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THE Kentucky Kernel

Friday, December 9, 2005

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NCAA: Morris ineligible for season

By Josh Sullivan
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

The NCAA ruled yesterday that UK center Randolph Morris is ineligible for the entire 2006-07 season, citing his relationship with a sports agency and acceptance of workout-related expenses from various National Basketball Association teams leading up to the June draft.

The NCAA's Student-Athlete Reinstatement staff did rule that Morris can return to the court for the Wildcats next season, provided he repays the more than \$7,000 that nine NBA teams paid to hold workouts for him.

Morris loses his sophomore year of eligibility. If he decides to return for the 2006-07 season, he'll have two years of eligibility remaining.

NCAA rules prohibit players from entering into a written or oral agreement with an agent. California-based sports agency SFX arranged workouts for Morris after he declared himself eligible for the draft this spring. The agency also released a statement on the player's behalf detailing his intention to remain available to be drafted instead of pulling out before the June 21 deadline.

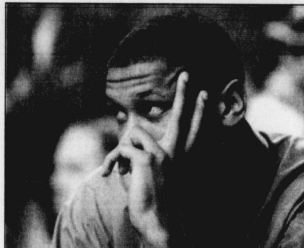
Morris' relationship with SFX,

handled outside the confines of his relationship with UK, was the crux of the NCAA's case against him.

"When deciding to test the professional waters, a student-athlete should work closely with his or her institution to ensure compliance with NCAA rules, steps which Morris did not take," said a statement from the NCAA, the governing body for college sports.

"The agency marketed the student-athlete's skills to NBA teams and served as the teams' point of contact for Morris. The agency scheduled, arranged and confirmed workouts with NBA teams

See Morris on page 2



UK sophomore center Randolph Morris sits on the bench during UK's Nov. 13 game against South Dakota State.

Yesterday, the NCAA ruled Morris ineligible for the season due to his relationship with an agent as he prepared for June's NBA draft.

By HILLY SCHIFFER | STAFF

Unwrapping cheer



Christmas came early when Alpha Omicron Pi and Sigma Alpha Epsilon joined together to buy about \$2,600 worth of Christmas presents for 14 families who have students who attend Johnson Elementary on Sixth Street. Santa Claus also paid a visit during the festivities.



Top: Daniella Campos, 5, a kindergartner at Johnson Elementary, talks to Amber Wittenauer, a music education senior, about what she wants for Christmas. Above: Kie'v Allen, 7, opens several gifts at the Sigma Alpha Epsilon house while his grandmother, Vanita Allen, and Ashley Meadows, a political science junior, looked on. Vanita Allen was overwhelmed with joy and could hardly put her emotions into words. "It's amazing how generous people are at this time of year," she said.

Dr. Drew tells crowd what Mom wouldn't

By Hayley Schletter
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Multiple orgasms, the G-spot and college hookup culture were just a few of the topics Dr. Drew Pinsky addressed in Memorial Hall last night.

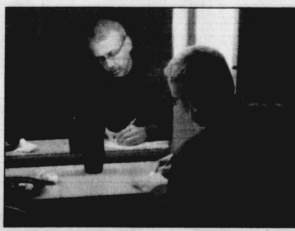
The show, sponsored by UK's Student Activities Board, featured a frank, nearly two-hour long question-and-answer session with Pinsky, who's commonly known as "Dr. Drew" from the popular radio call-in and MTV show "Loveline."

"I know what you're up to, and I know you've got questions," Pinsky

said. Before the question-and-answer session began, Pinsky told attendees about his background and how "Loveline" began at a small alternative radio station in Los Angeles 22 years ago.

"It was a little --hole cinderblock box behind where I lived," Pinsky joked. Then a third-year medical student at the University of Southern California, Pinsky was introduced as a "real doctor going to talk about sexually transmitted diseases," and he said the calls he received from listeners brought

See Loveline on page 2



Dr. Drew Pinsky prepares notes for his discussion with students at Memorial Hall last night. Pinsky is most well-known for co-hosting MTV's "Loveline" with Adam Carolla.

See Facebook on page 2

Facebook photos convict students

By Clay McGuffin
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

UK students are beginning to find that the popular website Facebook.com is not just a great way to keep up with friends, but also a way to get in trouble with UK's administration.

Dana Walton-Macaulay, assistant director for student rights for UK's Office of Residence Life, said she has had to handle alcohol-related violations resulting from incriminating Facebook photos.

"We deal with it as though the person had been caught in person," Walton-Macaulay said.

Macaulay said the violations are not a result of a university administrator searching through profiles for incriminating photos.

