



WEATHER Warm today, high near 55. Clear and cold tonight, low near 40. Sunny tomorrow, high near 50.

BEANTOWN! Rowan Atkinson gives a great performance, but "Bean" lacks a great story and supporting cast. See review, Page 2.



MoN

November 10, 1997

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ESTABLISHED 1894

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

INDEPENDENT SINCE 1971

Universities around country connecting

By Delmar Watkins
Staff Writer

UK researchers will soon be able to use the resources of other universities at speeds unheard of by current standards.

An alliance of 57 universities will create the National Technological Grid, a computational infrastructure allowing researchers to use resources from other universities.

"It will do 100 times more for researchers than the current system," said John Connolly, director of the UK Center of the Computational Alliance.

This project will make a network

100 times faster than the Internet for researchers trying to use remote resources, Connolly said.

Hardware and software not found on campus could be accessed if anyone in the alliance has it. "Hundreds of researchers at UK could potentially get access to more powerful tools to do their jobs," he said.

This project will allow researchers at UK to "compute with the really big supercomputers at the University of Illinois at Urbana," James McDonough, a mechanical engineering professor said.

"We also have a lot of students that compute with University of Illi-

nois at Urbana," McDonough said.

One application of the system at UK would include the design of nanomaterials — computers or machines designed for extremely small scales used in electronics, Connolly said.

"Other research at UK will focus on fluid dynamics, computational simulations of how the stars move, and medical applications like image analysis and advanced disease diagnosis," Connolly said.

"Engineering problems will also be solved by using this network, because of its ability to deal with high bandwidth or data transfer rate by the network,"

McDonough said.

The project's uses are not limited to scientific research, though. English professor Kevin Kieren's *Beantown!* manuscript project will be enhanced by the network, Connolly said.

The *Beantown!* project seeks to put the story's rare original manuscript into digital format, so scholars from around the world can get high-definition pictures of the manuscript.

The distribution of rare texts electronically "may be the future of how libraries will look," Connolly said.

"The National Science Founda-

tion will eventually introduce technology created by the alliance into all sectors of society. The foundation funded the alliance with a \$170 million grant given to the University of Illinois at Urbana," he said.

The University of Illinois at Urbana is leading the alliance, called the Partnership for Advanced Computational Infrastructure.

"The system should be in place within a year," McDonough said. "Only two partnerships in the United States are like the Alliance," McDonough said. "The other partnership is at the University of San Diego."

UK, dubbed the "Computational gateway to the Southeast," was the only university in the southeast invited into the partnership, "partially due to its past relationship with the National Computational Science Alliance," Connolly said.

"Each of the partners in this alliance brings expertise, resources and a commitment of time and energy to our efforts," said Larry Smarr, director of the alliance.

"In essence," he said, "we are establishing a virtual community that shares its knowledge and pools its resources to create the computational and information infrastructure of the 21st Century."

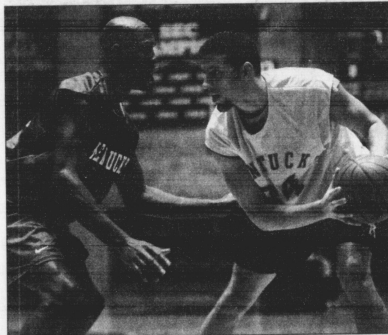
First scrimmage shows promise, problems

Smith still not satisfied with defense

By Brett Dawson
Associate Editor

The slogan on the cover of the UK men's basketball media guide is "All Out. All the Time."

Apparently, that applies even in Blue-White scrimmages.



Wildcats banged and bruised as they crashed the boards and strove for blocked shots. They dove out of bounds after rebounds. They scrambled at midcourt for loose balls.

"I think the kids were really very emotional," UK coach Tubby Smith said. "They played really hard."

But Smith's first Wildcat squad put on a mostly ragged performance in the only Blue-White game of the preseason on Saturday, the more experienced Blue team routing the Whites 96-79.

Those high-scoring Blues were

the beneficiaries, Smith said, of UK's defensive blues.

"I thought our defense in transition was not very good, we didn't contest shots as well as I'd like," Smith said. "I don't think either team played particularly well defensively, and the White team didn't shoot the ball very well."

Part of the White team's struggles, Smith said, sprung from its inexperience. Three of UK's four freshmen — forward Myron Anthony and guards Saul Smith and Ryan Hogan — suited up wearing white.

But that inexperience doesn't account for a combined 21-for-54 shooting day for veterans Jeff Sheppard, Scott Padgett and Nazr Mohammed, despite what Smith called a poor defensive performance.

"I am a little concerned," Smith said, "about some of our veteran players who didn't shoot the ball very well."

Not half as concerned, though, as he was with defensive shortcomings that allowed Blue standouts Cameron Mills (24 points on 9-for-11 shooting) and Allen Edwards (a game-high 26 points on 10-for-17 shooting) uncontested shots.

"I expect (the defense) to be a little tighter," Smith said. "That's an area we're going to have to work hard to improve."

Smith's players agreed, admitting they're significantly further along on the offensive side of the ball.

"In practice, the first team is starting to get real comfortable with Wayne (Turner) at point guard and running the offense," Mills said. "Defensively, though, there are things Coach Smith has us doing that (Rick Pitino) didn't

have us doing. It's not that one system is right and one is wrong, they're just different, and now we're having to get stuff out of our heads that was beat in there for three years and adjusting to (Smith's) system."

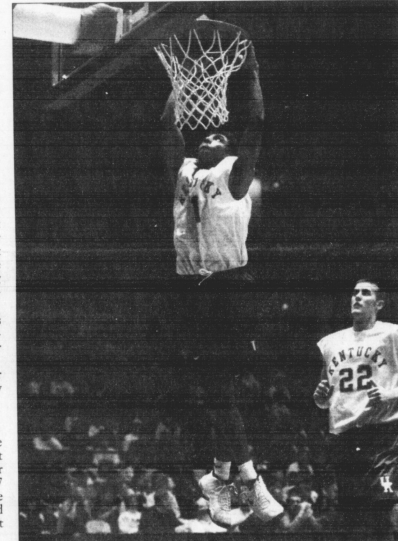
Turner, who scored 16 points and dished out seven assists, concurred, noting that things under Pitino weren't all that different.

"We'll get adjusted," Turner said. "We start out like this every year."

Pivot-al issues

Perhaps the only spot left to be filled in UK's starting lineup is at center. Smith said neither Mohammed (20 points, 17 rebounds) nor Jamaal Magloire (eight points, 10 rebounds and seven blocks) gained a significant advantage on Saturday.

"In our system and our style of



HIGH ENOUGH Saul Smith (above) goes for the dunk ahead of Jeff Sheppard during the scrimmage. Scott Padgett (right) drives around Hesbinu Evans.

Donating organs helps save lives

By Ellen Lord
Staff Writer

Jenny Miller knows of 55,050 people who are waiting for their pagers to go off. They carry them everywhere, listening for a page in the shower and sleeping with them on the bed stands by their heads.

They are all waiting for someone to save their lives.

"They're in need of organ transplants and await news of a heart, lung, kidney, liver, pancreas or small intestine donation from a donor."

