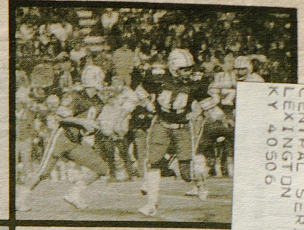




Conner Remembers

The Dumas Report Writes Alice McDonald



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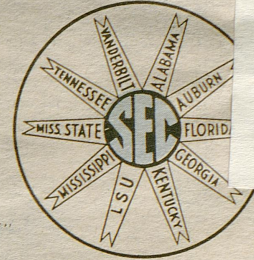
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The Cats' Pause

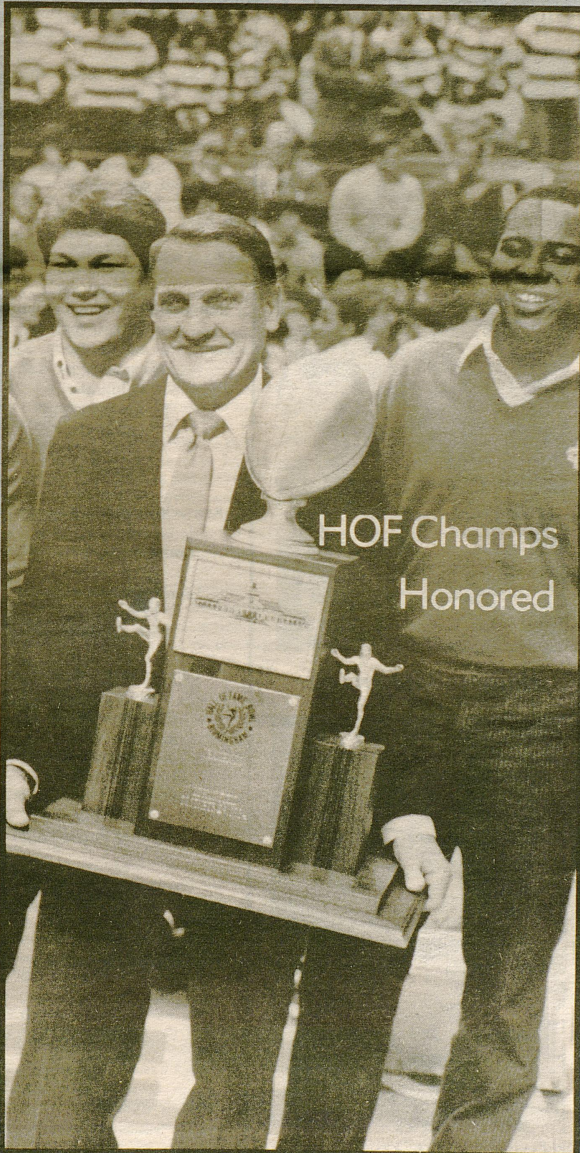
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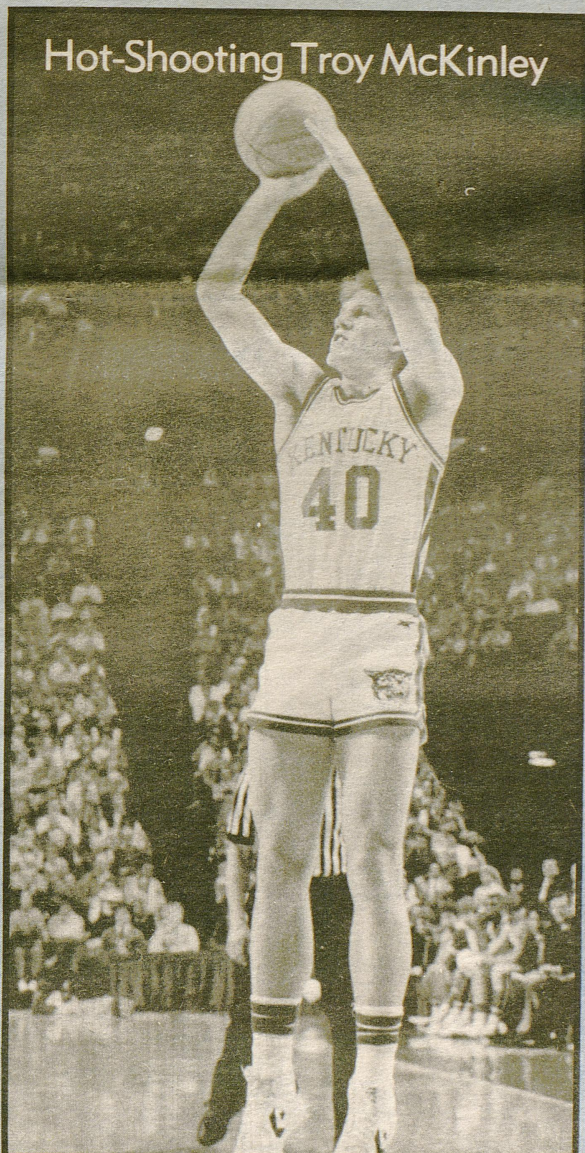
VOLUME 9 - NUMBER 20

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 1985

LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY



**HOF Champs
Honored**



Hot-Shooting Troy McKinley

1984-85 UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY BASKETBALL STATISTICS (15 GAMES)

Player	G-GS	Field Goals	Free Throws	Rebounds	PF-D	A	TO	Points	High
Overall:	9-6	Home: 7-2	Neutral: 1-0	Away: 1-4	SEC: 4-2				
Keney WALKER	15-15 (C) 6-6	114-221-51.6 48- 89-53.9	106-136-77.9 44- 57-77.2	150-10.0 63-10.5	40-0 19-0	19 8	23 13	334-22.3 140-23.3	36-KAN 28-OK
James BLACKMON	14-10 (C) 6-6	47-107-43.9 19- 47-40.4	19- 27-70.4 7- 9-77.8	20- 1.4 9- 1.5	26-0 11-0	43 19	22 9	113- 8.1 45- 7.5	17-TOL 12-ALA
Winston BENNETT	14-11 (C) 6-6	41- 98-41.8 16- 37-43.2	28- 43-65.1 11- 18-61.1	81- 5.8 38- 6.3	45-3 20-1	8 3	28 9	110- 7.9 43- 7.2	14-LOU 12-AUB
Ed DAVENDER	15- 3 (C) 6-0	36- 90-40.0 12- 32-37.5	29- 38-76.3 5- 10-50.0	11- 0.7 6- 1.0	30-1 13-0	31 11	33 15	101- 6.7 29- 4.8	27-ETS 9-MSU
Roger HARDEN	14-14 (C) 6-6	35- 82-42.7 18- 41-44.0	9- 10-90.0 6- 6-100.0	21- 1.5 8- 1.3	29-0 15-0	64 26	20 5	79- 5.6 42- 7.0	12-LOU 12-VAN
Richard MADISON	14- 0 (C) 6-0	29- 79-36.7 4- 23-17.4	14- 17-82.4 6- 7-85.7	49- 3.5 11- 1.8	24-1 7-0	12 5	20 5	72- 5.1 14- 2.3	16-IND 8-VAN
Bret BEARUP	15-15 (C) 6-6	31- 81-38.3 7- 14-50.0	13- 20-65.0 3- 4-75.0	87- 5.8 33- 5.5	39-1 13-0	12 2	22 8	75- 5.0 17- 2.8	13-ETS 6-AUB
Troy MCKINLEY	13- 0 (C) 6-0	23- 36-63.9 14- 22-63.6	6- 6-100.0 2- 2-100.0	15- 1.2 6- 1.0	3-0 2-0	10 5	5 3	52- 4.0 30- 5.0	12-KAN 10-FLA
Paul ANDREWS	11- 3 (C) 4-0	13- 26-50.0 2- 5-40.0	0- 1-00.0 0- 1-00.0	6- 0.5 1- 0.3	14-0 2-0	7 4	7 0	26- 2.4 4- 1.0	8-MSU 2-FLA
Robert LOCK	13- 4 (C) 4-0	6- 28-21.4 1- 5-20.0	2- 6-33.3 0- 0-00.0	29- 2.2 6- 1.5	26-1 2-0	3 1	6 2	14- 1.1 2- 0.5	4-MSU 2-ALA
Cedric JENKINS	10- 0 (C) 4-0	1- 7-14.3 1- 1-100.0	1- 2-50.0 1- 1-100.0	14- 1.4 7- 1.8	4-0 3-0	0 2	3 0	3- 0.3 3- 0.8	3-VAN 3-VAN
Todd ZIEGLER	6- 0 (C) 1-0	1- 3-33.3 1- 2-50.0	0- 1-00.0 0- 0-00.0	2- 0.3 1- 1.0	0-0 0-0	0 0	0 2	2- 0.3 2- 2.0	2-VAN 2-VAN
Leroy BYRD	5- 0 (C) 2-0	0- 0-00.0 0- 0-00.0	0- 0-00.0 0- 0-00.0	1- 0.2 1- 0.5	0-0 0-0	3 2	0 0	0- 0.0 0- 0.0	----- -----
Team				20		3			

Team	Points	Field Goals	Free Throws	Rebounds	PF-D	A	TO	Points	High
Kentucky 15 (C) 6	377-858-43.9 143-317-45.1	227-308-73.7 85-115-73.9	506-33.7 199-33.2	283-7 106-1	212 86	194 72	581-65.4 371-61.8	92-KAN 75-VAN	
Opponents 15 (C) 6	376-823-45.7 143-334-42.8	184-267-68.9 62- 94-66.0	493-32.9 200-33.3	300-7 114-3	237 88	222 76	936-62.4 348-58.0	89-KAN 67-FLA	

MINUTES PLAYED: Walker 539-35.9, Bennett 391-27.9, Blackmon 386-27.6, Harden 369-26.4, Bearup 300-26.0, Davender 270-18.0, Madison 246-17.6, Andrews 112-10.2, McKinley 120-9.2, Lock 120-9.2, Jenkins 42-4.2, Byrd 8-1.6, Ziegler 8-1.3

BLOCKED SHOTS: Walker 18, Bearup 8, Lock 6, Bennett 5, Madison 3, Jenkins 2, Davender 1 (UK 44, Opp. 30)

STEALS: Walker 18, Bennett 18, Blackmon 17, Harden 13, Davender 11, Bearup 6, Madison 6, McKinley 3, Lock 2, Andrews 1, Jenkins 1. (UK 96, Opp. 78)

DEAD BALL REBOUNDS: Kentucky 36, Opponents 41

Kentucky Basketball

RESULTS

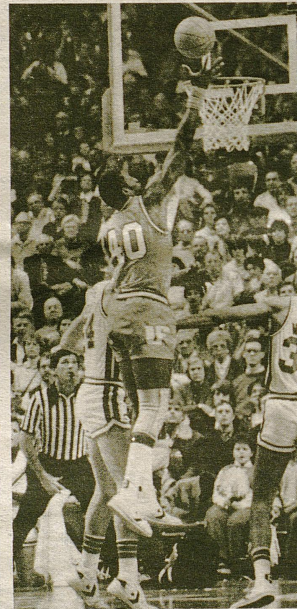
GAME	UK-Opp	Attend	High Scorer	High Rebounder
Toledo (H, Nov. 27)	63-54	23,129	Walker, Blackmon 17	Walker 9
Purdue (A, Dec. 1)	56-66	14,123	Walker, Blackmon 16	Walker 9
SMU (H, Dec. 4)	56-56	22,846	Walker 19	Walker 7
Indiana (A, Dec. 8)	68-31	17,214	Walker, Madison 16	Bearup 11
Louisville (A, Dec. 15)	64-71	19,487	Walker 32	Walker 15
East Tenn. (UKIT, Dec. 21)	69-54	21,300	Davender 27	Walker 9
Cincinnati (UKIT, Dec. 22)	66-55	23,102	Walker 18	Walker 9
Kansas (Louisville, Dec. 31)	92-89	18,920	Walker 36	Walker 19
Auburn (H, Jan. 2)	68-61	22,847	Walker 24	Walker 13
North Carolina St. (H, Jan. 5)	78-42	23,775	Walker 28	Walker 8
Vanderbilt (H, Jan. 7)	75-58	23,432	Walker 27	Walker 10
Mississippi (A, Jan. 9)	57-55	5,479	Walker 29	Walker 12
Alabama (A, Jan. 12)	58-50	15,043	Walker 25	Walker 14
Mississippi State (H, Jan. 16)	58-57	23,628	Walker 15	Walker 8
Florida (H, Jan. 19)	55-67	23,325	Walker 26	Bennett 11
Georgia (A, Jan. 23, 7:30 p.m. EST)				
Tennessee (A, Jan. 27, 2:05 p.m. EST)				
LSU (H, Jan. 31, 8:05 p.m. EST)				
Auburn (A, Feb. 2, 2:05 p.m. EST)				
Vanderbilt (A, Feb. 7, 8:05 p.m. EST)				
Mississippi (H, Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m. EST)				
Alabama (H, Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m. EST)				
Mississippi State (A, Feb. 16, 8:30 p.m. EST)				
Florida (A, Feb. 20, 8:05 p.m. EST)				
Georgia (H, Feb. 24, 1:05 p.m. EST)				
Tennessee (H, Feb. 28, 8:05 p.m. EST)				
LSU (A, Mar. 2, 3:05 p.m. EST)				
SEC Tournament (Mar. 6-9) Birmingham				

1984-85 Kentucky Basketball Superlatives

	TEAM	Opponents
Points	Kentucky	89-Kansas
Fastest Points	44-SMU	45-OK
Field Goals Made	34-Kansas	37-Kansas
Field Goals Att.	79-Kansas	66-Kansas
Field Goal %	52.4-Purdue	66.1-Indiana
Lowest FG %	37.7-SMU	29.1-Cincinnati
Free Throws Made	34-N.C. State	30-Purdue
Free Throws Att.	37-N.C. State/Kansas	41-Purdue
Free Throw %	94.4-Vanderbilt	100.0-East Tennessee St.
Rebounds	51-Kansas	42-Alabama, Florida
Most Fouls	34-Purdue	28-N.C. State/Kansas
Fewest Fouls	10-East Tenn. St.	13-Louisville
Assists	21-Kansas	27-Kansas
Most Turnovers	22-Purdue	25-N.C. State
Fewest Turnovers	7-East Tenn./Toledo	10-Alabama, Florida
Points	36-Walker vs. Kansas	30-Manning (Kansas)
Field Goals Made	14-Walker vs. Louisville	12-Manning (Kansas)
Field Goals Att.	25-Walker vs. Louisville	18-Cox (Vanderbilt)
Free Throws Made	12-Walker vs. Ean/NCS	13-Gadis (Purdue)
Free Throws Att.	20-Walker vs. Kansas	14-Gadis (Purdue)
Rebounds	19-Walker vs. Kansas	15-Koncak (SMU)
Assists	8-Harden vs. RCS/Aub	11-Mebb (N.C. State)
Blocked Shots	Davender vs. Kansas 4-Walker vs. Cincinnati	4-Koncak (SMU)



Sloan Shows Approval



Eugene McDowell



Gator With Gatorade

THE CATS' PAUSE



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Oscar L. Combs

Cats' Pause Publisher



It'll Be A Race To Finish In Tough SEC

By the time you read this column, the Kentucky Wildcats will be in the midst of a five-game challenge which includes four road contests and the Cats' toughest assignment of the year.

Just how well Kentucky fares over the next five games could well determine the final fate of this club and its possibilities of landing a berth in the NCAA.

After Wednesday's battle with up-and-coming Georgia, the Cats will journey to Knoxville on Sunday for a date with the Volunteers and then return home on Thursday for a win-or-die situation with LSU.

If that isn't enough, then how about immediately hoping a charter flight for a Saturday battle with Auburn. The following Thursday is a road date to Nashville for Vanderbilt, the club which had LSU beat had it not been for a last second shot.

What all this means is that UK's 9-6 record is clearly in jeopardy of being overtaken by losses in the next couple weeks. There are no sure-bets on the schedule the rest of the way.

Florida's upset win over the Cats Saturday was an upset, but not as big as many might think. Just when most everyone, including myself, that road teams could not win in this league, boom! Ole Miss shocks LSU, Georgia bombs Florida in Gainesville and then the Gators turn the trick in Lexington. And it took a last second shot for LSU to escape a second upset, this time in Nashville.

While Kentucky could be headed for some disturbing results during the next few contests, recent action has shown that a team can win on the road if it puts the effort into both the physical and mental games.

Kentucky will need plenty of both. As a rule, UK has played rather well over the years in Athens, but this is a young Kentucky team capable of playing either well or very poor.

Georgia, with rookie star Cedric Henderson performing past expectations, will be mighty tough to handle in Athens. A UK win there would certainly be an upset.

Saturday, well, there are some who say Kentucky might be better off to forfeit the game and save the energy. History reminds us that Stokely Athletics Center is "THE" snake pit as far as Kentucky basketball is concerned.

During twelve previous appearances in Knoxville under Coach Joe B. Hall, the Wildcats have won only once, that being in 1978 when the Cats won the NCAA title.

On paper, Kentucky's chances don't appear to be as good as any of those eleven times when the Cats lost to the Big Orange, first under Ray Mears,

then Cliff Wetting and later Don DeVoe.

But games are not won on paper. This is supposed to be the last Kentucky-Tennessee game at Stokely (UT is scheduled to move to its new 25,000-seat arena next season), and the Vols would like nothing better than to close down the facility with their mastery of UK clearly intact. The win streak now stands at six in K-town.

As has been the case in many games this season, this contest will probably be won or lost out front where UT's guards have traditionally enjoyed field days in Stokely.

