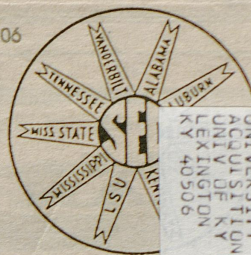




25590

The Cats' Pause

"SPOTLIGHTING UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY AND SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE"



900 60089 9/12/89 40506
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
ACQUISITIONS DEPT.
UNIV OF KY LIBRARY
LEXINGTON KY 40506

VOLUME 13 - NUMBER 25

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1989

Tide up

Kentucky paid particular attention to Alabama forward Michael Ansley all day, surrounding him here with Derrick Miller (4), Reggie Hanson (35) and Lonon Ellis. Ansley produced game-high totals of 24 points and 14 rebounds, however, as the Tide topped the 'Cats 71-67 at Rupp Arena Saturday.



Sutton's law
says UK off
want to ford
'Cat coach to
give up his post

—page 2

Kentucky can't
escape flood as
LSU defense
keys 99-80
Tiger victory

—page 4

Alabama hands
Wildcats fifth
straight loss,
sixth at Rupp
by score of 71-67

—pages 14-15

THE
CATS'
PAUSE

MEMBER

CSAN
Collegiate Sports Advertising Network

represented by THE MAXWELL ASSOCIATES, INC.
908 South Hull Street, Montgomery, AL 36104
(205) 834-8802 / FAX (205) 263-0407



PUBLICATION NO. USPS 707340
Published By
WILDCAT NEWS COMPANY
P.O. Box 7297
Lexington, Kentucky 40522
Second Class Postage paid at
Lexington, Kentucky 40511
and additional mailing offices

Editor and Publisher
OSCAR L. COMBS

Associate Editor
NICK NICHOLAS

Associate Editor
MIKE ESTEP
Staff Writer

JIM EASTERWOOD

National Recruiting Columnist

BOB GIBBONS

Columnist

LARRY VAUGHT

Columnist

RUSSELL RICE

State Columnist

EARL COX

National Basketball Columnist

LARRY DONALD

Columnist

TODD HALLUM

SEC Columnist

STAN TORGERSON

SEC Columnist

ELMORE "SCOOP" HUDGINS

Kentucky Basketball Recruiting

RICK BOLUS

Contributing Columnist

JAMIE VAUGHT

Columnist

DAN BRANDENBURG

Business Manager

DONNA COMBS

Staff Photographer

GARY CROMWELL

Staff Photographer

DAVID STERLING

Circulation Coordinator

WANDA HOOKER

Crossword Puzzle Editor

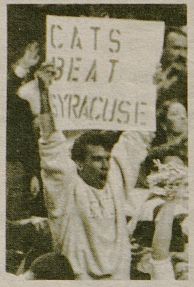
DAN KRUECKEBERG

Published Weekly: Sept. 3-April 8
Monthly: May, June, July, August

Advertising Representative
WILDCAT NEWS COMPANY
2627 REGENCY ROAD
LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY 40503

Subscription Price
\$28.50 per year in USA
\$40 per year in Canada
Phone: (606) 278-3474

Postmaster: Send Address Changes to
THE CATS' PAUSE, P.O. BOX 7297,
LEXINGTON, KY. 40522



ORANGEMEN AWAIT 'CATS—No. 5 Syracuse and coach Jim Boeheim have a week off to prepare for the struggling Kentucky Wildcats. The two will meet this Sunday at noon in Syracuse's spacious Carrier Dome. For a preview of that game as well as the Tennessee-UK matchup, please turn to page 20.

Worth Repeating!

Kentucky coach Eddie Sutton says there was no cover-up; attorney McBryer believes UK mentor is being forced out

Compiled by The Cats' Pause staff

Both the *Louisville Courier-Journal* and *Lexington Herald-Leader* came up with new developments in the NCAA investigation.

Last Sunday the *Courier-Journal* reported, through the aid of an unnamed source, that head coach Eddie Sutton was named in a cover-up involving the University of Kentucky's response in Allegation No. 11.

No. 11 states that UK players Sean Sutton and Eric Manuel and assistant coach Dwane Casey provided false and misleading information to NCAA investigators. The allegation revolves around different reports of how Sean Sutton and Manuel got to the ACT test site in the summer of 1987.

Concerning Eddie Sutton, the Louisville newspaper reported that in UK's response, the Wildcat coach may have tried to cover up for Lexington Lafayette basketball coach Donnie Harville, who drove the two students to take the test.

The *Courier-Journal* failed to mention where it got the response, which has not been released publicly.

Earlier this month, UK president David Roselle briefed the school's Board of Trustees in a closed meeting.

Last Monday, the *Lexington Herald-Leader* quoted Terry McBryer, Eddie Sutton's lawyer, as saying: "They just want him out. Somebody is beginning to draw a line. I don't know who it is. But he's drawing some conclusions."

McBryer blamed a UK official for leaking out the information. Although he couldn't name the person, McBryer said the unknown UK official did this to put a "false tenor" on the current situation. Thus, hoping to make it easier to get Eddie Sutton out of the program.

Earlier this month UK sent its response in regard to the 18 allegations of wrongdoing charged by the NCAA against the basketball program.

McBryer remained positive about Sutton's tenure at the university.

"There is a growing sentiment through out Kentucky to keep Sutton," McBryer told *Lexington Herald-Leader* sportswriter Jerry Tipton. "... This was an effort by somebody—in a rather twisted way—to drag him into something he's not involved in. There's not any question they're trying to quell that support."

And before Kentucky was schedule to play at Auburn, Eddie Sutton told Cawood Ledford that in no way was there a cover-up.

"I've never thought the situation, as far as the transportation the day Eric Manuel took the ACT test, was very serious. What actually occurred, they had two ways for Eric to get to Lafayette High School, where he was scheduled to take the exam. Sean and Eric had played ball early in the week and they had talked about it.

"Of course, Eric doesn't have transportation, so Sean said he would be happy to pick him up. In the meantime, coach (Don) Richardson, Eric's high school coach, had called coach (Donnie) Harville and also coach (Dwane) Casey to make sure Eric would be able to get to the test site.

"So what happened, the morning of the examination, Sean had driven in and he and Eric were about ready to get into Sean's automobile. Donnie Harville drove up in his car and he said: 'You guys jump in.' So, they did ride over to Lafayette High and he brought them back. When they did return, well they got in Sean's car and went to Hardee's and got something to eat.

"The first time the young men told the story they indicated that they had gone over in Sean's car. You must remember, this occur-

ed well over a year (ago). And I think anyone, if you were to ask them: 'Can you remember exactly what happened a year ago?' it's very difficult to do.

"Later, after coach Harville told the NCAA that they had ridden with him and he had returned them to the Lodge. They amended their statements, they said: 'Hey, we made a mistake.'

"So, that's why it's no big deal. In no way was there anyone trying to cover up something, because it's not a violation for a player to ride with Donnie Harville, or if they had ridden together in Sean's car."

□ □ □

LSU's Tigervision erroneously reported last Monday evening (Feb. 20) that Eddie Sutton had resigned as coach of the Kentucky Wildcats. The report reached Louisville station WHAS while the Memphis State-Louisville game was going on.

UK color commentator Ralph Hacker, during the Kentucky-Auburn game, verified that the report was wrong.

□ □ □

The University of Kentucky Blue-White game is schedule for April 22 at Commonwealth Stadium.

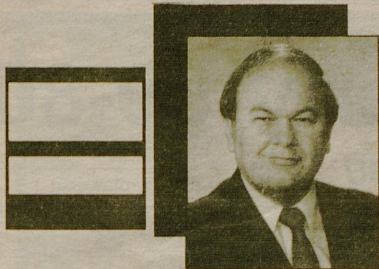
Kickoff is set for 6 p.m. Look for further information on the Blue-White scrimmage in future issues of *The Cats' Pause*.

Practice begins March 22 and various scrimmages will be played on Saturday at Shively Field

□ □ □

Because of Monday night deadlines, *TCP* was unable to report on the Kentucky-Auburn basketball game, won by Sonny Smith's Tigers 77-75.

Look for the complete game story to be in next week's issue of *TCP*.



OSCAR L. COMBS

CATS' PAUSE EDITOR/PUBLISHER

What looks bad now will be good for the future

□ Light at the end of the tunnel.

Perhaps this is the best way for Kentucky basketball fans to approach the remainder of this season which will become known for the most number of defeats in the history of this storied collegiate program.

Light because one can see a healing and rebuilding process just around the corner.

What appears to be bad (the number of losses and the very limited number of scholarship players on the roster) actually will become a plus for the future.

When you have a limited number of players and you're losing, then it's apparent you have immediate needs on the recruiting front. High school prep stars aren't very dumb when it comes to setting up a situation as far as playing time is concerned.

And there's plenty on the horizon for future UK signees.

Speaking of such, several were in attendance for the Kentucky-Alabama game Saturday including Fort Knox's talented 6-foot-8 forward Troy Smith and Louisville PRP's fine junior guard, Andy Penick. Both would be welcomed additions to the UK program.

Smith could be immediate help by signing this spring although Penick must wait. Both are impressed with the UK fans and neither is brushing UK off because of the current NCAA investigation.

That isn't all that surprising. They're both home-grown products and as Georgia coach Hugh Durham once said (when his program was on probation), homestate kids tend to be loyal and are not negatively influenced by probation like out-of-state youngsters are.

Kentucky will obviously be in a delicate situation next season, regardless of what happens with the NCAA. Mike Scott, a senior, will be gone and that will leave only LeRon Ellis as a big man—and that is, if he stays.

This will leave UK with its most vital need, a big man in the middle. Whether or not UK has anyone spotted on the junior college circuit is unknown.

Also unknown is what kind of shape UK will be in to recruit a junior college kid. You can bet the 'Cats' chances of signing a quality JC'er will hinge on the possibilities of escaping postseason tournament sanctions by the NCAA, and those aren't very good.

Perhaps Kentucky will pull a page from Vanderbilt coach C.M. Newton's book and go with a three-guard offense which has been pretty kind to the soon-to-be UK athletics director this season.

Very quietly and efficiently, the Commodores have inched their way up to a share of the SEC lead at 10-4 with just four games remaining. Speaks quite well for Newton and his band of players nobody wanted just a few years ago.

□ □ □

□ FOR YEARS, WILDCAT bashers

moaned and groaned about over-recruiting at Kentucky, that it wasn't fair to the numerous kids riding the bench. And those bashers would make comparisons with other clubs that, according to those experts, didn't over-recruit.

Care to take a peek around at Kentucky in comparison with those other schools today?

It seems like the roles have reversed, but you don't hear anyone saying school such-and-such is over-recruiting and shouldn't be allowed to do so. Look and see which schools have all the prep All-Americans.

Perhaps when Eddie Sutton arrived at Kentucky, he paid too much attention to those who have long despised the Kentucky program.

Four years into a coach's tenure at a new school should provide stability, a well-organized program, a positive attitude, a stable full of thoroughbreds ready for a run at the national championship.

What you have at Kentucky right now is, well...

Kentucky's vast wealth of quality talent has fallen off to just a ghost of what it used to be. Blame the system, blame the program, blame the coach, blame the fans and while we're at it, blame the media. Fact is, it is fact.

We hear what kind of a team this would have been had Rex Chapman and Eric Manuel been on the club, if Shawn Kemp had been eligible. Well, who's responsible for those situations? How good would Kentucky have been in the past if Poodles Willoughby went to UK instead of turning pro, if Rudy Macklin had honored his verbal commitment and went to UK, if Sam Bowie hadn't missed two seasons because of injuries. The what-ifs could go on and on.

The difference back then and now is that others were waiting in the wings for the opportunity. There was enough talent to offset a tragedy. Bashers called it stockpiling, UK coaches called it being prepared for a rainy day. And there have been plenty.

When Eddie Sutton arrived he made it a point he wanted to get away from recruiting just the "paper" prep All-Americans. Well some are still around—Ellis, Chris Mills and Derrick Miller—but there aren't as many. Oh, there could have been more if Kemp, Manuel and Chapman were around and that's a valid point.

Perhaps if Sutton and his staff would have put more effort into recruiting and signing the best 15 players possible, UK would not be in the position it is today.

Take for example the names of Kevin Pritchard, Elliot Perry and Chris Jackson. Could either of those three kids help UK today?

I won't even insult you by asking for an answer.

Believe it or not all three had strong desires to wear the Blue and White, especially Perry, who originally was of-

fered a scholarship and then suddenly had it rescinded, ironically just a few days after he played so well in a prep all-star game.

Before and after that day he was informed he would not be allowed to attend UK, Perry told more than one reporter he really wanted to attend UK.

The unofficial word around UK is that the staff was afraid of Perry's academic standing and future status, apparently referring to coach Sutton's statement that he would no longer recruit any questionable Proposition 48 cases. The statement came after the infamous Johnny Pittman case. (However, one must be reminded that less than seven months later, two Prop 48 cases—Kemp and Sean Woods—were signed.)

Even before the Perry situation was one which involved Pritchard (now tearing it up at Kansas), the Tulsa, Okla., star who fancied Sutton as a coach he'd want to play for and UK as a school he'd want to attend.

That was also during the time UK was holding a torch for the coveted Rex Chapman. UK said all along it would love to sign both, but when Chapman announced, the coaching staff forgot to follow up on Pritchard, figuring he'd have no desire to attend the same school as Chapman and perhaps having to compete with him for playing time.

Several weeks later, Pritchard said he was puzzled and upset that UK quit recruiting him and never even gave him a call until it was revealed that he would probably sign with Kansas in the spring. "I've always liked UK, as long as I can remember," Pritchard told an Oklahoma sports writer.

Case No. 3 (and one you probably won't want to read about) is that LSU's phenomenal rookie Chris Jackson considered UK as one of top choices until the 'Cats mysteriously stopped recruiting him in the spring of his junior year.

Again, sources around the program on an off-the-record basis at the time insisted the staff questioned his academic status. A couple others, however, point to the fact UK took a chance on Woods shoots down that theory.

During the past three recruiting seasons, Kentucky has signed three legitimate point guards—Sean Sutton, Woods and Richie Farmer.

Everyone is acquainted with Sean, a hard-nosed over-achiever who gives it 110 percent every trip on the court. Woods, who didn't even make the top 100 list of juniors in Indiana, is considered a diamond in the rough who could develop into a very fine player in time, but probably not for a couple years.

Farmer was the boy wonder of Kentucky preps the past three years, but considered by many as being too slow, too short and too...well, you know what I mean. From day one, the UK coaches insisted Farmer is a second guard so perhaps we shouldn't even consider him in comparing the point guard situation

since he wouldn't have been signed for that position anyway. The Kentucky staff never liked him from day one and it has showed over this season. The staff either thinks he cannot play or doesn't intend to play him. Which answer is correct really doesn't matter.

I don't know if you get the drift of this column or not, but it's apparent Kentucky is in desperate need of quality guards. Thank the good man above that Miller didn't pack his bags and leave last year.

□ □ □

□ WHAT A RACE this is going to be for the regular-season SEC title. With a three-way tie for first among LSU, Florida and Vanderbilt, anything is possible.

With four games remaining for each team, it's impossible to tell which club has the best shot. Ironically, for the first time in a long, long time, UK will not have a direct impact in the outcome.

Not only is UK long out of the picture, the Wildcats also don't have any games remaining with any of the contenders.

LSU was the team riding high until the Tigers hit a buzz-saw in Nashville Saturday night, losing 108-74. The Commodores just might be on the verge of taking it all.

Vandy might have a slight edge, but for Newton's team to win, it'll have to pull off a big upset over its most despised rival—Tennessee—in the season finale at Knoxville.

Tangling the same day in Baton Rouge will be Florida and LSU. So if LSU can still be in a tie going into that game, things would be rosy for Dale Brown. For Florida to win the title, it'd better have it wrapped up before that league finale.

□ □ □

□ IT MAY NOT be the prettiest SEC tournament in history, but it figures to be one of the most competitive and exciting one we've seen in a long time.

When you get right down to the nitty-gritty of it, only Auburn figures to be totally out of the picture. For that matter, the other three first-round teams most likely won't be able to survive four games without a loss, but any of the three are capable of beating anyone in the league.

Kentucky's stay in Knoxville most likely will hinge on a couple factors, the first being able to avoid a bottom-four finish in league standings. Prior to this week's play, the 'Cats were on the bubble, tied with Ole Miss in sixth place. Only Mississippi State, Georgia and Auburn followed the 'Cats and Rebels in the standings.

The second factor will be if Kentucky is able to avoid a total disaster in the final two weeks and bounce back to win a couple or three games in the regular season.

Losing at home to Alabama to set up a five-game losing streak has to weigh very heavily on everyone's shoulders.

LSU rains on UK's party 99-80

After a valiant UK comeback effort, flash flood of LSU steals, baskets in 3½-minute period swamps Wildcats

By TCP associate editor Mike Estep

BATON ROUGE, La. — When it rains, it pours.

Most Kentuckians found that out the hard way last week as the skies opened up to produce the worst flooding in more than a decade.

In tiny Boston, a community of some 400 in rural Nelson County, approximately 10 inches of the wet stuff hit the ground in a four-day period, leaving residents stranded Wednesday morning as floodwaters surrounded the town.

A few hours later and 800 miles away, at LSU's Pete Maravich Assembly Center, it was coming down, too—in buckets. LSU buckets. Kentucky's Wildcats were swept away in a flash flood of Tiger steals and layups—a defensively-sparked 13-2 run during a 3½-minute stretch midway through the second half that allowed LSU to swamp the 'Cats 99-80.

Water started spilling over the Wildcat dam early in the contest but, by sticking to the game plan, being patient on offense and controlling the tempo, Kentucky was able to stay dry until late in the second half.

LSU jumped out 22-13 with 10:23 to play in the first half, Kentucky drew even at 25-25 four minutes later.

The Tigers extended the lead again, going up by as many as 11 on three first-half occasions, the latest at 45-34 1:11 before the break. Derrick Miller's 21-footer at the :57 mark brought the 'Cats to within eight at 45-37 at the half.

"I felt good at halftime, even though we were down by eight points," UK coach Eddie Sutton said. "We had done a poor job of trying to jam the ball in to (LeRon) Ellis on the block, and we felt like (LSU) would have a tough time covering him if we were able to do that. We showed 'em a couple of things, how to enter the ball and get it to him, and we did that."

Tiger center Wayne Sims took a pass from forward Vernel Singleton for a layup that again put the LSU lead in double figures (47-37) to start the second half. But like the little Dutch boy, Kentucky, with Ellis doing most of the scoring, stuck its finger in the dike.

An aggressive Ellis, who scored 24 points and played what might be his best basketball of the season, went to war, scoring half of the Wildcats' next 20 points. And when he swished an eight-footer from the right baseline with 12:12 left to play, capping a 20-9 UK run, Kentucky led 57-56, its first advantage since the 15:53 mark of the first half.

It looked like the struggling 'Cats were on their way to possibly breaking a three-game losing streak in storybook fashion, by pinning a homecourt loss on the league-leading Tigers.

Instead, that's when the script hit the fan.

"I think at the point it was 57-56, I think they really had a lot of doubts whether they were gonna win the game or not," Sean Sutton said. "They were looking around at each other wondering who was gonna step forward and make the big play."

As it turned out, several Tigers stepped up: Sean missed an 18-footer, LSU's Ricky Blanton turned it into a layup.

Sean tossed an errant pass, Singleton got

a layup and a free throw. Ellis was stripped by Lyle Mouton, Chris Jackson got a layup.

Reggie Hanson missed the front end of one-and-one free throw, Jackson got a layup.

Sutton slowed the bleeding with a 14-footer, but Mouton and Sims got a pair of steals, leading to back-to-back layups by Blanton and Jackson.

When the 13-2 run was over, LSU led 69-59. In the 3:24 after Ellis gave the 'Cats the lead, the Tiger defense forced four turnovers, shut Kentucky down on six of seven possessions and got a half a dozen layups. UK was never able to get within eight points the rest of the way. LSU outpointed the 'Cats 30-21 and saw its lead balloon to 22 before Tiger coach Dale Brown went with masse substitutions in the final minutes.

"We just lost control of the tempo there," coach Sutton said. "We're young, but it's late in the season and we know better. Even when the other team has a run...you might call a timeout and stop it, we tried to do that...but the one thing you can always do is put the other team on defense. Because if we have the basketball, they can't score. And during that stretch we didn't do a very good job of that. The game just got out of whack."

In addition to losing patience, Sutton said his club, which was outbreathed by only three for the game, forgot to crash the boards.

"There in that stretch where we finally did get ahead of 'em, I thought we were really rebounding well," coach Sutton said. "We

were doing a better job on the boards on both ends. We got some defensive rebounds and they weren't getting too many second shots.

"During that last...I would say 10 minutes of the ballgame, we quit rebounding and our transition defense was not very good. And all of the sudden they broke open the ballgame."

With the win, the Tigers, 18-6 overall, improved to 10-3 in SEC play and held to their one-game lead over Vanderbilt and Florida.

Kentucky dropped to 11-14 and 8-5, and like those flood victims in Boston, was looking to access the damage of its four-game losing streak and find a way to rebuild.

"I thought our effort was great," coach Sutton said. "You know, a lot of people...the way this team's been battered around, it'd be pretty easy for them to quit playing. But I really thought they played hard, so from that standpoint I was very proud of their effort."

"I can't do anything but just try to prepare the ballclub. And like I've said so many times, they go out and play hard. Boy, they play hard. Gosh, you can't fault that."

"I don't like it either. I've never had a losing record before. And I haven't checked, but I don't know if any of those players have ever had a losing record. We're setting a lot of records you don't like to set, but we're trying...we're not going out there and intentionally trying to lose."