"It's usually students turning each other in," Walton-Macaulay said.

Facebook is a social network site created by a Harvard student that allows students, faculty and staff of colleges across the nation to post profiles and pictures, link themselves to "friends," and join social groups. The site has grown exponentially since its creation in spring of 2004 and is now available to anyone possessing a university e-mail address at one of the colleges and universities it supports.

Students can limit access to their Facebook accounts. Privacy options allow students to limit viewing of their profile to only people linked as friends.

Mike Falkowitz, UK's fraternity adviser, said he has become aware of the questionable content students are posting on their Facebook profiles, especially in regards to Greek organizations.

"We're not going out there and looking for things," Falkowitz said. "Stuff is sent to us periodically, sometimes we receive e-mails, sometimes from an anonymous source."

Falkowitz said students need to use common sense when it comes to their online activity.

"The first thing I would say is don't do anything stupid; if you are going to be breaking the rules, why are you going to be publicizing it to the world?" Falkowitz said.

"Because all it takes is someone with a grudge against an individual person or organization to then pass it along to one person."

Tony Blanton, associate dean of students, said his office has yet to deal with any violations due to Facebook content. He said UK can use Facebook or linked Webshots.com content as evidence of violations of the student code of conduct. He is not, however, actively searching for violations on the site, he said.

"I have no interest in searching through students pictures on Facebook and Webshots to find pictures of students breaking the rules," Blanton said.

See Facebook on page 2

High volume leads to poor hearing

By Jason Hauser
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

A not-so-silent threat may be lurking in your pocket.

Walking from one class to another, students could be just a thumb click away from permanent hearing loss.

While many people like their music played loudly, it can get too loud quickly, according to Dr. Sanford Archer, an ear, nose and throat specialist with UK HealthCare.

"If I can hear your music next to you, then it's too loud," Archer said.

According to WebMD.com, it's easy to damage your ears without even noticing it at first. When hearing is damaged, noticeable pain or obvious symptoms rarely exist, according to the Web site that contains comprehensive health information for consumers and physicians alike. Individuals can go long periods of time before noticing symptoms, such as trouble hearing in crowded rooms with lot of background noise.

"I think that if you listen to it at an

unreasonable volume for a long time, then, yeah, it's a concern," said Adam Knadler, an accounting and finance sophomore.

Apple's iPod is capable of volume of well over 100 decibels. Most other brands of mp3 players also have that capability. But according to the U.S. Department of Labor Occupational and Health Administration, which is responsible for setting sound restrictions in workplaces across the country, listening to sounds at 100 decibels should only be done for two hours a day at the most. Listening longer than that would likely damage hearing and put the listener at serious risk of permanent damage, the administration's Web site said.

"It's just a matter of controlling it and not listening to it too long," said business major Kristi Briggs.

A rise in people suffering from noise-induced hearing loss has become a great concern to experts who notice the growing number of occurrences in children. Many experts point to personal media players as the source of

the increase.

Archer said one of the worst aspects of hearing loss is the fact that no real treatment exists for it. Since most damage is done to the ear's nerves, the damage is irreversible. Once hearing loss is diagnosed, the best treatment is a hearing aid or perhaps a cochlear implant, he said.

A cochlear implant is a device that uses electrodes to transmit to the auditory nerve, but the device is imperfect and would sound more electronic than natural, Archer said. With a cochlear implant, lip reading would have to still be used for most conversations to be understood.

In order to avoid hearing loss, individuals should listen to music at lower levels and for shorter periods of time, Archer said. If planning on listening to music for a long period of time, students should listen at a volume even lower than they normally do, he added.

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Morris

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and sought feedback from teams on the student-athlete's draft status," the statement said.

The NCAA explained that Morris was not permanently barred from collegiate competition because there was no proof of an "explicit written or oral agreement with an agent," but that "based on the nature of the Morris family's relationship with the agency and the agency's involvement throughout the draft process, the reinstatement staff determined a significant reinstatement penalty was warranted."

At a press conference yesterday, UK athletic director Mitch Barnhart said the NCAA failed to heed the standards set by past cases with this decision.

"We're extremely disappointed with the NCAA's ruling in this case," he said. "We don't feel the punishment is consistent with the past precedent established by the previous NCAA cases."

Barnhart said UK would appeal the decision to suspend Morris for the season to the Division I Student-Athlete Reinstatement Committee.

"That appeal will go in sometime next week and should be heard sometime before the holidays," he said.

Rick Evrard, the Kansas lawyer and former NCAA employee who UK hired to help make the case for Morris' reinstatement, was not sure whether or not he'd be involved in this final appeal attempt.

