

KENTUCKY KERNEL

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Many fear development could hurt music scene

By Rebecca Sweeney
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Plans for a hotel to be built on a downtown block where bars and music venues currently stand — including The Dame, Mia's and Buster's — have many Lexingtonians worried about the city's music and entertainment future.

Tom Martin, chairman of the Downtown Entertainment Development Task Force, said he is "under the impression" that buildings in the Rosenberg Block — between the corners of West Main and South Upper streets and West Vine and South Limestone streets — will be demolished soon. City Councilwoman Linda Gorton said she knew of development plans for a hotel on the block but did not know specifics.

Nick Sproule, general manager of The Dame, said he hasn't been notified of any development plans.

But the possibility that one of the city's prime music venues could be closing has some concerned.

"In my opinion, the developers who plan to build a hotel on the site don't give a damn about the social, financial and artistic well-being of the community," said John Clark, an associate professor of telecommunications and faculty adviser of WRFL-FM.

Building a hotel in that location will harm the local music scene along with the social and artistic culture of Lexington, said Clark, a musician who has played in Lexington clubs since the early '80s and calls The Dame his home away from home.

With The Dame, combined with Mia's

and Buster's, the Rosenberg Block is a huge draw to Lexington's downtown, he said.

"Those three businesses alone draw hundreds of people, young and old, downtown every week," Clark said.

"If you eliminate them, you eliminate the reason for those people to come downtown."

Lexington developer Dudley Webb, whose company owns buildings on the same block, declined to comment on any development until a March 4 public meeting.

Lexington Vice Mayor Jim Gray, who did not confirm specifics of the development plan but called it an ambitious project that will require a long process, also expressed some concern about downtown's entertain-



The Dame and Buster's, two businesses on the Rosenberg Block downtown, could be demolished for a hotel development.

See Dame on page A6



Brandon Mitchell, left, a kinesiology freshman; Brandon Durr, center, a math freshman; and Rory Dunn, a electrical engineering freshman, help scrape ice off their friend's car in K-Lot yesterday. With no ice scraper, the students get creative, using insurance cards, credit cards and keys to clear the windshield.

Slippery streets force campus to close early

By Kelli Long
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Lauren Biggs was in Intermezzo yesterday shortly after 2 p.m., studying for a 3:30 exam without knowing it had already been canceled.

"I had a busy day today," said Biggs, a classics and history senior. "I had a club meeting, a lecture and then work tonight."

Icy conditions prompted UK to cancel classes from 2 p.m. on yesterday and caused dangerous situations for students and faculty commuting to and from campus.

The National Weather Service issued a warning at 8:22 a.m. advising people to avoid traveling if possible. After several accidents were reported in counties surrounding Lexington due to the same conditions that were expected to hit the city, the only logical decision was to cancel classes, said Christy Giles, director of Emergency Management at UK.

It was the second time this year UK canceled classes. The first was a two-hour delay last week due to snow.

"This weather year is completely out of the ordinary," Giles said. "It is not common for the university to shut down."

Despite the warning to avoid traveling, Daniel Legg, an electrical engineering sophomore, drove 85 miles to get to class yesterday, only to discover his first class, at 2 p.m., had been canceled.

He checked to see if there would still be classes before he left his Cincinnati-area home, but UK's administration did not make cancellations until he



Brandon Mitchell, a kinesiology freshman, helps scrape the ice off his friend's car with his insurance card in K-Lot yesterday.

had already arrived in Lexington. Legg said although he was frustrated about driving all the way to Lexington and concerned about road conditions, he would go ahead and drive back before the ice began accumulating.

Students subscribed to the UK Alert system received phone calls, e-mails and text messages beginning at 1:50 p.m., Giles said. By 2:11 p.m., her office had sent out 9,320 phone calls, and 3,878 e-mails and text messages.

The decision of whether to cancel classes today was made early this morning after UK officials analyzed weather conditions by making checks on roads, sidewalks and parking lots beginning at 4 a.m., Giles said yesterday.

A warm front from the south was to blame for the inclement weather, according to the National

Weather Service.

The precipitation in Central Kentucky and Southern Indiana fell as rain, but when it hit the cold surface below the warm air, it froze on contact, causing an ice storm, said Tom Priddy, UK Extension and Research Agriculture meteorologist.

That freezing process is comparable to a February 2003 ice storm that snapped trees and weighed down power lines, leaving Lexington without power for weeks, Priddy said.

The outcome today should not be as drastic, he said. Although about a quarter of an inch of ice was predicted to fall last night, it is only about half the amount of ice that covered the city five years ago.

The ice storm warning issued for Fayette County yesterday morning continued through 9 a.m. today, with freezing rain that began early yesterday afternoon expected to continue into early this morning. Although warming temperatures were predicted to change the wintry mix to rain sometime after midnight, National Weather Service meteorologist John Gordan said the resulting conditions would be "treacherous."

Power outages and falling tree branches are a particular danger, because the trees and power lines were already stressed from the ice accumulation that came a few weeks ago, according to the National Weather Service warning.

"We expect between a tenth and quarter inch of ice from 3 p.m. to 3 a.m.," Gordan said. "So this morning could be an icecap as well."

STAFF WRITER ALICE HAYMOND CONTRIBUTED TO THIS STORY.

Honoree chose Ph.D. over MGM lion tour

By Jill Lester
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The MGM lion changed Gifford Blyton's life forever.

When Blyton went to college in Washington, he said he was offered the job of taking the famous movie studio's lion on a national tour but turned it down.

That moment was a turning point. Instead of chauffeuring the lion, Blyton decided to continue his education, which eventually led to a 58-year career at UK.

Blyton, who will turn 100 in September, has been nominated to receive an honorary degree from UK this spring. He worked at UK from 1948 to 2006; he was a communications professor for 27 years, a debate coach for 21 and parliamentarian for the Faculty Senate for 35, among other things.

But he was born more than 2,000 miles from where he would spend much of his career — on a steamboat in Washington heading up the Snake River.

For the first years of his life, Blyton said he lived in poverty on the family's fruit farm in Wawawai, Wash. His childhood playmates were the children of the company's American Indian workers.

"The Indians were at the time separated from whites," Blyton said. "Not me. I learned more from the Indians than I did any religious service."

After Blyton's parents divorced, which he said "tore me apart," Blyton and his four sisters went with their mother to Idaho, where he was formally educated for the first time at 14. He was shocked by

See Blyton on page A6

All-night dancers aim to fight cancer

By John David Morgan
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While many students may lose sleep this weekend from studying or late-night escapades, Zach Warriner will be exhausted from 24 hours of dancing for a cause.

Warriner, one of about 500 students participating in the 24-hour dance marathon Dance Blue, said the lack of sleep and constant movement is not easy. "At the halfway point it's hard to imagine finishing," said Warriner, a biology senior.

This is the third annual DanceBlue, and Warriner's third as well. He has participated since the event's creation because he supports its cause — raising money for UK's Pediatric Oncology Clinic, which treats children with cancer.

The event starts tonight at 7 at Memorial Coliseum and will end tomorrow night at 7.

"It's an entire year of planning ended in one weekend," said Brit Pennington, DanceBlue's dancer programming chair and communication senior. "It's an emotional time for all the people involved."

See DanceBlue on page A6

Subway coming to Student Center next month

By Calvin Hobson
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Students tired of walking to South Limestone Street for a sweet onion chicken teriyaki sub or the traditional club won't have to wait much longer until Subway Restaurant sandwiches are available at the Student Center.

A new Subway store is slated to open in the Student Center in late March, said Roger Sidney, assistant director of UK Dining Services.

Dining Services invested in the \$210,000 project to meet "students' desire for more national brands," Sidney said.

Before deciding on Subway, a

Dining Services advisory board reviewed potential brands that students wanted and hired a food-service consultant to ask students what brands they would like to see on campus.

Chick-fil-A and Starbucks are currently the only national brand restaurants in the Student Center.

"I'm glad UK Dining is bringing this here, because they've tried to do new things and have just been unsuccessful," said agricultural economics sophomore James Harris.

Prices at the Student Center Subway will be the same as those at off-campus locations. Some students said they wish there were a cheaper fast-food option on campus.

"I really don't mind Subway, but I honestly would prefer something along the lines of Wendy's because of its 99-cent menu," said agricultural communications sophomore Geoffrey Griggs. "I can only afford to go if they accept Flex Dollars."

Many students said they are excited to see UK expanding its dining options. "I really haven't been a fan of UK Dining, especially with how flex and meal plans are structured," said Brian Brown, a secondary English education senior. "It's good to see they're finally expanding their options."

The new Subway will be located in the middle of the food court across from Room 214, Sidney said, and will

not take the place of any other restaurant at the Student Center.

While it's too soon to tell if the restaurant will affect other sandwich locations near campus, including the Subway on South Limestone Street, Sidney said there has been a successful deli in the food court before, with several successful deli concepts off campus near the Student Center.

Other than the Subway, Dining Services is not currently working on any other additions or projects, Sidney said. "We are always looking to improve our food options on campus and are open to opportunities," he said, "but we don't have any concrete plans at this time."