UK-LSU NOTES & QUOTES

□ Although freshman Chris Jackson, the (Continued on page 10)

UK-LSU play-by-play

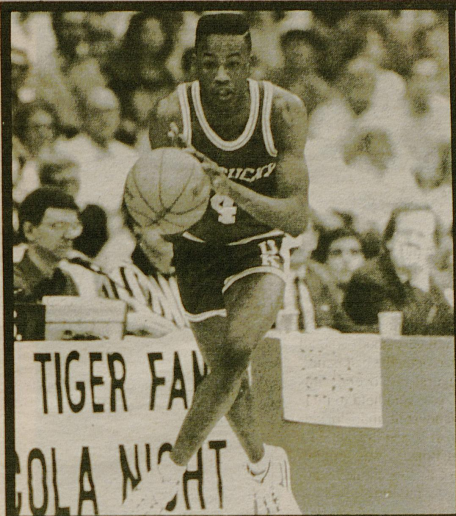
Time	Kentucky	Score	LSU
19:27	Ellis 6 jump hook	2-0	
19:05		2-3	Jackson 21 ft.
18:09	Mills layup	4-3	
17:04	Hanson dunk	6-3	
16:11		6-5	Sims alley-oop layup
15:53		6-7	Mouton layup, FTA
15:41	Miller 16 ft.	8-7	
14:52		8-9	Sims 14 ft.
13:34		8-11	Singleton 7 ft.
12:49		8-13	Jackson 18 ft.
12:18		8-15	Singleton layup
11:26		8-17	Sims layup
11:05	Miller 15 ft.	10-17	
10:49		10-19	Sims 6 ft.
10:33	Miller 16 ft., FT	13-19	
10:23		13-22	Mouton 22 ft.
10:07	Sutton FTA, FT	14-22	
9:51	Miller 20 ft.	17-22	
9:02	Scott follow layup	19-22	
8:07		19-24	Jackson 10 ft.
7:43	Feldhaus follow layup	21-24	
7:27		21-25	Jackson FTA, FT
6:55	Feldhaus 16 ft.	23-25	
6:22	Sutton layup	25-25	
6:13		25-27	Sims dunk
5:28		25-29	Tracy 19 ft.
4:28		25-32	Jackson 21 ft.
3:50		25-34	Jackson 18 ft.
3:07	Ellis FT, FTA	26-34	
3:02		26-36	Sims FT, FT
2:45	Ellis layup	28-36	
2:27		28-39	Jackson 20 ft.
2:10	Ellis tip	30-39	
1:54		30-41	Sims layup
1:32	Hanson layup	32-41	
1:28		32-43	Jackson FT, FT
1:22	Ellis dunk	34-43	
1:11		34-45	Singleton FT, FT
0:57	Miller 21 ft.	37-45	

HALF

Time	Score	Notes
19:46	37-47	Sims layup
19:23	39-47	
18:54	41-47	Miller 8 ft.
18:18	41-49	Mouton layup
17:52	43-49	Hanson tip
17:29	43-52	Jackson layup, FT
17:09	45-52	Ellis layup
16:48	45-54	Jackson layup
16:07	47-54	Mills follow layup
15:10	49-54	Mills FT, FT
14:21	51-54	Ellis tip
13:58	51-56	Sims 5 ft. jump hook
13:40	53-56	Ellis 7 ft.
12:57	55-56	Mills layup
12:25	57-56	Ellis 8 ft.
11:41	57-58	Blanton layup
11:27	57-61	Singleton layup, FT
11:03	57-63	Jackson reverse layup
10:17	57-65	Jackson layup
9:59	59-65	Sutton 14 ft.
9:28	59-67	Jackson reverse layup
9:06	59-69	Blanton layup
8:30	61-69	Ellis 9 ft.
8:16	61-71	Blanton follow layup
7:36	61-73	Jackson 18 ft.
7:17	63-73	Miller layup
7:06	63-75	Blanton layup
6:31	63-77	Mouton layup follow
6:09	65-77	Sutton 19 ft.
5:38	65-79	Blanton layup
5:12	65-81	Blanton follow layup
4:54	65-83	Blanton layup
4:39	66-83	Ellis FT, FTA
4:15	68-83	Miller layup
4:02	68-85	Jackson 15 ft.
3:51	70-85	Ellis layup
3:33	70-87	Mouton layup
3:17	73-87	Miller 21 ft.
2:57	73-88	Jackson FTA, FT
2:50	75-88	Miller 16 ft.
2:21	75-90	Singleton dunk
2:04	75-92	Blanton layup
1:41	75-95	Singleton follow, FT
1:10	75-97	Blanton 7 ft.
0:44	77-97	Miller layup
0:10	78-97	Feldhaus FT, FTA
0:09	80-97	Davis FT, FT
0:08	80-99	Grant FT, FT

OFFICIAL NCAA BASKETBALL BOX SCORE												FINAL							
Date: 2-15-89 Site: Maravich Assembly Center, Baton Rouge												Score							
VISITORS (Last Name, First) (11-14) (6-7)												Kentucky							
No.	25	Reggie Hanson	1	3	10	0	0	2	1	2	4	6	3	2	0	1	31		
No.	42	Chris Mills	1	3	13	0	3	2	2	4	7	11	4	2	3	1	38		
No.	105	LeRon Ellis	c	11	19	0	0	2	5	6	7	13	3	2	2	0	34		
No.	4	Derrick Miller	g	11	21	3	7	1	1	1	1	2	4	2	3	2	36		
No.	23	Sean Sutton	g	3	6	0	2	1	2	0	2	3	7	6	1	0	38		
No.	14	Deron Feldhaus	g	2	5	0	1	1	2	1	4	5	3	1	2	1	11		
No.	21	Chris Jones	g	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	2		
No.	22	Johnathon Davis	g	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4		
No.	34	John Pelotrey	g																
No.	24	Jeff Gunnan	g	1	2	0	0	0	2	2	1	3	0	2	0	0	6		
No.	50	Mike Scutt	g																
TEAM REBOUNDS (included in Totals)												10							
TOTALS												16							
TOTAL FG %: 1st Half 6-24 (25%) 2nd Half 9-40 (22.5%) Game 15-64 (23.4%)												Deadball							
3-PT FG %: 1st Half 2-11 (18.2%) 2nd Half 1-9 (11.1%) Game 3-20 (15%)												Rebounds							
FT %: 1st Half 3-7 (42.9%) 2nd Half 6-10 (60%) Game 9-17 (52.9%)																			
HOME (Last Name, First) (18-6) (10-3)												Louisiana St.							
No.	33	Ricky Blanton	f	9	13	0	1	0	0	3	6	9	3	18	8	2	0	1	38
No.	11	Wayne Sims	c	8	10	0	0	2	3	0	5	5	18	0	1	0	1	33	
No.	24	Vernel Singleton	c	5	10	0	0	4	9	4	13	4	14	0	1	0	2	28	
No.	21	Lyle Mouton	g	5	12	1	3	0	1	2	5	7	3	11	7	1	0	3	34
No.	35	Chris Jackson	g	13	29	3	11	5	7	0	1	1	0	34	6	4	1	1	38
No.	4	Jason Cormier	g																
No.	12	Lester Scott	g	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
No.	13	Dennis Tracey	g	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	4	5	2	2	4	1	0	19	
No.	11	Kyle Johnson	g	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
No.	22	Russell Grant	g	0	1	0	0	2	3	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	1
No.	32	Stephen Usery	g																
No.	11	Richard Krajewski	g	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
No.	43	Geert Hamink	g	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	6	6
TEAM REBOUNDS (included in Totals)												0							
TOTALS												26							
TOTAL FG %: 1st Half 17-39 (43.6%) 2nd Half 24-44 (54.5%) Game 41-83 (49.1%)												Deadball							
3-PT FG %: 1st Half 4-10 (40%) 2nd Half 6-11 (54.5%) Game 10-21 (47.6%)												Rebounds							
FT %: 1st Half 7-10 (70%) 2nd Half 8-8 (100%) Game 15-18 (83.3%)																			
OFFICIALS: John Clougherty (R), Allie Prescott (U), Herman Ramsey (V)																			
Technical Fouls												Kentucky 57 43 -- 20							
Attendance 13,050												Louisiana St. 45 54 -- 99							

—Cats' Pause chart



LSU KEEPS ROLLING ALONG

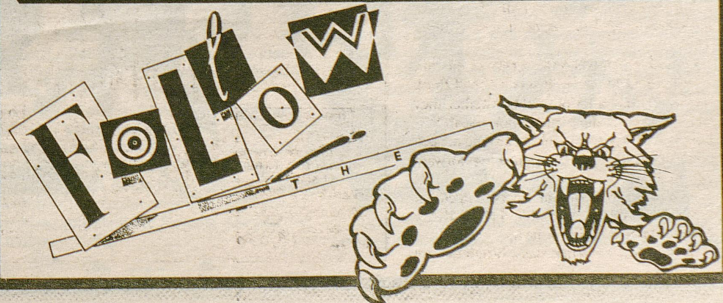
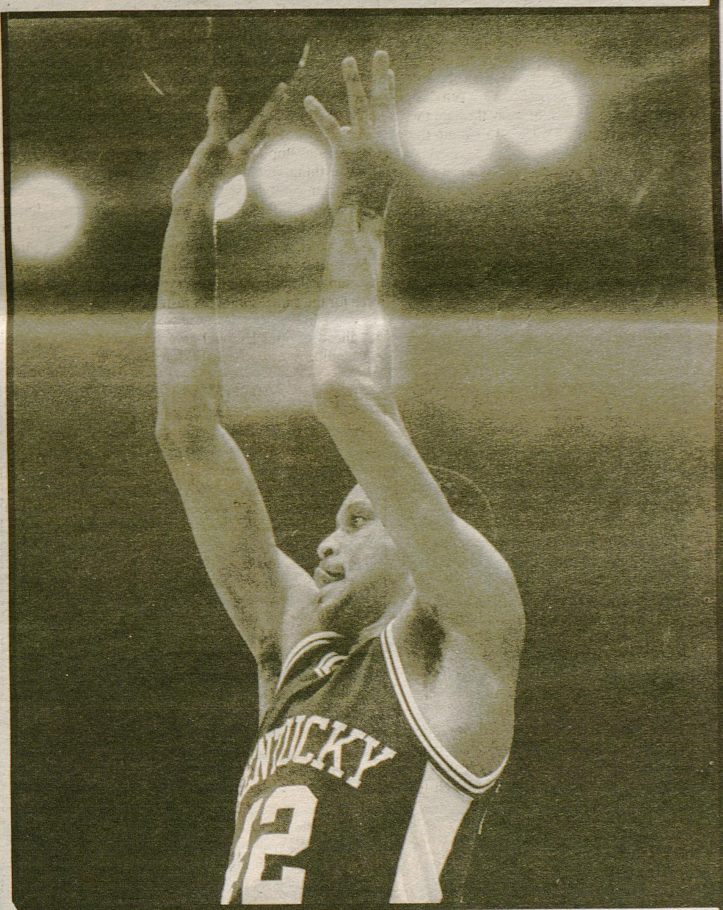
□ Top left, clockwise: On course for the Wildcat basket, Derrick Miller starts a UK break. Although the 'Cats played the SEC's top team close for a while, the Tigers exploded past the 'Cats 99-80.

□ Two longtime friends, Eddie Sutton and Dale Brown, exchange postgame greetings.

□ Freshman Chris Mills got his first taste of LSU's feared Deaf Dome. Mills' initial trip to Assembly Center wasn't anything to brag about, as he hit only three of 13 shots for eight points.

□ LeRon Ellis makes sure that Kentucky gets two points on this behind-the-back jam.

UK-LSU photos by Matt Robbins



Johnathon Davis



A little pre-spring cleaning in store this week

Updates on people with UK connections

Since our current file on people, places and things is getting rather cluttered, we'll take time for a little pre-spring cleaning this week. In no particular order, here are the offerings:



Russell Rice

Cats' Pause Columnist

□ **CHARLES "COTTON" NASH**, Wildcat All-American in 1962, '63, '64, is a nominee for the National Association of Basketball Coaches Silver and Gold Anniversary team for 1989.

The only Wildcats chosen on the previous 14 five-man NABCSA teams are Frank Ramsey (1979) and Lexington mayor Scotty Baesler (1988).

Nash, who has been in the investments business in Lexington for some time now, played pro basketball and then pursued a pro baseball career that included brief stints as a major league player and minor league manager. He is married to the former Julie Kathleen Richey of Mt. Sterling. They have a son, Patrick, in the UK Law School.

Cotton was entering his sophomore year at UK when I was named sports editor of *The Lexington Leader* in 1962. I credit him with filling Memorial Coliseum because, believe it or not, you could buy over-the-counter tickets to Wildcat games before he came along. My group loved to sit in the "Crow's Nest," which is the balcony on the College View end of the arena. The prime season-ticket books carried a \$5 premium in those days.

□ **RUDY DAVALOS**, who was a Wildcat assistant basketball coach during that 1962-63 season, recently received a three-year renewal of his contract as director of athletics at the University of Houston. Rudy came to UK for a one-year stint after brief coaching stops at Georgetown College and a state high school; and play with an AAU team.

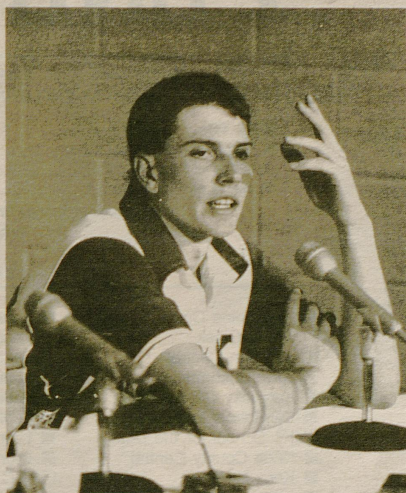
A native of San Antonio, Texas, he attended high school there and then attended Wharton (Texas) Junior College for one year before transferring to Southwest Texas State, where he was captain of the 1960 NAIA champion Bobcats. He also was named to the NAIA All-American team that year and later (1977) was inducted into the NAIA Basketball Hall of Fame. He was named to the Southwest Texas State Hall of Fame a few years later.

Davalos left UK to join former Georgetown coach Bob Davis at Auburn. After serving with the professional San Antonio Spurs, he was named athletic director at the University of Texas-San Antonio in 1975, serving nine years in that capacity before becoming associate athletic director at Houston in June 1985.

Davalos returned to the Spurs in 1986 as director of community relations, among other things, but returned to Houston the following January as athletic director.

□ **KEITH MARTIN**, who lettered in football for the Wildcats in 1981, '82, '83, was featured in a two-column article, with mug shot, in the Feb. 8 issue of the *NCAA News* after he was named director of accounting in the association's business department.

A certified accountant, Martin joined the national office staff from the accounting firm of Deloitte, Haskins & Sells, where he had worked for several years. He holds an undergraduate degree in accounting and a master's degree in business administration, both from UK.



Rex Chapman—a good move

As an undergraduate, Martin was a fine defensive lineman for the Wildcats. He was named to the SEC's All-Academic team three times, and was UK's Athlete of the Year and recipient of a post-graduate scholarship his senior year.

As director of accounting, Martin will be responsible for payroll processing, general accounting, financial reporting, championships accounting and reporting, administration of the association's transportation programs, and special projects.

He is married to the former Pamela Yackey ('85, BA, Educ.), who was a student football trainer at UK.

□ **MARK KEENE**, a three-year starting center and a member of the 1976 Peach Bowl champion Wildcats, is among former Academic All-Americans nominated as finalists for the 1988-89 GTE All-America Hall of Fame, which recognizes those honorees who have made outstanding contributions to society and are successful in their chosen fields. Two inductees will be named from each of the three decades of Academic All-America teams: 1952-59, 1960-69, 1970-78.

The nominees all graduated with at least a 3.20 cumulative GPA and have been graduated at least 10 years. Keene had a 3.73 GPA as a topical major at UK.

A recipient of the Senior Scholastic Award, Keene was accepted to the UK Medical School following graduation. He entered a seminary and currently is a priest serving at St. Joseph Church in Crescent Springs.

□ **FORMER WILDCAT REX CHAPMAN**, shooting his familiar jump shot in four-color against the 76ers, is featured on the cover of the Jan. 23 issue of *SPORTSinc*, *The Sports Business Weekly*. The teaser lines on the cover read, "GOLD RUSH The Charlotte Hornets are making money beyond all expectations. Now, how to spend it."

The cover story, "Charlotte's Gold Rush of '89," written by Rick Bonnell, details the outstanding first-year success story of the expansion team that lured Chapman from UK after his sophomore season.

However, the six-page article doesn't mention Chapman, which is rather unique and refreshing in any article about the Hornets; instead Bonnell focuses on such interesting highlights as selling out the 23,388-seat Charlotte Coliseum, largest in the NBA, and how ticket sales, along with television-radio revenue and 28 corporate sponsorships, will yield the Hornets first-year net profits of \$8 million.



Keith Martin—joins NCAA

Now, who thinks Chapman made a bad move?

□ **THE FEB. 6 ISSUE** of that publication headlines its College Basketball Report: "Kentucky Scrambling To Fill Empty Seats." The paragraph notes that UK is taking unprecedented measures to keep fans coming to games in Rupp Arena this season... "Beset with a mediocre team and possible NCAA sanctions from 18 alleged recruiting and academic violations, UK has turned to a promotional drive to boost ticket sales."

"Kentucky is running its first statewide radio and newspaper ads in years and is selling tickets through Ticketmaster for the first time," the magazine reports. Then it quotes Rodney Stiles, who oversees ticket distribution among on-campus students, as saying the school is considering halftime give-aways and student slam-dunk contests to fill the empty seats.

"Adolph Rupp would turn over in his grave if he thought we were giving something away to entice people to come to a Kentucky basketball game," Stiles is quoted as saying.

□ **FORMER UK RUNNING BACK** Marc Logan is among 21 Cincinnati Bengals put on the NFL auction block after more than 600 players were declared free agents by the 28 clubs. The Bengal list also includes 13-year veteran Reggie Williams, two-time Super Bowl receiver Cris Collinsworth and veteran kicker Jim Breech.

Signed by the Dolphins, Logan joins a list of former 'Cats with Miami connections. That includes: Rick Norton, Larry Seiple, Dick Palmer, Irv Goode, Wally Pursuit, and of course head coach Don Shula.

□ **WE LIGHT A CANDLE** for C.A. "Andy" Rogers, a good friend of the Wildcats who died of cancer last month in New Orleans at the age of 65. A past president of the USF&G Sugar Bowl, Andy originally proposed the bowl's contract with the Southeastern Conference and was an early advocate of corporate sponsorship for the event. He had been involved with the Sugar Bowl since his student days during the 1940s at Tulane, where he worked his way through school as sports information director.

□ **GOOD LUCK TO** former Wildcat football coach Fran Curci, who recently resigned as athletic director at the University of Tampa to further pursue his broadcasting career. Chris Catanach, head women's volleyball coach at the school, has been named interim director.

We feel that news about the sports programs at the University of Kentucky should be required reading for all of the state's high school students.

So, the staff of *The Cats' Pause* is starting a program we call "Big Blue Penetration."

Below, we have listed all the high schools in the state of Kentucky, and it is our aim to give every high school student in the commonwealth the opportunity to read *The Cats' Pause* by making the paper available to every high school library in the state.

In order to accomplish this, it will be up to our subscribers to carry out "Big Blue Penetration" during the coming months.

If you would like to see *The Cats' Pause* in one or more high schools in your area, fill out the subscription blank provided to the right and return it with the appropriate payment.

We will begin sending it to the school(s) and we'll notify the school librarian about your gift.

Each time we receive a gift subscription, we'll fill in the boxes next to the schools listed until "Big Blue Penetration" is a complete success.

BIG BLUE PENETRATION

YES, I want to send a gift subscription to one or more of Kentucky's high schools. I have enclosed \$28.50 for each subscription of 35 issues per year.

GIFT TO:

- 1) Name of high school _____
- 2) Name of high school _____
- 3) Name of high school _____

GIFT FROM:

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make check or money order payable to *The Cats' Pause* and mail to:

BIG BLUE PENETRATION
 P.O. BOX 7297
 LEXINGTON, KY. 40522

- Adair County
- Allen Central
- Allen County
- Anderson County
- Ashland Paul G. Blazer
- Augusta
- Ballard Memorial
- Barbourville
- Bardstown
- Barren County
- Bath County
- Beechwood
- Belfry
- Bell County
- Bellevue
- Berea
- Beth Haven
- Bethlehem
- Betsy Layne
- Bishop Brossart
- Boone County
- Bourbon County
- Bowling Green
- Boyd County
- Boyle County
- Bracken County
- Breathitt County
- Breckinridge County
- Bremen
- Buckhorn
- Bullitt Central
- Bullitt East
- Burgin
- Butler County
- Caldwell County
- Calloway County
- Campbell County
- Campbellsville
- Carlisle County
- Carroll County
- Casey County
- Caverna
- Cawood
- Central City
- Central Ky. Christian
- Christian County
- Clay County
- Clinton County
- Conner
- Corbin
- Cordia
- Covington Catholic
- Covington Holy Cross
- Covington Holmes
- Covington Latin
- Crittenden County
- Cumberland
- Cumberland County
- Danville
- Daviess County
- Dawson Springs
- Dayton
- Deming
- Dilce Combs
- Dixie Heights
- Dorton
- Drakesboro
- East Carter
- East Hardin
- Edmonson County
- Elizabethtown
- Elkhorn City
- Elliott County
- Eminence
- Estill County
- Everts
- Fairview
- Feds Creek
- Fleming County
- Fleming-Neon
- Fordsville
- Fort Campbell
- Fort Knox
- Frankfort
- Franklin County
- Franklin-Simpson
- Frederick Fraize
- Fulton County
- Fulton County
- Gallatin County
- Garrard County
- George Rogers Clark
- Glasgow
- Graham
- Grant County
- Graves County
- Grayson County
- Green County
- Greenup County
- Greenville
- Hancock County
- Harlan
- Harrison County
- Harrodsburg
- Hart County
- Hazard
- Heath
- Henderson County
- Henry County
- Hickman County
- Highlands
- Hopkinsville
- Hughes-Kirk
- Jackson City
- Jackson County
- Jefferson County
- Jeffersonton
- Jenkins

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

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

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

If you're asking me, the Big O was the best

UK's Glaser versus Schnellberger?

