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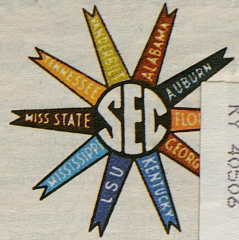
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The Cats' Pause

"SPOTLIGHTING UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY AND SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE"



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SPECIAL EXTRA ISSUE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1989

LEXING 8



Claiborne announces retirement

Newton: 'Be quick, but don't hurry,' in finding successor

by TCP managing editor Russell Rice

The unexpected resignation of Jerry Claiborne, 61, as University of Kentucky football coach on Tuesday, Nov. 29, caught all interested parties by surprise and immediately set into motion speculation on the choice of his successor.

Claiborne, who compiled a 41-46-3 record and took his teams to back-to-back Hall of Fame Bowls during an eight-year tenure at UK, explained at a Tuesday-afternoon press conference that he made the decision during a bumpy plane ride somewhere over Ohio on Monday night.

After his Wildcats lost the season finale to Tennessee for a 6-5 record and no bowl invitation, Claiborne had prepared to hit the recruiting trail, wondering privately if he had the heart for one more rugged campaign.

He expressed his doubts to UK athletics director C.M. Newton on Monday morning, then later joined assistant Chip Garber on the flight to Youngstown, where Claiborne was to speak at a banquet.

"The weather was rough," Claiborne said, "and the plane was bouncing around. I didn't know if we were going to hit the ground, or what we were going to hit. I started thinking, this is kind of stupid."

The resignation, which Claiborne emphasized was his own, "under no pressure from anybody," caught practically everyone by surprise, although there had been some speculation that Claiborne might succumb to pressure from his wife of 40 years, Faye, and family and hang it up in the near future.

Despite his teams finishing on the short side of the won-loss ledger, they were competitive, and the players had endeared themselves to UK president David Roselle and the academic community for outstanding performances in the classroom.

The most recent accomplishments included the 1989 College Football Association's Academic Achievement Award for highest graduation rate (90 percent) among its members, and just recently a record 17 members on the Southeastern Conference's All-Academic football roll, bringing UK's total to 68 during his tenure.

Newton said the university would accept Claiborne's retirement, but would honor the four remaining years on the coach's contract.

"As a student-athlete and 40 years as a football coach, Jerry has always been a great role model for his peers, players and everyone involved," Newton said in a

(Continued on page 2A)

Claiborne surprises everyone with retirement announcement

(Continued from front cover)

prepared statement. "I admire Jerry for having enough courage to make his decision on his own terms and at his own time.

"Speaking as an alumnus of the university, I really admire the discipline, the stability, the academic achievements and the competitiveness that he, his coaching staff and players have brought to the University of Kentucky."

Dr. Roselle, also present at the media conference, called Claiborne "a man of undisputed character and demeanor," and said the coach later would select from several positions at the university.

When questioned later about hiring a new coach, Roselle said the university would follow the same procedure as that which brought Rick Pitino to UK as head basketball coach last summer, which meant that Newton would head up a committee to screen applicants for the position.

"I'm going to plod along exactly like we did in hiring a basketball coach," Newton said. "I'm going to do it my way. I'm going to be a plodder and probably hack everybody in the world off in the process, but we're going to do it right and get the right guy."

Noting that football coaches were allowed to make home visits on Friday (Dec. 1), he said he hoped to find someone quickly, "but rather than get the wrong guy in here, I'd give up a recruiting class. We want to get the right person for this job."

He reiterated Roselle's statement that there would be a screening committee, no search committee.

"I'll hire the coach," Newton said, "but I don't have any candidates in mind. And if I did, I wouldn't tell you."

Newton stressed that he wants Claiborne to remain at UK in some capacity.

"Coach (Paul) Bryant used to use the word class," Newton said. "He said he couldn't define it. If you can't recognize class in Jerry Claiborne, you know there's something wrong. He exudes it."

The athletic director emphasized that he would take all the time he needed to get the right person for the job. In other words, "alums aren't going to rush me. Nobody's going to rush us through this thing. We're going to be quick, but not hurry."

However, speculation on who would fill Claiborne's shoes started almost before the ink dried on Newton's statement. The most immediate names dropped were that of Eastern Kentucky coach Roy Kidd, Louisville coach Howard Schnellenberger, former Atlanta Falcons coach Leeman Bennett and Pittsburgh head coach Mike Gottfried.

Meanwhile, Newton met with Claiborne's staff on the day after Claiborne's resignation and encouraged the current assistants to apply for the head job, noting however that it was reasonable to assume he would start the search by looking for a person with head coaching experience.

"I encouraged them to apply for the head position here or as an assistant here or anywhere else," he said, "and I would do anything I can to help them."

Newton said it was natural to assume that he was likely to start with experienced head

coaches, but that wasn't to say he would rule out assistants.

"There might be a top assistant out there with college experience," he said, "but I don't know yet, because we really haven't had time to think about it."

Kidd, who has led Eastern to two Division I-AA championships, was interviewed for the UK job before Claiborne was hired eight years ago. He also has been rumored as a candidate for the Florida job.

Hoever, he immediately said he was unsure of his interest in the UK job and he had not been contacted by anyone from Florida.

Schnellenberger, a former UK All-American, also talked to UK eight years ago before taking his name out of contention. During his three years at U of L, he had posted a 22-31-1 record going into a Japan Bowl appearance against Syracuse.

The Cardinals have posted two straight winning seasons, going 8-3 last year and 6-5 this year.

Most of the speculation concerned Gottfried, a Crestline, Ohio, native who played at Morehead. He coached at Murray State from 1978-80 before leaving for jobs at Cincinnati (1981-82), Kansas (1983-85) and Pitt, where he has been head coach since 1986.

In addition to being a close friend of Rick Pitino, who was on the sideline during the Pitt-Miami football game this year, Gottfried also was best man at the wedding of UK strength coach Ray Oliver, who was then strength at Pitt.

According to several news sources, Gottfried's agent—who is also Rick Pitino's

agent—was in Lexington over the weekend. And ESPN football analyst Beano Cook, said on the air Saturday afternoon that his sources had indicated that Gottfried had been offered "around \$600,000 a year," for the UK job.

Bill Baldrige, who resigned this season at Morehead because of health problems, roomed with Gottfried when both were students at that school. Baldrige was on Gottfried's staffs at Murray, Cincinnati and Kansas before returning to Morehead.

Wildcat assistant Jake Hallum is among the list of candidates for the head coaching job at Morehead, where he was head coach from 1968-71, compiling a four-year record of 22-17-1. The Eagles were 3-6-1, 6-4, 6-4, and 7-3 under Hallum.

Hallum left Morehead to join Claiborne's staff at Maryland and has been with Claiborne, coaching offensive guards, since.

Another Wildcat assistant, Greg Nord, also is a candidate for the Morehead job.

Two current 'Cat assistants considered viable candidates for the UK job are Jerry Eisaman and Terry Strook, the unofficial offensive and defensive coordinators, respectively.

Other names being bounced around on the local scene include Ohio State coach John Cooper (a former UK assistant who was a candidate for the job eight years ago), Air Force coach Fisher DeBerry, Indianapolis Colts assistant George Catavolos (another former UK assistant), Baylor coach Grant Teaff, North Carolina State coach Dick Sheridan and Philadelphia Eagles offensive line coach Dan Neal (a former UK player).



MEMORIES: (Clockwise, top left) Claiborne along with TE Oliver White showcase Hall of Fame trophy captured against Wisconsin; the UK coach instructs QB Randy Jenkins; and in '82, Claiborne with All-SEC defensive wiz Andy Molls.

HS junior Chris Harrison commits to UK early

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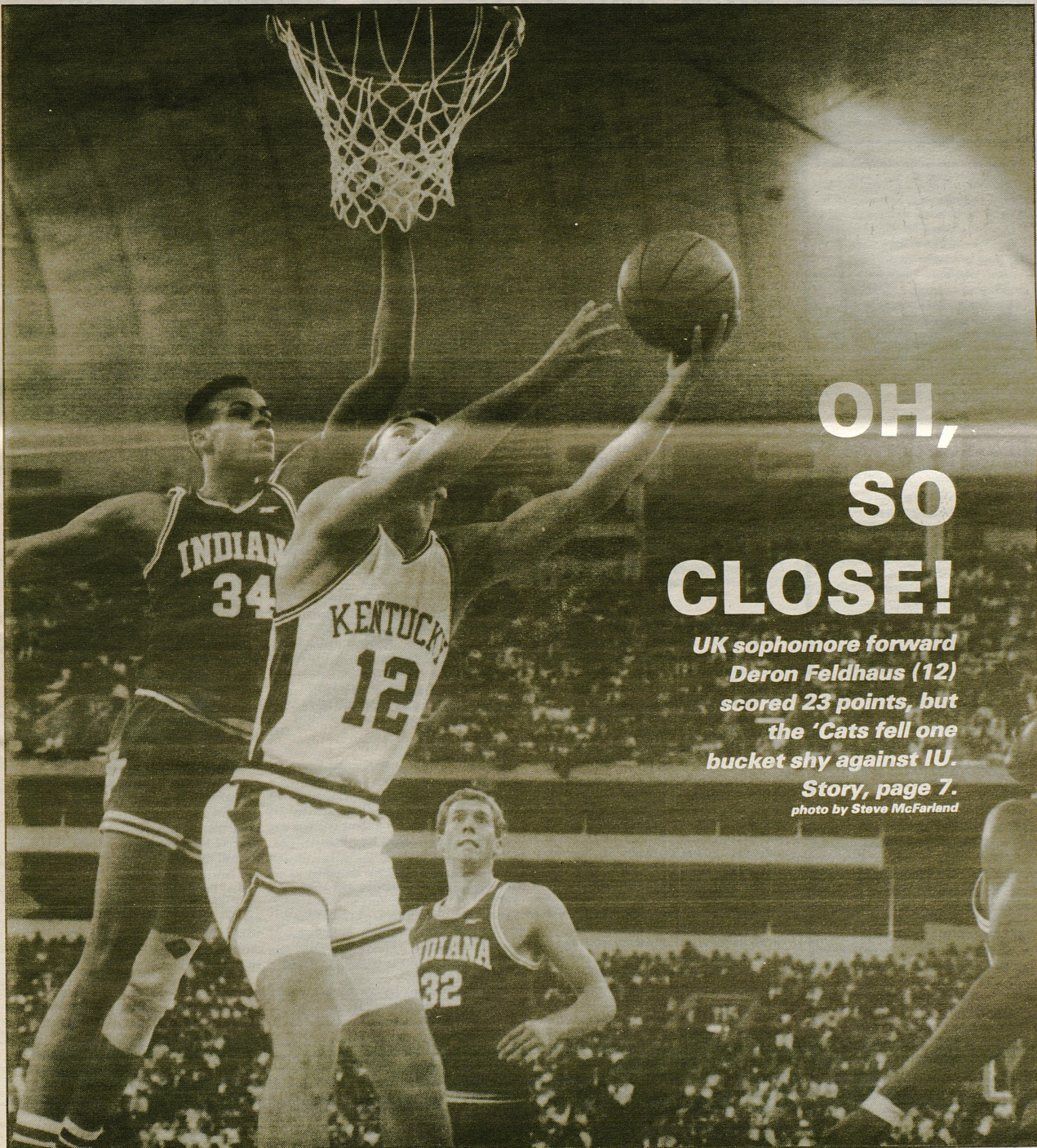
"SPOTLIGHTING UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY AND SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE"



VOLUME 14 - NUMBER 14

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1989

LEXINGTON, KY.



OH, SO CLOSE!

*UK sophomore forward
Deron Feldhaus (12)
scored 23 points, but
the 'Cats fell one
bucket shy against IU.*

*Story, page 7.
photo by Steve McFarland*

The Cats' Pause

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CATS' PAUSE EDITOR/PUBLISHER

Push any button for Wildcat news

This will be like one of those 900 numbers you dial when you want to know a lot about a particular subject, but will probably feel like you really didn't learn what you thought you would.

✓If you want to read about Jerry Claiborne's retirement, push button No. 1.

✓If you want to get the gossip on the football coaching vacancy at the University of Kentucky, push button No. 2.

✓If you want to read about "Pitino ball" and how it sent 25,000 or so Indiana Hoosier fans home worrying about the future and not being able to enjoy a two-point victory, then push button No. 3.

✓If you want to read about the status of UK president David Roselle and his chances of remaining on top at the University of Kentucky, push button No. 4.

✓If you want to read about how UK's brash new, but well-experienced coach out of the NBA has already served notice that he'll not be intimidated by Bobby Knight, even in front of 25,000 home-standing puppets, push button No. 5.

✓If you want to panic, push the operator's number (on our 900 system we can afford only five programs, we just haven't reached Jose Canseco's phone volume yet) and ask for assistance in dialing either Arizona's Lute Olsen (you remember him, don't you?) who is at the bottom of the Pac-10 standings with an 0-2 mark and it's not even January, Dean Smith for being upset by Alabama or Dale Brown trying to explain why his Tigers lost to Kansas.

□ □ □

Let's begin with button one. Two dollars for the first minute and \$1 for each additional minute please.

Jerry Claiborne surprised many folks last Tuesday by announcing his retirement, saying he no longer felt up to the recruiting wars and wants to spend more time with his family.

It was a gracious decision and one in the best interests of both his family and the university. But don't confuse this move as meaning Kentucky will immediately begin throwing 80-yard touchdown passes and winning eight or nine games a season.

But it will give Kentucky a new look and new hope, perhaps a mirage, but at least a change.

What Claiborne accomplished here in eight years will not be fully appreciated for many years. We all tend to take things for granted that are expected in life. One group of people that won't have to wait 20 years to benefit from Jerry's presence are his players.

The scene, according to several players, when Claiborne met with the team was an emotional one, one in which they openly expressed their affection for the man who truly cares for his people.

As one assistant noted at the Commonwealth Stadium offices while Claiborne was announcing his retirement across campus, "Coach could have been

more popular with the fans had he wanted to sacrifice some assistants, but that's what so special about coach. He has tremendous loyalty to his staff. He's a great, great person and he'll be missed." The coach making those comments was one who abilities have not been questioned by fans or media.

Claiborne later said he came to Kentucky with a clean understanding of how tough the job of rebuilding Kentucky would be. He said his immediate goals were to build facilities and restore respectability to the program. He obviously succeeded in both.

Jerry also said he felt UK could compete in the SEC on a regular basis if Kentucky could keep all the state's top prospects at home each year. He pointed to this area as one in which he and his staff had not been totally successful.

And that, of course, has been and always will be the problem with Kentucky football. No coach in America could come to Kentucky and sweep the entire recruiting crop every year. Heck, that's not likely to happen two out of three years because there are too many variables. It's just unrealistic.

But for all those out there who believe the Kentucky football problem is rooted in the heels of Jerry Claiborne, well, they'll have to turn their attention to another direction. And if past history is any account, look for basketball and Rick Pitino to be the center of attack.

But today, we take our hat off to Jerry Claiborne, a man of great moral philosophy and one that I hope continues to have a strong relationship in some capacity with the University of Kentucky. There are far too few Jerry Claibornes in college sports and we'd be mighty fortunate to keep him around these parts.

Thanks Jerry. It was a job well done.

□ □ □

Button two please.

Who's going to become the new Kentucky head coach? At first there were two, now many and the list is growing although athletics director C.M. Newton says there is no list, not a short one nor a long one. But two names have been prominent.

Mentioned most often are Howard Schnellenberger of Louisville and Mike Gottfried of Pittsburgh. Toss in names ranging from Earle Bruce, ex-Ohio State coach now at Colorado State, to former Wildcat and current NFL assistant Dan Neal to Northern Illinois Jerry Pettibone to EKU's Roy Kidd.

Perhaps it wouldn't be fair to eliminate any of those since that's a task for Newton and his screening committee, but the fans and media will, so here are a few of those opinions floating around.

Let's go in reverse order.

Kidd's name has been mentioned before, eight years ago when Claiborne was hired and the time before when Fran Curci was hired. It's doubtful he'll be given serious consideration, given the

passover the other two times.

Pettibone has good bloodstock and through third parties has indicated his interest in Kentucky. He has done a tremendous job in turning the Northern Illinois program around in such a short time.

Having been associated with the likes of Bud Wilkinson at Oklahoma (as a player) and Tom Osborne at Nebraska (as a coach), Jerry has quickly earned his stripes. Age 50 would be a drawback in some quarters except the fact that everyone's frontrunner in this case is also past the 50-mark.

Jerry has Kentucky ties, going back to when he played with Jim McKenzie at Oklahoma, but those may not be close enough. Kentucky could certainly do much worse, and his Northern Illinois team ranked high in the national offensive statistics this season, but he's a longshot at best.

Gottfried was (perhaps still is) one of the early frontrunners. His ties are obvious, once a coach at Murray, turned programs around at Cincinnati (for a short time) and Kansas before going to Pittsburgh.

UK basketball strength coach Rock Oliver is such a close personal friend that Oliver and his wife named their son after Mike. Pitino and Gottfried are close friends and Pitino even made a trip to Pittsburgh a few weeks ago and caught the Pitt-Miami game as a guest of Gottfried.

But almost as soon as the camera lights went off on Claiborne's press conference, Mike's name surfaced and critical reviews took over. The press has been particularly tough on Gottfried the past year. Various national media people at the Big Four Classic in Indianapolis had less than glossy remarks about Gottfried.

There is no question Mike is interested in Kentucky. Reasons from wanting to return to Kentucky (some say his wife would like to return) to getting out of Pittsburgh. But today, Gottfried's star is not as bright as it was a week ago.

Neal is the longshot with local ties, an alumnus and a young coach looking to make the big leap. His candidacy is apparently being pushed by a small group of football die-hards including a vocal group that now lives in Florida.

Neal thus far has refused to talk about the Kentucky vacancy, saying the Eagles are in a race of their own and he doesn't want to detract from the NFL season at this time. A longshot at the beginning, Neal could move up.

Which brings us to Howie, a former UK great who almost became the UK coach eight years ago instead of Claiborne. And it came at the height of his coaching career when he was coaching of national champions Miami.

Howard toured the Kentucky facilities according to some, was ready to take the job except that there was a personality conflict with then-athletics director Cliff

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Hagan. The latter, some say, is debatable.

But it was no secret Howard wanted control of his own program, much like he had at Miami and how he has operated his program at Louisville, at least until recently.

Given the problems during the Curci era, Kentucky was reluctant to turn over the program entirely to Howard, so he returned to Florida before going to Louisville a few years later. When Howard went to Louisville, circumstances were different. First of all, he was without a job. He had left Miami and signed a lucrative deal with a Florida businessman who was supposed to get a pro franchise, but the deal fell through and Howard took the UL job as the best available.

What's important to remember now is that despite his differences of opinion with Hagan and/or other UK officials, Howard never lost his love for UK. Where others give lip service, Howard's action spoke loudly.

Over the past few years Howard has: UGed Louisville fans to unite behind the Cards and show their strong support, but when not playing they should root and support UK. He made those comments although such compliments of UK is not appreciated in some UL quarters.

When Jerry Claiborne came under some intense heat from UK diehards the past two seasons, Howard was one of the first to come to Claiborne's defense and without any coaxing from anyone.

On at least three different weekends when Louisville wasn't playing, Howard and his wife attended UK games in Lexington.

Prior to the current season, Howard was behind a goodwill billboard in Louisville wishing Claiborne and Kentucky well in 1989. The billboard said, from the "Louisville Cardinals."

The question is obvious, was Howard's goodwill a genuine message of developing more harmony between the two schools or was it a means of placing himself in contention for the job should Claiborne leave? Or was it a combination?

Only Howard can truthfully answer those questions, but there is no doubt Howard has a loyal and deeply-rooted love for his alma mater.

There are some who say Howard's major ambition was/is to someday coach Alabama because of his association with Bear Bryant and because he would have an excellent chance at a national championship. There are some who say the desire is just as great to be at Kentucky because he played for the Bear there although he may never be able to win another national title.

When the news originally broke of Claiborne's retirement, Howard was in Japan with his Louisville Cards, preparing to take on Syracuse. His only remark concerning the vacancy was, "Haven't you heard, I just signed a new five-year contract."

To diehard UL fans, that was a complete denial of any interest. You be the judge on that.

Howard was supposed to sign a new contract before the season, but the negotiations dragged on and on and were only finalized a few weeks ago. Some say the new pact is as lucrative as the initial deal, but the university has exercised more control over the football program, a move Howard does not appreciate.

When Schnellenberger came to Louisville he made more than a few waves because he brought more than just assistant coaches with him. He brought a support staff which he considered to be vital in building UL into a national power. That did not sit well with some in

the city.

One, however, cannot deny that Howard has made some significant inroads where others have failed. It could be that he has worn out his welcome, especially across campus where basketball had enjoyed total monopoly until his arrival. The fact that Howard has always had kind words for UK has also upset some of the Big Red Rooters.

If he should decide to return home, he'll be more than welcomed, it says here. And guess who would be one of his biggest fans? None other than Jerry Claiborne.

Push button No. 3.

Pitino ball. Fasten the seat belts and hold on. King's Island has nothing on the "Little Yankee" when it comes to daring excitement.

Pitino and his crew gave Bobby Knight and the Hoosiers the scare of their life and almost the embarrassment of the year when UK came within a bucket at the Big Four Classic.

After a so-so victory over Ohio University, not many folks gave the Wildcats any chance of even staying close to the Hoosiers. It was going to be a matter of struggling for respectability.

In the end, it was Indiana that struggled to avoid total embarrassment.

The 'Cats came out of the gate with fire in their eyes, even held an 11-point lead in the first half before talent finally overtook emotion.

After falling behind by 10 in the last half, Kentucky refused to quit, kept coming back time and again and even had a shot to tie at the end before Sean Woods' jumper failed to go at the final horn.

Pitino has often insisted there are no moral victories but after the battle Saturday, the "Little Yankee" said he was willing to make an exception to his philosophy.

Said Pitino, "I don't think I've ever been prouder of a team I've coached, not at Providence, not at Boston, not at New York."

The Indiana fans were stunned. Only three times during the course of the game could they allow themselves to "get into the game."

"That was important in a place this big," Pitino said, "our kids did a great job of keeping their fans out of the game." That, they did.

And as the Hoosier fans filed out of the massive Hoosier Dome, you could hear them bemoaning the future and what Kentucky opponents will have to deal with in this new-found excitement called, "Pitino Ball."

Please push button No. 4.

This may not be the sports pages for you, but one of the hottest topics around UK concerns the future of its president, Dr. David Roselle.

As this issue was going to press, Dr. Roselle was on his way to Newark, Del., for an interview with the presidential selection committee for the University of Delaware.

Believe you me, this is not just a friendly call on behalf of Roselle. This may be the beginning of the end.

You're well aware of Roselle and his clashes with everyone from Gov. Wallace Wilkinson right on down to supporters of the athletics program and the controversy over whether or not Roselle acted properly in the NCAA basketball investigation.

Clearly, there were no perfect actors in the mess. There's plenty of blame for everyone. But Roselle is guilty of one major misdeed in the basketball mess.

He never did fully explain the con-

trovery which surrounded the Eric Manuel ACT test score. Whether it's right or wrong, fans and the public deserved to know the details of that test because the entire history and reputation of the Wildcat program is being judged on this one aspect.

The \$1,000 Emery envelope is certainly critical, but nothing compares to the academic integrity of a university and I have a great deal of trouble accepting the philosophy that Eric Manuel cheated alone. And I know of thousands of other Kentuckians who feel the same way that I do and they are allowing this one issue to affect the way they feel toward Dr. Roselle.

There are those close to Dr. Roselle who insist people should forget the Manuel case, that public knowledge of the case isn't important, but Roselle and his people are very wrong. Other than the fact that the public deserves to have this information, Dr. Roselle and his inner circle should remember that voters control legislators who in turn control the man Roselle fears most, and that is Gov. Wilkinson.

Not helping matters any for Dr. Roselle is the *Lexington Herald-Leader's* constant and almost daily putdown of the Kentucky citizenry as it relates to public education. The newspaper is to be admired for its role in trying to upgrade education, but the approach is all wrong.

Instead of tearing down athletics, officials should be using athletics as a base to upgrade education. It wasn't unusual over the past decade or so for the UK Athletics Association to net as much as \$3 million in profits in a single season. That money could be used to help other parts of the university.

Fact is, most academic communities at major universities would love to be in a situation where an athletic program has to take no money from academics to pay the bills. Kentucky has succeeded in this mission for several decades.

As soon as Dr. Roselle arrived, he immediately pulled some \$4 million from the athletic revenue for high salaries for faculty and staff. Some resented that in athletics and I'm sure you can understand why. But Roselle may have done his professors a strong disservice. Sorta like the separation of church and state in governmental matters.

Taking the money from athletics set a precedent of mixing the two. Everyone now knows the UK athletic program is going to be in a real financial struggle for the next three to five years. I'm sure it didn't seem all that difficult to Dr. Roselle a couple years ago, but we all learn something new each day, don't we? The question remains, will Dr. Roselle stay?

His popularity is high among those in the academic community, the state's two largest newspapers and some so-called intellectual circles. Unfortunately for Roselle, all those groups don't represent more than five percent of the Commonwealth's voters. And politicians from Frankfort on down to the little wide spots in the road listen to voters, not newspapers and professors.