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HOROSCOPES

By Linda C. Black

To get the advantage, check the day's rating. 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19) — Today is an 8 — Confrontations are abundant. They're all part of the game. Keep your objective in mind and ignore detractors. Trust your friends and do your best. That's as good as it gets.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 7 — A supposedly simple job turns out to be more complicated. Take setbacks in stride, it looks like everything works out well in the end.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) — Today is an 8 — You're lucky and cute, a very nice combination. The goals you set now are more than likely to come true. Launch adventures, romances and happy fantasies.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) — Today is a 5 — Tempers could flare, but don't worry. The overall outcome is good. Let the others say what they need to say, and do the same. Clear the air.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is an 8 — Increased opposition and controversy erupts, requiring more research and study. Know what you're talking about, down to the tiniest detail. There will be a quiz.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 6 — Restrictions are very noticeable now, but don't let them stop your progress. Do be careful and practical, especially when you're out shopping.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is an 8 — If an argument develops, and you'd like to compromise, find something you both agree upon. Look at the situation farther away.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 5 — Your hard work is paying off, in ways you didn't expect. By

checking old items off your lists, you've made time for entertaining.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is an 8 — Controversy continues to rage, and this is a good thing. People are pressed to come up with ideas; some of them will work and some of them won't.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 6 — Let people know what you want. There's a good chance you'll get it. That ought to cheer you up, in a difficult situation. Don't suffer silently.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 7 — Once this last job is finished, you'll be good to go. This is not something you can ignore, and it seems to involve spending money. Stop worrying, do what will work.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 6 — You may have to turn down a loved one's request, even though you hate to do so. If you really can't afford to buy whatever it is, be realistic and honest.

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KIRSTEN'S SECRET DEMONS

THE DISH

The pain behind the party-girl facade of Dunst, the latest celeb to seek help for substance abuse

By Kevin O'leary

When Kirsten Dunst spent the summer in London filming *How to Lose Friends & Alienate People*, her \$4 million rental in Islington had no idea she was famous — she was just the girl who threw drunken bashes. "They would spill outside," says a neighbor, who adds authorities were often called. "I once saw her walking around in the street barefoot, wailing. She seemed a mess." On February 6, news broke that the 25-year-old checked in to rehab at Utah's Cirque Lodge Treatment Center (the center did not return calls for comment). For Dunst, who multiple sources say used cocaine and alcohol, "the party is finally over," says a pal. "Her team basically said they'd dump her if she didn't get cleaned up." (Responds her rep. "She is not being treated for cocaine or any drug.")

Without the public meltdowns of a Britney Spears, Dunst's going to rehab caught fans by surprise because she is a respected Hollywood vet. By age 10, she had logged more than 50 commercials. She earned a

Golden Globe nod for 1994's *Interview With the Vampire* by 11, indie cred as director Sofia Coppola's muse in *The Virgin Suicides* and Marie Antoinette and box-office clout for *Spider-Man*. But success came with a price. "I feel like I want to be a little girl now because I was never allowed to be one," Dunst, who has complained about being her divorced parents' breadwinner, told *Allure* in 2004. "I just never had a time in my life when I could... get drunk and do dumb things like that."

over the breakup led her to party more. (Says a source close to her recent ex, Brit musician Johnny Borrell, "She was always pretty wasted, but so was Johnny.") Dunst admits she first tried pot at 18, when she was "feeling insecure" on a movie set. By April 2007, she told the U.K.'s *Mail* on Sunday, "If everyone smoked weed, the world would be a better place," and the pressure to please was a constant. Of Marie Antoinette, the teen queen she played in 2006, she said: "I could really relate to having people around you who always want something."

Party Time

By 2005, she more than made up for it, earning the nickname "Drunks" for clubbing at various Hollywood hot spots. "She's a different person the second she hits a club," says an insider. A *How to Lose Friends* (due in 2008) source tells us, "Whenever the cast and crew were out, she was the center of the group — doing shots and encouraging everyone to drink. There was no such thing as 'just the one' for her." And at Sundance January 19, a beer-toting Dunst went late-night sledding with Josh Hartnett — then called in sick to a *Glamour* magazine party in her honor the next day. The currently single Dunst's pals even blame her 2005 split from three-year beau Jake Gyllenhaal on her wild ways. Says a source, "Jake was turned off by all the partying." (Dunst's rep says that is "downright wrong.") Ironically, multiple sources say, regret

Getting Help

"Kirsten will stay at Cirque as long as she needs," says a Dunst pal. Then, hopefully, she's back to work. "Though I wasn't really given a choice growing up," she has said, "I do want to be an actress... You can keep finding new things, and if you f-k up, you f-k up, and you just keep going."

Too much at 11?

For her role as an age-defying bloodsucker in 1994's *Interview With the Vampire*, Dunst shared a now-infamous on-screen kiss with a thirtysomething Brad Pitt. An acting coach told Dunst to imagine she was hiding a toy: The goal, said Dunst, was to look "sneaky, but not scary."

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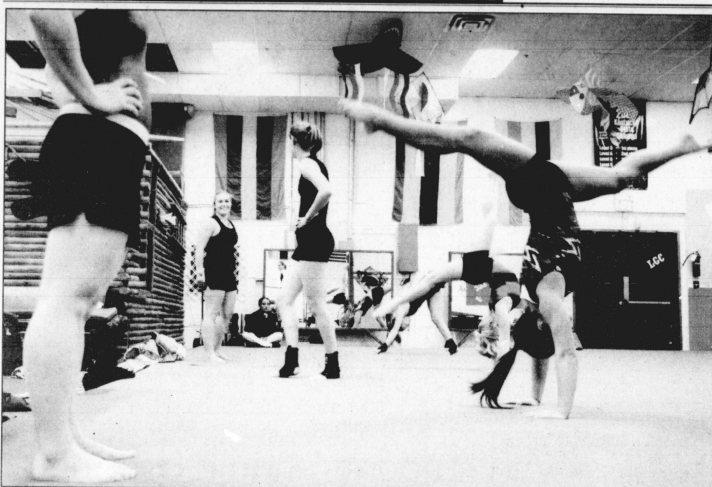
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HOME VISITOR

THE NET

Candace was ready for the pros two years ago. Tennessee's had her long enough."

— U.S. team Coach Anne Donovan on Candace Parker's decision to forgo her senior year at Tennessee to turn pro.



UK's club gymnastics team is in its first year. The gymnast balance school, practicing and competition without funding from UK.

Gymnastic club's a flipping success

By Metz Camfield
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While many relished summer activities like going on vacations to the beach or abroad, Sarah Kachovec had other plans — starting a club gymnastics team at UK. Kachovec, an international studies and Spanish freshman, started competing in gymnastics beginning when she was three years old and continued into high school. She wanted to continue at UK by creating a club team. UK's club gymnastics team is in its first year thanks to the efforts of Kachovec and five other gymnasts. Kachovec stirred up interest for the club over the Internet, and the team has worked together to get the things they need to be competitive in their first year. "I did a little recruiting on Facebook," Kachovec said. "I would see who had an interest in gymnastics and I would send them a message and invite them to join groups. To raise money for the team we would run gymnastics clinics for younger girls and we would sell T-shirts."

Being a self-funded team with little time to practice, the club squad had to dig deep within themselves to be as successful as they have been — finishing third out of 10 teams in their first meet on Jan. 19 and fifth out of 17 teams in the following meet on Feb. 2.

The team practices four times a week, twice at the Seaton Center and twice at Lexington Gymnastics and Cheerleading Center. Gymnastics practices normally last around three and a half hours but the UK club gymnastics team usually gets about an hour and a half because of the lack of gym space.

"We had to go through a lot of people to get gym space," said Amanda Hizer, an agricultural biotechnology senior. "The Seaton Center is more of the cheerleading domain and there are also a lot of kinesiology classes that use space in the Seaton Center. We, ourselves, pay to get time at the Lexington Gymnastics and Cheerleading Center."

Hizer has been another member instrumental in forming the team. Kachovec recruited Hizer through Facebook, and together they have worked every step of the way because of their similar background in gymnastics and vision for the team. "We wanted to be competitive going into this," she said. "We had no idea what we were going up against, we just wanted to stay competitive and spark some interest."

Kachovec agreed, saying the team's self-motivation has been one of the most important aspects since they don't have a coach. "The team aspect is such a big part," Kachovec said. "You have others cheering you

on and asking others what you're doing wrong. Everyone has done something with this team."

Because the team is self-funded, there is only one way to travel from meet to meet — carpooling. There are no other club gymnastics teams in Kentucky. The team travels to Ohio, Illinois, Indiana and as far north as Michigan.

Through it all, Kachovec and Hizer hold their heads high knowing they have started something original at UK, and have laid the groundwork for club gymnastics for future generations at the university.

"I am proud to be a member of the first team here," Hizer said. "This team has made my college experience so much better. I'm an athlete and it killed me not to compete."

Kachovec agreed, saying she originally only hoped two or three girls would join instead of the six that are on the team now. "Our first meet we were very competitive and we just want to keep going," Kachovec said. "I look forward to the end of each day where I get the opportunity to hang out with my best friends at practice. We work so hard because we're so passionate about it all."

Anyone interested in joining the club gymnastics team can contact Kachovec through the club's Facebook group, Future UK Club Gymnast.

Unforgettable Pelphey returns to Rupp

By Travis Waldron
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Former UK coach Rick Pitino proclaimed his feelings about John Pelphey in one sentence in the summer of 1991, prior to Pelphey's senior season at UK. "I wouldn't trade John Pelphey for any basketball player in the country," Pitino told reporters.

Pelphey is one of many enshrined in the pantheon of Kentucky basketball history, but tomorrow, Arkansas' first year head coach will bring his Razorbacks to Lexington to play in the very arena where the legend of John Pelphey was born.

"It will be different for me because I do have a lot of special memories of that place. It's where I grew up, it's where I always wanted to play," Pelphey said during the SEC coaches teleconference Thursday. "I'm sure there will be some things when I walk into the arena, I go down the hallways where I got ready to play

games and practice. I'm sure there will be little things that slip back into my mind."

Pelphey was an "Unforgettable," a group of four players who overcame the chills of probation to lead UK to the 1992 Elite Eight, in which the Cats lost to Duke in what is widely considered the greatest college basketball game ever played.

By 1992, Pelphey was already a fan favorite. Along with Pitino, Deron Feldhaus, Richie Farmer and Sean Woods, the 6-foot-7 forward had begun to restore glory and excitement to a program in the after math of a cheating scandal.