Think about this: Who is the best basketball player you have ever seen? That's on any level, any size, the best of all time?

For a long time, Adolph Rupp said Aggie Sale was



Earl Cox

Cats' Pause Columnist

the best player he had coached at the University of Kentucky. Sale was an All-American. Shortly before he died, Sale told me that in his opinion the finest player he ever saw was one John Wooden. Yes, the man who later won a zillion NCAA championships at UCLA and the man who taught the game to Denny Crum to the ever-lasting thanks of University of Louisville fans.

Wooden was a three-time All-American at Purdue University. When Wooden was coaching at Dayton, Ky., High School (that's where he got his start), he called Sale and asked him to join him in a semi-pro weekend league in Indianapolis. Both were just out of college and they picked up spending money in the Naptown league.

"Wooden has the speed and quickness to play in any era," Sale told me. "He could do it all, and that's why I have to say he was the best I ever saw."

I never asked Rupp about the best player he ever saw, but I know something about how he ranked his players. He thought Ralph Beard was his best guard and that the Fabulous Five was his strongest team. And he loved Dan Issel's hustle and talent.

The reason I'm asking questions is something that one on the greatest said recently. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar singled out Oscar Robertson, calling the Big O and Magic Johnson "the ultimate teammates." Jabbar told Time's Tom Callahan, "Playing with Oscar in Milwaukee was a privilege. No nonsense, no frills. And being with Magic has been wonderful. His flair and joy."

Of course, a lot of people would vote for Jabbar as the greatest, and I can't conceive of anyone not putting him in the all-time great category. But my purpose in mentioning him here is to support by vote for the best ever, any size, any level.

My vote goes to Oscar Robertson. He could do it all, defense, offense, rebounding, assists. And, as Jabbar said, Robertson did it all with no nonsense, no frills. He learned that from a great high school coach, Ray Crowe of Indianapolis Attucks.

I was fortunate to see nearly all of Robertson's home games during his junior and senior years, thanks to Uncle Sam, who stationed me during that time at Camp Atterbury and Fort Harrison. You've heard about Damon Bailey, the current Indiana whiz at Bedford-North Lawrence and how he packs in fans no matter where he plays.

Bailey is a piker compared with Robertson, who filled 14,000-seat Butler Fieldhouse for every home game. Attucks made a mint off his talents.

Basketball is a different game now than it was when Robertson and Jabbar teamed to win an NBA championship at Milwaukee. But I have a feeling that Robertson had the skills to do all the spectacular things that Michael Jordan does now. That's what I mean by the game changing. But Robertson, as Sale said about Wooden, could pay in any era.

UK VS. U OF L - Flaget High School is no more, but the old Flaget-St. Xavier rivalry has flared up once more between a former Brave, Howard Schnell-



Glaser to Schnellberger: Hey, Howard, name me the five kids you beat us on

berger, and a former Tiger, Bill Glaser. And that, of course, makes it a U of L-UK feud.

Anyway, Glaser, a UK football assistant who recruits Louisville and Jefferson County, has a challenge for Schnellberger, the head coach at U of L.

Glaser said that Schnellberger claims that he beat UK on five kids in head-to-head recruiting.

"Ask Coach Schnellberger to name the five kids," said Glaser.

"I'll give him Jeff Brohm and maybe Mike Ivory, but actually we decided not to take another offensive lineman when we got to him. We had Adrian Green in for a visit, but didn't offer him a scholarship. So ask Howard to name the five he beat us on."

UK VS U OF L? - I don't believe it'll happen, but the Cats and the Cards are scheduled to play baseball at Louisville's storied Parkway Field at 2 p.m. Friday. Then the Cats will come to their senses and head for Florida where they'll play eight games before heading north to play at IU on March 9.

Twelve UK games are set for television, nine of them on Lexington's WDKY-56. ESPN will carry the UK-at-Ole Miss game on April 24 at 8 p.m.

Coach Keith Madison has just one Louisvilleian on his team, All-SEC shortstop Billy White of St. Xavier. The junior started every game last year and was

UK's most consistent player with both the bat and glove. He's the leadoff hitter who batted .337 with four homers and 31 runs batted in.

Vying for the starting catcher's spot is a name familiar to all Cat fans, Rick Norton, son of the former Flaget quarterback of the same name who was a great one for UK.

Jeff Keener, an All-American pitcher in 1981 for the Cats, has returned to finish work on his degree and will help with the pitching staff. As a pro, he climbed to the St. Louis Cardinals with stints with the Louisville Redbirds.

WHAT'S THIS? - Never ever did I think any of us would live to see the day when a boxer - a professional fist-fighter - would get prolonged applause and a former great Wildcat basketball player would get booed at a UK basketball game.

But that's what happened at the Florida game when Darrin Van Horn was greeted with cheers and Rex Chapman with some jeers (and some applause).

Folks, I've already told a TV audience and a radio audience that Rex didn't leave on his own, and now I'll tell you, too. And I'll also tell you that I'll let you know the details at the proper time. That's a promise. But just don't blame Chapman for leaving the UK program. He had help. Believe me.

KENTUCKY

A L E N D A R



FEBRUARY

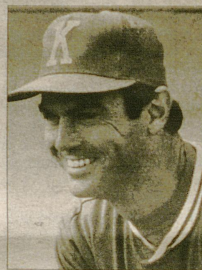
SUN.	MON.	TUE.	WED.	THUR.	FRI.	SAT.
			Basketball: Mississippi St. (H) 7:30 p.m. SEC-TV			Women's Basketball: Georgia (H) 7:30 p.m.
			1	2	3	4
Basketball: Georgia (A) 4 p.m. ABC		Women's Basketball: Tennessee Tech (A) 7:30 p.m.	Basketball: Vanderbilt (A) 8 p.m. SEC-TV			Basketball: Florida (H) 2:30 p.m. NBC
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		Women's Basketball: LSU (A) 8 p.m.	Basketball: LSU (A) 8 p.m. SEC-TV		Women's Basketball: Alabama (H) 2:30 p.m. SEC-TV	Basketball: Alabama (H) 2:30 p.m. SEC-TV
		12	13	14	15	16
Women's Basketball: Virginia Tech (A) 3 p.m.	Basketball: Auburn (A) 8:30 p.m. No TV			Basketball: Tennessee (H) 8 p.m. SEC-TV	Baseball: Louisville (A) 2 p.m.	Women's Basketball: Auburn (H) 7:30 p.m.
19	20		21	22	23	24
Basketball: Syracuse (A) noon CBS	Baseball: Penn State (at Lakeland, Fla.) 1 p.m.	Baseball: Arkansas (at Lakeland, Fla.) 1 p.m.				
26	27	28				
Basketball: Penn St. (DH) (Lakeland) 11 a.m.						

PREVIOUS GAMES

- Jan. 3: Women's Basketball—Morehead def. UK 74-70
- Jan. 4: Basketball—UK def. Georgia 76-65
- Jan. 6: Women's Basketball—UK def. Vanderbilt 74-68
- Jan. 7: Basketball—UK def. Vanderbilt 70-61
- Jan. 8: Women's Basketball—UK def. Middle Tennessee 68-66
- Jan. 11: Women's Basketball—UK def. Eastern 83-77 (OT)
- Jan. 12: Basketball—UK def. Florida 69-56
- Jan. 13: Women's Basketball—UK def. Marshall 72-61
- Jan. 14: Basketball—LSU def. UK 64-62
- Jan. 16: Women's Basketball—UK def. Kentucky State 91-53
- Jan. 18: Basketball—Alabama def. UK 76-64
- Jan. 18: Women's Basketball—UK def. Louisville 77-73
- Jan. 21: Basketball—UK def. Tennessee 66-65
- Jan. 21: Women's Basketball—Tennessee def. UK 101-57
- Jan. 24: Women's Basketball—Western def. UK 79-75
- Jan. 25: Basketball—UK def. Auburn 86-76
- Jan. 25: Basketball—Ole Miss def. UK 70-65
- Jan. 25: Women's Basketball—Ole Miss def. UK 70-52
- Feb. 1: Basketball—UK def. Mississippi State 73-61
- Feb. 4: Women's Basketball—Georgia def. UK 92-70
- Feb. 5: Basketball—Georgia def. UK 84-72
- Feb. 7: Women's Basketball—UK vs. Tennessee Tech 88-68
- Feb. 8: Basketball—Vanderbilt def. UK 81-51
- Feb. 11: Basketball—Florida def. UK 59-53
- Feb. 14: Women's Basketball—LSU def. UK 86-72
- Feb. 15: Basketball—LSU def. UK 99-80
- Feb. 17: Women's Basketball—UK def. Alabama 89-85
- Feb. 18: Basketball—Alabama def. UK 71-67
- Feb. 19: Women's Basketball—Virginia Tech def. UK 75-66



Eddie Sutton



Keith Madison

LSU 99, Kentucky 80

(Continued from page 4)

SEC's top scorer who graces the cover of the Feb. 20 issue of *Sports Illustrated*, was his usual self pouring in a game-high 34 points, LSU coach Dale Brown said Lyle Mouton, whose three steals came in that pivotal 13-2 stretch, was his choice as star of the game.

"I thought he was the most valuable player, that's why he's the only one here," Brown, who usually brings several players to his postgame press conference, said. "If anyone turned the game around, it was Lyle."

Mouton took an "aw-shucks" attitude in describing his thefts.

"On defense, I overheard coach Sutton saying to get the ball inside to Ellis," Mouton said. "When the ball was airborne, I was able to maneuver around him. And when it was on the floor I tried to knock it away...With effort and trying hard, opportunities arise. Keeping on your toes and not getting flat-footed are the keys to defense."

UK coach Eddie Sutton also made a case for LSU forward Ricky Blanton, who scored all 18 of his points in the second half, as star of the game. Sutton said it was Blanton that kept the Tigers from panicking after the 'Cats had erased the double-digit lead to go in front.

"They're not gonna crack, because I'll tell you, Blanton's not gonna let 'em crack," Sutton said. "I can't say enough about him. He's the heart of that ballclub. You can talk about Jackson all you want to, but Blanton, he'll huddle those guys up and he gives 'em great leadership."

"Blanton, he's a team player. I admire the way he plays. I'm a great Blanton fan. I've had players like that and I know how valuable they are to the team."

Big man LeRon Ellis, who almost single-handedly brought Kentucky back from an 11-point deficit early in the second half, said his teammates forgot about him during their long dry spell.

"I just think we weren't playing smart or executing," Ellis said. "When they got up on us, rebounding did play a part, but we should have slowed down and tried to control the tempo instead of jacking up shots when they were ill-advised. We should have moved it around, worked it, tried to run some time off the clock. But then they started getting into their speed game, started getting the crowd into it. We weren't rebounding and they brought us down a notch."

And why did that happen?

"We just lost our head a little bit, that's all. There's really not much else you can say about it."

In addition to extending Kentucky's losing streak to four games, the defeat also set a new record for most losses in a single season at 14. The Wildcats had lost 13 games in a season four times—1926-27 (3-13), 1966-67 (13-13), 1973-74 (13-13) and 1984-84 (18-13).

Derrick Miller continued his hot play on the road. Miller led the 'Cats with 26 points on 11-of-21 shooting from the field, three-of-seven from three-point range and one-of-one from the line. Ellis, in addition to his 24 points, led the Kentuckians on the glass with 13 rebounds.

LSU's Pete Maravich Assembly Center, long known for its circus atmosphere, did not disappoint.

As the UK players took the court during pregame introductions, the Tiger student section littered the playing surface with Emery

Air Freight overnight packages.

As is customary, a student dressed in a Tiger costume entered the arena by sliding down a rope from the rafters. But for the first time, Mike, the school's authentic live Bengal tiger, was wheeled onto court in a cage prior to the game.

The response from the crowd? "Let him out! Let him out! Let him out!"

In a tear-jerking ceremony, former LSU All-American and Louisville native Durand "Rudy" Macklin, had a Baton Rouge street named after him. Macklin, who is LSU's second-leading career scorer (2,080 pts.) and leading career rebounder (1,276 rebs.), was accompanied by his parents as he accepted

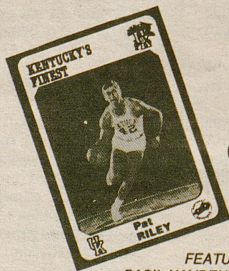
a street sign—"Macklin Drive"—from the Baton Rouge mayor.

Brown and Mouton said the festivities caused the Tigers to be too emotional early.

"We wanted this game too much," Brown said. "We had a hard time playing hard. We played tense. In the first half we weren't playing relaxed. We played tense. There's a difference between tense and intense. In the second half we tried to be more intelligent and work the ball inside more."

"When the Tiger came down it was like a switch being turned on," Mouton said. "There was a tingling sensation inside. But when we got behind, we knew it was time to play ball."

UK BASKETBALL TRADING CARDS



NEW
269
CARDS



STANDARD
SIZE
2 1/4" x 3 1/2"

FEATURING UK STARS FROM
BASIL HAYDEN (1921) TO REX CHAPMAN (1988)

\$35 postage paid

TO ORDER YOUR SET SEND A CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO "CARDS." FOR TWO FREE CARDS AND INFORMATION ON OTHER ITEMS SEND A SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE. ORDER SOON. QUANTITIES LIMITED.
"CARDS" 861 MARCELLUS DRIVE LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY 40505

Pressure has knocked Sutton down, but not out

Guard earning respect of coaches, teammates

When Southeastern Conference teams prepare to play Kentucky they look for ways to disrupt point guard Sean Sutton. They know if they can do that, UK's offense will be thrown out of sync.



Larry Vaught

Cats' Pause Columnist

"We all go after him and try to shake the ball loose," said Mississippi Coach Ed Murphy. "We just teed off on him when we played Kentucky. You think you can get the ball but you can't."

"He almost seems mechanical when you watch him but he really knows what he's doing. Kentucky is a much better team with him in the game. People who boo him or question his ability just don't understand basketball."

Sutton has been booed. And booed often even by UK fans in Rupp Arena.

The 6-1 sophomore guard averages just 4.8 points and 1.9 rebounds per game. But he also averages 4.8 assists per game, one of the top marks in the Southeastern Conference.

However, his mental toughness and desire to win are even more important to Kentucky than his pinpoint passes.

"Sean Sutton is an under-appreciated player," said Georgia Coach Hugh Durham. "He doesn't possess blazing speed or quickness but he has good basketball control and savvy."

"What he really has is a desire for Kentucky to win. His job is to make Kentucky win. If he doesn't get a point and Kentucky wins, he's ecstatic. If he gets 15 and they lose, he's hurt."

He was hurt by the boos and negative things fans were saying about him earlier this year. The sophomore has also had to endure the pressure of the NCAA investigation and the strain it has put his father, UK Coach Eddie Sutton, under.

"It bruised my pride and hurt me when people would boo or say things earlier this year," said the UK point guard. "But I got a lot of letters of support from fans in Kentucky and around the country."

"That picked me back up. If those people hadn't reached out to me the way they did, the season might have been a disaster for me because I was really down. But I am a lot more relaxed and confident now."

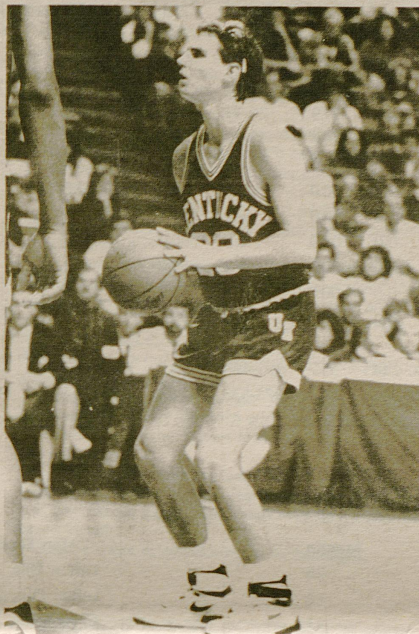
His teammates certainly have never questioned his ability. Freshman Chris Mills, one of the nation's top prep players last year, remembers hearing how Sutton couldn't play when he arrived here from Los Angeles. It didn't take him long to realize Sutton's critics were wrong.

"The guy can flat-out play," said Mills. "People tried to convince me he couldn't play but he's a great playmaker. If you get open, he'll get you the ball and that makes everyone try harder."

Kentucky's players marvel at the way the sophomore has been able to put all the distractions and criticism of his play aside and concentrate solely on winning.

"I have a lot of respect for Sean," said UK junior guard Derrick Miller. "When you are around him you don't sense that he worries about anything but I know deep inside he has to be sometimes. His just does his job in a quiet way and silences people who criticize him."

"Sean is a very strong person," said Mills, who also knows what it is like to be the center of attention because of the NCAA probe. "He has taken a lot of



Hugh Durham: Sutton is not appreciated

abuse from people and so-called fans that he doesn't deserve. But he just puts it in the back of his mind and plays. Maybe it makes him play even harder."

If you think his teammates are prejudiced in their opinions, you're right. They genuinely like Sean Sutton on and off the court.

"He may seem quiet but he's crazy just like we all are," said sophomore Reggie Hanson. "He likes to have a good time as much as anybody and is a lot of fun to be around. We all really like Sean."

Even opposing coaches admire the determination he's shown this year under trying circumstances.

"Some cruel and thoughtless people have said some terrible things about him," said Murphy, who has his son playing for him at Ole Miss. "He's got to be sensitive to all that's gone on around him but he just keeps playing. I admire him for that."

His worth to the Wildcats, though, has been taken for granted by most UK fans. Opponents and teammates understand his value to Kentucky but he doesn't get the same credit from others in the Bluegrass.

They knock his defense. And his critics love to talk about his shooting. He's hitting only 40 percent from the field but his teammates insist Sutton is a better shooter than that.

"Sean can knock it down from outside when he has his confidence," said Miller, the team's best outside shooter. "The problem is he's been knocked around so much that it is hard to develop any confidence. That's a lot of pressure to try and shoot under."

He's also tough. Sutton has suffered a broken cheekbone, bruised tailbone and twisted ankle this season. Still, he's played in all but one game.

"Sean can play in pain, something not every player can do," said UK assistant coach Dwane Casey. "The average player couldn't have played in the pain he has, especially with the mental pressure he's been under."

Casey thinks Sutton is too often criticized because he's not a great natural athlete. But he compensates with his knowledge of the game just as former UK All-American Kyle Macy did.

"Kyle was a better shooter than Sean but he wasn't

a great athlete," said Casey, a teammate of Macy's on the 1978 NCAA championship team. "But they both understood the game so well and know all the little things it takes to win."

That's the intangible asset teammates and foes admire. That's why SEC teams try to beat UK by disrupting Sutton, something that has been easier said than done.

"Teams know if I get frustrated or out of sync it will throw our team off," said the sophomore. "I can't let that happen. I'm not the weak link on this team. I've been through too much for us to lose because I don't do my part."

"Winning is all I care about. People can say or think what they want about me as long as we win. That's where I get my satisfaction."

FLORIDA COACH Norm Sloan feels for the daily trauma UK's players and coaches have suffered because of the current NCAA probe.

"They have banded together and played hard but every day something depressing seems to come out," said Sloan, who almost apologized for beating the Wildcats recently in Rupp Arena. "I hate to see a situation across the country where there is more ink (publicity) about problems than good things."

"Kentucky's kids have gone through a lot. Sean Sutton has really suffered a lot and just kept playing his heart out."

"Eddie is a grown man. I'm grown. It's tough to be hounded and harassed each day. I have feelings regarding my fellow coaching coaches."

"Coaches are now fair game. Players are fair game for the media. Nobody is looking for anything good."

"The media are all looking for something bad."

"The media has ruined what was a great profession (coaching) and made it a nightmare."

LSU Coach Dale Brown knows the feeling. He knows what it is like to have a program examined daily and to be involved in turmoil. He also understands that the mental toll the NCAA probe has taken on UK's players should not be underestimated.

"It is a big strain," said Brown. "There must be some mental fatigue. I would guess there are a number of players if they are human who would just like to get it over with."

EDDIE SUTTON knows his Wildcats have to win the SEC Tournament to make the NCAA Tournament. So how many conference teams does he think will make the NCAA?

"Because of past performances I think the league should get four," said Sutton. "The thing that concerns me is that because we keep knocking off each other that almost everybody will end up with double digit losses."

"LSU got in last year at 16-13 and I think our league deserves four bids this year. But we may have one or two teams on the bubble."

Brown knows as losses mount, a team's chances for making the elite tourney drop no matter who it has played.

"We only have three teams left with single digit losses," said Brown. "The rest have 10 or more losses. The top five teams in the SEC could get in and for sure the top four should. But I'm not a crystal ball gazer. I do know, though, seven teams are in jeopardy because of their losses."

He hopes the belief that the SEC is down this year won't hurt the league when the NCAA field is set.

"Rankings and publicity help anybody," said Brown. "There's hype in everything."

"There is not any one best conference. A lot of that is hype by writers or TV analysts. I don't care if we are ever ranked. Until the end of the year everything is purely imagination. The end is what counts."