For Kentucky to keep its hope alive for post season play and an outside shot at the SEC title, a split on the first road trip is imperative. If and when it will come is yet to be decided.

+ + +

After Saturday's action, four teams - Kentucky, Florida, Tennessee and Mississippi State - remained at the top of the SEC standings.

Unfortunately, Kentucky's position there probably isn't as solid as it appears.

The reason is because four of UK's six SEC games have been at home and one of the two road contests was at Oxford, considered by many the most likely place to garner a win (unless you're LSU) on the road.

The other three tied for first place have played three each at home and three on the road. Of those tied for first place, only Kentucky and Florida have lost at home. Florida made up for its loss by beating UK at Rupp.

But there are others to be considered. LSU, for instance, has struggled out of the gate, but if the Tigers get going, watch out.

And the time is ripe. LSU has played five of its first seven SEC games on the road. Now, the Tigers enjoy the advantage of playing five of their next six at home. The lone road contest is at Kentucky. If the Tigers could beat UK at Rupp, LSU just might be on an eight-game winning streak and no doubt in the league lead.

Alabama is another team which will have a lot to say about the race and perhaps even be the top dog if LSU falters. Three of the Tide's next five are on the road, so Wimp Sanderson is going to have to instill some road medicine in his crew.

But the bottom line is that it's too early to count anyone in.

+ + +

This past weekend was a big one for Coach Jerry Claiborne and his football Wildcats as they were host to some

15-20 blue-chip football prospects from such places as Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee as well as Kentucky.

This is a pivotal year for the Wildcats when you're speaking of the long range future of the Big Blue program. UK is fairly set, with a couple exceptions, for the next two years. Right now, the Cats are working on the future and that's a good sign when you're shoring up particular situations and trying to build depth.

When a football program is weak in just one position, or that they don't have a great deal of depth at a certain position, what the coach is really saying is that he's got a pretty good football team, but he isn't four deep at each position and if two players at the same position should get hurt, then the club could suffer.

Kentucky isn't quite at that point, but the UK program is vastly improved in the overall depth department from where it was a couple years ago.

The most encouraging news is the fact that most of the youngsters in for officials visits this past weekend are being recruited by the likes of Ohio State, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Arkansas, Tennessee and Missouri.

As one UK assistant pointed out, "it wasn't long ago when our recruits on visits here were only being recruited by the Cincinnati, Miamis of Ohio, Easterns and Moreheads.

The recruits had to be impressed with the show of affection for the 1984 Hall of Fame champions as they were introduced to the Rupp Arena crowd before the Florida game.

+ + +

Congratulations to part-time assistant Ro Waldron who has been named head coach of Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

Catholic is a Division III school which is undergoing a face-lifting with a new \$8 million athletic complex. Ro will also serve as assistant athletic director in charge of running the facility.

+ + +

Kentucky's guard play has been the most inconsistent part of the UK team this winter, and in particular during the SEC portion of the schedule.

And league play has definitely had its impact on the younger players. For instance, neither Richard Madison, Ed Davender, or Robert Lock have shot better than fifty percent in a single game. Cedric Jenkins was one for one against Vandy and Todd Ziegler was one for two against Vandy or they

otherwise, haven't shot fifty percent either. Davender, against Auburn did go three for six.

Offensive stats of the guards have not been very impressive. Roger Harden 18 of 41 in league play and starting partner James Blackmon is 19 of 47. Davender is 12 of 32 and Paul Andrews is 2 of five in the SEC.

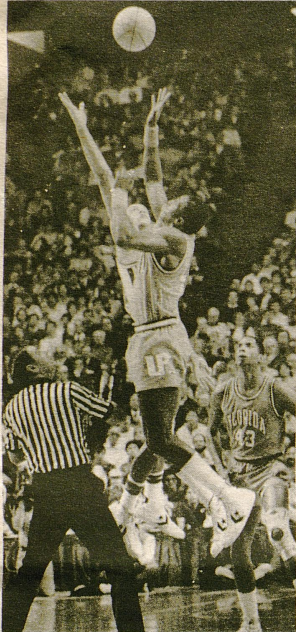
Other than Kenny Walker's all-star play, perhaps Troy McKinley has been most impressive with his offensive skills. He's a hot 14 of 22 from the field in the SEC and 23 of 38 overall, the only Wildcat hitting over 60 per cent from the field.

Most encouraging from the Florida game was the return of Winston Bennett who scored 9 points, but more importantly he hauled down a game-high 11 rebounds and once again began to look for his shot.

+ + +

HITS AND MISSES . . . New UL head football coach **Howard Schnellenberger** said last weekend he hopes UK alumni in Louisville will become Cardinal fans when UL isn't playing UK. "Then," he said, "I'd expect the fans to root for their alma mater." Appearing on a Lexington television press conference show, the new UL head coach said the difference in not accepting an offer to coach Kentucky three years ago and accepting the UL offer a few weeks ago was because he felt he had not completed his mission of winning a national title at Miami at the time the UK job came open. He also acknowledged that he was out of a job at the time the Louisville post was offered. . . Reporters quizzed him about coaches making more money than the college president but he side-stepped the issue nicely by saying that he thinks college presidents should be making more money than they are now. . . You're not going to believe this, but someone should throw the flag on the selection committee for the **Kentucky-Tennessee** all-star game. According to reports, there is a rule which prohibits more than two players from any one school from being selected. So when the selection committee picked **Carwell Gardner** and **James Murray** of Trinity, that meant that Parade Magazine prep All-American **Mike Pfeifer** will be staying home. Mike is only the state's top college prospect and considered one of the top five linemen in the country. For every rule, there is an exception, and there certainly should be one in this case. . . Mississippi State head baseball coach **Ron Folk** and former Yankee great and Morehead coach **Steve Hamilton** will headline the [Continued On Page 16]

Florida vs. Kentucky



Walker And McDowell Veering For Opening

Gators Win; Move Into Four Way Tie For First

With Florida losing to Georgia on the Gators' home court last week, the chances of the visitors upsetting Kentucky in Rupp Arena were slim to none. But those slim to none chances turned into a victory as Florida grabbed a share of the SEC lead with a 67-55.

Coach Norm Sloan's team cracked a 19-game home Southeastern Conference win streak compiled by the Wildcats. Not since Kentucky was defeated by Auburn 75-67 have the 'Cats lost to an SEC opponent in Rupp Arena.

"I will state the obvious: It is a great win for us," said Coach Sloan. "It is a very happy team and I am very happy for them.

"For us to beat one of the great coaches and a school with as fine a program as Kentucky -- and on their own floor -- is very satisfying.

The win improves Florida's overall record to 11-3 and more importantly puts the Gators in a first-place tie with Kentucky, Tennessee, and Mississippi State at 4-2 in conference play. For Florida it was its first victory against the Wildcats in Rupp Arena.

"We never really had any illusions about being a power in the conference," said Wildcat Coach Joe Hall, "but certainly losing at home is very damaging."

Kentucky falls to 9-6 in overall play. You have to go back to the '79 team (8-7) to find Kentucky with as many losses during its first 15 games.

The Gators were in control for almost the entire contest as they only trailed once (2-0) in the ball game. Andrew Moten's 18-foot jumper at the 17:31 mark gave Florida the lead 4-2, and the upper hand for the rest of the game.

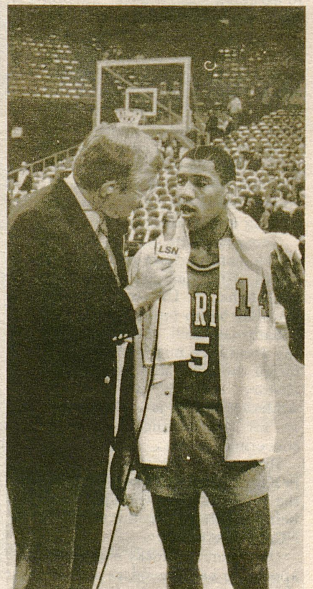
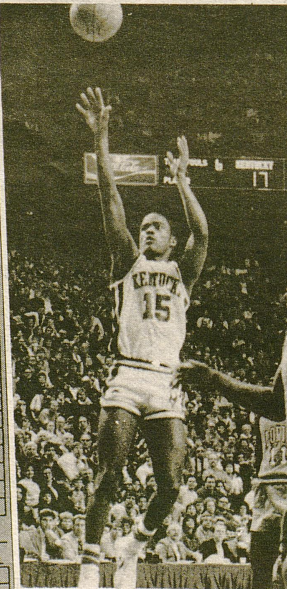
Moten, a 6-foot sophomore, led the way for the Gators with 26 points. The starting guard hit on 9 of 15 from the field and 8 of 10 from the charity line. "Moten played well on both ends of the floor, Sloan said. "He handled some pressure situations very well.

Freshman sensation Vernon Maxwell scored 12 points, followed by 6-9 senior forward Randall Leath with 10 points.

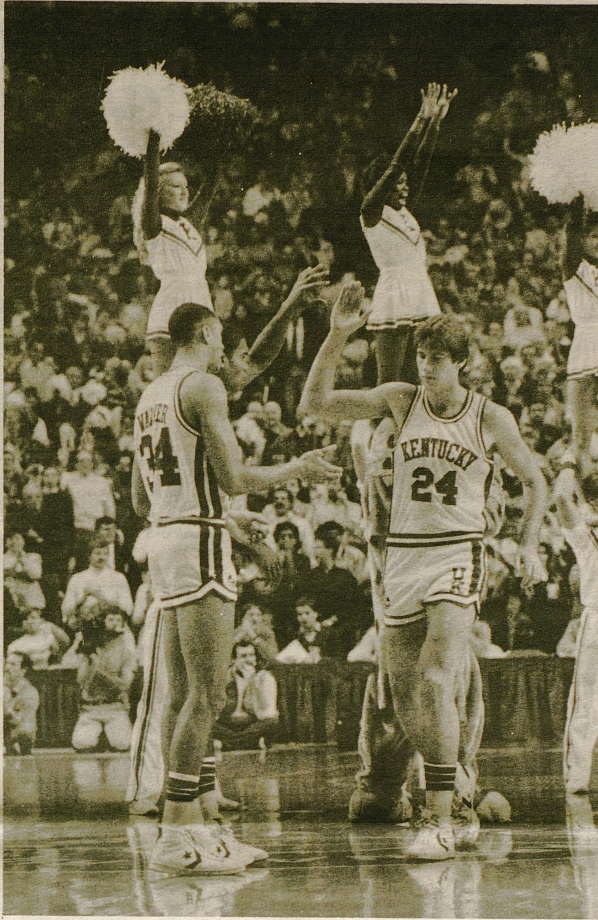
Walker's Play Not Enough

Kenny Walker's play last Saturday literally wasn't enough. Even though Walker tied for game-high honors with 26 tallies, the 6-8 forward had to sit out most of the first half because of foul trouble. Walker picked up his second foul with 17:31 remaining in the period and checked out of the game. The nucleus of Kentucky's attack didn't return until with 6:30 left in the first stanza. Walker took only three shots in the half while only scoring four points. But even his 22-point effort in the last twenty minutes was not enough. The forward pulled down only six rebounds, his lowest production since this year's Indiana contest where he had only three boards.

OFFICIAL NCAA BASKETBALL BOX SCORE																
Date: JAN. 19, 1985 Site: RUPP ARENA (Lexington)																
VISITORS (Last Name, First)																
No.	FLORIDA (11-3)	FG	FGA	FT	FTA	REB	PF	TP	MIN	A	TO	BLK	S			
43	Randall Leath	f	5	7	0	0	11	2	10	31	1	1	1			
14	Darryl Gresham	f	1	10	0	0	6	3	2	17	4	2	0			
40	Eugene McDowell	c	3	6	1	2	9	2	7	38	0	3	0			
5	Andrew Moten	g	9	15	8	10	6	2	26	36	7	1	0			
11	Vernon Maxwell	g	5	15	2	2	0	2	12	32	3	1	0			
3	Pat Lawrence	g	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	7	0	1	0			
4	Joe Lawrence	g	1	3	0	0	1	2	2	5	1	0	0			
10	Ronnie Montgomery	g	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0			
12	Francisco Leon	g	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0			
20	Danny Sheldon	g	3	6	0	0	2	2	6	19	0	0	2			
21	Kenny McClary	g	1	1	0	0	2	1	2	5	0	0	0			
TEAM REBOUNDS (Included in Totals)																
TOTALS 28 65 11 15 52 17 67 200 16 10 1 7																
FG %: 1st Half 14/34 - .412 2nd Half 14/31 - .452 Game 28/65 - .431																
FT %: 1st Half 2/4 - .500 2nd Half 9/11 - .818 Game 11/15 - .733																
Deadball Rebounds 2																
HOME																
No.	KENTUCKY (9-6)	FG	FGA	FT	FTA	REB	PF	TP	MIN	A	TO	BLK	S			
34	Kenny Walker	f	10	17	6	8	6	3	26	29	0	2	0			
25	Winston Bennett	f	4	8	1	4	11	3	9	38	1	3	1			
24	Bret Bearup	c	1	3	0	0	8	0	2	28	0	0	2			
10	James Blackmon	g	1	6	0	0	1	1	2	23	3	1	1			
23	Roger Harden	g	1	8	0	0	1	4	2	26	5	1	0			
14	Paul Andrews	g	1	2	0	0	0	2	2	7	2	0	0			
15	Ed Davender	g	1	5	0	0	1	3	2	13	4	5	0			
30	Troy McKinley	g	5	7	0	0	3	0	10	21	3	0	0			
42	Richard Madison	g	0	3	0	0	1	2	0	8	0	1	0			
55	Cedric Jenkins	g	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	7	0	0	0			
TEAM REBOUNDS (Included in Totals)																
TOTALS 24 59 7 12 35 18 55 200 18 13 4 5																
FG %: 1st Half 11/24 - .458 2nd Half 13/35 - .371 Game 24/59 - .407																
FT %: 1st Half 1/4 - .250 2nd Half 6/8 - .750 Game 7/12 - .583																
Deadball Rebounds 2																
OFFICIALS: V. Tanner, H. Ramsey																
D. Kelley																
Technical Fouls: None																
Attendance: 23,325																
Copyright 1983 National Collegiate Athletic Association																
									SCORE BY PERIODS							
									1st H.		2nd H.		OT		FINAL	
									FLORIDA		30		37		67	
									KENTUCKY		23		32		55	



Davender Lets It Fly Moten Was The Star



"Starting At Center ... Bret Bearup"

Gators Lose Momentum For A While But Proceeded To Blow UK Away

Starting the second half Kentucky trailed 30-23, but after a Eugene McDowell layin widening the Gator lead to nine, Walker went on a scoring tear. He scored eight straight points, including three dunks to pull UK within one, 32-31. However the Wildcats' woes were starting to add up.

Compiling the last 4:52 of the first period until 6:23 of the second half, Walker was the only UK starter to hit the scoring column.

Another startling statistic is that Walker scored all of UK's points from the 3:11 mark in the first half until 8:25 left in the game.

Sparked by two consecutive buckets by Moten, the Gators began to build their momentum. After a powerful Walker dunk cut the Gator lead to one, 34-33, Moten scored on a 12-footer jumper. The guard's field goal ended a three minute-plus Florida dry spell. Kentucky tried to get the points back quickly. However, Winston Bennett's 20-foot airball was converted into a Moten layup increasing the lead 38-33. From that point on the Gators were unstoppable.

Florida went further ahead when reserve Danny Sheldon connected on two from long distance, within a 23-second span, to make the score 44-35. Moten gave his team their biggest lead when the sophomore hit on 1 of 2 free throws making the count 67-51 with 22 seconds remaining.

McKinley Keeps 'Cats In The Game First Half

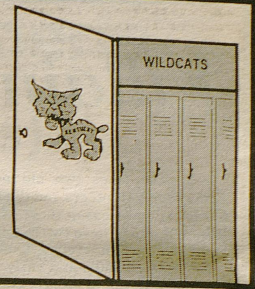
With Walker on the sidelines for most of the first half, senior Troy McKinley's hot hand kept the game close. McKinley, who checked in for Walker, pulled UK within three (12-9) with a layup following a Roger Harden miss.

Late in the first half (7:27), McKinley proceeded to score six of Kentucky's next eight points as the Wildcats remained close, 26-21. If not for his 4 of 5 shooting from the field in the opening period the Wildcats would have been out of the contest at halftime. McKinley finished the game with 10 points in 21 minutes of action.

FINAL STATS SHOW GATORS IN CONTROL

Besides outscoring UK, the Gators also had better marks than their opponents in: shooting percentage from the field (43.1 - 40.7), from the charity stripe (73.3 - 58.3), and rebounding (42-35).

Inside The Locker Room



Paul Andrews

(About taking a SEC loss at Rupp Arena)

I think it was tough, because we had the momentum going and our season was going pretty good. I think that a loss like this, where we just didn't come out and play as hard as we have been, has like deflated us. We just have to come back and practice and see if we can't get the enthusiasm back.

(About Andrew Moten's two baskets being the factor that turned the game around)

Yes, I think he was the key. We tried to shade to his side, wherever he was, and tried to prevent him from hitting the shot. Another key was that we didn't shoot well. We just couldn't hit the basket tonight. I don't know what it was. But in order for us to win we've got to be able to hit.

(About Florida)

They're a tough team; they have some really good talent and they like to play one-on-one. I just think that our defense wasn't as good as it could have been. We just let them penetrate down the middle without getting any help. I just think that was a big key.