And they're waiting unnecessarily. Last year, 20,000 individuals were eligible to potentially donate organs, but only 4,800 families of those eligible agreed to contribute organs, said Miller, director of education at the Kentucky Organ Donor Affiliates.

"A new name is added to the waiting list every 20 minutes," Miller said. And seven to nine people die everyday because they don't get the organs they need, she said.

At the Mid-America College Health Association's 32nd annual meeting this weekend, Miller spoke about KODA's role in Kentucky and the surrounding area. The organization aims "to ensure that

every family is given the option" of donation at the time of their family member's death, she said.

Because of KODA's involvement, Kentucky had a 50 percent donation consent rate, compared to the 25-30 percent in 1990, Miller said. The current national average is also 25-30 percent. Last year 317 organs became available from 90 Kentucky donors, Miller said.

"Our whole point is people need to talk about (donation) beforehand. They don't think anyone is going to die," said Jackie Decroo, a special services coordinator at KODA. As part of a national awareness program, she visits high schools in eastern Kentucky and talks to students about consenting to donate their organs by signing the back of their driver's license.

Miller cited several misunderstandings, such as dismemberment and conflicts with religion, that prevent people from signing the back of their license.

"All major religions support organ donations," she said. And "anything we would procure would not affect the body's appearance during an open-casket funeral, she said.

Potential donors also worry that doctors might declare them brain

The waiting game

Currently 309 people need organ transplants in Kentucky.

| Organ needed | # needed |
|-----------------|----------|
| Lung | 17 |
| Heart | 79 |
| Kidney/Pancreas | 10 |
| Kidney | 154 |
| Liver | 49 |

source: UK Medical Center

dead prematurely if they sign an organ donor card. Miller said, however, that "the physician who declares brain death cannot have anything to do with the transplant program." In addition, KODA never takes organs if the family does not consent, even if the person signed their driver's license, she said.

Cheryl Simpson, a registered nurse at the Student Health Service at Eastern Kentucky University, learned that she would need an organ transplant last year. She received Hepatitis C from a three-unit blood transfusion 28 years ago.

"I'm looking for a liver," she told attendees of the MACHA meeting. She said that because of the great need for donations, "you have to be

See **ORGANS** on BACK PAGE

'It's dentist time, dentist time'

UK dental students help children conquer fears, cavities

By Jessica Coy
Staff Writer

"I woke up this morning saying 'It's dentist time, dentist time!'" said Kererra Glen, a 6-year-old from Georgetown, Ky.

After waiting for more than an hour, Kererra left the ranks of 60 other children still in the waiting room, passed through the double doors and entered the hustle and bustle of the ASDA Saturday Morning Clinic.

Inside, rows and rows of pink, green and blue sunglasses-clad children reclined in dental chairs as UK dental students went to work.

The dental students were supervised by college faculty and graduate dentists, all of whom volunteered to get out of bed early Saturday morning for a good cause.

Students from the University of Miami, Ohio as well as future dentists at UK came to observe dental procedures.

The American Student Dental Association Saturday Morning Clinic is a community service program for children from families with limited incomes, and is sponsored by the UK Chapter of the ASDA in cooperation with the UK College of

Dentistry.

The clinic provides free care to children by cleaning their teeth, examining for tooth decay and giving fluoride treatments. Students are also able to perform necessary X-rays, fill cavities and apply dental sealants.

The clinic is held about six times a year and as Byron Colley, a fourth-year student dentist and chairman of the clinic, said, "Some Saturdays are busier than others."

"This is definitely one of the busiest Saturdays I have seen yet, and I've been volunteering for over 12 years," said Dan Sever, director of Academic Affairs.

The increased interest could be because the Saturday Morning Clinic is more well-known, and children are beginning to be referred to the clinic by school nurses, counselors and teachers, Sever said.

"Many of the children here today have never been to the dentist, and this clinic is definitely not the ideal place for a first time dental visit," Sever said. "There's a lot of noise here, which might make kids nervous, and we don't have the time that we would like to have to calm all the child's

fears.

"However," he said, "the dental students are doing a great job lightening up the atmosphere, they have a great rapport with the children."

Breonna Jones, 9, shows no fear as she gets into the dentist's chair.

"I never liked going to the dentist when I was little, and I didn't want to pass that fear on to my children. I tried to make it seem like this trip was a big adventure," said Stephanie Glen, mother of Breonna and Kererra.

"I think a lot of us as just as nervous as some of the children here," said Emily Ruda, a dentist sophomore, who said her experience at the clinic has been rewarding and challenging.

Ruda's sentiments are shared by many of the dental students who volunteer at the clinic not only to help children but also to gain some hands-on experience.

"The clinic is part of the student's training," Sever said. "One of the things we try to do is instill in students a sense of obligation to their community. For many of them, experiences such as this can be the deciding factor in their decision to pursue a career in the dental field."

DIVERSIONS

Death from Above

'Starship Troopers' shows just how horrible war can be with its gruesome death scenes

By O. Jason Stapleton
Entertainment Editor

On the surface, *Starship Troopers* may seem like nothing more than survival of the species on an intergalactic level.

The threat to humanity comes in the form of the Bugs, giant insects from another galaxy.

It actually goes much deeper than just humans versus Bugs though. It is also tackles issues dealing with war and the military and its effects on those that get caught up in it.

The film does a good job of operating on several different levels. It opens with govern-

ment-produced propaganda for the Federal Service — the futuristic version of the Armed Forces.

In order to be considered a citizen with full rights, a person must put in time as a part of the Service.

Starship Troopers follows the paths that four high school friends follow through the various "branches" of the Federal Service.

Johnny Rico (Casper Van Dien) is the main character, who joins the Federal Service for the wrong reason.

He is in love with Carmen Ibanez (Denise Richardson) and she has

applied to be in the Fleet Academy, the prestigious branch that turns out starship pilots.

Rico doesn't have the test scores for the Academy, so he is forced to join up with the Mobile Infantry. He is joined in the MI by high school friend Dizzy Flores (Dina Meyer).

Everything falls apart when Rico gets a "Dear John" letter from Carmen.

Rico was ready to quit the service when he found out that his home of Buenos Aires was destroyed in a Bug attack.

The movie then kicks into warp speed and sends the members of the Federal Service off to war.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE? Death and propaganda take centerstage in 'Starship Troopers.' This movie shows the dark underside of war and the military. It plays at Woodhill, South Park and Turfland Cinemas.

pretty much sums up the difference between them when he says, "Fleet does the flying while MI does the dying."

Once the fighting begins though, the only thing that matters is staying alive.

The Bugs had laid an elaborate trap for the humans and they walked right into it.

At this point the movie turns extremely graphic. Decapitations and other brutalizations become common place as the Bugs systematically destroy human forces.

Several scenes of extremely mangled bodies make Jason Vorhees and Freddie Kruger look like rank amateurs in comparison to the brutal Bugs.

Although the gory scenes may not be appropriate for children, they do help to illustrate the true horrors of war.

The humans take great losses in the early battles, and learn that they have underestimated their opponent. How they overcome that fatal mistake lies in the three friends from Buenos Aires though.

'Bean' falls short of other slapstick comedies



BRITISH STUPOR Rowan Atkinson as his classic character, Mr. Bean, falls far short of expectations.