Dr. Roselle has indicated his decision on staying at UK for the long haul will depend on the state legislature's funding of the university. If he sticks to that criteria, he will either move on or begin realizing he must be more honest and forthright with the average Kentuckian, whether that person has a college degree or leans on the handle of a hoe.

After all, in America we're supposed to be equal, regardless of race, color, religion, wealth, and yes, education.

For starters, Dr. Roselle could begin to win some new-found respect from one segment of this state and that would be to

clean his name in the Eric Manuel mess by telling us what really happened.

And the question still remains, will Dr. Roselle stay?

I hardly doubt it.

Please push button No. 5

Dear Mr. Knight,

This is a warning. You will not intimidate officials in a Kentucky-Indiana basketball game without being challenged. I may be small in size, but I carry a heavy punch and I don't have to scare anyone by acting like a spoiled brat and slinging a chair halfway across the state of Indiana. Let today be a lesson.

By the way Mr. Knight, enjoyed the game today, didn't you? It's what college basketball is all about. Look forward to seeing you again.

Sincerely,

Rick Pitino
Manager
Kentucky "Pitino Ball"

Above is what Rick Pitino probably would have written to Knight had he penciled his thoughts to the Hoosier boss after Kentucky's battle last Saturday. Twice, Knight tried to bait the officials and each time Pitino refused to yield his rights and betray his team's own rights.

The great news is that Kentucky has a coach who will stand up to this childish, unprofessional person who once again, this time by a simple notice distributed before the game, snubbed his own invitational showcase by refusing to show up for a post-game press conference.

But would one expect anything else?

HITS AND MISSES...The more times change, the more they stay the same. And in this respect, guess who has become **Rick Pitino's** personal legal counsel in Lexington? Why, none other than well-known Lexington attorney **Terry McBrayer's** firm. McBrayer, who is a close personal friend of former Wildcat coach **Joe B. Hall**, also represented former UK coach **Eddie Sutton** last year during Sutton's controversial exit. To say the Sutton saga strained the relationship between McBrayer and some UK officials would be an understatement. McBrayer declined to discuss the relationship, but friends say Terry is not high on Dr. Roselle's Christmas card list. Could this be another sign to consider when thinking of Dr. Roselle's situation...Word is that the Southeastern Conference presidents will interview a select number of candidates during the NCAA convention next month for the successor to **Dr. Harvey Schiller**. Several names have been mentioned and some have said they have no interest, but two local names continue to make the circles in Birmingham. They are former UK president **Otis Singletary** and current athletics director **C. M. Newton**. Singletary privately says the presidents would never be interested in him, but don't count him out as a draftee. Newton has said publicly and privately he is very happy with his present situation and has no interest in leaving UK. He recently also told a staff meeting he had no interest, but there are some highly placed sources in Birmingham who still insist he might not resist a draft. Newton was one of several University of Kentucky employees to speak out at a campus rally last week, urging Dr. Roselle to remain as president of the university. Newton's decision to come to Kentucky was influenced no small part by Roselle. Should Roselle leave, would that have an effect on Newton? C. M. says no.

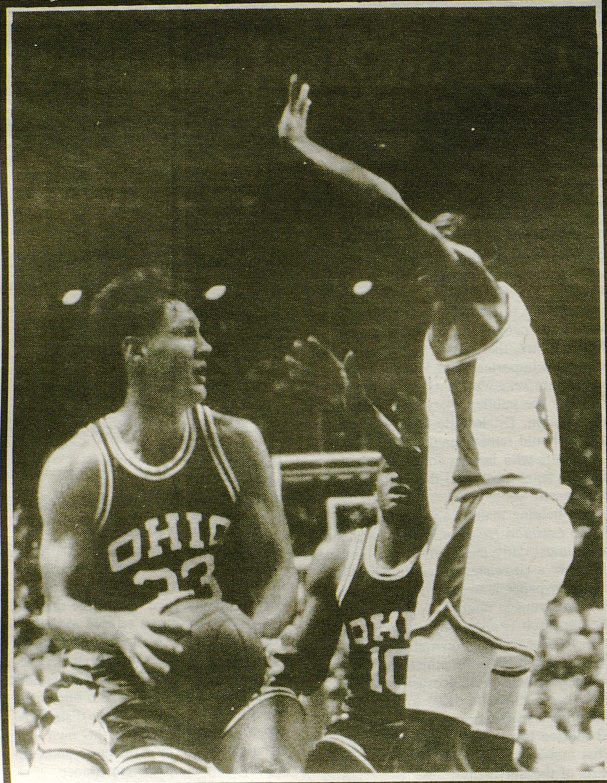
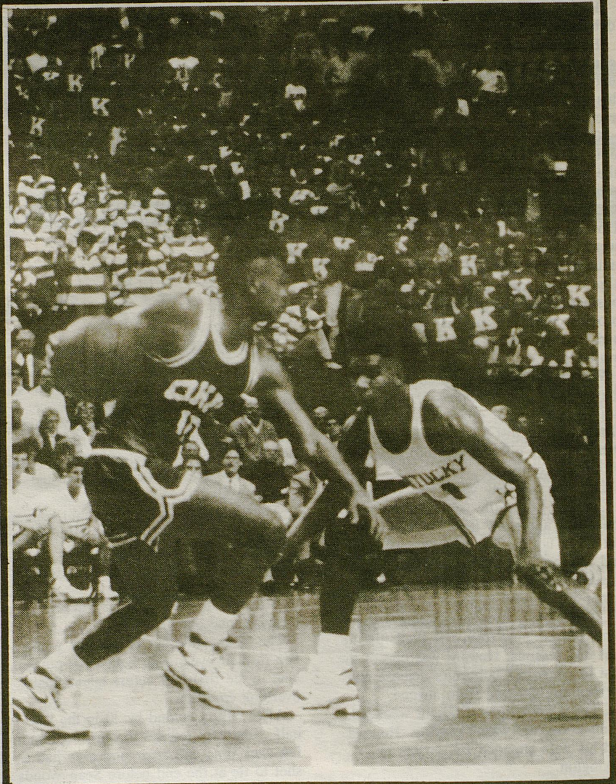


Photo by Jeff Drummond

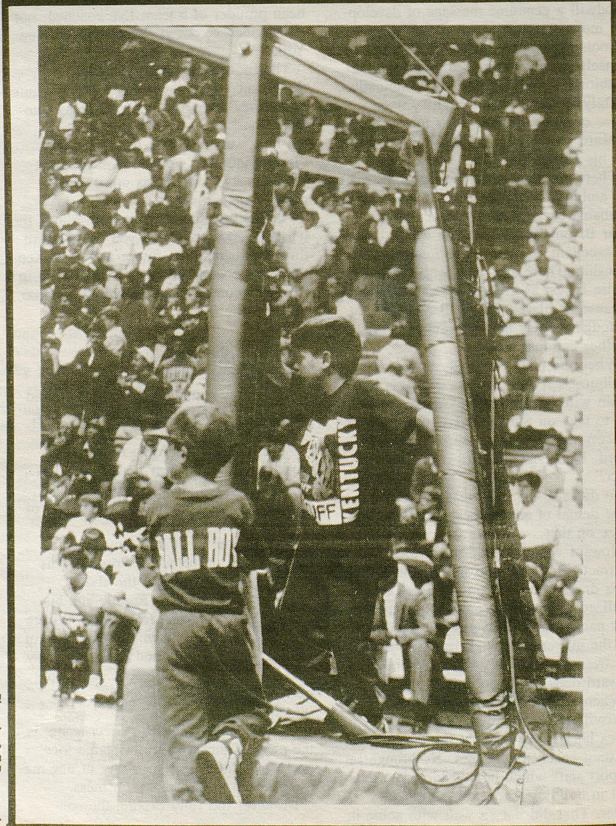
Ohio's Dave Jamerson, high scorer with 30, drives on Derrick Miller
UK coach Rick Pitino gives directions during the tight second half



Sophomore guard Sean Woods dogs Ohio guard Dennis Whitaker



Photo by Jeff Drummond



Coach Pitino's sons, Richard (left) and Christopher, during ball-boy duty

Wildcats outlast Ohio 76-73

Kentucky jumped out to 16-point lead, then held on to make debut of 'Pitino Ball' a successful one

by TCP associate editor Mike Estep

Welcome to the Rick Pitino era. An exciting brand of basketball unlike anything you've seen around these parts in quite a while. A wonderful mixture of in-your-face, pressure defense and racehorse, up-tempo, fast-breaking offense, regardless of the count on the scoreboard or the time on the clock.

But be advised—whether you're wearing an opposing jersey or a striped shirt, or sitting in the stands or on press row—you'd better stay awake.

Because if you turned your head away from the action, even for a split second, during UK's 76-73 season-opening victory over Ohio University last Tuesday night, there's a good chance you missed something. Something unconventional. Like, for instance:

- Senior guard Derrick Miller, leading a 2-on-1 fast break, pulling up from 22-feet, launching a rainbow of a jumper...and hitting nothing but net.

- Freshman forward Jeff Brassow, finding himself open for a three-pointer at the top of the key...and banking it in.

- The Wildcats, enjoying one of the few size advantages they will encounter all season, being out rebounded by 18 and outshot from the field (43.5 percent to 40.0 percent, overall; 38.5 percent to 23.8 percent on three-pointers)...and still finding a way—mostly by harrassing the Bobcats into 23 turnovers—to win.

Even Pitino, the inventor of all this structured mayhem, was taken aback at times.

"We did some things tonight I've never quite seen in basketball," Pitino said with a laugh. "(Walk-on) Nehemiah (Braddy) left his man one time when the guy was dribbling the ball to go find some other guy. They showed me some things I've never seen before. So they're very innovative, the players."

And, believe it or not, all you nay-sayers, full of potential.

The 'Cats, given up for dead by many before the season ever started, came out of the gate against Ohio in mid-season form, forcing the Bobcats into turnover after turnover. Kentucky scored the game's first 10 points—all of them the direct result of an Ohio miscue—and eventually stretched that margin to 44-30 at the half.

"I thought we played Kentucky's style of basketball in the first half," Ohio coach Larry Hunter said. "The first half for us was just an absolute nightmare. We didn't handle the press, the pressure, very well. I think out of their first 16 points, maybe all 16 of 'em were off turnovers off their press."

Even in the ragged second half, when Ohio took advantage of UK foul trouble, went to a confusing matchup zone and slowed the tempo to cut what was a 16-point lead at one stage to just two midway through the final half, the young 'Cats kept their composure.

"They went to a 3-2 matchup, which they did against Rider, and they played that very well," Pitino said. "We have got to go inside on that. It hurt us with Reggie (Hanson) out of the game. Deron (Feldhaus) did get a few points inside the paint, but Reggie's the guy that scores (down there). We don't have a very good big man in the low post that we can go to against a matchup, but they did a good

enough job."

Bobcat star Dave Jamerson, who poured in 30 points and grabbed 14 rebounds, both game highs, came off a pick to bury a three-pointer from the top of the key that whittled the UK lead to 56-54 with 11:34 remaining to be played. And with Hanson, who led UK in scoring with 24 and rebounding with 14, on the bench in foul trouble, the wobbly Wildcats needed someone to step forward.

Enter sophomore point guard Sean Woods, playing in his first college game after sitting out last season because of Proposition 48.

Woods kissed a 15-footer off the glass on the next trip down to make it 58-54. Then, after he missed both ends of a two-shot foul, Woods grabbed his own board and fed sophomore Johnathon Davis, who scored a career-high four points for the game, for a layup that made it 60-54 with 7:23 remaining to play.

That key stretch by Woods stopped Ohio's momentum and gave Kentucky the confidence it needed to stay out in front the rest of the way.

"I think Sean, for a freshman guard, did very well," Pitino said. "And that's what you have to look at. He sat out (last year), so he's really a freshman guard (in experience, not eligibility). He really is, he didn't play. And he did very well. It's very, very tough at that position, doing all the things we want them

to do. And he had a tough night at times, but he spurred us on and made a lot of good plays when we needed it, when we were in a little bit of a drought."

So even though UK lost the 16-point lead, was beaten on the boards, was outshot from the field and only converted 19 of 29 free throws, the 'Cats found a way to win. And Pitino said that was all he was looking for Tuesday.

"I just wanted a one-point victory tonight and get out," Pitino said. "We had no exhibition game. Obviously, we were really nervous at the start of the game and we just wanted a victory. I didn't care about anything else. I'll waive my blue pom poms later, but I just wanted to get out of the house with a victory. That's the only thing I wanted."

"I think if we had made our free throws it would have been a different game tonight, but we did not and they were smart enough to foul. Normally, you make those foul shots and you go up 12, 14 points and you keep attacking, keep attacking. And that's where you get fouled."

"I think we will make those free throws in time. But most of the people on our basketball team have never played (many quality minutes) in Rupp Arena, never played with the people yelling. And this was great tonight. It was great for them to play in front of this type of crowd."

UK-Ohio U. play-by-play

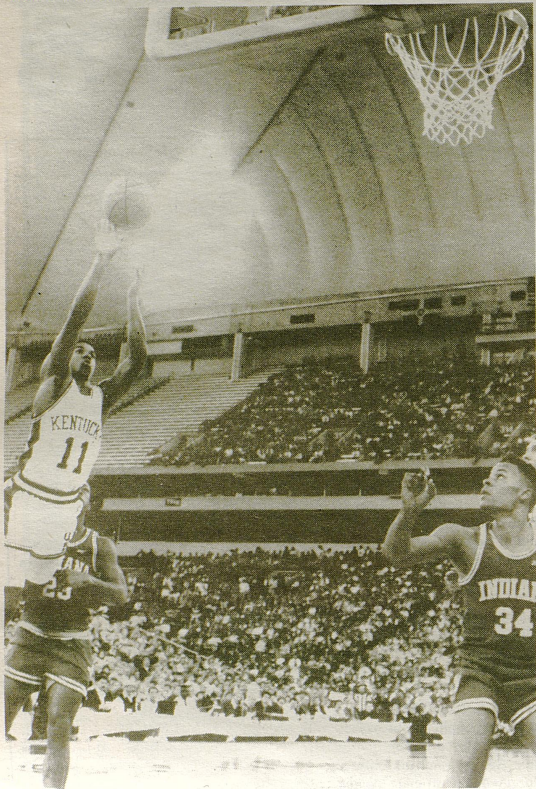
Time	Kentucky	Score	Ohio U.
19:45	Hanson FT, FT	2-0	
19:28	Miller 24 ft.	5-0	
18:59	Miller layup	7-0	
18:43	Brassow 21 ft.	10-0	
18:13		10-2	Barnes 13 ft.
18:00		10-4	Bryant layup
17:45		10-6	D. Jamerson layup
16:28	Woods layup	12-6	
15:37	Pelphrey layup	14-6	
15:20	Hanson own tip-in	16-6	
14:41	Hanson 6 ft.	18-6	
14:31		18-8	Rankin 19 ft.
13:59		18-9	Hoepfner FTA, FT
13:30		18-11	Bryant 13 ft.
12:53	Pelphrey layup	20-11	
12:08		20-13	Bryant 19 ft.
11:55	Pelphrey layup	22-13	
11:29	Miller 22 ft.	25-13	
10:07		25-15	D. Jamerson 6 ft.
9:01		25-17	Bryant 7 ft.
8:44	Feldhaus FTA, FT	26-17	
7:33		26-19	D. Jamerson 13 ft.
7:23	Hanson 4 ft.	28-19	
7:03		28-22	D. Jamerson 12 ft.
5:19	Braddy 17 ft.	30-22	
4:58	Miller FT, FT	32-22	
4:49	Hanson 20 ft.	35-22	
3:39		35-24	Bryant 7 ft.
3:30	Miller 19 ft.	37-24	
3:01		37-26	D. Jamerson 11 ft.
2:06		37-28	Bryant 10 ft.
1:52	Hanson FT, FT	39-28	
1:22		39-30	Craig layup
1:05	Hanson 11 ft.	41-30	
0:01	Farmer 21 ft.	44-30	

HALF	Score
19:19	Woods layup 46-30
17:47	46-32 D. Jamerson 18 ft.
17:23	Brassow tip-in 48-32
17:15	48-34 Barnes layup
16:37	48-36 Craig layup
15:38	48-38 D. Jamerson layup
15:06	48-39 Barnes FT, FTA
14:37	Miller 8 ft. follow 50-39
13:48	50-42 D. Jamerson 20 ft.
13:23	50-44 Bryant dunk
13:12	50-46 Craig layup
12:38	Hanson 4 ft. 52-46
12:22	52-47 Craig FT, FTA
12:21	52-49 D. Jamerson FT, FT
12:01	Hanson layup follow 54-49
11:53	54-51 D. Jamerson FT, FT
11:34	Miller 15 ft. 56-51
10:41	56-54 D. Jamerson 21 ft.
8:24	Woods 15 ft. 58-54
7:23	Davis layup 60-54
6:52	Feldhaus FT, FT 62-54
6:11	62-56 Bryant tip-in
5:58	Woods 13 ft. 64-56
5:34	64-57 D. Jamerson FTA, FT
4:35	Miller FT, FT 66-57
4:10	66-59 Bryant 6 ft.
3:39	Davis 10 ft. 68-59
2:47	68-61 D. Jamerson 4 ft. follow
2:20	Feldhaus FT, FT 70-61
1:48	Hanson FT, FT 72-61
1:34	72-64 Whitaker 22 ft.
1:23	Hanson FT, FTA 73-64
1:16	73-66 D. Jamerson FT, FT
1:15	Woods FT, FTA 74-66
1:03	74-69 Craig 21 ft.
0:38	Hanson FT, FT 76-69
0:30	76-71 Craig own follow layup
0:03	76-73 Craig 9 ft.
FINAL	76-73

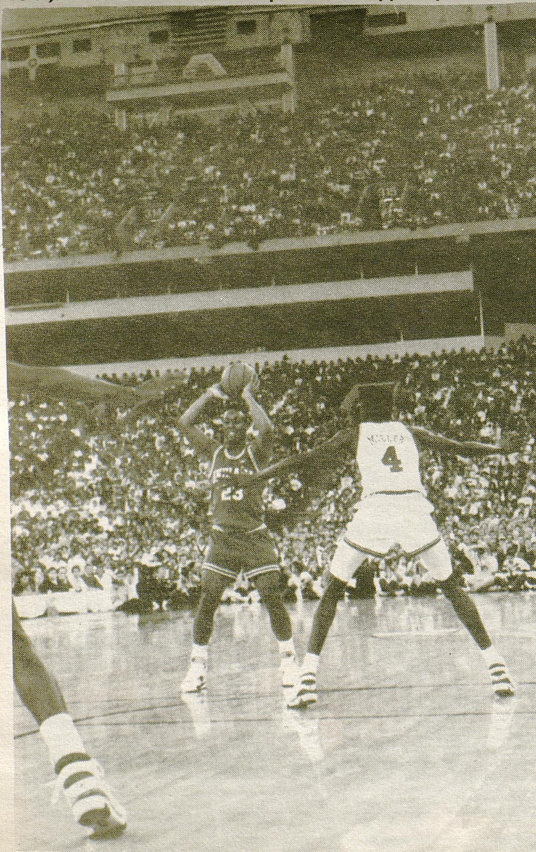
□ TCP chart

OFFICIAL NCAA BASKETBALL BOX SCORE															
Date 11-28-89 Site Lexington, Ky.															
VISITORS (Last Name, First)															
No.	Ohio Univ. (1-1)	PTS	REB	AST	FT	FTA	PF	TP	A	TO	BLK	S	MIN		
24	Barnes, Steve	25	5	1	3	2	6	5	1	8	1	0	28		
33	Jamerson, Dave	30	14	3	7	8	11	14	3	1	0	2	39		
44	Bryant, Lorenza	9	12	0	0	0	1	7	2	3	0	0	30		
10	Whitaker, D.	1	8	1	1	0	1	2	3	8	1	0	36		
23	Craig, Nate	6	12	1	3	2	3	5	2	1	0	2	29		
22	Rankin, Reggie	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6		
45	Hoepfner, Jeff	0	2	0	1	2	0	0	3	1	0	0	19		
21	Jamerson, Tim	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	7		
20	Gill, Chad	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	4		
TEAM REBOUNDS (included in Totals)															
TOTALS	49	67	15	13	10	19	16	35	51	23	7	3	73	17	
TOTAL FG %: 1st Half	42.4%	2nd Half	44.1%	Game	43.3%	Deadball									
3-PT. FG %: 1st Half	25.0%	2nd Half	44.4%	Game	38.5%	Rebounds	6								
FT %: 1st Half	25.0%	2nd Half	60.0%	Game	52.4%										
HOME (Last Name, First)															
No.	Kentucky (1-0)	PTS	REB	AST	FT	FTA	PF	TP	A	TO	BLK	S	MIN		
12	Feldhaus, Deron	1	2	0	5	9	0	4	4	5	0	0	24		
14	Brassow, Jeff	2	4	1	2	0	0	2	1	3	3	0	14		
35	Hanson, Reggie	7	13	1	9	10	4	10	4	24	0	3	32		
11	Woods, Sean	9	10	0	1	4	2	0	1	9	3	5	33		
4	Miller, Derrick	6	16	2	9	4	5	0	2	3	2	0	33		
32	Farmer, Richie	1	6	1	5	0	0	2	1	3	2	1	20		
24	Pelphrey, John	3	7	0	2	0	0	4	4	6	0	3	16		
23	Braddy, Nehem	1	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	13		
33	Davis, John	2	4	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	4	0	1	8	
TEAM REBOUNDS (included in Totals)															
TOTALS	44	65	5	21	19	29	10	23	33	12	7	5	120	5	
TOTAL FG %: 1st Half	44.4%	2nd Half	34.5%	Game	40.0%	Deadball									
3-PT. FG %: 1st Half	35.7%	2nd Half	0.0%	Game	23.8%	Rebounds	5								
FT %: 1st Half	87.5%	2nd Half	57.1%	Game	65.5%										
OFFICIALS: D. Ferguson, D. Dodge, & K. Sittan															
SCORE BY PERIODS: 1st H. 2nd H. OT OT FINAL															
Technical Fouls: Ohio Univ. bench															
Attendance: 29,037															

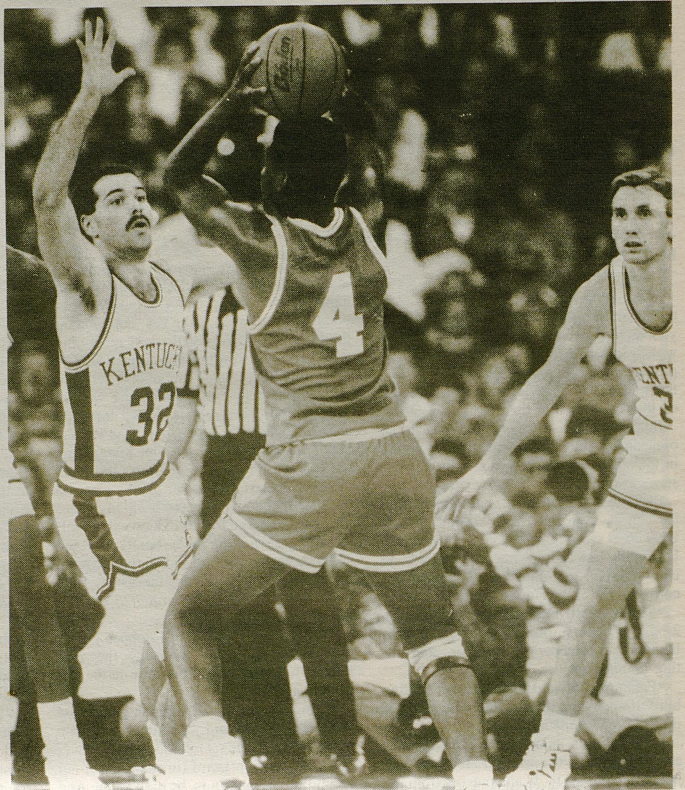
Indiana-Kentucky photos by Steve McFarland



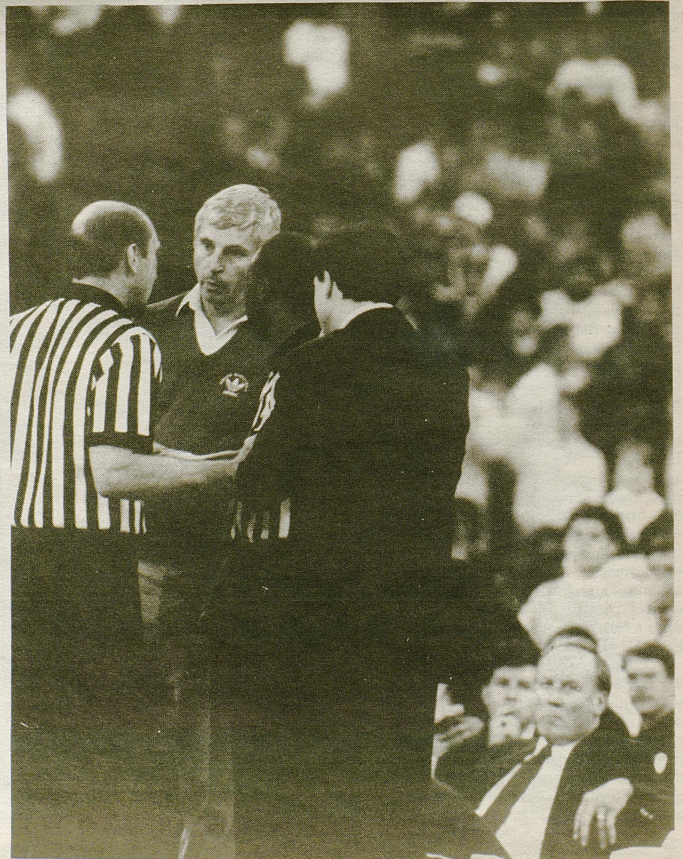
Sean Woods drives the lane and lets fly a two-pointer. IU's Jamal Meeks looks for help as Miller applies pressure.