KENTUCKY BASKETBALL STATISTICS

(26-game totals, through games of Feb. 18)

Overall: 11-15		Home: 7-6		Away: 2-6		Neutral: 2-3		SEC: 6-8							
player	g-gs	fg-a	pct.	3fg-a	pct.	ft-a	pct.	tp-avg.	reb-avg.	pf-d	a	to	blk.	stl.	min.
LeRon Ellis	26-25	164-319	51.4	0-2	00.0	85-119	71.4	413-15.9	154-5.9	86-4	50	60	31	32	815
Derrick Miller	26-23	142-293	48.5	44-113	38.9	46-62	74.2	374-14.4	77-3.0	54-2	52	52	1	20	762
Chris Mills	26-26	139-297	46.8	15-48	31.3	64-92	69.6	357-13.7	211-8.1	88-7	66	84	22	38	894
Reggie Hanson	26-26	106-209	50.7	0-0	00.0	52-70	74.3	264-10.2	123-4.7	90-4	42	50	23	38	850
Sean Sutton	25-25	51-116	44.0	11-29	37.9	20-39	51.3	133-5.3	43-1.7	60-2	119	61	1	28	803
Richie Farmer	22-0	21-70	30.0	13-44	29.5	19-22	86.4	74-3.4	18-8	16-0	10	10	0	4	206
Mike Scott	26-4	29-67	43.3	0-0	00.0	14-20	70.0	72-2.8	67-2.6	39-0	19	21	13	9	325
Deron Feldhaus	26-0	30-67	44.8	2-4	50.0	12-18	66.7	74-2.8	66-2.5	33-0	17	30	4	10	345
John Pelphrey	17-1	9-16	56.3	2-4	50.0	6-11	54.5	26-1.5	16-9	21-0	17	15	0	2	166
Chris Jones	3-0	0-0	0.0	0-0	00.0	3-5	60.0	2-6	2-6	1-0	0	0	0	1	6
Jeff Ginnan	3-0	0-0	00.0	0-0	00.0	1-2	50.0	1-3	2-6	2-0	0	1	0	0	4
Johnathan Davis	11-0	1-4	25.0	0-0	00.0	3-4	75.0	5-5	14-1.3	6-0	0	8	1	1	25
Anthony Mathis*	2-0	0-0	00.0	0-0	00.0	0-0	00.0	0-0	0-0.0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Team	26								58-2.2						
KENTUCKY	26	692-1458	47.5	87-244	35.7	325-464	70.0	1796-69.1	851-32.7	496-19	392	395	96	184	5200
OPPONENTS	26	678-1490	45.5	134-391	34.3	375-533	70.4	1865-71.1	897-34.5	467-13	382	381	53	203	5200

*Walk-on Anthony Mathis is academically ineligible

KENTUCKY SCHEDULE, RESULTS

Date	Record	UK	Opp.	Opponent	Margin	Top Scorer	Top Rebounder	Att. (Site)
Nov. 19	0-1	55	80	Duke	-25	LeRon Ellis, 17	Chris Mills, 11	8,908 (N)
Nov. 25	1-1	56	54	Iona	+2	LeRon Ellis, 22	Mike Scott, 7	3,765 (N)
Nov. 26	1-2	60	63	Seton Hall	-3	Chris Mills, 21	Reggie Hanson, 6	3,250 (N)
Nov. 28	2-2	89	71	California	+18	Derrick Miller, 36	LeRon Ellis, 8	3,652 (N)
Dec. 3	2-3	65	81	Notre Dame	-16	LeRon Ellis, 22	Reggie Hanson, 7	45,214 (N)
Dec. 7	2-4	82	85	NORTHWESTERN (LA.) ST.	-3	LeRon Ellis, 37	Reggie Hanson, 8	18,932 (H)
Dec. 10	3-4	78	60	WESTERN CAROLINA	+18	LeRon Ellis, 19	Mike Scott, 5	18,253 (H)
Dec. 16	3-5	54	56	BOWLING GREEN	-2	Reggie Hanson, 14	Chris Mills, 15	20,875 (H)
Dec. 17	4-5	91	78	MARSHALL	+13	LeRon Ellis, 33	Chris Mills, 20	18,945 (H)
Dec. 20	4-6	52	75	INDIANA	-23	Chris Mills, 22	Chris Mills, 11	23,212 (H)
Dec. 27	5-6	85	77	AUSTIN PEAY	+8	LeRon Ellis, 23	Chris Mills, 10	18,178 (*H)
Dec. 31	5-7	75	97	Louisville	-22	Derrick Miller, 34	Chris Mills, 10	19,502 (A)
Jan. 4	6-7	76	65	GEORGIA	+11	Reggie Hanson, 20	Chris Mills, 12	21,209 (H)
Jan. 7	7-7	70	61	VANDERBILT	+9	Derrick Miller, 27	LeRon Ellis, 10	23,338 (H)
Jan. 12	8-7	69	56	Florida	+13	Derrick Miller, 30	Derrick Miller, 8	11,751 (A)
Jan. 14	8-8	62	64	LSU	-2	LeRon Ellis, 20	Chris Mills, 11	124,288 (H)
Jan. 18	8-9	64	76	Alabama	-12	Derrick Miller, 19	Chris Mills, 7	15,043 (A)
Jan. 21	9-9	66	65	Tennessee	+1	Derrick Miller, 23	Chris Mills, 7	24,464 (A)
Jan. 25	10-9	86	76	Auburn	+10	Derrick Miller, 16	Chris Mills, 11	23,506 (H)
Jan. 28	10-10	65	70	Mississippi	-5	Derrick Miller, 21	LeRon Ellis, 10	7,375 (A)
Feb. 1	11-10	73	61	MISSISSIPPI STATE	+12	LeRon Ellis, 21	LeRon Ellis, 9	22,017 (H)
Feb. 5	11-11	72	84	Georgia	-12	Chris Mills, 19	Chris Mills, 8	9,812 (A)
Feb. 8	11-12	51	81	Vanderbilt	-30	Sean Sutton, 14	Chris Mills, 8	15,646 (A)
Feb. 11	11-13	53	59	Florida	-6	Chris Mills, 17	Chris Mills, 11	23,547 (H)
Feb. 15	11-14	80	99	LSU	-19	Derrick Miller, 26	LeRon Ellis, 13	13,050 (A)
Feb. 18	11-15	67	71	Alabama	-4	Derrick Miller, 18	Reggie Hanson, 10	23,232 (H)

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

1 New Rupp Arena attendance record

✓SEC record

REMAINING GAMES

Feb. 20	Auburn (A)
Feb. 22	TENNESSEE (H)
Feb. 26	Syracuse (A)
Mar. 1	MISSISSIPPI (H)
Mar. 4	Mississippi State (A)
Mar. 9-12	SEC tournament (Knoxville)



In a way, it's been a season to remember

Odds don't favor the 'Cats down the stretch

IT HAS BEEN a year to remember for the University of Kentucky Wildcats. You all know about Rex turning pro. Then there was the Emery package popping open, the NCAA



Dan Brandenburg
Cats' Pause Columnist

investigation and Eric Manuel voluntarily sitting out the season.

And you know about Sean Woods and Shawn Kemp falling victim to Proposition 48. Plus, there was the Great Gold Chain Scandal, which sent Kemp packing for junior college.

All-in-all, it's been a season that the UK players, coaching staff and fans would just as soon forget.

But it gets worse.

With its loss at Baton Rouge last week, the Wildcats set a dubious record: Most losses, season — 14.

In the hallowed history of Kentucky basketball, no Wildcat squad had ever come up on the short end of the score more than 13 times in a year.

Now there is one.

AND IF THE oddsmakers were right, UK set another mark last Saturday. If Alabama knocked off the Cats at Rupp Arena, it would be UK's fifth consecutive defeat — another record, however dubious it may be.

A loss to the Tide would also extend Kentucky's record of losses at Rupp Arena in one season to six — within striking distance of the all-time home mark of eight.

Kentucky lost eight home games in 1926-27 and didn't do much better on the road. The Wildcats finished 3-13 that year, the last losing season in UK history.

The 62 following seasons, Kentucky finished at .500 or better, which is an NCAA record. However, that streak may also soon end.

A loss to Alabama would have left the Cats 11-15 with at least six games remaining, including one in the Southeastern Conference tournament.

UK will have to win five of those six to insure a non-losing season. Four of the six games are on the road, including one against Top Ten Syracuse in the Carrier Dome.

I DON'T LIKE those odds.

Also, Kentucky has never lost more than 10 SEC games in one season, which happened in 1966-67. A loss to Alabama would have left the Cats 6-8 in league play with four games (Auburn, Tennessee, Mississippi and Mississippi State) remaining.

Those aren't the best odds, either.

There's more.

Kentucky has never won fewer than 13 games in one season. The Cats had 11 wins heading into the Alabama contest with at least six games left.

The odds are a little better on that one.

Even if the Wildcats do set all of the above records, they can at least go out on a positive note even if the season ends with a loss in the SEC tournament.

The six Kentucky high school products can finish the year by playing for a little state pride. They, along with the rest of the team, should be playing for school pride if nothing else.

However, with the recent losses to Florida and

LSU, it seems as if Kentucky is just playing to get the season over with.

FLORIDA SHOT ONLY 33 percent for the game but finished with a second-half rally that the Cats could not overcome. Kentucky put together a solid effort and led LSU by a point in the second half before self-destructing.

The game in Bayou territory could have been the turning point for Kentucky's season, yet the 19-point defeat only served as the epitome of a wayward year.

After taking the one-point lead, UK allowed the Tigers to make a charge. Then, the charge turned into a blowout.

LSU got five straight baskets on the fastbreak as the Kentucky defense got lazy. UK started making poor passes that resulted in turnovers and more layups. The Wildcats put up poor, hurried shots and then didn't go to the boards. They started fouling out of either frustration or poor judgement. They gave up.

Plus, LSU rookie sensation Chris Jackson was unstoppable, Ricky Blanton woke up in the final 12 minutes and the Tigers could not miss after intermission.

The Wildcats have beaten three of their final remaining regular season opponents and can beat a fourth (Mississippi). Syracuse may be a little too much to ask.

Maybe there is something to be salvaged.

* * *

THROUGH THE WILDCATS' first 22 games, their attendance had declined more, when compared to last year's first 22 games, than any other team in the SEC.

According to information furnished by the SEC office, Kentucky drew more than 385,000 to 22 games this season, an average of 17,500. Last year, the Cats averaged just over 21,000 fans per game and had more than 466,000 total, a drop of about 80,000 total and nearly 3,700 per game.

Five SEC teams have shown declines in attendance this year, but only Tennessee is even close to UK's dropoff. The Vols have been watched by about 2,100 less fans per game this year.

Vanderbilt, Auburn and Florida have had drops of between 1,000 and 1,500 per game this year, while Alabama and Georgia are drawing over 3,000 more per contest.

However, a true comparison cannot be made between the two seasons because the aforementioned figures take into consideration all games, not just those at home.

FOR EXAMPLE, UK played three games in the Great Alaska Shootout in 8,000-seat Sullivan Arena. However, the arena was less than half-full each time for a total of less than 11,000 fans.

The Cats have doubled that total seven times this year with just single home games. Only 10 of UK's first 22 games this year have been in Rupp Arena, compared to 13 of the first 22 last season.

Subtract the three Shootout matches and add three home games and UK's fan deficit would be sliced to probably less than 1,000 per game.

That just goes to show you that there are lies, damn lies and statistics.

* * *

SPEAKING OF ATTENDANCE, the Wildcats were averaging 21,647 per home game through the Florida loss. That's about 1,500 less per game than last year when Kentucky finished second in the nation in attendance.

It's gotten so bad that UK began advertising available tickets and even took 400 seats away



Marc Logan with the Dolphins

from the no-show student section and sold them to the general public.

However, *Sports, inc.* magazine thinks the Cats are doing even worse. A short story in the Feb. 6 issue says attendance has dropped to 20,238 per game, the lowest since Rupp opened in 1976, but that doesn't add up on my calculator.

While the story may not be totally accurate, it does contain a great quote.

It's from Rodney Stiles, who works in the UK ticket office, and concerns the school considering halftime giveaways to perk up attendance.

"Adolph Rupp would turn over in his grave if he thought we were considering giving away something to entice people to come to a Kentucky basketball game," Stiles said.

I couldn't agree more.

* * *

EVEN WHEN EVERYTHING looks dark and gloomy, there is still some light at the end of the tunnel.

Coach Keith Madison's UK Bat Cats open their season Friday with a game at Louisville.

There's nothing like the smell of pine tar and tobacco juice to wipe away the memories of basketball season.

* * *

SHORT TAKES

—Former University of Kentucky football star Marc Logan has a new home as he signed with the Miami Dolphins last week, becoming the first free agent from the Cincinnati Bengals to go elsewhere.

—It was almost like being at a Lakers game when all of the celebrities showed up for the UK-Florida clash. NBAers Rex Chapman and Rob Lock were there, along with Gov. Wallace Wilkinson and former governor Julian Carroll.

But the star of the evening was Lexington's Darrin Van Horn, the new IBF world boxing champion who drew a rousing ovation as he modeled his title belt for the crowd.

—Best jab at the officials heard this season: "C'mon, ref. How can you sleep with all these lights on?"

'Cats lose fifth straight,

Trailing much of the game Alabama hung tight, then hung another dubious record on Wildcats

By TCP staff writer Jim Easterwood

LEXINGTON — If the meek, indeed, shall inherit the earth then the Wildcats of Kentucky should be world-beaters.

But here they are losers of five straight, six games this year at Rupp Arena, and with the most losses (15) in the school's illustrious history after last Saturday's 71-67 defeat by Alabama. They have won 11.

And, if the meek-'Cats don't stop here, they will be within shouting distance of the first losing season in 62 years.

Color the tradition-steeped Kentucky basketball program black and big blue.

Winning to the commonwealth is like mom and apple pie. Ivy and Wrigley field. Luau and Hawaii. Black-eyed peas and Alabama. Republicans and David Duke. Or Imelda Marcos and Doris Duke.

Kentucky 11 and 15. Bah, hum-bug. Say a losing season isn't going to be so, Eddie. Pretty please?

"Well, I don't look at it as a situation I'm pleased about," said Sutton, looking his media tormenters straight in their beady eyes. "I know, when I get up in the morning I look in the mirror and know I'm doing the best job that I've ever done. Maybe the best job in coaching I have ever done. Knowing that, it is easier to live with."

However, it is looking at a glass darkly. Even Sutton will admit to that. He is most distressed for the Kentucky fans...especially the diehard ones, or the ones on his side of the coaches' box. But he's also disappointed for the players.

The players right now are bothered with a three-letter word called W-I-N. Sutton would rather pad those three letters out a bit. Like add N-E-R-S to it.

"I don't want a losing record," said Sutton after the Tide from Alabama had rolled in. "This team I'm coaching now are winners. They may have learned more than any Kentucky team in the history of Kentucky basketball."

Sutton was warming to the task. Obviously, this came from the heart as he totaled up the wreckage.

"This team," he added, "may come out of this and be successful people with everything they have been through. Now, I don't like losing. It's a new experience, especially for the fans."

His son, Sean, also feels the pain. He had lost a total of only 13 games from grade 7 to his senior year in high school.

"Losing has started to take its toll," said Sean. "We've got to find a win in there somewhere. I don't remember the last time we won a game."

But perhaps it is the way they are losing that hurts. The fans don't mind losing to superior teams.

But the fact remains that the 'Cats have blown enough games in the last three minutes to have a winning season. Five losses come to mind—Northwestern State, Bowling Green, LSU, Florida and, lastly, Alabama. The 'Cats could easily be 16-10 and in the SEC hunt. Or in the chase for a NCAA bid...at worst a place in the NIT.

But eliminate all the above after the 'Cats turned the other cheek to roll over to the Tide.

One could sense it coming after the playground game...see-saw, see-saw. The teams exchanged the lead 14 times in 11 minutes before Robert Horry's jumper made it 64-62, 'Bama, with 2:53 to go in the game.

Kentucky's Derrick Miller, who scored 14 of his team-high 18 points the first half, had hit a 10-footer with 3:09 left to tie the game 62-62. It proved to be the last UK bucket until LeRon Ellis' slam with 0:24 left and the game almost out of touch at 69-65.

What happened those last three minutes when the 'Cats looked victory in the face for the fifth time...and came away empty for the fifth time?

The 'Cats seemed to freeze in time...they appeared to hang in suspended animation while the Tide rolled.

Reggie Hanson had a chance to tie the game with a one-and-one. But he missed after cutting the deficit to 64-63 with 2:53 to go.

Michael Ansley, the wide-bodied 'Bama forward, then muscled his way for the rebound on the second miss and converted a jumper on the other end. It was 66-63, 'Bama, with 2:23 left.

Miller time?

Hardly. Chris Mills who had 16 points, tossed up a jump hook that bounced over the bucket. Then masse confusion.

'Bama whipped the ball to center David Benoit, who was as wide

Team	Conference		Overall	
	W-L	Pct.	W-L	Pct.
LSU.....	10-4	.714	18-7	.720
Florida.....	10-4	.714	16-10	.615
Vanderbilt.....	10-4	.714	16-10	.615
Alabama.....	9-5	.643	17-6	.739
Tennessee.....	8-6	.571	15-8	.652
Ole Miss.....	6-8	.429	12-11	.522
Kentucky.....	6-8	.429	11-15	.423
Georgia.....	5-9	.357	13-12	.520
Mississippi State.....	5-9	.357	11-12	.478
Auburn.....	1-12	.077	8-13	.381

*thru games of Feb. 18

open as the Pacific Ocean. He dunked it to make the score 68-63, with 1:44 to go.

"We switched from a zone to a man and LeRon didn't pick him (Benoit) up," said Sutton. "The kids didn't talk out on the floor. Maybe that was our mistake."

No matter who made the mistake. It was a beauty that tended to emphasize the 'Cats' proneness for late-game confusion.

The 'Cats did have one last shot as Miller went up for a jumper. But this time 6-foot-6 Keith Askins was there to block it.

Horry then sealed the 'Cats fate by stealing a lob pass from Mills to Hanson to set up a free throw by Gary Waites with 31 seconds left. 'Bama led 69-63.

Over and out 'Cats. They had played well enough to win...but somehow they came up short. Again. And wondering why.

The answer could be leadership.

They have no traffic cop out there when it is crunch time. No one seems to take charge of the situation. And, maybe there is no one who can.

For sure, Ansley, the 6-8 man with the Yul Brynner haircut, did it down the stretch for the Tide. He finished with 24 points and 14 huge boards as the Tide won this carom count 38-29. Eleven of his points came in the last 14 minutes.

Ansley was helped by foul problems to Ellis. Ellis, perhaps trying too hard with his father, LeRoy, in the stands, picked up his fourth personal early in the second half and had to ride the bench

(Continued on page 24)



It was one of those days for Kentucky sophomore Webb. Ellis produced only five points, two of 10

VISITORS (64-63, 9-5)		HOME (63-62, 6-8)			
No.	Name (Pos., Ht.)	PTS	REB		
20	Horry, Robert	15	12		
30	Ansley, Michael	1	15		
30	Benoit, David	6	6		
12	Mills, Gary	3	7		
20	Lee, Alvin	1	1		
31	Askins, Keith	4	3		
11	Sutton, James	0	1		
21	Webb, Marcus	3	3		
21	Lorenzetti, B.	0	1		
HOME (63-62, 6-8)		VISITORS (64-63, 9-5)			
No.	Name (Pos., Ht.)	PTS	REB		
11	Hanson, Reggie	6	8		
12	Mills, Gary	6	13		
20	Ellis, LeRon	2	10		
11	Miller, Derrick	9	13		
20	Sutton, Sean	3	5		
12	Feldhaus, Deron	2	2		
20	Smith, Mike	0	0		
11	Palpey, John	0	0		
TEAM REBOUNDS (included in Totals)		VISITORS (64-63, 9-5)		HOME (63-62, 6-8)	
TOTALS	54	17	12	20	17
TOTAL FG % 1st Half	45.3	2nd Half	51.3	Game	50.0
3PT FG % 1st Half	50.0	2nd Half	50.0	Game	50.0
FT % 1st Half	60.0	2nd Half	60.0	Game	60.0
TEAM REBOUNDS (included in Totals)		VISITORS (64-63, 9-5)		HOME (63-62, 6-8)	
TOTALS	28	13	15	11	11
TOTAL FG % 1st Half	52.6	2nd Half	52.5	Game	52.5
3PT FG % 1st Half	75.0	2nd Half	0.0	Game	75.0
FT % 1st Half	57.1	2nd Half	50.0	Game	53.3

, 71-67 to Crimson Tide



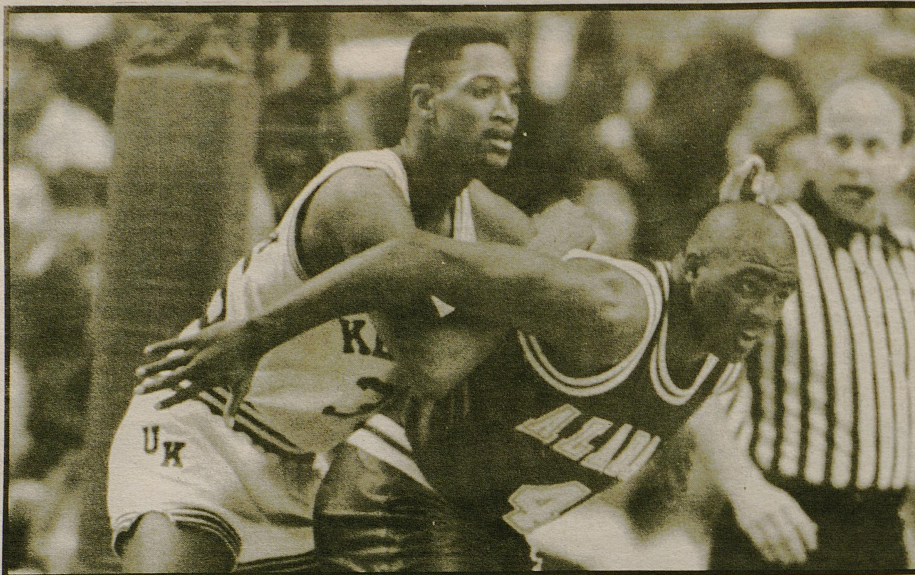
Kentucky sophomore center, LeRon Ellis, who here is caught trying to make a move on 'Bama "mystery" man Marcus Ansley, two of 10 from the field, before fouling out in UK's fifth straight loss of the season.

