

Kentucky Kernel

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Friday, September 6, 1991

Renovations for Newman Center to be dedicated

By **KIMBERLY BUNTON**
Contributing Writer

The Catholic Newman Center at UK is dedicating its newly renovated and expanded facilities at its 5 p.m. Mass Sunday.

The ceremony is part of the center's "Dedication Celebration" — a weekend of activities celebrating the completion of the center's \$1 million expansion.

"This dedication is the culmination of years of research, prayer and hard work for the people of the Newman Center," said Rev. Dan Noll, pastor of the parish.

Sunday's event will be followed by the annual parish picnic at 6 p.m.

Renovations started last September and were completed late last month.

The center is now outfitted with a new addition for its music room, conference room, and new kitchen and restroom facilities. The lobby has been expanded, as well as, a new roof and siding for the exterior.

There are also other, less visible improvements such as, a new heating and cooling system; sprinkler and fire alarm system.

"Refurbishing for the center was very important since the center had not had any work done since 1972, when it was originally built," said Karie Boneau, media coordinator.

According to Boneau, the center's siding was deteriorating and was in need of new heating and cooling system.

Improvements to the center will

See **NEWMAN**, Back Page

More UK students using '5-year plan'

By **GRAHAM SHELBY**
Senior Staff Writer

The T-shirt says it all. "UK - the best 5 (or 6) years of your life."

They used to say college was the best four years of your life.

Now it seems college students want those good times to last a little longer.

The University's most recent graduation report to the National Collegiate Athletic Association stated that 48.4 percent of the freshmen who entered UK in the 1984-85 academic year had graduated by August of 1989.

According to University officials, many students need five years to complete their programs because more students are working to pay bills or buy luxuries

"My sense is that there are more

people taking 5 years to graduate than there used to be," said Randall Dahl, UK registrar.

"One of the things that has happened in the last 10 or 15 years is that more students are working and students that are working are working more," Dahl said.

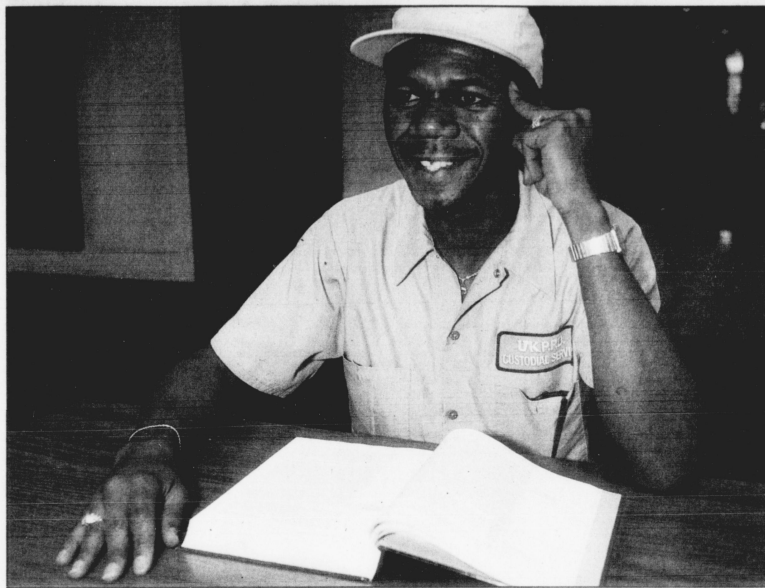
In addition to financial needs, Dahl said some students are enrolled in colleges that require more than four years. "There are a number of programs at the University that are realistically four and a half years."

UK requires 120 credit hours for graduation, which means most students would have to carry about 15 hours each semester in order to graduate in four years.

At that rate, however, a College of Architecture student's 176-hour

See **STUDENTS**, Back Page

MAKING THE GRADE



GREG EANS/Kernal Staff

UK employee Marcellus Graves, who dropped out of high school in 1971, earned his General Equivalency Diploma with the help of Operation Educate, a University program. Graves is currently taking classes at Lexington Community College.

Program offers University employees a second chance at high school degree

By **JOE BRAUN**
Contributing Writer

When Marcellus Graves dropped out of Lafayette High School after his junior year in 1971, he figured he'd never sit in a classroom again.

But Graves, 38, has proved

himself wrong.

A UK employee who earned his General equivalency Diploma in 1990, Graves is working toward an associate degree in one of the applied sciences at Lexington Community College as part of Operation Educate at UK.

This time, Graves said, he's

sticking with school for the long run because the University has stuck by him.

"I think that the program has helped to build up my self-esteem," Graves said. "I've also had three to four job offers since I started. I now have three college classes and I feel comfortable in

them because I know that I can do college work."

In the spring of 1989 Graves enrolled in Operation Educate, a program that offers literacy and adult basic education to full-time employees interested in finishing their education.

See **EDUCATE**, Back Page



LINDA GRAVER/Kernal Staff

CAMPUS GEAR: Jake Karraker takes a moment to chain his mountain bike to a rack outside the White Hall Classroom Building yesterday afternoon.

Plans for field house reach funding snag

By **TIM WIESENHAHN**
Sports Editor

UK's new indoor practice facility has hit a snag before the first spadeful of dirt has been turned.

Because a fund-raiser for the field house has not reached its goal, the UK Athletics Association Board voted yesterday to allow money from other department accounts to be used for construction of the building.

The motion passed by the athletics board must now be approved by the Board of Trustees, which next meets Sept. 17.

The field house will now be funded by \$1.9 million from the Blue-White restricted fund and by \$6.2 million from a Blue-White quasi-endowment.

The Blue-White Fund's main purpose is to provide financial assistance to the UK athletics program.

Former athletics director Cliff Hagan began the fund in 1973. It provides scholarships for UK student-athletes, money to upgrade the athletics facilities and planning for future projects.

The approximate cost of the field house is expected to be \$8.5 million.

It was to be funded with private gifts of \$3.5 million and available Blue-White funds.

UK athletics director C.M. Newton said the field house is "an absolute

necessity" if UK's athletics program is to realize its goal of excellence.

"This is a real key to our facilities puzzle — not the last, but possibly the most important," he said.

Fund raising for the field house began in April under the direction of UK's former head football coach Jerry Claiborne. Construction was scheduled to begin in the spring.

Newton said fund raising stopped because of site location problems as well as the Persian Gulf War.

The field house will be an indoor practice facility with a full-length football field and a track. The facility also will accommodate athletes in golf, gymnastics and baseball. It will be used by all student-athletes for conditioning, as well as provide office space for faculty and staff.

Plans call to build the field house on the southeast section of campus, next to Commonwealth Stadium.

The structure would be the latest in a number of facilities the athletics department has built since the early-1970s.

Among those are Commonwealth Stadium, Harry C. Lancaster Aquatics Center, E.J. Nutter Center, and the Hilary J. Boone Indoor Tennis Center.

The department also renovated Shively Field for the baseball team and was an impetus behind the building of Rupp Arena, where the men's basketball team plays.

SPORTS



Lady Kats golfer Tonya Gill driving for "All American." Story, page 3.

UK TODAY

The College of Architecture is holding a historic preservation colloquium tonight at 6 in 209 Pence Hall.

INDEX

"Dead Again" resurrects mystery genre. Review, page 4.
Sports.....2
Diversions.....4
Classifieds..... 5

SPORTS

Curry expects 'brawl' in UK opener

By AL HILL
Assistant Sports Editor

You'd have to take a "Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure" back in time to find the last time UK beat the Miami (Ohio) Redskins and the first game in which Cawood Ledford called play-by-play for the Cats.

Set the magical phone booth dial to 1911. Destination: Oxford, Ohio. It was there that the Cats were last able to slap high five in a 13-8 win over Miami.

Then it's off to 1953 when Ledford, a Harlan County native, began the first of 38 years as voice of the Cats.

Since Ledford has become Kentucky's Sportscenter of the Year 20 times. He also has been inducted into the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame.

The last time UK met Miami was in front of 57,849 fans at Commonwealth Stadium. In that game, Redskins quarterback Chuck Hauck converted a two-point conversion late in the game to win 15-14.

But now it's Sept. 7 at 8 p.m. and the phone booth has crashed into Commonwealth Stadium's parking lot for the start of the Cats '91 season and Ledford's 39th year behind the microphone at UK.

This is Ledford's last season broadcasting UK football games, and second-year coach Bill Curry has something special planned for the departing sportscenter.

At a press conference this week, Curry promised Ledford he would leave him with "something to remember."

To do this, the Cats must first get past the Miami Redskins — a team that held Ball State to minus-eight yards last week in a 15-7 victory.

Curry will start junior quarterback Brad Smith, who won the job last week over freshman Pookie Jones and junior Ryan Hockman.

"Brad showed up ready to go," Curry said. "They were dueling throw for throw, they couldn't of planned it any tougher for us. We have total confidence that we can put in Ryan or Pookie and still win the game."

Whoever is at quarterback will try and find a couple of small but speedy Wildcat receivers from Paducah, Ky.

Senior Neal Clark and junior Kurt Johnson will hope to get open against a Redskins defense that was ranked 9th in the country last year.

"With both of us being from Paducah, the city should get a real kick out of having two of their boys

UK - Miami (Ohio)
Records: UK 0-0-0
Miami 1-0-0
When: 8 p.m. Saturday
Where: Commonwealth Stadium
Radio: Live on WVLM-AM/FM with Cawood Ledford and Dave Baker
Television: Delayed on WKYT with Ralph Hacker and Sam Ball

starting for UK," Clark said. "And Kurt and I plan to be ready to perform."

The Cats will use a number of young tailbacks on Saturday, including freshman Damon Hood, Carlos Collins and Donnie Redd — along with sophomore fullback Terry Samuels.

On defense, the Cats will have to stop Redskin quarterback Jim Clement's favorite target, wide receiver Milt Stegal.

"Stegal is a game breaking type player," Curry said. "They will line up in many different positions in order to get him the ball."

The job of grounding the Redskins' air attack belongs to defensive backs: junior free safety Brad Armstead, junior cornerback Sterling Ward, senior hit Gary Willis and senior rover Larry Jackson.

Also starting will be junior defensive tackle Brad Shuford, senior nose guard Joey Couch and senior Derrick Thomas.