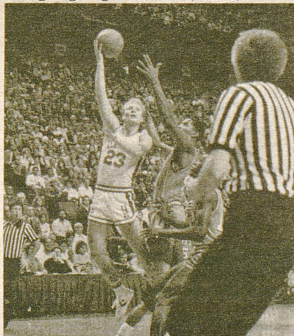
(About any team in the league being able to beat anyone in the SEC on a given night)

It's a big loss . . . but down the road it may not hurt us, because a lot of the teams are getting knocked off. The way it hurts our team is that we did have the enthusiasm and we were playing good team ball. We just came out today and we just didn't execute, and we didn't get the ball to Kenny (Walker) as much as we would have liked to. Overall, the team just didn't give a good effort. We just have to forget about this game and just worry about the next ones that are coming up.

Roger Harden

(About Florida keeping their composure)

When it was 34-30, and we had things going, Coach (Norm) Sloan



Roger Looking For Two

called a timeout. It was an effective call on his part, that kind of cut our momentum a little bit. But that wasn't the big turnaround.

(About needing more offensive production as a team)

The problem lies within each one of us. There isn't any outside force that's putting any pressure on us. I think it comes within. We do look for Walker on offense. I do especially, that is our strength offensively. I've got to look for him. I still believe in all our inside people and all our outside people.

(About how unpredictable the SEC is)

That's been proven so far -- the fact that there are going to be a lot of people helping each other out this year. That's kind of encouraging even at this low point. We've been down before -- we were 1-4 -- and we feel we can come back. It's awful hard to get enthused right now. We're all disappointed. I think our fans are disappointed with this loss. Yet it's these times when we've got to stay together.

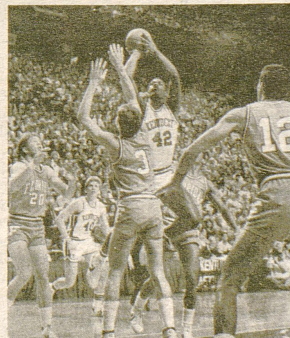
Kenny Walker

(About what Coach Hall had told the players following the loss to Florida)

Well everybody knew we didn't play well so there wasn't much to be said. He (Coach Hall) saw a lot of our mistakes. We didn't execute well offensively and we didn't rebound well. We knew that we had a bad game and he just emphasized on all the mistakes that we had.

(About Kentucky's upcoming schedule)

This is probably the toughest part of the SEC for us. We have to go to Georgia, who beat Florida, and we have to go to Tennessee and we've been having a lot of problems down there. So I guess the main thing for us to do right now is stand up and accept the challenge and become tough men. We dug ourselves into a little hole now and it's up to us to try to get ourselves up.



Sheer Concentration

Villains Next For Young Wildcats

Kentucky faces two old nemeses within the next few days as the Tennessee Volunteers and the LSU Tigers embark on UK's schedule. During the basketball season these are the two schools Wildcat fans love to hate. Why? Because these two teams have threatened to override the Big Blue's Southeastern Conference dominance over the last 20 years.

In the late 1960's and early '70's it was Ray Mears trying to outduel the legendary Baron of Kentucky. Although he failed more than he conquered against the late Adolph Rupp, Mears had an adequate 8-12 record against UK during the span of 1963-72. During 1967 UT tied Kentucky for the SEC title with a 14-4 mark.



Nick Nicholas

Cats' Pause Columnist

In his final year as head coach at Tennessee Mears guided the Vols to a first-place tie in the SEC with the Wildcats, led by a fifth-year coach by the name of Joe Hall. For his efforts that season the Tennessee coach was named the AP and UPI Southeastern Conference Coach of the Year.

While at Tennessee Mears' overall record against UK was an even 15-15. They're not many coaches who can claim they have a 500 win-loss percentage against the 'Cats.

Because of health reasons Mears stepped down from his position as head coach during the '77-78 season. He finished with an impressive 278-112 record at UT. One year later Mears was hired as an administrative assistant to athletic director Bob Woodruff at Tennessee. The former Tennessee head coach is presently in his fifth year as athletic director at UT-Martin.

After taking over for acting coach Cliff Wettig, Don DeVoe quickly established himself as Wildcat enemy No. 1. In his first year in Knoxville, DeVoe won all three encounters against UK. They won at Rupp (66-55), at Stokely (101-84), and in the SEC tourney finals in Birmingham (75-69 in overtime).

To this day a DeVoe team has never lost to Kentucky in the confines of the Stokely Athletic Center. Tomorrow is the last chance for UK to win in the 12,000-plus gym as next year the Vols are scheduled to reside in their new 24,000-plus basketball arena -- an arena Kentucky will gladly play in.

Stokely was expanded in size and was completed in 1966 to its current seating capacity. Before that it was called the U.T. Armory Fieldhouse, which seated 7,104 people. Kentucky's record since the center was remodeled is 4-14, including six straight losses. Not since the '78 national championship team's 68-57 victory has UK won in Stokely.

Kentucky is even the owner of two Stokely records obtained in the 1980 UK-UT meeting -- fewest free throws made (one) and fewest shot(two).

Bluntly speaking, the Wildcats are due for a victory in Stokely. And to beat the Vols in Kentucky's final Stokely appearance would be so much sweeter. Stokely's presence is no longer felt: Kentucky 52, Tennessee 50.

Coach Hall's squad won't have time to rest as Dale Brown's LSU Tigers are the next intruder on UK's slate. Though this contest will be played in front of more than 23,000 blue and white partisans.

The vocal pitch at Rupp is always cranked up a notch or two above the norm when Brown comes through the arena entrance and on to the court.

On the road, Brown's fiery attitude and overwhelming enthusiasm on the court brings out the best in the crowds, especially in Rupp Arena. Chants of 'Sit down Brown' are more common than cries of 'Go Big Blue' when LSU comes to Lexington. I feel though that the Cat-calls (no pun intended) are yelled out because of respect for the LSU program more than the hatred of it.

In his last six seasons Brown has guided the Tigers to berths in four NCAA tournaments and two in the NIT. While guiding LSU to the Final Four in 1981, Brown was named National Coach of the Year for his efforts.

Before this season, the product of Minot, N.D., has compiled a 212-130 slate during his 13-year tenure as the Tiger's head coach. He owns a 10-18 record against Kentucky. However, in their last nine meetings the Wildcats have only a slight advantage of 5-4 over the Tigers.

Rupp was once quoted as saying, "Dale's teams are well coached and he gets a tremendous output from them, plus he has complete command at all times. He is a very impressive person and a great coach."

The respect is evident among the other SEC coaches as well, especially this season. During the conference's media day in Birmingham last November LSU was picked as the favorite to win the title. But the way things have been going of late nothing is a sure thing. Brown noted that he has total respect for the SEC.

"Anybody in the SEC can beat anybody else on a given night," said Brown in a recent phone interview. "If you forget that then you're going to bite the dust."

"We just have to survive in the month of January. That's our main goal. Anybody can surprise you in this league. It's a good league."

Respect or no respect, Coach Brown will have to wait until their meeting in Baton Rouge (March 2) for a win against Kentucky this season.

+ + +

The colorful coach from LSU had some interesting remarks about certain areas pertaining to SEC basketball.

(About the play of the '85 Mississippi State Bulldogs)

"They're better than I thought they would be. Bob (Boyd) has never been given the credit he deserves. (And) he also has better players than people realize.

(About the SEC being so unpredictable during the early portion of this season)

"I don't take much stock on what goes on early in the season. It's like what John Thompson (Georgetown) says, 'It's like fools gold. You think you've got something but you don't.' It's just too early to tell. It's a rat race."

(About SEC schools playing at Starkville and Tuscaloosa in '85)

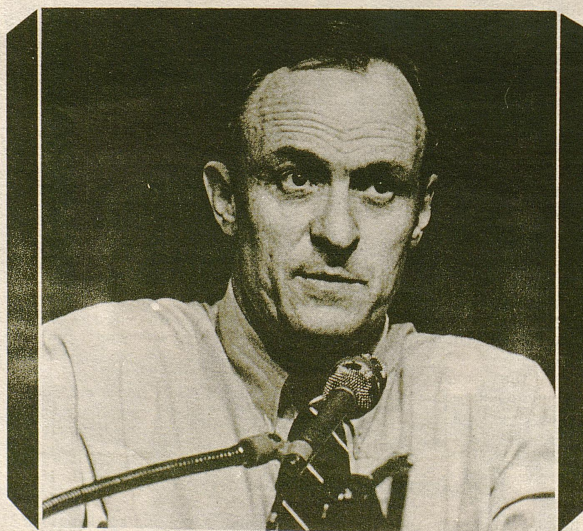
"I doubt if anyone will win at those places."

(About Kenny "Sky" Walker)

"I think Kenny Walker is perhaps the best forward in America."



DeVoe Tough In Stokely



Brown Trying To Survive A Tough January



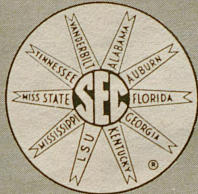
Cats' Pause Board Of Experts



(And Armchair Quarterbacks)



January 26-30



Readers
Choice



Oscar
Combs

110-40



Nick
Nicholas

100-50



Todd
Halum

108-42



J.C.
Dumas

103-47



Don
Coffey

90-60



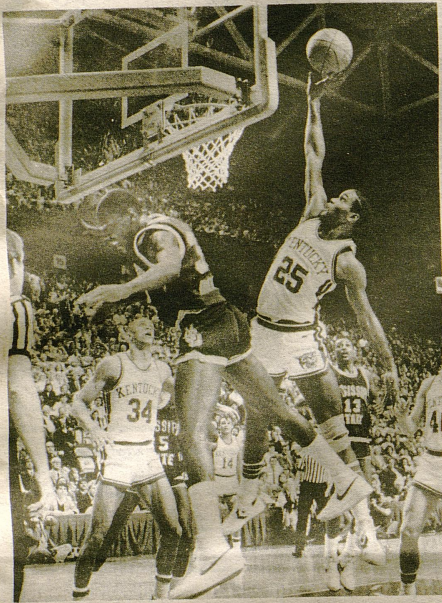
Hoop
Demon

98-52

Standings Thru Jan. 17, 1985

KENTUCKY AT TENNESSEE	TENN	2	KENTUCKY	2	TENN	8	TENN	5	TENN	4	TENN	2
ALABAMA AT FLORIDA	FLORIDA	6	FLORIDA	7	FLORIDA	2	FLORIDA	7	FLORIDA	3	FLORIDA	4
AUBURN AT LSU	LSU	6	LSU	4	LSU	11	LSU	12	LSU	6	LSU	6
GEORGIA AT OLE MISS	GEORGIA	1	GEORGIA	5	GEORGIA	13	GEORGIA	4	GEORGIA	8	GEORGIA	4
MISS STATE AT VANDERBILT	VANDY	3	VANDY	1	VANDY	3	MISS ST	6	VANDY	4	VANDY	6
NOTRE DAME AT MARYLAND	MARYLAND	5	MARYLAND	10	MARYLAND	9	MARYLAND	4	MARYLAND	7	N DAME	2
NC STATE AT LOUISVILLE	U OF L	1	U OF L	4	U OF L	5	NC STATE	7	U OF L	2	U OF L	6
WAKE FOREST AT VIRGINIA	VIRGINIA	6	VIRGINIA	4	VIRGINIA	7	WAKE	5	VIRGINIA	3	VIRGINIA	8
DUKE AT CLEMSON	DUKE	1	DUKE	2	DUKE	8	DUKE	9	CLEMSON	6	DUKE	6
WISCONSIN AT IOWA	IOWA	7	IOWA	15	IOWA	10	IOWA	8	IOWA	5	IOWA	6
OHIO STATE AT PURDUE	PURDUE	6	OHIO ST	2	PURDUE	1	OHIO ST	3	PURDUE	2	PURDUE	3
MEMPHIS ST AT VA TECH	VA TECH	1	MEMPHIS ST	3	VA TECH	4	VA TECH	4	MEMPHIS ST	3	MEMPHIS ST	6
ST JOHN'S AT GEORGETOWN	G-TOWN	5	G-TOWN	5	G-TOWN	2	ST JOHN'S	3	G-TOWN	2	G-TOWN	12
SYRACUSE AT PITTSBURGH	SYRACUSE	3	SYRACUSE	10	PITT	3	SYRACUSE	10	SYRACUSE	6	SYRACUSE	4
BOSTON COLLEGE AT CONN	BC	1	BC	7	BC	6	BC	11	CONN	3	CONN	3
WESTERN AT SOUTH FLORIDA	SO FLA	4	SO FLA	7	SO FLA	5	WESTERN	3	SO FLA	4	WESTERN	4
GA TECH AT NORTH CAROLINA	CAROLINA	5	CAROLINA	10	CAROLINA	8	CAROLINA	9	CAROLINA	6	CAROLINA	8
INDIANA AT ILLINOIS	ILLINOIS	3	ILLINOIS	3	ILLINOIS	9	INDIANA	4	ILLINOIS	1	INDIANA	6
KANSAS AT MICHIGAN	MICHIGAN	3	MICHIGAN	7	MICHIGAN	2	KANSAS	6	MICHIGAN	5	KANSAS	4
HOUSTON AT TEXAS AM	HOUSTON	1	TEXAS AM	2	TEXAS AM	6	HOUSTON	10	TEXAS AM	4	HOUSTON	4
DEPAUL AT DAYTON	DAYTON	3	DEPAUL	3	DAYTON	4	DEPAUL	6	DAYTON	2	DEPAUL	6
OLE MISS AT ALABAMA	ALABAMA	7	ALABAMA	10	ALABAMA	5	ALABAMA	15	ALABAMA	8	ALABAMA	8
AUBURN AT VANDERBILT	AUBURN	1	VANDY	7	AUBURN	4	VANDY	3	VANDY	6	VANDY	6
MISS STATE AT FLORIDA	FLORIDA	6	FLORIDA	4	FLORIDA	4	FLORIDA	2	FLORIDA	4	FLORIDA	6
TENNESSEE AT GEORGIA	GEORGIA	4	GEORGIA	4	GEORGIA	5	GEORGIA	5	GEORGIA	6	GEORGIA	2

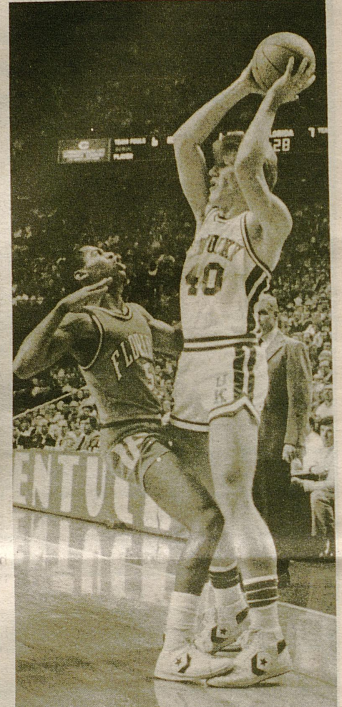
Mississippi State vs Kentucky



Bennett Takes To The 'Dogs



The Inside Touch



Toe To Toe "D"

OFFICIAL NCAA BASKETBALL BOX SCORE Date Jan. 16, 1985 Site RUPP ARENA (Lexington)

VISITORS (Last Name, First)		FG	FGA	FT	FTA	REB	PF	TP	MIN	A	TO	BLK	S		
MISSISSIPPI STATE															
25	Tony Robinson	f	3	4	0	0	5	4	6	30	0	1	0	1	
13	Chauncey Robinson	f	2	7	3	4	4	4	7	40	8	2	0	1	
54	Raymond Brown	c	4	9	0	0	7	4	8	30	1	3	2	0	
10	Jeff Norwood	g	5	13	1	1	2	4	13	40	5	3	0	0	
24	Tracy Taylor	g	9	15	0	0	6	5	18	38	4	2	0	1	
31	Ervin Dillon	g	2	4	1	2	3	1	5	20	0	1	0	0	
32	Mark Peters		0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	
TEAM REBOUNDS (Included in Totals)															
TOTALS		26	52	5	7	28	23	57		200	18	12	2	3	
FG %: 1st Half		15/21 - .714		2nd Half		11/31 - .355		Game		26/52 - .500		Deadball		Rebounds	
FT %: 1st Half		1/3 - .333		2nd Half		4/4 - 1.000		Game		5/7 - .714					
HOME		FG	FGA	FT	FTA	REB	PF	TP	MIN	A	TO	BLK	S		
KENTUCKY															
34	Kenny Walker	f	5	12	5	6	8	4	15	39	1	2	2	0	
25	Winston Bennett	f	2	4	0	2	4	2	4	40	1	2	0	7	
24	Bret Bearup	c	1	2	0	0	4	2	2	16	0	1	0	0	
10	James Blackmon	g	3	3	2	4	1	1	8	28	0	1	0	1	
23	Roger Harden	g	2	4	4	4	0	3	8	24	4	1	0	1	
14	Paul Andrews	g	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	
15	Ed Davender	g	3	8	3	4	1	2	9	25	3	3	0	1	
10	Troy McKinley	g	3	3	2	2	1	0	8	10	1	0	0	0	
42	Richard Madison	g	0	1	4	4	2	1	4	15	1	0	0	0	
TEAM REBOUNDS (Included in Totals)															
TOTALS		19	38	20	26	22	15	58		200	11	10	2	10	
FG %: 1st Half		10/22 - .455		2nd Half		9/16 - .562		Game		19/38 - .500		Deadball		Rebounds	
FT %: 1st Half		6/8 - .750		2nd Half		14/18 - .778		Game		20/26 - .769					
SCORE BY PERIODS															
MISS. STATE		31		26		57									
KENTUCKY		26		32		58									
OFFICIALS: D. Ferguson, S. Holmes, J. Duherstein															
Technical Fouls: None															
Attendance: 23,628															

Kentucky's Defense Was The Key

Kentucky, behind a strong second half defensive performance, squeaked by Mississippi State 58-57 at Rupp Arena last Wednesday night. Trailing 31-26 at halftime UK came out in a 3-2 defensive makeup that stymied the Bulldog attack early in the second half. While shooting an unbelievable 71 percent in the first half, the Bulldogs fired a less than impressive 33 percent from the field the last 20 minutes.