Photo by Gary Cromwell

UK-Alabama play-by-play

Time	Kentucky	Score	Alabama
19:47	Sutton layup	2-0	
18:42		2-2	Ansley 4 ft. follow
18:13		2-4	Benoit layup
17:50		2-7	Ansley own follow, FT
17:26		2-9	Lee 16 ft.
17:05	Mills FT, FT	4-9	
16:35		4-11	Lee 17 ft.
15:27	Sutton layup	6-11	
14:53	Miller 16 ft.	8-11	
14:25	Miller 15 ft.	10-11	
14:06	Mills layup, FT	13-11	
13:54		13-13	Ansley 4 ft.
13:18	Hanson tip-dunk	15-13	
13:08		15-15	Ansley follow layup
11:20	Scott alley-oop layup	17-15	
10:34	Feldhaus layup, FT	20-15	
10:20		20-18	Askins 20 ft.
9:02		20-20	Webb 4 ft., FTA
8:26		20-22	Waites layup
7:55		20-25	Askins 21 ft.
7:34	Sutton 20 ft.	23-25	
7:17		23-27	Webb FT, FT
6:16	Miller 21 ft.	25-27	
5:45	Miller 17 ft.	28-27	
5:12		28-29	Horry follow layup
5:00	Miller 20 ft.	31-29	
4:36		31-31	Ansley FT, FT
4:22	Mills layup	33-31	
4:12		33-33	Waites layup, FTA
3:43	Mills 5 ft.	35-33	
3:10		35-34	Horry FTA, FT
2:54	Miller 17 ft.	37-34	
2:21		37-36	Horry 6 ft. follow
2:06	Mills 4 ft.	39-36	
HALF		39-36	
19:10	Mills dunk	41-36	
18:41		41-38	Horry layup
18:25	Hanson tip	43-38	
17:12	Sutton FT, FTA	44-38	
17:02		44-40	Horry layup
15:40		44-42	Ansley FT, FT
14:23		44-44	Ansley 6 ft. jump hook
13:37	Hanson 16 ft.	46-44	
13:05		46-47	Ansley follow, FT
11:53	Feldhaus 17 ft.	48-47	
11:35		48-49	Ansley 5 ft. jump hook
10:59	Hanson 14 ft.	50-49	
9:28		50-51	Webb layup
8:49	Mills FT, FTA	51-51	
8:28	Hanson 16 ft.	53-51	
8:16		53-54	Lee 20 ft.
7:50	Ellis 9 ft.	55-54	
7:43		55-56	Waites 16 ft.
7:18	Mills 7 ft.	57-56	
7:03		57-58	Webb 8 ft. turnaround
6:11	Hanson layup	59-58	
4:56		59-60	Lee 14 ft.
4:34	Ellis FT, FTA	60-60	
4:18		60-62	Ansley 7 ft.
3:15	Miller 16 ft.	62-62	
3:01		62-64	Horry 12 ft.
2:53	Hanson FT, FTA	63-64	
2:22		63-66	Ansley 12 ft.
1:45		63-68	Benoit dunk
0:31		63-69	Waites FT, FTA
0:23	Ellis dunk	65-69	
0:21		65-70	Lee FT, FTA
0:16	Miller 13 ft.	67-70	
0:02		67-71	Horry FT, FTA
FINAL		67-71	

—Cats' Pause chart



'BAMA LOWERS THE BOOM

□ Top left, clockwise: Reggie Hanson uses a little "elbow force" to try and prevent Alabama's Michael Ansley from posting up. Ansley managed to collect 24 points and 14 rebounds to help 'Bama keep alive its hopes of winning the SEC with a 71-67 win over UK.

□ The winning coach, Wimp Sanderson, talks with SEC color commentator Jordy Hultberg.

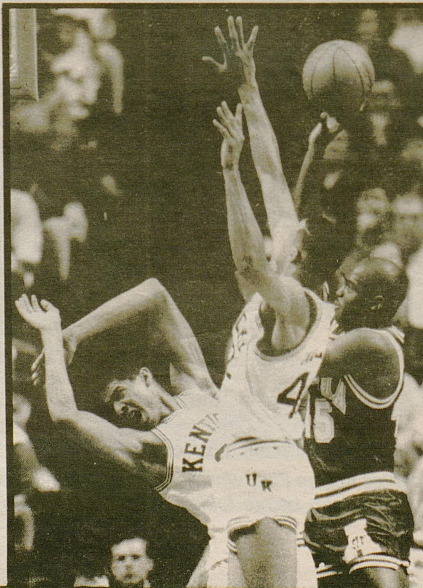
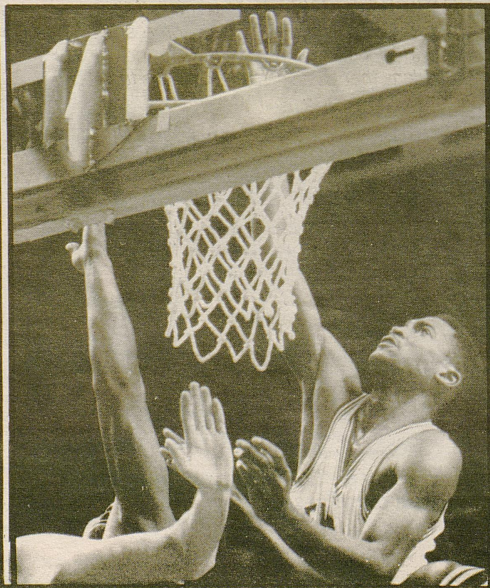
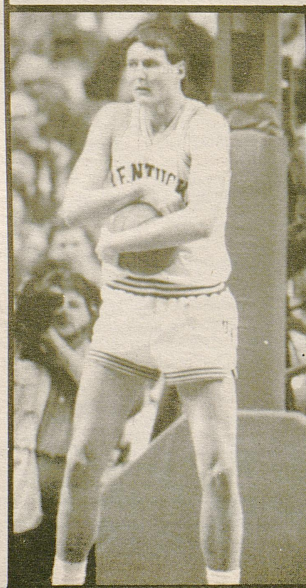
□ Chris Mills lets loose a jumper inside. But the real action is in the background, where LeRon Ellis and Ansley collide.

□ Here, Reggie Hanson is heads and shoulders above the crowd.

□ Scott's soft paws take care of the ball.

□ "Can I have your autograph, Richie?"

'Bama-UK photos by Gary Cromwell



SE
Wi
at
26-
T
onl
are
dat
Ge
lea
It v
V
Flo
is s
Jeff
cen
hon

E
Ed
tuch
sch
the
sitt
coa
pro

□
men
is t
only
in t
leag
they
a co

□
Wh
that
pre
ting

□
you
ly t
the
Gre
the
S
Jack
S
bef
Jack
V
Jack

□
SE
thin
told
and

Obviously, TV guys didn't think 'Cats would be down

Speaking of UK, does Eddie have a prayer?

Things I've been thinking about:

□ **OBVIOUSLY, NO ONE** in television expected Kentucky to have a bad year. Four of the eight televised



Stan Torgerson

Cats' Pause Columnist

SEC games between Feb. 15 and Feb. 26 featured the Wildcats. Feb. 15—Kentucky at LSU, Feb. 18—Alabama at Kentucky, Feb. 22—Tennessee at Kentucky, Feb. 26—Kentucky at Syracuse.

The same may be said about Auburn. The Tigers, with only one conference win in 13 tries as of this writing, are scheduled for TV on both the last regular-season dates. They play Alabama on ESPN March 2 and Georgia on Jefferson-Pilot March 4. Fortunately, the league also has a wildcard game scheduled for March 4. It will almost certainly be Florida at Alabama.

Vanderbilt's last televised game is Feb. 25 against Florida. The biggest broadcast of the season's final week is scheduled March 1 when Florida visits LSU. Jefferson-Pilot has that one and broadcast time is 7 p.m. central time. Don't plan to go anywhere that night. Stay home in from of your set.

□ **A MAJOR COLLEGE** basketball coach told me Eddie Sutton doesn't have a prayer to be retained at Kentucky. He said there's no way the administration at that school could possibly fire the athletics director and keep the coach who got them in trouble. With C.M. Newton sitting in the A.D.'s chair, you can be certain the new coach will be squeaky clean and so will the Wildcats' program from this point on.

□ **WHO'S GOING TO WIN** the conference tournament? That's an absolutely unanswerable question. This is the most-open tournament in history. Auburn is the only team without a chance. Mississippi State should be in that category, too, but the night I saw them beat league-leader LSU, the 'Dogs were a good team. Then they go to Auburn and lose to a team which hasn't won a conference game. You figure it out.

□ **IS DALE BROWN** a lock for Coach of the Year? Who else could it be? Wimp Sanderson, maybe, but that's about it. Let us not forget that LSU was the SEC's preseason Rodney Dangerfield. The respect they're getting now they got the hard way—they earned it.

□ **IF YOU'VE SEEN CHRIS JACKSON** in person you know the answer to the oft-head question: Is he really that good? You bet he is. Jackson is great to watch on the tube but in person he's awesome. Catch Tennessee's Greg Bell and Jay Price after Jackson scored 50 against the Vols:

Said Bell: "I didn't have the slightest idea what Jackson was going to do when he got the ball."

Said Price: "I've never been in a situation like that before when someone is almost impossible to stop like Jackson was today, and I hope I never get there again."

Vol coach Don DeVoe, postgame: "We were the team Jackson buried."

□ **ED MURPHY WILL GET** his knuckles rapped by SEC commissioner Harvey Schiller but I'm sure he thinks the reprimand is worth it. The Ole Miss coach told the press after contact between star Gerald Glass and a Vanderbilt player with the score tied and eight

seconds to play turned out to be a no-call: "Three of them hit him and they wouldn't call it. On every crew there's at least an official, on this one there's two, that eats the whistle. At the end of the game only the most-experienced, toughest official will make a call. The others just stand there and they get paid too much to do that. At Oxford, Miss., if we've got a one-point lead and the other team's got the ball, we're going to break the kid's arm and they better not call a foul."

KENTUCKY MAY BE DOWN but it still commands the league's richest radio package. Host Communications just won the bidding for radio broadcast rights by paying \$2.7 million for three years of Wildcat football and basketball.



COACH OF THE YEAR: Alabama's Wimp Sanderson will probably garner some support, and deservedly so, but how could anyone deny that LSU's Dale Brown has turned in the best coaching job in the SEC this season?

□ **TWO NASHVILLE SPORTSWRITERS** with apparently nothing better to do suggested Vanderbilt's C.M. Newton should resign after he announced he was moving to Kentucky. They suggested there might be a conflict of interest when the Commodores played the Wildcats. C.M. said he would do what he always did when he played Kentucky: try to beat their fannies. As you know by now, the final score was Vanderbilt 81, Kentucky 51. So much for challenges to Newton's integrity.

□ **NOT FOR BROADCAST:** All but three of Mississippi State's 25 football signees come from Mississippi. Those people who follow this thing closely say that the Bulldogs mopped up their home state this year, getting almost all the top prospects. However, at least four and possibly six of those signed may not qualify under Prop 48, and this is the year an SEC school can accept only three non-qualifiers. Ole Miss, meanwhile, says it's possible all 25 of its signees will qualify academically. Auburn agreed to move its 1989 and 1991 games with Mississippi State to Starkville in

order to help State break up a string of consecutive road games against Auburn, Alabama and LSU. Now, Auburn has changed its mind and it appears the Bulldogs will be playing at Jordan-Hare Stadium after all. Meanwhile, State is still thinking about moving this year's game with Ole Miss from Jackson to Starkville. It also may schedule it Dec. 2 rather than the presently planned Nov. 25. The 25th is two days after Thanksgiving and that would affect the size of the crowd. C.M. Newton is now 11th in the nation in wins among active coaches. The Vanderbilt leader had 505 victories after the recent 108-74 drubbing of LSU, and probably an ulcer to match each one of them...Does anyone see any way Kentucky can keep from having its first losing season since the 1926-27 campaign? The Wildcats, who were 11-15 after last week's play, must win all five of their remaining games—against Auburn, Tennessee, Syracuse, Ole Miss and Mississippi State—in order to enter the SEC tournament with more wins than losses. The 'Cats still have a chance, but it looks to be a slim one...Bob Weltlich, former coach at Ole Miss and Texas, will be the color commentator for the radio-network broadcasts of the SEC tournament. Weltlich will work all nine games. I'll tell you one thing: There won't be any "ifs," "ands" or "buts" from Weltlich. He'll tell it like he sees it. My No. 1 criticism of Kentucky's former coach Joe Hall, now turned broadcaster Joe Hall, is that he's afraid to crawl out on a limb. Joe says "it might be better if..." or "they possibly should think about..." instead of adopting a positive position which his years of coaching entitles him to assume. If you want everyone to like you, you can't do a good job of analysis. Tennessee is opening spring football practice early. The Vols got started March 13 and, believe me, it can get cold in Knoxville in early March. The reason is that UT has changed over to the semester system and coach Johnny Majors wants to avoid workouts after April 24, which is the start of the final week of classes...My favorite coaching name: Tennessee golf coach Mike Malarkey. I never hear his name without thinking about some of the guys with whom I play golf who are full of it (malarkey, that is)...The SEC says it is 67-34 against non-conference opponents for a winning percentage of .670. True as far as it goes, but look at the league's record when it plays someone its own size. For example, the SEC is an embarrassing 0-8 against the Big Ten. Beating up on weak Division I or Division II competition isn't a testimonial to your playing, only to your scheduling ability...Through the first five weeks of the conference season, every player named Rookie of the Week came from Mississippi, although only two of them represented in-state schools. LSU's Chris Jackson from Gulfport won it twice and Litterial Green from Moss Point won it while representing Georgia. The other two winners both represent the Maroon and White of Mississippi State—Tony Watts of Rolling Fork and Cameron Burns from Flora...Five of the 10 SEC schools are enjoying increases in basketball attendance this year, the other five are down. The "up" schools are Georgia, LSU, Alabama, Mississippi State and Ole Miss. That leaves Vanderbilt, Auburn, Florida, Tennessee and Kentucky as the "down" schools. Georgia has enjoyed the biggest increase, up an average of 3,243 per game. Kentucky has shown the biggest decrease, down an average of 3,672 per game.

□ **THE LAST WORD:** Bert Jenkins, Mississippi's most-successful high school coach (and Chris Jackson's coach in high school) retiring after 861 wins, 179 defeats and seven state championships, on why he stayed with basketball instead of football:

"I liked basketball more because it seemed to be a more fun game to the kids. I coached football for 15 years and I never remember blowing a whistle and saying 'practice is over' and all of them not running to the dressing room. In basketball you can say 'practice is over' and in 30 minutes you've got to run 'em off the floor.'"

THE CATS' PAUSE
SPORTS WEEKLY



spotlighting
University Of
Kentucky Sports

CATS' PAUSE SCOREBOARD

HOME

11:35

VISITORS

10

PERIOD

3

**TCP Board
Of Experts (?)**



**Reader's
Choice**



**Oscar
Combs**



**Nick
Nicholas**



**Mike
Estep**



**Todd
Hallum**



**Gary
Cromwell**



**Hoop
Demon**

Last week		15-10 (.600)	15-10 (.600)	15-10 (.600)	13-12 (.520)	14-11 (.560)	15-10 (.600)
Total		218-82 (.727)	219-81 (.730)	216-84 (.720)	218-82 (.727)	210-90 (.700)	208-92 (.693)

TENNESSEE AT KENTUCKY		KENTUCKY 8	KENTUCKY 3	KENTUCKY 1	KENTUCKY 2	KENTUCKY 1	TENNESSEE 10
FLORIDA AT MISSISSIPPI STATE		MISS. STATE 2	MISS. STATE 2	MISS. STATE 1	FLORIDA 3	FLORIDA 3	MISS. STATE 2
GEORGIA AT OLE MISS		OLE MISS 4	OLE MISS 6	OLE MISS 2	GEORGIA 2	OLE MISS 4	OLE MISS 3
LOUISIANA AT ALABAMA		ALABAMA 3	ALABAMA 5	LSU 3	ALABAMA 4	LSU 5	ALABAMA 2
VANDERBILT AT AUBURN		VANDERBILT 1	VANDERBILT 2	VANDERBILT 9	VANDERBILT 3	VANDERBILT 5	VANDERBILT 3
SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI AT LOUISVILLE		LOUISVILLE 14	LOUISVILLE 10	LOUISVILLE 27	LOUISVILLE 20	LOUISVILLE 14	LOUISVILLE 10
MISSOURI AT OKLAHOMA STATE		OKLA. STATE 4	OKLA. STATE 6	MISSOURI 3	OKLA. STATE 4	MISSOURI 4	OKLA. STATE 3
KANSAS AT IOWA STATE		IOWA STATE 2	IOWA STATE 3	IOWA STATE 3	IOWA STATE 3	KANSAS 6	IOWA STATE 3
PROVIDENCE AT GEORGETOWN		G-TOWN 17	G-TOWN 11	G-TOWN 10	G-TOWN 8	G-TOWN 9	G-TOWN 8
NORTH CAROLINA STATE AT DUKE		DUKE 3	DUKE 9	DUKE 6	DUKE 9	DUKE 4	DUKE 4
OLE MISS AT MISSISSIPPI STATE		MISS. STATE 3	MISS. STATE 5	MISS. STATE 6	MISS. STATE 3	MISS. STATE 1	OLE MISS 4
ALABAMA AT TENNESSEE		TENNESSEE 7	TENNESSEE 4	TENNESSEE 3	TENNESSEE 4	TENNESSEE 6	ALABAMA 2
VANDERBILT AT FLORIDA		FLORIDA 12	FLORIDA 6	FLORIDA 1	FLORIDA 9	FLORIDA 3	VANDERBILT 6
NEVADA-LAS VEGAS AT LSU		LSU 4	LSU 3	UNLV 3	LSU 2	LSU 3	UNLV 4
AUBURN AT ALABAMA-BIRMINGHAM		UAB 6	UAB 9	UAB 10	UAB 8	UAB 5	UAB 3
LOUISVILLE AT SOUTH CAROLINA		S. CAROLINA 1	LOUISVILLE 1	LOUISVILLE 1	LOUISVILLE 3	LOUISVILLE 6	LOUISVILLE 4
INDIANA AT MINNESOTA		MINNESOTA 2	MINNESOTA 7	INDIANA 4	MINNESOTA 2	INDIANA 1	INDIANA 3
NOTRE DAME AT GEORGIA TECH		GA. TECH 12	GA. TECH 11	GA. TECH 7	GA. TECH 8	GA. TECH 4	GA. TECH 4
OKLAHOMA AT MISSOURI		MISSOURI 1	MISSOURI 9	OKLAHOMA 6	OKLAHOMA 1	MISSOURI 3	OKLAHOMA 4
PITTSBURGH AT CONNECTICUT		UCONN 3	UCONN 2	PITTSBURGH 5	UCONN 2	PITTSBURGH 2	PITTSBURGH 4
GEORGETOWN AT ST. JOHN'S		G-TOWN 3	G-TOWN 8	G-TOWN 9	G-TOWN 8	ST. JOHN'S 3	G-TOWN 8
KENTUCKY AT SYRACUSE		SYRACUSE 10	SYRACUSE 14	SYRACUSE 24	SYRACUSE 20	SYRACUSE 21	SYRACUSE 18
ILLINOIS AT OHIO STATE		OHIO STATE 12	OHIO STATE 2	ILLINOIS 7	OHIO STATE 3	ILLINOIS 5	OHIO STATE 6
VIRGINIA AT NORTH CAROLINA STATE		N.C. STATE 12	N.C. STATE 5	N.C. STATE 11	N.C. STATE 2	N.C. STATE 6	N.C. STATE 8
IOWA AT IOWA		IOWA 3	IOWA 6	IOWA 8	IOWA 4	IOWA 10	IOWA 7

Officiating may not be getting worse these days...

...But it's sure not getting any better, either

□ Turn an ear into the air, listen to all the braying about the officiating in college basketball and you know it must be February, the most desperate month on the calendar.



Larry Donald
Cats' Pause Columnist

During the past few days Oklahoma's **Billy Tubbs** and Purdue's **Gene Keady** have been creating most of the noise via the magic of ESPN. And what intrigued me most about those outbursts was the fact the same referee, **Jim Bain**, was involved in both. Therein lies a story.

Bain has been in the business a long time, calling 'em for the Big Eight and Big Ten. He's been considered capable enough to make the Final Four and has been a fixture in NCAA tournament play. But he's also no stranger to controversy as the good folks in Iowa can tell you.

After a run-in with then coach **Lute Olson**, Bain was subjected to mounds of abuse (including a T-shirt campaign which eventually had to be stopped via the legal process). In addition he ran into administrative disfavor when it was discovered that he officiated two games on the same day as the Iowa episode. Bain is a pilot and owns his own plane which accounts for his ability to be in a lot of places during the same day.

I'm told that affair probably cost him the job he'd always coveted, being supervisor of the Big Ten officials. So, Bain carries on as a game official.