BIG FOUR CLASSIC ★ INDIANA VS KENTUCKY ★ BIG FOUR CLASSIC ★ IU VS UK



Lyndon Jones tries to sneak past an assist by Richie Farmer, who scored 7 points. Bobby Knight and Rick Pitino talk to officials as the half ended with UK on top.



Indiana survives 'Cats 71-69

UK coach Rick Pitino 'couldn't be happier' with effort Kentucky gave against heavily-favored IU

by TCP managing editor Russell Rice

Heads hung high throughout the University of Kentucky's beleaguered basketball kingdom as the Wildcats entered their second week of the season 1-1 after defeating Ohio University, 76-73, in a hyped-opener in Rupp Arena and then taking a highly favored Indiana University to the wire before losing, 71-69, in the Hoosier Dome.

The circumstances surrounding those two games and the brand of basketball that can be expected under new head coach Rick Pitino, who inherited from his predecessor, Eddie Sutton, a decimated squad and other handicaps as an aftermath of NCAA sanctions, gave promise of a season that will be anything but dull.

The opening game hype started with a cheerleader, facing the UK student section, instructing the 23,000-plus fans in attendance to hold Pitino's masks to their faces (there was a mask placed at each seat) when the coach came onto the floor for his first game in the arena.

Issued along with the masks were square blue placards, containing in white the numeral "3", which were to be held up whenever a UK player took a three-point shot. If the ball went into the hoop, everybody was told to yell, "Cats!"

That wasn't all. When a Wildcat stepped to the foul line, all the faithful were instructed to lower their arms quickly and go, "Swoosh!"

Pitino, nattily dressed in a dark suit, entered the arena, acknowledged the roar of the crowd, walked down the length of the scorer's table, shook hands with the opposing coach, the band played, "On, On UK!" and the fun began.

There was a lot of swooshing and Cat cries as the hustling Wildcats completely confused the visiting Bobcats and rushed to a 10-0 lead, but the game settled down in the second half and the Wildcats had to dig deep to post a victory. (See story on Page 5).

A completely different scene confronted the Wildcats in Indianapolis, where they were to play the second game of a doubleheader that matched Notre Dame and Louisville in the opener. (UL won 84-73).

In addition to being heavily outnumbered on the floor and by IU fans who made up a majority of the 40,000-plus in attendance, the Wildcats also were faced by another sea of red in the U of L section, which doesn't mean the Cardinal fans were rooting against the 'Cats, because most of them sounded probable, but just that Red was by far the dominant color in the arena.

Pitino's troops also were in the territory of "Boyish Bobby" Knight, the great intimidator who the preceding day had commented that his friend, UK athletics director C.M. Newton, in reality was the Wildcat "Director of Corrections."

In the Ohio game, Wildcat fans had got a taste of Pitino's all-out style of basketball, which means run, gun, trap, play tough defense and keep continuous pressure on the opponent, wearing him down and winning when the going gets tough and the tough get going.

It almost worked against the youthful Hoosiers, who time and again were taken out

of their offense as the Wildcats forced them into 25 turnovers, while committing 15 of their own.

"If we got to press more," Pitino said, "we would have been in control of the game. But we didn't get enough times in the second half. If we shoot 48 percent, our press will be hell!" (UK shot 29.7 percent in the second half, 36.1 percent for the game).

In addition, the Wildcat offense, which at times in the past has been frustrated by Knight's belly-to-belly, screening (former UK coaches called it blocking) defense, surprised the Hoosiers with a driving, slicing, attacking pro style that brought to the forefront sophomore forward Deron Feldhaus, who scored a career-high 23 points.

The Wildcats led 32-21, in the first half, then came back and scored 11 straight points for a 48-37 lead after IU had cut the lead to two. The Hoosiers then went ahead by 10 with 4:50 to go and were still 10 ahead two minutes later, but nobody was leaving the arena.

The Wildcats then outscored IU 9-1 the rest of the way to nearly erase a six-point deficit in the final 30 seconds.

Kentucky's last chance for an upset over the heavily favored Hoosiers came when Greg Graham missed the front end of a one-plus-one with six seconds remaining.

Feldhaus rebounded and threw the ball to freshman guard Sean Woods, who dribbled downcourt, penetrated, and threw up an 18-foot jumper with no time on the clock. The shot hit the back of the rim, bounced high and off to the side.

Pitino later said the strategy had been to go for the win, with Woods penetrating and throwing an outlet pass for a three-point shot, but time thwarted that strategy.

"Sean got off as good a shot as you'd want in the situation," he said.

Pitino added that UK's many misses overall prevented the 'Cats from winning and taking a 2-0 record into this week's games against Mississippi State, Tennessee Tech and

Kansas.

"I couldn't be any more pleased," he said. "Counting even the Alabama and Georgetown victories that got us (Providence) to the Final Four, I've never had a team give this much energy. I don't think I've ever been this proud of a basketball team."

"It was a great ballgame. We had it on our hands...the ball didn't go down...once we start hitting shots off our defense, we're going to cause some pain for some people."

Asked if the Wildcats were missing their shots because some factor of fatigue may have set in because his team is so small and most fight for everything it gets, Pitino replied: "Well, yes, they've got to do everything harder than everyone else, but they do it."

He was especially complimentary of Feldhaus and 6-foot-7 sophomore John Pelphrey, who finished with 10 points, five rebounds, an assist, and more importantly five steals.

"I love Pelphrey," Pitino said. "And Feldhaus, too. If you mixed a couple of Jamal Mashburns with them, they'd be very tough. Mix them in with those kind of players and they'd play as tough as anybody on the team."

Another bonus for the Wildcat faithful was the manner in which Pitino reacted to Knight's interaction with the officials. At the end of each half, the UK coach inserted himself into Knight's heated exchanges with the referees.

The first incident occurred at the end of the first half, when Knight motioned for officials to come to the sidelines to discuss a final-second play in which IU's Jamal Meeks stole the ball from walk-on Michael Parks. The ball rolled free as Meeks fell while trying to move upcourt.

Hoosier assistant Joby Wright, filling in for Knight at the post-game media conference, said Knight thought referee Ed Hightower got in the way, forcing Meeks to hold a potential outlet pass.

Instead of leaving the playing area, Pitino

(Continued on page 20)

UK-Indiana play-by-play

Time	Kentucky	Score	Indiana
19:09		0-2	Anderson 16 ft.
18:44	Hanson 18 ft.	2-2	
16:21	Miller 22 ft.	5-2	
15:55		5-4	G. Graham 18 ft.
15:31		5-6	G. Graham layup
15:15		5-8	Anderson 14 ft.
14:45	Farmer layup	7-8	
14:06	Pelphrey 21 ft.	10-8	
13:40		10-9	Meeks FTA, FT
13:07		10-11	G. Graham 18 ft.
12:43	Feldhaus 21 ft.	13-11	
12:21	Feldhaus 18 ft.	15-11	
12:02		15-13	Anderson 12 ft.
11:38	Hanson 6 ft.	17-13	
11:03	Miller 21 ft.	20-13	
10:06		20-15	Cheaney 18 ft.
9:06		20-17	Funderburke layup
8:38	Miller 16 ft.	22-17	
6:29		22-19	Reynolds follow dunk
6:15	Hanson FTA, FT	23-19	
5:59	Miller layup	25-19	
5:27	Feldhaus FT, FT	27-19	
4:33	Feldhaus FT, FT	29-19	
4:26		29-21	G. Graham FT, FT
4:17	Feldhaus FTA, FT	30-21	
3:46	Woods 14 ft.	32-21	
3:27		32-22	Lawson FT, FTA
2:51		32-24	Funderburke dunk
2:15		32-26	Funderburke FT, FT
1:54		32-29	Cheaney 22 ft.
1:38	Miller FT, FT	34-29	
1:29	Farmer FT, FT	36-29	
1:12		36-32	Cheaney 22 ft.
HALF 36-32			
19:54	Feldhaus layup, FT	39-32	
19:38		39-33	Funderburke FT, FTA
18:26		39-35	Anderson layup
17:49		39-37	Cheaney 8 ft.
17:32	Woods 8 ft.	41-37	
17:12	Farmer layup, FT	44-37	
16:33	Feldhaus 13 ft.	46-37	
16:12	Pelphrey FT, FT	48-37	
15:56		48-39	Anderson layup
14:57		48-41	Funderburke layup
13:55		48-44	P. Graham 22 ft.
13:46		48-46	Funderburke layup
13:12		48-49	P. Graham 23 ft.
12:49		48-51	Cheaney dunk
12:10		48-53	Funderburke layup
11:38	Pelphrey FT, FT	50-53	
10:16		50-55	Funderburke 7 ft.
9:40	Feldhaus layup	52-55	
8:42	Feldhaus layup	54-55	
8:24		54-57	Anderson layup
8:08	Hanson follow layup	56-57	
7:37		56-59	G. Graham FT, FT
7:15		56-60	Funderburke FT, FTA
6:58		56-62	Jones 9 ft.
6:30	Hanson layup	58-62	
6:11		58-64	G. Graham 12 ft.
5:35		58-67	G. Graham 22 ft.
5:05	Hanson follow layup	60-67	
4:50		60-70	P. Graham 22 ft.
3:04	Pelphrey FT, FT	62-70	
2:16	Pelphrey FT, FTA	63-70	
0:52	Hanson layup	65-70	
0:33		65-71	P. Graham FT, FTA
0:26	Feldhaus FT, FT	67-71	
0:10	Feldhaus 4 ft. follow	69-71	
0:06			G. Graham FTA, FTA
0:02	Woods miss 18 ft.		
FINAL 69-71			
—TCP chart			

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OFFICIAL NCAA BASKETBALL BOX SCORE *** FINAL ***
Date: 12/09/89 Site: Hoosier Dome-Indianapolis
(18) IARS (Last Name, First)      Tot FG 3-POINT FEA FT REB OUF DL TIE LP ITD A TO B LK S B MIN
IND-Indiana                        11 21 11 0  21  11  11  21  31  11  11  11  11  11  11  11
110 IRDUBINSON, Mark                1  0  1  1  0  1  0  0  0  0  1  1  1  0  0  1  1  1  1
140 CHERNEY, Gilbert                 1  1  2  2  1  0  1  0  2  1  4  1  1  1  1  1  0  1  1  1
130 JANDERSON, Eric                  1  0  1  1  0  0  0  0  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1
100 IGRANUM, Greg                     1  0  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1
120 MEERS, James                      1  0  1  1  0  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1
150 FUNDERBURKE,                    1  0  1  1  0  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1
160 JONES, Lyndee                     1  1  1  1  0  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1
151 REYNOLDS, Chris                  1  0  1  1  0  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1
150 JANDERSON, Chris                  1  0  1  1  0  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1
133 IGRANUM, Pat                       1  0  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1
1-TEAM REBOUNDS (INCLUDED IN TOTALS)  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1
1-TOTALS 1 21 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11
TOTAL FG 1st HALF 12/24 50.0% 2nd HALF 15/27 55.6% GAME 27/51 52.9% DEADBALL
3-POINT FG 1st HALF 2/4 50.0% 2nd HALF 4/4 100.0% GAME 6/8 75.0% REBOUNDS 3
FREE THROWS 1st HALF 6/8 75.0% 2nd HALF 5/10 50.0% GAME 11/18 61.1%

HOME (Last Name, First)          Tot FG 3-POINT FEA FT REB OUF DL TIE LP ITD A TO B LK S B MIN
IND-Kentucky                        11 21 11 0  21  11  11  21  31  11  11  11  11  11  11  11
130 DAVIS, Jonathan                   1  0  1  1  0  1  0  0  0  0  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1
150 PELPHREY, John                     1  1  2  2  1  0  1  0  2  1  4  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1
135 HANSON, Reggie                     1  1  2  2  1  0  1  0  2  1  4  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1
94 MILLER, Derrick                     1  0  1  1  0  1  0  0  0  0  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1
11 WOODS, Sean                         1  0  1  1  0  1  0  0  0  0  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1
132 PARKER, Richie                     1  0  1  1  0  1  0  0  0  0  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1
112 FELDBAUS, Deron                    1  1  2  2  1  0  1  0  2  1  4  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1
114 HARRISSON, Jeff                     1  0  1  1  0  1  0  0  0  0  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1
142 IGRANUM, Michael                   1  0  1  1  0  1  0  0  0  0  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1
123 BRADY, Nathaniel                   1  0  1  1  0  1  0  0  0  0  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1
1-TEAM REBOUNDS (INCLUDED IN TOTALS)  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1
1-TOTALS 1 21 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11
TOTAL FG 1st HALF 11/24 45.8% 2nd HALF 10/27 37.0% GAME 21/51 41.2% DEADBALL
3-POINT FG 1st HALF 4/9 44.4% 2nd HALF 0/6 0.0% GAME 4/15 26.7% REBOUNDS 4
FREE THROWS 1st HALF 10/16 62.5% 2nd HALF 11/12 91.7% GAME 21/28 75.0%

OFFICIALS: Ed Hightower, Phil Bova, P. Andziewski           SCORE BY PERIODS
Technical: None                                             Indiana 32 39 = 71
                                                         Kentucky 36 33 = 69
Attendance: 40,128
COMMENTS: 1st HALF: 11 Kentucky                    1st HALF: 11 Indiana
2nd HALF: 11 Kentucky                               2nd HALF: 12 Kentucky
Approved by the University of Louisville Staff Group with FINE, III - a Product of LEICOR SPORTS
    
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UK OPPONENT SCOUTING REPORT
Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles

New, improved Eagles flying high in '89-90

Nine newcomers, imposing front line make Tech tick

LOCATION: Cookeville, Tenn.
FOUNDED: 1915
ENROLLMENT: 8,000
NICKNAME: Golden Eagles
COLORS: Purple and Gold
CONFERENCE: Ohio Valley
SERIES RECORD: First meeting
1988-89 RECORDS: 10-20, 3-9
POSTSEASON PLAY: none
HEAD COACH: Frank Harrell

PROBABLE STARTERS
F — Jerome Rodgers (12.0 ppg., 6.9 rpg.)
F — Earl Wise (21.7 ppg., 7.4 rpg.)
C — Milos Babic (13.3 ppg., 8.1 rpg.)
G — Joey Coe (transfer)
G — Van Usher (Prop 48 sit-out)

Though his Tennessee Tech club didn't look like much down the stretch last season—ending a 10-20 campaign with a nine-game losing streak—second-year coach Frank Harrell had high hopes for the Golden Eagles entering preseason practice.

"We should be a better shooting team, have better depth and be a better rebounding team," Harrell, whose club finished sixth in the Ohio Valley Conference last season said. "We'll play much better defense, too. We'll be quicker and we'll be rested and can play harder."

Harrell was even talking about having a surplus of talent, something that Tech—which hasn't posted a winning season since 1985—hasn't been accustomed to recently.

That's because he went out and inked nine newcomers to go with with 7-foot center Milos Babic, 6-6 forward Jerome Rodgers and 6-7 forward Earl Wise, three players who figure to form one of the better front lines in the South this season.

"The hard part," Harrell said, "will be figuring out which grouping to use in each game to be the most effective."

As the Eagles prepare to invade Rupp Arena Dec. 6, everything seems to be going according to plan. After splitting its first two games of the season—beating Wisconsin-Milwaukee at home and losing at Southern Miss—Tennessee Tech marched into Alumni Gym in Nashville and soundly defeated SEC team Vanderbilt, surprising the Commodores 89-76.

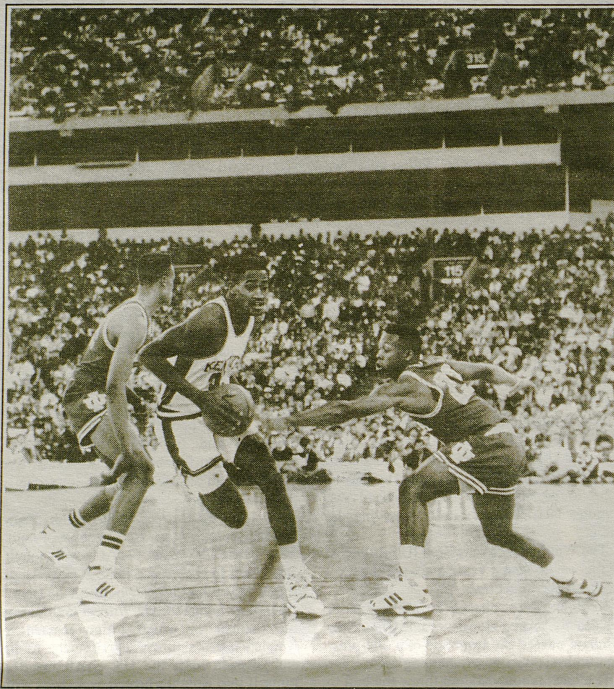
Tech took a 38-35 lead at the half, then went on a 6-0 run to start the second half to take a 44-35 lead at the 17-minute mark. Vandy could get no closer than five the rest of the way.

Sophomore guard Van Usher, who sat out last season after failing to meet requirements of the NCAA's Proposition 48, led the way for Tech with a game-high 24 points.

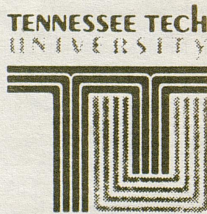
Wise, one of the leading candidates for OVC Player of the Year honors this season, and Babic, also chipped in. Wise, who paced the Eagles in scoring last season, came through in the clutch by scoring 17 of his 22 points in the second half. Babic, Tech's leading rebounder a year ago, grabbed 10 boards and added 10 points.

UK-Tech key matchups

Tech enjoys a huge size advantage—both in height and numbers—entering its first meeting with UK. The Eagles have six players—7-0 Milos Babic, 6-10 Jared Elder, 6-8 John Best, 6-8 Derrick Gray, 6-8 Darryl Perry and 6-8 Wade Wester—who stand taller than any Wildcat. And Tech will use up to 17 players during a game, compared to nine for the 'Cats.



Reggie Hanson, above, UK's best inside player, may have his hands full with Tennessee Tech's front line that includes 7-0 Milos Babic, 6-7 Earl Wise and 6-6 Jerome Rodgers.



Coach Frank Harrell

1989-90 TENNESSEE TECH ROSTER

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown (High School/JC)
35	Milos Babic	C	7-0	240	Sr.	Krajjevo, Yugoslavia
25	John Best	F	6-8	200	Fr.	Memphis, Tenn. (Whitehaven)
3	Joey Coe	G	6-3	185	Sr.	Celina, Tenn. (High)
33	Mitch Cupples	G	6-6	185	Fr.	Dyersburg, Tenn. (High)
50	Jared Elder	C	6-10	200	Fr.	Chamblee, Ga. (Henderson)
53	Derrick Gray	C	6-8	280	Fr.	Burton, S.C. (Battery Creek)
13	Tony Hall	G	6-0	170	Jr.	Macon, Ga. (Southwest)
10	Maurice Houston	G	5-11	160	Fr.	Springfield, Ohio (Catholic Central)
34	Rod Manuel	F	6-5	205	Jr.	Macon, Ga. (Southwest)
11	Bobby McWilliams	G	6-0	165	Jr.	Barboursville, Ky. (Truett-McConnell JC)
42	Darryl Perry	F	6-8	195	Sr.	Columbus, Ga. (Kendrick)
21	Jerome Rodgers	F	6-6	200	Jr.	Lithonia, Ga. (High)
44	Lincolyn Simmons	F	6-5	195	Fr.	Thomson, Ga. (High)
15	Darrell Stevens	G	5-10	155	So.	Chattanooga, Tenn. (Brainerd)
12	Van Usher	G	6-0	160	So.	Lithonia, Ga. (High)
40	Wade Wester	F	6-8	195	So.	Newport, Tenn. (Cooke Co.)
32	Earl Wise	F	6-7	200	Sr.	Macon, Ga. (Southwest)

'88 RESULTS

86	at Tennessee	118
105	COVENANT COLLEGE	61
58	at Missouri-Kansas City	55
57	at California	88
58	vs. Hawaii	98
62	vs. Boston University	84
86	UT-CHATTANOOGA (OT)	90
77	at Illinois	105
78	at Chicago State	72
66	at Western Illinois	72
92	UNC-WILMINGTON (OT)	95
102	FREED-HARDEMAN	66
65	WESTERN ILLINOIS	60
73	TENNESSEE STATE	59
77	MIDDLE TENNESSEE	79
87	at Austin Peay	102
67	at Murray State	76
83	at UNC-Wilmington	80
57	EASTERN KENTUCKY	54
63	MOREHEAD	62
110	NEWBERRY	75
52	CHICAGO STATE	60
101	at Miami (Fla.)	111
81	at Morehead	93
76	at Eastern Kentucky	78
72	MURRAY STATE	87
85	AUSTIN PEAY	86
68	at Middle Tennessee	89
84	at Tennessee State	86
84	at Austin Peay (OVC Tourney)	85

Home games in ALL CAPITALS

'90 SCHEDULE/RESULTS

85	WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE	71
78	at Southern Miss	95
89	at Vanderbilt	76
Dec. 4	SAM HOUSTON STATE	
Dec. 6	at Kentucky	
Dec. 8-9	Citizen's Bank Classic (Tenn. Tech-Tulane, Miss. Valley-Ark. St.)	
Dec. 16	at UT-Chattanooga	
Dec. 21	at Auburn	
Dec. 30	at Sam Houston State	
Jan. 2	FREED-HARDEMAN	
Jan. 6	MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE	
Jan. 8	at Middle Tennessee	
Jan. 13	at Tennessee State	
Jan. 16	COVENANT COLLEGE	
Jan. 20	AUSTIN PEAY	
Jan. 22	MURRAY STATE	
Jan. 24	at Mississippi Valley State	
Jan. 27	at Eastern Kentucky	
Jan. 29	at Morehead	
Feb. 3	MIDDLE TENNESSEE	
Feb. 6	at Southwestern Louisiana	
Feb. 10	MOREHEAD	
Feb. 12	EASTERN KENTUCKY	
Feb. 17	at Murray State	
Feb. 19	at Austin Peay	
Feb. 26	TENNESSEE STATE	
Mar. 3	OVC Tournament (TBA)	

Home games in ALL CAPITALS

UK OPPONENT SCOUTING REPORT

Kansas Jayhawks

Jayhawks haven't forgotten how to win

Unranked early, KU now perched at No. 3 in country

LOCATION: Lawrence, Kan.
FOUNDED: 1866
ENROLLMENT: 28,403
NICKNAME: Jayhawks
COLORS: Crimson and Blue
CONFERENCE: Big 8
SERIES RECORD: 16-2, UK
SERIES RECORD AT LEXINGTON: 6-0, UK
SERIES RECORD AT LOUISVILLE: 3-0, UK
SERIES RECORD AT LAWRENCE: 7-2, UK
1988-89 RECORDS: 19-12, 6-8
POSTSEASON PLAY: none
HEAD COACH: Roy Williams

PROBABLE STARTERS

- F — Mark Randall (160 ppg., 6.7 rpg.)
- F — Rick Calloway (did not play in '89)
- C — Pekka Markkanen (did not play in '89)
- G — Jeff Gueldner (4.9 ppg., 1.8 rpg.)
- G — Kevin Pritchard (14.5 ppg., 2.5 rpg.)

Second-year head coach Roy Williams didn't want to put too much pressure on his team to start the season. He wanted to emphasize the fact that Kansas, 19-12 last season, will once again be able to compete in the NCAA tournament this season after becoming the first defending champion to miss the event because of probation last year. But he didn't want to overemphasize it.

"I know that the anticipation of having a chance to compete in the NCAA tournament is something the kids will enjoy," Williams said in pre-season. "I know I will. There's a bigger carrot at the end. Last year they played for personal pride, knowing there was nothing at the end, and they played each game like it was their last. But I don't want to put so much emphasis on the NCAA tournament that we forget to play hard every night out."

Three weeks into the new season, it doesn't appear as though Kansas has forgotten how to play hard. Or well. Unranked when the first wire service polls were released, the undefeated Jayhawks opened the season with a bang, capturing the prestigious Dodge Preseason NIT title. KU surprised UNLV and LSU—the top two teams in the country at the time—along the way, and vaulted itself to a No.-3 national ranking heading into its Dec. 4 match at home against Tennessee-Martin.

Two guys who played vital roles in NCAA championships—point guard Kevin Pritchard, a Jayhawk holdover from the '88 title team, and forward Rick Calloway, who sat out last season after transferring from Indiana—form the nucleus of the Kansas squad.