"The NCAA has a set of bylaws and interpretations they are applying to

this case and, unfortunately, right now they believe this a fair decision," he said.

UK head coach Tubby Smith declined to elaborate much on the issue.

"We don't feel the punishment is consistent with the past precedent ..."

Mitch Barnhart
UK athletic director

would be immediately suspended.

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Facebook

Continued from page 1

Some students said Facebook content is none of the university's business.

"What I post and do outside of the university should not be any part of the university's business," said Travis Pierce, a telecommunications senior. "Facebook isn't affiliated with the university."

Katie Blakeney, a theater senior, said the university e-mail requirement changes the situation.

"If you're using a university e-mail to log in, then I guess the university can use the content," Blakeney said. "It's like the saying, 'Don't write it if you don't want other people to see it.' So don't post it if you don't want other people to see it."

Paul Salamanca, an associate UK law professor, said the university's can legally use Facebook and Webshots content as evidence of violations.

"Once you put something on the Web, you waive the privacy," Salamanca said. "If you want to keep something private, don't put it on the Web."

UK is not the only university that's been using Facebook to punish students who post incriminating information.

In early November, four Northern

Kentucky University students were fined, given campus probation, and sent to a special class about the dangers of binge drinking after a resident adviser found pictures of the students drinking from a keg they had smuggled into their dorm room. Missouri University has formed a task force to decide how to deal with Facebook postings and pictures that violate university policy.

In October, nine students at North Carolina State University were recently charged with violating the university's alcohol policy when a resident adviser found pictures of them drinking on their Facebook profiles.

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Loveline

Continued from page 1

"amazing questions to light."

Pinsky hosted the radio show for free for 10 years.

"I thought it was community service," he said, but added that a lot of people were outraged at the show's format.

"As far as the American public was concerned, people your age weren't having sex in 1983," he said. "Young people weren't being encouraged to talk about sex or protect themselves."

During last night's speech, Pinsky invited UK students to talk openly about hookups.

"They're shrouded in mystery," Pinsky said, saying that "hooking up" can range from kissing or holding hands to having a one-night stand.

Mainly, he wanted to know why alcohol is usually involved.

Audience members gave feedback ranging from, "Alcohol" gave me

"We have the men calling about the men and the women calling about the men - this worries me."

Dr. Drew Pinsky

"Loveline" host, on the show's call-in questions
"...if this chick turned me down, I could say 'Sorry, I was plastered,'" and, "Getting drunk helps me last longer," to, "Just because you're drunk doesn't mean you want to have sex."

Men and women have inherent differences that also apply to hooking up, men tend to have a more narrow motivation for doing so, primarily, "I really want to do this," while women have a broader motivation, including the possibility of beginning a relationship, Pinsky said.

Audience members asked questions about penis size, relationships, female ejaculation, birth control and orgasms. "Men have an on/off switch," Pin-

sky said in regard to orgasm potential. "Women are like the flight deck of a 747."

Students also got clear answers to questions about more technical aspects of sex.

"I wasn't expecting him to be as straightforward," said communications sophomore Grace Hahn. "He was a lot more conversational than he is on the show, I thought it was better that the audience could respond."

Most students said they enjoyed Pinsky's question-and-answer format.

"It was funny and entertaining — a good way to get college kids out here and their questions asked," said Meghan LaValle, a merchandising, apparel and textiles freshman.

Pinsky's speech also helped break through social norms for some.

"I was surprised how it opened up a lot of taboo topics for discussion," Jason Nehmer, an agricultural biotechnology junior, said. "I wanted to see how society's ideas about sex related to mine."

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Classics and rarities abound at Black Swan

By Lindsay Curtin
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Buying a book as a holiday gift at Black Swan Books could mean anything from purchasing a novel to shelling out \$15,000 for a first-edition written by Thomas Jefferson. And while making the buy you could rub shoulders with movie stars, singers or wannabe celebrities.

Black Swan Books, located at 505 E. Maxwell St., carries many rare, unusual books among its more than 100,000 volumes, including a first edition of Jefferson's "Notes On Virginia," kept under lock and key, valued at \$15,000.

J. Michael Courtney, Black Swan Books owner for the last 22 years, said serious book collectors can find many rare first- and second-edition books in the store, which Courtney has found by searching over the years to add to Black Swan's vast collection.

"I've had people looking for witches' bibles and books on how to build atomic bombs," said Courtney, who has a master's degree from UK in library science, with a specialization in rare books.

Much of Courtney's clientele aren't local. Book lovers from out of town often stop by to browse when they are in Lexington.