Interestingly enough, word on the circuit last year had Bain retiring after the season. But when the 1988-89 season began he was still pounding the hardwoods, blowing his whistle and continuing to be the most rabbit-eared official in all of college basketball. See, I could never really get a handle on the quality of his officiating because of his quick-draw, technical-foul calling style.

How bad is it?

One year I happened to be sitting behind the Alabama bench when the Tide was playing at Michigan. Then coach **C.M. Newton**, one of the game's true gentlemen, a man who'd had just one technical foul in his career to that point, stood in front of his bench and shouted instructions to one of his players. From across the court Bain came running to assess a technical foul. Understand, now, I heard what Newton said to his player and Bain or the officiating wasn't remotely involved.

Where Bain's career was concerned I guess I could forgive that error, but I could never forget. And every time I see one of his games I feel a certainty that the visiting coach is going to get teed up at some point.

Bain has seldom disappointed in that regard...

□ Officiating, of course, is a subject which is seldom aired until this time of year. I'm not sure it's any worse than ever because there are three men on the floor now, but, likewise, I am not certain it is getting better.

I've been knocking around the game nearly 20 years and I see a lot of the same gray heads out there running up and down the floor now that were there in the early 1970s. In the interim a number of things have happened:

—The athletes are bigger, stronger and more able to do things quickly than ever. For a set of aging eyes that has to be tougher.

—Coaches are under so much more pressure because the stakes are higher. And, frankly, they've gotten out of control. The days when a coach sat on the bench and instructed his team are gone forever. Now a big part of the game is "working the referees".

—There's a strange and unexplainable political system



Oklahoma's **Billy Tubbs** (left) and Purdue's **Gene Keady** have both had recent run-ins with **Jim Bain**, the most rabbit-eared official in college basketball.

which a young official must overcome to move up the ladder. Coaches are involved (a young guy teeing up **Bobby Knight** or **John Thompson** early in his career with the Big Ten or Big East won't have a long stay) and so are supervisors. I don't fully understand how it works, but looking at all those familiar faces, I can only conclude it is tough for younger men to break through the political barriers.

—At the top of the officiating world the guys working the NCAA championship game are being paid less than \$500, which ought to embarrass somebody. The three most important figures in the gym, the ones who can most influence a game, are being paid that paltry sum while the teams are taking home a million dollars each.

—From that championship game comes the downward trickle in terms of what these men are being paid. It is not enough to attract the caliber of people to do the job effectively. No one understands the sacrifice involved in being a major college official. The winter travel and all the summer meetings and clinics. It's a full-time job at part-time pay.

—Another dismaying trend is that I now see officials whose manner and decision-making processes reflect the idea they are the stars of the game. You know the ones. The best officiated game is one in which no one notices their presence. That needs to be kept at the forefront and with some of these guys I'm not certain that's the case.

It is a problem which all conferences need to address. Some, the ACC and Big East, seem to be doing a better job than others, the SEC and Big Ten notably. Officiating is an awfully important element and though it probably can never be perfect, it is a problem which needs to constantly monitored...

□ One more officiating thought: They'll tell you the toughest call to make is the block/charge and that's probably true. But the one which is most often missed is traveling. I've seen games all over the country and can only conclude that no one really has any idea what is and what is not a walking violation...

□ As this season plays out and people suggest there'll be four mystery guests in Seattle, I'm beginning to think otherwise. I believe you can draw together the names of

10 teams, and from that group the champion will probably emerge. It supports growing evidence that fewer teams, not more, have a legit shot at winning a national championship...

□ In terms of All-American recognition, it is probably a shame Oklahoma's **Stacey King** and **Mookie Blaylock** are on the same team. It will be very difficult for both to become first team All-Americans. Something like that hasn't happened in recent memory and you would probably have to go back to the UCLA dynasty days to see if it has ever happened at all...

□ Talking about the All-American team, it will be tough to get a consensus this year. I'm not even certain we'll have a unanimous choice. Duke's **Danny Ferry**, perhaps. Arizona's **Sean Elliott**, maybe. After that you are talking about a certain split ticket for the likes of **Pervis Ellison**, **King**, **Blaylock**, Stanford's **Todd Lichti**, Syracuse's **Derrick Coleman** and Ohio State's **Jay Burson**...

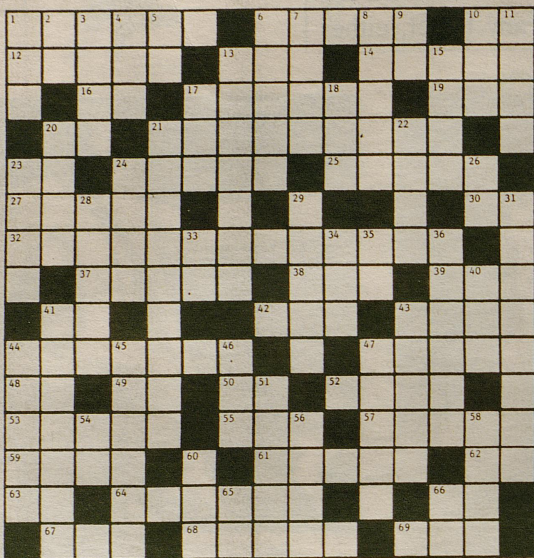
□ Typical reaction department: In the wake of **Steve Patterson's** resignation at Arizona State, the media regularly covering the Sun Devils heard themselves being zinged by Oregon State's **Ralph Miller** and Oregon's **Don Monson** for driving another coach out of the business. Huh? I mean why didn't Miller and Monson assail the ASU president or athletic director **Charles Harris**, who not only hired Patterson, but strung him along for the past four years?

The media is always an easy scapegoat and not always entirely undeserving of the criticism, but guys like Miller and Monson have been around long enough to know the problem isn't that simple...

□ Along these lines, I'll give you an example of how the media are used for the self-serving purposes of athletes and coaches. Following the recent NBA trade involving Dallas and Detroit, **Mark Aguirre** placed blame for his "bad actor" image on the media in Dallas which, "didn't understand me." In the same day's edition one of Aguirre's Dallas teammates, **Sam Perkins**, said: "Today should be an all-day party because he's gone. Good luck, Detroit, because you are going to need it." Journalism 101, friends...

T C P CROSSWORD PUZZLE

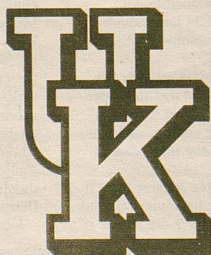
By Dan Krueckerberg



TOP CAT REBOUNDERS THROUGH THE YEARS

- ACROSS**
- Led Cats in rebounds in 3 straight years
 - _____ rebounding led '51 national champs
 - Initials of 6 Across
 - Cookie types
 - 1st name of Cat with record 34 rebounds on 12/10/55
 - Satellite's path
 - Initials of former UL Cardinal Murphy
 - Rebound leader of '60-'61 Cats
 - Airport abbr.
 - Initials of rebound leader in coach Sutton's second season
 - _____ 1078 career rebounds is a UK record
 - _____ had 29 boards vs. LSU on 2/22/69
 - Led '70-'71 Cats in rebounds as soph.
 - Fine rebounder/Issel teammate
 - Body of water
 - Big scorer _____, also had 793 rebounds
 - _____ board work led Joe's Cats in two seasons
 - Fix the clock
 - Baseball classification level
 - Remit
 - Thus
 - Insect
 - See 52 Across
 - Rupp's last rebound leader/Hall's first rebound leader
 - Metal bolt
 - _____ was Cats rebound king 20 years ago
 - 1st name of former UL Cardinal Villcheck
 - Whether
 - Distance
 - Rebound leader on first Rupp squad to lose ten games
 - First name of 24 Across
 - '60s Vandy star Lee
 - ML East champs in '88
 - _____ rebounding led Joe's '78 national champs
 - See 5 Down
 - Collegiate class abbr.
 - Rebound leader of #3 ranked '56-'57 Cats
 - Initials of star Cats shooter Louie
 - '80s Cats best rebounder
 - Former star rebounder at U. of Houston
 - Years 1 Down led Cats in boards
- DOWN**
- One of 4 Cats with 1000 career rebounds
 - Fac-10 state abbr.
 - Cats set NCAA record with unbelievable 108 rebounds as a _____ on 2/8/64
 - See 55 Across
 - Symbol for "Ossium"
 - Had most rebounds of any Cats freshman
 - _____ computers are used worldwide
 - Goes by himself
 - Abbr. for coll. class of last year's rebound leader
 - Food morsel
 - Cliff Hagan was the _____ rebounder for the '51-'52 #1 ranked Cats
 - Fell 1 rebound short of 800 in great career in the '80s
 - B. Burrow has the _____ career rebound average among all Cats, 16.1 rpg
 - Negative vote
 - Snake
 - SWC school
 - _____ Cat career included an average of nearly 15 rebounds per game
 - Now it!
 - The Astro
 - Cover the road
 - _____ led the '66-'67 Cats in boards
 - Former baseball catcher Hendricks
 - 29 First name of 45 Down
 - _____ rebounding led '73-'74 Cats
 - Compass abbr.
 - 34 Led the "Bunts" in rebounds
 - 35 Big Ten state abbr.
 - 36 Had record 567 rebounds in one season
 - 40 Heavy brew
 - 41 Dodger _____ nickname was "Duke"
 - 42 Had 12.9 rpg for '59-'60 Cats
 - 43 John led '64-'65 Cats in rebounds
 - 44 2nd to 21 Across in career rebounds
 - 45 Pose for picture
 - 47 _____ rebounding led '70s Cats in three seasons
 - 51 "Sky" Walker was a major rebounding _____ for coaches Hall and Sutton
 - 54 Baseball's "_____ bat"
 - 56 Rebounding "Twin" with 47 Down
 - 58 Extinct bird
 - 60 Pro loop
 - 65 "Se _____ and ye shall find"
 - 66 Initials of Cats rebound leader ten years ago

Last Week's Answers



Not one, but two Big Orange foes on 'Cats' slate this week

Compiled by The Cats' Pause staff

At this writing, the Kentucky Wildcats were squaring off against Auburn in the Tigers' den (Feb. 20). Wednesday night Kentucky will host Tennessee, a team it defeated 66-65 last month in Knoxville. And on Sunday the 'Cats go on the road for perhaps their toughest test, against No. 5 Syracuse at the Carrier Dome.

Last season, Kentucky, with Rex Chapman on the bench with a back injury, slipped past Jim Boeheim's club 62-58.

Tennessee (15-8, 8-6): When UK played the Volunteers on Jan. 21, Don DeVoe's club went into the game with a Top 20 ranking—No. 18—and a perfect 5-0 SEC slate. Tipoff for the UT-UK clash is set for 8 p.m.

The Wildcats, thanks to two clutch free throws by reserve Deron Feldhaus, pinned the first conference loss on the Vols. Since then Tennessee has dropped five of its last eight games and is on the verge of not making the NCAA tournament next March.

All-SEC forward Dyron Nix was held to 15 points against UK. Afterward, Nix told the media that he was upset with his teammates inability to get the ball in his hands. And ever since, Nix and the Vols have struggled.

Losing 99-81 at Florida—UT's most recent game—Nix was completely shut down. Going into that contest, the 6-foot-7 forward was the league's third-leading scorer behind LSU's Chris Jackson and Ole Miss' Gerald Glass. He finished with just eight points, hitting only four of 15 shots from the field.

Swarengen scored 20 points while Ronald Taylor and guard Greg Bell, an outstanding shooting sophomore, came off the bench to score 13 points.

Syracuse (22-5): Syracuse enters its game with Kentucky averaging 92.1 points per game, while giving up just 75.5 points to its opponents.

The Orangemen, out of the rugged Big East Conference, will have had seven days to prepare for the 'Cats when the two teams meet at noon Sunday.

In its most recent game, an 87-80 win at Providence last Saturday, all of Syracuse's starters hit for double digits. Pacing the Orangemen were: Derrick Coleman, 22 points; Stevie Thompson, 19; Sherman Douglas, 16; Matt Rowe, 12; and Billy Owens, 10.

This will be the first time Kentucky has played in the Carrier Dome, an arena which seats more than 30,000 fans for basketball.

UK OPPONENTS' PROBABLE STARTERS TENNESSEE

GUARDS: Clarence Swarengen (6-3, senior, 9 points in last outing against UK) Travis Henry (6-2, senior, 4 points against UK)

FORWARD: Dyron Nix (6-7, senior, 15 points against UK) Rickey Clark (6-5, sophomore, 0 points against UK)

CENTER: Doug Roth (6-11, senior, 12 points against UK)

SYRACUSE

GUARDS: Sherman Douglas (6-0, senior—18.1 points per game, 2.6 rebounds per game and currently 238 assists in 27 games)

Matt Rowe (6-5, junior—11.8 ppg., 2.6 rpg.)

FORWARDS: Billy Owens (6-8, freshman—11.6 ppg., 6.6 rpg.)

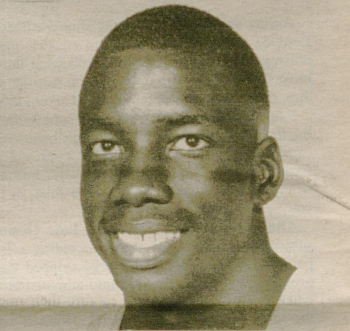
Stevie Thompson (6-4, junior, 18.3 ppg., 4.9 rpg.)

CENTER: Derrick Coleman (6-9, junior, 17.8 ppg., 11.7 rpg.)

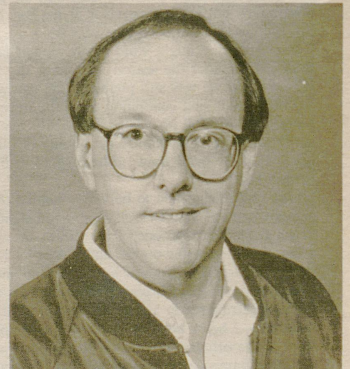
*Tennessee-UK televised by SEC-TV, while UK-Syracuse to be televised nationally by CBS.



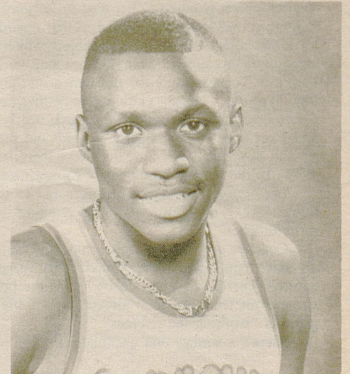
Don DeVoe



Greg Bell



Jim Boeheim



Sherman Douglas

Heading into March, dominant team(s) missing

Let's see how things presently stack up

As the college basketball season heads toward the long awaited month of March, most teams around the country are now jockeying for position for the NCAA Tournament. It seems every year the prestigious tourna-



Todd Hallum

Cats' Pause Columnist

ment becomes more wide open, and this season's tourney should not be an exception. With the way the No. 1 ranked teams are losing each week it seems a no one team could be called dominant. So, with selection Sunday (March 12) just around the corner here's a preview of which teams may be entering the postseason extravaganza.

ATLANTIC COAST

1) North Carolina: Tar Heels have the front line to compete with anybody but its backcourt is somewhat suspect, especially with a hobbling Jeff Lebo. However, Dean Smith usually has his team in the Sweet 16 each season. In fact, Carolina will be trying for its ninth consecutive Final 16 appearance.

2) Duke: Will the Blue Devils capture their midseason form? Of course, much of this team's success depends on All-American Danny Ferry, who has been plagued by back problems. Keep in mind coach Mike Krzyzewski always his Devils ready for tournament action.

3) N.C. State: How much of the controversial book about how Jimmy Valvano runs his program will affect the Wolfpack for the tournament. State is usually a solid tournament team and with Chris Corchiani and Rodney Monroe, State has one of the country's best backcourt duos. Don't count out the Pack.

4) Georgia Tech: Tech has played one of the toughest schedules in the nation. However, the Yellow Jackets haven't fared too well against quality competition, losing to the likes of Illinois (twice), Louisville, N.C. State, and North Carolina. Tech should get in but does this team have enough depth?

5) Clemson: The Tigers have played a tougher schedule this year than the past, but have been plagued by inconsistency. Despite, some previous turmoil by the suspension of several starters before a game at Duke by coach Cliff Ellis, the Tigers have played much better in February. Eldon Campbell is one of the most underrated big men in the country.

6) Virginia: Could Tery Holland pull off another near miracle run like his team did back in 1984 making the Final Four in Seattle? Virginia has played a very tough schedule but has had trouble winning on the road. Keep your eyes on guard Richard Morgan who can literally take over a game when he's on. The Cavaliers need to continue to play well toward the end of the season.

BIG TEN

1) Indiana: Bobby Knight has another group of players meshing at the right time as his team play surprised everyone in the Big 10. If the Hoosiers can hold on to their lead it looks like they will get a No. 1 seed in the Midwest Regional in the Hoosierdome for the first two rounds.

2) Michigan: Who can figure this team out? Michigan has plenty of talent but can this team play consistent basketball in a tournament atmosphere? Frieder's teams haven't done it in the past. Will this year's Wolverine squad be an exception?

3) Illinois: An injury to guard Kendall Gill has tem-

porarily halted some of the progress of Lou Henson's squad. However, this team has loads of talent and pretty good depth. The Illini will be good, but could be much better with a healthy Gill.

4) Iowa: The injury to center Matt Bullard did set back Iowa's run for the Big 10 title. Bullard is just now getting back to full strength. The twosome of Roy Marble and B.J. Armstrong is one of the best in the country. The Hawkeyes have enough talent to advance a long way in any regional.

5) Ohio State: The injury to Jay Burson, in all likelihood, shuts down any possibility of the Buckeyes making a strong showing in NCAA play. However, stranger things have happened. Gary Williams' teams play with great intensity in postseason action.

6) Minnesota: Surprise, surprise. Clem Haskins has done a remarkable rebuilding job with the Gophers. This will be the team's first tournament appearance in quite some time.

BIG EIGHT

1) Oklahoma: Say what you want about Billy Tubbs, but the Sooners are strong once again. They simply smother you to death and Tubbs' players now know how to compete in the big games.

2) Missouri: Everybody is pulling for coach Norm Stewart to recover from his cancer surgery (according to reports, he won't be back on the bench this season). The Tigers haven't fared well in past NCAAs. This year's club, though, does have good chemistry and has played a tough schedule.

3) Oklahoma State: Former Kentucky assistant Leonard Hamilton is quickly building a legitimate program in Stillwater. OSU has loads of young talent that has excellent chemistry. Currently, the Cowboys are the last team to beat Oklahoma, then the No. 1 team in the country.

4) Kansas State: Definitely a team on the bubble. But the tournament committee will quickly recognize the Wildcats' road wins at Kansas and Missouri.

SEC

1) LSU: Ricky Blanton and Chris Jackson have been phenomenal this season. And of course, Dale Brown's coaching ability is a big asset as well. LSU is making a strong run for an SEC title in a wide open race. If the Tigers just had a little more punch inside there's no telling how good this team would be.

2) Alabama: Wimp Sanderson's club has quietly gone about its business and is in the hunt for the SEC championship. Alabama has yet to lose at home and has been somewhat of a surprise team in a wacky Southeastern Conference race. Remember, Wimp's teams have played well in the NCAA Tournament in the past.

3) Vanderbilt: The 'Dores are making a their move in the SEC race during the second half of the season. Vandy has played the tough schedule and has enough roster experience to be a pretty good tournament team. The only problem is that Newton's club already has 10 losses (as of mid-February). Definitely a bubble team at this writing.

4) Tennessee: Congratulations go out to Don DeVoe for his 20th career coaching win during the Vols' 82-71 win over Ole Miss in Knoxville. However, losing six out of nine games during the middle of the season has hurt the Vols' status for the tournament. With a good late season run and with the conference tournament being in their backyard, the Volunteers should get 20 wins and an NCAA bid.

5) Georgia: A longshot right now. Home losses to LSU and Vanderbilt have dampened the Bulldogs' chances.

6) Florida: The Gators have recently been playing excellent basketball. Now, will it be enough to catch the eyes of the selection committee?

PAC-10

1) Arizona: Once again, Lute Olsen has another fine club ready for the postseason tournament. In fact, the Wildcats are now fighting for a No. 1 seed in the West Region.

2) Stanford: Here's a perennial weak Pac-10 squad that has evolved into a legitimate Top 40 team. However, say what you want, Pac-10 basketball is still pretty bad. Stanford already has 19 wins and has played such teams as Indiana, North Carolina, UCLA and Arizona.

3) UCLA: The win over Louisville on national television can't hurt. The Bruins are looking good right now.

4) Oregon State: Ralph Miller, who is coaching in his final season at OSU, has a very competitive squad this year. It might be hard for the selection committee to overpass an outgoing legend in Miller.

5) California: Right now you have to consider the Golden Bears a longshot. The recent loss at BYU didn't help.

SOUTHWEST

1) Texas: The Longhorns have been a nice surprise but the schedule is questionable. However, a strong finish in the regular season should wrap up a bid which is a rare thing in Austin. Tom Penders has done a great job in his first season as the Longhorns' head coach.

2) Arkansas: Arguably the team with the most talent in the SWC. However, the Razorbacks have been somewhat inconsistent. No matter, the Hogs should make the NCAAs this year.

3 and 4) Houston and TCU: Both teams are long shots.

BIG EAST

1) Georgetown: The inside game of Alonzo Mourning matched with the outside game of guard Charles Smith is frightening. Add to the fact of the Georgetown tournament mystique and you have one of the "true" favorites to make it to the Final Four.

2) Syracuse: Jim Boeheim has another legitimate Final Four team. However, the Orangemen won't go too far unless their foul shooting improves.

3) Providence: The Friars quietly have become a solid squad in Big East play for new coach Rick Barnes. In fact, Providence is playing like it did for former coach Rick Pitino.