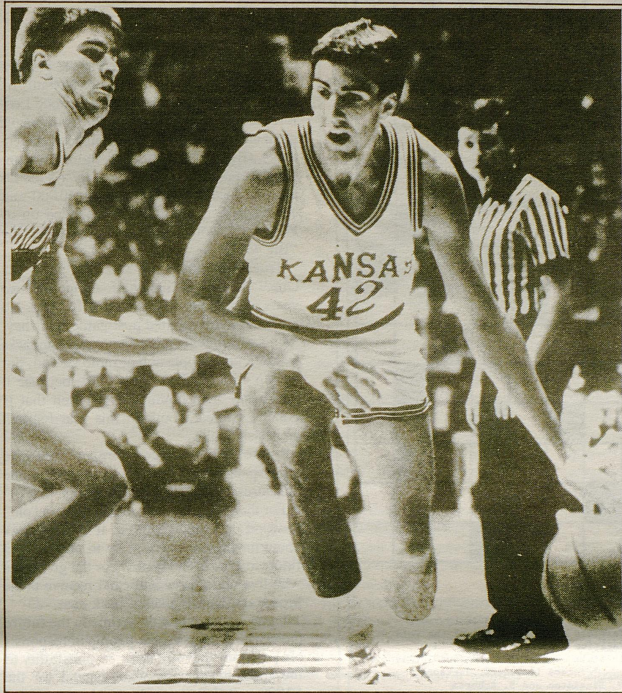
Pritchard, a second-team All-Big 8 selection last season who averaged 14.5 points and 4.4 assists per game last season, runs the show from his point guard position.

Calloway, who spent the summer playing in Australia to help offset his year layoff, has earned a starting job at one forward.

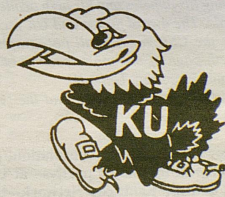
Joining Calloway at forward is Mark Randall, also a second-team all-conference pick last season. Randall made great strides in '89 after a medical redshirt season, averaging 15.6 points 6.1 rebounds and shooting a school-record 64.6 percent from the field.

Another newcomer making an impact is starting center Pekka Markkanen from Finland, a player Williams signed sight-unseen shortly before the season began.

Senior Jeff Gueldner, a starter on the '88 title team who saw only 60 minutes of action last year, is once again a regular in the backcourt.



Kentucky will need to keep an eye on Kansas forward Mark Randall, who led the Jayhawks in rebounding, was second in scoring and set a school record for field-goal percentage last season.



Coach Roy Williams

1989-90 KANSAS ROSTER

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown (High School/JC)
	Todd Alexander	G	6-4	175	Fr.	McPherson, Kan. (High)
	Terry Brown	G	6-2	190	Jr.	Clyde, N.Y. (NE Oklahoma A&M)
20	Rick Calloway	F	6-6	180	Sr.	Cincinnati, Ohio (Indiana)
	Byron Daye	G	6-3	188	Jr.	Suisun City, Calif. (Chabot College)
33	Jeff Gueldner	G-F	6-5	180	Sr.	Charleston, Ill. (High)
45	Alonzo Jamison	F	6-6	225	So.	Santa Ana, Calif. (Rancho Santiago)
	Adonis Jordan	G	6-0	170	Fr.	Reseda, Calif. (Cleveland)
32	Mike Maddox	F	6-7	200	Jr.	Oklahoma City, Okla. (Putnam North)
43	Malcolm Nash	F	6-7	195	So.	St. Louis, Mo. (Vashon)
14	Kevin Pritchard	G	6-3	180	Sr.	Tulsa, Okla. (Edison)
42	Mark Randall	F	6-9	225	Jr.	Englewood, Colo. (Cherry Creek)
22	Sean Tunstall	G	6-2	180	So.	St. Louis, Mo. (Vashon)
	Kirk Wagner	F	6-8	210	Jr.	Pasadena, Calif. (Pasadena City CC)
34	Freeman West	F	6-5	190	Sr.	East Chicago, Ind. (Paris, Texas JC)
	Pekka Markkanen	C	6-10	215	Jr.	Jyväskylä, Finland

'88 RESULTS

94	vs. Alaska-Anchorage*	81
86	vs. California*	71
81	vs. Seton Hall*	81
98	SEATTLE	65
100	LOYOLA-CHICAGO	80
112	PACIFIC LUTHERAN	61
95	Temple (Atlantic City, N.J.)	78
109	NORTHERN ARIZONA	59
81	at Texas Tech	80
100	vs. Iona**	67
82	vs. SW Missouri St.**	73
115	BROWN	45
127	IOWA STATE	82
90	SMU	82
86	at Miami (Fla.)	87
75	at Kansas State	74
95	at Oklahoma	123
89	at Colorado	74
88	WICHITA STATE	66
70	KANSAS STATE	71
66	MISSOURI	91
70	at Nebraska	74
81	OKLAHOMA STATE	87
80	at Missouri	93
89	OKLAHOMA	94
77	at Duke	102
89	at Iowa State	97
111	COLORADO	83
80	NEBRASKA	71
79	at Oklahoma State	78
65	Kansas State (Big 8 Tourney)	73

□ Home games in ALL CAPITALS
 *Great Alaska Shootout **BMA Classic

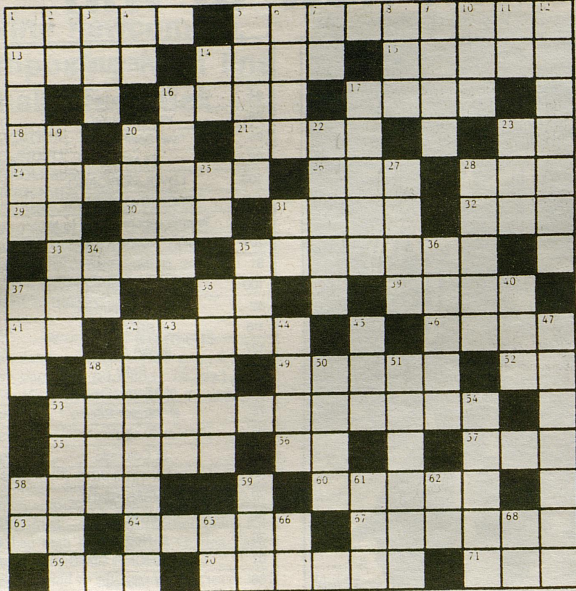
'90 SCHEDULE/RESULTS

109	UAB (Dodge NIT)	83
89	at LSU (Dodge NIT)	83
91	UNLV (Dodge NIT, New York, N.J.)	77
66	St. John's (Dodge NIT, New York, N.J.)	57
87	IDAHO	58
86	MARYLAND-BALTIMORE CO.	67
Dec. 4	TENNESSEE-MARTIN	
Dec. 6	at SMU	
Dec. 9	KENTUCKY	
Dec. 16	PEPPERDINE	
Dec. 22	ARIZONA STATE	
Dec. 29-30	BMA Holiday Classic (Mo.-KC, Stanford, Pan American)	
Jan. 3	at Nebraska	
Jan. 6	at Wichita State	
Jan. 8	WINTHROP	
Jan. 10	at Miami (Fla.)	
Jan. 13	OKLAHOMA STATE	
Jan. 18	ELIZABETH CITY STATE	
Jan. 20	at Missouri	
Jan. 27	at Kansas State	
Jan. 31	COLORADO	
Feb. 3	OKLAHOMA	
Feb. 7	at Iowa State	
Feb. 10	at Oklahoma State	
Feb. 13	MISSOURI	
Feb. 17	NEBRASKA	
Feb. 21	at Colorado	
Feb. 24	KANSAS STATE	
Feb. 27	at Oklahoma State	
Mar. 3	IOWA STATE	
Mar. 9-11	Big 8 Tournament	

□ Home games in ALL CAPITALS

TCP CROSSWORD PUZZLE

By Dan Krueckeberg




'89-'90 HARDWOOD CATS FOES & THEIR STARS

- | | |
|---|--|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Namesakes of shooter Rice of 26 Across | 1 Will host Cats on 12/9 in Lawrence |
| 5 This is Derrick _____, senior year at Auburn | 2 Initials of Jr. Lockhart of the Vols |
| 13 The Cats have _____ of talented teams on their schedule | 3 Negative word |
| 14 Consumes | 4 Initials of Ole Miss standout Turner |
| 15 Metal bolt | 5 _____ stars include C. Jackson, V. Singleton and S. Roberts |
| 16 Festive | 6 List ender |
| 17 Looks to improve on 23-8 mark of '88-'89 | 7 Initials of the Gatsons coach |
| 18 California city abbr. | 8 One of the Gershwins |
| 20 SEC state abbr. | 9 Junior forward Wayne of LSU |
| 21 German river | 10 Eggs |
| 22 Compass abbr. | 11 Compass abbr. |
| 24 _____ new coach is Tommy Joe Eagles | 12 Portland coach/former Cat _____ team will play in the UKIT |
| 26 Meet the Cats in Louisville on 12/27 | 14 Initials of the fine Hoosier Anderson |
| 28 Wade Houston is the new _____ coach | 16 Namesakes of last year's SEC assist leader |
| 29 Abbr. for class of Cards F. Spencer | 17 Waites of 'Bama |
| 30 Comedian Louie | 17 Nice to have if it's deep |
| 31 Cut with acid | 19 Coach of standouts A. Kessler & L. Green |
| 32 Anger | 20 Body organ |
| 33 Witches | 22 Coach Estes of Cats 12/19 foes, the Paladins |
| 35 Coach Williams of Mississippi State | 23 Neither mate |
| 37 First name of 2 Down | 25 Compass abbr. |
| 38 The Cardinals come _____ Rupp on 12/30 | 27 Fellow |
| 39 Tarts | 28 Replay need |
| 41 Initials of Madden for coach D. Smith | 31 2nd and 3rd of the five |
| 42 Coach of LSU's talented squad | 34 Indefinite article |
| 46 _____-off; evade work | 35 Tier |
| 48 Celestial body | 36 Cats hope to get off on the _____ foot in '89-'90 |
| 49 Will face the Cats on March 5th | 37 Presidential nickname |
| 52 Reds loop | 38 Namesakes of Miss. State's fine soph. guard Watts |
| 53 _____ boys face the Cats in the Big Four Classic | 40 The coach's _____, Allan, is a freshman at Knoxville |
| 55 Keeneland events | 42 Come to Rupp Arena on 11/29 |
| 56 Initials of a former Cats coach | 43 Garment |
| 57 Sense organ | 44 Auburn looks to improve on it's _____ wins of last year |
| 58 Fish | 45 The _____ game in '89 is vs. Louisville |
| 60 Senior Pritchard of 1 Down | 47 Has Davis, Chatman & Schintzius |
| 63 Initials of Auburn standout Caylor | 48 Pain sound |
| 64 The _____ coach wears plaid jackets | 50 Chance |
| 67 Became taut | 51 Pushes |
| 69 Namesakes of coach of improving Ole Miss team | 53 Star Evans of Furman of 22 Down |
| 70 7-footer Milos _____ team, Tennessee Tech, comes to Rupp on 12/6 | 54 Meaning |
| 71 The Pitino _____ begins vs. 42 Down | 58 Initials of Jumper of the Rebels |
| | 59 British drink |
| | 61 List ender |
| | 62 "I'll meet you _____ Rupp Arena" |
| | 65 Abbr. for position of football secondary |
| | 66 Initials of former DePaul star Brunder |
| | 68 Initials of lone returning starter Reid for new Vandy coach E. Foxler |

Last issue's solution

BILL RANSDELLS
 REIAN BILLS OS
 WAGS VIAN FLOU
 ORLANDO SEATING
 U EELS RS PEA
 MAT RE APRON RRR
 IN HONAGE AT
 GATOR H CAT OT
 HALLOFFAMEBOWL
 BERRIE URN MIKE
 HI DALLAS P B NH
 MEAR N NE PTO
 TAYSON TO WAYS
 WON EBERTS T
 ORANGE PEER TDS



VIEWPOINT

Letters To The Editor

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

Listen from our side

Dear sir:

Since 1955, I have listened to the play-by-play of UK football and basketball on WHAS-Radio by the legendary Cawood Ledford and at times by Claude Sullivan, also a great announcer. From the mountains of Kentucky (Evarts), to Northern Indiana (Muncie) and now Hamilton, Ohio, always too far away for local broadcasts, the big 50,000-watt clear-channel was there. I depended on it. Well, for reasons I will never understand, the "Big Voice" is gone.

True, we picked up the fabulous "Big One," WLW in Cincinnati, Ohio, for two years of basketball. What a trip that was. No pre-game, very limited post-game; plus having to put up with snide and caustic remarks from certain people at that radio station; but put up with all the crap we did, because it was better than nothing. Now even that is gone. Last year, football; this year football and basketball.

I absolutely will never forgive those who are responsible for taking away one of the true pleasures I have enjoyed all of my life.

For those of you who can still pick up "ole" Cawood on local broadcast, it's easy to talk about having too much pride to play second fiddle to U of L on WHAS. For the great fans who live out of state and can't receive those broadcasts, pride takes a back seat.

I am confident that sometime in the future there will be responsible people in responsible positions that will show responsibility to the millions of fans who depend on the 50,000-watt stations and have helped make the great UK tradition what it is today. Until that time, I am disheartened, discouraged and thoroughly disgusted. 'nough said.

Larry Jones,
Hamilton, Ohio

P.S. I am proud of Jerry Claiborne and what he has accomplished in terms of graduating his athletes and his high academic standards. The award he got and UK received from the CFL got a small paragraph on the fourth page of the sports section of the Cincinnati Enquirer. Unreal!

Good luck to coach Pitino and the 'Cats as well.

(Editor's Note: It's no consolation, but practically all the major parties—at UK, WHAS and the Kentucky Network—that were involved in the fiasco of which you write are no longer on the scene. Now it's up to current heirs to those thrones to right the wrong.)

Info on telecasts

Dear sir:

I am a subscriber to *The Cats' Pause* and have been for many years and I live in the upper peninsula of Michigan. I am originally from Paducah, Ky., and went to school at Tilgham High school. I can't wait each week to see TCP.

I listen to the radio and get a lot of games on TV—even up here. Over WHAS And Cincinnati stations, the radio was nice. Will I be able to hear it this year? Can you tell me the schedule of delayed broadcast on TV? How late will it be? Any information will be appreciated.

Yours truly,

Leonard Hicks
Shingleton, Mich.

(Editor's Note: The name of cable TV stations carrying UK basketball games was published in the Dec. 2 issue of TCP. We're sorry the list is not longer and that it mostly is limited to audiences in Kentucky and bordering states.)

Hey, Tony, you made it

Dear sir:

Enclosed are checks for my renewal to *TCP* And my subscription to the *TCP Official Kentucky Basketball Yearbook*. Also, below is my second letter to VIEWPOINTS. You did not print the first one, and I have no reason to believe that you will print this one as you seem to only print letters agreeing with your viewpoint.

I usually look forward to receiving each copy of *TCP*, but here lately I have been unhappy with the way some of the *TCP* columnists have been second-guessing Rick Pitino on issues like the recruitment of Toomer and the (lack of) recruitment of Morton and Davis. I say back off and let the man do the job he was hired to do. I think he did the best he could to recruit Morton, considering the fact that coach Pitino is an honest and honorable person and he assumed (mistakenly) that Denny Crum was also.

I bring each copy of *TCP* to my office at the Norfolk Naval Base, because sailors from different parts of the country enjoy reading it. Some of them have mentioned that you will never read about Dean Smith, or Bobby Knight, or Tark "The Shark," etc., having to justify to the media why they recruited a particular ballplayer as Rick Pitino had to do when he recruited Toomer. I grew up in Burkesville, Ky., (I have a *TCP* subscription for Cumberland County High), and I have followed UK basketball for at least 30 years and I can not recall Adolph Rupp or Joe B. Hall being cross-examined by the media the way coach Pitino was on the Morton and Davis affair.

Other than the second-guessing of coach Pitino that I mentioned, I really enjoy *TCP*. I really enjoy working the crossword puzzle, especially the ones about the UK stars of the past (Cliff, Pat, Louie, Dan, Sam, Kenny, etc.).

Sincerely,

Tony L. Wright
Virginia Beach, Va.

(Editor's Note: Tony, your check came in the mail, but apparently your first letter never got here, because we enjoy receiving and publishing letters that differ from whatever viewpoints that may be accredited to us (rightly or wrongly) by the writers of those letters.

Considering the questions raised when Pitino successfully recruited Carlos Toomer, the coach in his media luncheon the day before the Wildcats opened against Ohio University invited those in attendance to visit his office and view the latest film of Toomer in action.

Surely Pitino knows more about his recruiting needs than anyone else, including the media experts.

And by checking the articles again you'll note that it was Denny Crum, not Rick Pitino, who was criticized in the Morton situation.)

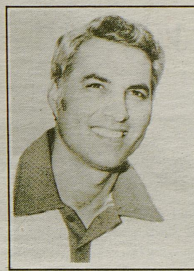
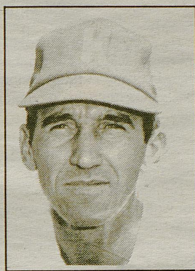
Hanging it up as a coach never an easy process

Remembering Bradshaw, Ray and Curci

□ I was sitting at my desk in Memorial Coliseum, doing the usual afternoon sports information chores during the last week of October, 1968, when I received a call from Martha Bradshaw, wife of UK football coach



Russell Rice
Cats' Pause Columnist



The retirement of Jerry Claiborne (far right) last week conjures up memories of his predecessors—(from left) Charlie Bradshaw, John Ray and Fran Curci—and their last days at UK.

Charlie Bradshaw, asking me to drop by their home on my way to football practice.

My suspicions were aroused mildly, because although the Bradshaws and I had been friends since my days as sports editor (1962-67) at *The Lexington Leader* and he had been instrumental in my joining the UK SID staff in the spring of 1967, I had never been invited to their home during a football afternoon.

The Wildcats at the time were 4-2, coming off back-to-back losses to LSU and Georgia in Lexington. They had opened with a big win over Missouri, 12-6, at home; lost to SEC foes Mississippi, 30-14, at Jackson, and Auburn, 26-7, in Lexington. A win over Oregon State team preceded the losses to LSU and Georgia.

A lot had transpired since a couple or so years earlier, when the Wildcats, featuring QB Rick Norton, RB and DB Rodger Bird, OT Sam Ball, E Rick Kestner and several other fine players, had finished 5-5 in 1964 and were 6-2 and Cotton Bowl-bound the following year before losing the final two games to Houston and Tennessee after Norton received a knee injury on the artificial turf in the Astrodome.

The 1967 season began with the usual high optimism in the UK camp, but quickly dampened as sophomore Greg Page, who along with Nat Northington had broken the color barrier in UK and SEC football, received a paralyzing neck injury in a routine off-speed drill on Aug. 22 and died 38 days later on the eve of the Ole Miss game.

Three weeks after Page's injury, sophomore end Cecil New received a neck injury in a public scrimmage on Stoll Field and was paralyzed from the neck down. In between those two tragic incidents, sophomore quarterback Stan Forston received torn ligaments in a routine drill and Northington dislocated a shoulder. The *Kentucky Kernel* promptly ran an editorial attacking the brutality of football and questioning its value on a college campus.

That was my first fall football season as a member of the UK staff. I remember seeing New, head shaven and weird projectiles sticking out of his skull, being wheeled out of room in the UK Medical Center a couple hours after the accident.

"What in the world," I asked myself, "have you got yourself into?"

In December of that year, long-time UK athletic director Bernie Shively died of a heart attack. Robert L. Johnson, vice president in charge of student affairs, assumed the additional duties of acting director of athletics. There was much unrest in the athletics department as Bradshaw and assistant basketball coach Harry Lancaster started marshalling their forces in all-out efforts for Shively's job.

After Johnson and Oswald left UK early in 1968, Dr. A.D. Kirwan, a former UK football coach who had close ties to Lancaster, was appointed interim president in July of that year. When Lancaster was named acting athletic director two months later, the handwriting was on the wall for Bradshaw and the football camp, whose very survival depended upon a winning season to compensate for the combined 8-21-1 record of the past three years.

When I arrived at the Bradshaw home on Glendover Drive that afternoon in 1968, I found myself in the company of Mrs. Bradshaw and Bill Faulkner, whose close association with the UK football program began with Bradshaw's predecessor, Blanton Collier, and continues to this day.

Mrs. Bradshaw told me that her husband was scheduled to meet with his players that afternoon and announce his intention to resign as their coach. One special request was that I not let *The Courier-Journal*, a long-time antagonist of Bradshaw, have the story.

By the time I got to the Sports Center, Bradshaw had completed meeting with his players. It was a sad scene.

"At the time I didn't believe it," former quarterback Dave Bair recalled. "He told us he had promised the people of Kentucky that he would bring them a winner, and he hadn't produced. Everything was silent. There were mixed emotions. Half of us were crying; some were happy. I didn't want to see him leave."

"We decided we were going to win the next game, against West Virginia, for him and the next one for his wife and one each for his two kids. We beat West Virginia, but we lost the other three."

Those losses left Bradshaw with a 25-41-4 record at UK.

I remember that after leaving the practice complex, I shed a few silent tears, not only for Bradshaw, but for the sad shape of affairs that existed in the Wildcat football program.

After arriving home, I telephoned *The Courier-Journal* beat reporter in Louisville and told him to meet me in the Campbell House lobby in two hours; then I ate dinner, prepared the official release and began making the required calls.

□ **FOUR YEARS LATER**, the Yuletide spirit around the UK Athletics Department was dampened by clouds of uncertainty that once again hung over the Wildcat football program. The point of contention was the fate of John Ray, who had compiled a dismal 10-33 record during the four years since he succeeded Bradshaw as head coach.

On the plus side, the jovial and popular former Notre Dame aide had succeeded in getting off the ground plans for a new stadium; in fact, the project was scheduled to be completed in time for the opening of the upcoming season. In addition, the ever-optimistic Ray's recruiting efforts of the past three years had resulted in some pretty good returning players.

To paraphrase Joe Haering, a UK assistant coach who spoke to the Lexington Wildcat Club near the end of that season, "If somebody else comes in and takes over this program, he is going to have the makings of a pretty good football team."

In addition to an assessment of UK's prospects for the next season, Haering's remarks made it clear that we all knew Ray's job was on the line.

The Wildcats had lost six of their first eight games that season before defeating Vanderbilt, 14-13, in the last intercollegiate game to played on Stoll Field. Then Ray

met his Waterloo at Gainesville, where his Wildcats were humiliated, 40-0, by the Gators.

Ray rallied his forces for a gallant losing effort (17-7) against 12th-ranked Tennessee, but the Athletics Board members weren't in a jovial mood when they met in December to decide the fate of a coach whose overall four-year record was 10-33-0.

On the day of the board meeting, my assistant Jack Perry and I decided to have a Christmas office party in order to spread a little cheer amidst all that gloom.

We turned my rectangular-shaped office into a party room, with the usual goodies that we either secured from UK's Food Services or paid for out of own pockets, and invited UK staff members and media friends to partake of the hospitality.

During that afternoon of everyone trying to spread Christmas cheer, we kept waiting for a telephone call from athletic director Lancaster, who was in attendance at the meeting "On The Hill." The consensus was that they would extend Ray's contract at least one year, but the word from his trusted administrative assistant and recruiting coordinator Frank Ham was that such a short extension would hurt UK in the recruiting wars.

When the anxiously awaited phone call finally came, Lancaster was on the line. As the late athletic director recalled, the conversation went something like this:

"John, this is the worst job I've ever been asked to do, but the Board has just met and decided to replace you."

"Damn!" Ray replied.

"John, I'm really sorry."

"Well, OK."

Ray relayed the news, through Ham, to the rest of us; then the telephone rang again. This time Lancaster told Ray they wanted him to give him a chance to resign.

"I'll not resign," Ray roared. "I've been fired, so, by God, I've been fired."

The party was over.

□ **NINE YEARS LATER**, Fran Curci, who had succeeded Ray as UK head coach, picked up the telephone and received the dreaded news, "The Athletics Board voted to terminate your contract immediately."

My most vivid memory of Curci during those last few days of November, 1981, was his sartorial splendor—beautiful fur-collared topcoat, dark hat and gloves, white shirt and tie—as he stood on the sidelines of Commonwealth Stadium during his final game as UK coach, a 21-10 victory over Tennessee that gave him an overall record of 47-51-2 at UK.

During our nine-year association, I never remember a bad photograph of Curci. He was an SID's dream in that respect. However, there were many rough spots, especially the constant national headlines over player problems, both real and magnified.

The victory over Tennessee, which gave the Wildcats a 3-8 record for the season, was too little and too late. One week earlier, Florida drove the final nail in his coaching coffin by walloping the Cats, 33-12 in Gainesville.

(Continued on page 20)

More than ever Texan Brassow is glad he made the long haul to KY

Wildcat freshman to make a big impact...you can 'bank' on it

By TCP staff writer Pancho Easterwood

Butterflies were doing a number on Jeff Brassow's stomach last Tuesday night.

But the 6-foot-5 freshman denied he was nervous.

"I'm just anxious to get started at the University of Kentucky," Brassow said.

So, what if his dad, Duane, was among the huge throng waiting for his son's UK debut in the spacious butterfly palace, Rupp Arena.

He had flown in earlier that day from Houston.

And what if the crowds back home in Alief, Tex., a Houston suburb, had been miniscule by comparison at his high school games at Alief-Elsik High School.

