

Rupp's Boys Must Pull Rabbit Trick

By KEN KUHN

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Thirteen hundred and forty-seven points . . . Twenty-six feet and four inches of height . . . Thirty-eight rebounds a game . . . Ingenuity and experience of three starters and a key reserve who between them saw extensive action in a total of 238 varsity games.

In capsule form, that's what Kentucky's cage miracle man, Adolph Rupp, will have to replace in order to come up with anywhere near a representative Wildcat basketball team in 1956-57.

And, in case you don't think that is a tall order even for the fabulously successful "Man in the Brown Suit," you have the word of the usually-optimistic Rupp that the outlook is for "possibly the weakest Kentucky team of the past 15 years."

The starting trio, whose departure occasions a complete rebuilding job along the front line, included All-America pivot ace Bob Burrow (6-7, 528 points and 364 rebounds), forward Jerry Bird (6-6½, 421 points and 295 rebounds) and forward Phil Grawmeyer (6-8, 219 points and 281 rebounds). Missing on account of scholastic inefficiency is key reserve forward-center Phil Johnson, a 6-6½ lad who contributed 52 more points and 38 rebounds to the cause.

The Wildcats of last season were a far from typical outfit, posting a record of 20 wins against six losses through NCAA Tournament play—a mark most schools would be proud to own, but ranking as the poorest for the usually unbeatable Kentuckians since 1943.

Most observers figured the record was amazing in itself for the material Rupp had available and represented one of his greatest coaching jobs even though Kentucky failed to win the Southeastern Conference title that they have owned no less than 16 times since the league was organized in 1925 and were eliminated in the regional finals of the National Collegiate Tourney in which they hold all-time records of most championships (3), most games won (14), and most appearances (8).

Only a shadow of Kentucky court powerhouses of the past and definitely weaker than a year ago, the 1956-57 quintet will have to be moulded from a squad of 18 which includes only 10 returnees who averaged less than 10 minutes of game action per man last season.

Heading the list of returning lettermen is guard Vernon Hatton, a hometown product of Lexington Lafayette who garnered Southeastern Conference "Sophomore of the Year" honors in two separate polls of newsmen and coaches for his sensational play in the last campaign. The blond-thatched, six-foot-three-inch sharpshooter, who was an All-America high school pick and ranks as the Wildcats chief hope for national honors this season, proved one of the brightest surprises in the national picture a year ago as he posted a respectable 13.3 scoring average and stood second in conference statistics on shooting from the field with an accuracy mark of 49.4 per cent.

The only other regular back in the fold also is a guard—5-11 senior Gerry Calvert. A ball-control artist extraordinary, the diminutive red head from

Maysville, Ky., started all 26 of the Wildcats' games last season but may be in for a rough time in the jostling for starting jobs on the 1956-57 aggregation.

Chief threat to Calvert's job will be transfer Adrian Smith, a native Kentuckian from Farmington by way of Northeast Mississippi Junior College. The six-foot speedster is regarded as an outstanding long shot artist and thus fills a gap that has been the trademark of great Kentucky teams of the past. Smith is the third junior college transfer to perform for the Wildcats, succeeding All-America pivotman Bob Burrow and center Roger Layne (1950 and '51).

Also in the transfer category, but more of an unknown, is 6-3 guard John Hardwick. A Lexington boy, he played high school ball at University High and had a freshman collegiate season at Duke before returning to UK last year.

Two other "new faces" will be evident among the '57 Wildcats. They are 6-5 center Dick Howe of Carbondale, Ill., a holdout last season, and 6-4 junior letterman Earl (Brother) Adkins of Ashland, a promising guard who was out of action a year ago due to scholastic difficulties. Coach Rupp is expecting plenty of help from both, particularly from Howe who should push 6-7 junior Ed Beck, who looms as the probable successor to the graduated Burrow at center, to either greater play or into the background.

Besides Beck, the returning veterans are seniors Calvert, John Brewer (f-g), Ray Mills (f-c); juniors Hatton, Bill Smith (f), Bill Cassady (g), Lincoln Collinsworth (g), John Crigler (g-f), Harold Ross (g), and non-letterman Jay Bayless (g).

Rounding out the squad are five sophomores, including Howe who was red-shirted last year and Hardwick, the transfer from Duke. The brightest prospect of the group is expected to be the sensational Johnny Cox of Hazard, Ky., who blistered the nets in yearling action last season at a 32.2 points a game clip. Cox very likely will latch

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KENTUCKY BASKETBALL SCHEDULE 1956-1957

1956	
Dec. 1—Wash. & Lee—\$2.25, 1.25	Home
Dec. 3—Miami (Fla.)—\$2.25, 1.25	Home
Dec. 8—Temple	Away
Dec. 10—St. Louis—\$2.25, 1.25	Home
Dec. 15—Maryland—\$2.25, 1.25	Home
Dec. 18—Duke	Away
Dec. 21-22—UK Invitational Tournament (Dayton, SMU, Illinois, and Kentucky)	Home
Dec. 28-29—Sugar Bowl Tournament	Away
1957	
Jan. 5—Georgia Tech—\$2.25, 1.25	Home
Jan. 7—Loyola (Chi.)—\$2.25, 1.25	Home
Jan. 12—Louisiana State	Away
Jan. 14—Tulane	Away
Jan. 19—Tennessee	Away
Jan. 26—Vanderbilt	Away
Jan. 28—Georgia Tech	Away
Jan. 30—Georgia—\$2.25, 1.25	Home
Feb. 2—Florida—\$2.25, 1.25	Home
Feb. 8—Mississippi	Away
Feb. 11—Mississippi State	Away
Feb. 15—Loyola (Chicago)	Away
Feb. 18—Vanderbilt—\$2.25, 1.25	Home
Feb. 23—Alabama—\$2.25, 1.25	Home
Feb. 25—Auburn—\$2.25, 1.25	Home
Mar. 2—Tennessee—\$2.25, 1.25	Home

* Tentative.
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