By Jonathan D. Gent
Staff Critic

Charlie Chaplin was a great man.

A genius with a gift to not only make mind-numbingly brilliant films, but to also make people laugh. The same for Buster Keaton. Both men relied on their pantomime acting ability to carry themselves through the silent age of film. Rowan Atkinson (the title character of *Bean*), is a similarly talented man; however, some things are different.

First, *Bean* has no meaning behind its humor. Chaplin and Keaton both used political back-

drops for their sight gags so they could appease more than just the masses. All the viewer gets from the humor of *Bean* is some ignorant mugging about, a few off-color jokes about bodily fluids, and well, that's it. No important messages, no political agenda. Nothing.

The plot of *Bean* is a nutshell: An idiot (that would be Bean) is sent by his superiors in London to help transport the painting "Whistler's Mother" to the United States without screwing everything up. And yes, it is really (really) that simple. Hard to believe, isn't it?

Let's begin with the statement that no one has to worry about this movie crowding anyone at the

Academy Awards. Finally, the first

the TV series "Bean") is his hilarious work on the "Blackadder" series for BBC.

The director, Mel Smith, follows up one mediocre film (*The Tall Guy*, and a decent second try (*Radioland Murders*), with this complete disaster. His directing style is at best erratic, and at worst, well just crap.

To his defense, though, with a cardboard funnyface character like this (is Jim Carrey in this movie?) one couldn't do much better. He

should go back to acting, where he is well known as the albino from *The Princess Bride*.

Richard Curtis, the creator and scriptwriter of *Bean*, sells out on this one. Curtis not only wrote the "Blackadder" series, but snatched an Academy Award for his screenplay, *Four Weddings and a Funeral*. Quite a step down, really.

This is a weak film in all areas. If you want the mugging about of a hapless hero, go rent a Charlie Chaplin or Buster Keaton. Hell, even a Jim Carrey film would be better. It is very possible that everyone on the planet's IQ dropped about 40 points because of this movie.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

The Campus Calendar is a free service which appears in the Monday edition of the Kentucky Kernel. All registered organizations wishing to publish meetings, lectures, special events and sporting events, must have all information to the Student Activities room 203 or call 257-8867, or e-mail ukevent@pop.uky.edu one week prior to publication.

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|--|--|---|---|---|
| <p>MONDAY 11/10</p> <p>ACADEMIC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -UK Priority registration for the 1998 Spring Semester (thru 11/21) <p>ARTS & MOVIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -SAB Masdall Gallery presents: Mixed Residings, Master of Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition, Libby W. Barnes, Rm. 257 Student Ctr. (thru 11/28) *Latino Students Association MOVIE: The Courage of the People, Rm. 110 Classroom Bldg -Dept. of Theatre is now raising money for its Guignol Theatre Restoration Project, "name" each theatre seat for a minimum of \$350 for a Gala opening in 1999- its 50th anniversary year; 257-3145 <p>MEETINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -UK Sierrans Meeting, 8:00pm, Rm. 106 Student Ctr, Discuss outings, Climate Change Awareness Meeting, & Run for the Rainforest; 253-0643 <p>LECTURES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Career Ctr. Orientations: M-F 3:00pm (thru 11/26) CALL 257-2746 to sign up <p>RELIGIOUS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Newman Ctr Catholic Mass every weekday, 12:10pm, 320 Rose St; 255-8566 <p>RECREATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -UK Ski & Snowboard Club Meeting, 7:00pm, Rm. 245 Student Ctr. | <p>MEETINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -SAB Board Meeting, 5:00pm, 203 Student Ctr; 257-8867 -Annex International Meeting, 6:30pm, Rm. 205 Student Ctr; CALL Kristen Houle 226-0642 for more info -Golden Key National Honor Society Meeting, 7:30pm, Rm. 111 Student Ctr -UK Sierrans Climate Change Awareness Week Committee Meeting, all students & organizations welcome, 8:00pm, Rm. 106 Student Ctr; 252-2850 ext. 1084 <p>LECTURES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -UK Career Ctr Workshop: "Business Etiquette," 12:00pm, Rm. 208 Mathews Bldg; 257-2746 -Donovan Scholars Program Forum: "Programs of the Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning," Jan Isenhour, 3:30pm, Lex. Senior Citizens Ctr <p>RELIGIOUS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Intervarsity Christian Fellowship Quest/Worship Time, 7:00pm, Rm. 245 Student Ctr; 252-4723 -UK Wesley Foundation United Methodist Student Center PHAT TUESDAY (Praise Honor And Thanks), 7:30pm, Rm. 230 Student Ctr; 254-0231 -Baptist Student Union TNT (Tues Night Together) Meeting, 7:30pm, Chaple-429 Columbia Ave; 257-3989 -Newman Ctr Student Night, 7:30pm, 320 Rose Ln; 255-8566 <p>INTRAMURALS/RECREATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Raquetball Singles tournament brackets posted after 2:00pm, Seaton Ctr; 257-6584 -Fencing Club, 8:00-9:30pm, Alumni Gym Loft; 257-3812 <p>SPORTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -UK Men's Basketball vs. Court Authority- Exhibition (UKTV Delay), 7:30pm, Lexington, KY <p>SPECIAL EVENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Martin Luther King, Jr. Cultural Ctr "A Night of | <p>International Flavor," 7:00pm, Site TBA, CALL 257-4130</p> <p>WEDNESDAY 11/12</p> <p>ARTS & MOVIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *UK Russian & Eastern Studies presents a Russian film, "Alexander Nevsky," open to all, 4:30pm, Rm. 340 Classroom Bldg; 257-3761 <p>MEETINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -PASSA Pre-Physician Assistant Studies Student Association Meeting, 5:00pm, Rm. 231 Student Ctr -SAB Next Stage Series Meeting, 6:15pm, Rm. 203 Old Student Ctr; 257-8867 -UK Sierrans Climate Change Awareness Week Committee Meeting, all students & organizations welcome, 8:00pm, Rm. 106 Student Ctr; 252-2850 ext. 1084 <p>LECTURES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -UK Career Ctr Workshop: "Creative Job Search Strategies," 12:00pm, Rm. 208 Mathews Bldg; 257-2746 <p>RELIGIOUS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Latter-day Saint Student Association Brown Bag Meeting, 12:00-12:50pm, Rm. 231 Student Ctr -Cats for Christ Encounter, 7:00pm, Rm. 230 Student Ctr | <p>FRIDAY 11/14</p> <p>ARTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Dept. of Art presents "Miniatures from Byzantine History," by Christine Havice, Assoc. Prof., 2:00pm, Rm. 208 Fine Arts Bldg; 257-4936. Discussion and refreshments will follow -SAB Spotlight Jazz Series presents T.S. Monk - "Monk on Monk," 8:00pm, Singletary Ctr, Paid Admission <p>RELIGIOUS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -International Christian Fellowship, 7:00pm, every Friday, Episcopal Church, Rose St (opposite fine arts bldg) | <p>SUNDAY 11/16</p> <p>RELIGIOUS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Newman Center Catholic Mass, 9:00 & 11:30am, 5:00 & 8:30pm, 320 Rose Ln; 255-8566 -Christian Student Fellowship University Praise Service, 11:00am, 502 Columbia Ave; 233-0313 <p>lecture at 7:15pm in the Recital Hall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Tentative ML King Cultural Ctr Drumming Workshop & Dance Class, TBA, CALL 257-4130 for more info <p>INTRAMURALS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Raquetball Singles tournament begins, Seaton Ctr Raquetball Courts (thru 11/16) 257-6584 <p>SPORTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -UK Football @ Vanderbilt, 2:00pm -UK Women's Basketball vs. Hungary- Exhibition, 7:00pm, Lexington, KY -UK Volleyball @ Tennessee, 7:30pm |
| <p>TUESDAY 11/11</p> <p>ARTS & MOVIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -EXHIBIT: Pictorialism into Modernism, The Clarence H. White School of Photography, UK Art Museum (thru 11/23) -EXHIBIT: The Figure in Twentieth-Century Sculpture, Edwin A. Ulrich Museum of Art, UK Art Museum (thru 11/30) -EXHIBIT: Faces: Portraits in the Collection, UK Art Museum (thru 12/23) -EXHIBIT: A Fine Line: Master Etchings from the Collection, UK Art Museum (thru 1/18/98) | <p>MEETINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Green Thumb Environmental Club Meeting, 7:30pm, Rm. 205 Student Ctr -UK Lambda Meeting, 7:30pm, Rm. 231 New Student Ctr; 244-3344 <p>LECTURES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Donovan Scholars Program Forum: "Birds of the Tropics," Virginia Kingsolver, 3:30pm, Lex. Senior Citizens Ctr <p>RELIGIOUS</p> | <p>THURSDAY 11/13</p> <p>ARTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -UK Percussion Society, Yamaha Corp., & SAB Spotlight Jazz presents "Double Image," 8:00pm, Singletary Ctr Recital Hall, FREE Admission (Master Class at 5:00pm) <p>MEETINGS</p> | <p>SATURDAY 11/15</p> <p>ARTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -University Artist Series presents American pianists, Leon Bates, 8:00pm, Singletary Ctr, pre-concert | <p>Double Image</p> <p>THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 8:00pm SINGLETARY CENTER for the ARTS RECITAL HALL ADMISSION IS FREE!</p> |