"The most people I ever played in front of in high school was 6,000," Brassow had recalled the day before the game. "And then there was 10,000 for an all-star game in Louisville."

The stands were empty the day before the Cats' opener with Ohio University. It was media day and the "Big Blue" hype was everywhere. Television cameras peeked and pried and news reporters scribbled away furiously, noting dutifully that Brassow has big feet, likes to play golf, and enjoys pizza.

Brassow fielded questions like Ozzie Smith scoops up ground balls...with all the cool of a veteran and not the 18-year-old that he is.

But wily senior Derrick Miller had figured the kid from Houston was no ordinary wet-behind-the-ears freshman.

"I'm not surprised he's starting tomorrow," Miller told an all-ears newshound. "I

predicted it when I played with him this summer."

Jeff Brassow looks like the kid next door. He has the countenance of a choirboy as he answers questions in a patient, polite manner. But deep down there is a fire burning.

Switch now to Rupp and Tuesday's opener with a packed house-23,037-jammed in to see "Rick Ball", the game played at a dizzy pace, offensively and defensively.

It is a game he loves...even if it is a far cry from the half-court game he played as a two-year starter at Alief-Elsik.

"I look forward to playing it," he had said earlier.

Tuesday night he got his wish...butterflies and all. But even they vanished after the opening tip. Then it was...well, off to the races for the 'Cats and the fans as "Rick Ball" was ushered in against the visiting Bobcats.

One of these days Brassow will be able to tell his grandkids about the first shot he delivered for Rick Pitino's 'Cats. It was one he had not exactly banked on.

But that is exactly what it did—his 21-foot 3-point shot banked in from the right side to give UK a 10-0 lead a minute and 17 seconds into the game.

Now it would be easy for Brassow to tell the media types he had planned it that way. That he had, in fact, feasted off banked 3-pointers in high school.

Who would dispute him? After all, they had never seen him play high school ball. But Brassow is a refreshing sort these days in a sports world where kids grow up too fast with too many dollar signs in their eyes.

"No, I wasn't trying to bank that shot," he said, a slight smile twisting at the corner of his mouth.

"I thought it (the shot) was going over the backboard. I couldn't believe that shot. It was one for the books."

And one for the grandkids, too.

As career-opening shots go, Brassow rated it on the terrible side. But one of these years it could develop into a real conversation piece.

For openers, Brassow's freshman debut was on the short side. An ankle injury limited his playing time to just 14 minutes. The scorebook read something like this:

Five points, three rebounds, three fouls and no turnovers. Defensively he played well. Or so it seemed.

"Once I got into the game I felt all right," the lanky freshman said. "It was a good feeling...I had goose bumps all over my body."

Brassow needs work...a lot of it. But the refreshing thing is that he knows it. He seems to be willing to pay the price.

"I need to work on

everything...my shot wasn't there," he said. "My defense was weak at times...at times it wasn't."

He realizes that "Rick Ball" will not be an overnight success. Far from it. The 'Cats lost their intensity at times and also let the Bobcats get 13 offensive rebounds. And that, he says, is a big no-no.

"If we let teams get that many we're going to get killed," Brassow said. "We'll have to play both halves."

Emphasizing that the Wildcats are going out with the intention of winning every game, Brassow acts as if he wrote the "Power of Positive Thinking." But then he has always had to think positive.

After all, when you grow up in football-crazed Texas it takes a positive mind to sing a positive song.

Some Texans, indeed some sports editors, consider basketball downright wimpish. One such Texan sporting editor used to refer to it, sneeringly, as the "thump-thump game."

To many Texans, a hoop is something you let out in Gilley's or Billy Bob's after a few brews.

But, even in Texas, a state known for its stubbornness, things have been changing with the round ball.

Especially in Houston, the well-oiled metropolis. Basketball goals now thrive there like tumbleweeds in west Texas.

And the competition, like football, has become fierce.

Brassow gives most of the credit for the roundball revival to a man named Jay Parker. It all began, he said, in 1983.

"Parker runs a summer league that all the good players go to," he Brassow said. "He hand-picks each player."

Parker hand-picked Jeff Brassow. And when he did he unknowingly delivered him to the doorstep of ex-UK coach Eddie Sutton.

"He's the reason I got my scholarship here," Brassow said. "If it hadn't been for his league I wouldn't have gained any notoriety."

Brassow played for Parker's junior and senior league teams in the summer. The boys of summer in Houston immediately became the winners of winter as college coaches flocked to the area.

"When recruiting period arrived, all the coaches would come and see us in the summer league," Brassow said. "Before that Texas kids never had that exposure. Parker also picks an all-star team that plays in national tournaments."

Brassow said that high school football is still king...but he admits the pendulum is slowly beginning to swing of late.

"Basketball is getting a lot more recognition and I'm glad for that...it's good for Texas," he said.

Brassow's splendid summers paid huge dividends from the start.

He averaged 17.5 points, 8.5 rebounds and 4.4 assists his junior year at Alief-Elsik, located in the southwest part of Houston.

Sutton and staff, already attentive to Brassow because of Parker's program, wanted him. And vice-versa. Brassow became an early signer in November of 1988.

For Brassow there was little choice in the matter—it was UK or SMU and the Dallas school never was in the running.

"Kentucky is a basketball state and the best area and environment basketball-wise to be in," Brassow said. "Even when UK was down last year and the attitude not all that great, I knew this was it for me."

Brassow said he knew Kentucky's reputation also would lure a great coach to

Lexington.

"There was speculation that Sutton might be gone when I signed early," he said, "but I was confident they would get a great coach and they did. I like the racehorse style and I knew I would fit in."

Brassow followed up his junior year with a fine senior year. He averaged 17 points and nine boards.

"We played more of a half-court game...we had a real balanced team with five starters in double figures," he said.

Brassow feels that the competitive nature of Houston prep basketball has helped him climb the ladder of cage success.

Houston has produced such players as LaBradford Smith of Louisville and Larry Johnson, the highly-touted player for the Runnin' Rebs of Nevada Las Vegas.

"There are a lot of powerhouse teams in Houston and I think this has prepared me well," Brassow said.

Brassow, however, is willing to work hard in order to be the best he can be. And that means working overtime on his defense and ball-handling. He feels he has made some strides in both.

"I have a problem of relaxing on defense," he admitted. "It's important I keep my attention focused."

As for ball-handling, this rookie is trying to make sure the left hand knows what the right one is doing. "I've worked on it a lot in early-morning workouts with the coaches," he said. "I don't feel totally comfortable dribbling with my left but it's improving."

As for SMU, Brassow said it was never even close to being his pick. He said he never felt comfortable at the Dallas school.

"The football probation of the Mustangs kind of turned off some basketball fans," he said, "but, despite UK's problems last year, they were still averaging 20,000 fans a game. That helped convince me."

That and the fans, he said.

"The people have really been great," he says. "They come up to you during the practice games around the state and introduce themselves...and they are quick to say, 'we're glad you are here.' That makes you feel good."

Cold weather is no deterrent either. He was born in Ann Arbor, home of the Wolverines, the defending NCAA champions, and spent the first 12 years of his life in Michigan. His dad worked for a glass company in Benton Harbor.

"My dad then got a better job in Deer Park (a Houston suburb) and we moved when I was 12," Brassow said. "I was in all kinds of sports in my early years."

But he began concentrating on hoops in his freshman year at Alief-Elsik. He sharpened his skills playing with his brother, Jason, now 16 and a starter for Brassow's old high school.

"We played a lot at home until we moved and couldn't because the driveway of our new home was full of nearby trees," he said. "So we played at a next-door neighbor's house. There was only one rule—break a window and we had to pay."

Jeff Brassow didn't break many windows...instead he learned to hit those arching 3-point shots...without the backboard.

It's those arching 3-footers that first impressed the 'Cats' current 3-point king, Miller, who played on a team with him this past summer.

"He can be as good as he wants to be," Miller said. "I look for him to be an All-American caliber player before he is through."



University of Kentucky freshman forward Jeff Brassow is picking up the pace in "Rick Ball".

Freshman for

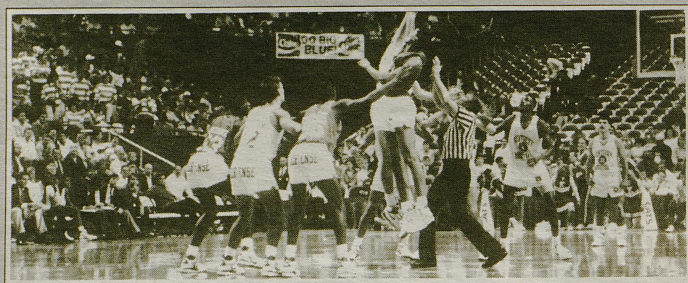


Freshman forward Jeff Brassow, here cutting in front of IU rookie Lawrence Funderburke, says the offseason programs in Houston prepared him well for college hoops.

photo by Steve McFarland

KENTUCKY

A L E N D A R



DECEMBER '89

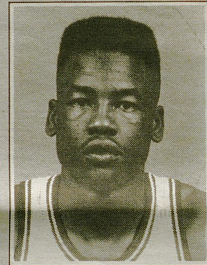
SUN.	MON.	TUE.	WED.	THUR.	FRI.	SAT.
					1	2
3	Basketball: Mississippi St. (H) 7:30 p.m. UK-TV delayed	4	Basketball: Tennessee Tech (H) 7:30 p.m. UK-TV delayed	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	Basketball: Furman (H) 7:30 p.m. UK-TV delayed	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	Basketball: North Carolina (Freedom Hall) 7:30 p.m. UK-TV delayed	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	MERRY CHRISTMAS!	

PREVIOUS GAMES

Sept. 9: Football—UK def. Indiana 17-14
 Sept. 16: Football—UK def. North Carolina 13-6
 Sept. 23: Football—Alabama def. UK 15-3
 Oct. 7: Football—Auburn def. UK 24-12
 Oct. 14: Football—UK def. Rutgers 33-26
 Oct. 21: Football—UK def. LSU 27-21
 Oct. 26: Basketball—Blues def. Whites 145-85
 Oct. 28: Football—Georgia def. UK 34-23
 Nov. 2: Basketball—Blues def. Whites 125-117
 Nov. 4: Football—UK def. Cincinnati 31-0
 Nov. 9: Basketball—Blues def. Whites 115-106
 Nov. 11: Football—UK def. Vanderbilt 15-11
 Nov. 16: Basketball—Whites def. Blues 124-120
 Nov. 18: Football—Florida def. UK 38-28
 Nov. 25: Football—Tennessee def. UK 31-10
 Nov. 28: Basketball—UK def. Ohio 76-73
 Dec. 2: Basketball—Indiana def. UK 71-69



Rick Pitino



Derrick Miller

List of SEC coaches in Top Twenty cut to one

Only Durham among columnist's best

When the first list of basketball's "Top Twenty Coaches" was issued, for the season of 1966-67, the Southeastern Conference was represented by Adolph Rupp of Kentucky.

Scoop Hudgins
Cats' Pause Columnist

Rupp ruled the World of Basketball, including the Olympics. He taught this great American game in Europe and the Middle East, drawing unparalleled crowds to his clinics and contests, spreading goodwill in a wholesome and realistic manner.

The Baron of Basketball at that time had compiled an unsurpassable record of 762 wins against only 165 losses for a winning percentage of .822. The Top Twenty basketball coaches was initiated because of Rupp, and the 19 next most successful coaches in NCAA Division I also were issued with him.

Through the 22-year history of the honor roll, the SEC has always placed one or more in this elite group. In the 1980's, there were 29 points of SEC recognition, an average of three per year, climaxed by the '89 season of four: Norm Sloan of Florida, Eddie Sutton of Kentucky,

THE TOP TWENTY BASKETBALL COACHES
(Entering the 1989-90 season)

Coach & Alma Mater	University	Yrs.	Won	Lost	Pct.
Jerry Tarkanian, Fresno State '55	UNLV	21	530	114	.823
John Cheney, Bethune-Cman '55	Temple	17	397	109	.785
Dean Smith, Kansas '53	N. Carolina	28	667	190	.778
John Thompson, Providence '64	G'town	17	399	135	.7472
Denny Crum, UCLA '58	Louisville	18	436	148	.7466
Bobby Knight, Ohio St. '62	Indiana	24	514	187	.733
Lou Carnesecca, St. John's '50	St. John's	21	460	170	.730
Don Haskins, Okla. State '53	UTEP	28	542	232	.700
"Lefty" Driesell, Duke '54	J. Madison	27	540	238	.694
Lou Henson, N. Mex. St. '55	Illinois	27	535	249	.682
B. vanBreda Kolff, Princeton '47	Hofstra	23	417	196	.680
Norm Stewart, Missouri '56	Missouri	28	526	267	.663
Terry Holland, Davidson '54	Virginia	20	398	204	.661
Gene Bartow, NE Missouri '53	UAB	27	514	270	.650
Hugh Durham, Fla. State '59	Georgia	23	428	234	.647
Tom Young, Maryland '58	Old Dom.	29	496	296	.626
Eldon Miller, Wittenberg '61	N. Iowa	27	446	283	.612
Shelby Metcalf, E.Tex.St. '55	Tex A&M	25	429	296	.592
Glenn Wilkes, Mercer '50	Stetson	32	497	372	.572
Bill Foster, E'town '54	Nwestern	29	436	329	.570

(The "Top Twenty Coaches," basketball and football, is compiled annually by "Scoop" Hudgins, via a formula he originated in 1957. Using NCAA records, he identifies the 20 with the most wins, then lists them by their percentage. This 23rd basketball edition requires 396 victories.)

Hugh Durham of Georgia and C. M. Newton, a Kentucky graduate coaching at Vanderbilt.
 But as we enter the 1990's, three of that number have been scratched from coaching, two by the combination of NCAA and institutional investigations at Kentucky and Florida, where Sutton and Sloan were relieved of coaching duties, while the third, Newton, was named athletics director at Kentucky.
 Durham is the lone SEC coach remaining in

the Top Twenty, ranking No. 15 on a record of 488-234 for a winning rate of .647.

Jerry Tarkanian, Fresno State graduate at UNLV, has the best rate, 530 wins and 114 losses for .823. Dean Smith, a Kansas grad coaching at North Carolina has won the most games, 667, with the third best percentage, .778. Glenn Wilkes, a Mercer man at Stetson, has coached the longest, 32 years, with 497-372 for .572.

The five new coaches in the Top Twenty are: Denny Crum, UCLA grad at Louisville; John Cheney, a Bethune-Cookman grad at Temple; John Thompson, a Providence grad at Georgetown; Terry Holland, a Davidson grad at Virginia, and Butch vanBreda Kolff, a Princeton grad at Hofstra.

This vanBreda Kolff is a rare thoroughbred coach, plying his skill under any and all conditions. He has coached at the NCAA colleges Princeton, LaFayette, New Orleans and Hofstra (twice); in the NBA at Los Angeles, Detroit, Phoenix, Detroit and New Orleans; in the ABA, the Women's Basketball League and at Picaune (Miss.) High School. He ranks 11th in the Top Twenty for his college competition.


After this year's sudden exodus of the winningest coaches from the SEC, it will be a while before we have four or five rated in the Top Twenty, but the present coaches move steadily toward that honor. It takes about 400 wins to be rated, and after Durham, Don DeVoe has 321 and Dale Brown 317.

The Southeastern Conference, accumulatively, will win more than its share of the nation's basketball games, and will take the coaches individual win totals right on up. We have a solid base of strength in outstanding athletes, and will build on it.

Claiborne elevated UK program to great heights

Coach always considered his players first

Trying to let go of something he had enjoyed for 40 years was not easy for Jerry Claiborne. He spent most of last Tuesday crying before officially announcing his resignation as head football coach at the



Larry Vaught
Cats' Pause Columnist

University of Kentucky. "When you've been in something for 40 years and get out it is tough," Claiborne said.

The UK coach caught almost everyone by surprise with his decision. Twice recently he indicated he would be back to coach the Wildcats.

Kentucky lost 31-10 to Tennessee to close a 6-5 year, its first winning season since 1984.

Some fans have blasted Claiborne and his staff recently. They felt the game had passed the 61-year-old coach by and that UK needed a change.

But no criticism drove Claiborne out of the job he loved. Instead, the former UK grid standout retired when he decided his heart was no longer 100 percent into football and the upcoming recruiting wars.

"Certainly it was a frustrating year but the big thing was I had to recruit and my heart just was not in it," Claiborne said after ending his eight-year tenure as UK's field boss.

"If I don't recruit well it hurts UK. People have also been using against us that I might not be here four years to coach players we are recruiting now. I didn't want to damage the program."

He didn't.

Instead, Claiborne elevated the UK program. His overall record was 41-46-3 at UK but that doesn't tell the whole story.

Kentucky's football program was in shambles when he took over for Fran Curci in 1982. The 'Cats lacked discipline, were not competitive and placed little emphasis on academics.

Claiborne's first team didn't win a game. But the 1983 and 1984 teams went to bowl games. Then came four straight years with five wins before the 'Cats won six times this season.

Kentucky became competitive in every game. The jokes about UK's off-the-field problems stopped.

Claiborne's values restored integrity to the program. UK won the College Football Association national championship for graduating the highest percentage of players this season and just set a new Southeastern Conference record with 17 all-conference academic selections.

Since 1982 he had 68 All-SEC academic selections. No other school could match that total.

Never did the NCAA investigate his program nor did anyone question his ethics.

Claiborne played by the rules and expected his players to go to class, play hard, follow the rules and graduate.

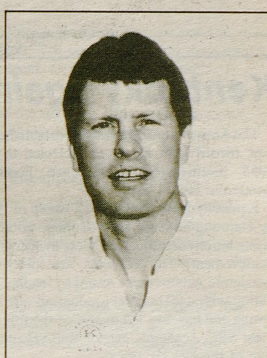
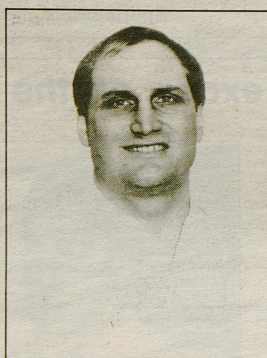
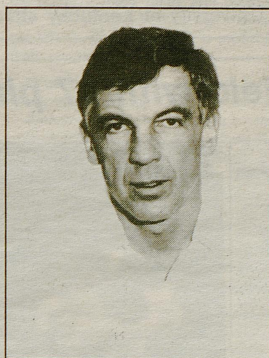
"I'm extremely proud of what our staff did," Claiborne said. "I'm sorry the won-loss record was not better because that's how we are judged."

"I hope our returning players uphold the academic standards we have and improve the won-loss record on the field."

Claiborne is not bitter. He's not disillusioned. He didn't even think about quitting until two days after the loss to Tennessee.

The day after the loss he graded film and did his weekly television show. He met with the squad the next day.

But by that night he knew he wasn't ready to spend the



Kentucky assistants (from left to right) Bill Glaser, Greg Nord and Chip Garber. Will they be the only three from Claiborne's staff to remain at UK?

next few months on the recruiting trail.

Maybe C.M. Newton, UK's athletics director, helped steer Claiborne toward retirement. No one will ever know but Newton, who resigned as Vanderbilt's basketball coach last spring to come to UK. He has known Claiborne since they were at Kentucky together. Newton also knows how difficult it is to know when to quit.

Maybe Claiborne didn't need any prodding. He wants to spend more time with his wife. During the season he usually ate dinner with her just once per week. He wanted more than that.

But the decision had to be hard for him. Most of his players cried when he broke the news to them, especially when he also cried. That was a side of the man few people have ever seen. He cares deeply for those players and walking away wasn't easy.

His biggest loyalty, though, is to his staff. He knows they all will now be looking for work and his decision took all his assistants by surprise.

Bill Glaser probably will have a spot on the new staff because of his recruiting contacts in Louisville. Chip Garber and Greg Nord may also stick because of their age and recruiting connections. The rest of the staff probably won't be back.

Claiborne stuck by his people even when critics pleaded with him to make changes. He never considered making one a scapegoat for UK's losses. Leaving those people had to be difficult for him.

The nice thing, though, is that Claiborne went out on his own. He got to pick the time to call it quits and can walk away knowing his successor will inherit a sound program.

"Our schedule is a little easier next year and this will give the staff a chance to get off on the right foot," Claiborne said. "I hope they go 12-0. I will have no ego problem if they go 12-0."

He still believes UK can abide by the rules, graduate players and win in the SEC if it can sign all the best in-state talent each year. Unfortunately, that's never been done and probably never will with Howard Schnellenberger at Louisville.

"If we had got all the best players it could have been enough to have made a 5-5-1 year go to 7-4 or 8-3," Claiborne said.

Instead, Claiborne took the best in-state players he could get and signed the best available out-of-state talent.

Now he'll have a choice of several potential jobs at UK. Don't ask him what he'll be doing because he doesn't know.

"I was planning to coach football," Claiborne said. "I've never thought about doing anything else because I didn't want to quit. I enjoyed coaching."

He won 179 games to put himself fourth among active Division I-A coaches and was never tempted to break

the rules.

Claiborne hopes UK fans will remember the way he ran his program. And they should because he did it with class.

"I want to be remembered as a guy who tried to do the best he could with what he had," Claiborne said. "He ran a program within the rules."

He also cared about his players as more than athletes and took great pride in their success after football. Maybe it was time for him to call it quits. Maybe the game had passed him by. Maybe recruiting was too demanding.

Still, his values and integrity won't easily be replaced and it was nice to know one coach put academics over athletics.

He didn't always win. He wasn't colorful. He sometimes lacked imagination.

But he was honest. He emphasized education. He cared for those around him.

Replacing him with a more imaginative, colorful coach will be easy. Finding someone with his integrity may be impossible.

My guess is UK fans will appreciate the job he's done more and more as the years go by and it will be interesting to see how his successor measures up athletically and academically eight years from now.

□ □ □

MAYBE EVERYBODY should be concerned over the recent All-SEC academic selections. Kentucky had 17 selections while Mississippi had 15, Mississippi State 13 and Vanderbilt 9.

Ironically, the top three teams in the SEC won-loss race—Alabama, Tennessee and Auburn—had a combined total of nine players on the academic team.

That sends out a message about the balance between winning and education that I don't think I like.

□ □ □

PITINO-BALL made a successful debut in Rupp Arena last week and it was amazing to see fans actually enthused about a team they know will not win many games.

This week the 'Cats faced two of their biggest games of the year against Mississippi State and Tennessee Tech. If they swept those two home games, they may reach double digits in wins. If they lost one or both, forget more than seven or eight wins.

UK is going to be fun to watch when it is shooting well. When the 'Cats aren't hitting, the games may get out of hand quickly.

But the 'Cats won't lose because of a lack of effort.

(Continued on page 20)

'C A T S C A N S

Sports briefs about University of Kentucky athletics

Kentucky again excels off the field with 17 players on SEC honor roll

The University of Kentucky established a new record with 17 players selected to the 1988 Southeastern Conference Football Academic Honor Roll.

Kentucky thus made a clean sweep in 1989 by claiming both the CFA (College Football Association) and SEC top spots in academic achievement. The Wildcats won the CFA Academic Achievement Award by leading the nation with a 90 percent graduation rate last spring and has now led or shared the title for most SEC Academic Honor Roll selections five of the last six years.

The total of 17 players selected to the SEC Academic Honor Roll team is the most placed by a single school since the team was formed in 1969. The old record was 12, set by Ole Miss in 1987.

Placekicker Ken Willis, who ended his career as UK's most accurate kicker in history (.707 percent), was named to the SEC Academic Honor Roll for the third time. A math major from Owensboro High, Willis connected on 29 of 41 field goals at Kentucky during his career. He led Wildcat scorers in both his varsity years (57 in '88, 64 in '89).

Willis previously attended Danville's Centre College before transferring to the University of Kentucky.

Named to the Academic Honor Roll squad for the second time were senior offensive tackle Mike Pfeifer (industrial/technical education), senior inside linebacker Craig Benzinger (marketing), senior quarterback Chuck Broughton (management), senior defensive tackle Doug Houser (Master's in public administration) and senior defensive guard Mike Meiners (accounting).

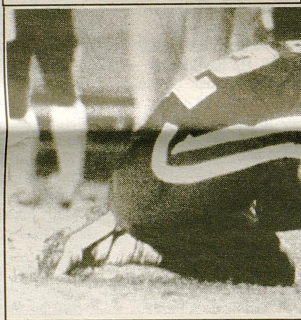
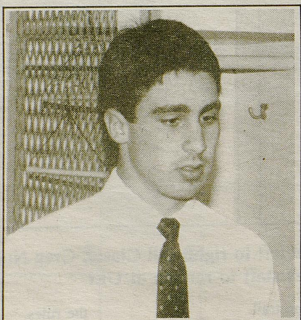
Wildcats who earned a spot on the honor squad for the first time were senior running back Darren Bilberry (telecommunications), senior offensive tackle Tom Crumrine (graduate in Law School), junior offensive guard Bill Hulet (management), sophomore offensive tackle Greg Lahr (business), senior fullback Mike Knox (management), sophomore quarterback Freddie Maggard (communications), senior fullback Andy Murray (graduate in real estate), freshman offensive guard Todd Perry (biology), senior free safety Ron Robinson (Master's in public administration), freshman outside linebacker Dean Wells (business), and senior outside linebacker Tony Zigman (industrial/technical education).