"When it was closing time one night, I kindly asked a customer to leave and later found out it was actress Susan Sarandon," Courtney

said. Courtney has also had other celebrities, including a Backstreet Boys singer, visit his store. One man claimed to be singer James Brown, the "godfather of soul," and performed an impromptu dance at the checkout counter after a night of partying around town. The same man claimed to be Elvis during another visit.

One thing Courtney said draws his customers is the care he takes of his books.

"We have dust jackets or presentation bindings on almost all of our books. That is what sets us apart from many other stores, and what takes the price of Mark Twain's 'Life On The Mississippi' from \$300 to \$5,000," Courtney said.

National bookstore chains such as Barnes & Noble have a large selection of books, a coffee shop and the occasional book signing, but for those who enjoy an evening of listening to excerpts read by acclaimed authors, Black Swan has a history of drawing in special events.

Wendell Berry, former UK English professor, T.S. Eliot Award winner and author of more than 40 books including novels, essays and poetry, recently visited to do a reading from his new book, "The Way Of Ignorance And Other Essays."

Berry fans from as far as Canada, Minnesota and Iowa traveled to Lexington for a chance to meet the author, ask him questions and have

him autograph a book for them. All seats in the house were full and many were left standing as the crowd overflowed into the adjacent hallways.

Some UK students often visit the store to look for a hard-to-find book or just to browse and relax in a place they enjoy as book lovers.

"I always pass the bookstore and have always wanted to stop just to see what kind of weird or interesting things I could find," said marketing sophomore Lauren Bassett.

Courtney is always looking for rare and interesting additions to contribute to the store's collection, and customers may sell their books at the store. An impressive addition this year is a second edition of "Montesquieu: The Spirit Of The Laws," a book from the famous French author written in 1750.

Students such as Bassett might not be looking for books from 18th-century France, but the store carries modern-day reading necessities and one might find just the right volume of one of the all-time student favorites — Cliff Notes.

"We're an old fashioned retail business," said Courtney. "I aim to provide my customers with hands-on personal service and a neighborhood gathering place for people who want one-of-a-kind books."

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Shuttles help students ditch holiday jams

By Ellie Fairbanks
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Everyone has been there, stuck in that awful Nicholasville Road traffic. With final exams and the holiday season quickly approaching, UK Parking is offering a free solution to the traffic and holiday shopping hassles.

In order to help with this, UK's Department of Parking and Transportation and Student Government are co-sponsoring a holiday shopping shuttle to Fayette Mall for students. On Saturday, CATS buses will pick up students at various locations around campus, drive them to the Fayette Mall, and return students to UK. The buses will run from noon to 6 p.m., picking up and dropping off students about every 45 minutes.

Pick-up locations include the Student Center, Greg Page, Shawneetown, the Senior Citizens Center and the corners of Rose Street and Columbia Avenue, Hilltop and Woodland avenues and University and Huguette drives.

Chrissie Balding, the marketing and promotions specialist for the Department of Transportation at UK, said the shuttle will help ease

Shopping Shuttle Pick-up Locations

- Student Center
- Greg Page Apartments
- Shawneetown
- The Senior Citizens Center
- Corner of Rose Street and Columbia Avenue
- Corner of Hilltop and Woodland avenues
- Corner of University and Huguette drives

the overall stress of the holiday season.

"Anyone who doesn't have a car at school, who doesn't want to drive with these high gas prices, deal with Lexington traffic, or worry about finding parking at the crowded mall can benefit from this service," Balding said.

This service started last year. Both UK and SG contribute financially to the project, and they hope to see more involvement this weekend than last weekend's low turnout.

"We really didn't have too many students come out last weekend, but we'd love to see

more on the 11th," Balding said.

Even if students aren't in the holiday shopping spirit yet, Balding doesn't see why they would not want an excuse to go to the mall.

"This is just for any kind of shopping you may want to do," she said. "You don't even have to be Christmas shopping."

Some students said this is a good way for UK to help those on campus get around, especially if they do not have a car.

"I think it sounds really helpful, especially for people that don't have a car at school," said chemical engineering sophomore Chris Jones. "It's not always easy to find someone willing to drive you places whenever you need to go somewhere."

UK and SG hope to continue this shopping shuttle for many more holidays to come.

"We really just want to let kids get out there and do some shopping and take a break from everything on campus," Balding said. "It's a way for students to go shopping easily if, for any reason, they don't want to drive themselves."

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WINTER ARRIVES

Students shuffled through snow and freezing rain on their way to class as temperatures remained below freezing yesterday. Today will be even colder, according to the National Weather Service, with a high of 25 degrees Fahrenheit.