SPORTS

From good to bad for UK

By Jay G. Tate
Sports Editor

For the first five points of a given match, the UK volleyball team is as good as any in the Southeastern Conference.

It's the other 10 points keeping the Cats from success.

Take for instance Friday night's match against No. 4 Florida. Big Blue, having upped its intensity since a midnight workout Wednesday morning, made every game look winnable during the early stages. But the late stages projected a much different story.

Though down only 5-7 in the first game, UK lost it, 7-15.

Though down only 4-6 in the second game, UK lost it, 5-15.

Though up in the third game 4-

2, UK lost it, 6-15.

"At least we play well up to five points in every game," UK head coach Fran Flory said Friday. "But tonight we showed a lack of desire and determination to finish the game. I think we played according to the score instead of just playing to execute in every game."

And playing to execute is all about Florida. The Gator offense, run by fifth-year senior Nikki Shade, posted a powerful .352 hitting efficiency against the yielding Wildcats. Front-line nasties Nina Foster and Jenni Keene combined to blast through UK's blockers for 20 kills on only 28 attempts.

More importantly, the Gators thoroughly shut down the Cats' offensive stalwarts. Powerful outside hitter LaTanya Webb finished the match hitting .136. Ball-control outside hitter Katie Eiserman finished hitting .158.

Nothing was getting through the Florida block.

"You can't win a match with your two best hitters hitting like that," Flory said. "It was a very poor effort on their part — our setting was good enough for them to hit at least .100."

But the Gators' 11 blocks sent even the Cats' good swings right back into their face.

"We concentrated on our blocking," Florida head coach Mary

Wise said. "After looking at her Louisville stats (a match in which Webb posted 36 kills), we knew that Webb is a player that can really go off. What we tried to do was not give her easy swings and easy kills."

Against South Carolina yesterday, the same trends continued to develop.

After a strong first-game win, the Cats came out hot in the second game, jumping to a 7-4 lead. But a flurry of miscues, including a string of Gamecock tips which landed in the middle of the UK defense, eventually led to a Big Blue collapse and another "L", 3-1.

"The tips absolutely killed us and we refused to adjust," Flory said. "That was (USC) adjusting to something that our defense was giving them."

Though the net effect was nearly the same, yesterday's match was a totally different enterprise in two important ways:

1) UK's outside hitter tandem of Eiserman and Webb, awake against the Gamecocks, Eiserman finished with 14 kills and a team-high 12 digs, while Webb ripped 27 kills and hit .436 for the game.

"This is the best I've played in the SEC all year," Webb said. "I was feeling really good."

2) UK's front-line blocking, which struggled against Florida's

powerful hitters, took control of the shorter USC attack, notching nine total blocks. Jacyn Homan led the assault with five blocks including three solo blocks.

"We really went after them today," Homan said.

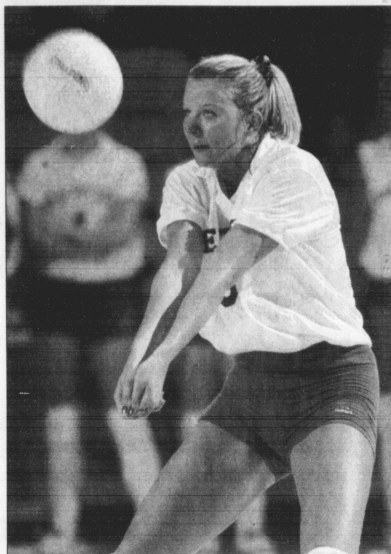
But whatever improvements the Cats enjoyed against South Carolina were nullified by another round of what is quickly becoming UK's creed: "Why Are We Inconsistent?"

Through the match, Big Blue's hitting efficiency continued to follow a downward spiral — from .318 to .283 to .262 to a woeful final-game efficiency of .091. But one of the problems which was to be remedied by Wednesday's mid-night practice was the team's lack of consistent effort.

And consistency was nowhere to be found against USC.

"We knew we weren't going to solve (the inconsistency)," Flory said. "One practice doesn't turn a team around. There's not a one-practice solution. If I did that, I could write a book and I wouldn't be coaching — I'd be a millionaire and sitting on a beach somewhere."

"For the first two games, I thought we were pretty consistent," Homan said. "But after that, it went back into the roller coaster effect — we're high one moment and low one moment."



PHOTOS BY JAMES CRISP Kernel staff
DIG IT The UK volleyball team lost two matches this weekend despite the efforts of Jacyn Homan (above) and Katie Eiserman (left).

Soccer seasons end with semifinal losses

UK women fall despite comeback

By Rob Herbst
Sports Editor

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — It seems every time the UK women's soccer team meets Vanderbilt, something memorable happens.

When the foes meet two weeks ago, the Cats received two red cards. One year ago in the NCAA Tournament, No. 23 Vanderbilt defeated UK in sudden-death overtime.

Friday in the semifinals of the Southeastern Conference Tournament at Percy Beard Stadium, it seemed like a pretty boring game — until the 75th minute.