"The point-drop zone was our best defense," said Kentucky Coach Joe Hall, "but we didn't go to it until the second half because we were afraid of the throw-over. The way we played it against Alabama was a little different, though, so we didn't have to worry about the throw-over."

Offensively, for the third time in 14 games Kentucky shot 50 percent or better. The offensive scheme provided 19 of 38 field goals for 50 percent on the button.

Kenny Walker paced the Wildcats' attack with 15 points and also a game-high eight rebounds, followed by freshman Ed Davender's nine points. A trio of UK players poured in eight points -- James Blackmon, Roger Harden, and Troy McKinley. Blackmon and Harden netted all their points during Kentucky's second-half run.

Tracy Taylor, starting in place of 6-foot-5 guard Ken Harvey, was one of the main reasons the Bulldog attack got off to a fast start. Taylor went an uncanny 7 for 7 from the field in the first half for 14 points. However, Taylor appeared to have trouble with Kentucky's second half change as he finished the game 9 for 15 for 18 total points. Senior guard Jeff Norwood was second in scoring for the Bulldogs with 13 points.

Harvey is currently the Bulldogs' leading scorer with a 13.5 average this season. MSU coach Bob Boyd, whose team fell in a three-way tie for fourth place in the SEC, was not making any excuses about the loss.

"I don't think the absence of Ken Harvey decided the outcome," said Coach Boyd. "Over a full season you would miss a player like Harvey, but it is very likely his absence here didn't mean the difference."

Mississippi State ended the night with seven more field goals (26-19) than the Wildcats. However UK hit on 20 of 26 free throws while the visitors connected on 5 of only 7 charity attempts.

Strong Second Half Earns UK First Place

UK outscored the Bulldogs 32-26 in the second half, thus leaving the 'Cats all alone in first place in the SEC. Before the game Kentucky, Mississippi State, and Florida were all tied for the conference lead with identical 3-1 SEC marks. With Georgia upsetting Florida in the Gators' backyard, along with the Kentucky triumph over the Dogs, UK, 9-5 overall, took over first place. But with the way things have been going lately that one-game lead is just teasing the nine other SEC squads. But the night belonged to Kentucky and their impressive 1-2-2 defense sparked by freshman Richard Madison.

Defense Was Just Too Much For Bulldogs.

With Kentucky trailing 39-34 coach Joe Hall inserted Madison into the ballgame with 14:49 remaining. The 6-7 forward was positioned in the middle of the 1-2-2 defensive scheme. Hall's strategy paid off as time after time the Bulldog's patient offense was forced into taking bad shots. And when the ball was waved out in front of Madison, along with Davender and Blackmon, the MSU offense seemed confused and disorganized.

Credit should also go to the lower portion of the defense as well. Co-captains Walker and Winston Bennett definitely played the role of the enforcer in the second half. The starting front line of the Bulldogs -- Tony Robinson, Chauncey Robinson, and Raymond Brown -- were held to a combined effort of 12 meager tallies. Bennett also had five steals in the second half to add to his two in the first period for a career-high total of seven thefts.

The defense was definitely the stopper as far as the Bulldogs were concerned.

MSU Loses Lead, Gets It Back, And Then Loses It

Up until the 11:30 mark in the second half, State had held the advantage for the entire ballgame. But a Bennett four-foot jumper put the Wildcats ahead for the first time at 40-39. On Kentucky's next offensive series Blackmon connected deep from the left side as the Wildcats widened their lead 42-39. Coach Boyd had seen enough and instructed his team to take a timeout to regroup.

It took State some time to regroup, but the men from Starkville did get their act back in clock-work type fashion.

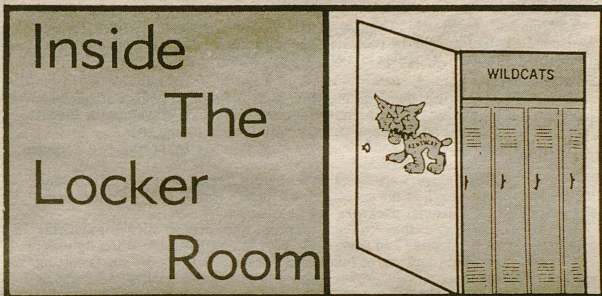
While going to the offensive boards with determination Mississippi State stayed within striking distance. State took advantage of a rare UK defensive lapse as they had four tries at the bucket in one offensive series. On the fourth try Tony Robinson laid the ball in to pull his ballclub within one point (54-53) with 2:14 remaining.

Though some clutch free-throw shooting by Roger Harden and Madison all but ended the Bulldogs' upset dreams. The two Wildcats drilled in a pair of free throws in the closing minute to secure the win.

Tony Robinson's tip-in pulled the 'Dogs within 58-57 but there were only two ticks remaining on the Rupp Arena scoreboard. By the time Madison grabbed the inbound pass the final buzzer had sounded.

Bulldogs Put UK To The Test Early

Mississippi State took an early 2-0 lead and eventually widened it to 12-5 when Taylor canned in a 20-footer. Behind Taylor's bombs State never trailed during the first half. But Walker and McKinley kept Kentucky close during the final 6:41 as they combined for the last 10 points until intermission. McKinley, who was 3 for 3 from downtown range, scored all of his points in the first half. The senior, though, failed to see any playing time in the second half.



Ed Davender

(About the defense sparking Kentucky in the second half)

The point-drop in the second half helped us out a lot and that got us back into the offense a little better. Our point-drop defense helped us out so much, because we were covering the wings and they really couldn't get the wide-open shot. We knew that was the defense we needed in order for us to win the game, because they have some great shooter in (Jeff) Norwood and Taylor. That's the type of defense we had to play.

(About Taylor hitting 7 of 7 from the field in the first half)

I've never seen anybody shoot jumpshots like that; seven in a row that's something I'll always remember.

(About your overall game against MSU)

I'm satisfied with my play. I just come in and just try to add spark to the team and help the team any way possible.

(About Kentucky's first-half performance)

We didn't come out and play like we normally come out and play, and I think that hurt us. We don't want to lose in this place (Rupp Arena). We knew we would have had to take the heat for a couple of days if we lost tonight.

(About Bennett's hustling play)

He just plays hard. Everyone knows how Winston is -- he's an aggressive player. He's always going to be helping this team out with his rebounding, defense, or offense.

Kenny Walker

(About the victory being a team effort)

Winston (Bennett) hit some big

baskets, Roger (Harden) hit some key free throws, and Richard Madison came off the bench and played superb defensively, which was a key for the ballgame. (The UK team) I know it's there and I think they're beginning to believe in themselves and they're beginning to come around.

(About what Madison is going through in learning the college game, especially the defensive style of play)

It's difficult for anyone. Coming from a high school level to be asked to come out and play defense, especially in Richard's case. I think he played some center in high school. In high school you were basically a little bit more talented than the guy that you were playing against. You could just stand behind them and block shots. Now you've got guys who are as quick and can jump as high. You just have to learn to play defense, and he's doing a great job for us now.

(About Mississippi State's game against the Wildcats)

I think Mississippi State came out and played with a whole lot of intensity and they did a real fine job of running their offense. They came ready to play. I thought we were a little flat in the first half, but we came out in the second half and did a better job with our defense.

(About the defense helping UK's offense)

We've been doing that all year. We've been initiating a lot of our offense from our defense, and it worked again tonight.

James Blackmon

(About Mississippi State's performance against Kentucky)

Mississippi State is a fundamental team and they execute well at the offensive end and they play aggress-



Blackmon Jamming

ive man-to-man defense. You just have to play a tight defense, because their offense is so patient and they go for the good shots, and they'll pick you apart. They'll find a weak spot where it's open and they will take advantage of it. We had a couple of breakdowns on the defensive end in the first half. We had to execute well on the defense because they were getting the lob over to the man in the corner. We had to take that away from them in the second half.

(About Kentucky being able to open up its offense -- fast pace style -- in the second half against the Bulldogs)

That's the kind of game we like to get into, the transition game. Mississippi State can run also. Their guards got out well in the first half and got a lot of quick shots off the break, and we had to take that away from them also.

(About Tracy Taylor's phenomenal first-half shooting performance)

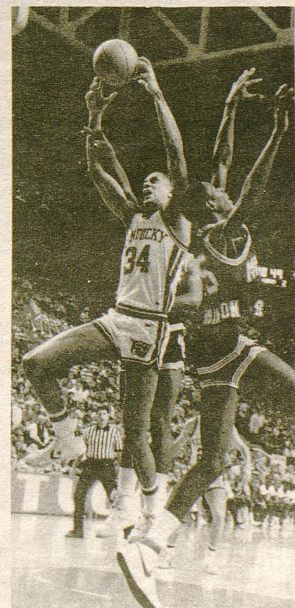
Well, they (the coaches) were telling us about Taylor, that he could come off the bench and do a good job just as well as (Ken) Harvey. We weren't surprised about that.

(About switching to the 3-2 and 1-2-2 defenses to stop Taylor and State's other outside threats)

We took away the side shots and they didn't get the ball down inside like they wanted to. I heard their coach (Bob Boyd) yelling on the sidelines, telling them to get the ball inside. But they couldn't get it down in there. (On stopping Taylor) the difference was that we had a hand up in his face. The first half he was wide open and he had time to setup and shoot the shot.



Davender Breezing



Walker Skying

UK Avoiding January Slump

Basketball. It's a funny game isn't it? The Kentucky Wildcats are leading the Southeastern Conference and three weeks ago "an expert" would have wagered the house and car (I did not!) that UK would be fortunate to have a spot in the middle of the pack by mid-January let alone be a contender.

After the Louisville Cardinals dispatched Joe Hall's team at Freedom Hall Dec. 15, hoop analyst Jock Sutherland crowed that UK could not hope to do much of anything this season if it had to depend so heavily on Kenny Walker.

Today, UK is leading the conference and Walker is first in league scoring and rebounding. And so much for analysis.



Bob Watkins

Cats' Pause Columnist

And get this. There has been nary a word mentioned about a *January slump*. That is, a slump linked to Hall's team.

On the other hand, the state's other two major powers, Louisville and Western Kentucky seem to have caught the January virus.

The Hilltoppers slid into a January losing streak after a good start. And the U of L Cardinals looked just awful at Florida State and then Southern Mississippi last week.

"We got exactly what we earned. Nothing," coach Denny Crum grouched after the loss at Southern Miss. "We played just horrible and we didn't come to play tonight. We didn't do anything. They out-hustled us every step of the way."

"Southern is not as big as we are, or as experienced, but they outhustled us," Crum added. "That's what really upsets me. We had to quit pressing against freshmen and sophomores because our guys just wouldn't hustle."

What next for the Cards? A bad stretch of road. After 5th ranked Memphis State Saturday the Cards have gone on the road to South Carolina and Cincinnati before hosting North Carolina State, Virginia Tech and DePaul.

Meanwhile, in Lexington, the experts are chortling and whistling *Dixie*. Ah yes, *Dixie*, a place where, in mid-January anyway, Kentucky has found room at the top even if there is a rough road ahead.

Gee, this basketball is a funny game, isn't it?

College schedules

According to something called the Sagarin rankings (in *USA Today*), Kentucky and Louisville—so far this season—have played the 28th and 38th most difficult schedules (respectively) in Division I college basketball.

Jeff Sagarin, 36, of Bloomington, Ind. has been rating college teams and their schedules since he was a high school student.

"The (computer) program I've written examines the strength of a team's schedule, combined with how it does against Division I opponents," Sagarin said last week. "And of course where the games are played figures in too."

If there is a tougher schedule than U of L's this next two weeks someone show me. The Cards play Memphis St., at South Carolina and Cincinnati, NC State, Virginia Tech and DePaul.

Hall/Crum

A closer look reveals how remarkably parallel the careers have been for Kentucky's Joe B. Hall and U of L's Denny Crum.

Crum sharpened his coaching skills under the Wizard of Westwood, John Wooden and Joe B. did his apprenticeship, in part, under Der Baron Adolph Rupp. Fourteen years later...

- Crum has a 329-93 record, (78.2 percent), is second (to Washington's Marv Harshman) on the active list and fifth all-time.

- Hall has a 287-92 record at Kentucky (75.7 percent) in 12+ years at UK. His overall 18 year record as a head coach is 363-148.

Kenny Walker

UK's marked man has been taking a good working over recently from opposing players. Walker was asked if he has considered retaliating?

"No, that's not my style," he replied. "I consider it a compliment when another player works that hard to defend against me."

Comment: Is that class?

UK's 1,000 Points Club will increase by one, probably this week. Heading into last Saturday's Florida game, Walker had scored 957 points. UK's all-time leading scorer is Dan Issel with 2,138 (in three seasons).

UK home floor records

UK, now in its ninth season in Rupp Arena, has a 118-12 won-lost record, a 90.8 win percentage which is only a shade better than this previous high mark—in 26 years at Memorial Coliseum (1950-76) the Wildcats were 296-37 for an 88.9 win percentage.

Readers write

■ A reader from Shelbyville has a suggestion he would like the NCAA rules committee to consider. "I would like to see a rule where every player on the bench shall be entitled to five minutes playing time," the writer says. "The coach would be able to decide when the sub entered the game."

Comment: Wouldn't that have an interesting impact on the megabucked college game? The address for the National Association of Basketball Coaches, who recommend rules changes, is 12 Pine Orchard Road, Box 307, Branford, Conn. 06405.

■ A young lady from western Kentucky took issue with an observation of mine in last week's edition of *The Cats Pause*.

"Mr. Watkins. I am complaining about your Cats Pause article that said you would like to see the Wildcat mascot 'do something (anything) entertaining.' I am proud of the UofK mascot and it does many things entertaining. For instance, if you were stuffed up in a stuffy outfit how many things could you do? Have you noticed he does cheers with the cheerleaders? That's entertaining!"

The young lady added this, "Back to compliments. I enjoy your article very much. I find it very informative and entertaining. PS: Sorry I couldn't write this with a typewriter, but I don't have one."

Comment: But she's a sweetheart.

■ Another reader wrote from Central City wanting to know how Sam Bowie is doing with the Portland Trailblazers and wanted to know how to write to him as well as how to get a photograph of UK freshman Todd Ziegler.

Comment: Taking last things first, fans can make photo requests through UK assistant sports information director Brad Davis at Memorial Coliseum, University of Kentucky, Lexington.

About Bowie and Turpin...

- In NBA games played through Jan. 13, Bowie had appeared in 32 Trailblazer games, averaging 7.3 points and 7.5 rebounds. The ex-UK All-American was shooting 49.7 percent from the field, had 76 assists, 19 steals and a team high 64 blocked shots.

- Turpin has appeared in 32 games as well for the Cleveland Cavaliers. He was averaging 12.3 points and 6.4 rebounds and shooting 49 percent from the floor. Turpin had 21 assists, 14 steals and 43 blocked shots.

Bobby Knight

IU's coach speaks his piece on cheaters in college basketball. Talking to a reporter last week, Knight said, college coaches who lure players with illegal financial deals should be fired and permanently banned by the NCAA.

Too, offending colleges should be stripped of revenue by having two games removed from their home schedule.

"Some basketball players are being offered more money to attend college than the professors who teach at the schools they attend," Knight said. "To me, these \$50,000 to \$100,000 financial packages are nauseating."

The IU coach added that college recruits who accept illegal payments experience a moral decline and eventually start taking their education lightly.

"Instead of concrete courses, he takes Mickey Mouse courses. He starts cutting class. Pretty soon, you have a decent kid who was a pretty good student who is now trying only to be eligible to play, instead of going after a degree."

Vanderbilt transfer

Vanderbilt did not "blue chip" in last year's basketball recruiting race, but the Commodores may get some big help next winter if the salutations being attached to Joseph "Bud" Adams isn't just so much hype.

According to a Vandy press release, the 6-7 forward from Atlanta has enrolled at Vandy after transferring from Georgia Tech. Adams, who will be eligible next December, was a two-time all-stater at Pace Academy in Atlanta where he averaged 27.3 points and 16 rebounds per game as a senior. He was rated 37th among the top 100 prospects out of high school. And Bill Cronhauer raved that Adams is "a big time prospect, five-star class, a bonafide super."

Comment: Gee.

Missing...

Whatever happened to Kentucky basketballers Don Rolfe ('63) and Bob Brannum ('47) and football players Al Zampino ('56) and Woody Herzog ('57)? Parting shots

⊙ Before Super Bowl XIX Miami Dolphins quarterback Dan Marino was asked, "what's the dumbest question you were ever asked?"

Marino: "The one you just asked."