Rain, snow and sleet covered UK's campus yesterday, including the walkway from Memorial Coliseum to Funkhouser Building.

HILLY SCHUPPER | STAFF

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IN OUR OPINION

Don't horse around with World Equestrian Games

Once again, when it comes to horses, the eyes of the world will be on Lexington and Central Kentucky.

Earlier this week, Lexington won the bid for the 2010 World Equestrian Games, an international horse competition which includes seven total events, including dressage and show jumping.

Kentucky has taken a leap of faith — we hope it pays off. The games are coming, so now the state must be ready — in 1,747 days, according to the Lexington Herald-Leader.

To make this pay off, Kentucky must put up some serious money, and its leaders must make sure that money is invested wisely. This state cannot pump infinite resources, so it must make shrewd choices, such as allying with corporate sponsors.

Plans call for the building of a \$33 million arena for the games at the Kentucky Horse Park, and Gov. Ernie Fletcher aims to make the arena part of the budget he gives to the General Assembly in the upcoming session.

The WEG began in 1990 and has been held in Europe every four years since. Lexington's will be the first games outside of Europe, and the first time all the competitions will be held in one venue.

The 2006 games will be held in Aachen, Germany, and its organizers are expecting to sell 500,000 tickets over the course of the two-week competitions. They also predict a total economic windfall of \$275 million.

Gov. Fletcher and the Kentucky organizers are predicting a \$100 million economic impact for the state, but Chris Gilligan of the Kentucky Commerce Cabinet said that preliminary estimate "might be conservative."

UK professor of economics Ken Troske said the Kentucky Derby brings in about \$60 million annually and that he was unsure this type of event could surpass that. Even though publicly financed stadiums have a poor track record, he said it is difficult to predict what the real cash flow could be.

It is far too early to project what kind of payday this could be for the state, although administrators should aim high. This will be the biggest sporting event in the state — organizers expect more than 1,000 competitors and more than 1,000 members of the media — and so it offers a rare opportunity to sell the state.

The first step is to choose an executive director with clear vision and the ability to

oversee such a monumental task.

This should happen soon, so organizers can begin promoting the event and courting corporate sponsors. Since Kentucky cannot afford to turn its budget completely upside down for this endeavor, corporate partners will play a vital role. Kentucky's general fund should not bear the burden of these games alone. It can't.

We often have to make tough choices in Kentucky. The WEG was the right decision — especially if we want to stake our claim as "the Horse Capital of the World" — and it could mean millions of dollars in revenue for a poor state. To guarantee success, though, we must continue to make good choices or we'll have giant monuments to regret, visible from Interstate 75.

And during the next five years before the games, state leaders shouldn't forget about UK — an institution that pumps money back into the economy every year, not just on an occasional whim.

Leaders and organizers have to make sure the investment in hosting this world-class event pays off for the state.



BRAD STURGEON, THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Coach Smith hasn't delivered

Something needs to be done about UK men's basketball coach Tubby Smith. He is a great guy and people like his coaching, but his lack of recruiting (besides a few) has dropped us below Connecticut, North Carolina and Duke in the rankings.

No one aspiring to play in the NBA wants to come play for a plow offense. We went to three straight NCAA championships with former head coach Rick Pitino's players, but we've been to no Final Fours since 1998. Yes, Smith has a nice conference record, but that is the Southeastern Conference. UK would have no recent conference titles if it played in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

SETH SLONE
political science junior

Columnist wrong about Warren

Judge Samuel Alito has come under much fire recently because of his comments made when applying for a job with the Reagan administration in 1985. While his comments most certainly were horribly wrong, they do not necessarily show what type of a Supreme Court justice he will become.

In his Dec. 8 article, Brenton Kenkel, in reference to Earl Warren, asserted that personal politics and judicial philosophy often go hand-in-hand.

I humbly beg to differ. Warren's politics prior to becoming Chief Justice in no way reflected what type of Supreme Court justice he would become.

In what has now become a horribly infamous blot on American history, large numbers of Japanese citizens on the West Coast were put into internment camps for supposedly being subversive. This event was legalized by our government in the infamous Supreme Court case, *Korematsu v. United States*.

What is most interesting, however, is Earl Warren's role in this event. In Mark Weber's article "The Japanese Camps in California" for the Journal of Historical Review, he outlines exactly what Warren's role was in this internment.

"As Attorney General of California, Warren cultivated popular racist feeling in an apparent effort to further his political career," Weber wrote. "He was an outstanding member of the xenophobic 'Native Sons of the Golden West,' an organization dedicated to keeping California 'as it has always been and God Himself intended it shall always be the White Man's Paradise.'"