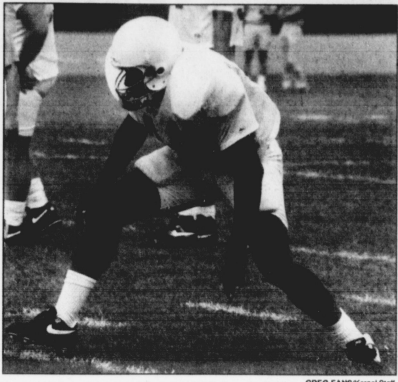
"We don't have to intimidate," Jackson said. "We just want to be aggressive and put a hit on whenever we can."

The Redskins, who play in the Mid-Atlantic Conference, are coached by Randy Walker. His Redskins will try and come away with what Miami fans call a "Tomahawk Win" — an away non-conference victory.

Curry said he would rather have an easier opponent for opening day.

He said he was looking for "the Tim Buk two lil' sisters of the poor."

"The MAC conference has had a history of beating Southeastern Conference schools," Curry said. "I expect this will be brawl for us. There are a lot of great players in Ohio. Ohio State can't sign all the best players in that state."



Sophomore fullback Terry Samuels will start tomorrow as UK plays the Miami (Ohio) Redskins in Commonwealth Stadium at 8 p.m.

Volleyball team visits Big Four in Louisville

By GRAHAM SHELBY
Senior Staff Writer

While the basketball version of the Big Four Classic is defunct, the volleyball version is alive and kicking.

The two-day volleyball tournament involving UK, Louisville, Indiana and Notre Dame starts today at Louisville's Commonwealth Convention Center.

The Cats, who went one up and two down in their own season-opening tournament, will battle Notre Dame in the first match tonight at 6 p.m.

Saturday at 4 p.m., win or lose, Kentucky battles traditional UK rival Indiana.

Twenty-second ranked Kentucky is the only top 25 team in the Classic.

Nevertheless, senior middle blocker Cathy DeBuono said that when the serve is up a player's concentration can't falter.

"You have to stick it a little bit more because you don't want to take them for granted," she said.

The senior outside hitter said that despite being slightly favored over their competition, the Cats bore the burden of victory.

"We have a lot to prove because (in last year's Classic) we didn't do so well," she said, adding that she was particularly looking forward to the match with the Hoosiers, who beat Kentucky last year.

UK coach Kathy DeBoer said she was initially concerned with Notre Dame.

"I think we're going to see a lot of good things from Notre Dame... (but) we have the players to beat them."

DeBoer said she needed her veterans to anchor the team, particularly at this point in the year.

"In the early part of the season you need to (lead) by your upper-class people... Cathy DeBuono, Yvette Moorhead, Ann Hall, we're going to look to them to carry the load."

Even with the focus on the squad elders, DeBoer said she was pleased with the play of freshmen Krista Robinson and Melody Sobczak in last weekend's tournament.

"They did fabulous for their first weekend in college volleyball," she said.

Although the Cats won an emotional 3-2 match against Texas Tech before falling to Wisconsin and Nebraska 3-0, 3-0, DeBoer said her played inconsistently in last weekend's tournament.

"What I'm looking for is for them to bring the level of intensity it takes to be a good college volleyball team two nights in a row," she said, her voice rising. "It's easy to come to the gym to play a top 20 team and be pumped up."

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| DOUBLE IMPACT (R) 2:30-10:15 | REGARDING HENRY (PG-13) 2:30-7:20 |
| PURE LUCK (PG) 4:57-7:42 | THELMA & LOUISE (R) (X) 2:00-4:30 7:30-10:00 |
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| CHILD'S PLAY 3 (R) (X) 4:30-9:00 10:00-11:00 | DOUBLE IMPACT (R) (X) 2:30-10:15 10:30-11:00 |
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Party will be held at ΑΤΑ house.

Evans' Lady Kats swinging beyond greens

By JOHN KELLY
Contributing Writer

Tonya Gill is tired of being a brain on the bubble. It's not enough that she's Academic All-American. It's not enough that she placed 16th at the NCAA Women's Golf Tournament last season and led the Lady Kats golf team to a 10th-place finish.



GILL, NCAA tournament last year. Gill said her goal at the start of every season is for the team to make the national tournament. Still, she's not afraid to admit she wants something for herself. "I want to be All-American," she said. "I want to be a 'playing' All-American. I've been an Academic

All-American the last few years, but I want it for playing. That's my goal for this season."

Focusing on individual achievement is not something her teammates frown upon because they've all been there, Gill said.

"There's not any animosity on the team about that," she said. "We all have this saying that if you're playing good, then you're playing for yourself and if you're playing bad, then you're playing for the team."

Head Coach Bettie Lou Evans said Gill is a big hitter and an excel-

lently do well so that I wouldn't get picked on. But I enjoyed it a lot."

Gill, juniors DeLores Nava and Lisa Weissmueller, senior Laurie Goodlet and freshman Tracey Holmes make-up UK's team in North Carolina.

"I learned a lot because we played farther back. I think that's where I got my distance. I think that's also where I get a lot of my aggressiveness. They were constantly giving me a hard time. They made me want to

constantly do well so that I wouldn't get picked on. But I enjoyed it a lot."

Gill, juniors DeLores Nava and Lisa Weissmueller, senior Laurie Goodlet and freshman Tracey Holmes make-up UK's team in North Carolina.

Evans said her squad's young

players will have to look to the veterans for leadership and experience.

"Our three returning starters will be our strength," she said. "We'll just have to wait and see if we can get production out of young girls."

Although this year's squads hit the ball well off the tee, it needs to improve its short game, Evans said.

Football tickets still available

Staff reports

A thousand tickets are still available for UK's season football opener with Miami (Ohio), but UK officials are confident that Commonwealth Stadium will be filled to capacity at 8 p.m. tomorrow.

Rodney Stiles, director of administrative services, said UK distributed about 2,000 tickets yesterday and expects an even greater rush today.

"Friday, in the past, has been a more active day," Stiles said.

Students still can pick up tickets from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. today at Memorial Coliseum by presenting a student ID card and a class schedule.

Students also may purchase end-zone guest tickets for \$12 and sideline guest tickets for \$16.

Soccer team to open season

The UK varsity soccer team will open its first season Saturday against Butler University.

UK Head Coach Sam Wooten said his team — though it has never played in the varsity arena — is ready to win.

"We've got some real competitors," Wooten said. "Regardless of the situation, they'll play hard and keep going at them. They're 'chompin' at the bit for this first game."

Butler, which lost its opener to Indiana 5-0, return all starters from a squad that finished 14-6 last season. The Bulldogs are currently ranked tenth in their region.

The Cats will need to keep their composure and stick to the game plan to beat tradition-rich Butler, Wooten said.

"They'll come out and work hard, but we need a couple games under our belt to get into the season," he said.

Wooten is expecting an even matchup, but says a good crowd could make the difference.

"Fan support will help dictate the progress of this game. The club was undefeated at home for two years and, like the basketball team, we expect to win every home game."

The game starts at 3:00 p.m. at Cage Field next to the Shively Sports Center.

Admission is free with a student ID, \$3 for adults and \$1 for children.

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Newman

Continued from page 1

be on display during the "Dedication Weekend." A reception will be

held today for donors to the "Newman Alive and Growing" campaign which financed the refurbishing. The "Newman Alive and Growing" campaign raised more than \$1 million in three months. The Newman Center received contributions

from about 500 people. "No special programs or events were held to raise money for the campaign," Boneau said. "It truly represents the gifts — both financial and otherwise — of our community," Noll said.

Student Group Health Insurance

INSURANCE PAYMENT DEADLINE

Students who wish to enroll in the Student Group Health Insurance Plan must enroll by September 9, 1991.

How to pay and where:

Students who wish to enroll must complete an enrollment card along with a check, money order or credit card authorization for the specified amount (made payable to Student Insurance Division) by September 9.

You may mail to:

STUDENT INSURANCE DIVISION
P.O. BOX 152152
IRVING, TEXAS 75015-9990

OR You may enroll at the Student Health Service, Room B-170, Medical Plaza, first floor (blue doors) by 4:30 p.m. on September 9.

QUESTIONS:

CALL 1-800-767-0700.....MEGA LIFE
233-8982.....INFO. LINK (New computerized line to answer questions)

OR

233-6356
257-5390.....Student Health Service

EFFECTIVE:

The effective date of your insurance will be the date the Company or designated Student Health Service representative receives your payment.

CONTINUE ENROLLMENT:

Students wishing to continue enrollment from 90 - 91 have 14 days from the day school starts in the Fall, (deadline September 9) and 14 days from the end of the 6 month period ending February 26, (deadline March 13) to make payment. If you are currently in the plan with Banker's United Life Assurance Co., your pre-existing condition time will not be affected; it carries over from that carrier to the new carrier, MEGA Life.

Students

Continued from page 1

curriculum would take between five and half and six years. The College of Pharmacy measures out 170 hours and most engineering students can expect to spend between 131 and 138 hours in class.

But even accounting for specialized programs, students seem to be taking longer to finish their degrees.

UK Student Government Association President Scott Crosbie, who will be a fifth-year political science senior next year, said the focus on graduation has changed.

"The standard four-year (graduation) is no longer the trend anymore," he said, adding that the initiation of the University Studies Program in the fall of 1988 might have delayed some students' matriculation.

The competitive post-graduate job market could be keeping some

young adults in school longer to hone their skills before seeking permanent employment, Crosbie said.

Students are "looking at internships, work studies to further their educational experience," he said.

That may not be the only reason students are working outside of the classroom. One other explanation offered by Judith Pittman, Assistant to the Dean of Undergraduate Studies, is that some students are "working more for the extras, the luxuries."

Educate

Continued from page 1

The Office of Human Resource Development has offered Operation Education since 1986.

"I went back to school to better myself and to help my job situation. I really wanted an associate degree and I knew I could do the work," said Graves, who has worked as a custodian in the Physical Plant Division for 14 years.

More than 120 employees have participated in the reading program and 110 people have worked in the GED training program, said Connie Johnson Bowles, program coordinator.

Many of the 26 people who have already received their GED's have enrolled in college classes at UK or LCC.

"I've been able to see people in the program learn to do many things," Bowles said. "Some have learned to read signs at their work, some have gotten their driver's li-

cense while others have learned to read story books to their children."

The UK program is designed to meet the many different needs of each participant in the program, Bowles said. Some students in the program are at a reading level as low as the third grade while others have high school diplomas or college credit.

Graves, who earned his GED last year, said many people he has met through the program have a high school degree and just need to sharpen their skills.