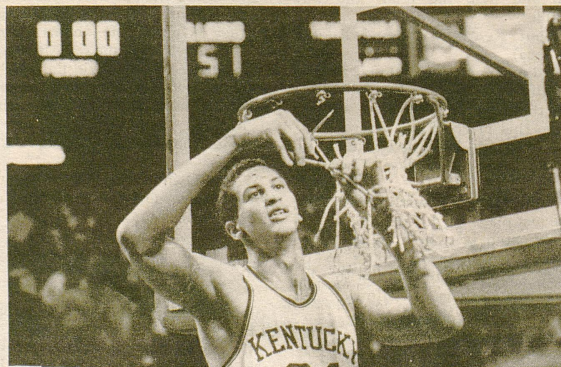
⊙ Marino's reaction when told that choice tickets at Stanford Stadium for Super Bowl XIX were selling for \$1,000 each? "That's ridiculous. I wouldn't pay that much to see me play."

⊙ When tennis star Jimmy Connors was informed (by mail) that a new "code of conduct" had been adopted by the U.S. Tennis Association, he said: "I have other things to think about and this is No. 650 on my list."

The 32-year-old Connors said he "resented getting a carbon copy in the mail. I consider myself and (John) McEnroe big enough boys to come and talk to us face-to-face."

Comment: Big boys, huh.

And so it goes.



Bowie Now Reaching Fame With Portland

Joe B. Hall

UK Head Basketball Coach



Hall Heated Up

The following are Coach Joe Hall's postgame comments after the Wildcats defeated Mississippi State 58-57 at Rupp Arena.

Coach Hall: It was a tough ball game made tough by an aggressive Mississippi State team. Their zone was as tough as we expected. Their shooting in the first half was much like it had been in their upset over Alabama and their win over LSU. And if they had continued that kind of shooting why we wouldn't be smiling right now. The point-drop zone (1-2-2) in the second half was our best defense. We didn't go to it until the second half. Troy McKinley in the first half kept us in the game with some good outside shooting. They played man-to-man in the second half and that was the reason we didn't put him back in. He's not that effective against a man-to-man. Richard Madison's four free throws down the stretch were very important to us and his ball handling was good. He made some good feeds to Kenny (Walker) inside, although he only got one assist out of it; I thought he should of had more. Our guard play in the second half was much better. We didn't get much guard play in the first half, but both Roger (Harden) and (James) Blackmon played good in the second half and (Ed) Davender had the good first half. Kenny really had a hard time getting to the ball. Our offense was much more balanced than it's been in the past, and we definitely needed that tonight. Our 56 percent shooting (from the field) in the second half was a big key for us.

Why did you save the point-drop defense for the second half?

Coach Hall: We were afraid that they would throw over against the point-drop. But the way we had played it against Alabama we changed it and played it a little different. We were able to cover the wings without having to fight through the baseline pick. So, we weren't concerned about the throw-over.

What about Winston Bennett's performance against Mississippi State?

Coach Hall: Winston had seven steals. He was really digging it out inside. They didn't appear as rebounds, but he was getting the ball inside, defensively after they got rebounds, and going after loose balls. He was really hustling. That's where he's been so effective for us -- his strength inside and his good floor play. He's the only guy that went all the way. Kenny virtually went all the way with 39 minutes. It was a good effort by Winston.

Why did you take Walker out in the second half?

Coach Hall: Kenny was a little unnerved right at that time and I wanted him to settle down. But I don't think I have to explain every substitution that I make. That puts you in a difficult spot and I don't really like to get into that.

How does it feel to be in first place?

Coach Hall: That's nice. We'll enjoy it while we can. We're certainly going to have our hands full defending it. We'll sure give it an effort. We'd much rather be there than some place else.

Coach Norm Sloan's Postgame Comments

The following are Coach Norm Sloan's postgame comments after the Gators first win against UK in Rupp Arena last Saturday.

Coach Sloan: When you win or lose it always seems like you're saying the obvious... but it was a great win for us to beat a Kentucky basketball team. I'm very happy for them. Somebody said to me while I was walking across the court 'This must be the biggest thrill of your life.' It's a good win, but it's not the biggest thrill of my life, even in basketball. It's a good thing for our program I think. We've been having a hard time at Florida -- shaking the image of the suntan lotion and oranges, and having a good time -- and not being real tough and competitive as far as basketball is concerned. I think we did a lot today to dispel that, because we did play tough and I thought we did play good. Joe Hall is one of the people that I admire the most in this business. I've said repeatedly that he probably has the toughest job in the country... There's a lot of pressure on him. I think he

does a super job. So, for us to be able to beat one of the great coaches and one of the great programs in the country in their own building is very satisfying. It should be a great confidence builder to the people supporting our program. Individually, I thought Randall Leath played the game of his career at Florida. He gets better all the time. He played a great game today. Andrew Moten has proven that I think everybody expects him to be tough. He did a good job on both ends today and handles the pressure situation very well, but a lot of people did. Danny (Sheldon) came in off the bench and did a good job. There's a lot of good teams in this league and it's a long campaign ahead. I think there's going to be some close ball games and there's going to be a lot of bouncing around as far as the one, two, three positions are concerned throughout the season. Kentucky's basketball team -- nobody needs to get down on them because they're not out of it. We played a darn good basketball game today. We could have given a lot of people trouble today.



Sloan Talks With Joe Dean About Victory

The following are Coach Joe Hall's postgame comments after his team was defeated 67-55 by Florida last Saturday at Rupp Arena.

Coach Hall: I was impressed with Florida's defense. They really did a good job taking us out of the offense. We just didn't run much all night that showed much organization, that really hurt us. We didn't hit from the outside and that kept us from just getting anything going. It didn't seem like that any of our defense was organized. Florida took advantage of both: getting the ball to the man they wanted and they hit the offensive boards very well -- we didn't get them screened off. It was a night that we didn't have much to sing praises on and it was a good game by Florida.

Was Kentucky's offense in too much of a hurry?

Coach Hall: We were very impatient offensively all night. The shots we took were not bad shots. Every shot that our guards took tonight looked like one that he could make. We just didn't make them.

What about the guard's shooting consistency?

Coach Hall: They had been consistent, but in the wrong way and that is a problem.

What about the play of Troy McKinley?

Coach Hall: We just had a hard time getting him enough shots. Again, we just didn't have any patients to work the ball to a good shooter like Troy. It seems like that he could have had an opportunity to shoot more than seven times in 21 minutes. It was just one of the problems we had.

Was this the worst your team has played so far this season?

Coach Hall: No, we've played worse.

What about the Gator's offense being very patient in the second half?

Coach Hall: When they used the spread (offense) they did that to slow our momentum. We were really coming back good and that's when we cut it to one. That's when they used the spread and it slowed our momentum.

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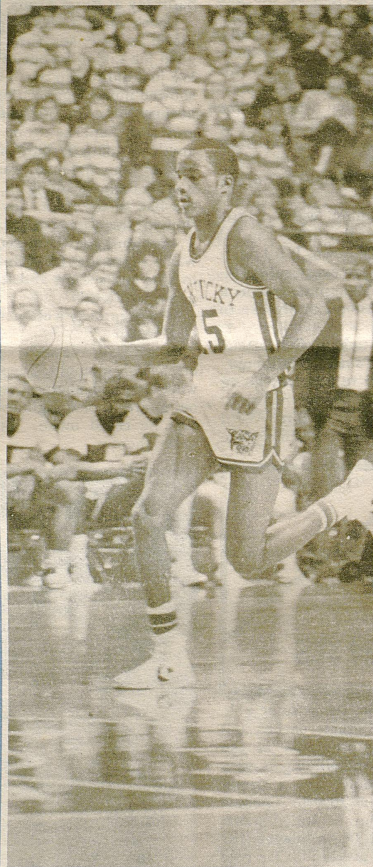


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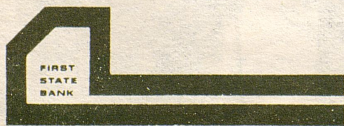
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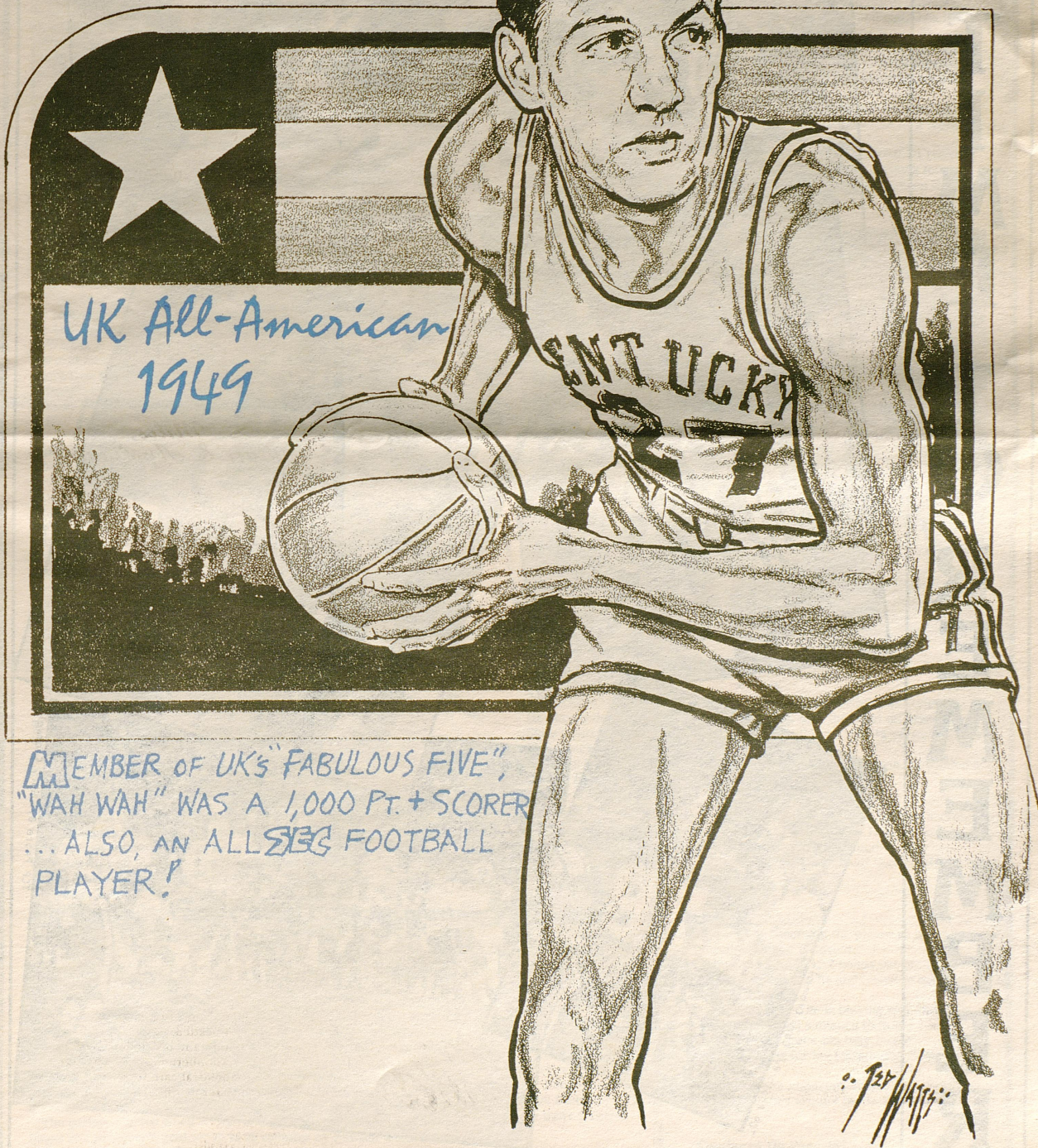
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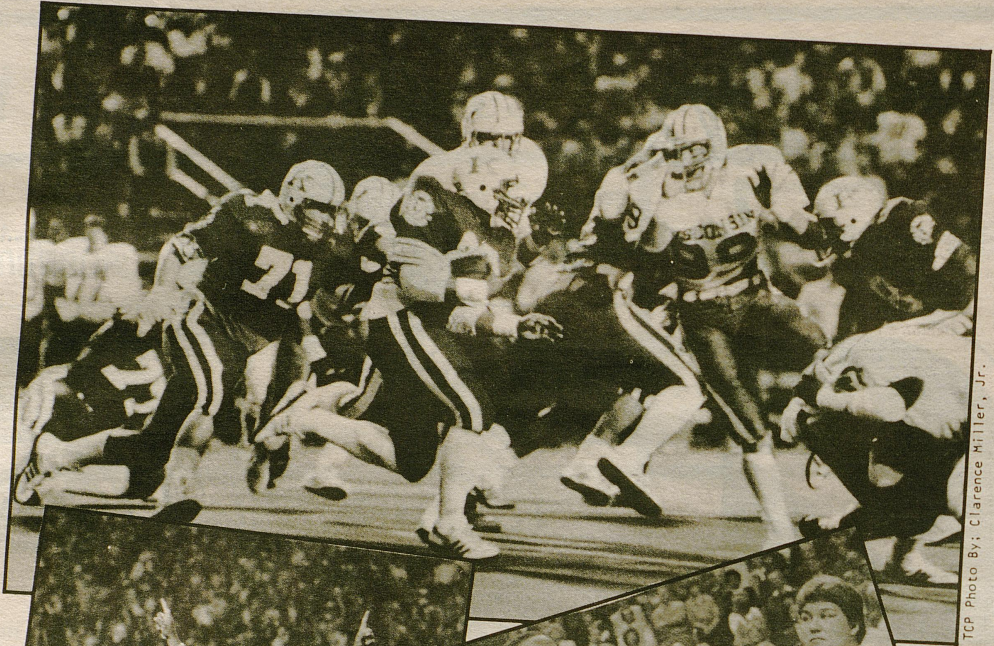
UK All-American
1949

MEMBER OF UK'S "FABULOUS FIVE",
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... ALSO, AN ALL-STATE FOOTBALL
PLAYER!

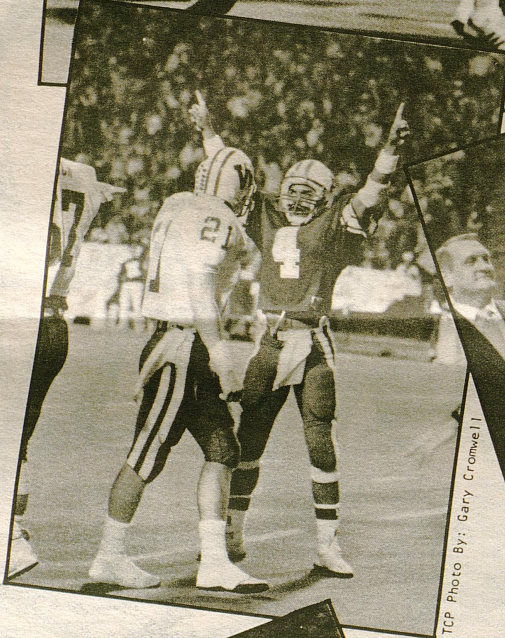
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A TIME TO REMEMBER



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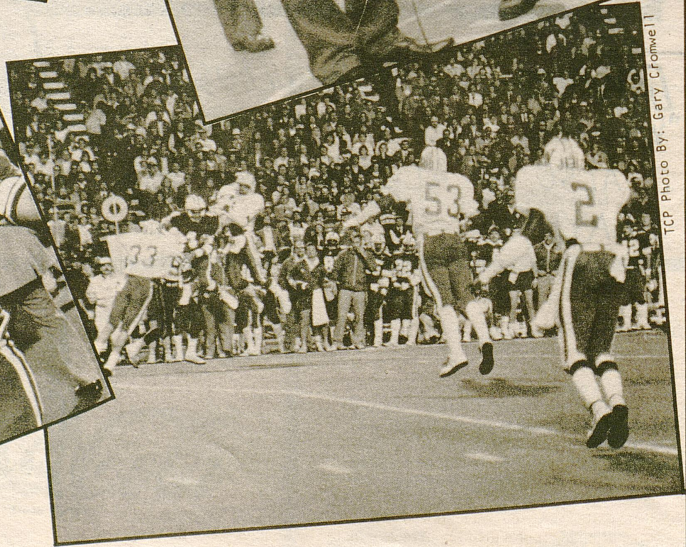
TCP Photo By: Gary Cromwell



TCP Photo By: Gary Cromwell



TCP Photo By: Gary Cromwell



TCP Photo By: Gary Cromwell

"The Force" Is With UK

Put Kenny Walker in a pair of blue jeans and he likes the same things any other University of Kentucky student does — movies, video games, music, etc.

But put a basketball uniform on the 6-8 Walker and he can do things no one else at UK is capable of doing. Indeed, "Sky Walker" plays as though "The Force" is always on his side.

He can rebound, play defense and score. And, unlike other stars, he can do all three things equally well. Walker is just as graceful blocking a shot as he is jamming home a crowd-pleasing dunk.



Larry Vaught

Cats' Pause Columnist

"Kenny has found his role again on this team," says Kentucky Coach Joe Hall. "Last year he played too much of a subdued role. We wondered what happened to his rebounding because he was exceptional as a freshman.

"But (Sam) Bowie came back and Kenny became more passive because he looked up to Bowie. He felt his role was to stay in the background. Now he has again assumed a major role and is doing a terrific job."

Walker is averaging 22 points and 10 rebounds per game while hitting 52 percent from the field and 78 percent at the foul line. Walker had made more free throws (98) after 14 games than any other SEC player has even attempted. After shooting only 109 free throws during the entire 1983-84 season the UK junior had already shot 126 this year.

Hall normally hesitates to lavish praise on a single player. He believes in the team concept. But even the veteran coach realizes he has a rare gem in Walker, who averaged 12.4 points and 5.9 rebounds per outing last year.

