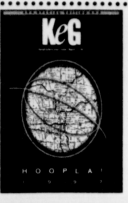




WEATHER Cloudy with rain likely today; high 60s. T-storms tonight, low 50. Showers tomorrow; high 60.
HOOPLA! Get ready for hoops hysteria with brackets, NCAA tournament statistics, analysis and more. See KeG inside.



THU
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Balancing books and babies

By Haili Wu
Staff Writer

College students tend to worry about three things: classes, jobs and parties. But some among us have more to worry about than just those things. These students do everything regular students do, minus the partying. Instead, they have another job at home, a very important one: taking care of their children.

The most difficult aspect of being a student mother is "having time for myself," said Kara Rinderer, an early childhood education junior.

Rinderer has an eight-month-old baby boy. She also has six classes each week. Rinderer and her live-in boyfriend take turns caring for their baby.

Rinderer also works at a daycare center.

"I would take (the baby) and work with me," Rinderer said. "I'll do homework while he's asleep."

Most days Rinderer does not go to bed until midnight; she usually gets up at 5 a.m. or 6 a.m.

Rinderer wants to get her master's degree and hopes to be involved in something in administration or work at a children's museum after college.

While Rinderer has a baby, Janet Byrd has two older children to take care of. Byrd and her husband do their homework with the children — the Byrd family is a family of students.

"We are really lucky our kids support us ... if they were a little younger, they wouldn't be so supportive," said Byrd, a junior majoring in interdisciplinary early childhood education.

Byrd admits she does not spend as much time with her children as she would like.

Monday through Thursday, Byrd works and goes to school all day.

Her makeup time with her family is on Sundays.

"No homework," Byrd said. "We devote Sundays just to family."

Sometimes they get away for the whole weekend



PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE CORDLE Kernal staff

QUALITY TIME Kara Rinderer, an early childhood education junior, spends a few moments playing with her 8-month-old son, Jacob Blake, before heading out the door to work (below).

Music concerts are also a big interest for the family.

The Byrd family also takes advantage of the fact that they are all students by finding ways to study with each other.

"When we go to the library, we go as a group," Byrd said.

On Fridays, when Byrd is free for the afternoon, she tries to spend the time with her husband.

She said she wants to get her master's degree.

The other goal both Byrd and her husband have is to "get out of (UK) before (the children) come."

Despite all the difficulties student mothers have in balancing their time between school and family, most of them really do not regret attending college.

"For me, it is much better to come back at a later day," said Judy Hensley, a journalism senior and a mother.

She said she was not mature enough and would probably have flunked out had she gone to college in her teens.

A mother of two, Hensley shares Rinderer and

When we go to the library, we go as a group.

Janet Byrd, a junior, on her trips to the library with her husband and two children.



See MOTHERS on 6

Leave policy challenged

By Mal Herron
Features Editor

At about the same time geography professor Susan Thomas is rocking two-week-old twins, Shannon Price is drafting plans.

Price, the assistant project director for the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, and the other members from the ad-hoc committee on the status of women plan to make a series of recommendations on maternity leave for staff and faculty in the coming weeks.

According to the current regulations as stated in the faculty handbook, faculty and staff must seek approval for maternity leave from the dean of their department and ultimately from the chancellor or vice president "under the provisions for sick leave."

Administration regulations say only faculty and staff who have worked at UK for a minimum of one year and "worked at least 1,250 hours" during that year can take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave.

"It does not come up with its own policy," said Thomas.

"Instead it treats maternity as a disability. That's just not fair."

Price first questioned the policy last year when she was having her child. She said UK allowed her only six weeks off, and she was told by one UK superior, "If you want to bond with your baby, do it on your own time."

She said the policy discriminates against pregnant women, because no specific time frame is allotted for injuries such as a broken leg or arm, and UK allows only six weeks of unpaid leave.

This amount of time, she said, violates the Family Medical Leave Act, signed into law by President Clinton in 1993, as well as Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

According to the ad-hoc committee's recommendation, approved Monday, the current policy on maternity leave "treats women affected by pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condi-

Instead it treats maternity as a disability. That's just not fair.

Susan Roberts
geography professor

See LEAVE on 6

Retiring director honored at women's conference

By LaShanna Carter
Staff Writer

The third annual UK Women's Conference displayed the cultural, spiritual and intellectual aspects of the African American heritage.

Last night's conference was highlighted by the award ceremony honoring Doris Wilkinson, founder of the conference and the director of the African American Studies and Research Program.

Wilkinson was honored for her dedication, support and commitment to UK for over 30 years. This is also Wilkinson's last year with the program. Since she began the conference in 1995, it has been motivational and well-attended. Opal Baker, co-coordinator of the conference, said Wilkinson is very instrumental in getting the program involved.

"It is an era marked," Baker said of Wilkinson's initiative in instituting the conference.

Even though several heroines from history are remembered each year, Baker said several are still on campus. Nikky Finney, poet and assistant professor of creative writing, gave the introduction to Wilkinson. The Afrilichian Poets, a group to which Finney belongs, each read several of their poems dedicated to Wilkinson.

The conference featured a video produced by Joan Brannon and titled "Raised By Women," based on the poem with the same name written by Kelly Norman Ellis, co-coordinator of the conference.

The workshops dealt with writing, health psychology and education. One of the organizations that played a major part in conference was the Frankfort-Lexington Chapter of LINKS, a national service organization with more than 10,000 female members. Carol Spotts, president of LINKS, said the conference is important to women.

"It is very exciting and appropriate for African

American women in the area," Spotts said. "There are a wide range of interests, activities, problems and social issues that African American women need to examine." Ellis said a conference like this is important because "sometimes in Black History Month and Women's History month, black women and other women of color get lost."

"I thought that it was important that she had this celebration of women of African descent," Ellis said. Ellis and Baker have decided to continue the conference even though Wilkinson is stepping down as coordinator. The two said they want to further expand the conference's scope to include the Lexington community. This year they brought in some people who work and live in the Lexington area in addition to others outside of the UK campus.

The public who had the opportunity to explore the rich African American culture enjoyed themselves, Ellis said.

NEWSbytes

STATE Politicians vying for Sen. Ford's seat

FRANKFORT — Democrat Wendell Ford's announcement that he'll retire from the U.S. Senate triggered immediate decisions by some politicians to run for the post, while others have their eye on the House if a seat is vacated.

U.S. Rep. Scotty Baesler of Lexington has already placed himself in the Democratic primary for Ford's seat and former state Human Resources Secretary Masten Childers II said he may run.

Childers has suggested voluntary limits on campaign contributions to "set an example for the nation." Baesler said he's open to voluntary limits on spending, but not on contributions.

Republican 4th District Rep. Jim Bunning of Southgate has virtually entered the Senate race and candidates are lining up to succeed him.

Bunning's House district stretches from Oldham and Shelby counties to the West Virginia border.

The most likely Republican faceoff is between Fort Mitchell lawyer Rick Robinson, a close Bunning ally, and state Sen. Gex Williams of Verona, a prominent conservative. Rep. Jim Zimmerman of La Grange said he too may run.

The likeliest Democratic candidates appeared to be state Sen. President Pro Tem Walter Blevins of West Liberty and Covington Mayor Benny Downham, who ran against Bunning last year.

NAMEdropping

Rob Lowe to do TV sitcom

LOS ANGELES — Rob Lowe is about to get some of the best exposure he's had since ... well, since that famous bedroom video.

The star of such movies as *St. Elmo's Fire* and *About Last Night* signed a two-year deal with Paramount Network Television to star in a sitcom.

The premiere date and premise of the series were not disclosed Tuesday.

Lowe kept a low profile for several years after appearing in an erotic home video made in his hotel suite during the 1988 Democratic National Convention.

Compiled from wire reports.



Triplet reaches for stars

Editor's note: This is the second story in a series about the people behind the headlines. The presidential candidates will be featured after Spring Break.

By Brian Dunn
Staff Writer

Kristin Triplet stands in front of the goal, covered from head to toe in protection. She's wearing bamboo leg pads, a chest protector, a huge helmet, a triple-extra-large jersey and black paint under her eyes for a little bit of extra intimidation.

She's the field hockey goalie for Kentucky Country Day High School, and she's ready to block Eastern's penalty shot, the shot that could win the game.

"You don't mess with the goalie," said Triplet, vice presidential candidate for the Student Government Association, as she sat sipping on her orange Kool-Aid. "You have to own that field. It's your house."

For the past two and a half years, UK has been Triplet's house. In that time, she has served as Chi Omega secretary and Intergreek Program member and now she is campaigning with Kyle Thompson to head SGA next year.

One of her friends, Ben Borrusch, a mechanical engineering junior, said, "To me, she's somewhat amazing because of all the things she does. And she has so many friends. She'll run into somebody anywhere."

Jennifer Triplet, her sister and a UK senior, remembers that everybody knew Triplet as "Jennifer's little sister" before she went to France for a year, but when Jennifer returned, everybody said, "Oh, you're Kristin's sister."

"She's so funny and goofy," Jennifer said.

"Honestly, she's the most honest person I know."

And she's devoted to friends and family.

Triplet saved for a year to visit her sister in

France last summer, and she's "still broke because of it," she said.

But Jennifer remembers a better story. When Triplet was in second grade, she had a friend with cerebral palsy, a disability of muscular incoordination and speech disturbances caused by brain damage during birth.

While many kids were mean to the girl because she was mildly retarded, Jennifer said, "Kristin never saw her that way."

When the girl had corrective surgery to straighten her legs, Kristin stayed with her, singing songs to help her get through the pain, Jennifer said.

As she took another drink from her Kool-Aid, Triplet wandered back to the field hockey field, back to hiding behind her mask and padding, readying to block arch-rival Eastern's penalty shot.

"I could be whoever I wanted, and nobody could tell who I was behind that thing," she said. "I was it."



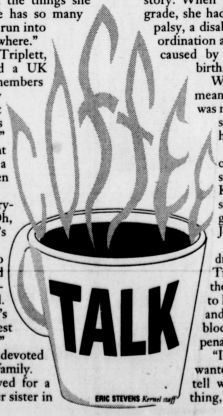
Kristin Triplet
FAMILY: Marilyn Bandy and Rod Triplet; sisters Beth, 28, Jennifer, 22

BIRTHPLACE: Norfolk, Va.
HOMETOWN: Louisville
YEAR: Junior
MAJOR: Marketing
PERSONAL INFORMATION: She visited Russia, France and Spain, and while there ate squid, pig ear and cow tongue just to be courteous to the hosts.
She attended Harpeth Hall, an all-girls school in Nashville, Tenn., for five years before moving to Kentucky Country Day in Louisville.
Her favorite Kool-Aid flavors are orange and grape.

The referee stepped up to the Eastern shooter and looked toward Triplet standing in front of the goal. He asked, "Goalie ready?"

"Yeah," she said in the biggest, baddest voice she could muster. In an instant, the shooter slapped the ball toward the corner of the goal, and Triplet leaped to smother the ball.

"She never does anything half-ass," Jennifer said. "She's always reaching for the stars."



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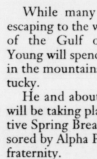
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 BY BENJAMIN HOPPER

John Young
 Helping others help themselves

By Matt Ellison
 Staff Writer



While many students will be escaping to the white sand beaches of the Gulf of Mexico, John Young will spend his Spring Break in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky.

He and about 25 other people will be taking place in the alternative Spring Break program, sponsored by Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity.

Young, a philosophy senior, is the coordinator for this year's alternative spring break program. Being in such a position seemed to be a natural for Young, who grew up in Rocky River, Ohio.

He believes much of his willingness to help others came from the environment he grew up in.

"Everyone was always looking out for you in my neighborhood," Young said.

He maintained this spirit of helping out those in need during high school, when he spent many

hours volunteering at a local nursing home, visiting residents and helping with recreational activities.

Young believes people should always be willing to give back to their community.

"I think people owe it to their community to get involved," he said.

Young became involved in Alpha Phi Omega in the fall of 1995, and he has been an active member ever since.

Being involved in Alpha Phi Omega takes up much of his time, and fellow members of the fraternity recognize him for his tireless efforts.

David Gillis, a biology senior who is also a member of Alpha Phi Omega, appreciates the work Young puts into the Spring Break program.

Having served as trip coordinator before, Gillis knows the amount of work that goes into organizing such a trip.

"I think he's doing a great job, and he's been doing it for a long time," said Gillis, who also will be going on this year's trip.

Allison Walston, a biotechnology junior, went on last year's trip and said it was well worth the effort.

Like most others, Walston praised Young for his involvement.

"He's done a great job this year," she said.

As trip coordinator, Young has a lot of responsibilities to handle.

Since the trip does not cost anything for those who go, Young had to solicit donations from the community of Hyden, Ky., where the group will be working.

The Thompson Charitable Foundation provided an \$8,000 grant to assist with travel expenses and building materials.

Young also contacted local businesses, including Dairy Queen and Subway, about donating meals to the group.

They will sleep in the Leslie County High School gym.

This year the group will be working on the home of an 85-year-old woman.

The group plans to make several repairs to the house as well as improve the appearance of the surrounding property, which was damaged by the recent flooding.

Working with older people is something Young still enjoys doing.

"I especially love working with the elderly," he said.

"They're always so happy to see you when you get there."

The service projects are not all work.

Young can find plenty of time to meet other people and enjoy the company of the whole group.

"I like them. I had a real good time," he said.

"You meet 25 other people and have a lot of fun with them."



Students bemoan loss of Aftab network

By Chip Bright
 Contributing Writer

The recent addition of an educational European television network has lowered the standard of diversity at UK, some students say.

Mansoor Amini, a doctoral candidate in decision science and information systems, said the University's application of the new network prevents him from watching the Persian- and Islamic-related Aftab network.

"I am confused because the University preaches diversity, and the (Aftab) network provided me with my only option for seeing my own culture," Amini said.

German professor Ted Friedler said the German-funded network, Deutsche Welle, began airing in December in coordination with the German language department at UK.

A government-provided grant for the purchase of a satellite

receiver and permission from the communication system allowed the University to receive the down-feed, he said.

"Deutsche Welle provides students with an entire spectrum of educational uses," Friedler said.

He said programming topics include everything from news to contemporary arts in German, English and Spanish.

TCI Cable and UK have an agreement allowing the school to cut in on any non-pay station, said Brian Stocks, master control at TCI public access.

Paul Lieveque, director of UKTV, said UK television currently controls six channels on campus.

Channel 16, the University telecourse, also airs on cable in the community.

Dinesh Mirchendani, president of the Student Indian Association, said he is glad additional educational channels are being acquired, but he doesn't understand why the

Aftab channel must go.

"This issue should be reviewed because so many Indian students appreciated the programming," said Mirchendani, a business administration graduate student.

"Unfortunately, it is not quite that easy," said Andy Spears, director of UK library media services.

Spears said the problem has come to his attention, but the large capital expense of the equipment enabling the University to patch over TCI channels makes it difficult to switch the German station to another channel.

"The University bought equipment specifically for channel 14; otherwise we could switch the programming to another UK-operated channel," Spears said.

"That's rather not feasible at the time."

However, they will look into the possibility of switching the German station to another channel and buying additional space, Spears said.

"Upon installation of the program, TCI will be in the middle of realigning the stations," he said.

Spears said UK knew Channel 14 would remain public access, and did not realize so many viewers were interested in the channel.

"It was a game of hit-and-miss," Spears said.

In the meantime, Spears said UKTV airs the Aftab network on Channel 14 for two hours each Saturday and Sunday.

Friedler said the German department will evaluate the educational benefits of Deutsche Welle at the end of the semester.

"The German department does not want to convey the message that we bump other people," said Phil McKnight, chairman of the German department.

"If the station is interfering with someone else's enjoyment, then something should do to allot more space for the entire University."

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SPORTS

Title defense starts today

No. 16 seed Montana first opponent for UK
By Chris Easterling
Sports Editor

Montana knows what it's up against. After all, the Grizzlies have faced a defending national champion before.

The last time came in 1991, when Montana faced the unbeaten UNLV Runnin' Rebels, falling just short 99-65.

This time, the team is UK.

After sailing through the regular season and Southeastern Conference Tournament, winning 30 of 34 games, the Wildcats begin their defense of last year's NCAA Championship.

The Cats and Grizzlies get it on tonight at 7:55 at the Jon M. Huntsman Center on the campus of the University of Utah in salt Lake City. UK enters the game as the No. 1 seed in the West Region, while the Big Sky champion Grizzlies are, at least in everyone else's eyes, the whipping boys as the No. 16 seed.

Montana last appeared in the tournament in 1992, as a 14 seed. Its stay was short-lived, though, as Florida State knocked out the Grizzlies 78-68 in the first round.

"We have great appreciation for being in the NCAA Tourna-

ment, and facing a team the stature of Kentucky," Montana Coach Blaine Taylor said. "Right now, we literally feel blessed."

The Grizzlies may feel blessed, but the record in 48 tries, no 16 seed has ever knocked off a No. 1.

But don't tell that to the folks in Missoula, Mont.

"I think our point guard Kirk Walker said it best when he was quoted saying '99 percent of the time the Kentucky in this type of matchup win, but the other one percent is why you play the game,'" Taylor said.

"The 'other one percent' has come close to happening a couple of times in the past seven years, most recently last year to Purdue. The Boilermakers were the top seed in the West, playing against a spunky Western Carolina squad.

The Catamounts missed on a couple of jumpers late in the contest, allowing Purdue to escape with a 73-71 victory.

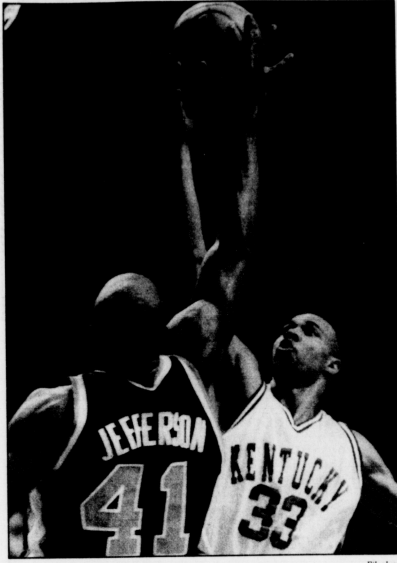
Kentucky would go on to eliminate the Boilers in the second



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OU rains on Madison's 1,000th game

By Rob Herbst
Weekend Sports Editor

Yesterday marked a milestone for UK baseball coach Keith Madison, but it might be a day he wants to forget.