But it was 1992 when the four seniors came within seconds of the Final Four that made "The Unforgettables" just that — an unforgettable chapter in UK history.

After a career at Paintsville High in Paintsville, Ky. that included more than 2,400 points, the former Mr. Basketball from the small town started 90 of his

114 career games at UK and scored 1,257 points. He ranks No. 29 on UK's career scoring list.

Pelphey said he has been asked for tickets to the game by friends and family in Paintsville, but he didn't give them up without making sure they'd be cheering for the right team.

"I had to put dad through a series of questions to be sure I let him have a ticket," Pelphey said with a laugh.

Pelphey played one season of pro basketball in France and Spain before moving onto coaching, which led him from assistant jobs at Oklahoma State, Marshall and Florida to his first head coaching job at South Alabama. At USA, Pelphey was 80-67 and took the Panthers to the NCAA Tournament in 2007, their first appearance since 1998.

He returned to Rupp Arena as an opponent for the first time in 1997 but never found much success as an opponent there. The

Gators were victorious at Rupp just one time during Pelphey's six seasons.

But tomorrow will be Pelphey's first chance as a head coach, and he's almost sure to earn an emotional response from UK fans. Last season, when former UK player Travis Ford returned as the coach of Massachusetts, he received a standing ovation both before and after the game.

Pelphey acknowledged that he has always been — and still is — a UK fan, and his playing days at UK may give him an advantage in dealing with the distractions his return to the Bluegrass will bring.

"Playing at Kentucky, there's always some distractions. There's always a lot of things going on there, you have to get used to it," Pelphey said. "If you can't handle it, you can't play there."

"I don't have too much of a problem being able to focus in and handle some of those things that come our way."

Senior Cats face Combine test

Today's no ordinary day. Neither will tomorrow be, or the day after. Well, not in the sports world, not in Indianapolis.

There, tucked away in the RCA Dome, are six UK seniors preparing for the biggest days of their careers thus far, against an opponent they've never seen before. The task itself requires a new game plan drawn up from scratch.

Instead of going toe-to-toe with 11 guys lined up opposite of them, they'll be taking on hundreds of scouts from all the NFL teams waiting to find every flaw in their game. It's the NFL Combine, where scouts give more attention to what football players can't do instead of what they can, and rightfully so.

While NFL teams prepare to narrow their focuses as April's draft approaches, they're in the process of deciding which collegiate players will be the new faces of their franchises. It's important to separate the players that can be successful on Sundays from those that are just Saturday performers.

Headlining the group from UK is Andre Woodson, who was projected as a top-ten pick two months ago, but has seen a recent decline in draft broads after a sub-par performance in the Senior Bowl. But despite all the hoopla surrounding Woodson's release and pocket presence, it's the other five UK athletes — Keenan Burton, Jacob Tammé, Rafael Little, Steve Johnson and Wesley Woodyard — that have the most to prove to NFL scouts in the next couple of days.

While there's been speculation about who's in and who's out of this weekend's combine, all of UK's players should use the opportunity to make up ground — or in Woodson's case regain ground — on NFL team's draft boards.

No other college team has more players going to the draft with as many unknown attributes than the bunch from UK. With the team's surge onto the national scene over the last two seasons, all six seniors made names for themselves in the region. But along with the success on the college level came wonders of the possible success on the professional level. Then came the question marks.

Can Little and Burton stay healthy?
Can Johnson run routes and does he have speed?
Is Woodyard too small to play linebacker in the NFL?
Can Tammé block?

This weekend we'll know some answers for sure, but here's my take.

Fighting the injury bug

People that get hurt don't stop getting hurt. No matter how hard they try, it's just a habit that can't be beat. So for Burton and Little, the path to the NFL will be an up-hill battle. Although Burton has an advantage over Little based on pure skill, Little can still impress with his ability to do the extra things like kickoff and punt returns for an NFL team. The good thing for Little is his stock can only go up with a good outing at the combine. Both will need stellar performances.

Little must prove he can make the cuts with the ball that helped him evade defenders when he was healthy. Burton needs to do what he did for the Cats since he arrived in 2003, showing off his pure athleticism and route running.

Johnson must be quick on his feet

What will make or break Johnson is his ability to prove that he is a true workout. At the NFL Combine, Burton nor Dicky Lyons will be lined up on the same side as him. Unlike UK opponents this year, scouts will be focused only on him. He must prove he can run routes effectively and Johnson must clock a good time in the 40-yard dash to catch the desire of NFL teams, not just their attention.

Laying the Wood

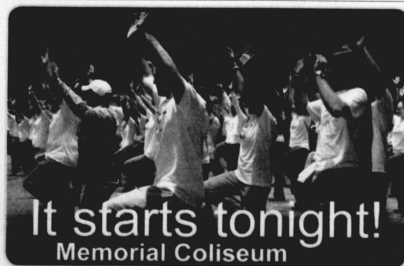
We all know Woodyard is a respectable tackler on the college level. He led UK in that area in consecutive years. Now he must prove he can do the same on the professional level. But, proving he can play linebacker in the NFL won't be worth the challenge. He doesn't have enough beef to play the position. So instead of picking up pounds, Woodyard's hopes of becoming a solid player in the NFL will rest on his ability to drop back into the secondary, a change he may not address right now. Which will leave more questions than answers once the combine is over. But he can answer address the issue of speed by running a good time in the 40-yard dash. Quick feet will be needed in the secondary. Woodyard can still impress with raw talent, and let the NFL teams decide his fate of playing linebacker or defensive back.

Tammé's got talent

Of all UK players headed into the NFL Combine, Tammé has the best chance to wow NFL scouts. In today's NFL, successful teams are enjoying the presence of playmaking tight ends. Tammé will be another one. He can make circus catches and can be a target for quarterbacks in distress when the pocket gives way. But Tammé must prove that he has the strength to play in the NFL, mainly in blocking agile defensive ends and bigger and faster linebackers. If he can do that then he can be the prize out of all six seniors looking for a role in the NFL.

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OPINIONS

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The opinions page provides a forum for the exchange of ideas. Unlike news stories, the Kernel's unsigned editorials represent the views of a majority of the editorial board. Letters to the editor, columns, cartoons and other authors on the opinions page reflect the views of their authors and not necessarily those of the Kernel.

■ KERNEL EDITORIALS

Forum was a start, but Todd should be more accessible

President Lee Todd has been known to occasionally roll up his sleeves and shoot a few rounds of pool with students. Usually, it's a welcome break from the stresses of university life.

But right now, with a possible shortfall in state funding and a host of other issues facing UK, Todd came to the Cats Den on Monday not for the pool or ping-pong tables, but for some much-needed face time with students.

The forum was billed as "A Conversation With Lee Todd" in advertisements around campus, and while the hieroglyphic-like design on the posters — the outline of Kentucky with a large dollar sign and question mark inside — emphasized the proposed state budget cuts, the discussion wasn't restricted to money.

In the 90 minutes of questions and answers, UK students made it obvious that they've got more on their minds than just a dollar sign, and Todd signaled that he wants to hear what students care about.

Granted, Todd really only reached a handful of students — about 50 attended on a campus with more than 19,000 undergraduates, though others could listen to a live broadcast on WFRL. Nor did Todd present any startling new information while answering questions.

But in this case, it's the thought that counts the most. By coming to the Student Center and opening himself up to questions, UK's president hoped to show that he hasn't become lost in the Top 20 Business Plan and lobbying legislators, that he is still concerned

with the students who make up the university. Unfortunately, the forum might be too little, too late for many students, especially upperclassmen who for the past few years have known the president mostly from campuswide e-mails, coverage in the Kernel and the annual State of the Campus address.

While we would have preferred to see a program like "A Conversation With Lee Todd" take place earlier, we're glad to see that Todd is now addressing students face-to-face. Now it should turn into a regular occurrence.

At the very least, Todd should find time once each semester to hold a forum with students and hear their concerns. And when the future of the university is unclear, such as it is now because of the state budget outlook, additional forums are certainly warranted.

Also, students need to see that their ideas and concerns are being heard at forums. While students and administrators will never come to a consensus on every issue, Todd should come to discussions with an open mind and display a willingness to adjust his beliefs based on what students have to say.

When the university is facing problems, Todd is understandably at his busiest. But the resulting questions mean that forums such as Monday's are more important than ever. When students see that Todd is committed to directly addressing their concerns and listening to their suggestions, they will turn out in larger numbers to forums and find ways to take an active role on UK's campus.



Todd



TOM WILKINS, Kernel cartoonist

Grad students should continue education for the right reasons

Sometimes I think about what I would be doing at my age if I were part of my grandparents' generation.

At 21, going on 22, it seems I would be working the family farm, working a full-time job for a few years already or fighting a war.

But for young generations today, school has stretched further into our lives.

Much like the fashionable colors of yesteryear, college is the new high school. Many educations simply are not complete or applicable without a bachelor's degree.

So where do people go to find a traditional college education? Simple. Graduate school is the new college degree.

I'm sometimes surprised by how many times I hear friends saying they plan on going to grad school because they don't know what to do with their lives. It buys them a few more years of wandering around questions in their heads before they find an answer.

Please don't misunderstand me. You will find no one who loves and appreciates the value of wandering more than me. And as someone considering going to graduate school eventually, I certainly understand long-time students' sentiments.

But the wandering in an academic

setting is still constrictive compared to the real world and, in many ways, limiting.

How long have traditional college students gone to school? This fall will be the first time in 17 years that I won't find my way to a desk in August.

Terrifying? Yes. Liberating? Also yes.

It's very easy to follow a path that's laid out for you already. For all practical purposes, somebody born tomorrow could go over two decades without having to make a single decision about what they wanted to do with their future if they didn't want to. Going to school is required by law. Going to college is a societal pressure. Post-graduation: That is the first time many students have the opportunity to make decisions purely on their terms.