Kentucky was followed on the Academic Honor Roll by Ole Miss with 15 selections, Mississippi State 13, Vanderbilt 9, Florida and LSU 7 each, Georgia 5, Tennessee 4, Alabama 3, and Auburn 2.

Ironically, the bottom three—Volunteers, Crimson Tide and Tigers—finished in a three-way tie in Southeastern Conference competition on the field.

Since Claiborne became head coach in 1982, UK has placed more players (68) on the SEC Academic Honor Roll than any other league school. Ole Miss is closest with 60 players selected in that eight-year span.

To be eligible for the Academic All-Southeastern Conference team, a student-athlete must compile a 3.0 GPA (cumulative or during past year) and earn a letter in the current season.



For the third consecutive season Ken Willis, UK's most consistent kicker in school history, was named to the SEC Academic Honor Roll.

Photo by Gary Crowwell

• UK Notebook • UK Notebook • UK Notebook •

UK'S MAXWELL HOUSE REP

• Steve Phillips, a 6-foot-2, 201-pound junior from Fairfield, Ohio, has been named the University of Kentucky's nominee in the Southeastern Conference current player category for the Maxwell House Coffee/SEC Spirit Award.

Each of the 10 SEC schools has selected one candidate from the football team that it feels best exemplifies the criteria of the award. Votes will be tallied based on a 5-3-1 vote and the winner will be presented with his trophy at the USF&G Sugar Bowl on Jan. 1 in New Orleans.

The UK nomination was worded as follows:

"The desire and size of an athlete's heart is often hard to measure. In the case of Phillips, his determination is demonstrated by the way he overcame three knee operations to remain a Wildcat. Since the operations, two for fractures and one for cartilage damage, Phillips has had to change positions from wide receiver to tight end because of his diminished speed. Phillips, not one to shy away from hard work, averages 40 plays per game and holds for field goals and extra PATs. He has also proven himself to be a key blocker on the team, registering 10 knockdown blocks."

JUNIOR COMMITS TO 'CATS

• Chris Harrison, a 6-foot-3 junior point

guard from Tollesboro High School, whose 32 points per game as a sophomore was second high in the state last season, recently announced his intentions to attend UK.

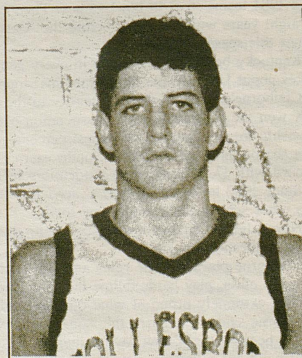
Randy Harrison, who coaches the junior star, said his nephew called UK coach Rick Pitino and informed him of his decision. The first time Chris Harrison can sign with the Wildcats would be next November.

The coach said the nephew, who also has been interested in Syracuse and Iowa, made an especially early decision "to get the recruiting hassle out of the way and concentrate on his junior year."

"He's picking Kentucky because he feels it's the elite position," Randy Harrison said. "He believes Kentucky is in good hands with coach Pitino." Pitino first saw Chris Harrison play in the Prep Festival in Louisville as a member of Eddie Ford's junior All-Stars. The high school star then met Pitino at the coach's camp in August. Pitino reportedly has kept in close contact with him since that time.

In addition to his high scoring average, Chris Harrison also averaged six assists, five rebounds and two blocked shots a game. He hit 45 percent of his shots from the field and 89 percent from the line.

Rick Bolus, co-coordinator of High Potential Basketball Recruiting Service, Inc., and the co-coordinator of the Blue-Chip Basketball Camp held each year in Northern Ken-



Chris Harrison makes early pick

tucky, and a contributor to *TCP's* annual *Kentucky Basketball Yearbook*, had this to say about Harrison:

"This scoring-machine of a guard can light up the scoreboard as he hit for around 30 ppg. as a sophomore. Points come either off the jumper or the strong move to the hoop. Needs to gain weight and acquire more strength in order for him to be a big-time guard."

Academics: GPA is 4.0 and class ranking is No. 1 in his class.

The 80's have been very good to SEC football

Don't ask me! Ask football guru Gil Brandt

Gil Brandt was one of the men who built the Dallas Cowboys' dynasty when they were known as "America's Team." He'd find the players and Tom Landry would coach them.



Stan Torgerson

Cats' Pause Columnist

Brandt left when the present owners fired everyone associated with the Cowboys' glory years.

He presently scouts college football for a variety of NFL teams. We ran into him in Knoxville at a recent Tennessee game.

Torgerson: Gil, on Page 33 of today's game program, it says, "Now that this 10-year period is drawing to a close, the SEC has added to its laurels and solidified its position as the premier football conference in the country?" True or false?

Brandt: Let me say this about the conference. They're the only conference that has had every team appear in a bowl game in the 1980's. I don't think there's any question that the '80's have been very productive years for the Southeastern Conference.

Torgerson: You didn't answer my question. Is it the premier conference in the country?

Brandt: I'm not sure how you define the premier conference in the country. Auburn has had the most players drafted in the first round over the last six years, seven men. Florida had the most first-rounders last year with three. I'm not sure but that some years the PAC-10 isn't just a little bit better, but I don't know how you'd measure that. My personal feeling is that the SEC is the best conference in the country.

Torgerson: Is it true the ACC is a notch below and is it true the Southwest Conference isn't the league it used to be?

Brandt: I think the Southwest Conference has fallen off in a number of areas. Their attendance is down. They've gone through some traumatic years with many of their teams being on probation and, of course, the demise of the University of Texas. I think probably the ACC is better than it was 10 or 12 years ago.

Torgerson: Changing the subject, I've watched with interest the tremendous turnover in pro punters and kickers this year. If they're so important, what aren't they drafted higher?

Brandt: Let me tell you what happens with punters and placekickers. Everyone realizes there are a lot of them out there but there are not many great field goal kickers. There are not many great punters. There are just a lot of good ones. So everyone feels they'll be able to get an adequate free agent, so consequently you don't see many teams wasting or spending a first-round pick for one. Mostly you see these guys taken in the third or fourth rounds.

Torgerson: Are you telling me that an offensive lineman is more important than a field goal kicker?

Brandt: They're harder to find. If you can find a Morton Anderson you don't mind using a first-round choice. You're just not sure how those field goal kickers are going to turn out when they come out of college.

Torgerson: Rate the positions in the order of their importance from a pro standpoint.

Brandt: Well, I think the most important position is quarterback. I don't think you're going to do anything without a quarterback. I think the second most important is a pass-rushing defensive end because if you can rush

the passer it really helps your defense. They're hard to find. Everybody's looking for a Richard Dent or a Reggie White. The third thing is probably a running back or wide receiver.

Torgerson: When you evaluate a player, aren't you really evaluating his college coach, too?

Brandt: I think you take into consideration everything—what kind of coaching they've had, their character, their intelligence, speed, the caliber of competition they've played against. That's why a player like Jerry Rice slipped down to being only the 17th player taken in the draft. Everybody knew how productive he was, but they worried about the SWAC as a conference and the people that he was playing against. In that particular draft there were three receivers drafted ahead of him who all played at major colleges.

Torgerson: But it's no accident that so many of Pat Dye's players are drafted, is it?

Brandt: He's had 41 drafted over the last six years. One year, he had 13 drafted and all 13 made it. You know when you get a Tracy Rucker you're getting a well-coached player.

Torgerson: There's one great saying among Mississippi people. If Archie Manning had been drafted by any pro team other than the Saints, he would now be listed as one of the all-time greats. Do you agree or disagree?

Brandt: I agree with that. I think Archie Manning is not only a great football player. He is a great person. If Archie Manning had been at San Francisco under Bill Walsh, for example, he would have accomplished the same things Joe Montana's accomplishing right now.

Torgerson: In the pros you guys have tie-breakers. We don't have that in college. Should we?

Brandt: I'd love to see some type of overtime in college rules. I think when you pick up the paper in the morning and it's an overtime basketball game or an overtime NFL game or an extra-inning baseball game, it really means something. I think to play 60 minutes and walk away with a tie is not the best thing in the world.

Torgerson: Is college football at its absolute zenith right now, or will it get better?

Brandt: I don't see how it can get any better, but it will. You know 10 or 15 years ago I didn't see how it could be any better but it seems to get better every day.

Torgerson: When you released a player who had achieved nothing academically in college, couldn't you sometimes read his mind and know he was thinking, "What do I do now?"

Brandt: We always encouraged our players to go back to school, but it's very hard when someone has just received a \$100,000 bonus and a \$100,000 salary to get that player to go back to school. It's a hard thing to do.

NOT FOR BROADCAST

- The telecast of the Florida-Florida State game marked the Gators' fourth national TV appearance this season and the 16th in their last 28 games. Contrast that with Mississippi State, which has only had 12 TV games in the past 26 years...

- A pro scout told me Duke coach Steve Spurrier is much more likely to end up with the Atlanta Falcons than at Florida, his alma mater...

- Alabama, ranked No. 2 nationally, was the highest rated team to play at Auburn since Florida came in in 1985. The Gators, also ranked No. 2, beat the Tigers 14-10. The last time a No. 1 team played at Auburn was in 1982, when Georgia journeyed to Jordan-Hare Stadium. The Bulldogs lived up to their No. 1 ranking by beating Auburn 19-14...

- Love some of those cutesy press releases schools send out to promote their players. The latest from Georgia designed to push defensive tackle Bill Goldberg is headed, "Georgia has a Gold Mine in Goldberg." To top it off, the words "Gold Mine" are painted in gold

ink. Ye gads!...

- Tennessee quarterback **Andy Kelly:** "When I'm walking to class people will say, 'Hi' but it's the same people who always speak to me. I guess nobody recognizes me without a uniform on..."

- In the decade of the 80's the LSU-Alabama game was televised seven times including the last five consecutive years...

- Six SEC teams will appear in bowl games...

- **Watson Brown** of Vanderbilt at the SEC football coaches meeting in July, "I'm excited about our team." Could he really have misjudged the Commodores' talent that badly? They finished 1-10. Other reflections on the 1989 season.

- **Rockey Felker** ran Mississippi State's offense like the proverbial Chinese fire drill. Three different starting quarterbacks, five tailbacks, three fullbacks and the league's best tight end alternating between the line and the backfield. His team was so good defensively and so bad on offense...

- Most painful memory from 1989: In the player profile section of the Ole Miss game program: "#38 **Chuckie Mullins**. Very aggressive player who has a bright future." Chuckie Mullins is the youngster who was paralyzed in the Rebels' game with Vanderbilt. His "bright future" will be spent in a wheelchair for the rest of his life. Tragic I can't get that phrase from the game program out of my mind. How little we actually know about our futures.



Ole Miss coach Ed Murphy knows that if his team is to earn an NCAA ticket it must have All-America candidate Gerald Glass in the lineup.

THE LAST WORD

Ole Miss basketball coach Ed Murphy, after star player Gerald Glass woke up with a pain in his lower abdomen and had to go to the emergency room:

"Five thousand season tickets were in the emergency room having blood work done on them. Unlike many people in my profession, I know they don't come to see me." Glass' ailment later proved to be minor.

Kentucky basketball statistics

(After two games)

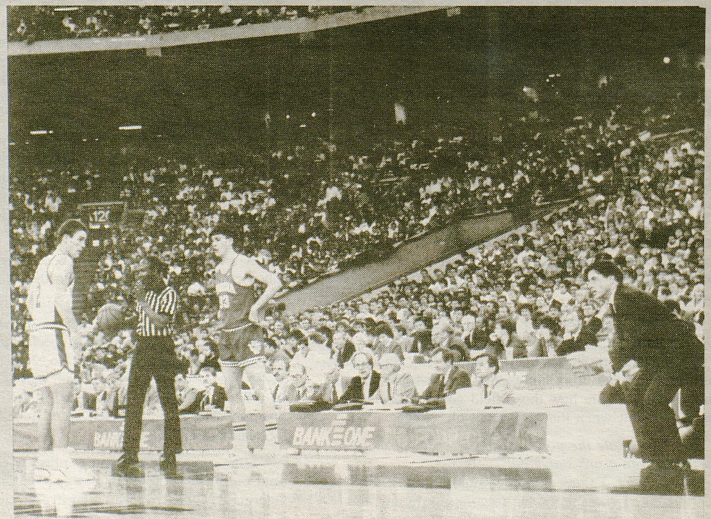
1989-90 UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY BASKETBALL STATISTICS

OVERALL: 1-1; HOME: 1-0; AWAY: 0-0; NEUTRAL: 0-1; SEC: 0-0

G	GS	Min	Avg	FG	FGA	Pct	3PT	3PTA	Pct	FT	FTA	Pct	Reb	Avg	PF	D	Ast	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg	
HANSON, REGGIE	2	2	68	34.0	13	25	52.0	1	3	33.3	10	12	83.3	25	12.5	7	-	-	7	3	8	37	18.5
MILLER, DERRICK	2	2	74	37.0	10	30	33.3	4	16	25.0	6	7	85.7	7	3.5	6	-	4	2	2	3	30	15.0
FELDHaus, DERON	2	1	56	28.0	7	14	50.0	1	1	100.0	13	18	72.2	9	4.5	5	-	3	1	-	-	28	14.0
PELPHREY, JOHN	2	1	45	22.5	4	13	30.8	1	6	16.7	7	12	58.3	9	4.5	9	1	1	6	2	7	16	8.0
WOODS, SEAN	2	2	52	26.0	6	20	30.0	-	-	-	1	4	25.0	5	2.5	5	-	5	8	-	4	13	6.5
FARMER, RICHIE	2	-	43	21.5	3	10	30.0	1	5	20.0	3	3	100.0	5	2.5	2	-	6	2	-	1	10	5.0
BRASSOW, JEFF	2	1	25	12.5	2	7	28.6	1	3	33.3	-	-	-	3	1.5	4	-	1	1	-	-	5	2.5
DAVIS, JOHNATHON	2	1	20	10.0	2	4	50.0	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1.0	4	-	-	-	3	3	4	2.0
BRADY, NEHEMIAH	2	-	15	7.5	1	3	33.3	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	1.0
COOPER, TONY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MCGAW, SKIP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PARKS, MICHAEL	1	-	2	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TEAM	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WILDCATS	2	-	400	200.	48	126	38.1	9	36	25.0	40	57	70.2	66	33.0	42	1	21	27	10	26	145	72.5
OPPONENTS	2	-	400	200.	56	118	47.5	11	21	52.4	21	37	56.8	88	44.0	43	3	37	48	4	11	144	72.0

University of Kentucky

2 Point Goals	6	- HANSON, REGGIE vs. OHIO HANSON, REGGIE vs. Indiana FELDHaus, DERON vs. Indiana
3 Point Goals	2	- MILLER, DERRICK vs. OHIO MILLER, DERRICK vs. Indiana
2 Point Attempts	12	- HANSON, REGGIE vs. OHIO
3 Point Attempts	9	- MILLER, DERRICK vs. OHIO
Free Throws	9	- HANSON, REGGIE vs. OHIO
Free Throws Attempted	12	- PELPHREY, JOHN vs. Indiana
Offensive Rebounds	5	- HANSON, REGGIE vs. Indiana
Defensive Rebounds	10	- HANSON, REGGIE vs. OHIO
Total Rebounds	14	- HANSON, REGGIE vs. OHIO
Assists	4	- FARMER, RICHIE vs. Indiana
Turnovers	5	- WOODS, SEAN vs. OHIO
Blocked Shots	2	- MILLER, DERRICK vs. OHIO DAVIS, JOHNATHON vs. Indiana HANSON, REGGIE vs. Indiana
Steals	5	- HANSON, REGGIE vs. OHIO PELPHREY, JOHN vs. Indiana
Minutes Played	11745	- MILLER, DERRICK vs. OHIO
Total Points	26	- HANSON, REGGIE vs. OHIO




Deron Feldhaus, averaging 14.0 ppg., in two outings, listens to Rick Pitino.

Claiborne did things 'the right way' at UK

Thanks, Coach, for the memories

It was a day Jerry Claiborne thought never would happen, at least not in this manner. Never throughout his long-time career had the University of Kentucky football coach made such a drastic decision. That decision to



Todd Hallum
Cats' Pause Columnist

retire occurred on a plane ride en route to a speaking engagement in Youngstown, Ohio.

After a rocky trip in which he and assistant coach Chip Garber didn't know if the plane could land because of inclement weather, Claiborne's zest for the ultimate chore of recruiting future Wildcats apparently vanished.

"The reason was I looked forward to what I had to do as far as recruiting goes, being away from my family and doing the things I had to do to have a successful football program," the teary-eyed Claiborne said at his last press conference as Kentucky's head football coach. "I just did not feel up to it."

Asked if he had ever made an important decision so fast, Claiborne said, "When I got married, I guess." His wife, Faye, will also have to deal with the fact that her husband of 38 years is leaving his football team and a loyal coaching staff.

That staff includes Dick Redding (28 years since 1961), Terry Strock (23 years since 1966), Jerry Eisaman (20 years) and Jake Hallum (18 years), all of whom had coached under Claiborne either at Virginia Tech, Maryland and Kentucky, or at all three.

It is rare that a collegiate staff has stayed intact in this day and age of rapid changes in the profession, and that the assistants respected Claiborne's philosophy of not succumbing to the pressure of winning at all costs, which meant cheating.

The Wildcat staff also valued the term student-athlete, and took pride in producing quality people who left the university ready to contribute to society in a positive manner.

"I am extremely proud of what our staff has done for the University of Kentucky football program," Claiborne said. "I really believe the staff has improved the program in every aspect since we came here in 1982—the facilities, academics and won-loss record."

That leaves his players, who voiced sentiments that they were not only losing a football coach, but a father-figure as well. The proof in the pudding, although rarely publicized, was the numerous letters Claiborne and his staff received from former players expressing appreciation for the guidance and discipline they received under his leadership.

In the final analysis, what they accomplished on the playing field pales in comparison to what they learned from a coach who truly cared about them as persons and future citizens. Behind his principles of "doing it the right way" was a man who valued his players becoming leaders throughout the country.

"It was like seeing your father cry for the first time," senior Mike Meiners said. "Nobody was a bigger fan of

the University of Kentucky than Jerry Claiborne. He really cared about the entire program."

The accolades of UK president David Roselle, athletics director C. M. Newton, football coaches and other athletic figures or national prominence that came on the heels of Claiborne's announcement are well-documented, so there is no need to repeat them here.

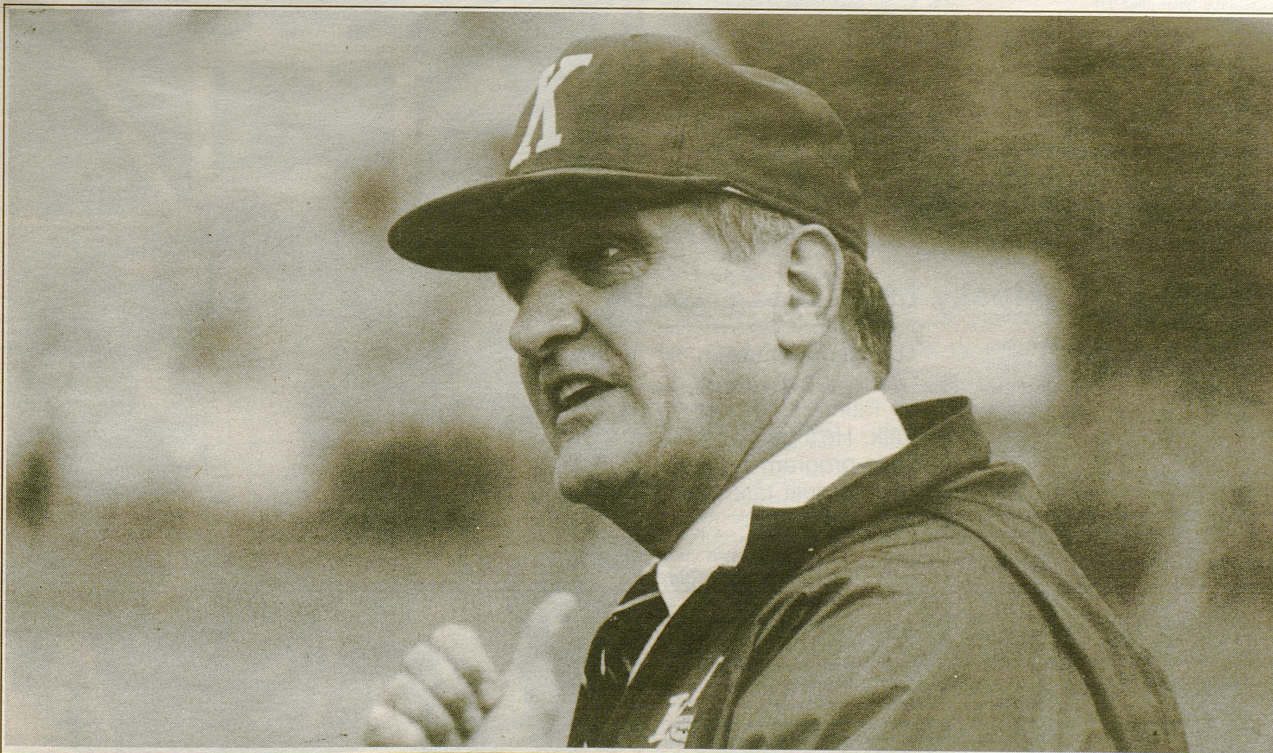
A main point to remember is that Claiborne was not pressured out of the job, choosing instead to retire prematurely. Although a true competitor, he bore no malice toward his detractors. He suffered dearly when his teams lost, and he admitted having a hard time handling defeat. However, he remained a class act throughout the most trying of times.

The record shows that Claiborne has done a lot not only for UK football, but college football as well. He leaves as one of the winningest coaches in the nation and the only one to win Coach of the Year honors in three different conferences. Most of all, those honors were earned at schools with little or no winning football tradition.

Once again, we point out that his record and accomplishments are well documented, including on these pages, so we don't need to go into details.

It suffices to say that in bringing honesty and integrity to the football programs that he headed, he did things his way, never losing perspective of what he stood for. Now he can take time out, spend more time with his family and remain a valuable asset to the university in other areas.

Thanks, Coach, for all you've done. Your name always will be associated with the University of Kentucky and your accomplishments never will be forgotten. The fruits of your labor will be remembered.



Senior defensive guard Mike Meiners about Jerry Claiborne's announcement to his players that he was retiring from coaching: "It was like seeing your father cry for the first time. Nobody was a bigger fan of the University of Kentucky than Jerry Claiborne. He really cared about the entire program."

Russell Rice

(Continued from page 11)

Curci had entered that season under the shadow of a movement by then-Gov. John Y. Brown Jr., to replace him with former Washington Redskins coach George Allen.

The irony of the situation was that Brown was a prime mover in bringing Curci to UK from the University of Tampa. The breach apparently came when Brown announced late for the Democratic nomination for governor and wanted Curci to head up a committee of sports people for the former UK golfer. Caught between a rock and a hard place because he already had committed to Terry McBrayer, Curci declined Brown's offer.

During the previous eight years, Curci had given UK three winning seasons—6-5 in 1974, 9-3 and a Peach Bowl victory in '76, and 10-1 in '77, when UK's best team in decades was under NCAA sanctions and unable to go bowling.

The Wildcats opened the '81 season with a 28-6 victory over weak North Texas State and then lost seven in a row before defeating Vanderbilt, 17-10, at Nashville.

The most embarrassing loss was to Virginia Tech, 29-3, in Lexington on Nov. 3, the Saturday before the Vanderbilt game. By midway of the fourth quarter, fewer than 5,000 fans remained in the 58,000-seat Commonwealth Stadium.

I was reminded of a saying during Blanton Collier's final season at UK: "It's

empty seats, not losing games, that get coaches fired."

I recall the lengthy letter than Curci and Miller prepared and sent to UK president Otis Singletary and hand-delivered prior to the action of the Athletics Board before it met to act on the ad hoc committee's recommendation that Curci be fired.

Curci voiced resentment of the fact that he had dedicated nine years to UK, improving its football program, only to be fired "for no apparent reason." He pointed out that the Athletic Department had made \$30 million in football alone during his tenure.

I thought at the time it was a mistake that he attacked the Wildcat basketball program, the most sacred of cows, but it gave an indication of the true relationship between the two programs.

He reminded the ad hoc committee and the board that one of the worst NCAA punishments inflicted on a school was given to the UK basketball program for point shaving (actually, it was for violating rules concerning recruiting and subsidizing players) in the '50s.

"UK was not allowed to compete for an entire basketball season," he wrote. "I know that two members of the ad hoc committee were members of that team."

Among other things, he pointed out that a former UK basketball player (Tom Payne) was convicted of rape and still in jail at that time, and that UK managed to quickly run Dwight Anderson out of town for questionable activities, but "they didn't fire Joe Hall."

"People can understand firing a coach

for losing football games," Curci said, "but using some other obviously phony justification that board members seem to need to make an important decision, appears to be gutless."

In closing, Curci wrote:

"So now that I have been buried in that famous graveyard at UK along with some other wonderful coaches, I hope they say on my tombstone that while he was at UK he was a decent person who twice was SEC coach of the year, *Playboy* coach of the year, Peach Bowl champion, twice was SEC co-champion, ranked sixth in the country, only UK coach to win all his conference games (1977), coach of the East-West game, Hula Bowl twice, first coach of the Japan Bowl, ABC radio color man for the Sugar Bowl three years.