Madison coached his 1,000 game at UK yesterday but his team was drubbed 15-4 by Ohio. Despite the outcome of the game, Madison felt fortunate.

"God has really blessed me to be able to coach 1,000 consecutive games without missing a game," Madison said. "It's a real privilege to work with young men for as long as I've been able to and I can't think of anything I'd rather do than coach another 1,000 games. It's a great blessing."

While he wouldn't like the streak to end, yesterday's game wouldn't have been a bad one to miss.

His pitchers gave up 14 earned runs including eight in the top of

the seventh inning. While Cat hurlers struggled, the Bobcat duo of Robert Simmondo and Tom Miller stifled UK bats.

The pair combined to strike out 16 Wildcats and gave up only six hits.

"Pitching is a big part of the game and also your attitude," Madison said. "You gotta come out and compete every day. You can't just come out every once in a while."

UK starting pitcher Tim Rowland (1-3) lasted only 1 2/3 innings and gave up five runs in the loss.

The UK promotions team has a contest where if a Wildcat hits a home run over the centerfield wall, fans in attendance receive a coupon for a free Big Mac.

"Too bad for the spectators it doesn't apply when opposing players hit round-trippers."

If that was so, fans would have a feast, because Ohio clobbered five home runs, including two from

Jake Eye and a grand slam by Bart Leahy.

The Cats' only opportunity to make the game halfway close came in the fourth inning. Down by six runs, UK's David Cheatle led off the inning with a home run and Justin Bunch followed with a double.

"The rally would stop there."

After Bunch, senior Jay Tedesco was caught looking on a questionable strike three and drew a line in the dirt with his bat. The home plate umpire immediately ejected Tedesco who did not argue his dismissal, nor did Madison.

"A big inning can start with a single hit," Tedesco said. "I'm sure the ejection brought a lot of people down."

"The umpire was definitely right," Madison added. "You never show the umpire up. Jay is a senior and he knows better than that."

Valparaiso foils first home game

Staff report

The UK softball team's inaugural home game did not go quite as the team hoped, as Valparaiso topped the Wildcats 6-2 in the first game of a doubleheader.

The Wildcats now take to the road for almost a month starting this Saturday in the Indiana Tournament in Bloomington. The Cats will face such teams as Alabama, Auburn, South Carolina, Miami (Ohio) and Middle Tennessee State during this stretch.

UK will not play another game at the new softball stadium until April 5, when Southeastern Conference rival Georgia visits.

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Friday: A love story with fangs
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Track teams finish 22nd in NCAA Indoor Championships

By Price Alkinson
Staff Writer

Nine members of the UK track and field team — three women and six men — ended the indoor season last weekend at the 1997 NCAA indoor track and field championships in Indianapolis.

In the team standings, both the UK men's and women's teams finished 22nd overall.

Leading the way for the men was the second place finish by the 4x400 relay team, composed of Mark Miller, Chris Martin, Dwight Phillips and Darryl Gaines.

The relay team ran a time of 3:08.47 to finish second behind Oklahoma, which set a new

NCAA record with a time of 3:04.25.

Phillips, a freshman running in his first NCAA championship, said he felt great about the second-place finish.

"I was excited," he said. "It's a big change for me coming from the high school level."

Miller bounced back strong in the relay after he fell while running in the 400-meter dash. Miller said UK track and field earned some respect with its high finish in the relay.

"In the relay we ran our fastest time of the year and it put us there and I got as a lot of respect as far as in the nation," Miller said.

Sprinter Michelle Brown carried the load for the UK women's

team, scoring every single point.

Brown, who passed up running in the world championships in Paris to compete with UK at the NCAAs, ran a tough double. She had to run four races on Friday with the finals on Saturday.

"As good as Tim Harden was, we never felt comfortable with him attempting that double at the national meet, so we had reservations about Michelle doing it," UK head coach Don Weber said. "(But) we felt she had the mindset to do it, and she did remarkably well."

Brown finished third in the 55-meter dash with a time of 6.75 and placed sixth in the 200 meter.

Weber said he was happy with his team's meet overall.

Spring Breaks

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Select Printed Short Skirts 25% Off! Special group of rayons & georgettes. Orig. up to \$88	Genuine Italian Leather Footwear 25% Off! Select group of hand-crafted shoes. Values to \$138	OSCC Twill Shorts 20% Off! Select group of Spring basics. Orig. to \$39.50	OSCC Sportshirts \$29.90 to \$39.90! Select group of seasonal styles. Orig. to \$49.50
Select Printed Long Skirts 25% Off! Special group of rayons & georgettes. Orig. up to \$98			All this great stuff and much, much more!

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To receive a free men's and ladies' apparel catalog, call 1-800-676-5373.

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LADIES NIGHT DRINK SPECIALS
75¢ WELLS & DRAFTS, \$1.25 FOR GUYS

FRIDAY SATURDAY
COMING SOON: **MARCH 19, 1997- GREAT WHITE**
APRIL 3, 1997- THE WHY STORE
MUST BE 21 WITH VALID ID



A room with a view

KeNtucky
Kernel

Established in 1894
Independent since 1971

EDITORIAL board

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Jeff Vinson, managing editor
Kathy Reding, news editor
Gary Wulf, assoc. news editor
Mat Herron, features editor
Dan O'Neill, arts editor
Tracie Purdon, design editor

It has come to the attention of most Americans that our commander in chief has been using the White House as a fund-raising mechanism. More recently, Vice President Al Gore has come under scrutiny for soliciting funds from his White House office phone.

This phenomenon is not the sole domain of the federal government. Locally, state Sen. Tim Philpot has apologized for the indiscretion of sending out his requests for campaign contributions on the state letterhead. Of course most of the politicians involved have claimed innocence or have promised that it will never happen again. That is the problem — our leaders are making us promises they have no intention of keeping.

Gore and Clinton would continue to rent the Lincoln bedroom to the highest bidder if the media didn't keep such close tabs on his finances. Philpot would still be using state funds to pad his war chest further if he had not been caught.

The reason for these problems, campaign finance has gotten out of hand. Senior Sen. Wendell Ford commented on his inability to

raise the needed \$5 million to make his re-election bid. Unlike Mrs. Clinton, Mrs. Ford would let Wendell rent out the spare bedroom.

We believe all these indiscretions take away from programs our leaders are trying to implement. Still, what else can we do but tell them, "Don't do it?"

Our solution: Call the White House next time you need a place to stay when you're in Washington, D.C.; next time you need a direct mailing to aid your organization, call Philpot. We're all taxpayers, and our leaders need to listen to us as closely as they do to their deep-pocketed contributors.

Perhaps if the Clinton administration and Philpot's office were flooded with calls from citizens seeking special favors for their tax contributions, our leaders might think twice before paying special attention to any one group.

The media has done its job exposing these inconsistencies; now it is the responsibility of each and every citizen to keep after these leaders. The closer tabs we keep on our elected officials, the less likely they are to stray, and even if they do, we can at least rest assured that they will get caught.

IN OUR OPINION

Wimpy readers can't grasp freedom of press concept

What is the most read section of a newspaper? Easy, the sports section. I always need to check the score of the basketball game and keep up on the latest recruits.

Nope, it's not the sports section.

OK, then it must be the crossword puzzle. It may seem that way during class, but once again you are wrong.

As it turns out, the most read section of a newspaper is the editorial page.

What?

You mean the garbage that fills this page is the most read section of the newspaper?

You are damn right.

News is news.

It is given in a straightforward manner, unbiased and unopinionated.

This is where the editorial page comes in. The purpose of the editorial page is for everyday people to give their opinions on the news or whatever they feel like writing about, no matter how taboo the topic.

Editorial columnists give THEIR opinions, not the opinion of the newspaper or the University, for that matter.

Every Thursday, I give my opinion. Often it concerns a topic our writers are fearful of tackling.

If you don't agree with my ideas and values, that is your opinion. Opinions are something that everyone has and everyone is entitled to.

I have no problem with people disagreeing with me — that is your right. My problem is with those of you who get on the case of the editors. That bothers me.

Where do people get the nerve to bash the editors of the Kernel for publishing the opinions of students?

In case some of you cannot read, at the end of every column, there is a disclaimer separating the editors from the columnists. For some people this waiver is not enough.

They want the newspaper to keep the trash off the editorial page. Some people may call me ignorant, but I think censoring the editorial page is more ignorant than any comment I could ever make.

At UK, the Kernel has had several controversial columnists. Jack Gatlin and Boyce Watkins are two of the most hated yet respected men to grace the pages of the Kentucky Kernel.

They both believed in something, so do I. They believed in the freedom to express their own



Ben Rich
Kernel Columnist

No matter how ignorant or childish you may think I am, at least I know my rights and cherish them. This is America, the greatest nation in the world, and if you do not like what you read, stop reading.

READERS' forum

I own Mingus the 'scared' white dog

To the editor:

Before you judge other people and their actions, it behooves you to find out the entire situation. For as long as we have been together, Mingus and I go everywhere.

I believe that this is humane and proper care for a big dog of his personality. Mingus would live a sad and deprived existence if he were left to a mundane routine of two walks a day on a leash. He is accustomed to various situations which others may perceive as improper care, but in reality he would much rather be with me than be left at home for hours at a time, alone and bored. Mingus is much happier spending his days on campus where I can visit with

him and he can interact with his ever-increasing number of friends. You can't imagine how many people have thanked me for bringing him to campus and adding some joy to their lives. I always provide him with food, water and shade. Mingus has everything he needs because he is outside, where he loves to be. Obviously, you don't ever see Mingus when the weather is freezing or raining.

If you are so concerned about Mingus waiting for me outside, why don't you work to change the UK policy which prohibits dogs from entering buildings?

Moya Hallstein
geography graduate student

Ben Rich is right on

To the editor:

It has become very fashionable

recently for readers to submit letters ripping Ben Rich to shreds. However, I fail to see the reason. While his articles may indeed be unresearched, I am certain that they are no more so than those of any of the other columnists in this top-notch publication. Also, he provides a welcome departure from the liberal, brainwashed rhetoric which is routinely spewed forth on the editorial pages. At the very least, Rich's articles are entertaining.

And I must give him credit for offending two groups who desperately need to be offended occasionally: homosexuals and the National Organization of Women — or as I like to call it, the National Organization of Lesbian Democrats, since that's all they really represent anyway.

Keep it up, Ben.

Christopher J. Chase
undeclared sophomore

TALKback!

Readers are encouraged to submit letters to the editor and guest opinions to the Viewpoint page in person or by mail in response to articles or columns published daily by the Kentucky Kernel.

Address your comments to "Letters to the Editor," Kentucky Kernel Editorial Editor, 035 Enoch J. Grehan Journalism Building, UK, Lexington, Ky. 40506-0042.

Send electronic mail to Kernel@pop.uky.edu. Letters should be approximately 250 words; guest opinions should be no longer than 850 words.

INFORMED SOURCES **"ANY ATTEMPT for international intervention ... will lead to a freeze in the peace process."**

David Levy, Israeli foreign minister, on Tuesday's scheduled meeting with Yasser Arafat to discuss the latest Mideast crisis.

Jenny McCarthy — a good piece of ass, but no talent

I realize that I may be jeopardizing my membership in the coveted Guy Club — and in doing so, lose my spitting, scratching, staring and Pacino privileges.

I, James Patrick Miller, a card-carrying male, really like Jenny McCarthy.

Before we get into this, let's distinguish this from a physical argument. She is a fine-looking woman. I'd be a giant liar if I tried to tell you that I don't think a former Playmate of the Year is not very easy on the eyes.

Nor is this a philosophical argument. I don't think that the lovely Jenny objectifies women everywhere or creates a climate of unhealthy sexuality in America. I think this would be giving her too much credit. At least, I certainly hope that someone who makes her living by getting 12- and 13-year-old boys to commit mortal sins doesn't dictate social norms. No,

this is a complaint based solely on her merit, or lack thereof.

She was a good Playmate. Maybe even the best of Playmates (no disrespect to that venerable grande dame Vanessa Williams). But there have been, and always will be, lots of good Playmates. However, doesn't it seem like it's a violation of the natural order of things for Playmates to have a life after leaving Hef's auspices? The talent of these women only exists between the butt-kissing interviews and the Tom Wolfe stories of Playboy's glossy paradise. Like seeing your elementary school teacher at the supermarket, there is something unsettling and out of place about seeing a Playmate in other areas of public life. It's unholly, I tell you.

And then she moved to "Singed Out."

To be fair, I've always had a profound, seething, Ahab-like hatred for the show. It encourages stupid people to emulate, for one. And besides, how many tight shirts, empty heads and guys from Salt 'n' Pepa videos does one need? Jenny made it worse. I have yet to see a woman who irritated me faster.

She smacked around the male contestants. She made gross faces into the camera and expected it to pass for humor. She made sex jokes on a dating show filled with



Guest Columnist
James Miller

about men everywhere. She makes us look absolutely foolish.

We follow with rapt attention. We stare at "Singed Out" like dogs out a car window. We allow this trollop to lead us around by our Johnsons.

We prostrate ourselves before the horne MTV dog-images and come back for more, eager to be a part of the dumbing-down of American society for a half hour of cleavage and butt shots.

She kicks us in the teeth and, because she shoots a few sultry glances into the camera and grabs her breasts for us once in a while, we come back for more, smooching her butt and lusting for more.

MTV says she's funny, but I can't help but have a solid distrust of the network that tells me to shut up, chew my cud and kneel before Planet Hollywood. Men, please, our penises have to be smarter than this.

James Miller is a columnist for the Michigan Daily; his views do not necessarily represent those of the Kentucky Kernel.

Not a good reason to shove her in front of a camera.

Remember when only talented and original people got their own TV show? I don't. But every time I see Jenny and her "talents" I think I hear the faint sound of Mary Tyler Moore crying herself to sleep.

To no one's great surprise, the show is just not funny. Predictably, the laborious half-hour is filled with vomit and armpit-hair jokes and other routines that look as if they were lifted from the pages of a third-grader's notebook.

But I think I've figured out her secret (I mean, apart from the cleavage). It's only funny because she's fine. I don't think anyone would watch some great big fat thing with boils and frog warts grab her breasts on cable (no one outside of the fetish market).

But what bothers me most about the broad is what she says.

Arrests by UK Police

March 7

▼James Cook, 20, of 2055 Springfield Road, Lebanon, Ky., for wanton endangerment.
 ▼Russell Jackson of 409 Bainbridge Court for alcoholic intoxication and warrant.

March 8

▼Roscoe Clift, 52, of 360 W. Loudon Ave. for alcoholic intoxication.
 ▼Carter Ellis, 69, of 360 W. Loudon Ave. for alcoholic intoxication.

March 9

▼Emeral Teater, 63, of 392 W. Loudon Ave. for alcoholic intoxication.
 ▼Janet Kennedy, 35, of 522 Hollow Creek Road,

for theft by deception.

Complaints filed with UK Police



March 12

▼Third-degree criminal mischief; Margaret I. King Library South; complainant stated that unknown Asian male cut computer cards with scissors.

March 11

▼Theft by unlawful taking over \$300 (felony); first floor instrument lockers Old Fine Arts Building; complainant stated that persons unknown entered her locker and stole her horn and that her keys were with her at the time.

March 10

▼Theft by unlawful taking over \$300 (felony);

1141 Red Mile Rd., UK Preventive Medicine; complainant stated persons unknown removed listed property without permission.

March 9

▼Theft by unlawful taking over \$300 (felony); Kirwan I lobby; complainant stated persons unknown to her stole her book bag from the lobby.
 ▼Third-degree criminal mischief; Sports Center Drive parking lot; listed damage was done to complainant's vehicle.

▼Third-degree criminal mischief; Complex Drive; complainant stated unknown persons did damage to her vehicle by breaking out the passenger door window with a rock.

▼Second-degree criminal mischief; Sports Center Drive parking lot; complainant stated unknown persons did damage to her vehicle by throwing a rock through the window and hitting the door panel with a rock, causing the paint to chip off.

March 8

▼Second-degree criminal mischief; Complex Drive at Sports Center Drive; complainant stated unknown persons caused listed damage to her vehicle.

▼Theft by unlawful taking over \$300 (felony); Virginia Avenue Parking Lot; complainant stated unknown person removed listed property from listed vehicle.

▼Second-degree criminal trespass; 165 Funkhouser Dr., ASTeCC Building; listed subject was observed roaming the ASTeCC Building.

▼Third-degree criminal mischief; 700 Woodland Ave.; complainant stated she observed the listed subjects remove the sign to the Cooperstown housing office and carry it to Kirwan III.

March 7

▼Possession of alcohol by a minor; D304 Haggin Hall; complainant stated listed persons were in possession of alcohol.

Leave

Group says policy violates rights act

From PAGE 1

tions differently than persons not so affected but similar in their ability or inability to work."

This limitation, Price said, goes against the law.

"(The policy) is discouraging you from even asking," she said.

Price perused benchmark university sites on the World Wide Web and found that, out of the 11 benchmarks, eight of them either already had a more laissez-faire maternity leave policy, or had adapted their policies after Clinton's bill passed.

The recommendation cited the University of Missouri and Indiana University in particular, which treat "disabilities resulting from pregnancy ... as any other illness or disability."

Luanne Hisle, employee relations specialist at UK Human Resource Services, said injuries and pregnancy fall under the UK policy. She said the instances where staff have been told they can only take six weeks were "illegal. They have a legal right to 12 weeks."

Human Resources offers training programs for future employee managers, but because the classes are not mandatory, some managers are not well-versed in family medical leave procedures.

Determining the amount of time off, Hisle said, is left up to the doctors.

"We don't sit back and call the shots," she said.

Mothers

Classes and children leave little spare time

From PAGE 1

Byrd's problem: She hardly ever has free time for herself.