Which I suppose is why I flinch at the idea of grad school. I worry that in the persistence of wandering, people are making safe decisions because it's what's expected of them instead of following their desires.

It's a simple and understandable situation. Since college is the new high school, many students leave without a clear direction (which is by absolutely no means a bad thing). But after leaving and facing the question of what to do now, they fall back on the only thing they've known and lived with their entire lives: education. And back to school they go.

Why not wander outside of academic constraints of deadlines, classrooms and grades? Why not embrace education in a non-traditional way?

I've always thought the best educated in the world were the ones who pursued knowledge on their terms.

Of course I realize this is all easier said than done. The constraints of liv-

I worry that in the persistence of wandering, people are making safe decisions because it's what's expected of them instead of following their desires.

ing outside an academic setting can be just as constraining. And as a friend told me the other day, increased education has given individuals more freedom of personality and thinking than our grandparents' generation.

But school is still school. I worry that too many of us have become comfortable behind desks when we could be charging out the door to places, people and fields we actually want to experience, not simply learn about.

I'm afraid many of us have become too complacent to sit, listen and learn (not bad traits in themselves) because it's comfortable and simple rather than because it's a true desire and passion.

Listening to those callings is something not taught in school. Sean Rose is a journalism and English senior. E-mail rose@kykernel.com.

Be a responsible pet owner, choose spaying or neutering

Who doesn't love cute, furry animals?

Maybe too few people, actually. There are 11,000 homeless pets in Fayette County each year, according to a Kernel article on Monday. Many of those strays come from first-time owners who don't realize the time and money it takes to raise a pet. Consequently, many pets are abandoned.

This point underscores the importance of not only knowing what is required of pet owners but spaying and neutering pets as well. Many strays that find their way to animal shelters are euthanized. The only way to keep the number of homeless pets at a minimum and keep many animals from being killed is with controlled breeding.

For many, including students, procedures like spaying or neutering add dramatically to the cost of owning a pet. It could cost anywhere from \$50 to \$300, said veterinarian Luther James in the Kernel article.

Luckily, the Lexington Humane Society is working to keep pets healthy for owners with small budgets. The organization's Spay's the Way program conducts the procedure at a discount, working to make it affordable for low-

er-income pet owners like college students.

Spaying and neutering pets doesn't just prevent more strays and uncontrolled pet populations. Pets who have had the procedures typically live longer, healthier lives, according to the Kernel article.

Pets who do not have the procedure can express territorial behavior, aggression and personality changes. If female pets are not spayed, the animals can experience problems with infection during heat cycles and can develop problems with their reproductive organs as well as complications from pregnancy. Neutering a pet can also reduce the chance of cancer and prolong the animal's life by two or three years. Recovery is usually quick, lasting a few days.

The Spay's the Way campaign also provides rabies vaccination and city licensing. Pet owners can go to the Humane Society's Web site (lexingtonhumane.org) to see if they qualify for the discounted service.

Spaying or neutering isn't just a slogan embraced by Bob Barker. It's a simple way to keep pets healthy and keep the homeless pet population low.



SEAN ROSE
Kernel columnist

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But the wandering in an academic

Split between Clinton and Obama? Be grateful you're not a Republican

Some days I think I popped out of the womb right into the world of politics.

I remember watching Bill Clinton's victory speech in 1992. I remember organizing the mock election at my elementary school in 1996, forcing even kindergartners to vote even though the only Dole they knew was a banana. I remember being misquoted in 2000 by my hometown newspaper, being one of the few students not old enough to vote who took a vehement stance on the outcome of the election that year.

Yet, tragically, the presidential election I remember most clearly was 2004, the first year that I was able to vote in an election at the federal level.

I remember groaning aloud as I pushed the long green button, officially casting my vote for a man that excited me about as much as stale saltine crackers. Oh yes, I was one of those who voted for John Kerry in all his glorious mediocrity simply because he was the lesser evil. Kerry was not George W.

Bush, winning my reluctant vote despite the fact that his political firmness resembled that of runny grits.

Now here we are, in the midst of the 2008 presidential primaries, and I can safely say that having either Democratic candidate in office will make me a very happy lady.

Sadly, the same cannot be said for the Republicans who have proceeded to publicly whine and moan to anyone who will listen about their front-runner, John McCain. He's too temperamental, he's too old, he's too liberal (insert dramatic music).

As insulted as I am that anyone would place a Republican in the same political category as me, I cannot help but chuckle evilly with a broad, snake-like grin on my face at the idea that conservatives have a man posed for the presidency who they think is too liberal. How about that strong dose of lesser evils now, my Republican friends?

Granted, the Republicans have successfully avoided the flip-flopping Mitt Romney and the consequent agony of a candidate who stands for nothing. Only slightly better, the Republicans are left with a smart, witty man who valiantly served his country and occasionally likes to mix it up with the Democrats.

I actually like McCain as a person. I think we share a common fire-

cracker-temper and a love of making people angry despite our differences in politics.

But maybe I'm rubbing it in a little too much. Let me be content to count my lucky stars that I am on the same political page as both Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama. Both of them show the promise of a new kind of administration, one that is void of freedom fries and mispronounced words.

I am so excited at the prospect of either Clinton or Obama in office that I am just about ready to fast-forward to November.

Democrats and liberals, we finally have two candidates with progressive (if not perfect) platforms and personality to boot (my jaw still aches thinking about the yawns I suppressed during Al Gore's campaign for the Oval Office).

Let us reflect on past elections and on the presently humorous conundrum that the Republicans have found themselves in and be thankful that our options are a lot better than theirs. Let us show our thankfulness in the voting booth in May regardless of how much Kentucky primaries may or may not matter to the television news programs. This time we have a reason to get out and vote.

Carrie Bass is an art history senior. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.

■ LETTER TO THE EDITOR

UK right to use alert system for ice delay

The Kernel's Wednesday editorial "Emergency system is wrong medium for weather alerts" was a very big disappointment to me. As a commuter student who lives on one of the last roads in Lexington to be plowed, I greatly appreciated the early morning message from UK Alert, even if it was slightly inconvenient.

Even though I turn on the news every morning as I prepare to come to the university, I tend not to pay attention to the school closings, because as the editorial stated, "a weather delay is uncommon for UK." After receiving the notification, I turned on the news to confirm it, but it was almost half an hour before the delay was mentioned; by that time, many of my classmates and I would have already left our homes in order to make it to campus on time for classes. While primary and secondary schools may be accustomed to using this medium to check for closings or delays, most college students are not.

Given the size of the university and the fact that not everyone can live within walking distance to the campus, I applaud UK officials for utilizing this new tool. I believe it saved many people from the perils of the morning roads and numerous accidents that could have resulted from dangerous weather and road conditions. I also have to think of anyone without power one morning who might not hear of a delay until he or she is on campus or nearly there.

If the possibility of severe injuries or deaths to members of the UK community from hazardous road conditions is not an emergency that calls for the utilization of UK's new emergency notification system, then I fear the worst for what could happen in future severe-weather situations.

Erin Kilmer
Animal science junior



CARRIE BASS
Kernel columnist

Some days I think I popped out of the womb right into the world of politics.

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DAME

Continued from page A1

ment future. "I certainly hope that we will make every effort to retain energy that's been created there," said Gray, a member of the Downtown Entertainment Development Task Force.

Closing The Dame would cut opportunities for local artists and venues for original music by at least 75 percent, Clark said, mainly because of the volume of music offered by the venue.

"The cover bands in the suburban bars will go on unaffected," Clark said. "There is no question it will make it harder for local original music bands to achieve any level of success or prominence. There's nothing like playing live regularly to make your band really tight."

Robby Catholic, of the Lexington band The Scourge of the Sea, said the city is an ideal place for touring bands because there are several major cities within a seven-hour radius.

His band would be affected if The Dame closes, and fewer national acts would tour through the city, Catholic said.

"The greater loss will be the impact on the music, art and social communities that live downtown," he said.

Even though the possible closing of The Dame would be a loss, Catholic was sure something would eventually take its place.

"Something new will emerge. It always does," Catholic said.

Other bars that feature music like Lynagh's Pub, The Fish-tank and Cheapside Bar and Grill don't have the capacity for a crowd and don't book as diverse acts as The Dame, Clark said.

The Downtown Entertainment Development Task Force was created to determine factors that prevent entertainment venues from opening in the downtown sector.

Lexington is "well behind the curve" as a city without a thriving downtown, especially for being home to two universities, said Martin, also editor in chief of Business Lexington.

With Hamburg Pavilion to the city's east, Fayette Mall to the south and new shopping centers being developed north of Richmond, south of Georgetown and in Franklin County, malls are sucking the retail oxygen out of downtown Lexington, Martin said.

Another downtown hotel would benefit the city when large crowds visit Lexington for the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games, Martin said. The hotel's construction would

be justified if more events followed the equestrian games, drawing visitors to Lexington, and the project could even result in more entertainment options, he said.

There are plenty of vacancies downtown that offer street-level space for prospective music venues, Martin said, and the task force is trying to determine why they remain empty when zoning allows for their presence.

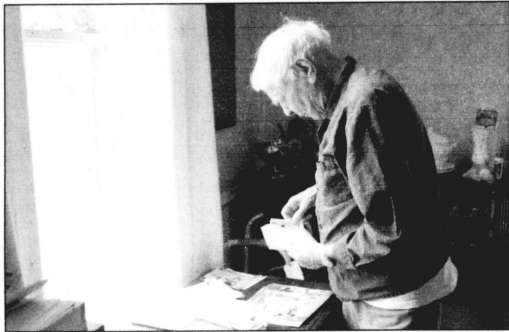
Ross Compton, who runs one of the city's few all-age music venues, The Icehouse, said Lexington is not the friendliest area for venues.

"The culture and atmosphere for entertainment offerings in Lexington aren't necessarily inviting, but I'm not sure why," Compton said.