"The Louisville game was the pivotal point of the season for this team," says fifth-year senior Bret Bearup. "We revised the offense for Kenny and he showed what he could do. Of course, this is the first time since I've been here that the team could accept having a single star. Before we had so much talent that you had to worry about spreading the points out to keep everyone happy."

But no one is jealous of Walker even though other players have had to make sacrifices in the offense. "Kenny is a great player but even if he wasn't he would be fun to be around," says freshman forward Richard Madison.

Walker does have a unique sense of humor but he seldom smiles on the floor. One exception came recently when he did a one-handed backward flip after a fall against Vanderbilt. He smiled at media members and his teammates after the acrobatic move.

And last year when he came to Danville, Ky., for Little League Day. What a show it was to watch Walker and Winston Bennett, UK's own "Mr. T", break dance in front of 1,000 youngsters.

On the basketball court, however, Walker is all business. UK has not had a player dominate a team so much since the days of All-American center Dan Issel. But Walker may just be the best all-around player ever to put on the blue and white. He can do it all on both ends of the floor and he's a fierce competitor.

Walker also isn't afraid of hard work, a trait his teammates respect. "Kenny works just as hard on his rebounding and defense as he does on his scoring," says freshman guard Ed Davener, Walker's roommate. "He busts his butt all the time. And when he gets the ball he knows how to score. A player who works that hard and has that much talent deserves to be a star."

Walker grew up in Roberta, Ga., watching UK games on television with his two older brothers. He immediately fell in love with Lexington when he visited UK.

"I had offers from about every major college except UCLA and a few schools up east," says Walker. "I just thought I would fit in here better. Roberta only has about 1,000 people and Lexington is plenty big enough for me.

"It doesn't take much to make me happy. I like to hang out with the fellows. Me, Ed and James (Blackmon) go out to the (shopping) malls and have a good time like any other students would. We really like going to movies, too."

Walker pre-plays every UK game. He retreats to his room at Wildcat Lodge before every home game and visualizes in his mind what he wants to accomplish in the upcoming tilt. He follows the same routine on the road.

The pattern started when he was in high school. Then he would shoot hoops at a neighbor's goal for 15 to 20 minutes by himself while thinking about the upcoming contest.

"A lot of good players do something like that before a game," says Hall. "It is important for a player to collect his thoughts in a similar atmosphere. Game day has got to be special. A player can't be doing something that will keep his mind occupied."

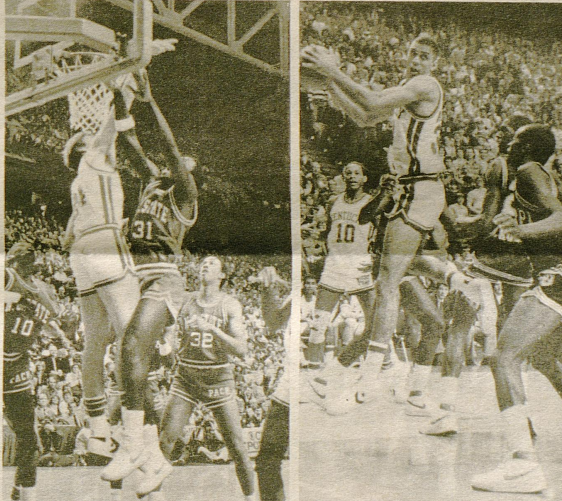
Opposing coaches can't take their minds off Walker, though. And who can blame them. He had 32 points and 15 rebounds against Louisville. Then came a three-game stretch against Kansas, Auburn and North Carolina State where he had 88 points, 40 rebounds, three steals and eight blocked shots while missing only four minutes of action.

Sports Illustrated named Walker Player of the Week for that three game stretch. But at this pace he will be Player of the Year in the Southeastern Conference. And if he is not an All-American there will never be another one at UK.

"Kenny leads by example," says Bearup. "I respect him because he hasn't let all this success change him. I'm happy to have him as a teammate and friend."

But Walker knows when the pressure is on, he must respond. "I realize I have to step forward in crucial spots because we do have a young team," says Walker. "I don't want to force things but when the game is on the line I want the ball in my hands."

So do his teammates and every UK fan.



Bret

Kenny

FRESHMAN RICHARD Madison celebrated his birthday in style Jan. 16. He played the point on UK's 1-2-2 point drop zone that shut off Mississippi State's outside shooting and hit two key free throws with 18 seconds to play in Kentucky's 58-57 victory.

"I was hoping I would get fouled at the end," says Madison. "I wanted a chance to hit a crucial shot with the game on the line."

NO ONE could remember the last time UK had four starters go scoreless in one half. But it happened against Mississippi State as Bearup, Roger Harden, James Blackmon and Winston Bennett all failed to tally.

But the foursome came back strong. In the second half they combined to hit eight of eight from the field.

BLACKMON could be on the verge of becoming the player so many people expected when he was recruited by the Wildcats.

Going into the Florida game he had averaged 8.7 points per outing his last four games while giving out 14 assists. And he and he made only five turnovers in those four games.

He's becoming a more complete player and he is playing with more patience. Late in the game against State he had a chance to lead a 2-on-3 break. In the past Blackmon has tried to force his way inside.

This time, though, he stopped and waited for his teammates. Seconds later he drilled a crucial 20-footer.

"I could have gone to the basket but it is important to get good shots," says Blackmon. "I can't force things if they are not there. I'm learning to be more patient."

[Continued On Page 18]



Bennett Up

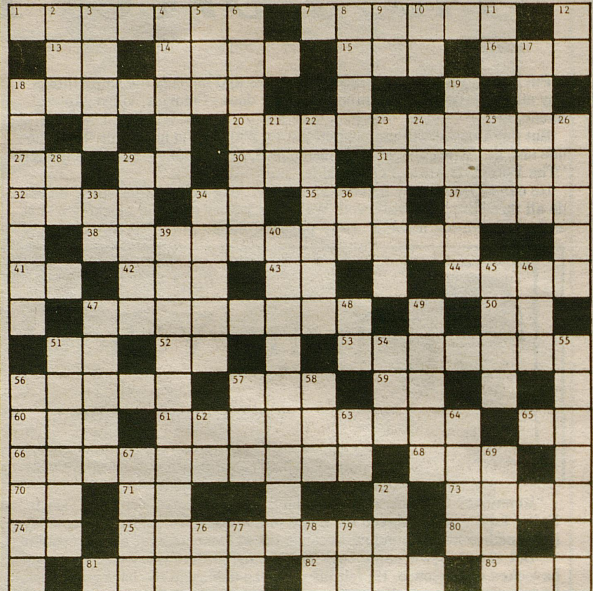
Oscar L. Combs

[Continued From Page 3]

annual UK Baseball Clinic set for February 9 at the Campbell House Inn. Also appearing will be pro scouts Carl Lowenstine, Mike Toomey and Ken Schreiber as well as UK head coach Keith Madison and assistant John Butler. Registration is \$12 for adults in advance and there is a special team rate of \$25. More info can be obtained by writing or calling the UK baseball office.

The Cats' Pause Crossword

By Dan Krueckeberg



Division I Basketball Teams & Conferences

ACROSS

- 1 Of the ECAC North Atlantic
- 7 An SEC school
- 13 Abbr. for a Big East school
- 14 Thin
- 15 State-Fullerton
- 16 Abbr. for school of the Hawks of 38
- 18 Across
- 20 _____ team is in 47 Across
- 27 A state abbr. of 38 Across
- 29 Abbr. for an SEC state
- 30 Age
- 31 A Metro Conference team
- 32 Of the ACC
- 34 Collegiate class abbr.
- 35 By way of
- 37 The _____ Coast Conference includes Rider, Drexel and Bucknell
- 38 Includes Duquesne and Rutgers
- 41 Abbr. for a Pac-10 state
- 42 Masculine name
- 43 Common pronoun
- 44 George _____ of the Big East
- 47 Conference of Marshall and VMI
- 50 MAC state abbr.
- 51 Compass abbr.
- 52 Big Ten state abbr.
- 53 Popular basketball game time
- 56 Wars
- 57 Energy form
- 59 Roman numeral for # of MVC teams
- 60 Abbr. for conference of Akron and Austin Peay State
- 61 _____ team is in the ACC
- 65 The S _____ Belt Conference
- 66 State having 2 teams in Pac-10
- 68 The Big _____ Conference
- 70 Abbr. for a collegiate sports head
- 71 Abbr. for an SEC state
- 73 A Metro Atlantic team
- 74 Symbol for "radium"
- 75 _____ State of the MVC
- 80 Abbr. for a school of 40 Down
- 81 Bowling _____ State of the MAC
- 82 Member of the SWC
- 83 Abbr. for "Railway Express Agency"

DOWN

- 2 Abbr. for a Big Ten school
- 3 Artificial fishing bait
- 4 Masculine names
- 5 # of schools in the SEC
- 6 _____ Michigan of the MAC
- 8 A Pac-10 member
- 9 _____ ll State of the MAC
- 10 Abbr. for a Metro school
- 11 Initials of coach Norm of the SEC
- 12 B _____ of the WAC
- 17 St. _____ of the Big East
- 18 Of the Metro Atlantic
- 19 Slacken
- 21 Comparative suffix
- 22 Midwestern City Conference member
- 23 Georgia _____ of the Trans America Conference
- 24 Abbr. for school of the Owls of 38

Last Weeks Answers

R B J R O L L I N S A
 G R E V E Y R O A D S T L
 R A I R B U R R O W W E
 E L A R R Y E R C O X
 A D S Y O U R Y O G A
 T I E B B E S D R E F
 L O U I E D A M P T I E R R
 L A R R Y R I L E Y C A
 P R O D H T O E T O N
 R A S P N A S H T I N K
 A G E M O T E G I V E N S
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Conner Reflects Back On Wildcat Career

Former University of Kentucky basketball player Jimmy Dan Conner was in Lexington about three or four months ago when he bumped into UK President Dr. Otis Singletary at Bluegrass Field as Conner was departing the airport terminal after taking a flight into town.

Assured he hadn't been forgotten by Singletary, Conner was still amazed about how much of his career Singletary recalled, as well as Singletary's recollection of a certain game that will always be remembered by Kentucky fans.



Mel Holbrook

Cats' Pause Columnist

"Dr. Singletary still says the 1975 game (a 92-90 NCAA Mideast Regional championship upset win over Indiana University) was one of the finest games he'd ever seen," said Conner, who is now a sales manager with Allied Foods in Atlanta, Ga. "And it was one of the finest games I've ever been associated with."

That was certainly one of the highlights of Conner's career. His three seasons with the Wildcats were 1973, '74 and '75. His senior season, the Hoosiers walloped the Wildcats during the regular season, 98-74, at Bloomington.

"They had beat us like a drum," said Conner. "And when we were set to meet them again in Dayton (Ohio), Coach (Joe) Hall didn't have to remind us of what had happened before. Indiana was undefeated and number one in the country when we played them again. But at halftime, the score was tied. And we felt we were going to win the game because we had played them on even ground. We hadn't felt that way in Bloomington."

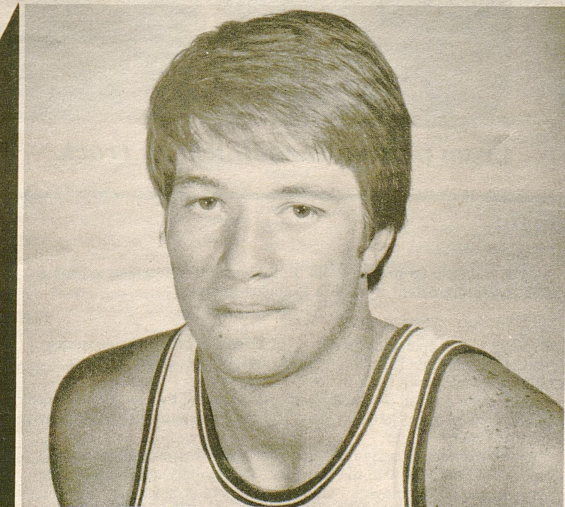
Indiana, of course, was greatly hampered because one of its star players, junior forward Scott May, was wearing a cast on his broken left arm and wasn't really a factor in the game for Indiana. But Conner says the Hoosiers have never used that as an excuse for the loss.

"To their credit, Bob Knight, who I believe is one of the premier coaches in the country, and none of their players or fans have ever mentioned that," said Conner. "But it was still extremely gratifying to beat them."

The Wildcats finished the season at 26-5, losing to UCLA in the NCAA championship game at San Diego, 92-85.

That senior season was probably Conner's best. He had returned to his favorite guard position after two seasons at small forward. Even though he was 6-4 and 200 pounds, Conner felt he was too small for the position, but he played there anyway because the Wildcats had an abundance of guards. Hall certainly couldn't play diminutive guard Ronnie Lyons, who stood only 5-10, at forward.

Conner returned from the frontline to his old position with a vengeance. He was the second-leading scorer on the squad behind senior forward Kevin Grevey with 12 points per game (ppg.). He shared team leadership with backcourt mate, senior guard Mike Flynn, with 106 assists. He was an academic All-American and he won the team leadership award.



Jimmy Dan Favored The Guard Position

"I liked the guard position," said Conner. "I always felt my strength was passing and making things happen. I was only a fair shooter (50 percent for his career).

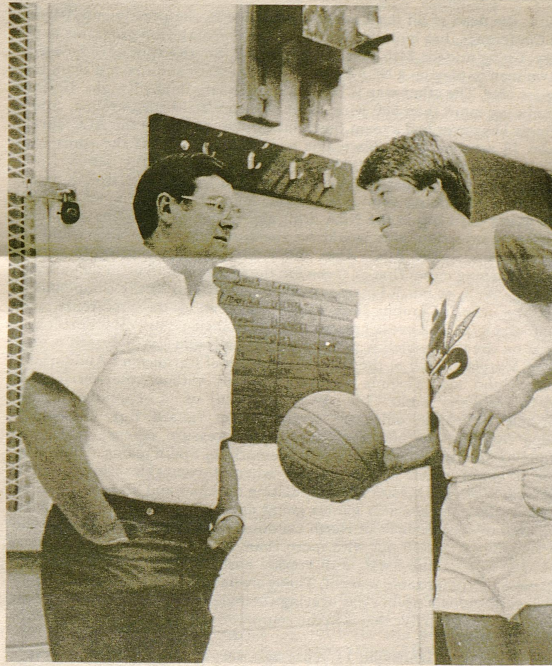
That final season, 1974-75, made up for some hard times at Kentucky. After being the second-leading scorer (19 ppg.) on the "Super-Kittens," UK's undefeated (22-0) freshman team, Conner and his teammates were the first varsity players to suit up under Hall after legendary coach Adolph Rupp had retired.

"It wasn't as hard on us as it was on Coach Hall," said Conner. "He had a lot of pressure on him. It was a little rough at first. We got off to a slow start. Coach Rupp was attending the games and Coach Hall was feeling the pressure. It kind of filtered down to us."

The next year, Kentucky had only its second .500 season since 1923, 13-13.

"My junior season was a year I'd just as soon forget," said Conner. "My sophomore and senior seasons were a lot of fun. In my senior season, we won 13 straight games, including the Indiana game, to get into the Final Four. We also won the SEC (15-3) and I was voted All-Mideast Regional. We were always rated among the top five to 10 teams in the country. We played some fantastic games. Everything fell into place. But Coach Hall was feeling the pressure after our junior season."

Not that Conner felt any pressure himself at UK. Coming out of Anderson County High School in Lawrenceburg, Conner was Kentucky's Mr. Basketball and voted All-American. He was second team All-State his sophomore season and first team his junior and senior campaigns. In his senior season Conner led the Bearcats to a state runner-up title, averaging 24 points and seven rebounds per game.



Coach Hall And Conner

Upon completion of the state tournament, Conner announced he had narrowed his choice from the vast number of colleges seeking his services to four — Duke, North Carolina, Florida and UK.

"Looking back, I don't think there's any doubt I would have gone to Kentucky," said Conner. "But I came very close to signing with North Carolina. But Kentucky's got the best program in the country, no doubt. I'm glad I went there. It worked out best for me."

Conner finished his career with 1,009 points, 30th on the all-time list, in 85 games, all of which he started. Conner averaged 12 points per game and finished with 284 assists and 344 rebounds. Conner shot 63 percent at the foul line.

Upon graduation, Conner played one season with the Kentucky Colonels of the American Basketball Association and was then employed as a sales manager with Torbitt and Castleman Company in Louisville. He's been in Atlanta for 15 months now and remarried last April. Conner and his wife, the former Rhonda Dunn, are expecting their first child. He now manages food brokers and travels extensively throughout Kentucky, Tennessee, Indiana, West Virginia and the Carolinas.

After playing on the Marathon Oil AAU team for three seasons, Conner plays very little basketball now.

"I miss Kentucky real bad," said Conner. "I miss my friends and going to the games. I keep up with UK basketball and Coach Hall. I get back every chance I get."

Smith And Crum Face Uphill Battles

Two of the premier coaches in college basketball are once again living up to their highly regarded reputations. Both Dean Smith and Denny Crum might be performing one of their better coaching jobs this season with squads which have both suffered heavy graduation losses. In addition, injuries to key personnel in the early going have plagued both schools. But when glancing at the latest conference standings (January 15), North Carolina and Louisville have unblemished records in conference competition thus far into the season.



Todd Hallum

Cats' Pause Columnist

Smith, the dean of all the basketball coaches in the prestigious Atlantic Coast Conference, has built the Tar Heels into one of the top programs in the country. Going into his 24th year at Chapel Hill, Smith happens to be one of only two men to play on a NCAA championship team and coach a team to a collegiate title. The other man is Indiana's legendary Bobby Knight. Besides accumulating more than 500 wins as head coach at North Carolina, Smith amazingly has never had a team finish lower than second in the ACC during the past 18 seasons. Also, his teams have worked well off the court with UNC's graduation numbers ranking as one of the best in the nation.