Down by two goals, the Wildcats made a furious rally with scores in the 75th and 77th minute to tie the game. But a goal by Vanderbilt with less than four minutes remaining sent the Commodores a 3-2 win and gave the Wildcats home, but not with their heads down.

"We just fought together as a team," said three-time All SEC forward Kim LaBelle who played in her final game as a Wildcat. "This was the first game we came together as a team. It's taken all season for us to come down here and play that good."

Vanderbilt took a quick lead in

the first half by taking advantage of a penalty kick that resulted when UK defender Margo Hafer took a down a Commodore inside the goalbox.

Megan Wender penalty's kick was blasted into the upper left corner to give Vandy the lead.

"It was questionable," said UK head coach Warren Lipka about the official's call. "Margo slid and toe-kicked the ball out of bounds and number six (Vandy's Ashildur Helgadóttir) falls down and they call it."

Eleven minutes later Helgado-ttir's six-yard header off a Kris Braunton cross pass gave Vandy a two-goal lead. The "Dores took the lead to the half when Lipka did some questioning of his team."

"I basically asked them what type of people they were during halftime," Lipka said. "Are you people that will stand up to a fight or walk away? They showed me they were people that would stand up to a fight."

The Wildcats couldn't get past the Vandy defense until 75:03 when junior forward Carrie Staber headed in an Annie Gage corner kick.

A rejuvenated UK squad continued to pressure Vandy and the pressure paid off at 77:54. Senior Alison Rooney found an open LaBelle in the box. Her six-yard shot found the left of the net and set off pandemonium on the UK side. UK goalkeeper Carrie Kuhnell ran down three-quarters of the field and literally tackled LaBelle after the goal.

Coming back to earth after an incredible comeback was one

problem for the Cats.

"After we scored, I actually stepped onto the field and told to make sure we keep focused," Lipka said. "I think we did but it was just an isolated situation where one of our players and put one across into the box and they took advantage."

At 86:03 Vanderbilt midfielder Kris Braunton was alone in front of the UK net. Teammate Karie Peifer's cross from the far right side was placed perfectly for Braunton to head it past Kuhnell to give Vandy a trip to the finals.

"It was just heartbreaking," Lipka said. "It's heartbreaking for a coach to see your players turn it around but the effort they did to notch two, even it up and then give one up. ... Without a doubt, we walk away with our heads held up."

The Wildcats finish the season at 9-12-1 and for the first time in three years, UK will not make an NCAA Tournament appearance.

But there is hope for next year. More than half of UK's roster this season are freshmen. In Friday's game, seven of the team's 11 starters were freshmen or sophomores and two were juniors. Everybody who came off the bench on Friday were freshmen.

"We're a hell of a young team," Lipka said. "We've grown tremendously this year and we've only got good thing to come."

Gators win title

No. 8 Florida won the SEC Tournament yesterday with a 4-2 win over No. 23 Vanderbilt.

Bowling Green ends Cats' year again

By Jill Erwin
Senior Staff Writer

OXFORD, Ohio — For the third straight year, the Bowling Green Falcons stood in the way of a victory in the Mid-American Conference Tournament.

For the third straight year, the UK men's soccer team was playing through a slew of injuries and the loss of one of its key players.

For the third straight year, UK came up on the short end of the stick.

Despite being the better team, according to UK coach Ian Collins, the Cats (12-7-2) lost 1-0 to BGSU Friday afternoon in the semifinals of the MAC tourney.

"Our team played their heart out," Collins said. "We just couldn't catch a break. We thoroughly outplayed them, we were a better team than them."

"I give (BGSU) credit for hanging in there and winning, but at the same time I feel terrible for our players because they deserved to win."

As was the norm for the last few games of UK's season, the two teams played to a scoreless tie in the first half. That was due in large part to the play of the two veteran goalkeepers, UK's Chris West and BGSU's Scott Vallow.

UK had its chances, but was unable to put the ball past Vallow, and BGSU was thwarted by West as five of his nine saves came in

the first half.

The Cats had a good scoring chance less than one minute into the second half when Rick Dengelegi passed the ball to Matt Wilkerson, who in turn put a rocket off the right post.

BGSU was just a little luckier four minutes later. At 49:31, the Falcons' Bobby Biggs took advantage of mass chaos in front of the UK goal. He spun hard to his left and poked the ball past a diving West. The assist was made by both Jason Began and Mark Michalak.

West stepped into the goal when freshman keeper Brian O'Leary suffered a season-ending injury, breaking a bone and injuring ligaments in his hand. West's last start prior to the injury was against Cincinnati Sept. 18.

"It was really hard," West said of the adjustment back to game situations. "Anytime you haven't played in almost two months, even if you play in practice, it's not the same thing."

UK played a controlling game, dominating the ball movement. The ball was on BGSU's side of the field for well over half the game.

The last five minutes of the contest, UK got off a flurry of shots at Vallow, but none slipped by. With 3:32 left, UK's Brian DePriest had a header at close range just miss slipping by Vallow, but he managed to hold on to it.

As the clock counted down, the

UK players' collective heads dropped, while the BGSU fans rang cowbells and celebrated as if the championship had been won that day. All was solemn on the UK side, as some contemplated the end of their Wildcat career.

"We've got a lot of young guys who are fighters, and that showed this weekend," senior Jamie Schuer said. "I'm proud of everybody, and I'm going to miss all this. I'll be out next year, supporting them all the way."

The Cats went into the match with their rival without senior midfielder Brian Baltzell, who was suspended for a red card he received in Thursday's game against Western Michigan. This game also brought to a close the UK career of Baltzell, who was suspended from the Senior Day game for too many yellow cards.

West thoroughly agrees with Collins' assessment that UK was the better team, and sees a lot to build on.

"Their goalkeeper had a save on one that was in on probably 90-95 percent of the keepers in the country," West said. "It's not all good, but you can't fault the character of the team. In time, we'll look back and appreciate the team's effort, but for now, it's just a loss and it's hard to look at anything positive."

"Today just wasn't our day," Schuer said.

SPORTSbytes

Lewis breaks record

The UK women's swimming and diving team cruised to victories over Miami (Fla.), Ohio State and Ohio University while the UK men's swimming and diving

team defeated Ohio Saturday at Lancaster Aquatics Center.

The women defeated Miami 155-78, Ohio State, 145-92, and Ohio 164.5-72.5.

The men defeated the Bobcats 188-53 but fell to Ohio State and

Miami. Sophomore Nat Lewis highlighted the day by setting a new school record in the 1,000-yard freestyle with a time of 9:06.97. The time broke the Lancaster Aquatics Center pool record in

the 1,000 freestyle by more than 12 seconds.

"That was pretty impressive," UK coach Gary Connelly said. "He's backed down some this season in order to save energy, but today, he got to swim it hard."

Duo falls

Due to rain delays the Rolex Intercollegiate Tennis Championships moved indoors where UK's Cedric Kauffmann and Carlos Drada fell in the singles com-

petition. UK's Kauffmann, the No. 1 seed, lost in the quarterfinals to Georgia's Steven Baldas 6-4, 6-1. Drada fell to Tulane's Robert Samuleson in the fourth round. Compiled from staff reports.