The Icehouse closed earlier this month because of a mix of zoning and fire code violations, Compton said he is working with the city and fire marshals to fix the problems and isn't ready to give up on the venue.

Compton has been in Lexington for more than 10 years and is seeing some changes for the better.

"Despite the negativity about what's going on around The Dame, I think Lexington is about to turn the corner," Compton said. "There are a lot of positive things happening, and we're getting a hold on things."



Gifford Blyton, 99, who has been nominated to receive an honorary degree from UK, sorts through old photos in his home on Wednesday. **CASEY SNOOK | STAFF**

BLYTON

Continued from page A1

life off the fruit farm, and the other kids teased him because he had to speak loudly to his mother, who had trouble hearing.

"The kids called me 'the loudmouthed kid' from Wawawa," Blyton said. "They didn't abuse me, but they didn't show me a hell of a lot of respect."

He graduated from high school and began college at the University of Washington in Seattle, where he began working for MGM. He quit the studio job, turning down the opportunity to work with the famous lion and go to Hollywood as actress Joan Crawford's chauffeur. If he had stayed, he said he never would have continued his education.

He began working as a steward on a yacht, where he met business magnate R.J. O'Brien. One day, O'Brien asked Blyton what he wanted to do with his life.

"I said, 'I'd like to get a Ph.D.,' he said. 'What's the

hold-up?'" Blyton said.

Once he heard Blyton didn't have the money, O'Brien said he would loan it to him if he went to Louisiana State University.

At one of the first dinners he attended in Louisiana, Blyton sat next to the woman who would become his wife, Marion Gere. He and Marion Blyton, now 97, have been married almost 70 years.

"You can blame R.J. O'Brien for that," Blyton said. "Or give him credit, whichever way you want to go."

Blyton transferred to Ohio State University, where he got his doctorate in 1941, and he began teaching at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Mich. In 1948, he was offered a job at UK, where he would spend the rest of his career.

Blyton taught communication for 27 years. He also coached the debate team; in that position, he said he taught more than 175 students and won about 700 trophies. In a scrapbook with the words "University of Kentucky Debate" written on the front, Blyton has collected hundreds of

yellowed newspaper clips on the team's victories in his 27 years as a coach.

Although Blyton founded the UK Association of Emeriti Faculty and won a UK Great Teacher Award in 1970, he said the thing he is most proud of is the difference he has made in other people's lives.

"The fact that I have impacted for good or for evil about five to 10 thousand students, I think that's an achievement," he said.

For more than 35 years, Blyton served as the Faculty Senate parliamentarian, interpreting Senate rules during meetings. He quit in 2006 when he blacked out in the grocery store and woke up in a hospital room. Doctors have not figured out what caused the blackout, he said.

Blyton said he knows he will probably die soon, and although he doesn't believe in heaven, Blyton said he is ready for death.

"I think, and this is ego of course, that I made an impact on people," he said. "... At least I'm going to leave something. Somebody out there knows me."

DANCEBLUE

Continued from page A1

DanceBlue raised \$123,323 in its first year and \$241,514 in its second.

With 60 organizations and around 500 dancers, this year's DanceBlue will be the largest yet. "The momentum is great," Pennington said. "With each year you find that you get more support."

The Delta Gamma sorority team began fundraising last No-

vember and has raised almost \$12,000.

"It's a contagious thing," said Caitlin Mullen, a biology junior and Delta Gamma team participant who will be dancing for the third straight year.

"I think it combines fun and immediate rewards for what you raise money for," she said.

Mental and physical exhaustion will set in on the DanceBlue participants as they dance through the night, into the morning and on into the next evening, but Mullen said, "24 hours is nothing compared to

what these children go through on a daily basis."

"College isn't about living for yourself; it's about giving back," she said.

Warriner's teammates on the Professional Education Preparation Program team understand the importance of what DanceBlue is doing because all of its members are pursuing careers in medicine, he said.

"You don't realize the impact you have," Warriner said. "To think that these 24 hours actually change their lives is really hard to imagine."

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On the second floor of the King Alumni House, corner of Rose Street and Euclid Ave.



BASEBALL PREVIEW

INSIDE

WHAT TO WATCH FOR: Top storylines to follow while watching the Cats in 2008

PAGE B5

SEC BREAKDOWN: Team-by-team analysis of the toughest conference in America

PAGE B4

THE LOYALTY OF 3

Trio puts MLB careers on hold for one more run at Omaha

By Matthew George
mgeorge@kykernel.com

Sawyer Carroll lay in bed on an August night at his Henryetta, Okla., home. The Washington Nationals had just selected him in the 18th round of the 2007 MLB Draft.

Representatives of the team had spoken with him, and he had spoken with his father. The money the club was offering was big. But Carroll couldn't bring himself to sign on the dotted line. It just didn't feel right.

Carroll pulled out his cell phone and began passionately punching keys. A few minutes later, he pressed send and closed his phone.

Collin Cowgill's phone beeped. He snatched it up and stared at the three- or four-page text message from Carroll. Cowgill had already made up his mind.

The Oakland Athletics were offering the Lexington native six figures to join their organization. He was going to sign, until he read the message. Carroll was going back to UK.

Cowgill took the news to pitcher Scott Green, a teammate at both UK and in the Cape Cod summer league. Green

Sox. With word of Carroll's decision to return, the three UK standouts opened up the lines of communication.

"It wasn't really an all-together decision, but talking to each other and finding out each other's viewpoints and how we feel, how good we are going to be was really the biggest factor in deciding whether to come back or not," Cowgill said.

"We all just believe so much in what we are going to have this season."

It was official. The trio stared down their major league dreams and walked away from them. They were returning to UK for one more season under head coach John Cohen. And one more shot at Omaha, Neb., site of the College World Series.

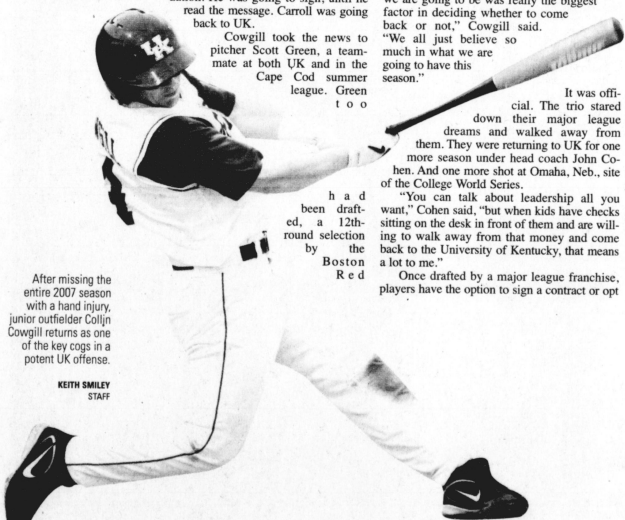
"You can talk about leadership all you want," Cohen said, "but when kids have checks sitting on the desk in front of them and are willing to walk away from that money and come back to the University of Kentucky, that means a lot to me."

Once drafted by a major league franchise, players have the option to sign a contract or opt

had been drafted, a 12th-round selection by the Boston Red

After missing the entire 2007 season with a hand injury, junior outfielder Collin Cowgill returns as one of the key cogs in a potent UK offense.

KEITH SMILEY
STAFF



Senior Sawyer Carroll, the everyday first baseman last year, led the SEC in doubles last year. Carroll is expected to split time between the outfield and the designated hitter position.

ELLIOTT HESS
STAFF

Up next

UK vs. Xavier (Coca-Cola Classic)

When: Today, 2 p.m.

Where: Mobile, Ala.

out and maintain their amateur status, as the trio of Cats chose to do.

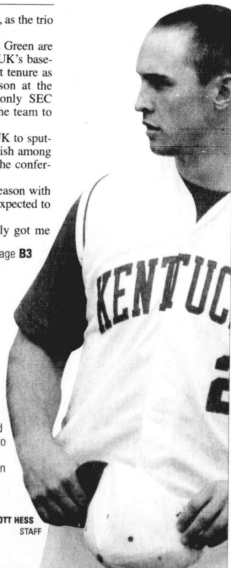
Players like Carroll, Cowgill and Green are a big reason why Cohen has turned UK's baseball program around during his short tenure as head coach. Entering his fifth season at the helm, Cohen boasts the school's only SEC championship in 2006 and guided the team to an NCAA Regional the same year.

But a plague of injuries caused UK to sputter in 2007, as the team picked to finish among the top of the SEC failed to make the conference tournament.

Cowgill missed the entire 2007 season with a hand injury that was initially only expected to sideline him for two to three weeks.

"Having to sit out last year really got me

See **Baseball** on page B3



Junior pitcher Scott Green turned down the chance to pitch in a major league organization to get the Cats to Omaha, Neb.

ELLIOTT HESS
STAFF

Cats need trip to Omaha to validate program's turnaround

At one point last season, it appeared the pieces were all in place for another historic UK baseball season.

Riding a school-record 19-game winning streak to open the season, opposing Southeastern Conference coaches and players couldn't help but think the Cats were going to contend for their second straight conference title.



ERIC LINDSEY
Kernel columnist

ference title.

But then the Cats lost. Then they lost another one. And before head coach John Cohen knew it, a second consecutive dream season crumbled into a nightmare. A once-explosive offensive team was reduced to little more than a team treading water and trying to stay out of the SEC cellar.

If the Cats want to be taken seriously as a legitimate baseball power, they need to do more than win a conference title — they need to make the trip to Omaha, Neb., the annual site of the College World Series, in the next two to three years.

"Think I'm setting the bar too high? The UK players certainly don't."

"Winning the championship (in 2006) was by far the brightest moment in my career so far, but this is just not going to be complete unless we get to Omaha," junior outfielder Collin Cowgill said. "Obviously we all want play well and be successful, but really my focus is to get there and compete for a World Series."