Although the program is offered to all full-time UK employees for free, Graves said many are apprehensive about getting involved.

"I know many people who need to be in the program, but won't because they are scared. I wish that the people who need to improve

their skills, and do feel uncomfortable about the program, would stop in one of the classrooms."

Students get plenty of help in attaining their educational goals, Bowles said. Operation Educate has more than 250 tutors, including UK employees, students, Donovan scholars and retired professors.

Many of the classes for the adult basic education program are offered by the Fayette County School System.

Bowles said Graves' involvement in Operation Education has helped him change for the better.

"I've been able to see Marcellus gain confidence in not only himself, but his abilities," Bowles said.

Anyone interested in Operation Educate can contact Connie Johnson Bowles at 257-6331.

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FOOTBALL '91

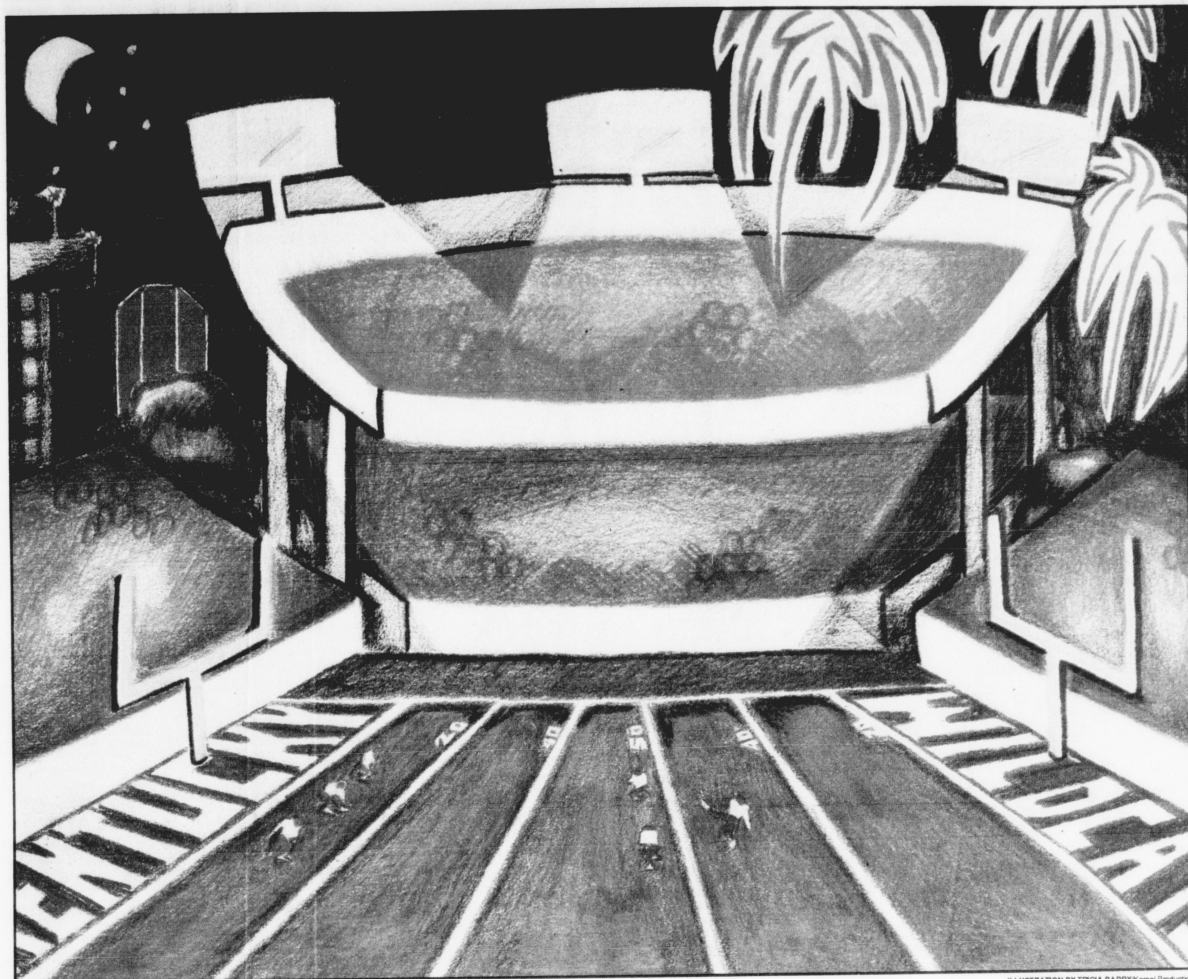


ILLUSTRATION BY TIRICIA BARRY/Karne! Production

SATURDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

When it came to winning at home, Cats were in the dark

By **TIM WIESENHAHN**
Sports Editor

Sweltering in the 90-degree afternoon heat of the UK football team's annual picture day last month, the Wildcats had a vision.

In their vision the air was cool, the sky clear and the night blanketed the surroundings.

In their vision, police cruisers huddled outside a shimmering twin-deck football stadium, halting the flow of automobile traffic. Throngs of pedestrians walked through the darkness toward the stadium.

In their vision the night was broken by hundreds of metal-halide lamps. Swarms of insects loitered among the strong beams of light. Pennants flying adjacent to the lamps fluttered in the night breeze.

In their vision fans cheered, the band played and UK football players excelled. And suddenly, the night was illuminated by a spidery explosion of color and fire.

In their vision, the Wildcats saw the events occur four times in the Fall of 1991. On Sept. 7, Sept. 28, Oct. 5 and Oct. 19, the fans cheered, the band played and the UK football players excelled.

Seemingly moved by the vision, senior nose guard Joey Couch raised his eyes and his right arm from the turf of Commonwealth Stadium. He cast his gaze and his aim toward the heavens, smiled and began to speak.

"We're down here on the field," Couch

said. "But when you look up at the dark, everything is lit up. We're down here on the field under the lights—in the spotlight."

The history

Tomorrow night, the Wildcats' vision becomes reality. Tomorrow night, the Wildcats play the first of four night home football games.

UK hasn't played four football games at night in Lexington in one season since 1966. But a quick scan through the record books suggests the increased number of night games is no accident. Statistics don't lie: UK wins night games in Lexington.

The first UK home night game was played Oct. 5, 1929 at Stoll Field. UK defeated Maryville 40-0. UK did not play more than one home night game per season until 1947.

The Wildcats began holding October home games at night in 1949 to accommodate Keeneland Race Course's traditional 1 p.m. post time.

In 1950, the Wildcats played their first five games at Stoll Field in Lexington at night. Under the lights and under the guidance of Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant, UK went undefeated at home, outscoring its first five opponents 147-7. The first four games were shutouts.

UK finished the 1950 season 11-1, including a 13-7 victory over the Oklahoma Sooners in the Sugar Bowl. The Wildcat victory ended the Sooners' 31-game win-

ning streak.

Since 1986, UK has not lost a football game at night in Lexington and the Cats are 11-2 in home night games since 1985. Last season, in their only two night games at Commonwealth, the Wildcats defeated Mississippi State 17-15 and Georgia 26-24. Coach Bill Curry didn't need to see another statistic. He was convinced.

"Last year, when we played in the daytime, we had a lot of letters from fans begging us to play at night," Curry said. "That was one factor in the situation. But also I think we play better at night. And we're interested in winning the game—all that figures."

Still, Curry, ever the motivator, did not rule out the power a star-filled Saturday night could hold over a group of young, male, college students.

"In just a year's time, I've learned there is simply not another place I'd rather be on a football Saturday than Commonwealth Stadium," he said. "The atmosphere, especially on a Saturday night, is magical and very conducive to winning. Our team just takes the field with a different kind of feeling."

Winning and fun, however, are not the only factors turning on the lights at Commonwealth this season. Night football, according to UK athletics director C.M. Newton, is an excellent recruiting tool.

"One of the ways this football program and basketball program years ago flourished, was because Coach Bryant and oth-

ers saw that by playing at night, you can get 50,000 watts (over radio) out there all over a big part of the country, which is a recruiting tool and a healer of alumni," he said.

Newton also said he was interested in continuing to provide fans with the opportunity to visit Keeneland in the afternoon and Commonwealth Stadium at night.

"It puts us where we can avoid one of the primary industries in our area—the thoroughbred industry," he said. "It gets us out of the heat, which we had in our early games."

"(The idea was) mostly mine," Newton said. "It suited Coach Curry. That's of major importance—what your football coach thinks about it. He and the team felt it was good."

The students

UK quarterback Brad Smith loves the idea of night football.

"From a player's standpoint, it gives us time to prepare ourselves more at our own pace," said Smith, a junior from Lakeland, Fla. "There's really no time to relax with a day game. And the crowd really gets into it. "When we go on the road, it's a little tougher to play at night because the fans seem to be a little bit more primed."

But research UK has done indicates that turning on the lights at Commonwealth may "prime" many UK fans. Officials had done a statewide poll of UK

fans and found there was a slight favorite for night games, Newton said.

"Our students enjoy night games. At least that is the response we've had when we've had night games," he said. "We've had a better student turnout."

Corey Allen, 20, a mechanical engineering sophomore from Mayfield, Ky., said night football games in Commonwealth are "more enticing" than day football games.

"The atmosphere is different, the sun is not out, it's cooler," Allen said. "The crowds are rowdier because they have more time to get, should I say, less sober."

But for Lexington resident Dan Dusch, who graduated from UK in 1974, time and place have little to do with his support of the Wildcats.

"I can't remember missing a game since (Commonwealth) Stadium was built," he said. "It's a part of me. The big blue is in my veins to stay."

Nevertheless, Dusch too, said night football at UK is something to behold.

"There's a bigger college atmosphere at night. It's louder, more exciting," he said. "Fans are more fired up, students get into it more."

It seems, then, that the fans, the students, the coaches and the administrators share the Wildcats' vision. Each spoke of a magical atmosphere that hovers over Commonwealth. Each believes that history will continue to repeat itself. Each hopes that the night—the four Saturday nights under the lights—belongs to the Wildcats.