Taking four classes at UK, Hensley does her homework while she is on campus.

"At home I have to help my daughter with her homework and do the cooking, the cleaning — the things mothers do," Hensley said.

Hensley's educational goal is a bachelor's degree; after that, she said, "I have to work to support my children. The last five years (have been) difficult financially."

Hensley said she would like to work for a small-town newspaper after graduation.

Why? For "my daughter's sake," she said.

Three ways to beat the high cost of college.

1. The Montgomery GI Bill
2. Student loan repayment
3. Part-time income

The Army Reserve Alternate Training Program is a smart way to pay for college.

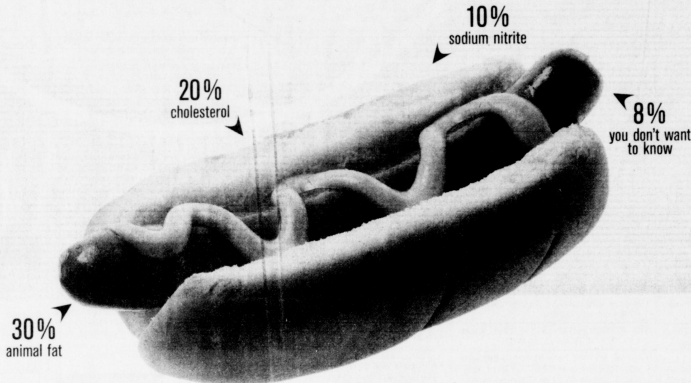
First, if you qualify, the Montgomery GI Bill can provide you with up to \$2,124 for current college expenses or approved vo/tech training.

Second, if you have—or obtain—a qualified student loan not in default, you may get it paid off at the rate of 15% per year or \$500, whichever is greater, up to a maximum of \$10,000. Selected military skills can double that maximum.

Third, you can earn part-time money in college, and here's how it works: One summer you take Basic Training, and the next summer you receive skill training at an Army school. You'll earn over \$1,500 for Basic and even more for skill training. Then you'll attend monthly meetings at an Army Reserve unit near your college, usually one weekend a month plus two weeks a year. You'll be paid over \$107 a weekend to start. It's worth thinking about. Give us a call:

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★★★ SPECIAL EDITION ★★★

KEG

Kernel Entertainment Guide • March 13, 1997



H O O P L A !

1

9

9

7

ONtap



MUSIC

Lebhead
Today at 10 p.m., \$3
Heresy
140 W. Main St., 258-2662

**Mojo Filter Kings,
The V-Roys**
Today at 10 p.m., \$3
Lynagh's Musicclub
388 Woodland Ave., 255-6614

**Ron Harris & the Knott
Brothers**
Today at 8 p.m., no cover
Outside Inn Again
828 Lane Allen Road, 278-9038

**RTE Irish National Radio
Orchestra**
Today at 8 p.m.
\$21.50, \$25, \$27.50
Kentucky Center for the Arts
Louisville. (502) 584-7777

High School Choral Festival
Today and Friday at 7:15 p.m.
free
Singletary Center for the Arts
257-4929

Noemi Lugo, soprano
Music of Women Composers
Friday
Peal Gallery
King Library North

Shag
Friday at 8:30 p.m.
\$7 advance, \$9 door
Bogart's, Cincinnati
TicketMaster: 281-6644

The Yonders
Friday at 10 p.m., \$3
Lynagh's Musicclub
388 Woodland Ave., 255-6614

**Ron Harris & the Knott
Brothers**
Friday and Monday at 7 p.m.
no cover
Shooters Bar & Grill
723 Lane Allen Road
278-9038

Metropolitan Blues All-Stars
Saturday at 10 p.m., \$4
Lynagh's Musicclub
388 Woodland Ave.
255-6614

HSBC
Saturday at 8 p.m., \$6.75
Bogart's, Cincinnati
TicketMaster: 281-6644

First Round Game Times:

<p>East Regional Indiana vs. Colorado 30 minutes after 7:40 p.m. game today</p> <p>Louisville vs. Massachusetts 30 minutes after 7:40 p.m. game tomorrow</p> <p>Midwest Regional Cincinnati vs. Butler 12:30 p.m. today</p> <p>Xavier vs. Vanderbilt 7:40 p.m. today</p>	<p>Southeast Regional Purdue vs. Rhode Island 30 minutes after 12:25 p.m. game today</p> <p>Duke vs. Murray State 30 minutes after 7:40 p.m. game tomorrow</p> <p>West Regional Kentucky vs. Montana 7:55 p.m. today</p> <p>Iowa vs. Virginia 30 minutes after 7:55 p.m. game today</p>
--	---

CHRIS ROSENTHAL Kernel staff

**Ron Harris & the Knott
Brothers**
Saturday at 9:30 p.m., no cover
Hip Joym
115 S. Upper St., 254-7065

**Lexington Federated Music
Club**
Scholarship Fund Benefit Recital
Sunday at 3 p.m.
Singletary Center for the Arts
257-4929

Gravel Pit
March 17
Heresy
140 W. Main St., 258-2662

**Big Head Todd & The
Masters, Nil Lara**
March 18 at 8 p.m.
\$15 advance, \$16.50 door
Bogart's, Cincinnati
TicketMaster: 281-6644

Art Mize and Robert Tinscher
*Paddy's Green Shamrock: Irish
Songs of Immigration*
March 18 at 12 p.m.
ArtsPlace
161 N. Mill St., 255-2951

Lily Pons
March 18 at 10 p.m., \$1
Lynagh's Musicclub
388 Woodland Ave., 255-6614

**Satchel's Pawn Shop,
The Mertons**
March 19 at 10 p.m., \$3
Lynagh's Musicclub
388 Woodland Ave.
255-6614

Circle
March 20 at 10 p.m., \$3
Lynagh's Musicclub
388 Woodland Ave., 255-6614

**Orange 9mm, Unsane, Hand-
some**
March 20 at 8 p.m., \$9
Bogart's, Cincinnati
TicketMaster: 281-6644

Alabama
March 21 at 7 p.m., \$22.50
Freedom Hall, Louisville
TicketMaster: 281-6644

Stone Temple Pilots
April 11, \$25
Louisville Gardens, Louisville
TicketMaster: 281-6644

The NCAA Tournament
basketball games are on local
CBS affiliate WKYC Channel 27



THEATER

Blithe Spirit
By UK Theater
Today and March 17-20, 24-27
at 8 p.m., \$7-\$10
Gingnol Theater, 257-4929

Romeo and Juliet
By Actors from the London Stage
Today through Saturday
at 8 p.m., \$10

Jelkyl Drama Center
Berea College
Berea, (606) 986-9341, ext. 6830

Night Watch
By Studio Players
Today through Saturday, March
21, 22, 28, 29 at 8 p.m.
Sunday, 23, 30 at 2:30 p.m.
\$6-\$10
Carriage House Theater
W. Bell Court, 253-2512

Sea Girl
By Lexington Children's Theatre
Saturday at 12 p.m., \$10
Eagle's Nest Gold and Country
Club
Somerset, (606) 677-6070

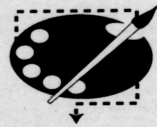
Camping with Henry & Tom
By Actors' Guild of Lexington
Today through Saturday
at 8 p.m.
Sunday at 2 p.m.
\$10 students, \$15
139 W. Short St., 233-0663

**Green Eggs and Ham
and Gertrude McFuzz**
By Stage One
Saturday at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.,
\$12
Kentucky Center for the Arts
Louisville, (502) 584-7777

Having Our Say
By Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park
Today and Friday at 8 p.m.
Saturday at 5 and 9 p.m.
\$22-\$34
Robert S. Marx Theater
Cincinnati, (513) 421-3888

Icarus
*By Actors Theater of Louisville
Part of the Humana Festival of
New American Plays*

Today at 7:30 p.m., Friday
at 8 p.m., Saturday at 5
and 9 p.m., \$10-\$33
Pamela Brown Auditorium
Louisville
(502) 584-1205



ART

UK Art Museum
*Toussaint L' Ouverture Series
By Jacob Lawrence*
Through March 23
*Chess sets from the Proskauer
collection*
Through June 8
*Bertin to Rodin: 18th and 19th
Century French Art*
Through June
Singletary Center for the Arts
257-5716

Kentucky State University
Ebony Odyssey Quilt Exhibit
Jackson Hall, Frankfort
(502) 227-6315

Morlan Art Gallery
*Art and Apparatus: Wonders from
Transylvania's Collection of 19th
Century French Medical/Scientific
Paraphernalia and Books*
Through March 28
Transylvania University
233-8210

Heike Pickett Gallery
Takeshi Takabara: New Works
Through March 30
522 W. Short St., 233-1263

Bluegrass Airport Gallery
Art Textiles by Nina Lapchuk
Through March 31
Bluegrass Airport
4000 Versailles Road

Kentucky Art & Craft Gallery
*Works by Robert Fry and Denise
Mucci Furnish*
Through April 19
Louisville, (502) 589-0102

Artists' Attic Inc.
*The Figure, the Portrait and the
Machine by Richard Deane*
Through March 30
401 W. Main St., 254-5501

Metrolux Gallery
Works in Metal by Erika Strecker
Through April 11
National City Bank

To have an event listed in the
March 27 issue of KeG, please
call Rod before March 24 at
257-1915.

KeG

H O O P L A !

1 9 9 7

4 Injuries don't slow down UK
A look back at the 1996-97 Wildcats' basketball season.

5 Past SEC wins get 5 in draw
UK, USC and Georgia lead SEC teams into the tourney.

6 Defending the crown
A picturesque look at UK's road to the NCAA tournament.

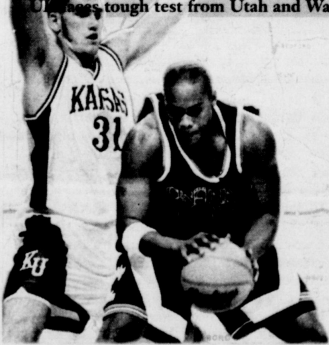
8 Do high seeds belong in dance?
Debate rages over the worth of small schools in NCAA.

12 North Carolina heads up East
Tar Heels must contend with Gamecocks and others.

16 No. 1 KU dominates Southeast
Kansas and Duke head for showdown in regional finals.

18 Gophers lead Midwest hopefuls
Minnesota looks to restore Big Ten pride.

20 Cats start title defense in West
Utah has tough test from Utah and Wake Forest.



Field of dreams
Two-page pullout of entire 64-team tournament.

Who's who
Team rankings and breakdown of NCAA invitees.

Love in the air
'Love Jones' and 'Everyone Says I Love You' hit theaters.

INDIANA

KeG HOOPLAstaff

KeG Hoopla Editors.....**Red Gohlke and Jeff Vinton**
 Writers.....**Price Atkinson, Brett Dawson, Chris Eschering, Jill Erwin, Dave Gorman, Rob Harbot, Dan O'Neil, G. Jason Stapleton**
 Photographers.....**Stephanie Cordie and James Crisp**
 Arena photographs.....**provided by NCAA**
 Production, graphics and cover.....**Eric Schoenborn, Rusty Hanson, Robin Jones, Chris Rosenthal, Eric Stevens, Gina Stichter**
 Design.....**Tracy Purdon, Sheri Philopis**

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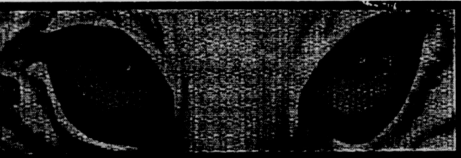

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Q	E	N	R	C	B	B	O	A	A	S
S	I	P	E	S	E	E	H	C	N	O

Derby Eve Jam!

BUSH
 ON SALE THIS SATURDAY!
 WITH SPECIAL GUEST STARS
Veruca Salt
 Friday, May 2-Freedom Hall 7:30pm
 RESERVED SEAT TICKETS ON SALE THIS SATURDAY, MAR. 15 AT
 10AM AT •Freedom Hall Box Office •All
 Ticketmaster Outlets or •Charge By Phone At
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Injuries don't slow down UK

Cats overcome Anderson loss

By Chris Easterling
 Sports Editor

Nobody ever said it would be easy for UK to repeat as national champions.

The Cats have faced injuries, lineup changes and the loss of four key players from last year's title team this season. But somehow, amazing as it may be, they have held on for a No. 1 seed in the West and pulled out 30 wins for the second consecutive season.

But this season didn't start out like it was going to be a good one for the Wildcats.

Opening up at the site of this year's Final Four, UK struggled to find its identity against a bigger, more aggressive Clemson team. It managed to jump out to a 10-point lead in the second half, but with four players playing 40 minutes or more, the Tigers wore down the Cats, winning 79-71 in overtime.

"It's going to take some time," UK Coach Rick Pitino said after the loss, "because we're playing four guards in our style of play without depth. We've gone from feast, where we had the great deep bench, to famine, with little depth."

The time it took was all of one week.

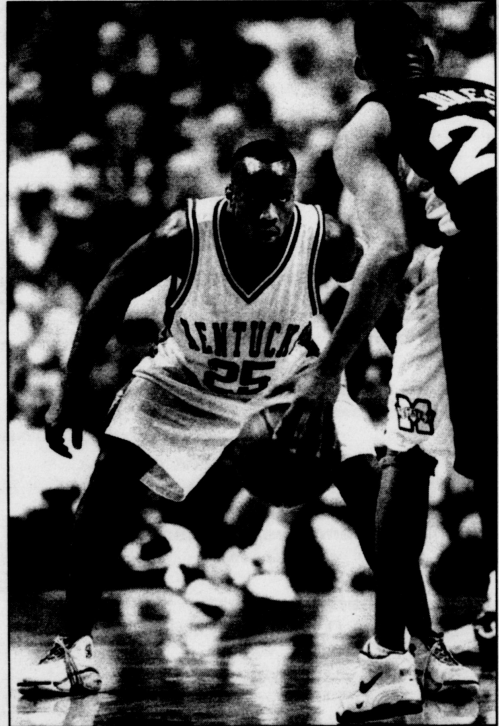
Playing in the Great Alaska Shootout over the Thanksgiving weekend, UK showed a little of the "spurtability" it was so renowned for last year. The Cats strung together three consecutive wins over Syracuse (by 34 points), host Alaska-Anchorage and eventual NCAA tourney team College of Charleston.

While the three wins in Alaska were eye-popping, one of the season's most impressive victories came a week later in Louisville's Freedom Hall.

Bobby Knight brought his unbeaten and then No. 6 Indiana Hoosiers in for the annual border war, but the Cats — particularly Derek Anderson and Ron Mercer — were out to take no prisoners. The pair combined for 56 points, including 30 by Anderson, in a 99-65 romp.

The duo would continue on its tear during the semester break, as the Wildcats would string together nine more wins — including a 20-point dismantling of archrival Louisville in Freedom Hall on New Year's Eve — upping their mark to 14-1 before heading to Oxford, Miss., to face the up-and-coming Ole Miss Rebels.

The Cats were working short-



File photo

THE EYES HAVE IT Wildcats' point guard Anthony Epps displays the kind of intensity UK used this season to rise above injuries and win 30 games.

handed as Anderson was limited in playing time due to a back injury, and it showed as the Rebels handed UK its first Southeastern Conference loss since Mississippi State defeated UK in the 1996 SEC Tournament.

"We never thought we would go undefeated in the league again," Pitino said via teleconference.

Disaster — or at least it appeared to be at the time — struck UK against Auburn on Jan. 18. Anderson's season ended when he tore his anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee.

"He was having a fantastic senior season," Pitino said. "We expect him to make a full recovery."

The team also was able to make a full recovery, ripping off four straight wins as they headed toward the game of the season in Columbia, S.C., against division leader South Carolina.

But injury struck again. Despite a Jared Prickett-ankle injury, UK came out and played Carolina close. After rallying from 11 points down, Mercer's shot to win the game in regula-

tion rimmed out. The Gamecocks won 84-79 in overtime.

"I thought our guys played a great game," Pitino would say afterwards. "You just have to give (USC) credit, they played a little better game."

The Cats had little time to wallow in their misery, with nationally-ranked Villanova coming to town five days later.

Judging by the outcome of the Villanova game, five days was plenty. UK played out-of-its-mind in putting together the game of the year in a 93-56 rout.

The Cats set their sights a Senior Day showdown with the Gamecocks, on March 2. Days before the game, Mercer had to put to rest all talk about his future. On Feb. 26, he decided he was ready for the NBA.

Mercer was set to end his career at Rupp Arena with style. But Carolina spoiled his lat game and wrapped up the SEC title handing UK its first loss at Rupp Arena in 27 games, 72-66.

UK rebounded. It swept through the SEC Tournament in Memphis, Tenn., to capture its 20th tournament crown, hammering Georgia to win the title.

UK no match for '92 Duke

Experience key to Blue Devils' repeat bid

By Brett Dawson
Senior Staff Writer

What pressure? As the NCAA Tournament begins today, UK goes in as the defending champion. But the Wildcats don't have the kind of unrelenting pressure on them that past crown-wearers had.

Unlike two of the three champions preceding them — North Carolina and Arkansas — the Cats won't enter the tourney as overwhelming favorites.

Not since Duke in 1990-91 and 1991-92 has a champ successfully defended its crown. A look at how UK stacks up with the last repeat champion:

Point Guard

Duke's Bobby Hurley was the consummate floor leader — an All-American and the Atlantic Coast Conference's all-time assist leader. His stellar floor game made Duke virtually impossible to rattle.

The Wildcats' Wayne Turner has the kind of blinding quickness Hurley never had. But his floor game and outside shot are nowhere near Hurley's. Anthony Epps provides more of a true point guard presence, but, like Hurley was, he's best when surrounded by a load of talent.

Edge: Duke.

Shooting Guard

Though Grant Hill was a natural small forward, he was the shooting guard in Duke's lineup.

Sound familiar? Ron Mercer is in the identical situation for UK. Hill was a sophomore on Duke's second title team, Mercer is a sophomore now.

Hill became one of the great all-around players in the college game by his senior year. But Mercer is probably a better player than Hill was as a sophomore. While Hill was a complementary player, Mercer has been cast in a starring role.