Winning the league title two years ago was a great foundation in building UK into a legitimate baseball school, but the Cats can't settle for one great year every five or six seasons. They need consistent, competitive ball clubs year-in and year-out if they want to rise to the status of SEC powerhouses like Vanderbilt and

Mississippi State.

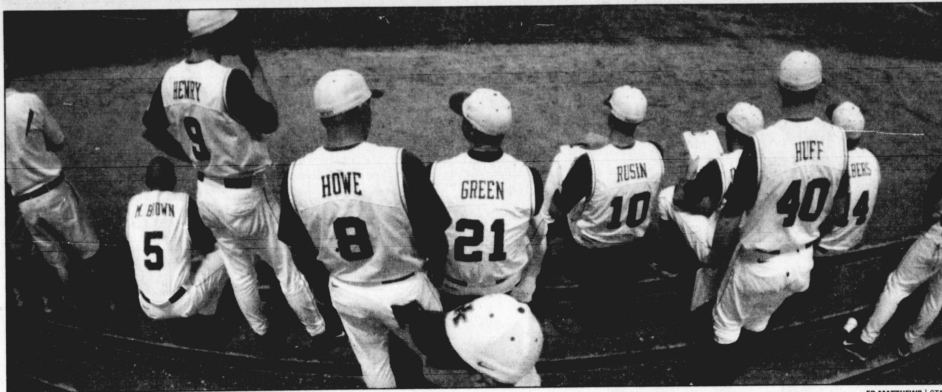
The Cats were on target to follow up their first conference title last year, but then a host of problems — mainly injuries and a weak non-conference schedule — came back to haunt the Cats midway through the season.

"One of my close friends and mentor, Ron Polk, always said that the deal in our league is about injuries. If you can stay healthy, then you will be alright," Cohen said. "I didn't believe it is until a year ago when we didn't have Scott Green and Collin Cowgill. I thought that was a big factor for us."

See **Lindsey** on page B5

"Winning the championship (in 2006) was by far the brightest moment in my career so far, but this is just not going to be complete unless we get to Omaha."

COLLIN COWGILL
Junior center fielder



Members of the 2007 baseball team take in the game from the top step of the home dugout. The Cats finished the year 34-19-1 (13-16-1 Southeastern Conference).

2008 UK BASEBALL SCHEDULE

February

22	Fri.	Xavier (Coca-Cola Classic)	Mobile, Ala.	Noon
23	Sat.	South Alabama	Mobile, Ala.	10 a.m.
23	Sat.	Fairfield (Coca-Cola Classic)	Mobile, Ala.	1:30 p.m.
24	Sun.	South Alabama (Coca-Cola Classic)	Mobile, Ala.	1:30 p.m.
26	Tue.	OAKLAND	LEXINGTON	4 p.m.
27	Wed.	OAKLAND	LEXINGTON	4 p.m.
29	Fri.	BUTLER	LEXINGTON	4 p.m.

March

1	Sat.	BUTLER (DH)	LEXINGTON	Noon
2	Sun.	BUTLER	LEXINGTON	1 p.m.
5	Wed.	EVANSVILLE	LEXINGTON	4 p.m.
7	Fri.	PURDUJE	LEXINGTON	4 p.m.
8	Sat.	PURDUJE	LEXINGTON	2 p.m.
9	Sun.	PURDUJE	LEXINGTON	1 p.m.
10	Mon.	PURDUJE	LEXINGTON	1 p.m.
11	Tue.	EASTERN MICHIGAN (DH)	LEXINGTON	1 p.m.
14	Fri.	* ALABAMA	LEXINGTON	4 p.m.
15	Sat.	* ALABAMA	LEXINGTON	2 p.m.
16	Sun.	* ALABAMA	LEXINGTON	1 p.m.
18	Tue.	MOREHEAD STATE	LEXINGTON	4 p.m.
21	Fri.	* at Auburn	Auburn, Ala.	5 p.m.
22	Sat.	* at Auburn	Auburn, Ala.	2 p.m.
23	Sun.	* at Auburn	Auburn, Ala.	1 p.m.
25	Tue.	XAVIER	LEXINGTON	4 p.m.
28	Fri.	* at South Carolina	Columbia, S.C.	7 p.m.
29	Sat.	* at South Carolina	Columbia, S.C.	4 p.m.
30	Sun.	* at South Carolina	Columbia, S.C.	1:30 p.m.

April

2	Wed.	WESTERN KENTUCKY	LEXINGTON	6:30 p.m.
4	Fri.	* MISSISSIPPI STATE	LEXINGTON	6:30 p.m.

5	Sat.	* MISSISSIPPI STATE	LEXINGTON	6:30 p.m.
6	Sun.	* MISSISSIPPI STATE	LEXINGTON	1 p.m.
8	Tue.	LOUISVILLE	LEXINGTON	6:30 p.m.
11	Fri.	* at Georgia	Athens, Ga.	6:30 p.m.
12	Sat.	* at Georgia	Athens, Ga.	4 p.m.
13	Sun.	* at Georgia	Athens, Ga.	2 p.m.
15	Tue.	at Cincinnati	Cincinnati, Ohio	6:30 p.m.
18	Fri.	* FLORIDA	LEXINGTON	6:30 p.m.
19	Sat.	* FLORIDA	LEXINGTON	7 p.m.
20	Sun.	* FLORIDA	LEXINGTON	1 p.m.
22	Tue.	at Louisville	Louisville, Ky.	6 p.m.
23	Wed.	at Western Kentucky	Bowling Green, Ky.	7 p.m.
25	Fri.	* at Vanderbilt	Nashville, Tenn.	7 p.m.
26	Sat.	* at Vanderbilt	Nashville, Tenn.	5 p.m.
27	Sun.	* at Vanderbilt	Nashville, Tenn.	1 p.m.
			Nashville, Tenn.	Noon

May

2	Fri.	* LSU	LEXINGTON	6:30 p.m.
3	Sat.	* LSU	LEXINGTON	1 p.m.
4	Sun.	* LSU	LEXINGTON	1 p.m.
6	Tue.	WRIGHT STATE	LEXINGTON	6:30 p.m.
9	Fri.	* at Tennessee	Knoxville, Tenn.	7 p.m.
10	Sat.	* at Tennessee	Knoxville, Tenn.	4 p.m.
11	Sun.	* at Tennessee	Knoxville, Tenn.	2 p.m.
12	Mon.	at Murray State	Paducah, Ky.	7 p.m.
15	Thu.	* OLE MISS	LEXINGTON	6:30 p.m.
16	Fri.	* OLE MISS	LEXINGTON	6:30 p.m.
17	Sat.	* OLE MISS	LEXINGTON	1 p.m.
21-25	Wed.-Sun.	SEC Tournament	Hoover, Ala.	TBA

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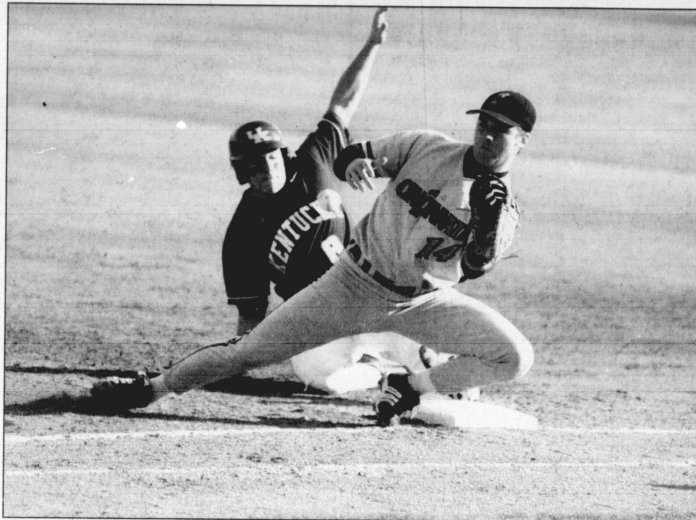
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Senior catcher Tyler Howe slides back to first base after an attempted pickoff throw during UK's 21-7 win over Cincinnati last season at Cliff Hagan Stadium. Howe, whose fastball has been clocked in the 90s, is expected to see time as a reliever.

BASEBALL

Continued from page B1

thinking I just wasn't ready to leave college baseball and to be done with that part of my life," Cowgill said. "I just hadn't gotten enough yet."

The star outfielder spent the offseason competing with Green for the Yarmouth-Dennis Red Sox in the Cape Cod League, and was named a Cape Cod League all-star before being picked by the Athletics in the draft's 29th round.

Cowgill, who Cohen said has the best physical skills on the team, has returned as a healthy redshirt junior and has had no second thoughts about his decision.

"I have a very strong belief in what we have here at Kentucky," he said. "This lineup, this staff, the coaching staff — everything here I just believe in."

Cowgill's injury wasn't the only key loss the Cats had to play through last season.

In front of Cohen's office hangs a picture taken during UK's game against Ball State in the NCAA Regional the Cats hosted in 2006. UK had just turned a double play, and the photo captured a panoramic view of the crowd. Among the thousands of fans in the stadium, there is one dot that pops

out. It's 6-foot-8, 245-pound Green sitting in the stands.

Green, one of the country's most sought after pitching prospects, missed the entire historic 2006 season after undergoing Tommy John surgery. But watching from the stands made him realize something.

He wanted to be a part of this season. He wanted to be a part of another regional. And he wanted to get to Omaha.

Green saw limited action in 2007, tossing just 17.2 innings while recovering from the surgery.

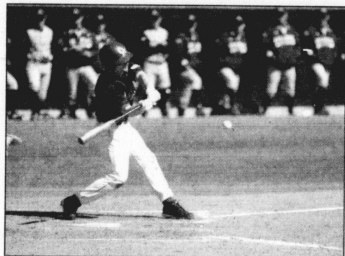
But Green thrived in the Cape Cod League. Facing future major league ball players, the fireballer notched a 3-1 record with a 1.56 ERA in eight starts.