4) Seton Hall: Eddie Sutton was right when he said that Seton Hall is a certain tournament team, following the Pirates win over UK in the Great Alaska Shootout last November. P.J. Carlesimo has his team playing well and his front line is very strong. Overall, the Pirates could go a long way in the NCAAs.

5), 6) and 7) Connecticut, Villanova and St. John's: These three need good showings in the Big East Tournament if they want to make the 64-team field.

ATLANTIC 10

1) West Virginia: The cream of the crop in the Atlantic 10. Gale Catlett just might have his best West Virginia team in quite some time. However, the Mounties have traditionally turned in bad performances in past NCAAs.

2) Temple: No team in the country probably plays more road games than John Chaney at Temple. The Owls are on the bubble right now.

INDEPENDENTS

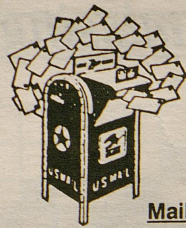
1) Notre Dame: Once again, Digger Phelps has scheduled his way to another NCAA tournament bid. But you have to love the loss to Valparaiso.

2) DePaul: A team which has improved and with a strong home schedule in February. Joey Meyer's club probably will make it.

METRO

1) Louisville: Have the Cardinals peaked too soon?

(Continued on page 24)



VIEWPOINT

Letters To The Editor

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



Stuck in the Big Apple

Dear sir:

Enclosed is my check for the Big Blue Penetration program. I think that it is a wonderful vehicle in telling the story about the UK athletic programs to our youngsters in the Kentucky high schools, although at times negative of late. Let's hope that the basketball program can soon resolve its problems.

I try to sponsor three or four schools each year. My old high school is always covered, so I always try to sponsor the smaller schools.

I went to Louisville Manual and was fortunate to see clips of the annual Male-Manual football game on the sports network, ESPN TV show last November—23,000 fans in Louisville!...Here in New York City!...With the N.Y.C. hotshots ha, ha!

I would hope that those UK fans that write to the editor would also participate by sponsoring one Kentucky high school, not necessarily their own if theirs is covered.

What great news to read about the new contract for coach (Jerry) Claiborne. Kentucky can be proud of him and he truly is a Kentucky Gentleman! When I read about ex-Ohio State coach (Earle) Bruce waiting in the wings I was shocked—I thought about all of the time that he would spend at Keeneland and Churchill Downs!

May I make a suggestion? Since many of your readers do not have the good fortune of living in Kentucky and have little access to Kentucky newsprint—that possibly there could be a small section that reports on Kentucky high school sports, perhaps by region?

I might mention that I belong to a large group that is called Kentuckians of New York. At our fall banquet at the Union League, Mr. John Gaines (Gainsway Farm, Breeders' Cup, etc.) was the featured speaker. Although a Notre Dame grad, he is certainly a Kentucky fan today. Everyone could not stop talking about the great Kentucky football victory over Georgia and the great efforts against Auburn, Alabama and LSU.

Sincerely,

Ken Tobias
New York, New York

How low can you go?

Dear sir:

I have never seen Kentucky basketball at such a very low point where UK fans don't want to talk about basketball. It used to be a year round thing. Not anymore. It's January and nobody wants to talk basketball. Why?

Eddie, I believe you're the blame for several different reasons. First of all, because of nepotism. Secondly, for claiming to have no knowledge of the 18 different allegations against UK brought about by the NCAA.

All I can say is, Eddie, you had the best coaching job in the country and you blew it, so don't blame the fans if you're no longer the UK coach in the near future. Your popularity around Kentucky is at a very low point, which you don't seem to mind.

Eddie, every major network commentators know Sean cannot shoot or shoot free throws, yet you continue putting pressure on your own son and continue playing him in the lineup. How long can UK continue playing four players against our opponent's five players? It's not fair for the other four players to carry Sean's load with no results in the game.

Eddie Sutton, you have really hurt the UK program because of all the dirty publicity that UK has received has hurt all Kentucky fans.

Eddie, the damage is already done. I don't think you can repair the damage done to UK. I can't see you remaining as UK coach after this year.

I'm not sorry for writing this letter, Eddie, because you're the coach. You created this mess and you have to live with it wherever you go. UK will overcome and happy days will be here again.

My pick for the future UK coach are: 1) Pat Riley; 2) Rick Pitino; 3) Lute Olsen; 4) Jim Valvano; 5) Dan Issel; and 6) Jack "Goose" Givens.

David Booth
Middlesboro, Kentucky

Proud of Billy Allen

Dear sir:

As president of the Morgan County High School Quarterback Club, I want to congratulate coach (Jerry) Claiborne, his staff and the University of Kentucky for producing another outstanding student-athlete, Bill Allen, who graduated this summer from UK and is now finishing the fifth year of his football scholarship.

Our club invited Bill to speak at this year's annual high school football banquet and he did an outstanding job speaking before 250-350 home folks, which included Little League, Junior Varsity, Varsity team members, cheerleaders, coaches their families and friends. His speech was very inspirational, especially since Bill is a former Cougar, and he is an excellent athletic representative of the University of Kentucky.

I do think Kentucky college coaches need to give a closer look at eastern Kentucky high school athletes. Bill Allen is just one example that we do have class people, who have outstanding athletic ability as well. Too often they are overlooked in favor of players from Florida, New Jersey, Ohio, etc. Instate players bring fans to stadiums, and in turn, the fans help inspire players on the field, which is a big factor in producing wins.

The Cats' Pause is read and enjoyed by a lot of people in this area. The MCHS library receives a copy. Also our local Kennedy Library and several residents are subscribers.

Sincerely,

Darrell Bradley
West Liberty, Kentucky

Eddie to coach Vandy?

Dear sir:

Now that Eddie Sutton is speaking to the

press about tell-all books, rest assured he has accepted the fact that he will be replaced at the end of the season.

Roy Kramer should move promptly and hire him. How else can Vanderbilt get a top five coach?

Sincerely,

Gene A. Russell
Manchester, Tennessee

Special win in K-town!

Dear sir:

We Big Blue fans down here in the Knoxville area are really happy with the win over Tennessee (66-65).

I wanted to applaud Mike Scott and Deron Feldhaus for their contributions to the team. And also to Derrick Miller. I have been really pulling for him. The team kept their cool and went on to a sweet victory. Tennessee thought they were going to stop the 'Cats. But, the 'Cats had a surprise for them.

We, like everyone around the country, have heard all about the negative things in the newspapers down here about Kentucky. But, we still show our support for the Big Blue.

In today's newspaper (Jan. 23) Dyron Nix was showing his frustration by saying when he doesn't get the ball Tennessee doesn't win.

Usually when Kentucky loses to Tennessee people are coming out of the woodwork. But not so this time. The win over Tennessee helped to quiet those people.

I just wanted to tell the 'Cats to hang in there. I want them to also know there are Big Blue fans pulling for them in Big Orange Country.

Good luck for the rest of the season. We hope to be there in Lexington when the 'Cats play the Vols.

Go Big Blue!

Jean Hoover
Clinton, Tenn.

That SEC pride

Dear sir:

I have enclosed a column from this week's *Tiger Rag* that concerns UK. I thought you might find it interesting. As an LSU alum and active Tiger booster, I can assure you that the vast majority of Louisianians do not agree with Mr. (Jim) Engster's views. Considering that LSU has been UK's main rival for SEC dominance the past 15 years, one might expect that there would be many happy folks at LSU gloating over the downfall of the UK program. This is not the case.

There is, however, a lot of anger directed at UK because of the embarrassment they have brought to the SEC.

LSU is a very pro-SEC school. The university takes great pride in the SEC and uses its membership as a recruiting tool in all sports. Thus, anytime the image of the SEC is damaged, there is anger.

I must also admit that for many years there

has been a general feeling among many LSU fans that Kentucky cheats. Not so much that they illegally recruit but that once at UK they were always "taken care of." Whether true or not I am afraid that UK will be stuck with the image of "cheater" for many years. And that is a shame.

I compliment you on your fine newspaper. I subscribe to all the SEC papers and must tell you that your's is the most informative and professional. Keep up the good work. Over the past few months I have read with interest the reaction of the UK fans to the present scandal. I can understand rallying around the UK basketball program. I would expect the same reaction from LSU fans if the Tiger football program was in trouble.

What confuses me is the almost god-like treatment that is afforded coach (Eddie) Sutton and lack of respect that is shown former coach (Joe) Hall. From an outsider's view, what I see is a remarkable record and a National Championship provided by coach Hall. He turned over to coach Sutton a program that was stable and winning. Compare the type of program Joe B. Hall left Sutton with the type program Sutton will leave his successor. It will take years to repair the harm that was done under coach Sutton's tenure. Keep up the good work, Mr. Combs. Here's one Tiger from Bayou Country hoping UK's recovery is thorough and swift.

Geaux Tigers,

Tommy Killian
Baskin, Louisiana

Defense? Where?

Dear sir:

I, for one, am completely fed up with all the excuses for this year's basketball team's poor showing. They are all, very much sought after, superior talent who should be doing much better than they are! I don't buy that stuff about the NCAA probe affecting their play. The right kind of coaching ought to be using this as an extra incentive—not as a crutch. I'm tired of hearing about how 'green' they are! Even the freshmen are now experienced players but the whole team hasn't improved—in some instances they even look worse than at season's start. They seem listless, uninspired and non-aggressive.

And I'm sick to death hearing all the media people constantly refer to Eddie Sutton's teams playing such great defense—it simply isn't true. In more than 50 years of watching college basketball, the defense that I've seen Kentucky play the last four seasons is about as bad as it can get. They give up the baseline repeatedly. They are lazy and don't move their feet to stay with their man. They don't block out and rebound, and when they don't hang onto the ball once they do rebound it almost always results in an easy basket for the opponent.

They never attack the offense but wait for the offense to attack them (they don't attack on offense either—just run their plays and wait and hope for something to open up).

(Continued on page 24)

Yes, SEC coaches are just like the guys next door

Player of the Year? Why it's Chris Jackson

Can you imagine a relaxed Norm Sloan working in the yard and garden?

Yes, it's the same Norm Sloan who coaches basketball at the University of Florida and badmouths the referees



Jamie Vaught

Cats' Pause Columnist

in such a way that you sometimes can easily lip-read what he's saying on television.

Anyhow, working outside is what the 62-year-old Sloan likes to do during his free time. That's his hobby. He also enjoys watching "Cheers," a popular TV series. Any book by Louis L'Amour provides enjoyment as well.

Those are some of the interesting personality tidbits that I found on Sloan while thumbing through various media guides, including an impressive 1989 SEC Basketball Guide. And, following is a listing of some of the personal notes on other SEC coaches that should be of interest to you:

PET PEEVES

Ed Murphy, Ole Miss: "Waiting in line" and "zone defenses."

Wimp Sanderson, Alabama: "People who are late" and "people who make excuses."

Sonny Smith, Auburn: "People who don't show up on time."

C.M. Newton, Vanderbilt: "Front-running fans."

FAVORITE TELEVISION SHOW

Wimp Sanderson: "Maverick"

Sonny Smith: "Nashville Now"

Hugh Durham, Georgia: "M*A*S*H"

Ed Murphy: "Hill Street Blues"

Richard Williams, Mississippi State: Any sports show.

Don DeVoe, Tennessee: "Hee Haw"

FAVORITE MOVIE

C.M. Newton: *Laura*

Don DeVoe: *The Searchers*

Ed Murphy: most mystery movies

Sonny Smith: *Rocky*

FAVORITE SPORTS FIGURE

Sonny Smith: Jerry West

Hugh Durham: Bill Russell

Ed Murphy: Julius Erving

Don DeVoe: Pete Rose

HOBBIES

Eddie Sutton, Kentucky: Reading books, watching

movies, fishing and playing golf and tennis

Ed Murphy: Gardening, cooking and fishing

Dale Brown, LSU: Reading and learning

Hugh Durham: Racquetball and horses

Sonny Smith: Charting progress of country music hits,

tennis, auto racing and baseball

Wimp Sanderson: Playing golf

Don DeVoe: Tennis and hiking

Richard Williams: Tennis and reading

FAVORITE FOODS

Eddie Sutton: Popcorn and ice cream

Ed Murphy: Chinese

Wimp Sanderson: Barbeque

Sonny Smith: Pinto beans, corn bread, slaw and fried

potatoes

Hugh Durham: Steak



Hey, Sonny, pass the corn bread, please

Dale Brown: Cheese wheat thins and ice tea
 Don DeVoe: Chocolate
 C.M. Newton: Barbeque ribs

FAVORITE BOOK

Hugh Durham: *Bible*

Dale Brown: any non-fiction

Ed Murphy: most spy novels

Richard Williams: *The Winds of War*

C.M. Newton: all of Robert Ludlum's books

FAVORITE SONG

Wimp Sanderson: "My Way" by Frank Sinatra

Sonny Smith: "The Hands That Rock The Cradle" by

Glenn Campbell

Hugh Durham: any country music

Don DeVoe: "Tennessee Waltz"

C.M. Newton: "Body and Soul"

□ **SINCE THE FRESHMEN** once again became eligible in 1972, there have been no freshman winners in the *Associated Press* Player of the Year balloting in hoops (Bernard King *UPI's* frosh of the year).

But, this year may be an exception. LSU freshman wizard Chris Jackson, the SEC's leading scorer and the leading freshman scorer in the country, is drawing raves with his superb play. At this writing, he's clearly my choice to capture Player of the Year accolades.

And, it is really amazing when you find out that Jackson is suffering from a condition called Turette's Syndrome. If you watch him closely, you will notice a twitching in his facial features.

Jackson, a 6-foot-1 point guard from Gulfport, Miss., reportedly has had the disease for several years. He has been taking medicine to control the problem.

By the way, Jackson is one of the 10 finalists for the 1989 Eastman Award, which annually honors the outstanding male college basketball player as selected by the National Association of Basketball Coaches.

□ **AS YOU KNOW**, former Auburn star Charles Barkley of the NBA Philadelphia 76ers was recently selected by the fans to play in the NBA All-Star Game as a starting forward. And here is what Barkley had to say about his former coach, Sonny Smith:

"Sonny Smith has undoubtedly been the most influential coach in my life." Barkley said. "He always had your best interests in mind and he always told you like it was. Coach Smith stressed hard work and intensity, but I



Know any good zone defenses, Ed?

wouldn't listen because I was too immature. I respect him now more than ever before. I have a much better understanding about those things now because coach Smith tried to teach me the value of hard work. Coach Smith is the kinda guy people want to be around because he's funny and easy-going. As a player, he's very easy to relate to."

□ **DIS 'N' DATA:** LSU athletic director Joe Dean says that New York Knicks coach Rick Pitino may be heading back to the college ranks, as the pro grind is wearing on him. "I'm told one of the jobs which would interest him is Kentucky's quiet Eddie Sutton step aside," Dean said. That's quite interesting, as Dean points out, since there are not many NBA coaches who would like to return to college because of recruiting. Apparently, Pitino might be an exception and he reportedly does not get along with Knicks general manager Al Bianchi...

Meanwhile, speaking of Sutton, I sure hope he stays on at Kentucky despite nagging off-the-court problems with the NCAA...

Jack Maiden of Hixson, Tenn., writes that he is strongly in favor of Proposition 48 and Proposal 42: "I think both 48 and 42 should stay in effect," Maiden writes. "But if any changes are made, then give the kid a fourth year after he has kept up his grades for three years." Thank you for writing, Jack...

Former University of Alabama baseball star and Boston Red Sox third baseman Butch Hobson has been named manager of the New Britain (Conn.) Red Sox of the Eastern League in Class AA. He was a minor league manager for the New York Mets organization for the last two summers. In 734 major league games, Hobson compiled a career batting average of .248 and collected 634 hits...

The changeover to the semester system at the University of Tennessee has resulted in one of the earliest openings in years for spring football practice. Vol coach Johnny Majors will blow the whistle for the first workout March 13...

□ **QUOTE OF THE WEEK:** Author John Feinstein, speaking at Duke, his alma mater, in a panel forum on "Success Without Cheating—The Collegiate Athletic Dilemma."

"This forum shouldn't take place at Duke. This forum should take place at the University of Kentucky."

Officials need to take better control of games

It's not only an SEC problem, though

To the degree that the Southeastern Conference basketball championship race tightens, so do the nervous systems of the players, the coaches and, sometimes, the referees.



Scoop Hudgins

Cats' Pause Columnist

We understand and empathize with the players, and with the coach if he wins as often as we expect, but never with the referee who blows a call.

There have been more bad calls and no-calls this season, it seems, than ever before. Certainly in the eyes of the prejudiced coaches.

The coach's interpretation of a referee's call is a signal for the rowdy fans in the stands to display their cowardice by throwing things at the refs.

The trendy, up-beat students, who paint and costume themselves for the TV cameras, then seek spots for participation, boost the carnival atmosphere of the arena into a tempest of emotion, sometimes uncontrollable.

Several incidents have been documented lately wherein SEC coaches described no-calls late in a game as "inexcusable" and "gutless," and technical fouls as

"unreasonable" and "ridiculous." One coach verbally assaulted all three refs individually for an intentional ejection, with six free throws.

The officiating problems are not limited to the SEC area, they cover the country. In the recent UCLA-Louisville contest, a game-deciding goal by the Bruins was allowed for goaltending, which did not occur. In an Oklahoma-Missouri game, OU coach Billy Tubbs insulted the officials on the microphone and Mizzou coach Norm Stewart is hospitalized with bleeding ulcers.

So, what is the SEC office doing about this apparent national epidemic of ineffective officiating?



It's not that bad

Although SEC officiating has come under considerable fire the past few years, the league's zebras have always been well represented in the NCAA tournament.

Commissioner Harvey Schiller and associate commissioner John Guthrie are doing much more than you think. They have taught, trained and instructed the referees selected for SEC duty, and are now re-attacking the problem.

When referees' individual judgement on throwing debris varied from *no foul* at Florida State where some 500 tennis balls were thrown at Florida's Dwayne Schintzius at introductions (non-SEC officials), to a *win-reversing technical* for a half dozen in the last second at Vanderbilt, the SEC restated the rule and instructed referees and game managers on when and how to apply it.

The 34 SEC basketball officials have been selected by a rotating committee of three coaches and three officials, with basketball supervisor Guthrie. They are identified in every SEC area and in other strong conferences, too. They are developed in special basketball camps and clinics and closely critiqued on progress, then accepted by a system of retention and deletion, of which retirement is a factor.

Three fine referees retired after 1988; Charley Vacca for health reasons and Louis Grillo and Joe Forte to call in the NBA. Two others transferred to other conferences.

Five of the 34 for 1989 are new to SEC officiating, 15 percent, a larger percentage than usual.

The competency of SEC basketball officials is established nationwide. From 1980 through 1988, except for one year, there has been at least one SEC referee in the NCAA championship game. In both the '87 and '88 Final Fours, five of the nine officials were SEC-based. Also, 21 of the 34 SEC men were selected to work at least one game in the NCAA tourney.

Still, we need the referees to run the ballgames, as did "Bowser" Chest and Sheriff Dan Tehan back in the 1940s.

Bowser, in calling a Vanderbilt-Alabama game in 1942, ejected Vandy's toughest athlete, linebacker Jack Jenkins, for knocking a goal-bound Tide player up underneath the seats back of the goal.

At game's end, Chest went to the locker room and lectured Jack. He said: "Jenkins, you deliberately hit that player with intent to injure him. If you do that again in my game, I'll eject you from that game, *and the next!*"

Jenkins faced Mr. Chest squarely and said: "Yes, sir. Yes, sir. Yes, sir."

Alabama 71, Kentucky 67

(Continued from page 14)
a good deal of the second half.

For the game Ellis had only five points with two-of-10 shooting from the field. But he says he was working just as hard as he was in the LSU game (when he had 24).

"They just weren't going in," moaned Ellis. "But I wasn't standing around doing nothing. In order to have a bad shooting night you have to work hard to get the ball...so that says something. I just couldn't get it in the hole."

Bama also had other heroes. The Tide got a lot of help from reserve guard Askins, who tossed in two crucial three-point buckets midway of the first half.

His first three-pointer enabled the Tide to cut a five-point Kentucky lead (20-15) to two. His second gave the Tide a five-point lead (25-20) in a first half of peaks and valleys for both teams.

But it was his second-half defense on Miller that proved to be even bigger than his "threes." At 6-6, he presented a bigger target

to shoot over than the 6-1 Alvin Lee, who took Miller the first half. But Lee also tightened up his act after intermission.

"I thought Lee did a great job the second half," said 'Bama Coach Wimp Sanderson. "He was lazy the first half."

Bama also unveiled a mystery super sub in 6-8 Marcus Webb. How unknown was he? Well, the 'Cat scan showed he might just have well been Marcus Welby.

But the 6-foot-7 roly-poly played like Charles Barkley as he scored eight points in 14 minutes. Included were two muscle layoffs in the give-and-take of the last 14 minutes.

Sutton wondered about "who-da-guy" before the game. He was as unknown to Sutton as the Stealth fighter plane to Russia.

"He wasn't even in our scouting report," said Sutton. "I asked coach (Jimmy) Dykes who he was in the warmups and he said he hadn't seen him play. And 'Bama hasn't been on television much. He was hardly in the stats (14 points in nine games played). But he cer-

tainly did a job."

The whole 'Bama front line did a job. And you can probably thank a "forgiving" Sanderson for that.

In fact, you might call it the big "Wimp-out."

Sanderson is ordinarily a coach who drives a team harder with each loss. But when the Tide disappointed him with a loss to Mississippi State last Thursday, he reacted in a wimpish, if not Wimpish, manner.

"I was lower than 12 moles myself," said Wimp. "But at this point in time I felt I had to encourage the team not to browbeat themselves. I played it low-key."

So Wimp was a wimp and it worked. So did his plan to use more of his bench. It rewarded him with 26 points.