Edge: UK.

Center

UK's Jamaal Magloire and Nazr Mohammed are true centers and the two have combined to give the Cats a solid presence in the middle much of this season.

Duke's Christian Laettner, while a natural power forward, created major matchup problems for bigger centers. Not only could Laettner work on the perimeter, he was one of the best clutch shooters in the game.

Edge: Duke by a landslide.

Small Forward

Though Hill was Duke's true small forward and Mercer is UK's, the lineup cards will show Thomas Hill and Allen Edwards.

Thomas Hill was a senior during Duke's repeat run, Edwards a junior during UK's attempt at doing two.

While Hill provided an inside-out presence, Edwards plays more of a shooting guard's role.

Edge: Even.

Power Forward

The Blue Devils featured athletic Brian Davis at this spot, while the Cats have bruisers Jared Prickett and Scott Padgett.

While Prickett gives UK a physical presence it doesn't have when he's not in the game, Davis was a finisher and defensive specialist who scored when opponents concentrated on other players.

Edge: Duke, barely.

Overall

Duke had superior talent, but the key might be that the Blue Devils had *experienced* talent. UK, meanwhile, has lost six players who played significant minutes in the 1996 championship — Derek Anderson, Tony Delk, Walter McCarty, Antoine Walker, Mark Pope and Jeff Sheppard. But UK isn't too far a cry from the '94 Blue Devils. That team, primarily Grant Hill and a host of role players, advanced to the Final Four.

If Mercer can provide an all-around game like Hill's, the Cats could find themselves in Indianapolis.

And if UK makes it that far in this watered-down NCAA field, anything can happen.



Photo courtesy UK Media Relations

UNFORGETTABLE UK gave Duke its toughest test on the road to a repeat.

SOUNDbytes

Who will win the NCAA title?



"My gut feeling is that the (Kansas) Jayhawks will follow Kentucky's pattern a year ago."

Dick Vitale
ESPN/ABC
commentator



"I see Kansas winning it all, beating Kentucky in the national championship game...."

Digger Phelps
ESPN
analyst



"Kentucky could win it all if Derek Anderson comes back... the Wildcats have a chance."

Dale Brown
former LSU coach
and guest ESPN analyst

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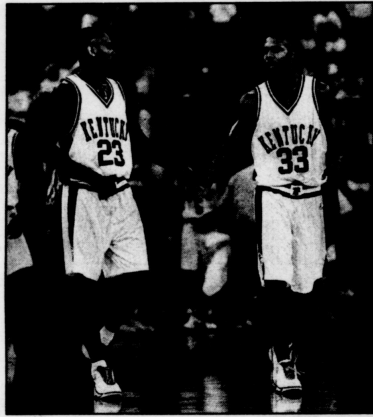
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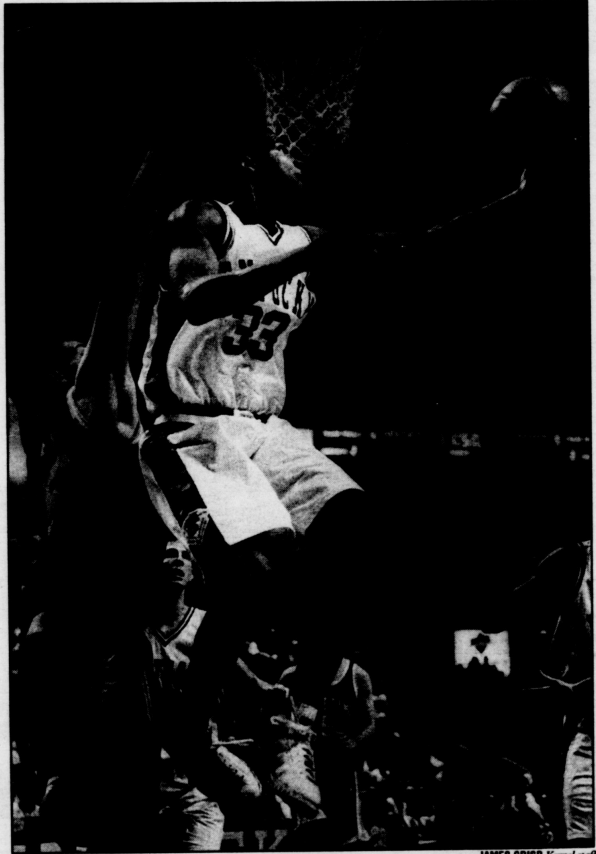
DEFENDING THE CROWN



JAMES CRISP Kernel staff



JAMES CRISP Kernel staff



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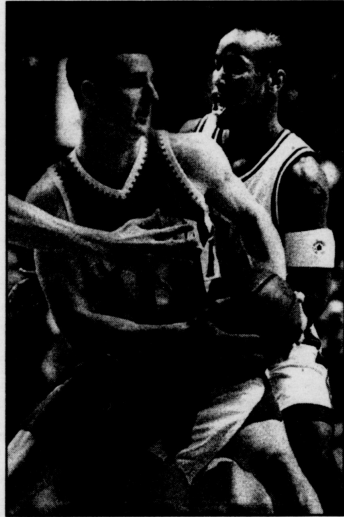


STEPHANIE CORDLE Kernel staff

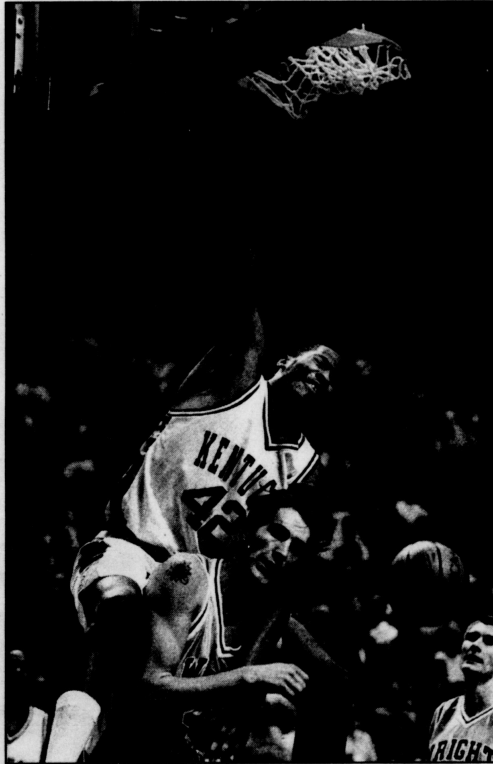


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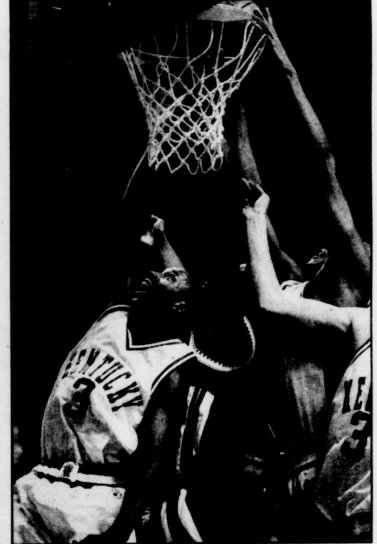
For the first two months of the season, UK could boast that it owned college basketball's version of Scottie Pippen and Michael Jordan in the form of Derek Anderson and Ron Mercer. The duo (top left) wowed the crowds with several spectacular plays and big scoring outputs. But unfortunately for the Wildcats, Anderson suffered a season-ending knee injury (above left) on Jan. 18 against Auburn, forcing Mercer (top right) to elevate his game to a new level, as if it wasn't elevated enough. But in following the trend in college basketball, Mercer decided that he was ready to play professionally (above), where he will join former Wildcats Tony Delk, Walter McCarty and Mark Pope (right).



JAMES CRISP Kernel staff



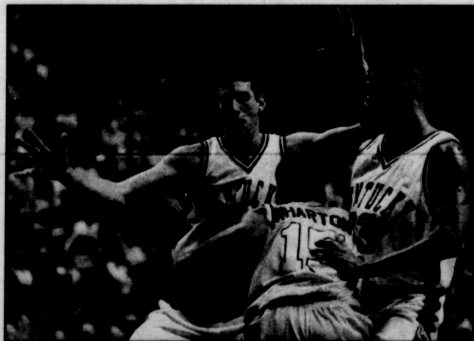
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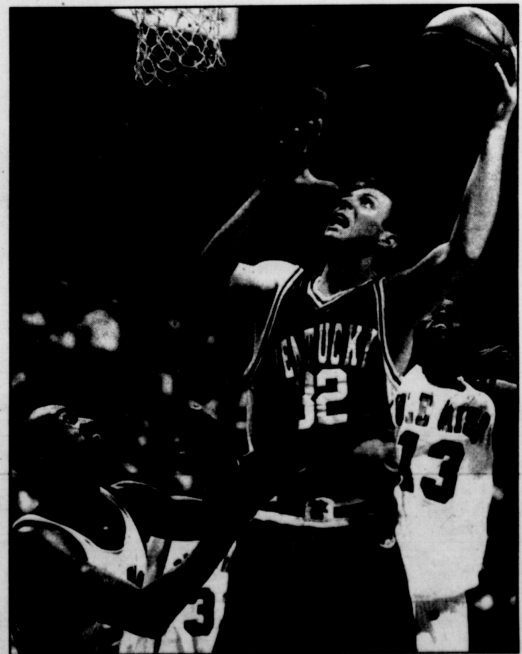
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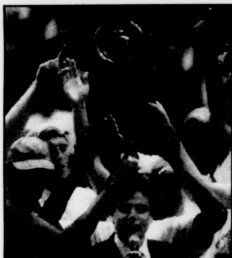


JAMES CRISP Kernel staff



STEPHANIE CORDLE Kernel staff

The loss of Anderson in mid-January forced Coach Rick Pitino (lower middle) to expect "about 20 percent more" from all the players. Each player responded at various times during the season to help UK win. Anthony Epps (top left) provided senior leadership throughout the season, while Jamaal Magloire (top middle) played a huge roll in a late-season win at Alabama. Allen Edwards (above) and Wayne Turner's (far left) play picked up significantly after the injury. Scott Padgett (lower left) and Jared Prickett (below) both played big roles in leading the Cats to the SEC Tournament Championship.



1997
Kentucky 1997
UCLA 1996
Arkansas 1996
N. Carolina 1994
Duke 1992
Duke 1992
UNLV 1991
Michigan 1989
Kansas 1989
Indiana 1988
Louisville 1987
Villanova 1986
Georgetown 1985
N. C. State 1984
N. Carolina 1983
Indiana 1982
Louisville 1981
Michigan St. 1980
Kentucky 1978

Big Dance made smaller with 'Fair field' of 64

Excited about that Kansas-Jackson State game? How about that North Carolina-Fairfield matchup? Are the palms sweating in anticipation of the big Minnesota-Southwest Texas State rumble?

Of course not — no one cares.

The Coppin States and Charleston Southern of the world serve basically one purpose — comic relief.

Amid all the heart-stopping barn-burners that accompany March Madness, it's kind of fun to watch teams with 6-foot-6 centers, unmatching shoes and no band or cheerleaders wipe the floor for the national universities. The 40-point first-round blowouts give fans of the major schools a chance to party and drink heavily without the burden of concentrating and the freedom to use the bathroom without holding it until commercials or halftime. Usually, the only cheering takes place when the 12th man off the bench lights them up for over 30 points.

They deserve a little break after a long grueling season, right?

Do those arrogant fans who've enjoyed rich tradition and tournament success throughout their school's history really deserve a breather?

No. And that's not Northern Oregon's acronym for you small

team crusaders; that's "No" in the plainest sense of the word.

The NCAA's decision to give automatic bids to the piddly conferences is equivalent to inviting a YUGO to race at Indy or asking Sylvester Stallone to audition for the role of Hamlet.

As it stands today, since 1985 when the tournament went to the 64 game format, no No. 16 seed has won a single game. Two 15 seeds (Richmond and Santa Clara) and eight No. 14 seeds enjoyed single victories. In contrast, 15 first- and second-round games have ended with the higher seed winning by at least 38 points.

Oddly enough, both Santa Clara and Richmond went on to play Temple in the second round and lose. Moral of that story: watch out for Southwest Texas State in the first round against Minnesota; Temple has 'em bought.

A better solution to blowout format would be to actually let the teams who *deserve* to go into the big dance — teams like Michigan, Tulane, Syracuse or any of the three Western Athletic Conference teams who were denied with 20-plus wins.

Even the bottom-of-the-barrel squads from the Atlantic Coast Conference, Southeastern Conference, Big 12 Conference and other power conferences around the nation deserve a go at

it before, say Fairfield. These teams at least have the potential to beat great teams, even if their overall record doesn't indicate their caliber.

N.C. State, for example, beat Wake Forest, Duke and Clemson in the last two weeks of the season. Granted they finished the regular season with a losing record, but so did Fairfield and Jackson State and they didn't beat three of the nation's best teams.

But alas, there is one benefit gained when the finest from the Southwestern Athletic or the Big Sky fill the bottom seeds. They bring some pretty impressive nicknames to the floor. This year the Stags of Fairfield and the Gaels of St. Mary's grace the all-name team. Recent tournament classic nicknames include Coastal Carolina's Chanticleers (that's shant-uh-klears: a rooster in narrative verse), Delaware's Blue Hens and Western Carolina's Catamounts.

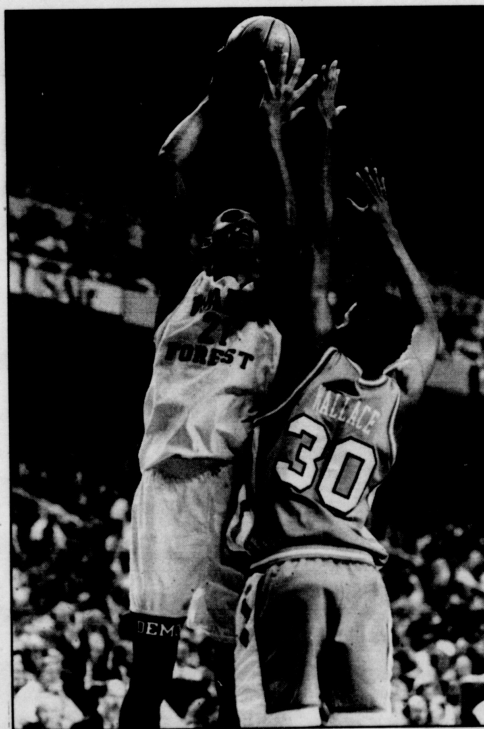
By the way, those Stags come with tournament odds at five gazillion to one. Not just one gazillion ... five gazillion. If the other 63 teams decided to fix the tournament, they could split the proceeds and have about 80 trillion each for their basketball programs.

Even Fairfield could probably pull off a winning season with an extra \$80 trillion. In the meantime, GO STAGS!

Arts Editor Dan O'Neill is a finance sophomore.



Dan O'Neill
Arts Editor

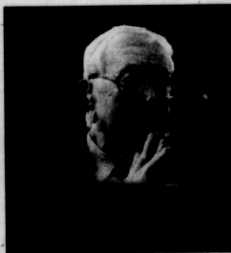


MAN IN THE MIDDLE Players like All-American Tim Duncan of Wake Forest make advancing in tourney nearly impossible for high seeds.



COACHING RECORDS Tournament Wins - Active Coaches

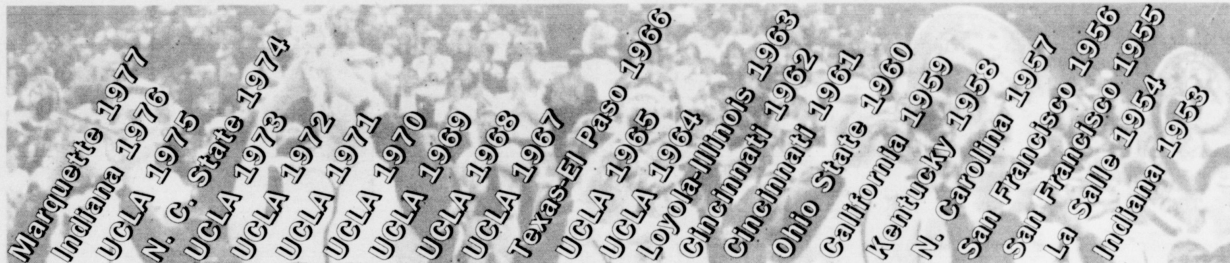
- 61, Dean Smith, UNC
- 40, Bobby Knight, IU
- 39, Mike Krzyzewski, Duke
- 39, Denny Crum, U of L
- 34, John Thompson, G'town
- 31, Jerry Tarkanian, UNLV/LBSU
- 27, Jim Boeheim, Syracuse



COACHING RECORDS

Tournament Win % - All-time

- .917, Ed Jucker, Cincinnati (11-1)
- .900, Ken Loeffler, La Salle (9-1)
- .867, Phil Woolpert, San Francisco (13-2)
- .825, John Wooden, UCLA (47-10)
- .818, Branch McCracken, Indiana (9-2)
- .796, Mike Krzyzewski, Duke (39-10)
- .778, Fred Taylor, Ohio State (14-4)
- .778, Rick Pitino, BU, Prov. & UK (21-6)



Super seeds beware — little guys lurking

Calling all high seeds in the 1997 NCAA Tournament. Teams seeded 12 or higher, this applies to you.

Fairfield, Jackson State, Copin State — sorry Montana Grizzlies, you guys need not apply because you're playing UK — arise and play like the champions you are.

After all, the Jackson States of the world only get into the tournament by winning their conference tournaments. These teams know pressure.

If they lose there's no safety net second-chance at-large bid waiting for them. Lose in the Southwestern Athletic Conference Tournament and say goodbye until next season.

It's one and done. Get a big screen TV and enjoy CBS's coverage of the tournament because that's as close as these small schools get to postseason glory.

Too often high seeds are laughed at, ridiculed and overlooked by opposing teams, fans and analysts.

South Alabama, who? Valparaiso, where? Long Island, what?