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Conference discusses morning after pill

By Justin Willis Staff Writer

So his condom broke, and you've forgotten to take your birth control pills for the third day in a row...

interfering with the fertilization process and disrupting ovulation. During a presentation last week about emergency contraception...

Population Research at Princeton University. "I never knew about it when I was in college," Griffith told the crowd...

pregnancy among the patients who had used them. Although Smith-Peters is pleased with the pill's effects...

Despite these numbers, 60 percent of all pregnancies in the United States are unplanned. Increased information about emergency contraceptives could prevent an estimated one million abortions each year.

of unprotected intercourse is crucial for the pill to work. Although the University Health Service is closed all weekend, Planned Parenthood is usually open for a few hours every other Saturday.

Youth adding dimension to IFC

By Jaclyn Hill Staff Writer

In the past, the president-elect of the Interfraternity Council has typically been a junior. Next year, though, the IFC office of president will be filled by someone slightly younger.

with the Prelaw Society, the Executive Board of the Inter-Greek Programming Assembly, is the assistant rush chairman and assistant social chairman for Sigma Pi.

according to Tony Blanton, the Fraternity advisor here at UK. Blanton said, "The president of IFC is the voice of the fraternity system. He's the representative to the external public that the fraternities deal with...

"(Joining) the Greek system, in my opinion, was one of the most important decisions in college," Knipp said. "It teaches the leadership, social and time management skills that you need to succeed in life."

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Council looking to develop

By Matthew Boris Contributing Writer

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we won't have over half the council not know who's going on." "We're kind of Greek heavy and white-bred right now and want to bring in a lot more diversity," he said...

contribute money have historical markers put up around campus in their names," Kuhlman said. "The Campus Quest is a fall treasure hunt for anyone who wants to learn more about the campus."

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In addition to organs, KODA also needs transplantable tissues such as eye corneas, heart valves, skin, bone, ligaments and soft tissue, Miller said.

Kings Island trip with their church youth group. Survival rates for organ transplant recipients are high. One year after their transplant, 86 percent of heart recipients and 88 percent of liver patients maintain a healthy disposition, Miller said.

Scrimmage Smith not satisfied with team's rusty defensive showing From PAGE 1 play we like to trap the post a lot. It's probably a little tough to score (when you're being double-teamed) all the time," Smith said.

as they did on Saturday. "We may go with another center," Smith joked. "If I can find one." Bumps and bruises Smith had hoped to make it through the scrimmage without significant injury, and his team accomplished that goal.

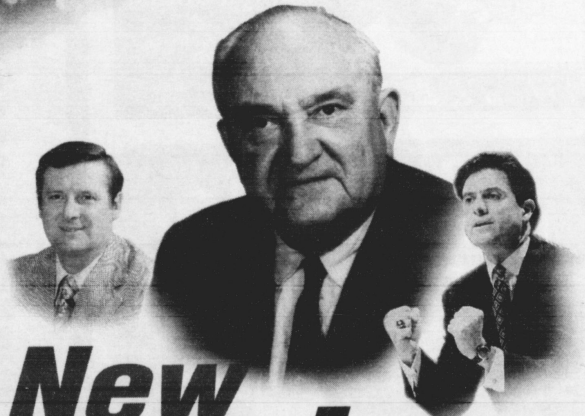
Students can give blood during the UK vs. University blood drive, or you can donate money to the United Way, on behalf of your organization," he said. "If you look at it in general, it fits with our general scheme, in that we either raise money or recognize people who give money."

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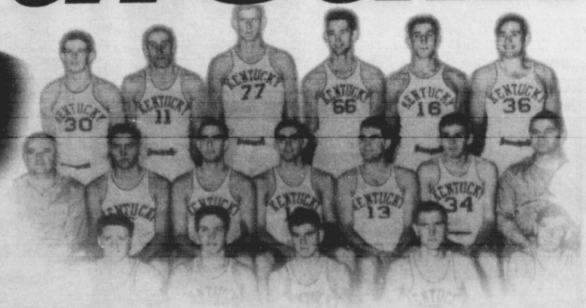
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November 10, 1997



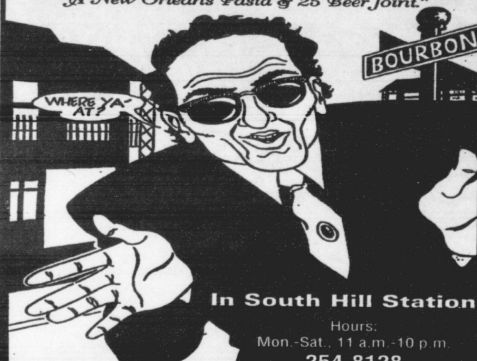
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Key matchups dot season

By Jay G. Tate
Sports Editor

New regime, old-school dream.

Just minutes after UK's overtime loss to Arizona in the NCAA championship game last season, then-head coach Rick Pitino was already making references to San Antonio, Texas.

The coach wasn't designing the trip to provide his players a lesson in Texas history at the Alamo. Nor was it a chance to tour the Riverwalk — one of the country's most scenic shopping areas.

Rather, it's the site of the 1998 Final Four.

But an off-season jump to the NBA changed Pitino's Texas focus from an NCAA championship to mid-season battles against the Spurs, Mavericks and Rockets.

New coach Tubby Smith shuns such overtly optimistic predictions of postseason efficiency. He says Pitino's talk about San Antonio was just the ex-coach's way of putting constructive pressure on the players.

"Rick was pretty confident in his team he had returning," Smith

said. "Certainly, (Pitino) was a master at being able to motivate his players using that style of putting pressure on them."

"But the only game I'm thinking about is Morehead State," Smith said of the Cats' Nov. 20 season opener.

So in lieu of Smith's post-Morehead predictions, the following is a breakdown of the matchups which seem, at least from a preseason perspective, to have the potential of showing the Cats' true colors.

Maui Madness

Provided UK can trip up George Washington and Arizona handles Boston College in the first round of the Maui Invitational later this month, a championship rematch will unfold before the 3,000 fans at the Lahaina Civic Center.

November games can often be misleading barometers — see 1991: Pittsburgh 85, UK 67 in Rupp Arena — but they can provide coaches and fans a sense of where the team stands against the best.