Inside —
U.K. Football 91

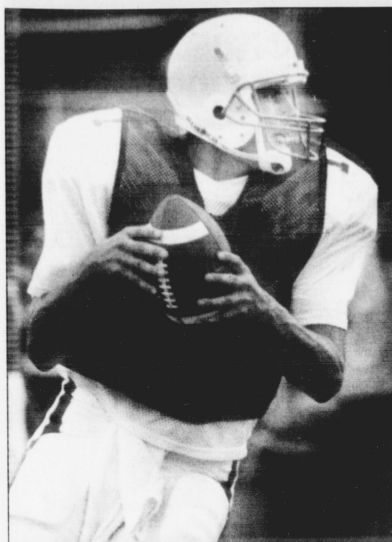


Junior Brad Smith will start at quarterback Saturday. Story page 3.



Sophomore fullback Terry Samuels runs with speed and power. Story page 4.

Smith at ease running offense



By **BARRY REEVES**
Senior Staff Writer

The jury deliberated and deliberated. It spent about five months trying to figure out who was guilty of being UK's starting quarterback.

The cast of suspects was Ryan Hockman, Pookie Jones, Freddie Maggard and Brad Smith.

It was only a couple of weeks ago that the verdict was handed down.

Smith was guilty. Where once there were four, sometimes five, names associated with the starting quarterback spot, now there is just the junior from Lakeland, Fla.

"Yeah, it's just my name and it's good to see," Smith said with a sheepish grin, almost as if he had just realized his accomplishment.

Smith does have some experience to fall back on as the starting quarterback: He started four games last season when Maggard was out with injuries.

"I was always just filling in for Freddie," said Smith, 2-2 as a UK starter. "The job was never mine. It was still Freddie's job when he got healthy."

Maggard, however, still has not

recovered from offseason shoulder surgery, which has kept him out of serious competition for the top spot. When Maggard returns to 100 percent, which is expected sometime during the season, the job will remain Smith's.

"Brad Smith is our starting quarterback," UK coach Bill Curry said this week. "Brad Smith has earned the chance to start. He's done everything we've asked, and done them well."

Smith expected to be named the starter coming out of the four-way battle in the spring, but was listed at No. 2 with Hockman and Jones, just behind the healing Maggard.

The long wait began. Four months before he could prove his worth, prove to the coaches he was deserving of their faith. But when the players reported in mid-August, Maggard's arm had not healed, leaving a void at the top spot.

Two weeks ago, after a 7-for-8 scrimmage, Smith was tabbed as starter.

"It was a relief just to get the decision over with," Smith said. "Having it hang over your head is trying.



"It was a relief just to get the decision over with. Having it hang over your head is trying. You just want to know what your role is on the team and get on with it."

Brad Smith,
UK quarterback

You just want to know what your role is on the team and get on with it."

Since the final decision was made, Smith has taken over the huddle now that he is the man.

"Now he's in that authoritative role," senior wide receiver Neal Clark said. "He walks in the huddle and demands our respect a little bit more now. The position, though, sort of demands that."

"A good quarterback has to be a leader and has to slap a few heads when those heads need to be slapped. You can't be quiet and be a good quarterback. You need that forceful nature."

Back in the spring, Smith completed 26 of 33 passes (79 percent) for 271 yards in major scrimmages, then was 14 of 15 for 160 yards and two touchdowns in the Blue-White Game.

But when the final spring depth chart came out, his name was listed below Maggard's. Curry publicly said it was because none of the active players were able to "step forward" and take the job.

"It left a sour taste in my mouth," Smith said of the decision. "It had no animosity or anything, but it was something that I couldn't change.

See QUARTERBACK, Page 4



PHOTOS BY GREG EANS/Kentucky State

Brad Smith (above) will be the Wildcats' starting quarterback tomorrow night. He beat out Ryan Hockman (bottom) for the top spot after about five months of competition.

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Samuels the Cats' big, mean, reliable running machine

By AL HILL
Assistant Sports Editor

In last season's hard-fought finale at Tennessee, the Wildcats found themselves behind 35-28 late in the third quarter.

With many of UK's offensive weapons either too exhausted or ineffective, UK coach Bill Curry went to his freshman fullback.

The Wildcats — worn out, bloody and bruised — had the ball and were faced with third-and-4 at the Tennessee 35-yard-line.

After the play was called in the huddle, senior tailback Al Baker, with sweat dripping down his weary face, looked to Terry Samuels and said, "You gotta do it."

Samuels then took the handoff and with both teams' monstrous lines engaged in battle and no hole to run through, Samuels decided to take the air.

With the ball held high and securely clutched under his arms, Samuels hurdled over the bodies of the trenches.

When he landed on the artificial turf at Neyland Stadium, he had both the first down and running daylight.

As he began to chew up yardage deep in Volunteer territory, the hard-hitting defensive backs of Tennessee closed in on Samuels.

With precision, they each converged on him at the same time. Samuels, though, wasn't about to go down easy. He lowered his head and took them head on.

After the collision, the stunned defensive backs were left with their arms holding on for dear life to a piece of Samuels.

The 6-foot-2, 240-pounder dragged the three Volunteer defensive backs to the 10-yard line.

"I want to go out and run tough and determined," Samuels said.

"I'm not a flashy back — I just want to reach pay dirt every time I touch the ball."

Perhaps it was his performance in the Tennessee game that prompted the Knoxville News-Sentinel to name him to their Freshman All-Southeastern Conference team.

Expectations for Samuels' 1991 season are high, so high that one national publication (NCAA Football Preview) rated Samuels the fourth-best fullback in the country.

Samuels finished the season averaging 4.5 yards per carry, rushing for a total of 325 yards.

He also caught 34 passes for 223 yards and two touchdowns.

Samuels' best performance of the season came under the lights of Commonwealth Stadium. He was instrumental in the Cats' 26-24 win over Georgia.

Samuels had seven receptions for 57 yards and UK's only two touchdowns.

He also rushed for 51 yards on 11 carries, which included key first down runs that enabled the Cats to run time off the clock.

Many pick him to be UK's next All-American, joining the likes of Babe Parilli, Rick Norton and Art Still.

Samuels isn't interested in personal recognition, though.

"This season, I hope to play consistent (and) help this team get to a bowl game," the Louisville native said.

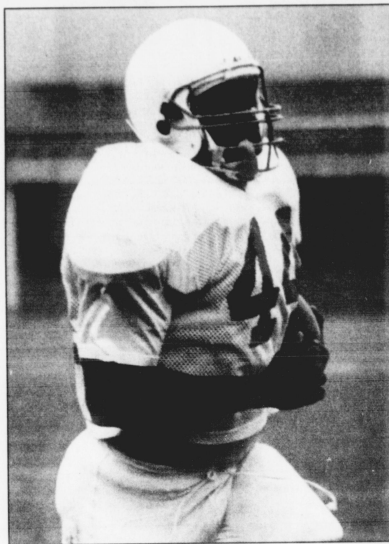
With Samuels' desire to play on New Year's Day, he worked hard over the summer to be in shape for Curry's demanding fall practice.

He reported for fall practice ready to go — both mentally and physically. With teammates cheering him on, he promptly passed his conditioning test, the final obstacle before practice officially began Aug. 16.

"Samuels is in great condition, he's down to 239 pounds without an ounce of fat," Curry said.

Samuels is on his way to becoming a big-time player like his idol — Philadelphia Eagles tight end Keith Jackson.

Samuels played tight end at Male



MIKE KLINE/Kernal Staff

Sophomore fullback Terry Samuels rushed for 325 yards last season as a freshman. He also caught two touchdown passes.

High School

"I was always a Keith Jackson fan, because he's a big guy that can both run and catch," Samuels said. "I remember when he ran reverses at Oklahoma."

Another hero of Samuels is former Bears running back Walter Payton, the NFL's All-time leading rusher.

However, if Samuels is to reach the plateau of players such as Jackson and Payton, he needs to improve in a few different areas.

Samuels' prime focus as the season opener approaches is to work on his blocking and to increase his speed. Speed is vital especially if he is thrown into a one-back formation.

Running backs coach Walter Lewis is impressed by Samuels' mental approach to the upcoming season.

"This year, he's a little more confident like he can conquer any-

thing," Lewis said.

Curry described last year's backfield of Samuels and Baker as his one-two punch.

That tandem gave the Cats what they needed to become competitive down the stretch.

Now that Baker has departed, Clyde Rudolph, Donnie Redd, Craig Walker, Damon Hood and Carlos Collins are competing for the vacant tailback spot.

It shouldn't take long for the Cats to find the right guy to line up next to Samuels in the backfield, and when they do the stakes will become very high.

If Samuels can live up to his potential, Curry will have more to show his 1991 opponents than an ace in the hole — he'll have a 6-2, 240-pound full house.

A year wiser, Lahr, Bradley anchor line

By AL HILL
Assistant Sports Editor



LAHR

A pair of 6-foot-5, 290-pound bookend tackles highlight a UK offensive line that returns all but one starter from last year's team.

"This is a continuation of last year's line," said offensive coordinator and line coach Rick Rhodes. "We are able to start off where we left off last year."

Both starting tackles senior Greg Lahr and junior Chuck Bradley who played in all 11 games last season have been named to preseason All-Southeastern Conference teams.

Both return one year older and 20 pounds heavier. They are big, bad and better. And unlike most people who have put on 20 pounds — they haven't lost a step.

At stake for Lahr this season is the chance to play in a bowl game.

"Since I've been here we haven't gone to a bowl game," Lahr said. "This year I don't just want to go to any bowl game — I want to go to the best one."

During the off season Rhodes moved Lahr to right tackle, to allow freshman right guard Mark Askin a chance to play.

"I think I have an advantage over the coaches at working with linemen — because I've been there, and I know what to expect in situations," Lahr said. "He's got to know what to do at certain times as well as what I'm doing."

Also back for another season in the trenches is junior center Matt Brannum. Brannum will be backed up by sophomore Chip Garner and junior Travis Hahn.

Anchoring the left side next to Bradley will be Elizabethton native Todd Perry who UK coach Bill Curry called "our most consistent offensive lineman," during spring drills.

A host of players will be continually fighting for backup positions, including the team's strongest player junior Jody Ma-

thews, junior tackle T.J. Maynard, tackle Shane King, sophomore guard Wesley Jackson and sophomore guard Jason Dombrski.

Rhodes refers to his plethora of backups as "a boat load of guys."

"Although we lost Mazzella (last year senior), we've had guys like Askin, Mathews and Jackson step up," Lahr said. "They have really grown with us."

Like last season, the Cats' offensive line will rely on conditioning to aid them late in the game. Bradley attributes the Cats' ability to wear down opponents as another perk of the Curry program.