"Before the burial is complete, Fran Curci wants to thank sincerely all loyal and dedicated fans and players, many of whom are now in the professional ranks and wish all my former players and coaches my sincere appreciation for their loyalty and hard work.

"Curci does hope to find out if there is life after football."

That was just before the Thanksgiving holidays. On the day after Thanksgiving, I went to my office in the deserted football complex in Commonwealth Stadium. Fran Curci's office door was open. Everything had been cleaned out.

Another UK football coach had bit the dust.

■ **IT'S NOW EIGHT** later, and you know the rest of the story.



Curci, pictured above on the sidelines during his final game (21-10 upset of Tennessee), was particularly upset with way he and UK parted ways.

Larry Vaught

(Continued from page 17)

The intensity shown in the opener was refreshing and one could only wonder what some previous UK teams that were loaded with talent might have done if they had played just as hard.

□ □ □

MR. FOOTBALL nominees will be made this Saturday by *The Associated Press* Sports Editors Association.

Leading contenders appear to be Donnie Redd of Danville, Pookie Jones of Calloway County, Tony Edelen of Fairdale, Mark Askin

of St. Xavier, Steve Bailey of Pikeville, Zane Beehn of Owensboro Apollo and Randy Wyatt of Paducah Tilghman.

The preseason favorites were Askin and Beehn. Now Redd and Jones look like the two favorites.

Kentucky had been recruiting all the Mr. Football candidates. Claiborne's resignation, though, puts all that on hold.

UK needs a new coach by Christmas to make sure it signs its share of talent in mid-February. And it sure would be nice to see the new coach convince a Mr. Football to become a Wildcat.

Indiana 71, Kentucky 69

(Continued from page 7)

stood, hands-on-hips, at center court; then when Knight became angry, Pitino walked over to the other two referees and got into a heated discussion. He still was challenging the officials after Knight had left the scene. That was followed by another discussion in the final seconds of the game when an IU inbound pass went out of bounds three-quarters of the length of the court. Knight thought UK should inbound at the far end of the court because the ball was touched. However, it was ruled that the ball was touched by a UK player already out of bounds.

During the entire discussion between Knight and the officials, Pitino stood close by, letting them feel his presence.

"He's from New York," Wildcat guard Derrick Miller said of his coach. "You've got to be competitive up there."

Miller had an off-shooting day, hitting only four of 14 (two of seven from three-point range) and two of two from the line for 12 points) while senior forward Reggie Hanson had a 13 points and a game-high 11 rebound.

Freshman Lawrence Funderburke, one of the high school players who figured in the NCAA's investigation of UK, led the Hoosiers with 16 points and tied for the rebound lead

"This game showed everybody what type of coach Pitino is. It's not just talk. He's going to turn this program around and it's not just talk. That was evident today."

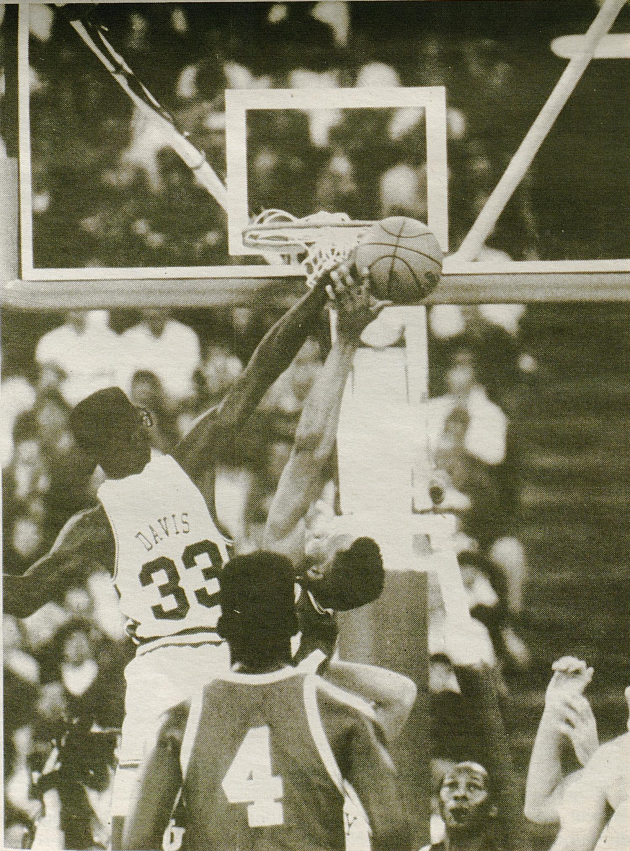
—Derrick Miller

(10) with Eric Anderson.

In the final analysis, Pitino and the Wildcats got an A for their effort, which was summed up as follows by Miller:

"I think we're getting the general idea of what he wants. He kept telling us, 'Fellas, you're playing hard but you're nowhere near as good as I think you're going to be.' And he's made believers out of us.

"This game showed everybody what type of coach Pitino is. It's not just talk. He's going to turn this program around and it's not just talk. That was evident today."



Johnathon Davis: "Get that shot out of here!"

Indiana-Kentucky photo by Steve McFarland

Kansas, UK's foe this week, making us look foolish

Vitale promoting Sutton for Miami (Fla.) job

□ If you think **Kansas** is making a mockery of all the preseason polls with its impressive getaway, how must the folks in its own conference feel? I mean, the Jayhawks made us all look a bit foolish with their NIT



Larry Donald
Cats' Pause Columnist

march which included wins over UNLV and LSU, the top two teams in the polls at the time, but what about those media people and fellow coaches who are supposed to know them best?

Well, I didn't see anyone who slotted **Roy Williams'** team higher than fifth in the Big Eight and it just goes to show that the difference between games played on paper and those played in the arena is considerable.

Kansas has three players who've been a part of winning an NCAA championship, so the experience factor, so significant at this time of the year, is weighed heavily in its favor. Plus, the pieces seem to fit better than even Williams might have imagined. So, the Jayhawks' early accomplishments aren't without reasonable explanation.

And having arrived swiftly in the top five, it isn't likely KU will fade from that ranking anytime soon. The schedule until Big Eight play gets underway is relatively modest, with some Big Eight observers telling me a 17-0 mark wouldn't be out of the question.

What happens when the Big Eight and NCAA tournament grind gets underway? Well, that's another matter, I suspect.

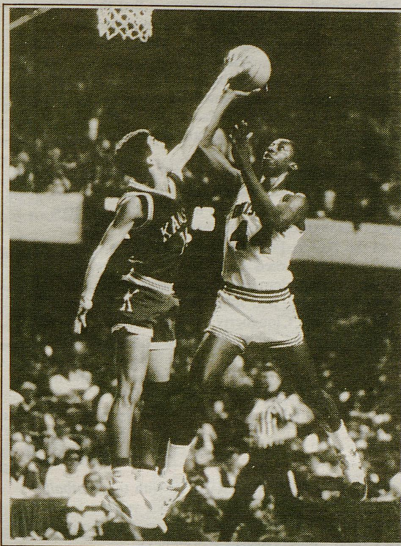
For now, though, I hope Williams and the faithful are enjoying the ride. After the events of last year, this is a nice payback for some people who suffered needlessly...

□ **Michigan State's** rather quiet victory in the Great Alaska Shootout might translate into something important for the program. Although the field wasn't as strong as it has been in years past, nonetheless, MSU was the best team in the field and it won. With Michigan playing like the Michigan many of us knew before their NCAA title last year, the Spartans have reason to feel optimistic the Big Ten race may be more wide open than anticipated...

□ **Louisville's Jerome Harmon** said his college debut, versus Missouri in the Maui Classic, was, "just like another high school game." I dispute that. It looked more like a basketball story set to the music, "A Star is Born." The schoolboy sleuths talked so much about Harmon's great leaping ability they failed to mention a couple other items: First, he has good range on his jump shot and, second, he has a real feel for the game. If he can play like this after two years in drydock (Prop 48 and then back surgery last year) just imagine how good he'll be once the rust gets brushed off...

□ I like this **Missouri** team and agree with North Carolina coach **Dean Smith**, who said the Tigers, "have better chemistry than in years past." **Doug Smith** and **Anthony Peeler** have really improved and the rest of the cast fits nicely around these two. Mizzou was definitely the best in show in Maui, but as coach **Norm Stewart** pointed out, it is very early and that just one year ago Smith talked about how good the Tigers' chemistry was. "Heck, three years ago we couldn't even spell chemistry," Stewart said...

□ It had to be an emotional moment for Stewart when he walked onto the floor for Missouri's opening game against Evansville. He missed much of last year after undergoing surgery for cancer and his return to the sidelines was a warm story...



With an experienced, balanced cast that includes Kevin Pritchard (left, on defense) and Mark Randall, Kansas, which plays host to Rick Pitino's Wildcats this Saturday, has been the surprise of college basketball so far this season. ...Eddie Sutton (right) coaching basketball at Miami of Florida? That's what TV analyst Dick Vitale is campaigning for.

□ **Minnesota's** surprising loss to Cincinnati could be explained by **Willie Burton's** absence, I suppose. But maybe the Gophers, flushed with last year's NCAA success, forgot what price had to be paid in order to attain that success...

□ While I find **Bill Foster's** decision to step out after this season unusual in terms of the timing, it really isn't a surprising move. He never managed to create any excitement about college basketball in Miami, where unless you are playing for it all, the interest isn't very great. He also worked with a bad facility and was further disadvantaged by the Hurricanes' independent status. Given all that, Foster's fall was predictable. Who'll be next? My pal **Dick Vitale** is blowing the horn for **Eddie Sutton**, and that wouldn't be a bad choice, but unless some of those other problems are addressed it won't really matter who's finally put into the job. And I wonder if anyone at the school has a grasp of that fact?...

□ **Damon Bailey**, the heralded high schooler from Indiana, will make his college bow in style as the **Indiana Hoosiers** open next season in Maui. **Syracuse**, **North Carolina State**, **Arkansas-Little Rock**, **Northeastern** and **Iowa State** will also be in the field...

□ Happy days seem to be on the horizon at **Marquette**. New coach **Kevin O'Neill** has rallied the support and then delivered an outstanding recruiting class during the fall signing period. While I don't think the Warriors will ever ascend to the **Al McGuire** heights, with membership in the Midwestern Collegiate Conference they can certainly be more successful than in recent years...

□ Now that **CBS Sports** has coughed up over a billion dollars for the NCAA tournament television rights, how do college athletic administrators explain that there's just no money for the athletes? In the past decade television monies have escalated unbelievably and yet we're no closer to addressing the issue of "laundry money" for the student-athlete than we were 15 years ago. It's sad...

□ Actually, I'm not really certain it was such a prudent business move on the NCAA's part to sign the long-term pact. If the amount of money being tendered by the net-

work doubled in the past three years, what would it do in the next three? If you think about it, CBS probably got a great deal...

□ It is an adjustment for the viewing audience, but I think the decision to call more off-the-ball fouls for rough play in the lane is probably a good idea. Basketball must always be more like ballet than wrestling to be enjoyed...

□ **Arron Bain** is an impressive freshman with **Villanova** and before the year is completed will be the team's best player. Interestingly, the Wildcat coaching staff had some reluctance about whether or not to sign Bain last year. They didn't know if he could play at this level. Although he doesn't possess one dominant trait, his understanding of the game and competitive approach more than compensate for any shortfall of athletic ability...

□ Last week, I talked about the difficulty **Kenny Anderson** was experiencing making the step up to college basketball and the source of that report was his coach, **Bobby Cremins**. Either Anderson fooled the **Georgia Tech** boss or Bobby was putting us on a little bit because the left-hander's start has been awfully good...

□ It is difficult for a team which cannot shoot to be successful in college basketball. And that's why **DePaul** won't be much of a factor this winter. Despite having some impressive athletes, the Blue Demons don't have anyone who can fill it up on the perimeter and that's a deadly sin. I think **Georgetown**, **Syracuse** and **Louisville** may suffer the same malady...

□ **Mississippi's** slow start is surprising since some SEC observers were picking this team to finish in the first division. So far there's no evidence to support that prediction...

□ **Xavier** sports information director **Tom Eisner** has taken the early lead for the most clever All-American promotion award. To trumpet 6-10 senior center **Tyron "T" Hill**, Eisner sent the media a tea bag with a tag on it saying, "It's 'T' time." With or without the fanfare, Hill is no secret to NBA scouts most of whom project Hill as a first round pick...

Old Marshals don't die, they go to Vanderbilt

Beth and Berea's Nunnery Music City-bound

Keith Peel of Jessamine County High School is not the only Southeastern Conference basketball signee from the state of Kentucky during the November signing period.



Jamie Vaught

Cats' Pause Columnist

The 6-foot-9 center received statewide media attention as he was recruited by UK coach Rick Pitino, who wanted Peel to join the Wildcats as a walk-on next season. But Peel rejected UK's offer and signed with Ole Miss.

Peel's signing overshadowed two other SEC signees from the Bluegrass State.

Vanderbilt coach Eddie Fogler inked 5-10 guard Aaron Beth of Calvert City and 7-1 Rob Nunnery of Berea.

Beth is a second cousin of ex-Vandy star Barry Goheen, who graduated last spring. Beth plays for the Marshall County Marshals, the same school where Goheen played.

Beth, who averaged 15.2 ppg and a school record 214 assists last season, has been a starter since his sophomore year and helped lead his school to the Sweet Sixteen for three straight years. He also carries a perfect 4.0 GPA.

The Marshall County standout will join his former high school teammate, Dan Hall, a 6-7 freshman, at Vandy next winter.

"Aaron is a quick, heady true point guard who is an excellent competitor," Fogler said. "He has outstanding leadership qualities and is a winner. He can shoot the three-point shot very well."

In addition to Vandy, Beth was recruited by St. Louis and Western Kentucky.

Meanwhile, Nunnery is Vandy's other signee from Kentucky. He is attending Fork Union Military Academy in Virginia to beef up his 205-pound frame after graduating from Berea High School last spring.

(It was at Fork Union M.A. that former Wildcat center Mel Turpin, now with the Washington Bullets, spent one year to refine his game and studies before attending UK in 1980).

Nunnery helped lead his high school team to a 22-8 mark last season, averaging nine points and eight rebounds per game.

"Rob has very good potential and he's still only 17 years old," Fogler said. "He has improved a lot the last few months and will continue to get better. The year at prep school will benefit his growth and development."

□ □ □

ONE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE roundball player who was glad to see his former coach, Don DeVoe, gone is 6-3 junior guard Greg Bell, the Vols' leading returning scorer from last season's squad with 11.7 ppg.

"Coach DeVoe didn't relate well to his players—that's the big difference," Bell was quoted in the Daily Beacon, UT's student newspaper. "Coach (Wade) Houston relates to the players real well and makes you feel comfortable."

"I just didn't agree with DeVoe's philosophy and system. I couldn't adjust to his style. Coach Houston and I are on a real good basis. If I have a problem, I can talk to him about it."

As we all know, DeVoe is now the interim head coach at Florida.

□ □ □

DICK VITALE, basketball analyst for ESPN and

ABC networks, recently commented that the referees in the NCAA Final Four should receive more pay.

In his column for the Dec. 15 edition of *Basketball Times*, Vitale wrote, "Hey, it's a joke what the guys in the striped shirts get for blowing the whistle when you think about the pressure involved at tournament time. Oh, do I agree with Billy Packer (of CBS) that the fees have to be raised when you talk about officials at the Final Four."

"There is no way in the world that these guys should get \$400-\$500 in a final with the millions that are being made. With the pressure on the line, they deserve \$3,000-\$4,000 for blowing that whistle."

At the NCAA Final Four in Seattle last spring, three SEC officials worked the games. They were Don Rutledge of Windermere, Fla.; David Jones of Gainesville, Fla.; and John Clougherty of Raleigh, N. C.

Rutledge and Clougherty are still blowing whistles in the college ranks, while Jones has joined the National Basketball association this season.

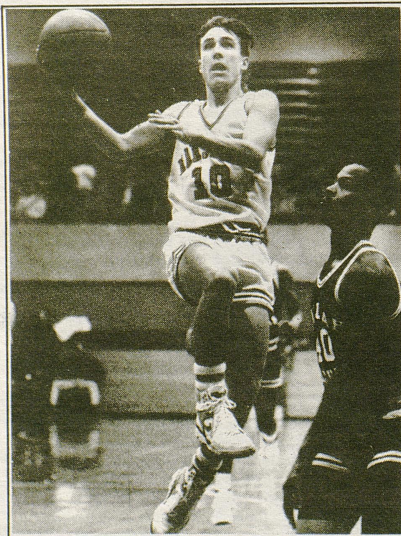
Locally, hoop fans may be interested to know that a former SEC official from Paducah is now in his first year of officiating in the NBA. That rookie's name is Joe DeRosa.

□ □ □

IN A RECENT INTERVIEW with the *Football News*, Eastern Kentucky University's veteran football coach Roy Kidd said he once had an opportunity to play for Coach "Bear" Bryant at Kentucky.

"Yes, I was offered a scholarship at the University of Kentucky by coach Bryant," Kidd said. "The reason I didn't go was the fact that they didn't allow their football players to play baseball. I was very interested in baseball, and Eastern Kentucky said I could play baseball, too. They had an outstanding baseball program, just like they do today, and that was the reason I went. I have never regretted going to Eastern instead of Kentucky, but I have wondered where I would have been coaching today had I accepted the scholarship at the University of Kentucky."

(Editor's Note: Several of Bryant's football players also starred on the baseball diamond. Quarterback-punter-defensive specialist Dom Fucci was a baseball All-America; end Ben Zaranka apparently was Major League



Following in cousin Barry Goheen's footsteps, Aaron Beth will continue his basketball career at Vanderbilt.

Photo courtesy of the Paducah Sun

material as a pitcher before an old football injury slowed him down; the Hamilton brothers—Allen and Ed—were among the many others who played both ways, while Wallace "Wah Wah" Jones, played basketball, football and baseball. The baseball coach at the time was Frank Moseley, who came to UK as an assistant football coach with Bryant. Perhaps Bryant frowned on football players playing baseball after basketball assistant Harry Lancaster took over the baseball chores).

Eastern Kentucky recently completed its season at 9-3 after losing to Youngstown State, 28-24, in an NCAA Division I-AA first-round playoff game in Richmond.

Florida was rumored to be interested in Kidd as a replacement for interim coach Gary Darnell if Eastern won the Division I-AA championship. Kidd later said that he had not been contacted with Gator athletics director Bill Arnsparger or any Florida officials.

□ □ □

FOOTBALL COACH Johnny Majors of Tennessee is a long-time opponent of the college football playoff system, but he is having second thoughts after many post-season bowls prematurely selected the teams two weeks in advance, even though NCAA rules state that bowl bids can't be issued until the fourth Saturday in November.

At his recent weekly press conference, Majors said he is "more inclined toward a playoff than I've ever been in my lifetime. There are a lot of pluses to a playoff. I'm not sold on it yet, but I plan to think about it at the end of the season."

"I still have some respect for the bowls," he said. "Bowl games have been really helpful for college football, but a couple of aspects concern me. I think television coverage and rankings exert too much influence on things."

"It suits the heck out of me to wait till it's all over. I'd rather wait until after the last regular season game. That way, you would guarantee having the best people in the best bowls. You'd go to the bowl you deserve."

Majors cautioned that some deserving teams may be left out of post-season competition with the early selection of bowl matchups.

Majors is slated to become president of the American Football Coaches Association in January and you can bet he will have a lot of influence on various issues, including a national championship playoff, discussed by the coaches.

□ □ □

DIS 'N' DATA

- Former White House Chief of Staff **Howard Baker** was spotted on the field during the recent Ole Miss-Tennessee football game in Knoxville. A former U.S. Senator from Tennessee, Baker was shooting pictures. Photography is among his favorite hobbies...

- Former UK basketball player **Todd May** is playing for the Marathon Oil squad, which faced some SEC teams in exhibition games last month. May was Kentucky's "Mr. Basketball" in 1982, playing at Virgie High School...

- Alabama will play Eastern Kentucky this weekend in Birmingham in the first game of a basketball doubleheader. The second game will feature Auburn vs. Duquesne. ECU will be the second school from Kentucky that Alabama has faced in two weeks. The Crimson Tide defeated Western Kentucky in the San Juan Shootout in Puerto Rico during the Thanksgiving weekend...

- Cheers to former UK signee **Shawn Kemp**, a Prop 48 victim, for admitting that he has no one to blame but himself for his weak academic background. The 6-10 Kemp, now playing well as an NBA rookie for the Seattle SuperSonics, made the statement in the Nov. 27 issue of *Sports Illustrated*. Kemp also said he had no problems with the Prop 48 guidelines and thinks the rule is a fair one.

Back Thru The Wildcat Years

One Year Ago

✓ Sophomore center LeRon Ellis connected for 19 points and freshman guard Richie Farmer added 15 on six of nine shooting from the field, including three of four three-pointers, as UK defeated Western Carolina, 78-60, in Rupp Arena.

The victory came on the heels of a disastrous 85-82 loss to Northwestern State in UK's home debut earlier in the week.

The win over Western Carolina gave UK a 3-4 record going into the UKIT.

✓ Senior Bo Smith walked away with five individual honors to highlight the 1988 UK football banquet held in the Student Center Ballroom.

Smith, a 6-foot-3 offensive tackle from Lexington (Henry Clay), earned or shared awards for permanent team captain, most

valuable senior, outstanding offensive lineman, senior scholastic award, and the unsung hero.

Five Years Ago

✓ The football Wildcats were expecting their toughest test of the year as they prepared to meet Wisconsin in the Hall of Fame Bowl at Birmingham, where they had lost to West Virginia the preceding year.

Dave McClain's Wisconsin Badgers were led by 1984 preseason (selected by *Playboy*) All-America Al Toon, a 6-4, 195-pound split end who also was a first-team All-Big Ten selection in 1983.

During his three seasons, the senior had recorded 127 pass receptions for 2,055 yards. He also was a member of the Badgers' track team, earning All-American honors in 1983 and '84.

✓ Thanks to Butch Moore's clutch field goal, SMU was able to defeat UK 56-54 at Rupp Arena. Not since 1983, when UK lost to Auburn 75-67 had the 'Cats lost a game at Rupp Arena. The streak ended at 23.

Moore's timely basket fell through with four seconds remaining. The Wildcat players tried to call a timeout, which the officials, to UK coach Joe B. Hall's amazement, did not see. James Blackmon's attempt from near midcourt went astray.

Junior Kenny Walker scored a game-high 19 points while Paul Andrews hit a perfect four for four from the field for eight points.

Carl Wright and Moore netted 17 and 15 points, respectively, while 7-foot center Jon Koncak added 13 points and 15 rebounds.

✓ All-SEC stars George Adams and Paul Calhoun either shared or won four of the eight Wildcat awards at the annual UK postseason football banquet.

The two were named co-winners of the team's Most Valuable Award. Adams, rushed for 1,085 yards in a great finish to a brilliant career, won the "Best Offensive Back" award while Calhoun won the "Kicking" award for his 44.5 yards per punt average and shared the Best Defensive Back award with linebacker Cam Jacobs.

20 Years Ago

✓ Unbeaten and top-ranked UK built up a 63-38 halftime lead in defeating Indiana 109-92. The Wildcats hit 68.4 percent from the field the first half and outrebounded the Hoosiers 59-37 for the game. Dan Issel had 32 points and 19 rebounds. Sophomore Tom Parker came off the bench to spark the 'Cats with a 15-point performance.

30 Years Ago

✓ The UK basketball team opened their December schedule with a 106-73 blowout of Colorado at home and then headed to the West Coast, where it defeated John Wooden's UCLA Bruins, 68-66, lost to USC, 87-73, and St. Louis, 73-61, for its worst start (2-2) since Adolph Rupp became head coach 29 years earlier.

After the loss to USC, the Wildcats were en route to their hotel when a car ran a red light and their bus hit the car broadside, pushing it 30 or 40 feet down the street and wrapping it around a telephone pole. One person in the car was killed.

The Wildcats finished that season, 18-7, failing to get an NCAA bid for the first time since the program was suspended during the 1953-54 season.

WILDCAT QUIZ

HOOP POWERS—UK, KU

1. The University of Kentucky-Kansas series began in December, 1950, in Lexington. During the 18 games played to date, Kansas has been victorious how many times?

- a) Two
- b) Four
- c) Six
- d) Eight

2. The All-American on that 1950-51 Jayhawk team was which of the following?

- a) Wilt Chamberlain
- b) Clyde Lovellette
- c) Bob Kenney
- d) Charlie Hoag

3. Head coach of the Jayhawks is?

- a) Lon Kruger
- b) Freddie Kruger
- c) Larry Brown
- d) Roy Williams

4. The returning leading scorer for Kansas is?

- a) Kevin Pritchard
- b) Mark Randall
- c) Kirk Wagnery
- d) Mike Maddox

5. KU finished in what position in the Big Eight last season?

- a) Third
- b) Fourth
- c) Fifth
- d) Sixth

6. True or False? No present member of the UK squad has played against a Kansas team?

7. Which recent Jayhawk player is a son of

a former NBA All-Star?