But for these teams with just a slightly better chance of running the table than a snowball in your-know-where, all it takes is one win to go back to campus as conquering heroes.

It's labeled a miracle. The season a triumph. And for the top-seeded victim, all is dark. It's

labeled a failure. The season a disappointment.

As improbable as a first-round upset is, it happens.

Sometimes it happens twice.

In 1992, No. 13 Southwestern Louisiana picked off No. 4 Oklahoma 87-83. On the same day, upset victim of the decade Arizona, which has lost to a lower seed three times in the '90s, was bounced out of the tourney by East Tennessee State 87-80.

Even when high seeds don't pull off the big upset, at the very least they make first-round tourney games more interesting. Last season fans surely sat up a little straighter when the 73-71 final score of top-seeded Purdue against Western Carolina rolled across the screen.

As it turns out, high seeds do a little fortune telling in the first round as well. Western Carolina showed the nation how vulnerable the Boilermakers were.

Sure enough, the next game out, Purdue lost to No. 9 Georgia 76-69.

Small schools deserve the opportunity to compete with the big boys, even though most of the low seeds drub the high ones by 30 or so points.

Teams that whine about high seed Davids are wanna-be low-seed Goliaths that couldn't take care of business in their own super conferences. The selection

committee isn't trying to promote elitism. Fair play and opportunity should be its guiding light when selecting the top 64.

No. 16 seeds bring refreshing enthusiasm to the draw. UK, Kansas, North Carolina — those teams go every year. It's expected.

But when the Fairfield Stags from Connecticut make the tourney, it's huge. So huge in fact the school cancelled classes to celebrate. Now that's excitement.

By contrast, the Wildcats cut down the nets last season in New Jersey and classes went on as scheduled. Ho-hum, national champions. That's great, class, now what's the atomic number for neon?

And how about this for a storyline. The Stags, with a record of 11-18, could, as unimaginable as it sounds, win the NCAA title (six games) and finish the season with a below .500 record.

As Dickie V. would say, "Are you serious?" Let the little guys play.

Small schools are great for the game. The heartbeat races a little faster when scores show extreme underdogs holding their own against the heaviest of favorites.

Remember, top seeds, for all the double-digit blowouts against small schools in the first round, there's a least one or two Southwestern Louisiana-type wins lurking amid the field of 64.



Jeff Vinson
Managing Editor



NO PUSHOVER While UK defeated Western Carolina handily this season, it gave No. 1 seed Purdue a scare last year in the first round losing 73-71.



INDIVIDUAL RECORDS Final Four Three-Point FGs

- 10, Freddie Banks, UNLV ('87)
- 7, Steve Alford, Indiana ('87)
- 7, Dave Sieger, Okla. ('88)
- 7, Dennis Scott, Ga. Tech ('90)
- 7, Tony Delk, UK ('96)
- 6, Bobby Hurley, Duke ('92)
- 6, Darryl Wilson, Miss. St. ('96)



INDIVIDUAL RECORDS Tournament Scoring Avg.

- 41.3, Austin Carr, Notre Dame ('69-'71)
- 33.7, Bill Bradley, Princeton ('63-'65)
- 32.4, Oscar Robertson, Cin. ('58-'60)
- 30.6, Jerry West, W. Virginia ('58-'60)
- 30.5, Bob Pettit, LSU ('53-'54)
- 29.3, Dan Issel, UK ('68-'70)
- 29.1, Bo Kimble, Loyola-Mymt. ('88-'90)

Past SEC wins put 5 in dance

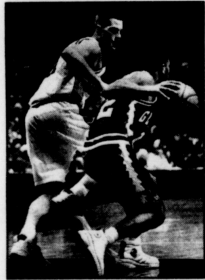
By Rob Herbst
Weekend Sports Editor

In 1996 the Southeastern Conference proved it was the best conference in basketball.

The SEC had all four of its NCAA Tournament squads advance to the Sweet Sixteen (UK, Mississippi State, Arkansas and Georgia) and had two representatives in the NCAA Final Four with UK and Mississippi St.

Success in last year's tournament earned the SEC more credibility and this year the conference was rewarded with five teams in the NCAA Tournament. But this year it is doubtful that all five will make it to the round of 16.

Start off with the SEC's best, UK. Because of their SEC Tournament championship, the Wildcats



received a No. 1 seed in the West region. The road for the Cats seems relatively simple. Assuming that UK can beat Montana, the

Wildcats would face either Iowa or Virginia. Neither squad is a "cupcake," but nobody's betting on the Hawkeyes or Cavaliers to advance to the Final Four.

If UK can make it to the Elite Eight, it would most likely face

Utah or Wake Forest.

In recent NCAA Tournaments, the Wildcats have demolished Utah and Wake Forest, including last year's tournament. UK pummeled Utah 101-70 and creamed Wake Forest 83-63 en route to the Final Four.

Besides the Cats, the team with the best opportunity to succeed in the NCAA Tournament is South Carolina.

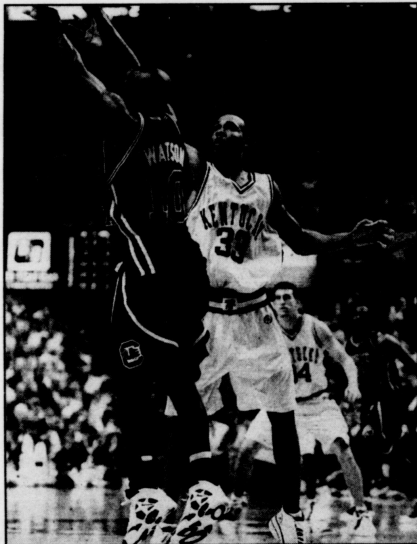
The Gamecocks were in the running for a No. 1 seed, but a loss to Georgia in the SEC Tournament semifinals ruined USC's bid.

South Carolina has a favorable road in the tournament to the Elite Eight. If everything holds to form, South Carolina should face North Carolina for the right to advance to the Final Four.

One team that has some

SEC tipoffs

- ▼ East Region
South Carolina vs. Coppin State
- ▼ Southeast Region
Georgia vs. Tennessee-Chattanooga
- ▼ Midwest Region
Vanderbilt vs. Xavier, Ohio; Mississippi vs. Temple
- ▼ West Region
UK vs. Montana



PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE CORDLE Kernel staff

TOURNEY-BOUND South Carolina (above) and Georgia (below) are among the five SEC schools to make the field of 64.

experts questioning its validity is Georgia. The Bulldogs received a generous No. 3 seed in the Southeast Region.

On a recent computer on-line discussion, UK Athletics Director C.M. Newton, a member of the tournament selection committee stated, "I think the simple answer is that Georgia played into a three seed late in the season with two wins over South Carolina (SEC conference champion), one in the SEC (Tournament) semifinals."

Georgia's road in the tournament has some bumps. Assuming UGA defeats Tennessee—Chattanooga in the first round, the Bulldogs will most likely face a tough Illinois squad. Give Georgia and head

coach Tubby Smith credit because few expected the Bulldogs (23-8) to have a great season.

The other two SEC representatives may have a short stay in the tournament.

No. 8 seed Ole Miss must face tournament-tough Temple.

The Rebels had their best ever regular season but are forced to face the Owls' tenacious defense in the first round.

No. 10 Vanderbilt squeaked into the tournament thanks to a comeback win against Mississippi St. in the first round of the SEC Tournament.

Vanderbilt must take on Xavier in the first round. Xavier is the Top 25 team and a strong No. 7 seed.

NCAA bursts WAC's bubble

By O. Jason Stapleton
Assistant Sports Editor

You can't please all the people all the time. That is the simple truth when it comes to the NCAA Tournament selection committee. Some

teams — call them "bubble" teams if you will — have the fate of their entire season resting in the hands of the committee.

This year, just like every year before it, there are a few surprises and a few disappointments.

The single biggest surprise is that the Texas Longhorns actually made it into the Big Dance.

This team is 16-11 and has no big wins.

Oklahoma is pretty much in the same boat with a 19-10 record. Does the fact that the NCAA headquarters is in Kansas City, Mo., smack dab in the middle of Big 12 country have anything to do with this?

Well, probably not, but these two teams can thank the woes of Texas Tech, which declared itself ineligible for post-season play.

So who gets left out in the cold because these sub-par "super conference" teams make it? The Western Athletic Conference.

The WAC had a total of six very deserving teams waiting patiently to be selected to compete in the field of 64.

Fresno State, Hawaii and Texas Christian were all left out to be part of the dreary gray hell that is the National Invitational Tournament or (Not Invited Tourney).

Why bother you ask? Who cares about the wacky WAC anyway?

There are several reasons these teams should have made it in before many of the other big name schools.

▼TCU, Fresno State and Hawaii all had 20-plus win seasons.

▼Fresno played one of the toughest schedules in the country. At one point the Bulldogs actually had a 10-game road trip.

▼TCU was playing its best ball at the end of the season, having a great run all the way to the WAC Championship game.

▼Hawaii won the WAC's Pacific division. If Mississippi makes it in simply because the Rebels win the Southeastern Conference West, shouldn't the Rainbow's make it in as well?

Most of the deserving made it in, but you always have to wonder what would happen if the TCU's of the world were given a chance.

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MAR 13 1997

Domes mean money for NCAA

By Chris Easterling
Sports Editor

Get used to it. Domes are the wave of the future as far as the NCAA Tournament is concerned.

Not only will domes come into play for the Final Four, but also during earlier rounds of the tournament.

Two out of the four regional sites are domes this year — San Antonio's Alamodome in the Midwest and Syracuse's Carrier Dome in the East.

Next year it will be San Antonio's turn to see how a dome can handle a Final Four. There will also be three regional sites which are held in domes.

Just why the move to domes? Large capacities and more revenue which can be made by getting 30,000 or more people are among the reasons behind the move.

Take last year's Final Four at the Continental Airlines Arena in East Rutherford, N.J., only about 20,000 people could squeeze into the arena for what has become one of the biggest sporting events in the country.

This year, 47,000 basketball-crazed fans will be able to attend the Final

Four at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis.

That's a difference of 27,000 people, or more than two sold-out crowds in the Meadowlands could fit into the Dome on the final weekend of March.

But domes also cause a problem, at least for the teams participating.

The big area in the dome can cause depth perception problems for the shooters, such as the case last year in the Southeastern Conference Tournament at the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans.

UK, which has had a history of poor shooting games in domes, shot a woeful 33.3 percent against Mississippi State in the championship game in losing by 11.

Earlier this season, at the RCA Dome no less, the Cats struggled from the field against Clemson, shooting 43 percent.

UK shot almost the same percentage in December during a game against Georgia Tech at the Georgia Dome.

"Domes are strange," said UK Coach Rick Pitino. "Sometimes you shoot well, sometimes you don't. I

don't think it makes that much of a difference, besides backgrounds. That's where it changes players psychologically."

Maybe one of the biggest displays in a title game of poor shooting was illustrated by Scotty Thurman and Corliss Williamson of Arkansas in the 1995 championship game at the Kingdome in Seattle.

The duo combined for a woeful 5-of-25 from the field as UCLA topped the Hogs.

Last year, Tony Delk was notorious for poor shooting performances in domes.

But Delk overcame his shooting problems to go 15-of-28 in the Midwest regionals held at the Metrodome in Minneapolis.

This year, it has been the two big men — Nazr Mohammed and Jamaal Magloire — who have had the biggest problems in domes, shooting a combined 6-of-19 from the field.

The bottom line for most dome-weary squads is in the big-dollar world of college basketball, domes put more people in the seats. And more people in the seats means more revenue for the NCAA.



JAMES CRISP Kernel staff

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Carolina duo, Rupp's mark give East several subplots

By Chris Easterling
 Sports Editor

A pair of Carolina schools head up the seeds in the East region of the 1997 NCAA Tournament.

The red-hot North Carolina Tar Heels parlayed their Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament Championship into a No. 1 seed, the Heels' first top seed since 1994.

Since a convincing loss to Virginia on Jan. 11 started the Tar Heels off at 0-3 in the ACC, North Carolina has been the hottest team in the country, winning 16 of their last 17 games. The lone loss came at Duke.

Giving a subplot to the Tar Heels' tourney run is Dean Smith's chase of Adolph Rupp's all-time wins record.

A win over below-.500 Fairfield in the first round would tie the 35-year head coach with the legendary UK coach. But it's the potential second round matchup that would break the mark that is the focus of attention around the country.

Smith versus Bobby Knight. That is, if Knight's Indiana

Hoosiers can get by ninth-seeded Colorado.

The Hoosiers are one of two Big 10 teams in the region, joined by seven-seeded Wisconsin.

The No. 2 seed in the East is Southeastern Conference regular-season champion South Carolina. Eddie Fogler's team is back in the tournament for the first time since 1989.

Should the Gamecocks and Tar Heels both advance to the Final Eight — another subplot — the game would pit student against teacher.

Fogler is a UNC grad, and spent 14 years in Chapel Hill as an assistant to Smith.

The East also boasts a few intriguing teams, which if they play up to their abilities, could throw a wrench into either of the Carolina schools' Final Four plans.

No. 3 New Mexico, No. 4 Villanova and No. 6 Louisville all fall into this category.

The Lobos have been a mystery team to most people in the Eastern time zone, considering that their games usually don't start until midnight on the East

coast. The Wildcats have been one of the most inconsistent teams out there. Plenty of talent is available for Coach Steve Lappas, but this team seems to fade away against good teams, as evidenced by their 9-7 mark against teams in the tourney.

The 37-point loss to UK on Feb. 9 also raises questions about Villanova's legitimacy, but don't be surprised if Nova finally pulls together and makes a significant run in the tournament.

One team that has both surprised and disappointed is the Cardinals. Denny Crum's squad has been giants against the Top 25, losing only 1-of-8 against teams ranked at the time U of L faced them, with its lone loss coming to UK.

But when it's a team that should be handled with ease, Louisville struggles. Two losses to Memphis, plus losses to St. Louis, North Carolina-Charlotte, Tulane, Marquette and Temple have raised questions about this team. It also turned this team from a legitimate No. 2 or 3 seed into its current No. 6 seed.

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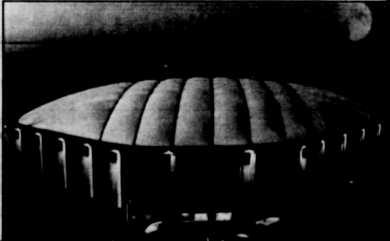
EAST REGION FINALS

SYRACUSE, N.Y.

INDIVIDUAL RECORDS	TEAM RECORDS
▼POINTS: David Robinson (50)	▼POINTS: N. Carolina State (114)
▼FG%: Christian Laettner (1.000)	▼FG%: Northeastern (.750)
▼REBOUNDS: Fred Cohen (34)	▼REBOUNDS: Temple (76)
▼ASSISTS: Sam Crawford (16)	▼ASSISTS: Syracuse (31)
▼BLOCKS: David Robinson (9)	▼BLOCKS: Massachusetts (12)
▼STEALS: Darrell Hawkins (8)	▼STEALS: Connecticut (19)

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- ▼TICKET PRICES: \$60
- ▼ORDER INFO: (315) 443-2121



EAST

Red-hot UNC set for Final Four run

By Chris Easterling
Sports Editor

Is there another team as hot as North Carolina right now?

The Tar Heels, the No. 1 seed in the East region, have won 16-of-17 down the stretch to turn a 0-3 start in the Atlantic Coast Conference into a 12-4 final conference mark and the ACC Tournament title.

Coach Dean Smith has silenced the critics who were calling for his job, despite his past successes. And, in the process, has put himself within one game of Adolph Rupp's all-time wins mark.

A win over Fairfield would tie Smith with the "Baron of the Bluegrass," while a win over either Colorado or Bobby Knight's Indiana Hoosiers would give the 35-year coach the record.

Key players

Antawn Jamison, 6-foot-8 sophomore forward; Ademola Okulaja, 6-8 sophomore forward; Serge Zwiker, 7-2 senior center; Vince Carter, 6-1 sophomore guard; Ed Cota, 6-1 freshman guard.

Coach

Smith is 875-253 in 35 years at North Carolina. The 875 wins places him second

all-time behind former UK coach Rupp. Smith appears to still have about five years left in him before he finally calls it quits, if he ever does.

Overview

North Carolina (24-6) has finally started to look like the team everyone expected it to be at the beginning of the season.

Carter has matured a lot since the 0-3 conference start, when he was trying to take every shot. He still likes to shoot, but is also looking to pass it around as well. Jamison has been dominant lately, scoring almost at will.

Cota has been the X-factor for Carolina. The freshman from Brooklyn, N.Y., has been playing like he's been in the Smith system for three years instead of only four months.



Smith



Jamison

Etc.

Carolina has history on its side. The last time the Final Four was held at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis, the Heels made it there. Of course, the Tar Heels don't want to repeat what happened then, losing in the semifinals to Kansas.

Two former Carolina assistants are head coaches of teams that are among top eight seeds in the field of 64.

Roy Williams is coaching the Southeast's No. 1 seed, and tourney favorite, Kansas. Eddie Fogler's South Carolina Gamecocks are the No. 2 seed in the East and could have a chance to face the Tar Heels.

On the horizon

A win over the below-.500 Stags in the

first round is as close to a lock as there is in the tournament this year.

The second round is where the intrigue begins. Imagine Smith versus Knight, with Rupp's mark hanging in the balance. And don't think that the Hoosiers would be licking their chops at a chance to put off history for about eight months.

But realistically, the Tar Heels are playing as good as anyone in the tournament, which should bode well for a return trip to the Final Four.

The only possibility of Carolina losing is if second-seeded South Carolina plays as it did against UK.

Smith in the NCAAs

North Carolina Coach Dean Smith's name decorates several lists for coaching accomplishments. Here are a few of his successes in the NCAA Tournament and where they rank him among all college coaches.

- ▼ APPEARANCES: 26 (1st)
 - ▼ CONSECUTIVE APPEARANCES: 22 (1st).
 - ▼ WINS: 61 (1st)
 - ▼ WINNING PERCENTAGE: .701 (7th).
 - ▼ FINAL FOUR APPEARANCES: 10 (2nd).
 - ▼ CHAMPIONSHIPS: 2 (tie-4th).
 - ▼ FINAL FOUR WINS: 8 (2nd).
- ▼ Also is one of five coaches who have both coached and played in a Final Four (Kansas 1952 and 1953).