"You get amped up when you know you are facing someone who you know is going to be a big-time guy," Green said. "That is where every competitor wants to be."

But that is not where Green wanted to be. At least not yet.

Despite a six-figure contract on the table, Green, whose four-seam fastball has been clocked around 95 miles per hour, wanted to return to UK for his junior year.

"It could have been with any amount of money," he said. "It's not about that. It's about being here and feeling comfortable here and what the coaches can do for us and what we can hope-



Former UK infielder Mike Brown swings at a pitch during the Cats 8-5 win over Murray State at Cliff Hagan Stadium.

fully do for Kentucky this year."

Though last season did not go as expected, Carroll, who led the SEC in doubles in 2007, is excited about the pieces that have fallen into place for this year's team, especially with the return of the three draftees.

"In major league baseball they have a lot of trades," said Carroll, who will play right field for the Cats this season. "If we did have trades in college, I can't think of anybody I would want to trade. I like our team a lot."

Cohen said having Carroll, Cowgill and Green back means everything to the club.

"It's leadership, it's produc-

tion on the field, it's the way those guys go about practice," Cohen said. "It's big."

Cohen said he hopes he can reward them by sending them off the right way: with a trip to Omaha.

But the trio said it was their coach who merited the reward.

"Coach Cohen has done so much for me as a player and as a person," Cowgill said. "I feel like not that I owed it to him, but that he deserved to have guys like Sawyer and Scott and I come back and help him get to a place where he deserves to go, and a place we have worked so hard to get to, and that's Omaha."

“You can talk about leadership all you want, but when kids have checks sitting on the desk in front of them and are willing to walk away from the money and come back to the University of Kentucky, that means a lot to me.”

— John Cohen, UK head coach

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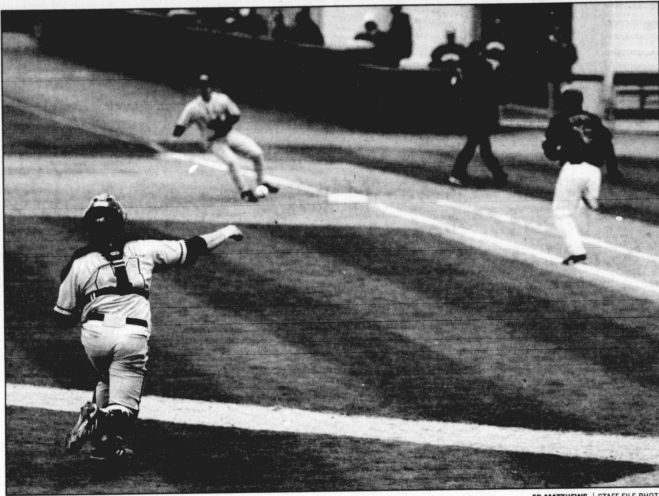
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Southeastern Conference

BREAKDOWN

EAST



Tennessee's catcher tries to throw out a UK baserunner during the Cats 3-1 win over the Volunteers at Cliff Hagan Stadium. The Vols are led by first-year head coach Todd Raleigh.

Vanderbilt

Last season: 54-13 (22-8 SEC)
Postseason: Lost to Michigan in the NCAA Regional finals.
Head coach: Tim Corbin (198-108, 6th year)
Outlook: No surprise here — Vandy will once again set the tone in the SEC. Despite losing MLB top pick David Price and eighth overall pick Casey Weathers, the Commodores are still loaded with talent. Eight position starters return to a team that was picked by many to win it all last year.

South Carolina

Last season: 46-20 (17-13 SEC)
Postseason: Lost to North Carolina in NCAA Super Regional
Head coach: Ray Tanner (500-220, 12th year)
Outlook: The Gamecocks were within throwing distance of the College World Series last year, falling just a game short of making the trip to Omaha, Neb. USC returns a bevy of talent from last year in sluggers Justin Smoak and James Darnell, and hurler Mike Cisco, so they should pick up right where they left off last year.

Kentucky

Last season: 34-19-1 (13-16-1 SEC)
Postseason: None
Head coach: John Cohen (131-93-1, 5th year)
Outlook: The Cats have all the pieces in place for a run to Omaha, but they also did last year. If UK can keep guys like outfielder Collin Cowgill and pitcher Scott Green on the field, they can beat anybody on any given day. Don't expect the Cats to fall short of the postseason this year. With head coach John Cohen at the helm, UK will be primed for a tourney run by the end of spring.

Georgia

Last season: 23-33 (11-19 SEC)
Postseason: None
Head coach: David Perno (206-159, 7th year)
Outlook: After two consecutive trips to the CWS in 2005 and 2006, the Bulldogs fell flat on their face last year despite having a squad stacked with experience. This year, they aren't so lucky. Georgia has holes at catcher, second and third base, and the outfield. They'll have to rely on newcomers and junior college transfers if they expect to be competitive in the SEC.

Tennessee

Last season: 34-25 (13-15 SEC)
Postseason: None
Head coach: Todd Raleigh (1st year)
Outlook: The Volunteers are short on experience both on the field and at the helm. New head coach Todd Raleigh hopes to infuse a new attitude to a team that struggled through SEC play a year ago. But it may take more than fresh faces to turnaround a young and inexperienced pitching staff.

Florida

Last season: 29-30 (15-15 SEC)
Postseason: None
Head coach: Kevin O'Sullivan (1st year)
Outlook: According to the Florida media guide, the Gators have a new coaching staff, new logos, new uniforms and a new baseball facility on the way. And according to the Kernel editors, they'll enjoy a new resting place in the SEC cellar. Florida posted a league-high team ERA of 5.27, and it doesn't appear things will get any better this year.

WEST

Ole Miss

Last season: 40-25 (16-14 SEC)
Postseason: Lost to Arizona State in NCAA Super Regionals
Head coach: Mike Bianco (282-157-1, 8th year)
Outlook: If there is one clear-cut team that will contend with Vandy for the SEC title, it's the Rebels. Ole Miss returns double-digit home run hitters in Logan Power and Cody Overbeck to go along with one of baseball's rising stars in Jordan Henry, last year's SEC Freshman of the Year. And oh yeah, they return possibly the best pitching staff in the entire league.

Mississippi State

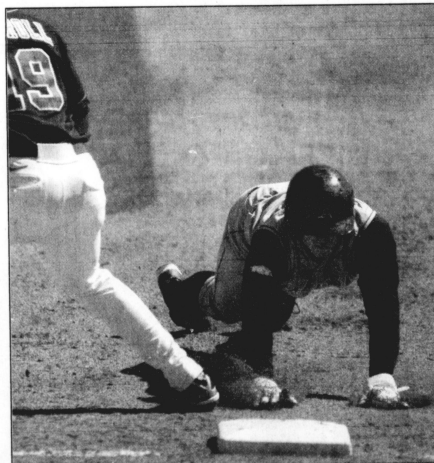
Last season: 38-22 (15-13 SEC)
Postseason: Lost to Louisville in the early rounds of the CWS
Head coach: Ron Polk (1,116-557-2, 29th year)
Outlook: If the Bulldogs hope to repeat their Omaha run from a year ago, they'll rely heavily on hurler Justin Pigott, a senior who leads a tournament-tested pitching staff. But, if MSU's arms can't carry the load, the Bulldogs could be in trouble because they return only three starting position players.

Arkansas

Last season: 43-21 (18-12)
Postseason: Lost to Oklahoma State in the NCAA Regionals
Head coach: Dave Van Horn (201-110, 6th year)
Outlook: Question marks surround the mound of the Razorbacks' pitching staff. With an entirely new starting rotation, the arms of Arkansas will likely hope that Logan Forsythe can once again put up stellar offensive numbers to carry the load. A former Team USA member, Forsythe led the Razorbacks in hits, triples, doubles, stolen bases and on-base percentage.

Alabama

Last season: 31-26 (15-15 SEC)
Postseason: None
Head coach: Jim Wells (553-272, 14th year)
Outlook: To be blunt, the Crimson Tide is average. And their head coach echoed that senti-



An Arkansas baserunner slides back to first base during the Razorbacks 14-5 win over UK. Arkansas made it all the way to the NCAA Regionals before losing to Oklahoma State.

ment at their team media day, by saying that he had a wealth of three- and four-year guys who will be key role players. Coach, role players don't win SEC titles. And they won't this year.

Louisiana State

Last season: 29-26-1 (12-17-1 SEC)
Postseason: None
Head coach: Paul Mainieri (29-26-1, 2nd year)
Outlook: In just his second season as head coach, Mainieri is already stocking the cupboard full of talent. This year's recruiting class is ranked No. 1 by Collegiate Baseball, proving

the Tigers are on their way up. Like any young team, LSU will endure its bumps and bruises, but this squad should be fun to watch over the next few seasons.

Auburn

Last season: 31-25 (10-20 SEC)
Postseason: None
Head coach: Tom Slater (87-85, 4th year)
Outlook: The Auburn media guide indicates that the biggest addition to its pitching staff is a coach. That can't be a good thing. The Tigers have virtually no ace and no stability on the mound. Don't expect Auburn to make any post-season noise.

The above are the projected final standings for each team in the Southeastern Conference, as predicted by the Kernel sports staff.