Many of the hoop experts along tobacco road felt North Carolina would experience a rebuilding year this season. With the defection of Michael Jordan going hardship in the NBA draft and losing Sam Perkins and Matt Doherty to graduation, this would be the time where Carolina could be taking its lumps in the ACC. Also, the impressive consecutive 18-season streak of finishing either first or second in the league would be in jeopardy of continuing. Well, so much for reasoning. With two full weeks completed in league play, North Carolina finds themselves leading the conference with the help of a lofty 12-2 overall record. Carolina has beaten Wake Forest and Virginia on the road which is never an easy task, and has defeated a very talented Maryland club in the friendly confines of Carmichael Auditorium. The Maryland and Virginia victories occurred without the services of 6-foot-10 forward/center Joe Wolf because of a sprained ankle. Nevertheless, despite only one senior starter (guard Buzz Peterson), Carolina continues to play their traditional pressure defense and have outstanding shot selection which are trademarks of Smith teams. There may not be a better coach in the country when it comes to winning tight ballgames. Smith is a master of manipulating the clock and his teams seldom commit crucial mistakes with games going down to the wire. Against SMU on national television, both of North Carolina's big men, Dave Popson and Brad Daugherty, fouled out with more than 10 minutes remaining in the game. One would think SMU, with Popson and Daugherty gone, could win the game by a comfortable margin. Though who else but Dean Smith could bring a team within a tip-in away of tying the ballgame with two seconds left against one of the top five teams in the country. SMU went on to win 84-82 in Greensboro, N.C.

Since arriving at Louisville 14 years ago, Denny Crum has never had a team that finished a season with less than 20 victories. In the last five seasons Louisville has appeared in the Final Four three times. Houston is the only other school that can make that remarkable claim during the present five-year time span.

Furthermore, Crum is one of the top six coaches in America who has won the most games in the NCAA tournament. Crum sports a 21-12 record in NCAA postseason tournament games. There is probably no coach in college basketball that has a team better prepared at the end of the season, especially when a loss results in termination of a school's basketball season. When postseason play begins you can usually count on Louisville primarily being one of the final 16 teams remaining in the NCAA tourney.

So far this season Louisville has suffered a string of injuries in November and December. Key players such as Milt Wagner, Kevin Walls, Manuel Forrest, Jeff Hall, and Mark McSwain have fell victim to the injury bug. Walls appears very doubtful for the rest of the season after undergoing knee surgery during the preseason and Wagner's ailing foot might be ready for playing time in late January. Forrest, Hall, and McSwain are healthy now but they have missed at least one game due to some type of injury. Still, Crum has been instrumental in keeping the Cardinals very much alive for another Metro Conference title. Louisville is undefeated in conference play going into the Southern Mississippi contest and boast a 9-4 overall record which includes wins over highly-touted teams -- Indiana, Virginia Commonwealth, and Kentucky. With Crum at the controls expect Louisville to be in the thick of the Metro Conference race, especially after all the injuries have ceased.

Obviously it's too early to evaluate how North Carolina and Louisville will fare this season. The Tar Heels and Cardinals may not even win their respective conferences. Duke, Maryland, and possibly N.C. State might finish ahead of Carolina in the ACC. In regard to the Metro Conference, Memphis State or Virginia Tech could easily be crowned league champions. But don't be startled if both Smith and Crum have their teams peaking when the stakes become much more significant this March.



Crum Getting Cards Back On Track

Larry Vaught

[Continued From Page 15]

Maybe it didn't. Or maybe it did. But it was still refreshing to hear a coach accepting defeat in such a gracious manner.

MISSISSIPPI State certainly earned Kentucky's respect. And the Bulldogs, who had already beaten LSU and Alabama, are no fluke. "State really executes well," says Blackmon. "They find your weaknesses and pick you apart."

Bennett says, "I expected a physical game but they were more physical than I expected. They are a surprise team. I really didn't know how good they were until we played them. They are going to beat a lot of teams."

State Coach Bob Boyd agrees and says, "As far as I'm concerned, we can play with anybody in this league (Southeastern Conference). I don't mean to sound cocky, but this team will improve as we go along."

The Bulldogs almost won at UK even though leading scorer Ken Harvey did not play because of a sprained ankle. But Boyd showed his class by refusing to use that injury as an alibi.

"The fact Ken Harvey didn't play had no influence on this game," says Boyd.

FINALLY MY apologies go out to UK offensive tackle Bruce Bozick. I failed to list him in a recent column about the players Coach Jerry Claiborne would have back in 1985.

Bozick did a terrific job backing up Bob Shurtleff this season and should contend for a starting job next year. His parents, naturally, were upset that I failed to mention him.

"We realize that offensive linemen rarely get the recognition they deserve but that goes with the territory," wrote Judy and John Bozick. "Only parents of the players realize the hours of preparation, weight training, etc. that's required of young men who play Division I football."

"It's humiliating after four years of hard work to have a reporter not even notice the contribution you have made to UK football."

I noticed but give me a 15-yard penalty for the mistake.

Kentucky Sports Scan

Compiled By Nick Nicholas
Staff Writer

Lady Kats



Even though in a losing cause, Coach Terry Hall's Lady Kats earned a vast amount of respect by pushing No. 1 Old Dominion to the limit before the Monarchs triumphed 64-63. The game was witnessed by 5,200 fans at Memorial Coliseum (January 14) and was also televised by a local Lexington station.

It marked the second time the two schools had faced each other within a 16-day period. The Lady Kats lost to the Lady Monarchs, now 15-0, 66-59 in the finals of the C.Q. Data Systems Tournament held in Raleigh, N.C.

In their second meeting UK had a three-point lead, 61-57, with 2:10 remaining. But the visitors outscored the Lady Kats 7-2 for the victory. Sophomore guard Sandy Harding paced UK with 17 points and seven assists. Forwards Karen Mosley and Leslie Nichols played the full tilt while scoring 16 and 14 points respectively.

Tuesday afternoon, following the Old Dominion loss, it was learned that Kentucky had moved up one notch from 13th to 12th in the latest Mel Greenberg Poll (Philadelphia Inquirer).

The next night Detroit came to town to try and uphend the nation's 12th-ranked squad. However, the basketball squad from the Motown City was in for a rude awakening as the host Lady Kats romped 76-59. With the win Kentucky improved its slate 12-3.

Junior forward Leslie Nichols led the way with 24 points and eight rebounds. Mosley finished with 14 points before turning an ankle in the second half. She did not return to action but was expected to be ready for UK's next contest at Louisville. Also 5-foot-9 senior Diane Stephens fell to the floor and landed knee-first during a layup attempt with 14:58 left in the second half. Stephens returned to the contest later in the second half.

Already Hall has seen a big improvement in relation to last year's UK squad as far as playing the full 40 minutes.

"We lost a lot of games last year by two or three points," said Hall. We would play them 35 or 38 minutes and then we would just fold up. I think that was to inexperience -- of playing in clutch situations. We don't have that this year. The people that are playing a lot have played in those clutch situations and they're just more confident."

"They're very confident and I'm very confident, and they know they can play with the best teams in the

country. That mental part is what we lacked last year."

Hall stated that this year's team, in comparison to last season's has the mental edge when it comes to winning ball games. It's an edge they must have when they enter SEC play.

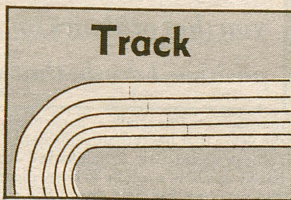
"A little (more) maturity and a little (more) experience and that mental toughness," Hall said when comparing the positive aspects the current team has over the '84 Lady Kats. "Last year they thought they could (win), but this year they know they can."

As of January 15, five SEC teams are in the Top Twenty: Georgia (fifth), Mississippi (seventh), Auburn (11th), Kentucky (12th) and Alabama (19th).

Said Hall, "We're going to have to put together several games in a row where we play well. That's the one thing we haven't done so far is to put those games together back to back. I think we're ready for that. This team has kind of played up to their competition or down to their competition. I think we're ready to meet that challenge and face the SEC.

Against Detroit, Hall was able to get 50 minutes of combined playing time out of four reserve freshmen (first-year player Belitta Croley is still not able to play because of a recent injury). Freshmen Laurie Hudgens (25 minutes), Monique Tarantini (12), Nancy Cowan (seven) and Michele Pennie (six) all added a great amount of intensity to the Kentucky victory.

Track



This year appears to be a season of uncertainty for both the University of Kentucky men's and women's track teams.

"We just don't have the depth to contend for the top positions in the SEC," said UK's head coach Don Weber. "Our only goal this year is for everybody to perform well. In a year or two we ought to be able to contend for higher positions."

UK's indoor schedule opened January 18 in two different locations. Coach Weber took some of his men and women members to the Eastman Invitational at Johnson City, Tenn., while the rest of Kentucky's team attended the Hoosier Hills Open Meet in Bloomington, Indiana. Results of both events will be in next week's TCP.

Weber may not have anyone to fill the lanes in the men's and women's sprinting categories, but the second-year head coach does have some outstanding talent returning from last year's squad.

Featured on the men's squad is discus/shotput specialist Mike Buncic. The senior, who last season captured All-America status in both the indoor shotput and the outdoor discus events, qualified for last year's Olympic trials in the discus competition, but was injured prior to event.

Other members expected to shine for the men's team are Greg Chajkowski (javelin), Martin Clark (middle distance runner), Andy Redmond (middle distance) and Scott Wiesman (high jump).



Mike Buncic

The Lady Kats lost from last year's team All-American trackster Tonya Lowe. Lowe was the ace in the hole for UK in numerous hurdle events. The women's team, like their men teammates, returns some outstanding individual talent to the '85 team.

Bernadette Madigan, a native of Windsor, England, is in her final collegiate season as a Lady Kat runner. Madigan has been selected All-America twice in track and once in cross country. Presently Madigan is recovering from a thigh injury, though the injury has not stopped her from practicing according to Weber. Her main event will be the 5,000-meter run during indoor competition.

Weber mentioned that junior Liz Polyak will be a key factor in the shotput while Cindy Crapper is an experienced discus and javelin thrower.

As far as practice is concerned, the Kentucky track squad has held pre-season drills outside during this recent cold spell. Since UK does not have any indoor facilities for track then the team has to practice in a local tobacco warehouse. But with the excellent crop this summer the warehouse is still full of tobacco, thus eliminating any workouts in the so-called practice area.

"You just kind of make do with what you have," said Weber. "We'll take it day by day."

Golf



Coach Tom Simpson's squad will kick off their spring schedule in Hilton Head, S.C. this February. Hopefully the weather on the southern island will be more suitable than the cold and horrendous conditions in Lexington. Simpson's main worries, however, relate to the recruiting trail.

Simpson is currently after five of the nation's outstanding prep recruits. Though the coach is only allowed four scholarships for the upcoming class. April 10 is the national signing date for the high school linksters.

"I've got a shot at all five," noted Simpson, but I can only sign four of them.

According to Simpson, if he's able to sign a couple of the prep stars on his list then next season may be a banner year for the men's golf team. Already UK has an outstanding current freshmen crop. And to add some top-notch talent -- by getting a few new freshmen -- wouldn't hurt.

"It could be the best golf team that the University of Kentucky has ever had, if I'm lucky to get three of the five ('85 recruits) or four out of five.

It appears that two of the players on Simpson's list are from Kentucky. Two of the state's best seniors Jeff Guest (LaGrange) and Steve Flesch (Edgewood) are being strongly looked at by other SEC schools as well as Kentucky.

According to Simpson the other three high school golfers are from out of state and are highly respected on the national level.

Said Simpson, "I'm changing my philosophy of recruiting. I don't recruit anyone that doesn't have a 3.0 (grade point average on a 4.0 scale).

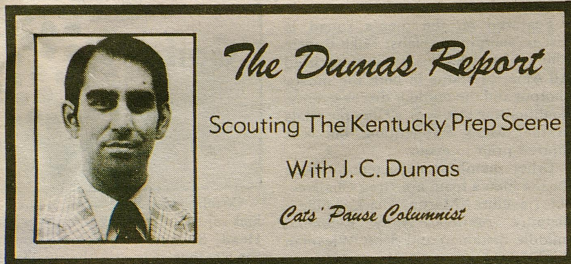
The Wildcat coach mentioned that all of the players that he's recruiting for next season have a 3.8 GPA. UK's current freshmen crop -- John Rubenstein, Bill Lundeen, Charles Long and Scott Eilers -- all possessed 3.8 overall GPAs coming out of high school. The theory seems to be catching on.

In regard to this year's team Simpson is taking his team to Hilton Head a couple of days earlier in order for the Cats to tune up their skills for the South Carolina tourney. This tourney should prepare the freshmen-dominated squad for a grueling SEC schedule as some of the top SEC and ACC schools will be participating.

"They're going to learn a lot," Simpson said pertaining about UK's spring schedule. "It's one of the toughest schedules we've ever had. If you're going to go anywhere then you have to buck heads with the best."

A Letter To Alice McDonald

(The following is an open letter to Kentucky Superintendent of Public Instruction Alice McDonald. The subject: Mrs. McDonald's continued insistence that the boys' and girls' state high school basketball tournaments be played during the same week beginning next season.)



The Dumas Report

Scouting The Kentucky Prep Scene

With J. C. Dumas

Cats' Pause Columnist

Dear Alice,

If the shortcomings I've overcome in my young life -- and trust me, they have been numerous -- have impressed any one concept on my psyche, it unquestionably would be the value of moderation.

That's a concept, bless your heart, that I wish you'd take to heart with regards to this state tournament matter.

At the risk of seeming self-indulgent, allow me to explain myself through the use of personal examples.

As a younger person, I often was prone to excess. That's not always bad, as long as the means move one toward a positive end. But many of my problems could have been self-destructive.

Take my temper, for instance. Some of the outbursts I used to produce could have made a neutron bomb explosion look like a flick of your Bic. I went as far once as to knock a box out of my dad's hands with a flying kick that could have won me a brown belt from Chuck Norris. Instead, I received a brown belt from Charles Dumas -- right across the gluteus maximus. I still feel the pain sometimes -- whenever I sit a certain way. Thankfully, now I've learned that, although anger sometimes can be used to effect desirable changes, it's much more fun to be mellow. . . .

Take my shyness, for instance. We're talking here about a kid who used to open his high school locker and hide in it rather than stumble for words to say to people who happened to be approaching, be they male or female. It seemed a good thing at the time that I was small enough to fit in the locker. It seems a better thing now that, to some extent, I can "fit in" in more productive ways. . . .

Take my weight, for instance. Unfortunately, I didn't stay small forever. I finally learned what joys could be found through food. I applied that knowledge with a vengeance. Slowly but steadily, I chomped my way to a weight of 193 pounds. My small-framed body didn't wear it well. My blood pressure didn't enjoy it, either. Ultimately, my doctor put his concerns bluntly: Lose the weight, lower the blood pressure, or suffer a stroke -- soon. I listened and obeyed, and proceeded to lose 63 pounds in two-and-a-half years. These days, I've discovered that a variety of food can be delightful when consumed in conservative servings. . . .

Now those, I'm sure you'd agree, are changes for the better. But they also bespeak a larger, and more significant, principle.

Put simply, anything you can do, you can overdo.

Where do you fit into that credo, Alice? Consider your time-consuming campaign concerning the longstanding, but seldom enforced, "six-hour school day" rule.

Undeniably, Kentucky's secondary educational standard needs radical improvement. Toward that end, you've brought the six-hour school day rule back into people's consciousness, and proposed steps to ensure that student-athletes receive maximum quality classroom time.

Mind you, many of your proposals aren't without their certain flaws.

Your move to reschedule postseason tournaments in spring sports until after the end of the school year could cause problems as far as finding a place to hold them. Municipal sites used in the past, for instance, may not be as readily available in June. And, of course, students could be exposed to greater heat -- the same kind of heat that has prompted your timely proposal to shorten the football season.

Your plan to reduce the number of basketball games played (24 for non-football playing schools, 20 for all others), coupled with the insistence that no games be played during school hours, could crimp many non-football schools financially.

Powell County athletic director Bill Orme certainly harbors that fear. "Our board has always considered football too expensive to have," Orme said. "To make a little money, we'd have maybe two (basketball) games a year during school. I don't think that took kids out of class enough to hurt them. And we made enough money to be able to give kids letter jackets and things to show them we appreciated them. We may not be able to do that anymore. 'The end result may be that we'll have to raise our ticket prices for

games, and in a small county like ours, we may price ourselves out of business.'"

Your directive that no basketball teams be allowed to practice during school hours seems reasonable. But, many mountain players and their families may find themselves inconvenienced. That's the concern of Dorse Adkins, principal and athletic director of tiny Feds Creek High, located in extreme eastern Kentucky.

"She (Mrs. McDonald) doesn't understand the problems we have," Adkins said. "We're in the middle of the mountains. Most of our students live in hollows, on one-lane roads up in the mountains. A lot of their parents don't have cars, or can't come get them during the day. So we'd practice the last period so they could get home at a decent hour and so buses could get most of them home. A lot of schools did that."

"What are those kids supposed to do now? If kids have to practice that late, we may have even more trouble getting players. And we don't have many students as it is."