"Last year, we took Coach Curry's advice, which was to bust our butts in practice and it will make us champions," Bradley said. "The problem was once the season started, we didn't work as hard."

Although the offensive line didn't work during the season, the hard work they did beforehand, made them stronger when it counted.

"Last year, we played stronger in the fourth quarter," Bradley said. "We came off the ball harder in the fourth — we were really able to pour it on late in the games."

The Cats are taking the same road this year.

"This year we had more people make their conditioning test than last year," Bradley said.

The difference between a 4-7 season and 7-4, will be determined at the line of scrimmage.

"We're 100 percent confident that we'll all be ready by the first game," Bradley said.

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Quarterback

Continued from page 3

Coach Curry made me understand it, though.

"Now, I think it made me work a little harder over the summer."

The beginning

Brad Smith wasn't always the poster-boy quarterback.

In fact, as hard as it may be to believe, he used to be an offensive guard.

That's where he got his start in football — down in the pits, fighting, clawing, protecting his quarterback for the first three years.

Then in seventh grade, when the team needed, as Smith says, "somebody that could hand the ball off to this great runner we had, I moved to quarterback."

From that point, Smith has never been out from behind center.

This entire quarterback battle is nothing new to Smith, either.

He had some experience on which to draw.

He was the starting quarterback all the way through junior high, then when he got to high school (10th grade), he was still the starter, but on the junior varsity team.

There were two 10th-grade quarterbacks on the varsity team at Lakeland High School.

"I was a little clumsy and there were two other guys ahead of me in the same grade, so I figured that it (the starting quarterback spot) would be between them in the future. I wasn't real concerned about football."

"I stuck with it, grew into my body a lot more since then and gave them a run."

And run he did. He was named the starter a week before the season opener his senior year and led the team to the Class 5A district championship and earned a college scholarship.

Four years later, he's worked his way again to the starting quarterback spot, this time up North, at UK.

The time is now

Smith has certainly "grown into" his 6-foot-3 frame. Thanks to the conditioning program at UK, he's bulked up to 202 pounds. Along with that, of course, was the added arm strength.

He's no longer a scrawny, little kid with the potential to be a good Division I quarterback.

"Potential means that you haven't done it yet," Curry said. "Brad Smith has proved himself to us last season and then in the spring and fall."

"He has realized his potential. Now, he has to focus on realizing the team's potential. The job is his, so his personal goals are out the window or, at least, put aside. He needs to make his offense because he's the boss in the huddle."

Should Smith lose control, his backups are more than capable. First, there's Ryan Hockman, a junior who was a close second in the race. Next, there's Poogie Jones, the redshirt freshman with a world of unrealized potential.

Oh yeah, Freddie Maggard, the battle-tested and scarred senior, could regain his 100 percent health status.

"You've got to perform to stay on the field" quarterbacks coach Daryl Dickey said. "If you don't perform, then you'll be holding a clipboard come Saturday. It's not very complicated."

All of this — the preseason hype and practices — has been a mock trial. The first court date is tomorrow, 8 p.m., Commonwealth Stadium with some 58,000 people in the courtroom.

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Armed with 'P' power, linemen attacking offenses

By **TIM WIESENHAHN**
Sports Editor

UK's four defensive linemen are minding their three Ps this season. But never mind their Qs. The Power of Positive Pressure is enough.

"You want your football team to be subconscious — reactors or initiators," said assistant head coach John Guy. "You don't want them to become thinkers. That's one thing that will make us a better unit — make us get that loose ball, make us knock it loose, make us run over a tackler, make us aggressive."

That's the three Ps.
The power of positive pressure is

the catch phrase among UK defenders this season. But the Wildcat linemen must do more than pay opposing quarterbacks lip service if they hope to silence the critics.

"To be successful, we have to destroy blockers and then get off them," Guy said. "If we can do that then we can force teams to pass the ball. We have to be able to stop the run to be successful. In this conference, if you can stop the



THOMAS



WELLS

run, you have a chance."

So who are these men who will subconsciously destroy blockers?

The starting defensive line this season is a trio of seniors

nose guard Joey Couch, end Derrick Thomas and tackle Jerry Bell.

Bell, however, underwent arthroscopic knee surgery before fall practice. He has not practiced since and will not play in tomorrow's game. Outside linebacker Dean Wells will move to Bell at the vacated outside linebacker spot.

Although Bell has been plagued by injuries his entire UK career, he possesses tremendous potential. In 1989, Bell, who is 6-foot-3, 275 pounds, stayed healthy and made 88 tackles.

Regardless of who occupies the three starting positions, each lineman must improve on their 1990 performance. Last season's defensive line made only 20 sacks, the seventh lowest in the Southeastern Conference. Guy said UK's defensive scheme in '91 will be to confuse the opposing offenses.

"For every move you give a guy you can have a counter move," he said. "You try to keep the offense off balance. Any more in football it is a war of wills, who is going to set the pace."

"We try to set the tempo on defense. We are a threat to blitz at anytime from any angle with any number of people. We try to make (opposing offenses) be sound against everything, you are sound against nothing."

The Wildcats, defensively, could neither sustain tempo nor soundness last season. UK was seventh in the SEC in total defense, allowing 378.3 yards per game. They were ninth in SEC scoring defense, giving up an average of 28.25 points a game.

So what will be different this year? Who will play with the power of the three Ps?
Guy and line coach Bill Glaser



MICHAEL CLEVELER/Kentucky Star

Senior nose guard Joey Couch leads UK's defensive line this season. UK's defense has been working to improve its ability to pressure opposing quarterbacks.

Couch: a slithering, darting, dodging, All-SEC defender

By **TIM WIESENHAHN**
Sports Editor

ESPN's Chris Berman could have said it like this:

"Kentucky's senior nose guard, Joey 'I ain't no' Couch 'potato,' racked-up 10 tackles, three sacks and two hurries, as Bill Curry's Cats shut out the Miami of Ohio Redskins Saturday night in Lexington."

But Berman will never be able to bestow that nickname on Couch. UK defensive line coach Bill Glaser beat him to the microphone.

"It's like trying to block a mongoose," Glaser said of Couch. "Slithering and redirecting and running and darting and dodging — working his way to the cobra's neck."

Sorry Chris. Sorry Joey "the mongoose loose in the" Couch. But Glaser is right. Let me explain.

A mongoose's life is to fight and

eat snakes. It is the hardest thing in the world to frighten a mongoose because he is consumed with curiosity. The motto of the mongoose is: "Run and find out."

A nose guard's life is to fight and tackle tailbacks. It is the hardest thing in the world to frighten a nose guard because he's consumed with punishment. The motto of UK's nose guard is: "The power of positive pressure."

A mongoose is an agile, grizzled mammal, noted for its ability to kill venomous snakes.

Couch is an agile, grizzled mammal, noted for his ability to tackle tailbacks.

He can move like a mongoose. "His biggest strength is his quickness," Glaser said. "Very quick. Mobile. Terrific balance."

A mongoose is like a cat in his fur and his tail but like a weasel in his head and his habits. He can scratch himself any where he pleases, front

or back, with any leg he chooses to use. He is about the size of a ferret.

Couch is like a warrior in his pads and helmet but like a scholar in his head and habits. He can bench press 355 pounds and has vertical leap of 31.5 feet. He is a 6-foot-1, 250-pound allied health major from Paintsville, Ky.

"He's a good athlete, got heart, tries hard," assistant coach John Guy said. "He has will. He hits. He plays full-speed. He makes plays. He does what he is supposed to do."

"He leads by example, by doing more than anything else," Glaser said. "Joey's not really a 'rah-rah' leader. But watching him play, play hard, making the tackles, they (his teammates) try to play with the same kind of production."

Few do.

A cobra knows that a mongoose in the garden means death sooner or later for him and his family.

A tailback knows that a nose tackle in the backfield means a tackle sooner or later for him and his teammates.

A mongoose has a sharp snout and a long, heavy tail. He is a member of the genus, *Herpestes*.

Couch has sharp eyes and a long heavy brow. He is a member of the elite defensive unit, Black Watch.

A mongoose has a right to be proud of himself. But he does not grow too proud. He keeps his garden as a mongoose should keep it, with tooth and jump and spring and bite, 'til never a cobra dare show his head inside the walls.

Couch has a right to be proud of himself. But he does not grow too proud. He keeps his defense as a nose guard should keep it, with hard work and a big heart and quick feet and hits, 'til never a tailback dare show his head near the line of scrimmage.

Legend has it that when a mongoose is bitten by a snake, he runs off and eats some herb that cures him. That is not true.

Legend has it that when a nose guard is beaten by a tailback, he runs off the field and listens to the wise coaches that forgive him. That too, is false.

The victory is a matter of quickness of eye and quickness of foot — snake's blow against mongoose's jump, tailback's blow against nose guard's jump. No magic herb or wise coach can change the outcome.

Last season, Couch made 84 tackles, sacked six quarterbacks and blocked two kicks. He has started 22 consecutive games at nose guard, received the Wildcat Pride Award and was named UK's Out-

See **COUCH**, Page 7



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See **DEFENSE**, Page 7

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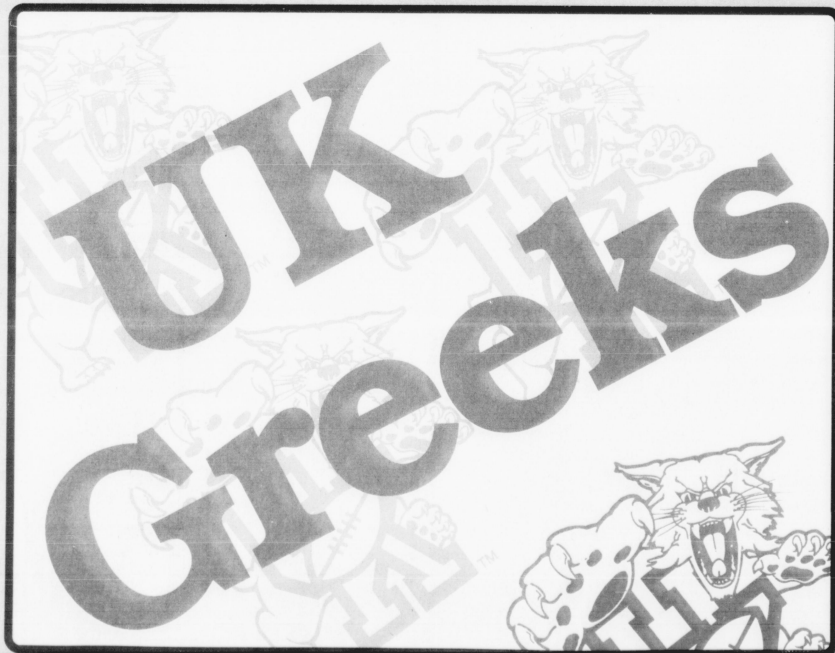


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PHI KAPPA PSI

Moore, Smith fill big holes in middle

By DAVID KAPLAN
Staff Writer

No doubt, last season was a transition. On all fronts.