Movin' On Up Madness

The only Georgia assistant

| Men's schedule | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Nov. 11 COURT AUTHORITY 7:30 p.m. | Jan. 17 ARKANSAS 4 p.m. |
| Nov. 18 AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL TEAM 8 p.m. | Jan. 21 Alabama 7:30 p.m. |
| Nov. 20 MOREHEAD STATE 8 p.m. | Jan. 24 Tennessee 7:30 p.m. |
| Nov. 24-26 Maui Invitational vs. George Washington 9:30 p.m. | Jan. 27 Vanderbilt 9:30 p.m. |
| Nov. 29 Clemson-Premier Classic 7:30 p.m. | Feb. 1 FLORIDA 3:30 p.m. |
| Dec. 3 Purdue-Great Eight 9:30 p.m. | Feb. 4 at LSU 8 p.m. |
| Dec. 6 Indiana 3:30 p.m. | Feb. 8 Villanova 1 p.m. |
| Dec. 10 Canisius 8:15 p.m. | Feb. 11 TENNESSEE 8 p.m. |
| Dec. 13 GEORGIA TECH Noon | Feb. 14 OLE MISS 12:30 p.m. |
| Dec. 20 TULSA 7:30 p.m. | Feb. 18 Florida 8 p.m. |
| Dec. 23 AMERICAN 8 p.m. | Feb. 22 GEORGIA 1 p.m. |
| Dec. 27 LOUISVILLE 4 p.m. | Feb. 25 Auburn 8 p.m. |
| Dec. 30 Ohio 7 p.m. | Feb. 28 South Carolina 1 p.m. |
| Jan. 3 VANDERBILT 6 p.m. | Mar. 5-8 SEC Tournament TBA |
| Jan. 6 Georgia 9:30 p.m. | |
| Jan. 10 Mississippi State 4 p.m. | |
| Jan. 13 SOUTH CAROLINA 9:30 p.m. | |

coach not to make the exodus to Lexington with Smith was Ron Jirsa, who is now UGA's head coach. With all five of the Bulldogs' starters returning from last year's 24-9 squad, including Smith's oldest son, G.G., there is no question the matchup will be tough both on and off the court.

"I know that (Georgia) has a good squad returning and it's always tough when you're competing against" former teams, Smith said. "I have players (at Georgia and Tulsa) that I've been very close and helped recruit and

been around for some time."

Self-centered Madness

Though Smith left Tulsa in 1995, games against former employers always seem to merit attention (see above).

During the off-season, the Golden Hurricane lost the omnipotent Shea Seals, but new coach Bill Self returns power forward Michael Ruffin, whose undying tenacity in the paint could tax UK's post offense and defense.

Just Plain Madness

0-2.

That was UK's record against rising nemesis South Carolina last season.

The Gamecocks used a powerful trio of guards to rip the Cats apart last year. But the loss of shooting guard Larry Davis could change USC's chemistry and allow the Cats to exact some revenge on a team with only moderate strength in the post.

Though the Gamecocks' front line welcomes 6-foot-11 George Formanek back from a redshirt season, look for UK centers Nazr Mohammad and Jamaal Magloire to have their way with USC's players in the paint.

The 0-2 record was also in reference to USC's postseason record.

But the 1997-98 season will consist of at least 30 games and focusing on specific matchups, junior Heshimu Evans warns, can be misleading.

"The biggest challenge this year is going to be the schedule," junior forward Heshimu Evans said. "Every opponent on that roster is important. There's the challenge of having to go out there and having to play hard every night to win."

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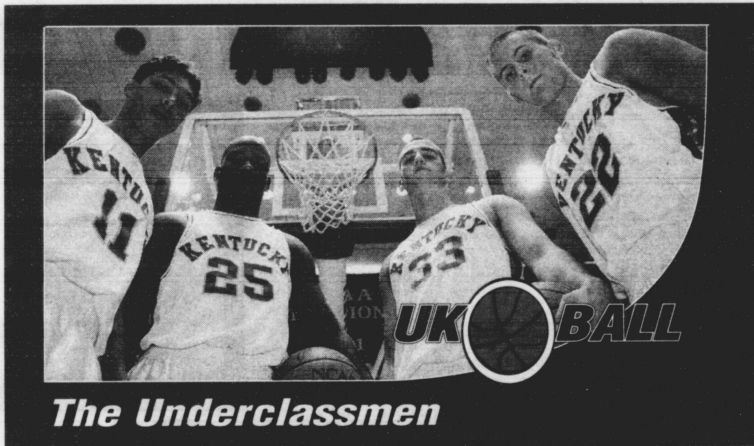
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The Underclassmen

Team depth relies on frosh recruits

By Jill Senior

After a coming freshman comment about Tubby Smith's relationship with his players and the personal nature with which he does his job.

That's a good thing, because they're all away from home. Mike Anthony, a 6-foot-7, 250-pound forward and the highest-rated of the newcomers coming to the Bluegrass from Neptune, N.J., was named the leading player of the Year in Florida on a 24.8 record and averaged 28 points, 10.8 rebounds and 1.7 blocks in his senior year.

One of Anthony's biggest adjustments is in regard to the weather. The weather in Lexington in mid-October is not quite like what he is used to in the Sunshine State.

"We had practice at six o'clock in the morning, and it was 20 degrees, and I was like, 'Whoa,'" Anthony said. "It kind of overwhelmed me."

The team needs his rebounding down low, and he looks to learn from junior Heshawn Evans about that. Yet he admits love for the outside shot.

"We both like to get in transition, get a rebound," Anthony said. "I like to stay outside and try to beat my guy. I'm just inexperienced. I would like to do both of them, but I don't know when, and that's my problem."

Michael Bradley, of Worcester, Mass., is a 6-foot-10, 230-pound forward/center who figures

to spend this year largely learning from UK's twin towers, Jamal Magloire and Nazr Mohammed.

He led his 23-2 team to the state championship game last year and scored 41 points in the loss. He was named Mr. Basketball, averaging 26 points, 11.6

said. "I knew the news about it a lot, but it doesn't bother me."

Saul Smith, perhaps the most written-about member of the rookie class, faces the tough challenge of playing for his father.

"It's hard, but it's fun on the other side," Saul said.

Saul, the middle son of Tubby Smith, has already mistaken identity.

In practice, Tubby Smith said, Saul for missing an assignment. Only problem is, he called him G.G., the oldest son and starting point guard for Georgia.

Saul quickly corrected him and said one sentence: "It's Saul."

"I wasn't mad or anything," Saul said. "I understand where he's coming from. He's been saying G.G. for two years, so I guess I said to it."

The newcomers professed confidence in Tubby Smith's ability to do the job, and after hearing that he was Rick Pitino's replacement as head coach, none considered renegeing on their commitment to attend UK.

"I was a little lost (after Pitino left), but this is the place for me," Hogan said. "I felt really comfortable after talking with Coach Smith, and hearing what Rick Pitino had to say about Tubby Smith, it made the whole thing much easier for me."

Saul Smith agrees.

"I think he deserved an opportunity to coach at the University of Kentucky because I feel it's the best school in America,"

Smith said. "The tradition speaks for

rebound, pass. Hopefully we can just rebound, pass. Hopefully we can just rebound, pass.

Hogan, a center from Decatur, Ga., said he was a lot from Decatur, Ga., said he was a lot from Decatur, Ga.

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'Shep' returns hungry after redshirt year

By Mike Heppermann
Staff Writer

Nov. 20. That is the first regular season game of the UK men's 1997-98 basketball season. It is more than just the first game of the season, though, for senior guard Jeff Sheppard.

It is the first NCAA basketball game he will play in over a year and a half, dating back to April 1, 1996, when UK beat Syracuse in the NCAA Championship.

Sheppard sat out last year as a redshirt due to coach Rick Pitino's plan to give Derek Anderson, Anthony Epps, Wayne Turner and Ron Mercer considerable playing time at the guard positions. Sheppard's diminished playing time during his last year would have hurt his chances for the NBA. This year, however, with the departure of Anderson, Epps and Mercer, Sheppard is expected to start as the shooting guard.