NCAA



#2 Seed

South Carolina (24-7)
Gamecocks



Fogler

Road to NCAAs: At-large bid

Key players: G Melvin Watson, 6-1 junior; G B.J. McKie, 6-2 sophomore; G Larry Davis, 6-3 senior. Coach: Eddie Fogler, 82-55 in four seasons at South Carolina



Watson

Outlook: Southeastern Conference regular season champs have arguably the top backcourt in the tourney. Etc.: Should USC advance to the Elite Eight, as well as top-seeded North Carolina, then Fogler would be matched up against his former mentor, Dean Smith.

On the horizon: Carolina's guards will carry this team through the region. The Elite Eight is a realistic possibility.



#3 Seed

New Mexico (24-7)
Lobos



Bliss

Road to NCAAs: At-large bid

Key players: F Clayton Shields, 6-8 junior; C Kenny Thomas, 6-8 sophomore; G Charles Smith, 6-4 senior. Coach: Dave Bliss, 196-90 in nine seasons at New Mexico.



Smith

Outlook: The Lobos want to maintain their half-court offense and stay away from pressing teams that could force the tempo. Etc.: New Mexico snapped a four-game, 22-year victory drought in the NCAA Tournament last year when it defeated Kansas State.

On the horizon: The Lobos could advance as far as the Sweet Sixteen — thanks to Smith and Thomas.



#4 Seed

Villanova (23-9)
Wildcats



Lappas

Road to NCAAs: At-large bid

Key players: F Tim Thomas, 6-9 freshman; F Chuck Kornegay, 6-9 senior; C Jason Lawson, 6-11 senior. Coach: Steve Lappas, 102-55 in five seasons at Villanova.



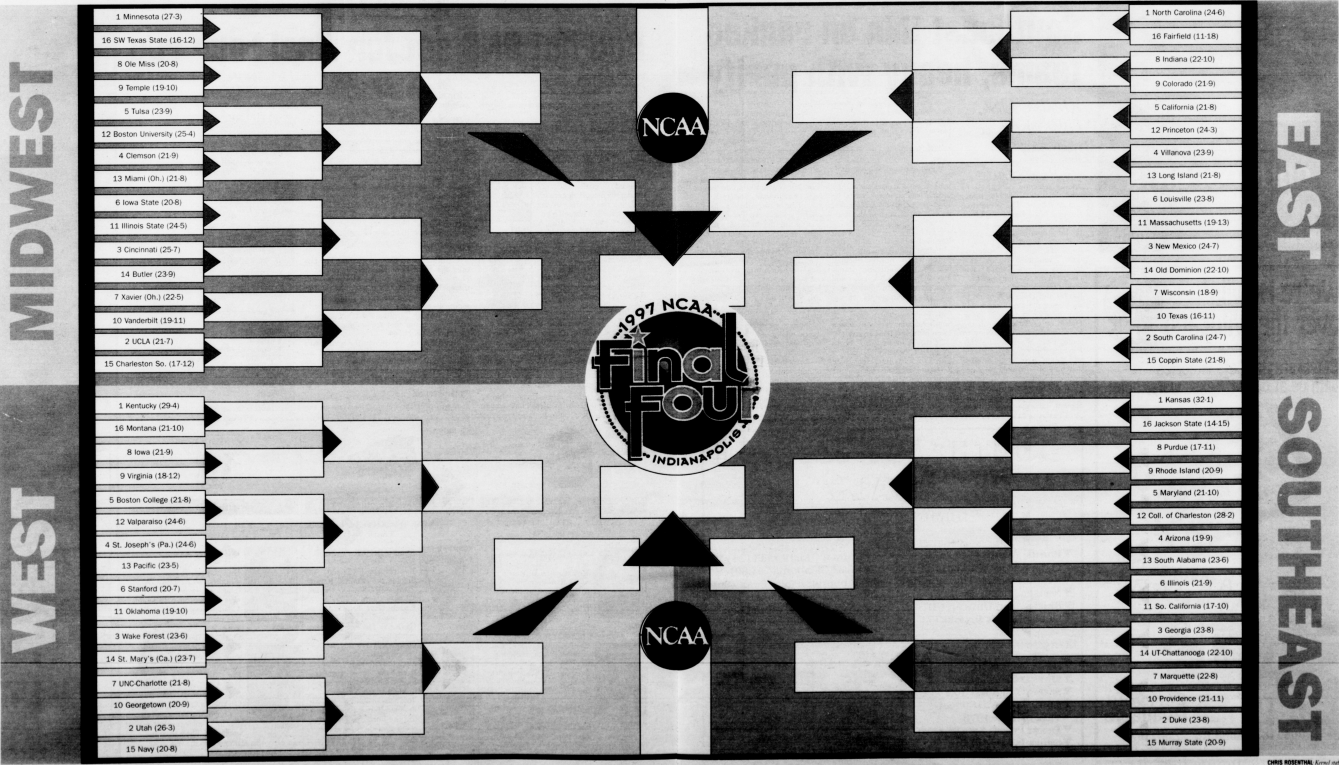
Lawson

Outlook: Short of Cincinnati, this team is the most underrated, underachieving team in the field of 64. Etc.: Villanova is 1-2 in the NCAA Tournament in the last two years.

On the horizon: If, and that is a big if, the Wildcats can play up to their capabilities, watch out. Their frontline can carry this team far into the region or eliminate them early.

EAST REGION

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Southeast thin on ranked teams, heavy with parity

Rhodes, USC back in dance

By Jeff Vinson
 Managing Editor

The Jayhawks asked the NCAA selection committee to send them to Memphis, Tenn., and it obliged. The committee also gave No. 1 Kansas — at least on the surface — a cake-walk to the Final Four.

Kansas, an expected top-seed for weeks, heads up a watered-down Southeast region that includes only one other team ranked in the top 10 nationally.

If the seeds hold true to form, Kansas and Duke will battle in the regional final. That would play into the Jayhawks' favor. Duke's only size comes off the bench in the form of 6-foot-10 senior Greg Newton. The Blue Devils are not a physical team and might have a tough time matching up with a bigger opponent, a la Kansas.

After a good showing in the Southeastern Conference Tournament, Georgia sneaked in to

grab the No. 3 seed. Two wins over SEC conference champ South Carolina late in the season played heavily in the Dawgs' favor.

UK fans might want to keep a close eye on the Illinois-USC matchup. Former Wildcat Roderrick Rhodes comes off the bench for the Trojans and is their second-leading scorer, averaging 13 points per game. USC makes its first appearance in the tournament since losing in 1992 to Georgia Tech 79-78 in the Midwest Regional semifinals.

Fellow Pac-10 member Arizona, which finished behind USC in the conference standings, slid into the No. 4 spot and must contend with South Alabama. The Jaguars play a deliberate, slow-down brand of basketball. An intense defensive squad, South Alabama held opponents 15 points below their averages.

If the Wildcats, who are no strangers to first-round upsets — losers to East Tennessee State 87-80 in 1992, Santa Clara 64-61 in 1993 and Miami (Ohio) 71-62 in 1995 — get by the Jaguars, then the winner of Maryland versus College of Charleston

awaits.


The Terps come out of the strong Atlantic Coast Conference, while the Cougars tallied a sparkling 28-2 record. Senior Thaddeous Delaney leads Charleston, scoring 16 points a game and grabbing nine boards. UK accounted for one of the Cougars' losses, thumping them in the Great Alaska Shootout 92-65. The winner has a good chance to beat Arizona and face Kansas in the regional semifinals.

Conference-USA tournament champion Marquette might be the "sleeper" in the Southeast Region. En route to its conference crowning, the Golden Eagles blew out No. 10 Cincinnati 91-70, avenging a double-digit loss to the Bearcats in February.

Big East representative Providence, one of only four Big East teams to make the draw, plays Marquette in first-round action.

The final pairing in the region pits Purdue against Rhode Island. But the winner will most likely face the unenviable task of meeting overpowering Kansas in the second round.

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SOUTHEAST REGION FINALS

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

INDIVIDUAL RECORDS

- ▼Points: Austin Carr (61)
- ▼FG%: Kenny Walker (1.00)
- ▼Rebounds: Nate Thurmond (31)
- ▼Assists: Dickey Beal (14)
- ▼Blocks: Tim Duncan (8)
- ▼Steals: Delray Brooks (7)

TEAM RECORDS

- ▼Points: Oklahoma (124)
- ▼FG%: Oklahoma St. (.80)
- ▼Rebounds: Notre Dame (86)
- ▼Assists: Kansas (33)
- ▼Blocks: N. Carolina (11)
- ▼Steals: Providence (19)

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- ▼MILES FROM LEXINGTON: 420
- ▼SEATING CAPACITY: 16,835
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- ▼YEAR OPENED: 1976
- ▼TICKET PRICES: \$80/Session
- ▼ORDER INFO: Sold Out



Southeast

Kansas looking to duplicate UK feat

By Jeff Vinson
Managing Editor

KU resembles a slower, bigger version of the UK team that took home the NCAA title last March. The Kansas Jayhawks began this season as the odds-on-favorite to win it all. And KU has disappointed no one.

No. 1 Kansas (32-1) picked apart its opponents in the Big 12 — falling just one time to rival Missouri in Columbia at Hearn Center in double-overtime 96-94.

Early in the season KU blasted all comers out of conference, including fellow tournament invitees Cincinnati and UCLA.

The fact that Kansas accomplished most of this while not at full strength may be more impressive than its nearly perfect record. The Jayhawks, which overcame long-term injuries to senior starters Jacque Vaughn and Scott Pollard, are healthy now and poised to make their championship run.

That run starts today when Kansas plays Jackson State (14-15) from the Southwestern Athletic Conference. Unless the Tigers become the first No. 16 seed ever to beat a No. 1, Kansas' first test will come against either Purdue of the Big Ten or Rhode Island of the Atlantic 10.



Williams



Vaughn

Key players

While Vaughn is the floor general for the Jayhawks, junior Raef LaFrentz has stepped up his game to become KU's go-to-guy.

Through all the injuries to the team, LaFrentz has been the constant, scoring 19 points per game and bringing down nine rebounds.

But the Jayhawks are far from a one-mangang. Four of their five starters score in double figures, including small forward Paul Pierce.

His outside shooting and ability to create his own shot give Kansas instant offense and open up the middle for KU's big men, which are plentiful.

The Jayhawks' two 6-foot-11 post players, Pollard and LaFrentz, and two 6-8 power forwards, B.J. Williams and T.J. Pugh, comprise a dominating frontcourt.

Pierce, Vaughn and streaky senior Jerod Haase provide offensive punch by driving the lane or popping jumpers from beyond the arc.

Coach

At the controls is Roy Williams. Wrapping up his ninth season as the Jayhawks' head coach, Williams has garnered a 245-57 record.

Last season he took Kansas as far as the Elite Eight before bowing out 60-57 to eventual NCAA tourney runner-up Syracuse. KU has been earmarked from the beginning of the season as a Final Four team and title contender. Williams is no stranger to Final

Fours having reached the semifinals in 1991 and 1993.

Overview

Kansas shouldered the burden of being the favorite with tremendous success all season and many think that isn't likely to change in the tournament. The Jayhawks should make the Final Four with relative ease, but teams have to earn titles.

Etc.

Experience and depth is a luxury for Kansas. The Jayhawks start three seniors and one junior. Their bench, which includes two upperclassmen.

Journey of the Jayhawks

This is year marks Kansas' 26th trip to the NCAA Tournament.

▼Overall success: 54 wins, 25 losses

▼Last: Lost to Syracuse 60-57 in 1996 West Regional Final.

▼Ups: 1988 national champions. 1991 advanced to title game vs. Duke. 1993 advanced to semifinal game vs. North Carolina.

▼Downs: 1992 No. 1 seed in Midwest Region lost to No. 9 seed UTEP 66-60 in second round.



#2 Seed

Duke (24-7)
Blue Devils



Krzyzewski

Road to NCAAs: At-large bid.

Key players: G Steve Wojciechowski, 5-11 junior; G Trajan Langdon, 6-1 sophomore; C Greg Newton, 6-10, senior.

Coach: Mike Krzyzewski (399-148); 17th season at Duke.

Outlook: Duke had a nice season in the ACC, winning the regular season title, but losing in the conference tourney to N.C. State.

Etc.: The Blue Devils were hurting last year after losing to Eastern Michigan in the second round and they're hungry.

On the horizon: It all hinges on shooting because there is no help inside. Veteran leadership is a plus.



#3 Seed

Georgia (24-8)
Bulldogs



Smith

Road to NCAAs: At-large bid.

Key players: F Michael Chadwick, 6-4 sophomore; G G.G. Smith, 5-11 sophomore.

Coach: Tubby Smith (45-18); 2nd season at UGA.

Outlook: After losing all five starters from a year ago, UGA has come back tough and should challenge for some tourney wins.

Etc.: The 'Dawgs put together three strong wins at the SEC tourney, until UK flogged them in the final.

On the horizon: Georgia, like Duke and Arizona, have trouble playing in the post.

UGA's tallest starter is 6-8 Jon Nordin. Guard play, especially from Smith, is key.



#4 Seed

Arizona (19-9)
Wildcats



Olson

Road to NCAAs: At-large bid.

Key players: F Miles Simon, 6-5 junior; PG Mike Bibby, 6-1 freshman.

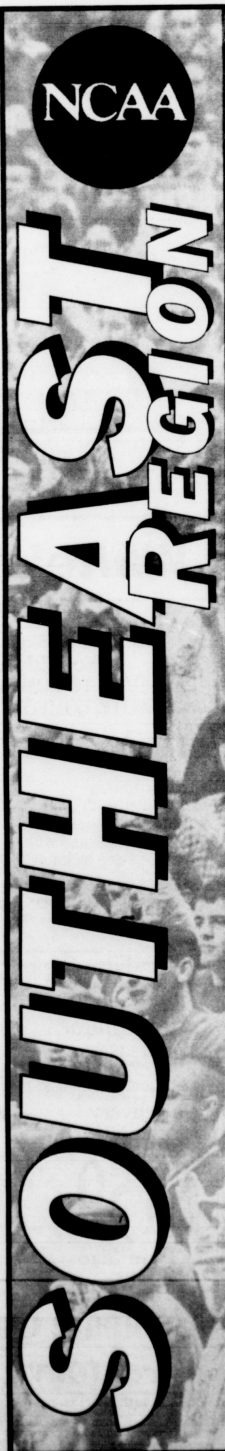
Coach: Lute Olson (335-110); 14th year at Arizona.

Outlook: Arizona is the "team most likely to be upset" — the Wildcats lose often to overachieving small teams in the NCAAs.

Etc.: Arizona point guard Mike Bibby is a phenominal talent. His father coaches at Southern Cal, which also made the tournament.

On the horizon: Arizona has been inconsistent all season. U of A's struggles can be attributed to having

Simon as its only returning starter. The team's outside shots must fall to advance.



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Bruins, Bearcats attempt to survive Midwest Region

By Rob Herbst
Weekend Sports Editor

If one cares to argue which region is the strongest, a case can be made for the Midwest.

With Minnesota as the top seed, UCLA and Cincinnati as the two and three seed respectively, the Midwest has three teams in the top 10 of the Associated Press Top 25 poll.

Yet despite what the polls say about the talent, the Midwest is filled with under and overachievers. Start with Minnesota. Was there anyone at the outset of the season who really saw the Golden Gophers as a No. 1 seed and Final Four contender?

Minnesota breezed through the Big Ten Conference schedule with only blemishes against Illinois and Wisconsin. Both losses were on the road and against teams in the NCAA Tournament.

After UCLA's horrible start, which included the dismissal of head coach Jim Harrick, did anyone really expect the Bruins to earn a No. 2 seed?

The Bruins are on fire under the new coach Steve Lavin as they've

won eight in a row and 13-of-16, including a win against Duke. The only question is experience. Lavin has done a masterful job in the regular season with UCLA, but he's never coached in the NCAA Tournament.

While Minnesota and UCLA have overachieved, there are those who can be labeled underachievers, namely Cincinnati and Iowa State.

Both teams were preseason top five teams and were thought to be national championship contenders.

Cincinnati is lucky to be a three seed because the Bearcats really have not beaten any powerful squads.

Sure, they've played some good teams such as Kansas, South Carolina and Louisville, but too bad they lost all of those games.

Speaking of playing quality programs, bring up Iowa State the sixth seed. The Cyclones have beaten nobody. Their best win? A win against Texas Tech. Wow.

If there is a true sleeper in the Midwest, look at Xavier. The Musketeers received a low sev-

enth seed although they have some strong wins, including a win at Cincinnati. Assuming Xavier can get by Vanderbilt in the first round, the Musketeers may give UCLA some problems in the second round.

The best matchup in the region is Mississippi taking on Temple.

Under Southeastern Conference Coach of the Year Rob Evans, Ole Miss is enjoying a dream season. The Rebels made their first ever appearance in the Top 25 this season but are the eighth seed in the tournament.

Temple's matchup zone defense has given opponents fits in the NCAA Tournament. To beat Temple, one needs strong perimeter shooting and it'll be interesting to see if Ole Miss can hit from the perimeter against the Owls.

The winner of this game causes a possible problem for Minnesota in the second round.

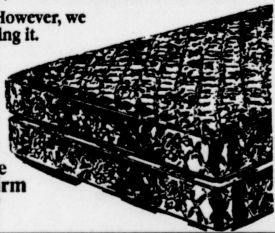
Everyone is quick to point out the Big Ten's recent lack of success in the NCAA Tournament and there will be pressure on the Gophers to give the conference some dignity.