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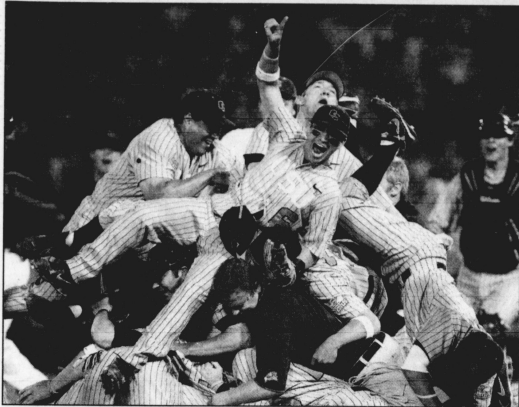
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STORYLINES TO WATCH FOR IN 2008



ROBERT WILETT | RALEIGH NEWS OBSERVER
Oregon State's Darwin Barney (6) celebrates with teammates after the Beavers defeated the Tar Heels 9-3, clinching their second consecutive College World Series on Sunday, June 24, 2007 in Rosenblatt Stadium in Omaha, Neb.

The road to Omaha

In 2006, the UK baseball team made history, winning the first Southeastern Conference championship in the program's history and advancing to an NCAA Regional. With visions of the College World Series in Omaha, Neb., dancing in their heads, the Cats were anxious to build upon that success in 2007. But the team predicted to finish among the top of the SEC again, struggled through an injury-marred season and failed to make the conference tournament. Head coach John Cohen has called this year's team his most talented and experienced, and yet again the Cats have Omaha set in their sights. But can UK avoid the injury bug this season and keep its lineup intact? If so, the Cats have the chance to make some serious noise in the postseason.

Fresh faces

Graduation, injuries and recruiting create a constant revolving door of players in college baseball, which means each season features the emergence of new stars on the scene. In the offseason, Cohen inked one of the nation's top recruiting classes. Newcomers Chris Wade (freshman) and Brian McClendon (Tennessee Community College transfer) have been given the starting jobs at shortstop and third base, respectively. Freshman Chris Bisson and redshirt freshman Neiko Johnson will see time in the infield. Western Kentucky transfer Troy Frazier and freshman Bryan Rose will

see action in the outfield. Freshman Logan Darnell is expected to receive immediate mound duties. If history tells us anything, it's that one of these new guys will have a breakout season. The answers to who, where, when and how will be revealed on the field.

MLB Draft stocks

Senior outfielder Sawyer Carroll, junior pitcher Scott Green and junior outfielder Collin Cowgill each return to UK after turning down big contract offers from major league clubs. But were their decisions the right ones? How each performs during the 2008 season could drastically affect their MLB Draft stock. All three have been named to the 2008 Wallace Award Preseason Watch List, an award given to the nation's top collegiate baseball player. Two of the Cats - Green and Cowgill - suffered season-ending injuries earlier in their UK careers. A serious injury, or a lackluster season, could cause their draft statuses to plummet faster than the Nielsen Ratings for "American Gladiators." But the "Big Three" won't be the only members of this year's club to capture the eyes of scouts. Senior first baseman Brian Spear and senior pitcher Greg Dombrowski should also receive some major attention as the season progresses. Both were tabbed with lofty preseason honors from Baseball America. Spear was named second-team All-SEC, and Dombrowski was voted as the pitcher with the best control in the SEC.

LINDSEY

Continued from page B1

He's right in one sense: Losing two of the most talented Cats derailed much of their hopes for making it back to postseason play.

But injuries happen to every club. They're part of the game, and you would be hard-pressed to find a single baseball team that doesn't lose an everyday position player or pitcher for a period of time.

If the Cats do manage to keep most of their talent on the field this year though, watch

out, because UK has the players to make a serious run to the Cornhusker state. Ever since Cohen took the helm five years ago, he has gradually been building talent at every corner of the dugout.

Green is a pro star in the making, and Cowgill and senior outfielder Sawyer Carroll have proven over the last couple of years that they're the cream of the crop as far as college talent is concerned. And don't forget about senior hurler Greg Dombrowski, whose sinker could make even Alex Rodriguez smack into three groundballs a game.

With all that talent in place,

a trip to Omaha weighs heavily on how well the Cats are playing at the end of the season. A favorable early-season schedule once again sets up for what looks like a long winning streak. But then comes the treacherous SEC. If the Cats can escape conference play with a winning record, they should make it into the round of 64.

And from there? We'll just have to see. Cohen has assembled the pieces. Now it's up to his players to put the puzzle together.

Eric Lindsey is a journalist senior. E-mail lindsey@kyker.net.

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*available option

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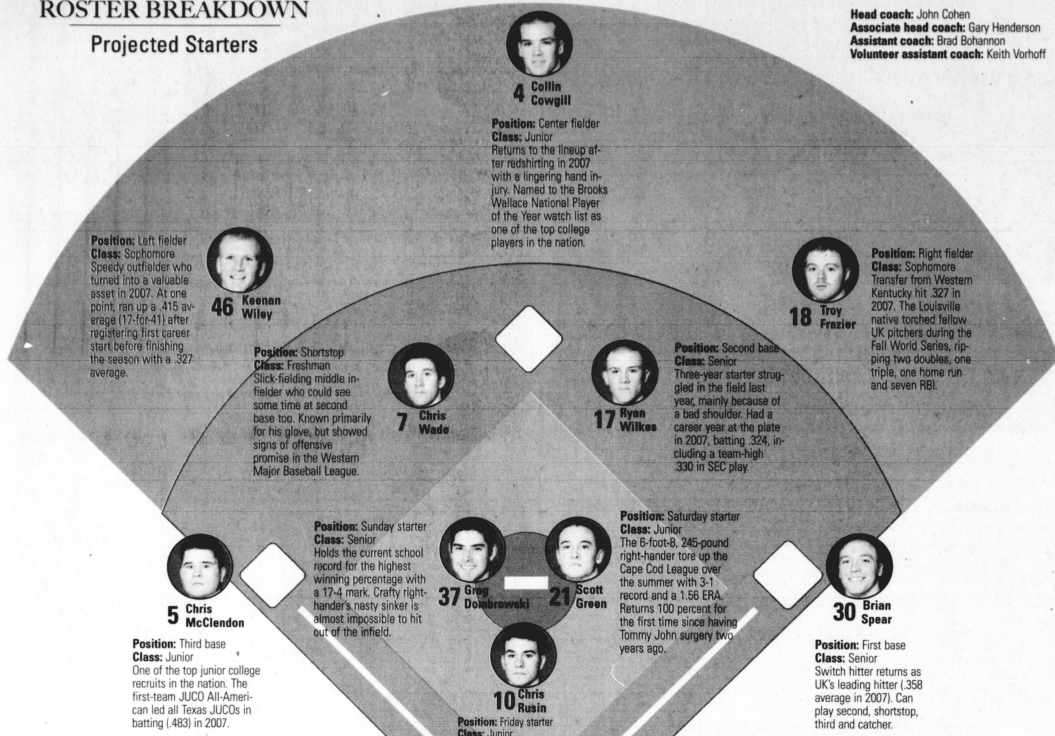


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ROSTER BREAKDOWN

Projected Starters



Head coach: John Cohen
Associate head coach: Gary Henderson
Assistant coach: Brad Bohannon
Volunteer assistant coach: Keith Vorhoff

Bullpen

Andrew Albers (Senior) #14 LHP
Brock Baber (Senior) #28 RHP
Logan Darnell (Freshman) #15 LHP
Duran Ferguson (Sophomore) #16 RHP
Tyler Henry (Sophomore) #9 RHP
Jonathan Huff (Junior) #40 RHP
Mike Kaczmarek (Freshman) #23 LHP
Aaron Lovett (Senior) #33 RHP
James Paxton (Sophomore) #22 LHP
Clint Tifford (Sophomore) #34 RHP
Tommy Warner (Senior) #44 LHP
Joshua Weninger (Freshman) #42 RHP
Jesse Yano (Junior) #45 LHP

Position: Designated hitter

Class: Senior
Named to the Brooks Wallace National Player of the Year watch list after leading the SEC with 23 doubles a year ago. The former first baseman will primarily see time in the outfield and at designated hitter.



19 Sawyer Carroll

Position: Catcher

Class: Senior
One of the best defensive catchers in the SEC, who has a cannon for an arm. Could be a potential late-inning reliever as well, with a fastball that has been clocked in the mid-90s.



8 Tyler Howe

Reserves

Kevin Bishop (Freshman) #27 OF
Chris Bisson (Freshman) #29 INF
T.J. Daugherty (Freshman) #47 C
Scott Davis (Freshman) #26 INF
Navarro Hall (Freshman) #31 OF
Neiko Johnson (Freshman) #3 INF
Spencer Korus (Junior) #6 UTIL
Marcus Nidiffer (Sophomore) #12 C
Brian Rose (Freshman) #13 OF
Brian Suerdick (Freshman) #2 C
Kevin Thulin (Junior) #24 OF
Brock Wright (Sophomore) #25 OF

Spring Break Count Down

17 days

The Kernel

News.....Not Chicken

Bella Rose

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Attention Engineers

ALCOA, the world's leading producer of aluminum and manufacturing excellence, is seeking candidates for engineering positions, both full time and summer interns, at the Warrick Operations facility in Newburgh, IN.

The ideal candidates will have BS in Electrical or Mechanical Engineering plus some summer intern or co-op experience in an industrial setting. Knowledge of metal casting, rolling or finishing of flat rolled sheet and applying statistical quality tools is a plus.

This position is accountable for all engineering phases of project and process improvement efforts as well as providing technical support to maintenance and operating groups. This position will be responsible for leading projects in addition to being an effective team member. Strong communication and problem solving skills, bias for action and experimentation, attention to detail, systems thinking and initiative for change are required.

Two opportunities to meet and discuss what Alcoa has for your future:
Information Session: Monday Feb 25, 2008 in RGAN 387 @ 6:30 PM
Career Fair Booth: Tuesday Feb. 26 Student Center Ballroom

We offer an excellent salary/benefit package and great opportunities for professional career development. For confidential consideration, please send resume to:
(email preferred)
Doug Black
ALCOA
P.O. Box 10
Newburgh, IN 47629
Email: Doug.Black@ALCOA.com

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