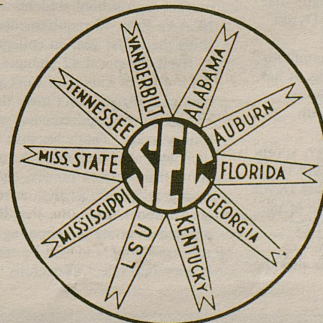
Nashville notwithstanding, Kentucky has been able to play with most of its opponents for 25-30 minutes, only to come unglued down the stretch. Of UK's 18 losses, the 'Cats have had second-half leads in 11 of them. And in games decided by five points or less, the Wildcats have dropped eight of 12 decisions. Vanderbilt is 3-3 in such games, but one of them was the much-ballyhooed tennis ball game against Florida.

And what of their chances in a single-

elimination tournament?

Vanderbilt has shown it can get on a roll, winning four games in a row in December and five in a row in February. Kentucky was able to put back-to-back victories together just twice all season: three in a row to open SEC play and two in a row in late January against Tennessee and Auburn.

Sutton is hoping the "new" season brings improved results.



Scouting reports

(Continued from page 23)

Key reserves: Greg Bell (6-2, 180, So.), Ian Lockhart (6-8, 228, Jr.)

Strengths: As far as the SEC tournament is concerned, UT's No. 1 strength would have to be playing on its home floor. The Vols were 12-3 in K-town this season, compared to 5-6 away from home. UT is also the most experienced club in the SEC, starting five seniors. Although Nix has been criticized by everyone from media members to his own teammates and coaches, the senior forward has turned in a pretty respectable season numbers-wise, although he has been erratic: 22.1 ppg., 9.6 rpg. The Vols are second to LSU in scoring and second to Auburn in rebounding, although their defense isn't always there.

How to beat the Vols: Their game is transition. They like to run it up and down the court, so a patient, halfcourt attack often works wonders. And if you can deny Nix the ball, the big guy often gets frustrated, which leads to open bickering with his teammates.

Chances in the tournament: Average would be the response any other time, but this year-the-tourney-is-in-K-town, a big advantage.

Not everyone is happy as tourney stops in K-town

UT fans in crows nest; DeVoe's in hot seat

MANY UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE roundball fans are crying foul because most of the good seats at UT's Thompson-Boiling Arena were not available to them for this week's SEC tournament in Knoxville.



Jamie Vaught
Cats' Pause Columnist

UT athletics department officials have been bombarded with telephone complaints from unhappy Vol fans and many of the Vol season-ticket holders with lower-level seats are being moved to the upper-level section. Like other SEC schools, Tennessee only received about 1,000 lower-level tickets to sell among its supporters for the tournament.

What many Tennessee fans didn't realize was the fact that the SEC office in Birmingham, Ala., controls the ticket distribution in the SEC tournament as it has done in the past, even though UT is the host school.

"The SEC ticket committee held a draw at the spring meeting, and we were just one of the 10 schools in the pool," UT associate athletics director Gus Manning told veteran sportswriter Ben Byrd of the *Knoxville Journal*. "Basically, the lower level seats were divided into 11 shares, one to each school and one to the conference office. Actually, we got a good draw of a block of seats on the north side, but it wasn't because we were the host school. It was purely the luck of the draw."

□ □ □

GOING INTO THE SEC tournament, there is increasing talk that at least four SEC schools may have a new basketball coach named after this season ends.

✓Vanderbilt, of course, is one of the schools as C.M. Newton will soon leave Nashville to take the athletics department's No. 1 job at Kentucky.

✓Eddie Sutton of Kentucky could be gone as the result of a near year-long NCAA investigation, but his growing support from Wildcat fans could save his post.

UK president Dr. David Roselle will make the decision on the coaching situation. But I hope Roselle knows what he is doing. I'm concerned because he was not raised in a basketball hotbed like Kentucky and I still don't believe he completely understands what basketball means to a lot of Kentuckians. Roselle is a native of Pennsylvania.

✓In the Big Orange Country, Tennessee coach Don DeVoe's job again may be on the line, although he has two years remaining on his contract after this season. A trip to the NCAA tournament could save his job, but it may not be enough.

The Vols began the conference season on a very high note with a 5-0 SEC mark in January. Then they went into a tailspin, losing seven of their next 10 league matchups, despite the presence of senior superstar Dyrón Nix and a bunch of other experienced seniors.

To add to DeVoe's problems, attendance at mammoth Thompson-Boiling Arena has been embarrassing. It has dropped to around 11,000 fans in the last four home games (not including last Saturday's matchup with Vanderbilt).