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MIDWEST REGION FINALS

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

INDIVIDUAL RECORDS

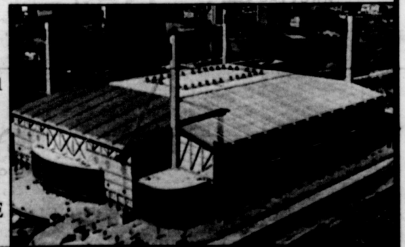
- ▼POINTS: Oscar Robertson (56)
- ▼FG%: Dennis Holman (.923)
- ▼REBOUNDS: Elvin Hayes (27)
- ▼ASSISTS: Keith Smart (15)
- ▼BLOCKS: Tim Duncan (7)
- ▼STEALS: Grant Hill (8)

TEAM RECORDS

- ▼POINTS: Arkansas (120)
- ▼FG%: Arkansas (.680)
- ▼REBOUNDS: Houston (76)
- ▼ASSISTS: Kentucky (35)
- ▼BLOCKS: Louisville (13)
- ▼STEALS: Xavier-Ohio (18)

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- ▼MILES FROM LEXINGTON: 1,101
- ▼SEATING CAPACITY: 41,250
- ▼FARTHEST SEAT: 304 feet
- ▼YEARS OPENED: 1993
- ▼TICKET PRICES: \$60, \$32
- ▼ORDER INFO: (800) 884-DOME



MIDWEST

Gophers fight for Big Ten respect

By Rob Herbst
Weekend Sports Editor

The No.1 seed in the Midwest Region may not have any legitimate stars on the squad, but they win ball games.

Minnesota (27-3) was nobody's pick for the Final Four at the beginning of the season but they have fans watching now. The Golden Gophers breezed through the Big Ten Conference season with only two stumbles—at Illinois and at Wisconsin to close the season. Both Illinois and Wisconsin are in the NCAA Tournament.

If Minnesota has one weakness, it's their size. The Gophers tallest starter is 6-foot-8 and a big team may give them problems.

Minnesota shouldn't worry about Southwest Texas State, their first round opponent, but it doesn't get any easier.

A possible second round game against Temple looms.

The Owls play a match-up zone defense which makes opponents shoot from the outside. Luckily for Minnesota, they shoot 48 percent from the field.

Key players

Forward Sam Jacobson is the leading scorer for the Gophers although he averages

only 13.5 points per game. Jacobson is a great shooter from three-point range. He shot 42 percent from beyond the arc this season.

Jacobson's only problem is foul trouble. He fouled out of five games this season. Jacobson can foul out of games against Big Ten doormat Northwestern and the Gophers can still win, but he better not get in foul trouble if they play UCLA or Cincinnati in the tournament.

Coach

Clem Haskins, 197-140 in 11 years at Minnesota is looking for his first Final Four appearance. He did take the Gophers to the NCAA Regional Final in 1990.

Haskins has Kentucky ties. The native of Campbellsville and graduate of Western Kentucky coached his alma mater for five years before leaving for Minnesota.

He guided the Hilltoppers to a 23-8 record and a 2nd round appearance in the 1986 NCAA Tournament.

Overview

Because of the Big Ten's recent lack of success in the tournament, few experts are picking Minnesota to make a Final Four appearance. What also hurts the Gophers is their lack of a superstar player. Minnesota doesn't have any All-Americans but they have a very good team, a good enough team to make a Final Four appearance.

Etc.

Despite a conference record above .500,

Minnesota was snubbed from the tournament last year.

They went out and proved the NCAA Tournament committee wrong last year by winning the NIT Tournament. This year Minnesota didn't leave any room for doubt by winning the Big Ten and earning an automatic spot in the NCAA tourney.

On the horizon

After their first round game, it won't be easy. They may have to face one of the nation's stingiest defenses in Temple in the second round. If the Gophers get by the Owls and everything goes to form, UM would have to defeat surging UCLA or dangerous Cincinnati to win the region.

Big Ten Futility

The Big Ten Conference is 3-11 in NCAA Tournament games over the past two years. Here are the downfalls:

- ▼Western Kentucky 82, Michigan 76 (OT)
- ▼Memphis 75, Purdue 73 (2nd Round)
- ▼Weber St. 79, Michigan St. 72
- ▼St. Louis 64, Minnesota 61 (OT)
- ▼Tulsa 68, Illinois 62
- ▼Missouri 65, Indiana 60
- ▼Boston College 64, Indiana 51
- ▼Georgia 76, Purdue 69 (2nd Round)
- ▼Arizona 87, Iowa 73 (2nd Round)
- ▼Arkansas 86, Penn State 80
- ▼Texas 80, Michigan 76



Haskins



Jacobson



#2 Seed

UCLA (21-7)
Bruins



Lavin

Road to NCAA's: Won Pac-10 championship.

Key Players: F Charles O'Bannon, 6-5 senior; F J.R. Henderson, 6-9 junior; G Toby Bailey, 6-5 junior.

Coach: Steve Lavin, 21-7 in first year at UCLA.

Overview: After a miserable start with the resignation of Coach Jim Harrick, the Bruins stormed back to win the Pac-10 title.

Etc.: The Bruins would like to rebound after last year's upset loss to Princeton in the first round.

On the Horizon: UCLA is a legitimate Final Four contender. Their biggest problem is inexperience. Lavin was successful during the regular season, but he's never coached in the tourney.



#3 Seed

Cincinnati (25-7)
Bearcats



Huggins

Road to NCAA's: At-large bid.

Key Players: F Danny Fortson, 6-7 junior; G Darnell Burton, 6-2 senior; F Ruben Patterson, 6-6 junior.

Coach: Bob Huggins, 191-70 in eight years at Cincinnati.

Overview: Cincinnati's biggest problem is guard play. The Bearcats were dissected earlier in the year by South Carolina's tremendous trio of guards.

Etc.: The Bearcats were a preseason favorite to win the NCAA Tournament, but not anymore.

On the Horizon: The talent is there to win a national championship, but UC has underachieved throughout the regular season. Maybe they'll turn it on during the tournament.



#4 Seed

Clemson (21-9)
Tigers



Barnes

Road to NCAA's: At-large bid.

Key Players: F Greg Buckner, 6-4 junior; G Terrell McIntyre, 5-9 sophomore; G Merl Code, 6-2 senior.

Coach: Rick Barnes, 54-33 in three years at Clemson.

Overview: A much improved team compared to last year. Clemson proved its legitimacy with an opening-game win over UK.

Etc.: The Tigers were in-and-out of the top 10 during the season but have struggled a bit as of late.

On the Horizon: If they make it to the Sweet Sixteen, the Tigers will be looking for revenge. No. 1 seed Minnesota defeated Clemson in the regular season.

NCAA

MIDWEST REGION

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West Region is stacked with three 'No. 1' seeds

Teams hoping for run at title

By O. Jason Stapleton
Assistant Sports Editor

The wild, wild West Region could easily be one of the most stacked regions in the Tournament this year.

Start it off with the UK Wildcats. The No. 1 seed and defending national champs.

Then you got the second team in the region, the Utah Runnin' Utes.

The Western Athletic Conference champs are ranked second in both the Associated Press and coaches polls, but they only merited a two seed. Somehow they got passed over for the No. 1 seed remains a mystery.

Keith Van Horn has proven his All-American status time and time again this season. He was the single reason that the Utes made it to the finals of the WAC Tournament.

Michael Doleac adds size, making the Utah's frontcourt one of the best in the region.

Wake Forest was a lock for a No. 1 seed for most of the season, until their recent self-destruction.

The Demon Deacons rely on Tim Duncan a little too much to make any huge waves, but if there is one player in this region that can take a team and put them on his back and carry them; it would be Duncan.

Then there is Saint Joseph's. The small Catholic school from Philadelphia that had a great NIT run last year.

This team could be the wrench thrown into the gigantic machine of the "Big Dance."

Hawks Coach Phil Martelli has his men playing together as a solid unit and that is their greatest asset.

The phrase "one heartbeat" applies to this team more than any other in the tourney.

The most interesting matchup with this region would take place between Utah and Wake in the region semi-finals.

The 2-3 battle could be summed up in three words "Duncan versus Van Horn." Actually that might be more than three words, but oh well ...

Just sit the rest of the two teams on the bench and let the two superstars go at one on one.

Then have the winner go up against Ron Mercer to see which team goes to the Final Four.

Iowa and Virginia is the premier first-round matchup of the West.

These two teams made it into the Big Dance by the skins of their collective teeth.

Seeing Andre Woolridge go up against Harold Deane should be well worth the price of admission alone. Add three-point expert, Curtis Staples to, the mix and the Wahoos become a little too much for the Hawkeyes to handle.

If you're looking for an upset special in this region you might be looking for a while. The best bet could be the Pacific Tigers.

The matchup between Pacific and St. Joe's is the "we're glad you finally made it back" matchup of the tourney.

St. Joe's has been absent since 1986 while the Tigers have not been to the dance since 1979.

Pacific lingered around the bottom of the top 25 for much of the season and could upend the enigmatic Hawks.

WEST REGION FINALS SAN JOSE, CALIF.

INDIVIDUAL RECORDS

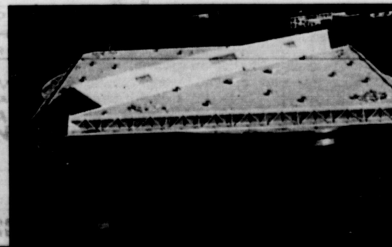
- ▼POINTS: Bo Kimble (45)
- ▼FG%: Quadre Lollis (.923)
- ▼REBOUNDS: Elvin Hayes (28)
- ▼ASSISTS: Carl Wright (14)
- ▼BLOCKS: Shaquille O'Neal (11)
- ▼STEALS: Reggie Miller (7)

TEAM RECORDS

- ▼POINTS: LMU (149)
- ▼FG%: North Carolina (.790)
- ▼REBOUNDS: UCLA (76)
- ▼ASSISTS: North Carolina (38)
- ▼BLOCKS: BYU (13)
- ▼STEALS: Seton Hall (17)

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- ▼FARTHEST SEAT: 212 feet
- ▼YEAR OPENED: 1993
- ▼TICKET PRICES: \$90
- ▼ORDER INFO: (408) 287-9200



West

UK goes West to look for title gold

By O. Jason Stapleton
Assistant Sports Editor

UK was the unlucky No. 1 seed to get sent to the West Region this season.

That means the tournament committee gave the Cats the least amount of respect among the top seeds.

This came despite the fact that the Wildcats won the Southeastern Conference Tournament after the Senior Day debacle against South Carolina.

The two games against the 'Cocks just prove to highlight UK's weakness against teams with several good quick guard that can break down the vaunted "Kentucky press."

Key Players

Can you say Ron Mercer? Mercer has already announced he is going pro after leading the Cats in scoring with a whopping 18.3 ppg. He has really been taking control since the Villanova game.

Allen Edwards is the big question mark. His recent back spasms/ankle injury may hamper his effectiveness in the big dance, and he has been instrumental in the two-slot. If he cannot play up to his full potential the Cats could be in some trouble.

Anthony Epps needs to keep providing the offensive spark that he has been producing off the bench.

Other key players for the Cats include 6-foot-9 sophomore forward Scott Padgett, 6-9 senior center/forward Jared Prickett and 6-2 sophomore guard Wayne Turner.

Coach

What hasn't been said about UK Coach Rick Pitino?

He's proved he can get to the Final Four with a minimum of talent with Providence, and he proved he can win it all last year.

Now that Pitino has nothing left to prove, it will be fun to watch just what he can do when he turns loose and goes full force at going back-to-back.

Overview

The Cats have proven time and time that they can overcome adversity this season.

After dealing with the loss of last year's four players to the injury to Derek Anderson, this year's squad has shown that it is more than up to the task.

The only question mark is what will happen when the Cats are forced to play in a close game.

The X-factor for UK could be Cameron Mills from the outside.

He has been shooting the lights out as of late and his hot hand could prove to be the deciding factor in some tight games down the stretch.

Also if the cats run into a team with sever-

al quality guards like South Carolina, how will they deal with that aspect of the game?

If they are able to correct the mistakes that they made against USC then great. If not the Cats could be in trouble.

On the Horizon

The Big Sky champion Montana Grizzlies should not give the Cats much of a challenge in the first round.

That's what most people would assume however.

The Griz go nine-deep, but there is no one superstar that carries this team.

There are seven players on the roster who average at least 8.5 points per game.

These Montana boys also have some size in their frontcourt in 6-10 sophomore Bob Olson and 7-1 freshman giant coming off the bench in Don Carter.

If the Cats aren't very cautious, the Big Sky champs could give them a bit of a scare in the first round of the tourney. Then again there is the old stat that a No. 16 seed has never won a game in the NCAA Tournament before.

The scrappy Virginia Cavaliers with sharp-shooting Curtis Staples could be a bit of a speed bump for UK.

St. Joseph's remains a bit of a mystery as to whether or not they are as good as advertised.

As for Utah and Wake Forest, whichever of these teams comes out of the bottom half of the West bracket will be sure to take the Cats to the wire.



Pitino



Mercer



#2 Seed

Utah (26-3)
Runnin' Utes



Majerus

Road to NCAA's: Won WAC Tournament

Key Players: F Keith Van Horn 6-10, senior; C Michael Doleac 6-11, junior; G Andre Miller 6-2, junior.

Coach: Rick Majerus, 177-54 in eight seasons at Utah.

Overview: This team relies heavily on Van Horn. The team will only go as far as Van Horn will take them. Majerus adds color on the sidelines.

Etc.: Utah got no respect by the tournament committee by being given the No. 2 seed.

Van Horn

On the Horizon: Navy presents a very disciplined first round game for Majerus's troops. UNC-Charlotte could prove to be a scrappy team to face in the second round.



#3 Seed

Wake Forest (23-6)
Demon Deacons



Odom

Road to NCAA's: At-large bid

Key Players: C Tim Duncan 6-10, senior; G Tony Rutland 6-2, junior; F Ricky Peral 6-10, senior.

Coach: Dave Odom, 165-78 in eight years at Wake Forest.

Overview: Can Rutland and Peral lend Duncan a hand in carrying the team through the tourney?

Etc.: Early on Wake looked like a lock for a No. 1 seed, but the team collapsed in the latter part of the season. Can it regain its old form?

Duncan

On the horizon: The Gaels of St. Mary's should not be much of a problem for the much bigger Wake team. Brevin Knight and Stanford will probably be lying in wait in the second round.



#4 Seed

St. Joseph's (24-6)
Hawks



Martelli

Road to NCAA's: Won the Atlantic 10 Tournament for the automatic bid.

Key players: G Rasheed Bey 6-0, senior; G Arthur Davis 6-4, freshman; C Nemanja Petrovic 6-10, senior.

Coach: Phil Martelli, 43-19 in two years at St. Joe's.

Overview: Bey is one of the best point guards in the country. He leads this team where chemistry is the key.

Etc.: This is the Hawks first trip to the Big Dance since 1986, and they are looking to make the best of it.

Bey

On the Horizon: Upset-minded Pacific is waiting for the Hawks in the first round. Boston College's Scoonie Penn and Bey are two fantastic point guards who will make for a nice matchup in the second round.