Of course, like any leader, you know there always will be dissenters to any suggestion you make. Your important bottom line in this case is that, with one exception, the Kentucky High School Athletic Association has appeared willing to adapt to your desires. It's very possible that, when the KHSAA's Delegate Assembly meets April 19 in Lexington, it will pass most, if not all of your proposals.

The plan to place the boys' and girls' state tournaments in direct competition with each other, however, may be a different story. So far, you've shown no moderation in this instance. Your excess may prove to be politically counterproductive. And you certainly have been excessive on this issue. You went so far as to tell KHSAA representatives recently in Frankfort that if they couldn't (or wouldn't) come up with a plan to schedule both tournaments in one week, you'd do it for them.

Short of ordering the University of Kentucky to drop basketball and replace it with basket weaving, I can think of no other move on your part regarding athletics that could make less sense to demand -- especially if you're the type of politician who has high ambitions.

A conflict between the boys' and girls' tournament will hurt both

"And, students also learn how to deal effectively with others through sports. I would challenge you to find a handful of Kentucky student-athletes who could tell you that athletics taught them nothing positive. I doubt that you could".

tournaments financially -- particularly the girls' tourney. I've found through the years that basketball, considered within its own element, is interesting, and can be exciting. When looked at in the context of pure crowd appeal, it hardly can hold a candle to boys' play, given the boys' superior speed, size -- and penchant for slam dunks and other spellbinding plays.

After a 40-year hiatus, the girls' tournament just concluded a 10-year stint in Richmond. This March, it moves to Diddle Arena in Bowling Green, a gym roughly twice the size of Richmond's Alumni Coliseum. In Richmond, the tournament drew consistent numbers, thereby developing a loyal audience. Future tournaments in Bowling Green may not get that chance under your plan. It's a chance they've earned. It's a chance they deserve.

It's hard to see the boys' tournament benefiting financially, either. For years, the tournament has made money, both in Louisville and Lexington. Since moving to Rupp Arena -- first in 1979, then since 1981 -- the tournament has enjoyed unprecedented success. That's important, since the money derived from the tournament is used to help run all the athletic programs sponsored by the KHSAA. So, smaller crowds in Lexington could result in the possible elimination of one or more high school sports.

That's not desirable, because sports are every bit as solid an educational tool as any academic class. Coaches see to that by planning practices as diligently as they do classroom lesson plans. Any coach's wife surely could testify as to their spouse's dedication in both fields. Student-athletes, for the most part, perform adequately both in the classroom and on the court. For every Tony Kimbro who looms as a possible college "non-predictor," I'm sure you'd find hundreds of teenage athletes with grade-point averages worthy of pride.

And, students also learn how to deal effectively with others through sports. I would challenge you to find a handful of Kentucky student-athletes who could tell you that athletics taught them nothing positive. I doubt that you could.

Lastly, in asking that both state tournaments be played the same week,

[Continued On Page 21]

Two Seniors Giving PRP Stability

Coach Dale Mabrey readily will admit that his Pleasure Ridge Park basketball team is dominated by its underclassmen.

But the recent emergence of two senior starters pleases Mabrey immeasurably. It means that PRP, favored in the preseason to capture the Sixth Region title, eventually may be even stronger than even he imagined.

"We knew we should be a pretty competitive ballclub, anyway," Mabrey said. "After all, we had all these underclassmen back who started all last year. But lately, we've gotten such surprising leadership from our seniors that I think things can only look up for us."

Those two seniors, guard Timmy Hockman and forward Keith Walker, may help move PRP to heights the school hasn't reached in a long while. A Sixth Region Crown for Pleasure Ridge this season would earn the southwest Jefferson County school only its second trip to the State Tournament. In its first visit to the state in 1970, PRP advanced to the semifinal round, led by forward Randy Waddell and center Kevin Kok.

Hockman, who stands 5-feet-10, impressed Mabrey with his assertive play over the Christmas holidays in the King of the Sun tournament in Ocala, Fla. PRP won the consolation bracket of that classic.

"Timmy hadn't really done much for us until that time, though he hadn't hurt us," Mabrey said. "He just took total control of our offense in Florida. He averaged seven assists a game,

and always seemed to know where everyone was on the floor. He just took the leadership role. It was a very pleasant surprise."

So has the recent play of Walker, an All-State linebacker on PRP's football team that won Jefferson County's First District last fall. His strong play of late has enabled Walker to become Pleasure Ridge's second-leading rebounder.

reputation established last season, when PRP finished 17-11 and lost to Doss by one point in the region final.

Brian Joiner, PRP's 6-8 junior center, has overcome various physical ailments to enjoy a respectable season to date. Joiner averaged 14 points and 10 rebounds through Pleasure Ridge's first 16 games despite occasionally being hampered by a recurring Achilles tendon problem and back pains resulting from a collision earlier

Hockman's strong showing in Florida. But, he's still managed to average 10 points and eight assists a game.

"If anything, since Timmy took over, Derrick's assists have gone way up," Mabrey said. "He's scored consistently, and he's probably our smoothest player. A lot of major schools (colleges) have been interested in him."

6th Region

PREP

HOOP



SPECIAL

The biggest surprise regarding Walker, Mabrey said, was that he is even playing basketball this season. "He had said he wasn't going to play this year," Mabrey said. "He said he was going to stay in the weight room and work on building himself up for college (football). But he changed his mind a week after practice started. I don't know why. But we're glad he did. He's the type that always seems to come up with the big play, a total athlete."

Mabrey said the three younger starters have lived up well to their

this season in a game against Butler.

"The Achilles problem bothered him a lot last season," Mabrey said. "Dr. Ellis (noted Louisville sports physician Rudy Ellis) has it mostly under control, but it still bothers Brian from time to time. But we have no complaints with his production for us so far. He's done a fine job."

Joiner enjoyed a banner night on the boards two weeks ago, pulling down 22 rebounds in a win against Fairdale.

Pleasure Ridge's other junior starter, guard Derrick Wilcox, was considered the "team leader" prior to

The speed is provided by a sophomore, 6-2 forward Desmond Porter. "He's easily one of the quickest players in Jefferson County, and he's our best defensive player, too," Mabrey said. "Very few players are as quick off the rebound on the break as he is."

Porter honed his speed and other skills last summer during the AAU Junior Olympics tournament in Frankfurt. He played well enough to make the national AAU tournament team. "He needs a bit of work on jump shot," Mabrey said. "But he has about everything else."

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Letter To Alice

[Continued From Page 20]

you seem to show disdain for one human want that, in the case of the boys' tourney, has proven to be considered paramount -- tradition.

Few events in Kentucky are as traditional as the boys' Sweet Sixteen. It's withstood a lot of grumbling and dissent.

In the recent past, it's been suggested that the tournament take on Indiana's format, with a semistate one week, the "Final Four" the next. It's been suggested that the semifinals and final not be played on the same day to avoid player fatigue. Almost annually, it's suggested that Kentucky go to a multi-class system and have, in effect, three or four state tournaments. The premise there is that smaller schools no longer can be expected to compete consistently with "big-city" schools.

You'll notice, Alice, that today, the tournament stands as is. None of the above changes have been made. They may never be made. For Kentucky residents, like most people, like some things to stay the same. It's my bet that, were you to poll Kentuckians, they'd tell you by a wide majority that they don't want the state tournaments changed, and they don't want them conflicting.

Kentucky, as you must know, is a rural state whose people possess traditional values. Many residents of Kentucky's urban areas migrated from the country. Doubtless, many hold fond memories of the time their school went to the Sweet Sixteen, and the town closed down for a week regardless of the outcome.

Those memories are precious to people. I'd bet they don't want those memories hurt.

I invite you to use this column space on any given week to air your views and respond to my letter. But before you do, I'd ask that you take these thoughts to heart. They're offered sincerely -- and I doubt they belong exclusively to me.

There's a lot about you, I think, worth admiring. You want, above all, the best for kids. In coming weeks, as your proposals are voted on, you're surely going to be winning many victories.

So don't demand total victory. Be moderate. Don't overdo. Realize that the state basketball tournaments produce much good, and teach thousands of people positive values.

Kentucky likes them just the way they are.

So, bless your heart, let them be.

Sincerely,

J.C.



The following are Coach Bob Boyd's postgame comments after his Mississippi State Bulldogs lost to UK 58-57.

Coach Boyd: I thought our team played well. We shot very well in the first half, probably better than we can. However, it evened itself up, because the game is long enough for those things to even themselves up. We had some very good play by a number of our players. The fact that Ken Harvey didn't play had no influence on this game, because his not being there would eventually show up on our team but not this one game. I don't think that was the factor. The fact is that we played quite well against a very good team and I'm quite proud of the way our team played. I thought having played, what in preseason was considered the three major contenders for our conference and having played three of those in our first five games (conference), as far as I'm concerned we can play with anybody in the league. I don't want you to think that in any way of being overconfident or cocky, but our team will still play better later in the season. I don't think

Coach Bob Boyd's Post Game Comments

we have to go into any game thinking that we can't be competitive this year.

How much of a factor was Kentucky's defense in the second half?

Coach Boyd: I think Kentucky used what I call a three-man front, because the middle man of the threesome drops to the post area for defense which most 1-2-2 zones don't. That zone has hurt us at Auburn as well as Kentucky. I think we need to get more movement inside with our big people, though they are in good position to rebound if we do take the perimeter shot. But that same zone had its effect on us at Auburn too. I thought it was a factor. But if Tracy (Taylor) had of kept shooting the way he was shooting in the first half then it wouldn't have mattered what the front was.

Even though you lost, you must be encouraged about your team's performance?

Coach Boyd: You're darn well right. It's tough to win on this road and that's a good basketball team (UK). They'll win far more than they'll lose. They've beaten great teams already. I'm quite proud of our performance.

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Back Thru The Wildcat Years

FIVE YEARS AGO

*Coach Joe Hall shook up his starting lineup and his team responded with a 76-63 win over Florida at Gainesville. Hall started Dirk Minniefield and Kyle Macy at guard, Fred Cowan at center and Chuck Verderber and Derrick Hord at forward. Only Macy and Cowan were regular starters. UK got balanced scoring and several of the players who lost their starting jobs played well. UK jumped out to a 39-24 lead at the half. Cowan led UK with 16 points while Macy scored 11 and LaVon Williams 10.

*A record number 97 foul shots were taken in a marathon game at Rupp Arena in which Kentucky defeated a scrappy Vanderbilt team 106-90. Kentucky hit 44 of 48 foul shots, including a perfect 23 of 23 in the second half, when Vandy had UK's lead cut to six

at one point. The Commodores hit 40 of 49 foul shots. UK had six players in double figures and three fouled out. Kyle Macy scored 18 points, including 12 of 12 at the line, while Derrick Hord and Fred Cowan each scored 17. Sam Bowie had 16 points and LaVon Williams 15. Mike Rhodes had a superb shooting game scoring 34 points for Vandy.

*The UK Lady Kats had a fine week, routing highly-ranked Rutgers 97-78 and blasting Western 99-43. Valerie Still set a school rebounding record with 26 against Rutgers, to go along with 32 points. UK's 56-point margin over Western also broke a school record.

TEN YEARS AGO

*The Lexington Chamber of Commerce announced that Lexington's

new 23,000 seat basketball complex will be known as Rupp Arena. The complex is part of a \$46 million Lexington center under construction in downtown Lexington expected to be completed by the fall of 1976.

*The UK wrestling team defeated Cincinnati 34-3 and Middle Tennessee 34-4 in Memorial Coliseum to run their season record to 16-3.

*Replacing ailing Bob Guyette in the starting lineup, Jack Givens made good use of his first starting assignment as he poured in 19 points on eight of 11 shots as the Cats turned back Florida 87-65. Kevin Grevey led UK with 26 points and 12 rebounds as UK shot 56.9 percent from the field.

*Kevin Grevey hit for 24 points, 12 rebounds and four steals as UK nipped Vandy 91-90 in Nashville. After Vandy had come from 16 points behind to trail 57-56. Grevey made six key baskets and wrapped the win up with two free

throws when UK was in front 89-88 with five seconds left.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO

*Pistol Pete Maravich became the second highest career scorer in college basketball history with 55 points, but it wasn't enough as UK downed LSU 109-96 before an overflow crowd at Memorial Coliseum. Maravich also broke Cliff Hagan's coliseum scoring record of 51. Dan Issel had 35 points for UK and Terry Mills 22.

*Dan Issel was reported to be the number one choice of the ABA's Kentucky Colonels.

*In his 1,000 game as UK coach Adolph Rupp guided his undefeated Cats to an 86-71 win over SEC cellar-dweller Alabama. Dan Issel paced UK in one of their poorest games of the season with 25 points. Mike Pratt and Larry Steele added 16 each. Bobby Lynch of Ashland, Ky., led the Tide with 34 points.

*UK linebacker Dick Palmer was a tenth-round draft pick of the Baltimore Colts.

*The UK football team had added North Carolina as its 11th football opponent of the 1970 season.

THIRTY YEARS AGO

*A packed house of 4,000 in Knoxville, Tenn., saw UK run up an early lead and never look back, defeating Tennessee 84-66. Bob Burrow scored 24 points and Linville Puckett 18 for UK.

*Kentucky snapped a 60-60 tie to rally to a 75-71 win over 12th ranked Vanderbilt in Nashville. Coach Bob Polk's team had battled back from a 58-41 deficit before a full house of 7,500 fans. Billy Evans and Jerry Bird had 20 points apiece for UK and Bob Burrow had 19. Clarence (Babe) Taylor of Frankfort, Ky., led Vandy with 25 points.

Wildcat Quiz

1. How many games has the Florida Gators won against Kentucky in the history of Rupp Arena?

- a) 0
- b) 1
- c) 2
- d) 3

2. In which season did UK demolish Florida 102-48 in Rupp Arena?

- a) 1977-78
- b) 1979-80
- c) 1980-81
- d) 1982-83

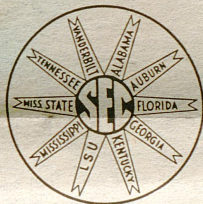
3. True or False? Kyle Macy made the All-SEC team for three consecutive years as a Wildcat?

4. What former UK player holds the career record for highest field goal percentage in SEC play?

- a) Jim Master
- b) Derrick Hord
- c) Dicky Beal
- d) Melvin Turpin

5. Including the 1984-85 season thus far, who was the last non-conference opponent to defeat the Wildcats in Rupp Arena?

- a) Duke
- b) SMU
- c) Clemson
- d) Utah



6. In the 1981-82 season, in which the Wildcats finished their campaign with a 22-8 record, who was the leading scorer on that team?

- a) Melvin Turpin
- b) LaVon Williams
- c) Dirk Minniefield
- d) Derrick Hord

7. Against which SEC school did UK break the all-time attendance record in the history of Memorial Coliseum?

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

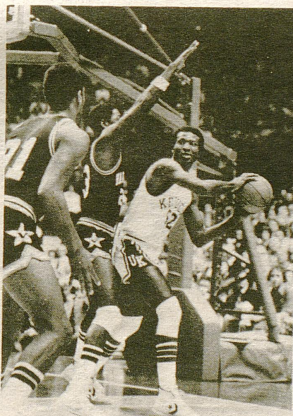
8. How many appearances has UK made in the NCAA Basketball Tournament?

- a) 29
- b) 34
- c) 39
- d) 43

9. True or False? Former UK player Kevin Grevey was never named to any All-American team in his career at Kentucky?

10. Which of the following players holds the record for the highest rebounding average (16.1) in a career for Kentucky?

- a) Melvin Turpin
- b) Dan Issel
- c) Rick Robey
- d) Bob Burrow



LaVon Williams

ANSWERS

- 10. Bob Burrow
- 9. False
- 8. 29
- 7. LSU
- 6. Derrick Hord
- 5. SMU
- 4. Melvin Turpin
- 3. True
- 2. 1980-81
- 1. 0



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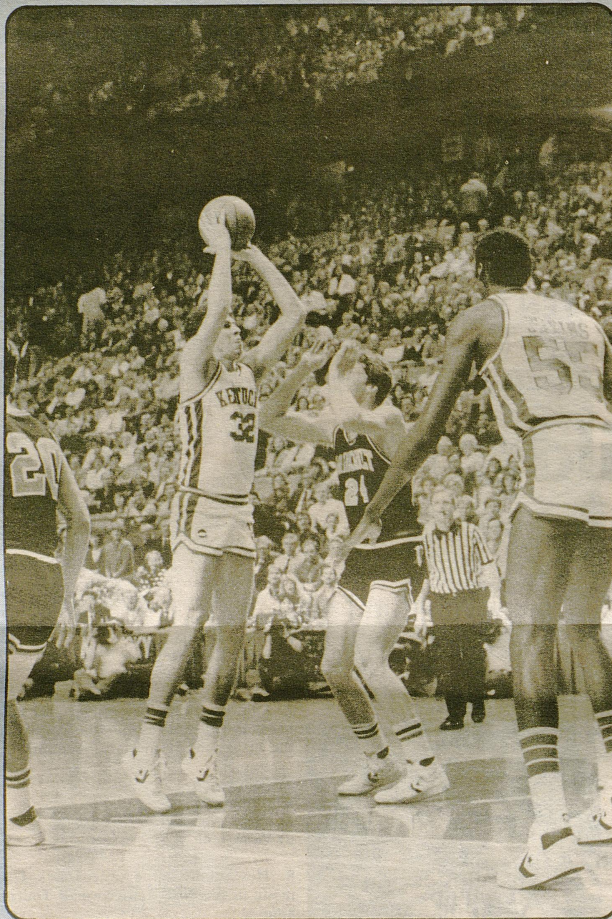
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