In his Feb. 23 column in the *Nashville Banner*, sports editor Joe Biddle suggested DeVoe perhaps should resign.

Biddle wrote that he has admired "the fact that DeVoe runs a clean program and doesn't resort to some of the underhanded tactics employed by a number of SEC coaches.

"But there comes a point in everyone's career that they

have to take a step back and evaluate where they are.

"And where Don DeVoe is, is in trouble. Perhaps the program would benefit from a new coach. Fans have lost faith in DeVoe. Now it appears DeVoe has lost the support of some, if not most, of his players.

"It's too bad because DeVoe is, above all, a decent man with high standards. But perhaps he needs a change of scenery. A breath of fresh air. Because the telling signs of erosion in the program are evident and it may have passed the point where DeVoe can turn it around."

Finally, there is speculation that coach Norm Sloan of Florida may retire a year early because of many off-the-court problems facing his program. Sloan is 62.

Stay tuned.

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SPORTS ANCHORMAN Bob Rainey of Louisville's WLKY-TV (Channel 32) recently spoke at St. Catharine College in Springfield. He talked about the black athletes.

After the program, the 26-year-old Rainey revealed some of his thoughts on black athletes, among others, in a brief interview with this columnist. A friendly person from Rochester, N.Y., Rainey himself is black and is perhaps the only black sports TV anchor in the state of Kentucky. Besides anchoring weekend news, Rainey does sports reporting during the week.

Before he arrived in Louisville a couple of years ago, he worked at Rochester's WOKR-TV. He is a graduate of Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio, with a degree in broadcast journalism.

Rainey feels the biggest problem facing the black athletes in college is learning how to divide time between books and sports.

"I would think the biggest problem right now is probably the balance between academics and athletics," he said. "A lot of kids going to college with good intentions don't come out with degrees. I think that can be attributed to a lot of things. Sometimes, the athletes are exploited by the coaches who promised a lot of things when they are going in and they (coaches) don't deliver. A lot of them are just concerned about winning basketball and not about the kids. So, the kids get out of school and they don't have the degrees. Therefore, they can't compete in the job market if they don't make it as a professional. If they make it as a professional athlete, that's one thing. They can do that. But a lot of kids don't make it. They don't have the degrees and they are almost back to where they started from."

Rainey also feels that he can relate to black athletes better than some of the news media because of their similar backgrounds. "You can't describe to someone how it is to be black," he said. "You just can't do it."

Asked if he favors the NCAA's Proposition academic 48 guidelines, Rainey replied, "I think the intent of the rule is good. I like the fact that the academics is being stressed right out of high school. Immediately, you know that a kid knows he has to do well. It (Prop 48) strengthens across the board academics and makes an athlete a student-athlete which is what it should be. I think the Prop 48 is good and I have no problems with it."

What about the new Proposal 42 (which is designed to prevent high school students who meet only part of the NCAA's Prop 48 requirements from receiving scholarships their first year in college)?

"Well, Proposal 42 changes things a little bit because I think a lot of kids who can't get a scholarship in the first year if they don't meet the GPA and the standardized test score (requirements) will not go to school," Rainey said. "That's because they can't afford to pay their way as a freshman. A lot of inner-city students come from broken homes, and they don't have the money and can't get that correct financial aid and won't go to school at all. So, they'll drop out and never get interested in going to school again. I think that part of the rule isn't good and will be rescinded or changed before it goes into effect. Hopefully we won't have to worry



Louisville sports anchor Bob Rainey

about that."

On Kentucky's problems with the NCAA, Rainey doesn't believe the Wildcats will be severely punished when the NCAA Infractions Committee issues the verdict in a couple of months. That's because they have a new athletics director and they are cleaning up their act, Rainey explains.