The linebackers, as a whole, had a lot of experience returning, which made their transition easier.

The problem this season is that All-Southeastern Conference selection Randy Holleran and his sidekick Billy Swanson are gone, leaving a couple of potholes in the middle of the defense.

Sophomore Marty Moore and junior Reggie Smith will be trying to fill those holes.

"Randy and Billy were great players," outside linebacker Duce Williams said. "But so are Marty and Reggie, so it doesn't make a difference to us."

Marty and Reggie are just as good as Randy and Billy."

Last season, Moore, 6-foot-1, 234 pounds, played in nine games as Holleran's backup and on the special teams.

Smith, 6-3, 223 pounds, played in all 11 games as Swanson's backup last season and on the special teams.

"Reggie Smith is a good, quick, agile athlete who is bright," Guy said. "He is a tough player and has really worked hard in the off-season."

Their transition will be made easier by the return of outside linebacker Dean Wells, who will actually start tomorrow night at tackle in the absence of injured senior Jerry Bell.

Wells, a 6-3, 234-pounder from Louisville, is one of three "Black Watch" defenders, along with nose guard Jerry Bell and safety Brad Armstrong. Wells has been mentioned in several preseason All-SEC lists.

When Wells is at tackle, sopho-



KERNEL FILE PHOTO

Junior linebacker Reggie Smith dives for a fumble during a scrimmage at Commonwealth Stadium.

more Zane Beehn will take over at strike.

"We had to do something to get our best 11 men on the football field," UK coach Bill Curry said.

"When you're not very deep, you sometimes have to make that kind of shift."

"But we're hoping that Jerry will be back quickly and we can put Dean back at strike. It doesn't matter where you put Dean Wells on the football field, he'll make the big plays. He's proven that."

Last season, the Wildcats sacked the quarterback only 20 times, forced four fumbles and made four interceptions, which could have been attributed to the complexity of the new defense.

"It's hard to play the game of football when you're trying to learn



MOORE



SMITH

vers. The more we play and the more we practice, the more we believe. You have to believe in your techniques, your coach, and in each other. I think we'll put it all together this year and you'll see some real good things."

The linebacking corps, just in time for tomorrow night's season opener against Miami (Ohio), seems to share his optimism.

"I feel confident," said Moore, a native of Fort Thomas, Ky. "The coaching staff has helped a lot. All their new coaching techniques have

enabled everybody to play better and become better players."

Williams, 6-0, 200-pound sophomore from Bethel Park, Pa., is projected as the start opposite the Wells/Beehn combination.

"I think we have something to prove this year," said Williams, who was named the Most Improved Linebacker in spring drills. "You're going to see a big difference in the aggressiveness of our defense."

Backing up Williams is Darryl Conn, a 5-11, 200-pound sophomore. Running second team at the inside linebacker spots are James "Stunk-Rat" Simpson (6-1, 24, Fr.) and Ken Johnson (5-11, 205, So.).

"Last year we didn't use our lack of game experience as an excuse," Wells said. "But I think this year we will be able to use it to our advantage. When you've been in several games it's unbelievable how much your confidence rises just from the game experience."

1991 UK FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

| Date | Opponent | Time |
|----------|-----------------|-----------|
| Sept. 7 | MIAMI (OHIO) | 8 p.m. |
| Sept. 21 | at Indiana | 2 p.m. |
| Sept. 28 | KENT STATE | 8 p.m. |
| Oct. 5 | OLE MISS | 8 p.m. |
| Oct. 12 | at Miss. State | 2:30 p.m. |
| Oct. 19 | LSU | 8 p.m. |
| Oct. 26 | at Georgia | 1 p.m. |
| Nov. 2 | CINCINNATI (HC) | 1 p.m. |
| Nov. 9 | at Vanderbilt | 2 p.m. |
| Nov. 16 | at Florida | 1:30 p.m. |
| Nov. 23 | TENNESSEE | 1 p.m. |

Home games in bold

All times Eastern and subject to change.
TYRONE JOHNSTON/Kernel Graphics

PHI BETA KAPPA

The Membership Committee of Phi Beta Kappa is now receiving nominations for membership. The preliminary requirements which must be met in order for a student to be eligible for consideration for election are:

- (1) GPA of 3.5 for students who graduated in May 1991, for students in their final semester, a 3.52 is necessary; for first semester seniors, a 3.60; and for election at the end of the junior year, a 3.70 is required;
- (2) At least two 300 (or higher) level courses outside the major of principal area of concentration;
- (3) At least 90 hours of courses classified as "liberal";
- (4) At least 45 hours of coursework completed on the Lexington campus;
- (5) Satisfactory completion of the lower division ("non-major") requirements for either the BA or BS degree in the College of Arts and Sciences (Dec. graduates may be currently enrolled in one required course.)

Should you know of an individual who may meet these requirements, we would appreciate your urging that person to come to Room 271 Patterson Office Tower in the College of Arts and Sciences to pick up and application.

In order to be considered, nominations (for an application to be mailed) must be received no later than FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1991, with the application due back to the above named office by SEPTEMBER 30TH.

PLEASE NOTE: It is entirely appropriate to nominate yourself and, in fact, if you believe that you meet the criteria necessary for election, it is expected that you will come to the above office for an application.

Defense

Continued from page 5

pointed to the Black Watch: Couch and Wells.

"They have good leadership, their energy is directed right now," Guy said. "They came in great shape."

Singling out Couch, Glaser said: "First thing that comes to mind is dependable. Athletic. He's a football player. By that I mean, he loves the game of football, he doesn't mind working at it at all."

"He has the explosion in his hips and in his legs which helps a guy to deliver a blow. He will do anything you ask of him. He sets the standard for work."

Couch, 6-foot-1, 250-pound native of Paintsville, Ky., was elected defensive team captain and is a pre-

Couch

Continued from page 5

standing Defensive Lineman. He was one of the few named preseason All-Southeastern Conference.

But few play nose guard like Couch. Few play with the uncanny natural ability and bravery. Few display the of the conspicuous gallantry of the Black Watch. Few slither and redirect and run and dart and dodge — and work their way to the cobra's neck or the tailback's jersey.

Even fewer might be called Joey "the mongoose loose in the" Couch. Sorry Joey.

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Simpson slims down to beef-up Wildcats

By CHRIS HARVEY
Senior Staff Writer

As nicknames go, it's not catchy. And it's certainly not flashy.

But if you pinned anything other than "Stink-Rat" to Wildcat linebacker James Simpson, it just wouldn't seem to fit.

"My aunt stuck that on me when I was in the fifth or sixth grade," said Simpson, a redshirt freshman who knows how, but not why, he was given the nickname. "All the coaches and my teammates ask me all the time if that's what I really want to be called."

The answer, of course, is yes. But defensive coordinator Larry New and everyone else hopes before Simpson's college career has come to and end they'll be calling him "all-conference."

Because there's loads of potential for this 6-foot-1, 240-pound linebacker who had to shed some loads of his own to earn some playing time this season.

Since he came to UK from Pleasure Ridge Park High School in 1990, Simpson has been weighed more times than a semi traveling from coast-to-coast.

He weighed 270 pounds when he

"Getting the weight down has been real tough, but I did it by myself. Losing weight meant missing a lot of meals."

James Simpson, UK linebacker

arrived at UK but has dropped 30 pounds due to hard work and improved eating habits.

"Getting the weight down has been real tough, but I did it by myself," Simpson said. "Losing weight meant missing a lot of meals."

"We tried to get him to eat fruit and vegetables and he did that," New said. "He lost the weight over a four-month period, so it didn't happen overnight. He still needs to lose about five more pounds."

Now that Simpson has about put his weight problems to rest, he is focusing his sights on tomorrow night's opener.

"I'll be real high and ready to play since this is my chance to prove myself to the people back home," Simpson said. "Last year, there was a couple of games where I hated to play the game and I like that in him."

At one point during his recruitment, though, playing at Commonwealth Stadium was the last thing on Simpson's mind.

"Until they changed coaches, I really wasn't considering UK because I had already committed to Michigan State," said Simpson, who bench presses 355 pounds.

"Coach Curry was straight-forward and didn't beat around the bushes with me."

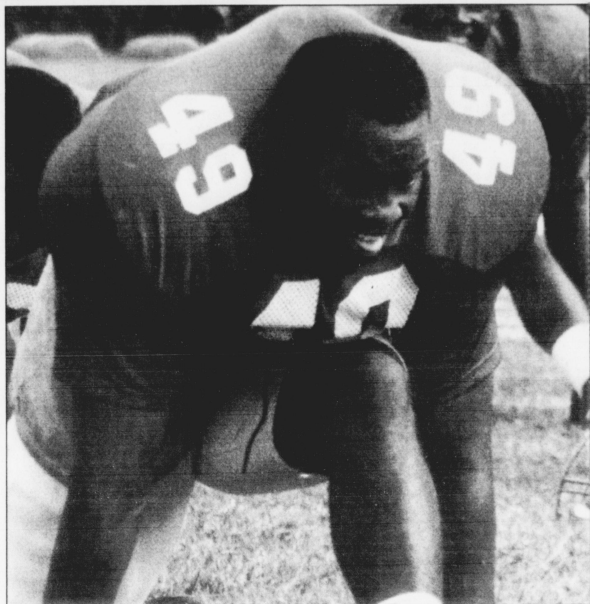
This year, "Stink-Rat" will get his chance to shine as the UK coaching staff has watched Simpson become a more polished and mature player.

"James has come light years from where he was as a player last season," New said. "Last year, at about 280 pounds, he couldn't bend his knees or get his pads lower. But he loves to play the game and I like that in him."

"He's got that tremendous natural body strength you just can't teach."

New said Simpson had an "excellent spring" but has started a bit slow in fall workouts. But he added that Simpson's mistakes are normal for a freshman.