It is clear that during his time as attorney general and governor of California, Earl Warren was racist toward the Japanese, and he actively supported placing them in internment camps even though there was no real evidence supporting this move.

If anyone had looked at Warren's political philosophy in the 1940s, there is no way he would have been viewed as the future leader of the progressive judicial philosophy; therefore, it really isn't fair to judge how someone will rule as a Supreme Court justice based on past political philosophies.

Or maybe I'm wrong, and Kenkel would have supported Warren for the Supreme Court back in the 1950s.

JOSH YOST
secondary social studies education

UK intramurals are poorly run

UK parking, dead week and the basketball ticket lotteries are a few of this school's most horrendous problems. But even those headaches do not compare to the atrocity that is UK Intramurals.

This un-organization is a disgrace to the university. The staff is a conglomeration on the periphery of competence. Their rules are senseless.

As a student during the last three semesters, I have competed in six events. In all six, the structure has been terrible. We have gotten away with playing a graduate from last year, and players played for multiple teams.

Prior to a softball game last year, one of our best players hopped the fence perpendicular to the field instead of walking the extra 150 yards. The umpires that were waiting for the game to begin caught him, and told us before the game that he was ejected from the game for jumping the fence.

Oh, by the way, our opponent that day happened to have at least one intramural umpire that had already called one of our games. The same umpire also called a basketball game that we played in this season against one of his teammates from that softball team.

You must first know the rules to watch a basketball game. In order to watch a basketball game, let alone officiate it. This is not a grudge against one or two people that are referees. This applies to the whole group. None of them know the rules of any of the sports they officiate.

I recognize every staff member from last year, so you would think with a year's experience, the incompetent officials and organization would improve dramatically.

This is an ongoing dilemma that has no end in sight. There have been no changes made in format, and if the same faction of referees continue to err in judgment, call their friends' games and enforce absurd rules, the student body will carry on suffering.

JONATHAN SMITH
journalism sophomore

Give equestrian club more support

As some of my fellow students may know, the Kentucky Horse Park has just been named the site for the 2010 World Equestrian Games. The estimated impact on the state economy, according to the governor and event organizers, is \$100 million.

Kentucky is the horse capital of the world. With the Rolex Kentucky Three Day Event held at the horse park every year (the only four-star event in America) and now the World Equestrian Games (to be held outside Europe for the first time) we can see how influential our city can be on the horse and not just racing — industry.

For those of you who don't know, our university is home to two equestrian clubs: the equestrian team and the dressage team. These teams compete in some of the same disciplines to be displayed at the 2010 games at the Kentucky Horse Park. One would see that these events might bring high-school horse enthusiasts to look at UK.

But take one look at the facilities for our teams, and those horse enthusiasts would go somewhere else because neither team has their own facilities. Each team must search out places to ride and stay in shape.

With the emphasis on the horse industry here in Lexington, one would think UK might put a little effort into doing its share. UK has a great opportunity to become a better univer-

Debate over Christmastime semantics no Hallmark issue

So, it's Christmas time. Or Hanukkah time. Or Kwanzaa time. But remember: it's not the holidays.

A certain group of people (who I never write columns about) have launched a comically ironic counter-offensive to save Christmas from the evil clutches of religious diversity and tolerance.

As it turns out, religious conservatives, the self-appointed Knights of Christmas, feel that the sacred holiday commemorating the birth of the Christ child, having gone for so long without being corrupted by any other facet of society, is now under attack by the rampant evil that is liberalism.

Religious conservative leaders went berserk this week when they opened up their White House Christmas card and found a message wishing them a happy "holiday season" instead of a Merry Christmas. Their disappointment was only compounded by the fact that swans of locusts didn't overrun the White House and every first-born son in Washington didn't die.

The White House's failure to observe Christmas in its Christmas card is apparently catastrophic. In the "war on Christmas," this is Sept. 11.

In a Washington Post article published Wednesday, William A. Donohue, president of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, said, "this clearly demonstrates that the Bush administration has suffered a loss of will and that they have capitulated to the worst elements in our culture."

"Worst elements of our culture?"

Conglomerating all the celebrations of this season into an all-encompassing greeting is the product of the "worst elements of our culture?" Please.

What about grown men and women pushing and shoving each other to get an Xbox 360? Or a child's understanding of Christmas not extending past the concept of instant gratification? Perhaps conservatives would argue that they promote a healthy and robust economy.

Or what if the White House Christmas card had a picture of Nelly sliding a credit card down a stripper's butt? Conservatives could argue that interest rates are great.