Meanwhile, the 'Cats got just seven from theirs—five from Deron Feldhaus and two from Mike Scott. Richie Farmer, again, was pining away. He never got into the game.

Timely ball-hawking, plus the fine shooting

from Miller, Mills and Sean Sutton enabled the 'Cats to escape with a 39-36 first-half lead.

Trailing 9-2 after the first 2:36 of play, Sutton opted for a time out. Presto! The 'Cats outscore 'Bama 11-2 over the next three minutes as Hanson, Mills and Miller set up baskets with timely steals.

Miller hit on six of nine shots and Mills four of nine to lead the first-half scoring with 14 and 11 points respectively. Sutton had seven points and four assists. It was his three-point basket that helped the 'Cats claw back to within two (25-23) with 7:32 to play.

The two teams then swapped the lead on three more occasions before Mills' layup put UK ahead for good in the half at 35-33. But 'Bama stayed close.

"We just hung around and gave ourselves a chance to win in the end," said Sanderson.

It was just the opposite for the 'Cats. They hung around...and in the end they just got hung.

Todd Hallum

(Continued from page 21)

Pervis Ellison needs to be completely healthy and LaBradford Smith and Keith Williams have to remain consistent. However, you have to love the talent and Louisville's tradition of playing well in the NCAAs.

2) Florida State: A bonifide sleeper to make a lot of noise in the tournament. FSU already has pulled off a tough win in Louisville and could still unseat Louisville for the Metro crown. Keep an eye on Pat Kennedy's club.

3) South Carolina: On the bubble and has a chance with a strong finish.

MISSOURI VALLEY

1) Wichita State: Has played a tough schedule but has no wins to show for itself. Shockers need a strong postseason conference tournament appearance.

MIDWESTERN

1) Evansville: Some are quickly calling the Aces a sleeper team. Former Bobby Knight assistant Jim Crews has a team which plays solid defense and has been remarkably consistent all season long.

BIG WEST

1) UNLV: What's a NCAA tournament without Jerry Tarkanian and the Runnin'

Rebels? Tark the Shark is in again.

2) California Santa Barbara: Needs a gallant run in postseason tourney.

AMERICAN SOUTH

1) Louisiana Tech: A team which needs more recognition. Tech has defeated LSU in Baton Rouge and lost in overtime at Syracuse.

WEST COAST ATHLETIC

1) St. Mary's: Former UK assistant Lynn Nance just might make it after all. His team already has 20 wins.

2) and 3) Pepperdine and Loyola Marymount: On the bubble right now.

More letters

(Continued from page 22)

They slap at the ball when their man beats them usually creating a silly foul. They can't put on a press (as Cawood Ledford remarked during the Georgia game in Athens: "Kentucky is trying to press but it looks like something I might have coached"). Where do all the media folks get that it's such a great defense? Personally, I believe that UK basketball for the last four years has gone backwards, the NCAA situation notwithstanding. If the NCAA probe doesn't cause Sutton's removal, the new athletic director, I hope, has the guts to do so. It just continues to get more humiliating all the time. Record defeats are becoming common place.

Regards,
Marty Joyner Mueler
Florence, Kentucky



She watches over 26 children. Some bright. Some average. Some slow.

She spends more time each day with your child than you do.

She knows the abilities of each of her children and challenges each to work up to his or her potential.

At times, she's a disciplinarian.

At times, she's a cheerleader.

She knows boy problems. And girl problems.

She deals with peer pressure and smooths the awkward transitions of childhood.

She teaches math, which she loves. And gym, which she loathes. But the children don't know that.

She makes sure each child gets on the right bus. With the right books.

She spends many an evening doing her "homework"—grading papers.

Like her students, she has good days and bad ones.

But she wouldn't trade what she does for anything.

Because she knows the rewards of helping her children achieve.

She's a teacher.

And to us, she has the most important job in Ashland's America.



Teachers change lives.

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



Big Blue looks ready to toss in the towel

SEC tourney only thing that could save UK

"Give Kentucky credit. They did some good work and it helped that they had so much time to prepare for us. I am sure we caught Kentucky at one of their highs."

—Dec. 27, 1988, Austin Peay coach Lake Kelly after



Nick Nicholas

Cats' Pause Columnist

UK's 85-77 win over the Governors.

"I'm disappointed for the University of Kentucky and for all of our great fans. I tell the players that as long as we give completely of ourselves then we can live with that (losing record)."

—Feb. 18, 1989, UK coach Eddie Sutton after falling to Alabama at Rupp Arena.

Not long ago, Eddie Sutton's basketball team benefited from a three-day cram course during the Christmas holidays, evident with four wins in five outings. Yes, a new-improved Wildcat team, which featured an up tempo beat, dazzled Austin Peay, Georgia, Vanderbilt and a host Florida Gator club. Even in its 97-75 loss at Louisville, UK demonstrated plenty of pizzazz, forcing Denny Crum's high-flying Cardinals to press hard and often for a win.

Much like an active youngster with a new windup toy, Sutton and his staff cranked up their club during the holiday break as the Wildcats were rolling toward a respectable season. Most had forgotten a disastrous 4-6 beginning. Encouraging numbers of 8-7 overall and 3-0 in the SEC easily allowed the players to even forget painful losses to Northwestern State and Bowling Green State.

No, this team wasn't a threat to Pat Riley's Los Angeles Lakers, but the once-poor condition of the Wildcats' had been upgraded to satisfactory and was on the rise.

That was a little more than a month ago.

The cheery smiles of Reggie Hanson and Derrick Miller have gone sour. The positive tones of Sean Sutton and Chris Mills have all but disappeared.

A LOSING SEASON will likely follow these players for the rest of their careers and possibly longer.

Heading into last Monday night's game at Auburn, the 'Cats had dropped a school-record five straight games and were 11-15, 6-8 in the SEC and sinking fast.

After losses to LSU, at Rupp Arena, and at Alabama, Kentucky regrouped, upsetting Tennessee in Knoxville and defeating Auburn. Then came a stunning 70-65 setback at Mississippi. And prior to Monday's clash on the road, UK had only a win over Mississippi State to show for itself in its last seven games.

"People are calling us a bunch of losers," said point guard Sean Sutton, shaking his noggin in frustration.

"We're the worst team ever to play here. We've been so close; we've boarded on being a good basketball team all year long.

"I know we're not as bad as people say."

Whether it's poor rebounding, shots not falling, lack of bench strength or the burden of an NCAA investigation hanging over its head, the confidence of this team has been missing in action.

Once, winning season No. 61 seemed destined for the record books. Presently, a .500 or better slate is as likely as a postseason bid to the NCAA or NIT tournaments.

"We're never going to say we're going to give up," said Eddie Sutton after Saturday's loss to Alabama. "I don't think these guys are going to give up. I hope we

can correct some of the mistakes and just win. I think winning will help more than anything.

"I don't believe I've ever had a team, though, that gave any more than they tried to give today."

That may be, coach.

UK did outshoot Alabama from the field—52.8 to 50.0 percent—but its inability to battle 'Bama on the boards—29-38—for the second straight meeting dealt UK another grimacing defeat. In two games against the Tide, UK has been outthusted on the boards 49 to 74.

My gut feeling says the reason this team has taken a nosedive is mainly from the buildup of the NCAA investigation. It's finally happened—the Wildcats have thrown in the towel.

On the first Sunday of this month Kentucky remained in contention for the top spot in the SEC. You'll recall that was the day when the big powwow took place involving the UK administration. Everyone was talking about it: from people in the Bluegrass, to CBS' commentator James Brown during a halftime show of a nationally televised contest. . . to Athens, Ga., where the Wildcats were set to tangle the Georgia Bulldogs.

Reports of gloom and doom out of Lexington were on the minds of UK's players and coaches. UK, with its last hope to move in first place, was handled with ease—84-72.

While the Wildcats on the outside continue to say they're not giving up, inside, the idea of the end of the 1988-89 season would be a welcome sight to some if not most of the players.

"I can't really speak for everybody but I personally get tired of hearing stuff," said guard Derrick Miller of the NCAA investigation. "I would be lying to you all if I said, 'Hey, it doesn't bother me.'"

Traditional hype to where the 'Cats would be placed in the NAAs has long since been washed aside. No mention of a strong finish. Not even talk of a possible NIT bid which before the Alabama game had been pushed to the forefront.

THE LONE REPRIEVE now rests on a miracle performance in the conference tournament, to be played next

month in Knoxville.

When the regular season concludes, Kentucky will be lucky to finish in sixth place, which would mean avoiding an extra game in the tourney.

At this point in the season that's the Cats' No. 1 priority.

"No one wants to lose," said LeRon Ellis. "That solely keeps your morale up—just not wanting to lose. It's frustrating. None of us, I don't think, have ever been on a losing team before. . . it's frustrating for everybody."

Plenty of question have been referred to the program's off-the-court woes. Along those same lines, five straight losses have created more and more inquiries about performances on the hardwood. Should Deron Feldhaus, Richie Farmer and Johnathon Davis be playing more? Why not turn more? Why isn't Ellis more consistent? Have the players given up? Have the coaches given up? And, more importantly, who will be back for next season?

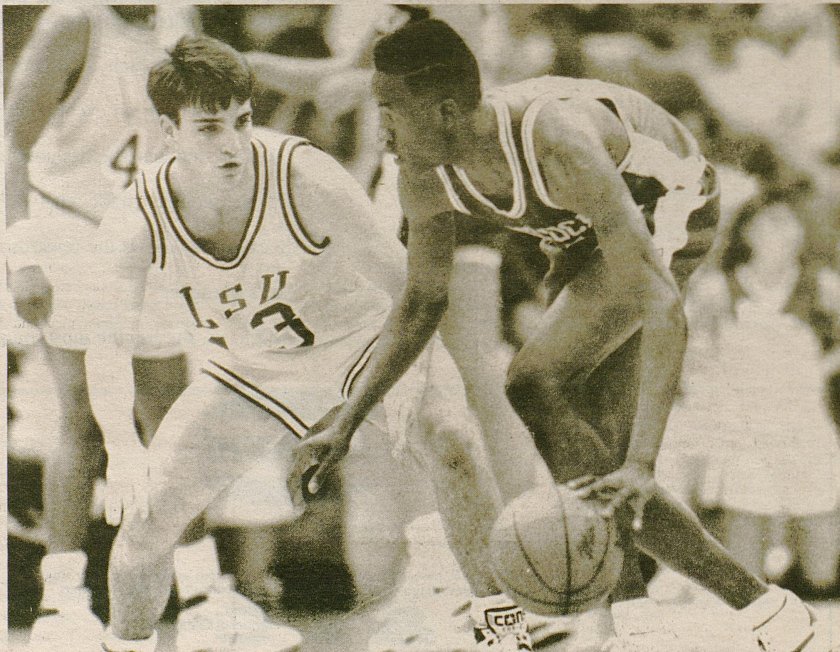
ALL ARE LEGITIMATE questions. You've heard 'em before and I'm sure you'll hear 'em even more between now and when Kentucky walks off the court for the final time this season.

Many times UK president David Roselle has said he's been "saddened" by the off-the-court problems. "Sad" does not begin to describe this season or, for that matter, what all has transpired since a certain package made the headlines last spring.

Said Eddie Sutton about his and the squad's suffering of late: "You just have to reach down and regroup. Who said life was going to be easy? But it's a new experience for all of us. I mean, that's why I think it's difficult for the coaches and certainly the players.

"I don't look at the situation in a way that I'm pleased about it. But, again, I get up every morning and I look in the mirror and I know that I'm doing the very best job that I've ever done. Maybe one of the best jobs that I've ever done in coaching.

"So, when I know that I'm giving everything I can then it's easier to live with that."



Miller confesses that the NCAA investigation is finally catching up with the 'Cats

Back Thru The Wildcat Years

Nine Years Ago

✓Fran Curci, head football coach at the University of Kentucky, and his staff traveled north and south last week as they inked 26 high school prospects to national letters-of-intent to play for the Wildcats.

Drawing the most attention of this year's recruiting class are: Greg Wimberly from the junior college ranks; Steve Willis, the 'Cats' first-ever signee out of Cincinnati's Moeller High School and Ty Richmond, a defensive back from Texas. Overall, UK signed nine in-state players inside its borders, including all-stars Eddie Simmons, Lawrence "Choo Choo" Lee, Kerry Baird, Jeff Smith and Ron Knott.

✓Kyle Macy sank a 22-foot jumper before the horn sounded as Kentucky defeated LSU 76-74 in Baton Rouge, giving the 'Cats their 32nd SEC championship.

✓Playmaker Kyle Macy sank a 22-foot jumper just before the horn sounded as Kentucky defeated Louisiana State 76-74 in Baton Rouge. The road victory for the 'Cats gave them their 32nd SEC championship.

The game was decided in overtime when LSU erased an eight-point deficit. Some missed tosses at the charity stripe by the visitors opened the door for a Tiger comeback. UK missed on its first opportunity to score in the extra period, causing LSU to go into a stall with 4:20 left. Meanwhile, with 27 ticks left on the Assembly Center clock, Sam Bowie tied up Greg "The Cookie Man" Cook. UK then controlled the tap.

After calling a timeout, Joe Hall and his staff called for a double screen for Macy, thus his game-winning bucket.

Forward Fred Cowan of UK and Ethan Martin of LSU turned in exceptional outings.

Cowan hit on 12 of 18 shots and tallied 27 points and pulled down nine rebounds.

Martin scored on 12 of 15 shots—29 points.

UK also got fine performances from Bowie (16 points), LaVon Williams (11 points) and Macy (11 points)

✓Because of scoring such an emotional victory against conference rival LSU, more than 8,000 fans, including Lt. Gov. Martha Layne Collins and former Kentucky Gov. A.B. Happy Chandler, were on hand at Memorial Coliseum for a postgame pep rally. The 'Cats immediately came to their surprise party after arriving from Baton Rouge.

Collins told the vocal crowd how proud she and the state were of the victory and read a proclamation which declared Feb. 25 as "University of Kentucky Wildcat Day."

✓What began as a emotional high almost ended in a mentally draining defeat as UK barely downed Mississippi State 71-65 in Rupp Arena during Senior Night. Traditionally, the pregame introduction of UK's seniors kicked off the event, in this instance Kyle Macy, Jay Shidler and LaVon Williams—making their final appearance before the home folks.

And traditionally, UK is supposed to win this emotional farewell. State, for a while, didn't stick to the script. The Bulldogs were in front seven minutes into the second stanza. UK was able to avoid the upset as Shelby County product Charles Hurt sparked the 'Cats with two clutch scoring drives.

Macy led UK with 18 points. Center Sam Bowie added 14 and Derrick Hord came in to shoot down MSU's zone for 14.

Ten Years Ago

✓Kentucky ran out of miracles in its quest for an NCAA bid, losing 75-69 in overtime to Tennessee in the finals of the SEC tourney.

Playing for the fourth straight night, Kentucky led early behind the shooting of senior Truman Claytor and took a 44-37 lead into intermission. At that point, UK, without freshman sensation Dwight Anderson, looked to be headed for the NCAA tournament.

Anderson broke his hand in the outset of UK's win over regular-season SEC champ LSU the night before.

But Tennessee was determined to comeback. Under first-year coach Don DeVoe, the Vols did exactly that.

In the end, Kyle Macy had a chance to win the game, but his last-second shot wouldn't drop, and UT pulled out the win in the five-minute period.

Guard Truman Claytor led Kentucky with 27 points and earned a spot on the All-Tournament team alongside teammate and tourney MVP Kyle Macy. So, after defeating Mississippi, Alabama and LSU on consecutive nights, Joe B. Hall's courageous 19-11 Wildcats fell one game shy of a miracle.

For their efforts, the 'Cats later found out they were to play opposite Clemson in the first round of the NIT, at Rupp Arena.

Thirteen Years Ago

✓Although seven league losses have all but knocked UK from an NCAA bid, the National Invitational Tournament is interested in Joe B. Hall's club, but only if it can win its last four games. Kentucky is presently owner of a 12-10 mark.

✓In a contest which was closer than the final 94-87 margin, the Kentucky Wildcats downed the Ole Miss Rebels in Oxford.

Jack "Goose" Givens, the heralded star from Lexington Bryan Station, paced the 'Cats in a "must" win situation with 30 points and 12 boards. Center Mike Phillips also turned in a fine performance, scoring 24

points and grabbing 11 rebounds.

The backcourt combination of Reggie Wardford and Larry Johnson helped immensely, chipping in with 12 points apiece.

Ole Miss' Eugene Harris led the Rebels with 29 points.

With the win, Kentucky raised its SEC record to 8-7, and kept alive its chances for a National Invitational bid, to be played at New York's coveted Madison Square Garden. The loss was the Rebels' 20th in their last 21 outings.

Eighteen Years Ago

✓Kentucky's freshman team fell to defeat in overtime to Alabama, 95-93. Maysville's Ronnie Lyons scored a game-high 36 points for the 'Cats in a losing cause. Alabama was led by Raymond Odums' 26 points.

✓Despite only playing 22-and-a-half minutes, Larry Steele was not denied a fine performance in UK's easy win over Alabama.

In UK's 101-74 whipping of the Crimson Tide, Steele scored 18 points and was credited with eight rebounds. Overall, sloppy play was evident throughout the contest. The two teams combined for 60 turnovers. Kentucky's Tom Payne was ejected from the game.

Tom Parker led UK in scoring with 21 points.

✓Kentucky improved its position in the latest Associated Press poll, climbing to No. 10. John Wooden and his UCLA Bruins hold down the No. 1 position while Al McGuire and his Marquette Warriors stand at No. 2

✓Kentucky stunned the Vanderbilt Commodores with a 119-90 win. Six UK players scored in double figures as the 'Cats converted 53.9 percent of their field goal attempts.

Tom Parker paced the 'Cats in scoring 26 points.

✓Kentucky's Jesse Stuart broke the school's record in the shot put by some two feet at the Southeastern Conference Indoor track meet.

Thirty Three Years Ago

✓Kentucky scored sweet revenge for a previous 81-73 setback to Vanderbilt and the coating was somewhat sweeter this time around. The Wildcats whipped the Commodores, 76-55, before a sellout crowd in Lexington, thus severely damaging the loser's chances of winning the SEC. The 'Cats connected on 45.5 percent of their shots from the field and outrebounded Vanderbilt by 20, 53-33.

Bob Burrow led Kentucky with 34 points and 17 rebounds. Jerry Bird added 13 points and 14 boards, followed by Gerry Calvert's 11 and Vernon Hatton's 10. Phil "Cookie" Grawemeyer pulled down 15 rebounds Vanderbilt's Al Rochelle and Babe Taylor, both Kentucky natives, scored 14 and 11 points, respectively.

✓Alabama, with its five starters playing most of the game, delivered a 101-77 victory over UK, sending a Montgomery crowd of 10,148 completely bonkers.

The win in all likelihood clinches a Southeastern Conference title for the Crimson Tide. The 101 points also were the most ever scored against a Kentucky team.

Louisville Flaget product Jerry Harper turned in a fine showing for Alabama, scoring a game-high 37 points.

Coach Johnny Dee's Tide led by just one early in the second half—51-50—but then proceeded to run away from the beleaguered Wildcats. George Linn scored 27 points for 'Bama. Bob Burrow led Kentucky with 26 points while teammate Vern Hatton contributed 24.

WILDCAT QUIZ

About Syracuse

1. True or False? Syracuse was knocked out of the NCAA tournament by the Richmond Spiders.

2. What school did Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim graduate?
a) Duke
b) Syracuse
c) Maryland
d) St. John's

3. How many fans can the Carrier Dome approximately hold?
a) 40,000
b) 35,000
c) 33,000
d) 31,000

4. Entering this season how many consecutive postseason appearances have the Orangemen made?
a) 2
b) 7
c) 16
d) 18

5. True or False? Entering this season, Syracuse had led the country in attendance four straight seasons.

6. Who made the fast-break layup in the final seconds which sealed Kentucky's victory over Syracuse last season?
a) Eric Manuel
b) Rex Chapman
c) Winston Bennett

d) Rob Lock

7. Who won the Big East Tournament last season?
a) Syracuse
b) Villanova
c) Georgetown
d) Pittsburgh

8. True or False? Syracuse was No. 1 in the AP and UPI preseason polls.

9. When Syracuse made it to the Final Four in 1987, what team did they defeat in the semifinals?
a) Georgetown
b) Nevada-Las Vegas
c) Providence
d) Pittsburgh

10. Former Syracuse center Rony Seikaly was picked in the first round last season by which NBA team?
a) New York Knicks
b) Los Angeles Clippers
c) Miami Heat
d) New Jersey Nets

Answers

- 1) False (Rhode Island beat Syracuse in the second round of the East Regional)
- 2) Syracuse (1966)
- 3) 33,000
- 4) 18
- 5) True
- 6) Eric Manuel
- 7) Syracuse
- 8) True
- 9) Providence
- 10) Miami Heat

When You Order: THE CATS' PAUSE You Get

		Opponents Comments	
Game Statistics		Recruiting Updates	
Complete Wildcat Coverage		Schedules And TV Times	
In Depth Features		\$28.50 Per Year	Letters To The Editor
	35 Issues A Year	<small>Yes, I am subscribing to The Cats' Pause! My check is enclosed. sales tax included</small> NAME _____ STREET, BOX, OR ROUTE NO. _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR CUSTOMER NUMBER _____ FROM YOUR ADDRESS LABEL IF THIS IS A RENEWAL SUBSCRIPTION. MONTHLY IN SUMMER—\$28.50 PER SUBSCRIPTION NEW _____ RENEWAL _____	<small>MAIL TO: THE CATS' PAUSE P.O. Box 7297 Lexington, KY 40522</small>

But Most Important You Get

The Bottom Line On UK Athletics