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DIS 'N' DATA: Tennessee coach Don DeVoe reportedly receives about \$60,000 a year in a Converse shoe deal...When Kentucky recently stopped Tennessee 76-71 in Rupp Arena, it marked only the third time that the Wildcats have swept the season series from Tennessee since 1972...When Auburn basketball mentor Sonny Smith was asked if he ever considered being a regular on the "chicken and peas" dinner circuit, he replied, "I've been on a day-to-day contract ever since I came to Auburn, and I'm just looking for a little job security"...Florida's Norm Sloan has the best career playoff record among active SEC head coaches with more than 10 games in the NCAA Division I tournament. Sloan's NCAA tournament record is 8-4, a winning percentage of .667. LSU's Dale Brown has the second best mark in the SEC with a 13-9 mark (.591) in the NCAA tourney. Eddie Sutton of Kentucky ranks fifth among SEC mentors with a 17-13 worksheet (.567). Of all the active coaches in the country, Indiana's Bobby Knight tops the list with a 27-9 record, a .750 winning percentage...I recently reported that the SEC has at least four basketball players who were born in foreign countries. Well, Angela Stockton of Gulfport, Miss., points out that Neville Austin of Georgia is not from a foreign country. Austin is from St. Croix, which is a part of the U.S. Virgin Islands. "The people—including Neville Austin, if he was born there—are U.S. citizens," writes Stockton. "You ought to visit there—scenery, seafood, shopping are all fantastic, and you don't need a passport." Thanks for writing, Angela...After Alabama had won one of its few road games this season in beating Ole Miss 55-54, the team had a special meal of steak and lobster waiting for it the next night at the players' athletics dormitory, Bryant Hall, in Tuscaloosa...The University of Florida reportedly may sue its former star Vernon Maxwell and his agent if the school's internal investigation shows that Maxwell received illegal cash payments during his college career. As a result, Florida may have to return \$600,000 of the NCAA tournament money it earned last season to the NCAA...In the Feb. 27 issue of *The Sporting News*, no SEC team was ranked in the Top 40. Unbelievable! Surely, at least three SEC teams (LSU, Florida and Vanderbilt) are of the Top 40 caliber. Hmhmhmhm!

Back Thru The Wildcat Years

Nine Years Ago

Powered by outstanding board play to go along with a sticky man-to-man defense, Kentucky blasted Florida State 97-78 in the first round of the Mideast Regional. The game was played at Diddle Arena, home of Western Kentucky University.

Joe B. Hall's Wildcats blazed out to an 18-5 lead. The Seminoles cut the margin to five (22-17) before UK sealed the win with a 27-10 run before the end of the first half.

The fans at Diddle Arena, most of whom were Wildcat supporters, were treated to a 49-27 first-half showing. Besides outscoring their opponents by 22 points, the Wildcats outbounded the 'Noles 34-13 in the first stanza.

Overall, UK finished with a 54-31 advantage on the boards.

Playmaker Kyle Macy led the 'Cats with

16 points while Fred Cowan and LaVon Williams scored 14 points apiece. Seven-footer Sam Bowie controlled the boards, grabbing 11 to go along with 13 points.

The victory enables the Wildcats to advance to the semifinals in their home den, Rupp Arena. The Duke Blue Devils await to face the SEC Wildcats. It's also interesting to note that the game prior to the Duke-Kentucky matchup slates Bobby Knight's Indiana Hoosiers against Purdue, which is led by center Joe Barry Carroll. The action definitely will be hot as it shifts to Lexington's Rupp Arena this week.

The University of Kentucky basketball squad traveled to Starkville, Miss., and came away with a 9-4 upset over the powerhouse Bulldogs.

Kentucky was powered by homeruns from Mark Hredzak, Dan Pototsky and Greg Ryle.

Bat Cat pitcher Jeff Keener was credited with the win. Keener pitched five innings of no-hit ball. However, Kentucky woke up the sleeping giants, as MSU came back the next day to blank the Bat Cats 10-0.

Next for the Bat Cats was Tennessee. UK came away with a split, losing the first game of a scheduled doubleheader 3-2 while winning the nightcap 7-4. Pototsky and Mike Harding homered for Kentucky in the second game.

The University of Kentucky senior guard Kyle Macy has been named to both the first-team All-America squads of the *Associated Press* and *United Press International*.

Thirteen Years Ago

The University of Kentucky basketball team will be returning to the Big Apple of New York for the first time since 1951.

The National Invitational Tournament has asked the Wildcats of Joe B. Hall to participate in that tourney at Madison Square Garden. Kentucky presently owns a 14-10 record.

In the final game ever to be played the University of Kentucky's spectacular Memorial Coliseum, the Wildcats scored an unbelievable comeback in defeating Mississippi State 94-93 in overtime.

How unbelievable was it? Well, to answer your question... Kentucky trailed 84-77 with 1:23 left in the game and State players were already being interviewed on the radio as to how they upset the 'Cats.

Kentucky's small team of Merion Haskins, Jack Givens, Bob Fowler, Reggie Warford and Larry Johnson then pressed the 'Dogs and tied the score at 84-all, thus sending the game into an extra period. UK then went on to win.

The 'Cats were led by Givens, with 26 points, and Mike Phillips' 22. Johnson scored 16 and Warford added 12.

The win concludes UK's season at 15-10, as the Wildcats move into Rupp Arena next year.

One of the MSU players talking on the radio before the end of regulation was Joe Dean, Jr., son of television color man and former LSU great Joe Dean.