Or what if the card was adorned with pictures of armless Iraqi children and sobbing soldier's wives? Freedom. Sept. 11. America. Sept. 11. Soft of.

How far detached from reality do you have to be to consider a politically correct Christmas card to be evil, but willingly ignore any of the true evil that plagues this country? If anything, religious conservatives should aim their guns at the commercialization of Christmas, which has turned a one-day holiday into a month-and-a-half retail blitz. But they won't. In the United States, the only thing worse than defying God is defying capitalism and the Almighty Dollar.

Conversely, liberals do their fair share blabbering nonsensical holiday pap. As I said before, Christmas has become more of a commercial event than anything else, so by wishing someone "Merry Christmas," it is usually an empty greeting bearing compulsions to purchase retail goods, not the cheer and good will that it should. It's nothing to get upset about. At least Hanukkah and Kwanzaa have retained their integrity.

This time of year always turns into a season of political mudslinging and muckraking instead of a time of togetherness and peace. Regardless of what you celebrate this year, don't let the presence of the words "holidays" or "Christmas" in ad campaigns ruin your holiday season. There are larger battles to be fought. I think former Democratic congressman Rev. Bob Edgar said it best: "I think it's more important to put Christ back into our war planning than into our Christmas cards."

Happy Holidays.
Doug Scott is a journalism senior. E-mail: dscott@kykernel.com.

sity by exploiting those things Lexington is known for. Why would the horse capital of the world not want to have a top-notch riding facility for the leaders of tomorrow? We don't need millions of dollars here; all we are looking for is a little recognition, varsity status and a workable facility. Wake up, UK. This is horse country after all.

VICTORIA TROUT
business management junior

Submissions

Send a guest column or letter to the editor to Opinions Editor Andrew Martin or Assistant Opinions Editor Brenton Kenkel. Please limit letters to 350 words or fewer. Be sure to include your full name, class and major with all submissions.

E-MAIL opinions@kykernel.com

Cats still perfect after running over Georgetown



Sophomore forward Eleia Roddy stretches for a rebound over Georgetown University senior guard Bethany LeSueur during the first half of last night's game in Memorial Coliseum.

By Chris DeLotell
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Final exams are still a few days away but UK women's basketball players called last night's game against Big East foe Georgetown the team's first major test of the season.

The inside duo of sophomore Sarah Elliott and Jennifer Humphrey overwhelmed the overmatched Hoyas, and a suffocating defensive effort paced the Cats to a 63-47 win.

"I really loved our intensity and energy," UK head coach Mickie DeMoss said. "Every shot was contested. We didn't give them very many open looks."

With the victory, UK improved to 7-0, its best start since the 1982 team opened the season with the same record. The players are thrilled about their winning streak.

"It is exciting," Elliott said. "I haven't been 7-0 since high school. Now we want to be 8-0, then 9-0. There's no reason we can't be."

Pfeiffer was once again dynamite off the bench for the Cats. The sharpshooting junior guard entered the game with 14 minutes to play in the first half and promptly nailed her first three 3-point attempts en route to leading the team with nine first half points. She finished the game with 12 points.

"She has that shooter's mentality," DeMoss said. "She knows that's what she does well. When you're a shooter, you know it."

After Georgetown cut the lead to nine points on two free throws with 16:07 to play, UK put the game out of reach with a 12-0 burst, holding the Hoyas scoreless for 6:52. Georgetown went more than 11 minutes without a field goal during the run.

"I got tired of looking at 36 (on the scoreboard)," Georgetown coach Terry Williams-Flournoy said. "We can't have those types of droughts. It's frustrating."

Georgetown played with only six players, and without leading scorer and rebounder Kieraah Marlow, who missed the game with a sprained right knee. The Hoyas were able to stay in the game with hot shooting early from Bethany LeSueur and Kate Carlin, but UK's depth and defensive pressure proved to be too much for the depleted squad.

"We've got six and they've got 15, what do you think is going to happen?" Williams-Flournoy said. "Their depth is strong. That's when you win games, when you put your kids in when the other ones get tired."

Mahoney, who led all scorers with 14 points, hit back-to-back 3-pointers in the early stages of the second half to thwart any hopes Georgetown had of getting back into the game.

"We're trying to pick up our game at the start of the second half, because usually we come out flat," Mahoney said. "It always feels good to come out

there and knock in a few threes."

The Cats overcame a rare off-shooting night from Elliott. The 6-foot-6 center missed nine of her first 12 shots, but bounced back to finish with 12 points on 5-for-14 shooting.

Despite Elliott's early struggles on offense, DeMoss was pleased with her work on the defensive end.

"I thought she was certainly a factor," DeMoss said. "She changed some shots. They were really hesitant to take it in there."