- a) Milt Newton
- b) Mark Randall
- c) Scooter Berry
- d) Pekka Markkanen

8. When UK defeated Kansas at Lawrence in 1984, this former Wildcat had a big game shooting from the outside.

- a) Dicky Beal
- b) Jim Master
- c) Derrick Hord
- d) Dirk Minniefield

9. Which NBA team is former Kansas great Danny Manning currently a member of?

- a) Seattle SuperSonics
- b) Los Angeles Lakers
- c) Golden State Warriors
- d) None of the above

10. The Jayhawks recently defeated the top two teams in the nation in sweeping which of the following preseason tournaments?

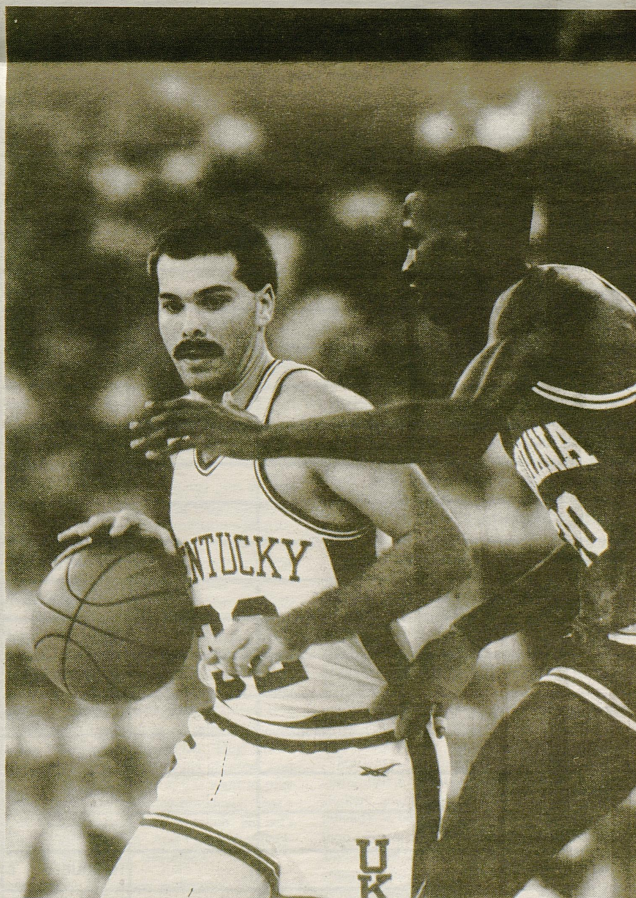
- a) Maui Classic
- b) San Juan Shootout
- c) Great Alaska Shootout
- d) Dodge NIT



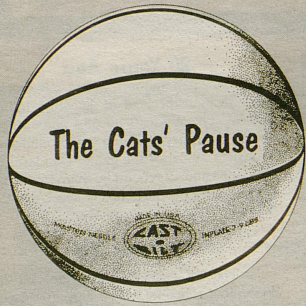
Answers

- 1. Two
- 2. Clyde Lovellette
- 3. Scooter Berry (Rick Berry)
- 4. Jim Master
- 5. Los Angeles Clippers
- 6. Dodge NIT

- 1. Two
- 2. Clyde Lovellette
- 3. Roy Williams
- 4. Mark Randall
- 5. Sixth (6-8)



Richie Farmer drives against the Hoosiers Indiana-Kentucky photo by Steve McFarland



TCP's Board of Experts (?)

CATS' PAUSE SCOREBOARD

HOME

11:35

VISITORS

10

PERIOD

3



Reader's
Choice



Oscar
Combs



Russell
Rice



Nick
Nicholas



Mike
Estep



Todd
Hallum



Hoop
Demon

Last Week		17-8 (.680)	16-9 (.640)	17-8 (.680)	19-6 (.760)	17-8 (.680)	19-6 (.760)
Total		22-8 (.733)	20-10 (.667)	22-8 (.733)	24-6 (.800)	22-8 (.733)	24-6 (.800)

MISSISSIPPI STATE AT KENTUCKY	KENTUCKY 3	KENTUCKY 2	MISS. STATE 3	MISS. STATE 1	KENTUCKY 2	KENTUCKY 2
TENNESSEE TECH AT KENTUCKY	KENTUCKY 1	TENN. TECH 3	KENTUCKY 2	KENTUCKY 3	KENTUCKY 6	KENTUCKY 4
KENTUCKY AT KANSAS	KANSAS 25	KANSAS 20	KANSAS 30	KANSAS 13	KANSAS 20	KANSAS 22
EASTERN AT ALABAMA (BIRMINGHAM)	ALABAMA 14	ALABAMA 13	ALABAMA 20	ALABAMA 23	ALABAMA 20	ALABAMA 19
DUQUESNE VS AUBURN (BIRMINGHAM)	DUQUESNE 4	DUQUESNE 6	AUBURN 1	DUQUESNE 7	AUBURN 4	DUQUESNE 3
JAMES MADISON VS FLORIDA (ORLANDO, FLA)	FLORIDA 12	J. MADISON 6	FLORIDA 3	FLORIDA 2	FLORIDA 3	FLORIDA 6
WESTERN KENTUCKY AT LOUISVILLE	LOUISVILLE 17	LOUISVILLE 13	LOUISVILLE 16	LOUISVILLE 20	LOUISVILLE 13	LOUISVILLE 7
NORTH CAROLINA AT IOWA	N. CAROLINA 6	N. CAROLINA 5	IOWA 3	N. CAROLINA 7	IOWA 5	N. CAROLINA 2
NOTRE DAME AT MARQUETTE	NOTRE DAME 3	NOTRE DAME 2	NOTRE DAME 2	NOTRE DAME 13	NOTRE DAME 7	NOTRE DAME 5
OREGON STATE AT TENNESSEE	OREGON ST. 2	TENNESSEE 3	TENNESSEE 1	OREGON ST. 2	TENNESSEE 2	TENNESSEE 5
KANSAS STATE AT VANDERBILT	KANSAS ST. 7	KANSAS ST. 6	KANSAS ST. 6	KANSAS ST. 5	VANDERBILT 1	KANSAS ST. 2
DUKE AT MICHIGAN	MICHIGAN 4	MICHIGAN 4	MICHIGAN 6	MICHIGAN 2	MICHIGAN 3	MICHIGAN 5
JACKSONVILLE AT MARYLAND	MARYLAND 6	MARYLAND 5	MARYLAND 9	MARYLAND 5	MARYLAND 12	MARYLAND 7
HOUSTON AT VIRGINIA	VIRGINIA 1	VIRGINIA 2	VIRGINIA 3	VIRGINIA 3	VIRGINIA 2	VIRGINIA 2
NEW ORLEANS AT FLORIDA STATE	FORIDA ST. 10	FLORIDA ST. 8	FLORIDA ST. 7	N. ORLEANS 3	FLORIDA ST. 9	FLORIDA ST. 7
AUSTIN PEAY AT MICHIGAN STATE	MICHIGAN ST. 7	MICHIGAN ST. 6	MICHIGAN ST. 15	MICHIGAN ST. 19	MICHIGAN ST. 8	MICHIGAN ST. 14
MISSOURI AT OLD DOMINION	MISSOURI 4	MISSOURI 6	MISSOURI 6	MISSOURI 11	MISSOURI 4	MISSOURI 7
IONA AT SETON HALL	SETON HALL 3	SETON HALL 2	SETON HALL 9	SETON HALL 6	SETON HALL 12	SETON HALL 6
PITTSBURGH AT WEST VIRGINIA	W. VIRGINIA 6	W. VIRGINIA 7	W. VIRGINIA 2	W. VIRGINIA 3	W. VIRGINIA 5	W. VIRGINIA 3
RICE AT GEORGETOWN	G-TOWN 41	G-TOWN 30	G-TOWN 39	G-TOWN 33	G-TOWN 19	G-TOWN 20
TEMPLE AT PENN STATE	TEMPLE 6	PENN STATE 3	TEMPLE 1	TEMPLE 16	PENN STATE 2	TEMPLE 4
IOWA STATE AT MINNESOTA	MINNESOTA 4	MINNESOTA 3	MINNESOTA 6	MINNESOTA 2	MINNESOTA 3	MINNESOTA 6
ST. LOUIS AT PURDUE	PURDUE 6	PURDUE 5	PURDUE 11	PURDUE 7	PURDUE 14	PURDUE 5
NEVADA LAS VEGAS AT OKLAHOMA	OKLAHOMA 1	UNLV 6	UNLV 5	UNLV 11	UNLV 6	UNLV 2
MIDDLE TENNESSEE AT LOUISIANA TECH	LA. TECH 7	LA. TECH 6	LA TECH 2	LA TECH 3	LA TECH 15	LA TECH 6

Claiborne—A player's coach

Wildcats comment about coach's decision to retire

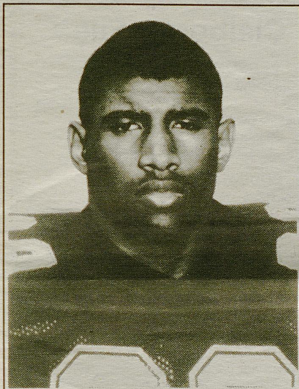
Jerry Claiborne and his players have a father-son type relationship. When the eight-year UK coach tried to tell his team he was retiring, the mentor and his squad could not hold back the emotions. A standing ovation from the players followed. And, once the roar silenced, one by one the Wildcats thanked Claiborne with a hug. Never will they forget the man responsible for bringing back respect to the University of Kentucky football program.

Following are Kentucky player reactions moments after finding out head coach Jerry Claiborne had stepped down from his coaching duties:

Phil Logan (Junior wideout)

Question: How did you first hear about his retirement? What was your reaction?

Logan: "It just totally shocked me; I'm really kinda in shock right now. What really



shocked me was that I found out about it on the news. Some of the other guys heard it and came and told me. I thought he was coming back next year."

Question: What did he say to the team right after the 31-10 loss to Tennessee?

Logan: "Just the same old thing: 'Hit the books, make your grades, make sure you get ready for winter workouts.' The next thing I know he's gone."

Question: What about when he told the entire squad?

Houser: "There wasn't a dry eye in the house. I walked in a couple of minutes late but I could tell by the expression on the guys' faces. Everyone cried...it was really sad. It

(the decision) shocked me. I guess he got burned out. After 40 years you can understand. I have the utmost respect for that man."

Andy Murray (Senior fullback)

Question: Your reaction.

Murray: "I was very shocked because a lot of the guys on the team had heard about it on the news around 2 or 2:30 (p.m.). I wasn't around a radio...I didn't know anything about it. Somebody asked me 'Did you hear about coach Claiborne?' I thought coach Claiborne was hurt in a car accident or something like that. I had no idea."

"When they said he had decided to retire I was very shocked."

Question: Was there any indication he would retire?

Murray: "No. Everyday he would come in to the meeting with a lot of spunk; he was always fired up and ready for a new day. I thought Coach would be here next year for sure."

Question: What this will do to the team?

Murray: "Everybody on the team really respects coach Claiborne. The guys that are still going to be here have a lot of work to do for a new coach. It's going to make it hard on them; it's going to be a change. You've got to be able to adjust to a change. They may be in for a rude awakening because coach Claiborne does a lot of things that guys don't really realize what he's done for them. Some other coaches may not do those things and that's really going to be missed around here."

Darren Bilberry (Senior fullback)

Question: Your reaction.

Bilberry: "I was shocked because Monday we had just had our meeting after the Tennessee game. He made the statement, 'It's time to go to work and get ready for the '90 season.' So obviously I was under the impression that he still was going to be around. For myself and a lot of other teammates I think it was just surprising. It was his decision. It was what he wanted to do and you had to respect his decision."

Question: What can the players expect in the future?

Bilberry: "It's hard for them to know until they bring in a coach and learn more about him. They really don't know what to expect now. The most important thing for them to do is to carry on the values they learned under coach Claiborne and try to instill those into each other and the younger players and take it from there."

Question: What will you remember most?

Bilberry: "There's so much, it's hard for me to say. We're more than football players, we're students as well. People don't realize that sometimes. Under coach Claiborne you're a student, a player, you're a full person. Football is not forever. You have to play a role in society and do something with your life."

"Most people, after you're done playing ball here, there are other things in life that you're going to have to be able to do. Coach Claiborne stressed that. I can't tell you how much he stresses with his rules, philosophy on discipline. He's helped me in so many ways that I really can't put it in words. I can't thank him enough for everything he's done. When you first get here all you are thinking about is being a big-time college football player. Coach Claiborne lets you know there is more to life. He tries to instill his values, his morals into the rest of his players. He's done a good job of that. I appreciate that because he's been more than just a coach. With the exception of my parents he's probably

been the biggest positive influence on me personally. I've been here five years, that's a long time, and I just appreciate all he's done in the past five years."

Mike Meiners (Senior defensive guard)

Question: What kind of coach do you see Kentucky hiring?

Meiners: "Definitely someone who has integrity, that's obvious. They have to have someone who is honest. I'm sure they (UK administration) will. I think it will be someone who is already established. Someone who stresses academics...pick up right where coach Claiborne left off."

Question: Do you think coach Claiborne felt any pressure to retire from the media and the fans?

Meiners: "People would like to think that he felt the pressure. Coach Claiborne's decision was coach Claiborne's. He's had pressure—everyone has critics—but he's had a lot of critics. People pass me all the time, whenever I'm at home or here...people in Louisville will come up to me and (say) 'Coach Claiborne is this.' I always tell them they don't know what they are talking about and should keep their comments to themselves."

"People don't understand everything that he's done for this place. I don't think he felt any pressure. I'm sure he heard them but he wasn't listening."

Question: What did you tell him after the loss to Tennessee, your last UK game?

Meiners: "I just thanked him for everything he had done for me. I felt very fortunate I had a chance to play for him."

Question: You mentioned early that the next coach will have tough shoes to follow in Claiborne, especially his off-the-field accomplishments. What about hiring someone on the current staff?

Meiners: "There are some that are definitely qualified to take the position, handle it and do well. I don't know, that's a tough question because I don't look for that to happen. Shoot, I don't know. It's not my place to say."

"I like my coaches and I don't have any qualms with my coaches. Like I say, there are definitely some qualified coaches (within). Whether they (are considered) is up to the administration. They are definitely good coaches."

Question: What is the main quality you'll remember about coach Claiborne as a football coach?

Meiners: "Basically, to never give up and remember that you're not the only one in the world. You have to learn to interact with people to be successful. I'll always remember to set your goals and that you're not going to obtain any goals without working hard and being honest. Honesty is his biggest policy, too. You know, you can only fool people for so long. Everyone knows he stands for that—honesty, integrity and all that good stuff. That's what I respect about him the most."

"He was always honest with us about anything. Me being a walkon, if I went into his office and asked him 'Coach, where do I stand?' he'd tell me. He'd say, 'Hey, you're fourth-string you've got to get stronger and you've got to get bigger if you want to play here.' That's what I wanted obviously. That's what I respect about him so much. He isn't trying to fool anybody. And I think that decision was his and no one else's."

Question: Big shoes to fill?

Meiners: "I feel sorry for the guy coming in here a little bit because that's a tough act to follow. A great man."

Randy Holleran (Junior linebacker)


Question: What was the most important thing you learned from coach Claiborne?

Holleran: "I really matured under coach Claiborne. Had I been playing for someone else, I could have turned into a hood. He's really like everyone's father—he would always check to see if you're in bed and was concerned with how you were doing in school and stuff. That's the main thing: discipline. Everything he ever told us was the truth."

Question: What do you think will happen to coach Claiborne without football?

Holleran: "For him, now he can enjoy life. He sure won't have as much pressure on him now that he's not coaching. He said he hopes we go 12-0 next year; he told us he'll be our biggest fan."

Question: What are your thoughts on hiring a coach within the system?

Holleran: "There are some that are definitely qualified to take the position, handle it and do well." 

"There are some that are definitely qualified to take the position, handle it and do well." **ing a coach within the system?**

Holleran: "There is definitely that opportunity; we have some good coaches on this staff. There are some eligible people. Definitely coach (Terry) Strook would be a popular candidate for the head coaching job. He's a great defensive coach and is well liked."

"Maybe some of the other coaches will probably try. I think they definitely have a good background. They have a good background in the Southeastern Conference. They (administration) definitely can't overlook them; they at least have to give them the opportunity...in the application for the job."

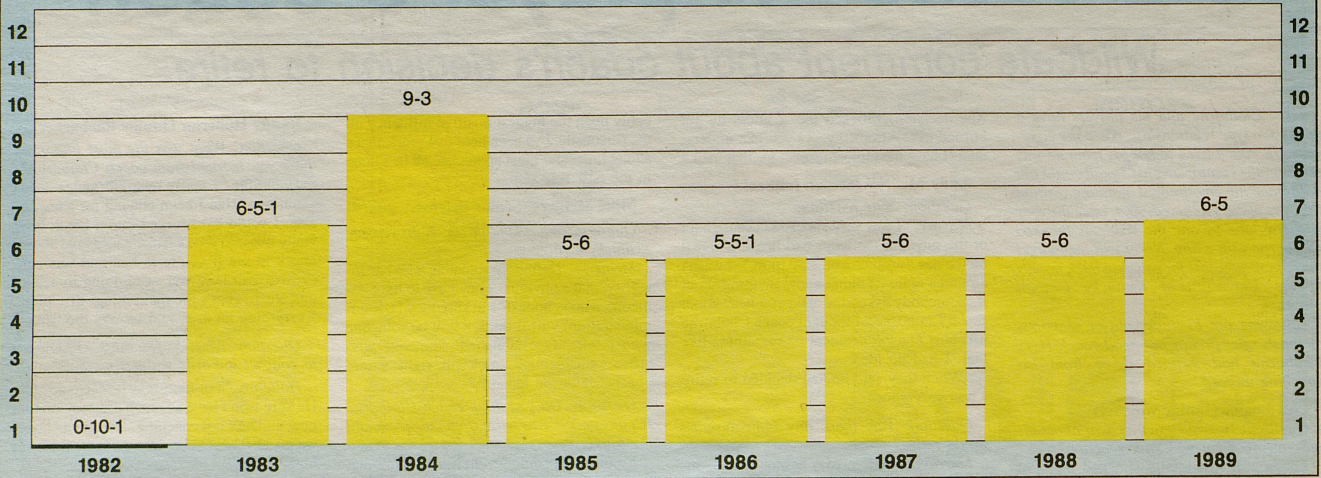
Question: About the program's future?

Holleran: "I can't see it really hurting the program—I can't see the program going downhill, falling apart. If anything it will definitely advance because this program definitely is on a rise. I believe with all my heart this program is going to be a winning program in a few years."

Question: Mike Meiners said that whoever is the next head coach will have some big shoes to fill? Do you agree?

Holleran: "Definitely. Coach Claiborne's commitment to being a better person, better student...you always put those into a category (ahead)—a better person, better student and then a better athlete. I don't think you'll find anybody around that will equal him in that category. He's committed to that and he's always preached that to us. He's actually put that in our minds. When the (new) coach comes in I guess we'll make a judgment on him. No one is going to be coach Claiborne."

UK'S FOOTBALL RECORD DURING THE JERRY CLAIBORNE ERA (1982-89)



1982 (0-10-1, 0-6)

9	at Kansas State	23
8	OKLAHOMA	29
13	KANSAS	13
6	at Clemson	24
3	at Auburn	18
10	LSU	34
14	GEORGIA	27
3	at Virginia Tech	29
10	VANDERBILT	23
13	at Florida	39
7	TENNESSEE	28

1983 (6-5-1, 2-4)

31	CENTRAL MICHIGAN	14
31	KANSAS STATE	12
24	INDIANA	13
26	TULANE	14
21	AUBURN	49
21	at LSU	13
21	at Georgia	47
13	CINCINNATI	13
17	at Vanderbilt	8
7	at Florida	24
0	TENNESSEE	10
16 W. Virginia (Hall of Fame) 20		

1984 (9-3, 3-3)

42	KENT STATE	0
48	at Indiana	14
30	at Tulane	26
27	RUTGERS	14
17	MISSISSIPPI STATE	14
10	LSU	36
7	GEORGIA	37
31	NORTH TEXAS STATE	7
27	VANDERBILT	18
17	FLORIDA	25
17	at Tennessee	12
20 Wisconsin (Hall of Fame) 19		

The Jerry Claiborne File

PERSONAL
 Full name: Jerry David Claiborne
 Birthdate: 8/26/28
 Parents: Mr. & Mrs. James J. Claiborne
 Wife: Anna Faye (Hooks) Claiborne
 Children: David, Jonathan, Mrs. Katie Newell, Eileen

EDUCATION
 •Hopkinsville High School (1946)
 •University of Kentucky, B.S. in mathematics and phys ed (1950)

ATHLETICS
 •Hopkinsville High School: Football, basketball, tennis, track—1943-46
 •University of Kentucky: Football (end)—1946-49, tennis

COACHING CAREER
 •Augusta Military Academy: Head coach, 1950-51
 •University of Kentucky: Assistant coach, 1952-53
 •Texas A&M: Assistant coach, 1954-56
 •University of Missouri: Assistant coach, 1957
 •University of Alabama: Assistant coach, 1958-60
 •Virginia Tech: Head coach, 1961-70
 •University of Colorado: Assistant coach, 1971
 •University of Maryland: Head coach, 1972-81
 •University of Kentucky: Head coach, 1982-89

JERRY CLAIBORNE'S CAREER RECORD

YR.	SCHOOL	W-L-T	PCT.	BOWLS
1961	VIRGINIA TECH	4-5-0	.444	—
1962	VIRGINIA TECH	5-5-0	.500	—
1963	VIRGINIA TECH	8-2-0	.800	—
1964	VIRGINIA TECH	6-4-0	.600	—
1965	VIRGINIA TECH	7-3-0	.700	—
1966	VIRGINIA TECH	8-2-1	.773	LIBERTY
1967	VIRGINIA TECH	7-3-0	.700	—
1968	VIRGINIA TECH	7-4-0	.636	LIBERTY
1969	VIRGINIA TECH	4-5-0	.444	—
1970	VIRGINIA TECH	5-6-0	.455	—
1972	MARYLAND	5-5-1	.500	—
1973	MARYLAND	8-4-0	.667	PEACH
1974	MARYLAND	8-4-0	.667	LIBERTY
1975	MARYLAND	9-2-1	.792	GATOR
1976	MARYLAND	11-1-0	.917	COTTON
1977	MARYLAND	8-4-0	.667	HALL OF FAME
1978	MARYLAND	9-3-0	.750	SUN
1979	MARYLAND	7-4-0	.636	—
1980	MARYLAND	8-4-0	.667	TANGERINE
1981	MARYLAND	4-6-1	.409	—
1982	KENTUCKY	0-10-1	.045	—
1983	KENTUCKY	6-5-1	.542	HALL OF FAME
1984	KENTUCKY	9-3-0	.750	HALL OF FAME
1985	KENTUCKY	5-6-0	.455	—
1986	KENTUCKY	5-5-1	.500	—
1987	KENTUCKY	5-6-0	.455	—
1988	KENTUCKY	5-6-0	.455	—
1989	KENTUCKY	6-5-0	.545	—
OVERALL (28 YEARS)		*179-123-8	.590	11 BOWLS
VIRGINIA TECH (10 YEARS)		61-39-2	.608	2 BOWLS
MARYLAND (10 YEARS)		77-37-3	.671	7 BOWLS
KENTUCKY (8 YEARS)		41-46-3	.472	1-2 BOWLS

*Claiborne's 179 victories places him 21st on the all-time Division I-A win list
 □TCP chart □Source: UK sports information

1985 (5-6, 1-5)

26	BOWLING GREEN	30
16	TULANE	11
27	CINCINNATI	7
26	CLEMSON	7
33	MISSISSIPPI STATE	19
0	at LSU	10
6	at Georgia	26
23	EAST TENNESSEE	13
24	at Vanderbilt	31
13	at Florida	15
0	TENNESSEE	42



1986 (5-5-1, 2-4)

16	RUTGERS	16
37	KENT STATE	12
37	at Cincinnati	20
32	SOUTHERN MISS	0
13	at Ole Miss (Jackson)	33
16	LSU	25
9	GEORGIA	31
15	at Virginia Tech	17
34	VANDERBILT	22
10	FLORIDA	3
9	at Tennessee	28

1987 (5-6, 1-5)

41	UTAH STATE	0
34	INDIANA	15
18	at Rutgers	19
28	OHIO UNIVERSITY	0
35	OLE MISS	6
9	at LSU	34
14	at Georgia	17
14	VIRGINIA TECH	7
29	at Vanderbilt	38
14	at Florida	27
22	TENNESSEE	24

1988 (5-6, 2-5)

18	CENTRAL MICHIGAN	7
10	at Auburn	20
15	at Indiana	36
38	KENT STATE	14
27	ALABAMA	31
12	at LSU	15
16	GEORGIA	10
24	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	10
14	VANDERBILT	13
19	FLORIDA	24
24	at Tennessee	28

1989 (6-5, 2-5)

17	INDIANA	14
13	NORTH CAROLINA	6
3	at Alabama	15
12	AUBURN	24
33	RUTGERS	26
27	LSU	21
23	at Georgia	34
31	CINCINNATI	0
15	at Vanderbilt	11
28	at Florida	38
10	TENNESSEE	31