"James is still trying to learn how to totally play the game," New said. "In high school, he could just throw people off of him if he made a mis-



MIKE KLINE/Kerrel Staff

Redshirt freshman James "Stink-Rat" Simpson warmed-up before practice. Simpson, a back-up inside linebacker from Louisville Pleasure Ridge Park, has lost 30 pounds since signing with UK in 1990.

take on the field, but in college he's gotten his head snapped back a few times. I really expect him to play winning football that's of championship caliber."

As Simpson prepares for tomorrow's UK debut, he has uncharacteristically set a few goals.

"First, you always want to start and if I work hard I'll have a fair chance to make that happen," said Simpson, who was a first team All-State selection his senior year. "I really want to improve my technique and get better on my pass coverage assignments."

Before the season starts Simpson will make one very important contribution to his fellow linebackers.

"He gives us added depth as well as quality," New said. "With the way he learns and picks up things, he'll make a good impact for us this season."

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Secondary's 1st priority: stop deep ball

By GRAHAM SHELBY
Senior Staff Writer

If UK wants to improve on last season's finish, the defensive secondary has to be one of Bill Curry's primary concerns.

"We have to prevent the deep ball, which we did not do a year ago," UK's second-year coach said. "That's the first priority."

In 1990, UK opponents found the skies excessively friendly. Of the 40 touchdowns the Cats yielded, 18 were via the pass. The Wildcats also spotted opposing receivers an average of 16 yards every time they caught the ball and were able to hijack only four passes during the entire season.

Curry attributes those numbers chiefly to the players' youth and inexperience with the new system that he and secondary coach Rick Smith implemented.

The return of all four starters should cut down on those touchdowns and improve that glaring interception statistic.

"This year, they're all experienced and they're backed up by a very strong and very fast freshman class, so we'll definitely be improved," Curry said.

Senior Willis and junior Sterling Ward man the cornerback spots, with junior Brad Armistead at free safety and senior Larry Jackson



GREG EANS/Kerrel Staff

Junior cornerback Sterling Ward (4) chases wide receiver Neal Clark during practice last week. Ward, a graduate of Lexington Bryan Station, had a career-high nine tackles against Indiana last season.

at strong safety. "We're all clicking together really well since we have worked together for a full year," Willis said.

Last season's abysmal 9th-place conference finish in pass defense (only Vanderbilt's secondary was

ranked lower) is not surprising since they "had only played this coverage a month or two" before the season opened, Willis said.

"We've got some heavy hitters on this team," Smith said. "Two or three of those guys can deliver a

blow, and the ones that aren't already are working toward it."

Being a great hitter is part of Willis' game-by-game goal of humiliation.

See SECONDARY, Page 9

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ROOKIE POWER



GREG EANS/Kentucky State

True freshman Damon Hood earned a starting job at tailback this week when redshirt freshman Clyde Rudolph injured an ankle. Hood rushed for 2,515 yards as senior at Warren Central High.

Good times, bad times: The progression of Hood

By BOB NORMAN
Senior Staff Writer

UK super-recruit Damon Hood sat on the blue bench outside of the E.J. Nutter Training Facility, his shoulder pads sitting upright on the concrete in front of him, his legs still clad in dirt-stained football pants.

Sweat trickled off his gritty forehead down onto the gray T-shirt that stuck, like gauze on his, to his massive chest.

"I'm sore and tired," Hood said shaking his head. "I had kind of a bad day, but I'll bounce back. That's what it's all about."

Coming out of high school, Hood may not have expected there would ever be days like this. He received the state's highest honor — Mr. Kentucky — when he gained 2,515 yards on the ground and scored 43 touchdowns (not a misprint) his senior season.

He is easily the most heralded recruit of UK's heralded 1991 recruiting class. Hood came to UK after turning down runner-up Penn State. The reason: The Nittany Lions were too good at the tailback position.

Hood decided that he would have a better chance to see immediate playing time — and immediate exposure — at UK.

"I want to come in and play as soon as possible, everyone wants to play as early as possible," Hood said. "Penn State had eight

tailbacks." Such remarks had the UK defense a bit peeved. Said one UK defensive starter when he heard Hood's reasoning: "We'll be going after him. He's going to have to prove that he can play with us before he goes saying too much."

"If he makes it through practice, he'll have the respect he wants."

And, thus, Hood has had some tough days adjusting to the college game.

"The game is faster and picking up the cuts is difficult," Hood said, still sitting on that blue bench. "I haven't adjusted to the speed at all."

But Hood is progressing. He has — during the short preseason — gained the team's and the coaches' respect in gaining a starting position in tomorrow night's opener against Miami (Ohio). Hood was given the job when redshirt freshman Clyde Rudolph turned an ankle in the middle of the preseason.

Nowadays, Hood is a far cry from that struggling newcomer sitting on that bench. In two weeks, Hood is a new runner with a new, confident attitude.

"It's been great," Hood said of his resurgence. "When I first got here, it was so mechanical that I felt like a robot. But now that the system is in me, I can let my abilities show."

And with the kind of tools Hood possesses, those abilities have been breathtaking at times.

At 6-foot-2, and 205 pounds, Hood runs the 40-yard dash in a 4.4 seconds.

Thus, Hood has, as he said he would, bounced back from those days when he felt like an automaton, learning the intricacies of college football.

But when you watch Hood run with the football from the backfield into the mass of pushing, growling, grabbing men at the line, you see very little bouncing. You do see smashing, and an occasional trampling, and a good deal of thumping. And you hear the crack of pads crashing into pads.

No, Hood doesn't bounce — he bangs. As far as banging goes, though, he does it with a rare artistic touch: a lot of hesitation and smooth maneuvering until the inevitable moment when he must stick a defender like an Angus bull sticks an unskilled bullfighter.

"I'm a power runner," Hood said. "I can run over you and I can run around you."

What will Hood do tomorrow night?

"I play in the game like I practice and I practice like I play," Hood said. "The only difference is the intensity goes up. I'm not intimidated at all. I'm ready for the challenge."

"Carl Pickens is so cocky it's ridiculous," said Ward. "Don't get me wrong — he's good and everything, but he's too cocky."

The Lexington Bryan Station graduate said that no matter who he lines up against, "I always say 'Come on — you're better than this guy, you're tougher than this guy.'"

"Some receivers say 'I'm gonna get you.' I say OK, bring it on."

Dance of the tailbacks

Runners through with rehearsal, ready for show

By BOB NORMAN
Senior Staff Writer

Lil' Clyde Rudolph danced out of the backfield, dancing as he always seems to dance, short steps up and quick shuffles across. A dance as elusive as it is illusive, as light as it is explosive.

It somehow always moves forward. Slow and fast, nudge and bang. Always forward until the chaotic skirmish. The end finds the elf-like Rudolph twisted in a clamp under a few 240-pound linebackers.

This particular rendition, though, was cut short by a turned ankle. An ankle turned in a scrimmage while he was still running first-team.

Damon Hood was subsequently named starting tailback for tomorrow night's opener against Miami of Ohio.

The anxiety of these young tailbacks has been high prior to kickoff. These tailbacks, the big ones and small ones, the rocks and the vets, have all been engaged in a mad dance of this football preseason.

Where is Al Baker when you need him? He never danced, he steamrolled.

But the tailbacks, in comparison, have it easy. Ask UK nose guard Joey Couch, a man whose job it has been to chase and grab, tackle and stop these diverse dynamos.

Couch is the one with the fat lip. Made fat by the kicking heel of Matt Riazzi when Couch made a lunging, back-of-the-cleats tackle on the 5-7, 175-pound tailback.

Couch just laid there face down on the grass after the play while Riazzi kicked himself for not breaking loose for the touchdown.

"Get me another tailback. You can't drop those, Clyde, Ever." And so the 5-foot-7, 166-pound Rudolph scampered off the field as

Damon Hood, a true freshman, barreled out to get his turn at tailback.

Maybe Rudolph's days as first-team tailback would be cut short with that one dropped ball. Maybe Curry will decide redshirt freshman Donnie Redd — another elf fighting for the tailback spot — could catch all the passes.

Maybe Curry will go with power. Hood, with his 6-2 frame and 205 pounds of muscle, has a lot of it. So does Carlos Collins, another true freshman of nearly 200 pounds.

And there is still a good chance *He With Bullhorn* will go with the senior, Craig Walker, a player who has experience and knows the system. Walker can play tailback and fullback, for God's sake, and with expertise.

As it turned out, Rudolph's dance was cut short by a turned ankle. An ankle turned in a scrimmage while he was still running first-team.

Damon Hood was subsequently named starting tailback for tomorrow night's opener against Miami of Ohio.

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"Get me a new nose guard."

Couch, get to the sidelines."

It was the voice from above.

Couch especially dislikes the little ones.

"These guys are tough, they cause a lot of problems," Couch said. "They are hard to get a hold of. They're built low to the ground. They bounce around."

"Big guys, they absorb blows. You can handle them. But unless you can hit the little ones square, you can't get them."

"Rudolph is real elusive, a very elusive runner. He's got very deceptive speed. You'll be closing in on him and then he'll turn the corner — he'll turn it on. He's a very explosive runner," Couch added.

But Rudolph, in his deceptive dance, can't forget his partner, the football. And when his partner is thrown, he — as will the other tailbacks — will be counted on to catch it.

"Tailbacks will be instrumental in our passing attack," running backs coach Walter Lewis said. "We've got the personnel this year to do it. The speed and the design work together for it."

"The tailback this year will have to be elusive enough to get through the line and the secondary. They can be a deep threat."

Problem is: all the tailbacks, besides Walker, are unproven at all facets of the college game. The top young tailbacks — Rudolph, Redd, Hood and Collins — haven't yet hit the big stage. Rehearsal is all they have known.

Couch says he will be sure of any one of these young tailbacks when the show begins tomorrow night.

"I would be confident with any of those guys in the game," he said. "I've worked with them. I know them. They'll get it done."

At that point, Couch can smile, fat lip and all. He'll be done chasing them for a while.

Receiving corps no tall order

By BRIAN JENT
Design Editor

The Washington Redskins had the "Smurfs." The Denver Broncos had the "Three Amigos."

Those were nicknames for a group of wide receivers lacking in height. The 1991 UK Wildcats may have them all beat.

With only two returning players with any playing time, this group of receivers might have an identity problem.

Nobody know quite what to call them.

"We've thought a little bit about it," Neal Clark said this week, "but we haven't come up anything. I guess we're going to go out and perform and let someone else name us."