Kurt Mock of the Wildcat wrestling team defeated fifth-seeded Toshi Oonishi of Washington 31-12 in a wild 134-pound match in the NCAA wrestling meet.

The UK Bat Cats defeated Louisville 21-5 and 17-14 at Parkway Field to open the Big Blue's season.

Nineteen Years Ago

The Kentucky Wildcats, which were ranked eighth in one poll and ninth in another, set eight school records this year.

Adolph Rupp's club scored an average of 96.7 ppg, a school mark. Other records included: total points: 2,513, shooting percentages for SEC games: 52.2 percent, times scored 100 points or more: 15, coliseum scoring mark for one game: 121, total points in Southeastern Conference games only: 1,728, 26th SEC title, and fourth SEC title in succession.

Kentucky coach Adolph Rupp has been named the *United Press International* SEC Coach of the Year. An ailing Rupp was just recently released from the UK Medical Center after a month of treatment.

Kentucky center Tom Payne was chosen first-team *Associated Press* All-Southeastern Conference. Tom Parker, Mike Casey and Larry Steele all made second-team selection.

The SEC coaches voted Mississippi's Johnny Neumann as the league's Sophomore of the Year.

UK shotput specialist, Jesse Stuart placed fifth in the nation in the recent NCAA track meet.

It was announced that University of Kentucky football coach John Ray signed Rick Nuzum to a Wildcat scholarship.

UK will meet highly-ranked Western Kentucky in the NCAA Mideast Regional next week at Athens, Ga.

Thirty Three Years Ago

Kentucky's 6-7 center Bob Burrow was named to the third-team *Associated Press* All-American squad.

Burrow is from Wells, Texas. San Francisco center Bill Russell heads the first team. Kentucky's Jerry Bird earned a spot on the honorable mention squad.

Kentucky finished its regular season with a 101-77 triumph over Tennessee before 10,500 fans at Memorial Coliseum. The victory was the 'Cats' 19th in 24 games and 12th in 14 SEC games, giving them second place behind Alabama. UK led all the way as sophomore guard Vernon Hatton paced the 'Cats with 20 points, followed by Jerry Bird's 17.

Phil "Cookie" Grawemeyer returned to the Wildcats' starting lineup with a 16-point performance. Altogether, 12 Wildcats hit the scoring column.

Finishing second to Alabama in the Southeastern Conference, Kentucky must now await the verdict of the conference, which is in the process of conducting a poll of school presidents to determine which team will represent the SEC in NCAA play. Alabama's entire first team is ineligible for NCAA play.

The University of Kentucky's 19-5 record marked the first time since 1945 that the 'Cats failed to win 20 games in regular season play. It also was the first time since 1941 that coach Adolph Rupp lost five regular season games.

WILDCAT QUIZ

The SEC Tournament

1. Last season's MVP of the Southeastern Conference tournament was which of the following?
a) Winston Bennett
b) Alec Kessler
c) Rex Chapman
d) Ed Davender

2. True or False? In 1979 the SEC tournament was held in Atlanta.

3. Which team won the '79 SEC tourney?

- a) Tennessee
- b) Kentucky
- c) LSU
- d) Alabama

4. Who was the Most Valuable Player in the '79 SEC tourney?

- a) Rudy Macklin
- b) Reggie Johnson
- c) Kyle Macy
- d) None of the above

5. When Kentucky won the SEC title in Nashville in 1984, who was selected MVP?

- a) Chuck Person
- b) Sam Bowie
- c) Charles Barkley
- d) Bobby Lee Hurt

6. How many total points did Kyle Macy compile in the '79 tournament (four games played)?

- a) 90
- b) 92
- c) 93
- d) 94

7. In the 1986 SEC tournament in the first round, which of the following happened?

- a) Kentucky lost in Rupp Arena
- b) Both Mississippi State and Ole Miss won
- c) Both Mississippi State and Ole Miss lost
- d) Both games went into overtime.

8. How many SEC tournament games has Eddie Sutton won?

- a) four
- b) five
- c) six
- d) seven

9. True or False? The last time Vanderbilt and Kentucky played in the SEC tournament the Commodores won.

10. Which of the following schools has not won the SEC tournament since its renewal in 1979?

- a) Alabama
- b) Ole Miss
- c) Florida
- d) Georgia

Answers

- 6. 94
- 7. Both Mississippi State and Ole Miss won.
- 8. six
- 9. True (60-55, 1981 in Birmingham)
- 10. Florida

- 1. Rex Chapman
- 2. False (Birmingham)
- 3. Tennessee
- 4. Kyle Macy
- 5. Charles Barkley



UK Guard Kyle Macy

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