NCAA

WEST REGION

THE FIELD

TEAM	RECORD	CONFERENCE	COMMENTS
1 Kentucky Wildcats	29-4	Southeastern	UK looks to repeat, but can the inside game topple the giants? Keith Van Horn needs to prove ability in big games.
2 Utah Runnin' Utes	26-3	Western Athletic	Wake made strong bid for No. 1 seed until late-season stumbling. The Hawks are for real — An A-10 champ looks for respect.
3 Wake Forest Demon Deacons	23-6	Atlantic Coast	Point guard Scoonie Penn is a master in tight games. The Cardinal struggled to stay afloat in the Pac-10.
4 St. Joseph's (Pa.) Hawks	24-6	Atlantic 10	Forward DeMarco Johnson (19.6 ppg) can drive you to drinking. Iowa stayed in the middle of the Big 10 race.
5 Boston College Golden Eagles	21-8	Big East	The Cavs have fallen since the days of Corey Alexander. John Thompson is a big-time coach with a small-time team.
6 Stanford Cardinal	20-7	Pac-10	A bubble team that seriously lacks veteran leadership. Valpo sports 5 upperclassmen, but can't stop BC backcourt.
7 UNC-Charlotte 49ers	21-8	Conference USA	The Tigers almost cracked the Top 25, but low RPI hurts. The Tigers almost cracked the Top 25, but low RPI hurts.
8 Iowa Hawkeyes	21-9	Big 10	The Gaels got 7-3 Brad Millard, who could be big vs. Wake. Navy won a few in '86, but The Admiral's days are long gone.
9 Virginia Cavaliers	18-12	Atlantic Coast	Tough gig to take on UK's powerful full-court press.
10 Georgetown Hoyas	20-9	Big East	
11 Oklahoma Sooners	19-10	Big 12	
12 Valparaiso Crusaders	24-6	Mid-Continent	
13 Pacific Tigers	23-5	Big West	
14 St. Mary's (Ca.) Gaels	23-7	West Coast	
15 Navy Midshipmen	20-8	Patriot	
16 Montana Grizzlies	21-10	Big Sky	
1 Minnesota Golden Gophers	27-3	Big 10	UM has been looked over all year and a reckoning is in order. The Bruins started slow, but are peaking at the right time.
2 UCLA Bruins	21-7	Pac-10	UC's backcourt usually streaky and always a major liability. Hopkinsville's Greg Buckner helps lead slow but effective 'O'.
3 Cincinnati Bearcats	25-7	Conference USA	Shea Seals is a big time guard starving for exposure. Jacy Holloway is a sleeper at point. Willoughby is NBA material.
4 Clemson Tigers	21-9	Atlantic Coast	Musketeers, you have been in the polls all year — now justify it. UM Coach Rob Evans' is no stranger to tourney pressure.
5 Tulsa Golden Hurricane	23-9	Western Athletic	Is there anyone who gets more from their talent than Chaney? VU struggled in SEC tourney — could Xavier be a punching doll?
6 Iowa State Cyclones	20-8	Big 12	Strong backcourt could propel Illinois State into 2nd round. Tunji Awojobi leads a Terrier squad on the rise.
7 Xavier (Oh.) Musketeers	22-5	Atlantic 10	Devin Davis, a.k.a. Dredlock Boy, could be NBA-bound. The Bulldogs will get befuddled by UC's front-line power.
8 Ole Miss Rebels	20-8	Southeastern	An upset win over S. Carolina was nice, but UCLA is rabid. Could keep it close, but inexperience hurts against Minnesota.
9 Temple Owls	19-10	Atlantic 10	
10 Vanderbilt Commodores	19-11	Southeastern	
11 Illinois State Redbirds	24-5	Missouri Valley	
12 Boston University Terriers Miami	25-4	America East	
13 (Oh.) Redskins	21-8	Mid-American	
14 Butler Bulldogs	23-9	Mid-Western Coll.	
15 Charleston Southern Cougars	17-12	Big South	
16 SW Texas State Bobcats	16-12	Southland	
1 North Carolina Tarheels	24-6	Atlantic Coast	UNC stumbled early, but Dean is one win away from greatness. USC's waxing at the hands of UGA came as a major surprise.
2 South Carolina Gamecocks	24-7	Southeastern	Charles Smith is nasty, but is the WAC as tough as billed? Up-and-down Nova could be hating life against LIU's scoring.
3 New Mexico Lobos	24-7	Western Athletic	When Cal lost Ed Gray, Cal lost hope of winning anything. Curiosity killed the cat, but inconsistency will kill the Cards.
4 Villanova Wildcats	23-9	Big East	Dick Bennett's squads are always the same — defense is king. Knight is a winner, but Guyton in the clutch could be ugly.
5 California Golden Bears Louisville	21-8	Pac-10	Billups is good, but the rest of the team is full of ham-n-egggers. How did this team get in the tournament?
6 Cardinals	23-9	Conference USA	UMass is down, but Padilla and Travieso are as strong as ever. The Tigers toppled UCLA last year; textbook 'O' causes fits.
7 Wisconsin Badgers	18-9	Big 10	LIU is the highest scoring team in the US — Can Thomas keep up? ODU came close last year, but UNM has a hefty front line.
8 Indiana Hoosiers	22-10	Big 10	ODU will be fodder for an angry and hungry USC team. At 11-18, Fairfield won't know what hit them after UNC.
9 Colorado Buffaloes	21-9	Big 12	
10 Texas Longhorns	16-11	Big 12	
11 UMass Minutemen	19-13	Atlantic 10	
12 Princeton Tigers	24-3	Ivy League	
13 Long Island Blackbirds	21-8	Northeast	
14 Old Dominion Monarchs	22-10	Colonial Athletic	
15 Coppin State Eagles	21-8	Mid-Eastern Athl.	
16 Fairfield Stags	11-18	Metro Atlantic	
1 Kansas Jayhawks	32-1	Big 12	The Jayhawks are clearly the cream of this season's b-ball crop. The Dukies have it outside, but Newton doesn't cut it inside.
2 Duke Blue Devils	23-8	Atlantic Coast	UGA flashed major potential in the SEC tourney.
3 Georgia Bulldogs	23-8	Southeastern	UA has been victim to upset in the past — this year no different. Maryland has been fading after hitting the meat of the ACC season.
4 Arizona Wildcats	19-9	Pac-10	Illinois has been improving all season — Sweet 16 in sight. Took control in the C-USA tourney...but it was the C-USA.
5 Maryland Terrapins	21-10	Atlantic Coast	Another in the "how did they get a bid?" file. URI was strong in the A-10 and could put a hurting on someone.
6 Illinois Fighting Illini	21-9	Big 10	God Shammgod's name may be inappropriate, but so are the Friars. Rodrick Rhodes is back in the show after a two-year hiatus.
7 Marquette Golden Eagles Purdue	22-8	Conference USA	The big boys had better grab hold — the Cougars are nasties. Short team takes defensive intensity to the extreme.
8 Boilermakers	17-11	Big 10	The Mocs always get to the tourney. Then they get blasted. Racers sport two of the country's best scorers in Raines and Maies.
9 Rhode Island Rams	20-9	Atlantic 10	It's not all bad — the Tigers get great seats for the Jayhawk exposition.
10 Providence Friars	21-11	Big East	
11 Southern California Trojans	17-10	Pac-10	
12 College of Charleston Cougars	28-2	Trans-America	
13 South Alabama Jaguars	23-6	Sun Belt	
14 UT-Chattanooga Moccasins	22-10	Southern	
15 Murray State Racers	20-9	Ohio Valley	
16 Jackson State Tigers	14-15	SW Athletic	

Prices steep for Cat fans

By Dave Gorman
Staff Writer

If you are a real basketball fan, spending your Spring Break in Panama City, Fla., Daytona, Fla., or even the Great Lakes doesn't cut it.

A true blue fan will either be glued to the television set or on the road or in the air traveling to watch the UK men's basketball team play in the NCAA Tournament.

You would have to hide in a cave to avoid March Madness.

For those of you who want to follow the Cats, here are some hotel prices at different spots across the nation and in Final Four site Indianapolis.

Should the Cats make it to the Final Four, directions are always helpful:

▼ Go I-75 to the Cincinnati airport, and take I-275 West at that exit.

▼ Take 275 to I-74 West going toward Indianapolis and follow the mayhem.

Or ...

▼ Take I-64 to Louisville.

▼ Take I-64 downtown and get on I-65 North.

▼ Go north on I-65, it will get you to downtown Indianapolis.

A relatively cheap place to stay is the Fairfield Inn Indianapolis/Castleton.

Their rates through the end of March are: one person, \$51.00 plus 10% tax per night and two people, \$56.00 plus 10% tax per night.

The Fairfield's features and amenities include TV and free cable, free phone calls and an outdoor swimming pool and sun deck.

The Final Four will take place in the RCA Dome, which seats 47,100 fans.

The dome has been an NCAA tournament site six of the past 11 years, including the 1991 Final Four.

More than likely the Cats will make it to San Jose, Calif., for the Sweet Sixteen so here are some hotel prices and features for you fans.

Doubletree hotel at San Francisco Airport has a special "Sweet Dreams deal.

Single and double rooms are \$159 per night. They have a fitness center with a bayside jogging path.

The Hyatt Regency San Jose, three miles from the arena, has 70 rooms remaining and their prices are: single room per night \$180 and double room per night \$180. Their features include dining, a coffee shop and a lounge featuring big-screened sports.

"It's hectic and very exciting this time of year," hotel clerk Zach Bonilla said of March Madness. "This tournament is great for the business of the hotel."

As far as flights are concerned try to scrounge up all the dough you can.

USAir is charging \$500 roundtrip from Lexington to the San Francisco airport, which is near San Jose.

A better deal would be to fly out of Louisville for \$398 roundtrip.

Delta charges \$540 roundtrip flying out of Lexington to San Francisco if you call in by Thursday. Prices vary depending on when you call after that date.

Indy more than sports

By Jill Erwin
Senior Staff Writer

So you're headed to Indianapolis for the Final Four and are looking for something to do in the rare moments not filled with the glory of the best college basketball has to offer.

Bummed over the fact that John Mellencamp concerts have been sold out since the beginning of time? There are other options out there, it's just a matter of finding for them.

For the diehard fans, there is a slew of Final Four events. Included in the smorgasbord of basketball are free, open practices from noon to 4 p.m. on March 28, the National Association of Basketball Coaches All-Star Game at 6 p.m. on Friday, and the NABC Fan Jam, which is ongoing every day.

Those who may be a little inundated by all the hoops may choose to see the sights around Indy. Always popular is the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Hall of Fame Museum and Track, for auto racing aficionados. A bit slower track might lead you to the Indianapolis Zoo or the home of President Benjamin Harrison.

If art is more your thing, you should check out the Indianapolis Museum of Art or the Theatre on the Square.

Indy is also chock-full of dinner theatres, boasting six on the list of major attractions.

The area is filled with historical monuments, such as the Soldiers and Sailors Monument or the Conner Prairie Pioneer Settlement.

You can relax to the sounds of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra or perhaps the Indy Opera.

Certainly those that are lucky enough to go will be begged and harassed into bringing back gifts for their jealous friends.

In that unfortunate case, Indy has 12 malls in the downtown area, including Union Station. Grab the plastic and head out to Castleton Square, with nearly 1.5 million square feet of shops.

If you can find time to squeeze it in, the University of Indianapolis is offering a performance of a Jazz Sextet as part of the Faculty Artist Series on March 31.

But for those who need more than basketball other sports will be in town.

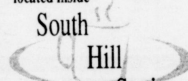
Saturday, the Indianapolis Ice will face Cincinnati in ECHL hockey action, while the NBA Indianapolis Pacers face the Los Angeles Clippers Sunday. Both games are at Market Square Arena.

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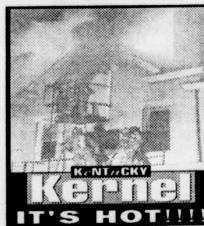
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Upsets prey upon top seeds

America, by nature, roots for the underdog. It likely traces back to the country's history, as the nation itself was an underdog to the powerful British empire.

In college basketball, long ruled by other equally as formidable empires, the underdog phenomenon is alive and well. Each year, as conferences like the Colonial Athletic and the Big Sky anoint their tourney champions, new underdogs are born and new opportunities develop in the NCAA tournament.



Jay G. Tate
Weekend Sports Editor

In 1991, it was the tiny University of Richmond which toppled No. 2 seed Syracuse. In 1993, Santa Clara scored a punch-for-punch with the powerhouse Arizona Wildcats.

Last year's addition to the tournaments upset annals was Princeton, which edged defending champion UCLA with a 43-41 nailbiter. Though upsets can be quite memorable, they actually don't happen very often. Since the tourney's expansion to 64 teams in 1985, No. 16 seeds are 0-48, No. 15 seeds 2-46, No. 14 and 13 seeds are each 10-38. In order to compete and ultimately defeat elite-level competition, underdogs have two avenues of action.

and its fast-paced offensive attack. Though turned back by eventual champion UNLV in the regional final, the Lions managed to score 105 points per game — easily the most productive offensive performance in tourney history.

Conversely, the 1996 Princeton Tigers used a meticulous defensive strategy to topple UCLA last year. The Tigers, who won the Ivy League regular season and post-season tournament, employed a textbook-style offense that highlights back-door cuts.

This season, Long Island University has established itself as the nation's most powerful offenses — averaging nearly 93 points per game. Though LIU plays in the tiny Northeastern Conference, it sports Richie Parker, one of the nation's best high school prospects two years ago. However, his stock slid after a rape allegation.

Long Island took a chance with Parker, and at least for the basketball team's purposes, the risk has paid off. He is scoring 15.9 points per game,

but more importantly, his teammate Charles Jones leads the NCAA in scoring with a whopping 30.2 points per contest.

True, the Blackbirds play in a gym roughly the size of the M.I. King deli. But they have a unique quick-fire offense, which is bound to rack up some big numbers against inconsistent Villanova in the first round.

For teams without that powerful attack philosophy, there is another option.

Pray for bad shooting. UK fans have tried to forget the dismal showing the Cats put on in the 1994 NCAAs, when they were upset by Marquette, 75-63. The Golden Eagles, who struggled to establish consistency all season, were able to notch the win as a direct result of UK's woeful 31 percent shooting.

Even the big teams have off nights. And in the tournament, with the pressure at its highest, an off night can turn into a disaster. So take heed, Fairfield. Worry not, Navy. There is hope. There is a chance.

And besides, nearly all of America is on your side.

Weekend Sports Editor Jay G. Tate is a journalism senior.

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File photo

FOOLS RUSH IN UK students stormed the doors to Memorial Coliseum early in the morning for last season's Final Four ticket lottery.

Ticket 'plan already in place' for Finals

By Price Atkinson
Staff Writer

Last year it was more expectation than hope that UK would make it to the Final Four in New Jersey and win the national championship.

Before talking about a repeat, UK has to win its way to the Final Four.

Indianapolis, the site of the 1997 Final Four, is closer for UK fans and students to travel and would be an ideal place for the Cats to play for a second straight title.

Rodney Stiles, director of administrative services for UK, who is in charge of the ticket lottery for students, is prepared should UK earn a spot in Indy.

"The plan is already in place," Stiles said.

The plan Stiles is referring to is the same ticket system as last year. Students who went through the ticket lottery at Memorial Coliseum paid for their tickets the day of the lottery and received ticket vouchers.

Outside the Meadowlands in New Jersey students lined up for hours in the cold waiting to claim their tickets.

But Stiles said it was not a success because the staff at the Meadowlands changed the ticket process once UK got to New Jersey.

"We had to alter our plans several times to meet the Meadowlands' request so (the students) got frustrated," Stiles said.

Indianapolis' proximity — a

three-hour drive from Lexington — likely would result in even more Cat fans.

Tom Bate, a senior accounting major, attended the Final Four last year and described it as "one of the greatest times in my college career."

But getting the tickets to the games was the hardest part, Bate said.

"The only thing that was a problem was Rodney Stiles' brilliant scheme of distributing the tickets," Bate said sarcastically. "The whole process was just a hassle, but the rest of it was well worth it."

One Lexington business is already getting ready in case the Cats get to Indy. Sam Said, owner of Steak Fest grill and bar on Euclid Avenue, said he has a few ideas

should UK make it to the Final Four.

"If we make it to the Final Four," he said. "I was hoping to have a street party."

Steak Fest was in the center of the celebration last year when students flooded the streets.

"I think (this year's celebration would) be bigger," he said, "because it would be back to back."

Last year the corner of Woodland and Euclid avenues filled with more than 10,000 chanting students. Amid the bedlam that ensued, 20 fans scaled utility poles and could be seen stripping their clothes off as if they were at Mardi Gras.

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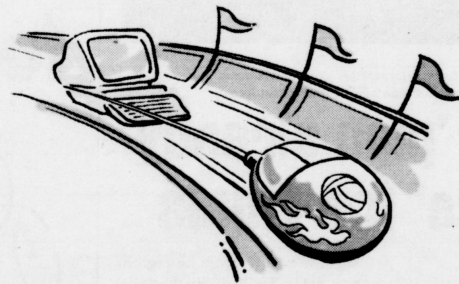
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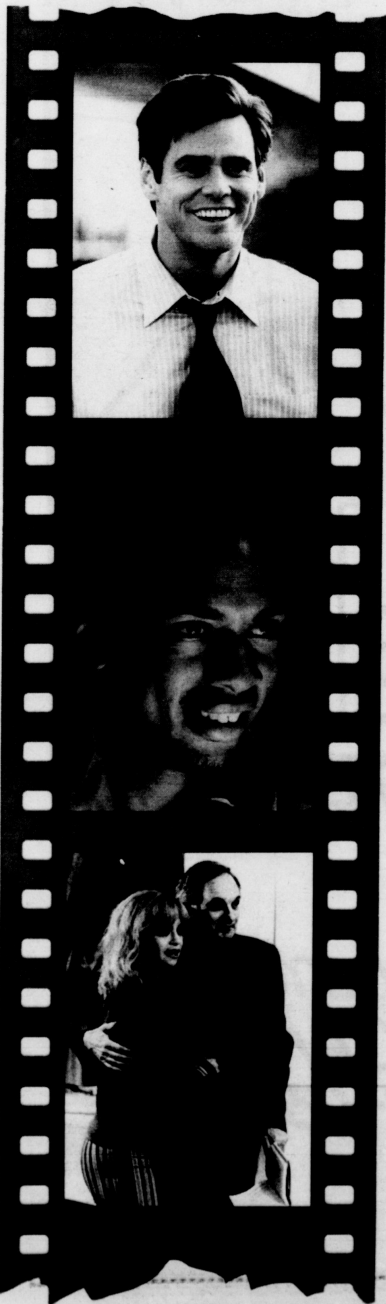
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Love, liars, more love hits theaters over Spring Break



Liar Liar

After a relatively minor disappointment with *The Cable Guy*, Jim Carrey returns to the big screen with another physical comedy. Carrey plays a hot-shot smooth-talking attorney with a strong proclivity to stretch the truth.

When he skips out on his son's birthday, his son makes a wish, "I wish, just for one day, Dad couldn't tell a lie."

The rest relies on Carrey speaking in a brutally frank manner while using his overdone wacky personality.

This outing he co-stars with the high-pitched bimbo Jennifer Tilly and Cary Elwes of *The Princess Bride* fame. Director Tom Shadyac (*The Nutty Professor*) has the difficult task of putting a camera on Carrey and letting him do whatever he wants.

Love Jones

First-time writer/director Theodore Witcher tries to depart from the urban romantic comedies that have become so cliché by giving his characters a bit of a twist.

Instead of the stereotypical under-educated and under-employed portrayal of black youths, he goes for the over-educated and under-employed black men and women. It boils down to a basic battle between the sexes with a couple of quirky affairs arising.

Witcher's film, which just recently returned from a successful go at Sundance, stars Larenz Tate, Nia Long, Bill Bellamy and Isaiah Washington. Although he's put together a fine cast, this one will rely mostly on the script.

Everyone Says I Love You

Woody Allen, romantic comedy, large ensemble cast, etc. What's different? This one is a musical.

Edward Norton, Drew Barrymore, Alan Alda, Goldie Hawn, Julia Roberts, Tim Roth and a few more star along with Allen in his latest project.

Although his trademark qualities of excellent scripts, humorous stories and fine acting seem to be in place, a big question may come up in the singing department. It is after all a musical, an area in which very few of the cast members have any experience.

As for the story, it revolves around several members of a dysfunctional family and ultimately everyone saying they love each other. The film opens March 21 at the Kentucky Theatre.

By Dan O'Neill

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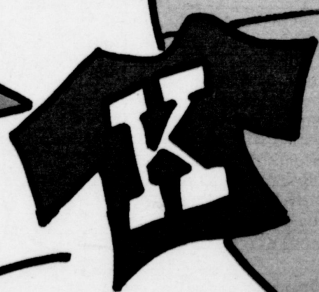
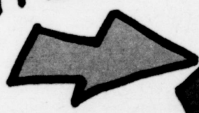
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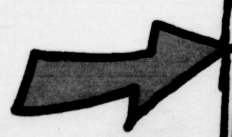
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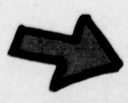
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