With Southeastern Conference play set to begin next Saturday, the Cats are one of only three remaining undefeated teams in the league, next to No. 1 Tennessee and No. 3 Louisiana State. DeMoss still feels her team needs to improve its offensive play before taking on the league's elite.

"I'm very happy (with our) defensive and board play," she said, "but offense? Nope. We've got to get better. We need more consistent scorers."

The team is motivated by the desire to remain undefeated.

"That's something I think about every day," Elliott said. "I want this to continue. We deserve it. We work hard every day in practice. We just give it our all and apply it to the game."

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I haven't been 7-0 since high school ... Now we want to be 8-0, then 9-0."

- Sarah Elliott, UK center, on UK's unblemished record this season.

Cats hope first trip to Indy isn't their last

By Ryan Wood
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

The UK men's basketball team hopes this weekend's trip to play Indiana isn't its only game in Indianapolis this season.

The RCA Dome will play host to tomorrow's game as well as this year's Final Four, and if the No. 15 Cats (6-2) can make a deep run in the NCAA Tournament, they will return to Indy for a shot at their eighth national title.

"Indiana is always a big game," UK head coach Tubby Smith said yesterday.

It will be the 49th all-time meeting between the two storied programs, with UK holding the slight edge, 27-21, but the Cats currently hold a five-game win streak in the series.

The No. 18 Hoosiers (4-2) are coming off a 72-67 loss to Indiana State. Australian freshman center Ben Allen led the Hoosiers with 21 points and seven rebounds off the bench.

The Cats are coming off a 73-46 win over Georgia State and junior center Shagari Alleyne's career-high 16 points and six re-

bounds against the Panthers.

"We were looking for someone to step up (at center)," Smith said. "Shagari was impressive ... we simplified our offense and that has been a big key."

Alleyne's teammates noticed his newfound intensity.

"When he was out there, he was calling for the ball, telling us to get it to him," sophomore guard Joe Crawford said. "When he gets it going (on offense), and he's blocking shots on defense, he's a big help."

Strong post play is exactly what UK will need if it wants to beat Indiana. The Hoosiers look for leadership from senior forward Marco Killingsworth, their 6-foot-8, 268-pound postman who averages 19.7 points and 8.3 rebounds per game.

Killingsworth, the Hoosiers' leading scorer, gives up seven inches against Alleyne, but his bulkier frame presents an interesting challenge for the UK center.

"Killingsworth is a big guy (and) he's pretty versatile," Alleyne said. "I'm going to have to really get low and guard him."

"I'm going to have to use my height advantage over him and I'm sure he's going to use his (strength advantage)," he said.

When asked where his sudden point production came from, Alleyne wasn't hesitant to admit he had been underachieving in the past.

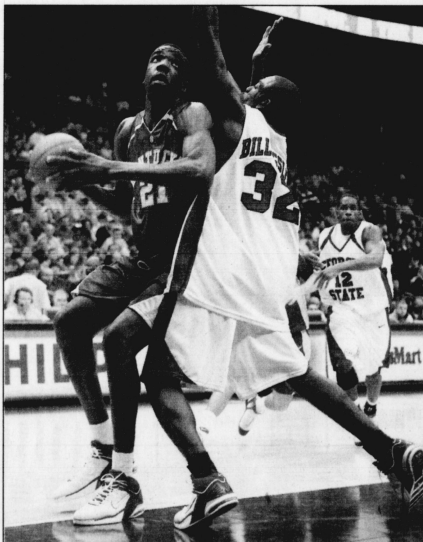
"It's a long time coming," he said. "I guess I finally came to my senses. I should have been doing it for awhile."

Saturday night, he shouldn't have to do it by himself. UK's leading scorer and rebounder, sophomore point guard Rajon Rondo (14.7 ppg and 10 rpg) practiced yesterday and should be good to go Saturday, according to Smith. Rondo missed the Georgia State game, sick with strep throat.

Senior guard Ravi Moss summed up how the team feels about another top-25 matchup.

"It's time for us to step and play well in a big game," Moss said. "(This) is a game where we need to step up and respond."

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Junior center Shagari Alleyne looks for a shot around Georgia State sophomore Justin Billingslea during the Cats' 73-46 victory Tuesday night in Atlanta.

Alleyne finished with a career-high 16 points, adding six rebounds and a blocked shot.

"We were looking for someone to step up (in the post)," UK head coach Tubby Smith said. "Shagari was impressive ... we simplified our offense and that has been a big key."

The UK-Indiana game tips off at 3:45 tomorrow afternoon in Indianapolis.

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