Clark is the physical and mental leader of the group. Mental because he's the only senior, physical because he's a monstrous 5-foot-9, 170 pounds. That gives you some idea of the size athletes we're talking about.

The rest of the group includes junior Kurt Johnson (5-7, 145 pounds) and backup sophomores Mark Chatman (5-8, 160) and Tim Calvert (5-9, 163).

With that kind of size, these guys will have to rely on quickness and speed.

"None of them are big guys where they'll catch the ball and run

over the safety," quarterback Brad Smith said. "They'll catch it and make the safety miss."

All the height in the program graduated after last year. Gone are Phil Logan (6-2, 190), Steve Phillips (6-2, 209) and John Bolden (6-0, 175). They lost more height when sophomore Brian Evans (6-0, 175) tore ligaments in his knee.

UK coach Bill Curry said this week that Evans is "way ahead of

schedule") and could be back sometime midway through the season. His return, along with a couple of speedy true freshmen — Leon Smith (5-10, 180) and James Tucker (6-2, 195) — could provide solid depth.

Tight ends: This is another area of grave concern for the Cats. Junior Neil Page is the only returner to ever play a down of collegiate football at this position.

Secondary

Continued from page 8

ing the receivers he lines up against. "I want to embarrass them," said Willis, a native of Gainesville, Fla. "Cover them like glue, anything to make them look bad."

Last season, it was the Cats often trying to paw the egg from their whiskers, but UK's coaching staff has been pushing the players harder in this year's preseason.

"Practice is physically demanding — a lot more than ever," Willis said.

"I can never remember being this tired."

Willis and the rest of the Cats will need conditioning like that to keep up with the likes of Louisiana State's Todd Kinchen or Tennessee's Carl Pickens.

Pickens, in particular, scorched the UK secondary in last year's season finale — 10 receptions, 201 yards, three touchdowns in a 42-28 Volunteer victory.

Ward said he would like to pay back the Southeastern Conference's leading receiver who, he added, was not always necessarily the most gracious of opponents.

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Florida schools dominate Kernel poll



Chris HARVEY

Check the calendar on the refrigerator and you find out quickly that officially the 1991 college football season starts in the last part of August or in early September.

That's only partially correct. For many football followers, the season began during the early part of June. That's when all those preseason football magazines began hitting the shelves of your local Piggy Wigly.

But why take out a loan from First Security to buy these magazines when you can hear the football gossiped for free in the Kentucky Kernel.

This year's national champion may well come from the state of Florida. We have the Miami Hurricanes, the Florida Gators and Florida State Seminoles. Look for FSU to win the national championship after being a perennial bridesmaid.

Miami, having already dispatched Arkansas last week, looks to be a notch below its usual bully self (it can't dance after touchdowns anymore), but the 'Cats can still strut with the nation's best.

Cosch Steve Spurrier's Gators finally have the probationary hand-cuffs off and look to make up for last year's bowl-less postseason with All-American quarterback Shane Matthews playing pitch and catch with a bunch of ultra-quick receivers.

Outside of those three, Notre Dame, Penn State and Michigan are about the only others worthy of national championship contention in 1991.

Now here's a look at how things

Kernel's Preseason Top 20

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Florida State | 11. Oklahoma |
| 2. Florida | 12. Texas |
| 3. Michigan | 13. Tennessee |
| 4. Washington | 14. Colorado |
| 5. Penn State | 15. Michigan State |
| 6. Miami | 16. Nebraska |
| 7. Notre Dame | 17. UCLA |
| 8. Clemson | 18. Alabama |
| 9. Houston | 19. Ohio State |
| 10. Georgia Tech | 20. Texas A & M |

TYRONE JOHNSTON/Kernel Graphics

should turn out in the various conferences around the nation:

Atlantic Coast Conference — Don't be surprised to see Coach Bobby Ross' Yellow Jackets sting more than a few opponents handily on the way to a second consecutive ACC crown.

Traditional ACC strongboy Clemson should find itself right behind in second place, and its creampuff schedule should get them in another decent size big East.

Big East — Miami is the class of this league. The only question here is who's next to ascend to the throne of starting quarterback at Quarterback U.

Look for the Syracuse to challenge Miami but fall a bit short in the depth department due to key losses on offense and defense.

Big Eight — Oklahoma, fresh off probation, should come out on top here thanks to Coach Barry Gibbs' masterful rebuilding job done in the wake of the Barry Switzer era.

Colorado, which won the The Associated Press national title last season, should drop down a spot or two due to the loss of running back Eric Bienemy and the questionable injured quarterback Darian Hagan.

Big Ten — Michigan should unseat Iowa as league champion due to the return of an experienced squad. The Wolverines also have a

favorable league schedule.

Pac 10 — Washington looks like the class of this league after whipping Iowa in last year's Rose Bowl. Most of their key pawns return.

Southeastern — Florida won't have a cakewalk but should win it's first "official title" without probation dampening the festivities.

Tennessee, if probation doesn't hit soon, could be a major factor in the race along with Alabama and Auburn.

Look for Georgia, UK and LSU to fall somewhat in the middle of the pack, although a light schedule could catapult UK up the league standings faster than most observers think.

Southwest — Another former felon — Houston — comes off probation and should win its first official title in a while thanks to the pasting exploits of Heisman Trophy candidate David Klingler.

Independents — FSU, Penn State, Notre Dame, South Carolina, Southern Mississippi and Louisville should highlight this group in fine fashion.

Look for U of L to be a notch below last year's Fiesta Bowl squad as too many starters have departed via graduation.

Senior Staff Writer Chris Harvey is a English senior and a Kernel sports columnist.

no givens. And with my track record, the following prediction (6-5) is anything but an absolute.

Wins: Miami (Ohio), Kent, Ole Miss, Louisiana State, Cincinnati, at Vanderbilt.

Losses: at Indiana, at Mississippi State, at Georgia, at Florida, Tennessee.

Senior Staff Writer Barry Reeves is a journalism senior and a Kernel sports columnist.

SEC

Continued from page 2

terback Y.A. Tittle), they couldn't get past their difficult schedule, which includes home games against Top 20 teams Florida, Florida State, and Alabama. The road schedules includes games at Georgia, Texas A&M and UK. *Pick: Cats 17-14.*

Georgia (Oct. 26): By this game, the Cats will have gained the respect of the SEC as well as made an appearance in The Associated Press Top 25. But the four-game winning streak should come to an end.

People down in Athens won't be happy with another 4-7 record and third-year coach Ray Goff knows it. Look for the Bulldogs to turn it around in '91.

Behind senior quarterback Greg Talley, the Bulldogs should find themselves in the run for the SEC title. It's unlikely they will be tripped up against the Cats. They will fall against Florida on Nov. 9 in Gainesville. *Pick: Georgia 24-10.*

Vanderbilt (Nov. 9): The Cats will then lick their wounds and hope they can get past Cincinnati before they head to Nashville to take on the Commodores.

Although Vandy has 18 returning starters, most aren't that good.

Junior Carlos Thomas should give the Cats' Terry Samuels some good competition the SEC's premier fullback. But that's it.

Picked to come in last in the SEC by most publications. I believe it. *Pick: Cats 31-10.*

Florida (Nov. 16): Like the end of last season, Curry will have his Cats playing at the top of their game. They should bring a two-game winning streak into this game and a 7-2 overall record, including 4-2 in the SEC. Although there is a chance of an upset, it's very slim one.

Under Coach Steve Spurrier, the Gators have a good shot at not only winning the SEC, but the national title.

Junior quarterback Shane Matthews, who ranked seventh in the nation in passing efficiency (139.9) last season, is back along with senior fullback Willie McClendon and sophomore tailback Eric Riett.

Both McClendon and Riett rushed for a combined total of 1476 yards for an average of 5.4 yards per carry.

The defense is just as solid — anchored by junior free safety Will White, who ranked second in the country last year in interceptions with seven.

The Gators, who deserved to go to the Sugar Bowl last year, should get their chance. *Pick: Gators 31-17.*

Tennessee (Nov. 23): Last year, the Cats almost cost the Volunteers the Sugar Bowl berth in front of the 90,000-plus Neyland Stadium fans. But the Cats were not able to maintain their intensity or the ball in the second half.

This year, the story line will be different. The Cats should win the game and get their first bowl bid since 1984 with 7-4 record, 4-3 in the SEC.

The Volunteers will suffer this season both from a demanding

schedule that includes away games at Alabama, Florida, Kentucky and Notre Dame. Not only will they have to play those unfriendly confines but they have to do it with ugly NCAA cloud hanging over them. *Pick: Cats 21-20.*

Here's a look at the rest of the SEC:

Alabama: The Tide will continue to improve, but a Sept. 14 game against Florida will keep them from winning the conference.

Behind Siran Stacy, who missed last season because of a knee injury, the Tide will improve on last seasons 7-5 overall record. It's too bad Alabama fans will look forward all season to that one game against Auburn, because there should be some good games in between.

Auburn: With 12 starters from last season gone, including early NFL draft choices offensive guard Ed King and defensive tackle David Rucker, Coach Pat Dye won't have it so easy.

Senior linebackers Darrel Crawford and Reggie Barlow return for another season, making the Tigers defense respectable. But they're still just pussycats in '91.

The 1991 SEC Standings (record in parenthesis): 1. Florida (10-1 overall, 6-1); 2. Auburn (8-3, 5-2); 2. Alabama (9-2, 5-2); 4. Kentucky (7-4, 4-3); 5. Georgia (7-4, 4-3); 6. Tennessee (5-6, 3-4); 6. Ole Miss (6-5, 3-4); 6. LSU (6-5, 3-4); 9. Vanderbilt (3-8, 1-6); 9. Mississippi State (2-9, 1-6).

Assistant Sports Editor Al Hill is a journalism junior and a Kernel sports columnist.

Wildcats

Continued from page 2

was almost nonexistent. That's not totally the defensive backfield's fault, though.

Sacks, last season, were about as rare as victories.

To put pressure on the quarterback, defensive coordinator Larry New had to send six or seven men, which, of course, left the defensive backs one-on-one with some of the

fastest men on the planet — SEC wide receivers.

The key, defensively, will be pressure. If UK can put some pressure on the quarterback, everything else will fall into place.

The outlook

Of course, we couldn't get through Football '91 without a little bit of prognostication. The general consensus is the Wildcats will win five or six with a chance at seven. With this team, there's certainly

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