Perhaps he isn't looking forward to the start of this season as much as one might expect him to after sitting out for a year while UK tallied a 27-4 regular season record, won the Southeastern Conference Tournament and advanced to the NCAA Championship game for the second year in a row.

"It's just like any year, there's excitement in the beginning of the season, and you look forward to starting practice and starting the games," he said. "I'm looking forward to it. Maybe just a little bit more than usual because I sat out last year."

Maybe?

Maybe he's just trying to stay low-key about it. At a news conference Oct. 22, first year head coach Orlando "Tubby" Smith expressed his thoughts about Sheppard's desire a little differently.

"He's very hungry," Smith said. "He has taken his leadership role very seriously. He wants everyone to work as hard as he has."

While practicing with the team last year, Sheppard managed to stay in shape physically and stay focused mentally. Staying in shape during a redshirt season is easy compared to keeping one's mental focus. Sheppard isn't worried about forgetting the fundamentals, though.



"I went through the same things as the team did last year, I knew every scouting report we had and I knew about our opponents," he said. "It's not like I've lost anything mentally or physically."

Sheppard prepared hard in order for a great season this year, but also to successfully fulfill his tri-leadership role with fellow seniors Allen Edwards and Cameron Mills.

"The guys voted me as a team captain, and I need to be a leader, on and off the court," he said. "I think that's my number one responsibility."

He is also expected to spark some life into UK's game plan. In the past, Sheppard has been known for fast break dunks and blocking shots of players more than a few inches taller than him.

During UK's 1995-96 championship season, he averaged 5.5 points per game while playing 12.8 minutes per game. His point total, however, is sure to go up with increased playing time.

One may wonder if Sheppard might have to adjust his style of play now that Coach Smith is running the show. Learning new methods of offense and defense in your last year of eligibility, after learning one coach's playing style for four years, doesn't sound easy. For Sheppard, however, the adjustment is not a concern.

"Coach Smith's style is basically the same," he said. "Coach Smith was under Coach Pitino earlier in his career, and he uses some of the same ideas Coach Pitino does. So, it's not a real big concern."

Sheppard must have a big year this year to fill the void created by the departure of Anderson, Epps and Mercer, all of whom either graduated, left for the NBA or both, and all of whom played considerable minutes at guard. Pressure is something you learn to get over quickly at UK, though.

"I'm used to it," Sheppard said.

Nov. 20. Look out Morehead State.

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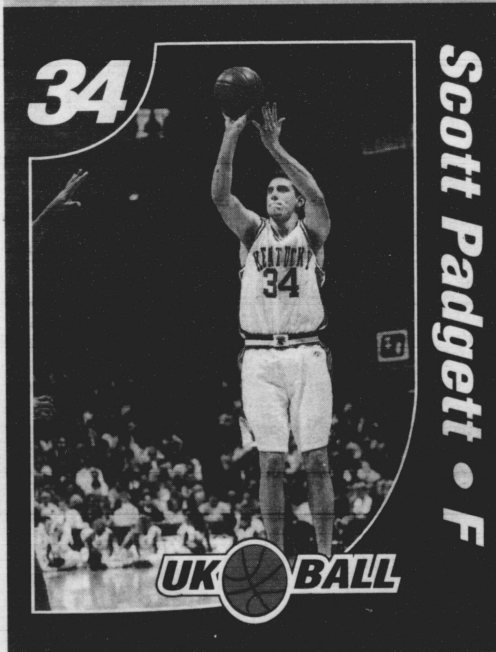
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Padgett finds new role in the paint



By Rob Herbst
Sports Editor

Every Monday night Scott Padgett annoys roommate Jeff Sheppard.

"Wrestling is on two different channels on Monday night and Shep wants to watch Monday Night Football," Padgett said. "I've got the remote and we watch wrestling. When a commercial comes on, I turn to the wrestling on the other channel and Shep complains about me not turning on the football game."

Padgett's favorite wrestler? Obviously, The Giant.

The Giant stands 7-foot-4 inches and weighs an estimated 400 pounds.

"No one can stop The Giant," Padgett said. "He stands over everybody and can choke-slam anyone who gets in his way."

Ironically, The Giant played college hoops at Wichita State. Padgett shouldn't want to be like the Giant when it comes to basketball ability — The Giant was a bench warmer.

But when it comes to size and dominating others with force, Padgett wouldn't mind emulating his hero.

Although he's 6-foot-9, the power forward is listed at only 229 pounds — not exactly a wide

load in the paint. Because of his size, Padgett spent plenty of time on the perimeter last season, evident by his 138 three-point attempts.

This season may be different for Padgett. While Padgett may still float around the three-point arc once in a while, more inside play is expected from him.

"I need to get down there more," Padgett said. "Last year I relied on my three-point shot too much."

Some may not think of Padgett as a pure power forward considering the size of his frame.

His mass is deceiving, however. Padgett did average five boards a game, including a season high of 13 against the dreaded Catamounts of Western Carolina.

"Before I play against opponents, they don't think I'm as strong," Padgett said. "But after I play against them, they know. I just don't look that strong."

Going into last season, very little if anything was expected from Padgett.

He missed the entire 1995-96 season because of academic problems and there was some question as to whether he would ever wear the blue and white again.

Padgett missed the fall semester last season to regain his

eligibility in hopes of finding a spot on the Wildcats.

In his first action in 18 months, Padgett came off the bench to score 12 points and grab seven rebounds in the Wildcats' easy win over Georgia Tech.

Only 10 days later Cat fans knew what to expect from Padgett.

In a nationally televised game on New Year's Eve, Padgett earned his first start against the rival Louisville Cardinals. Padgett didn't disappoint any fans in his hometown of Louisville, scoring 15 points.

At the end of the season Padgett was named by the UK coaching staff as the "Most Improved Player." After last year, expectations are high for Padgett, and that's just fine with him.

"Yeah there's more pressure on me, but I'd rather have it that way," Padgett said. "I don't want to have to sit out part of the year and wait around."

Because Padgett missed the entire '95-96 season, he is missing something that some of his teammates already have — the feeling of being on a national championship team.

Padgett did everything possible to fulfill that empty feeling with his efforts against Arizona in the national championship game. Padgett scored a team-high 17 points in the UK's 84-79 loss to Arizona.

The empty feeling is still there.

"I can still see (Miles) Simon hitting those shots against us," Padgett said.

Although Padgett may not have a national championship yet, he does have some bragging rights over other Wildcats — he's got some gold.

This summer Padgett played basketball in Italy and helped the United States win a gold medal at the University Games. In the Gold Medal game against Canada, Padgett led the Americans with 11 points, nine rebounds and five assists.

Now the question is whether Padgett will be the man to take the Wildcats to San Antonio, Texas, and the Final Four this season.

With two lottery picks gone in Ron Mercer and Derek Anderson, somebody must become the go-to guy. Or will it be go-to Guys?

"We have a number of players that can be go-to guys," said UK head coach Tubby Smith. "At times it could be Jeff Sheppard, it could be Padgett; we'll just see how it goes."

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File photo

A GENERATIONAL AFFAIR Wayne Turner, UK's slashing point guard, now will help Saul Smith learn the position Anthony Epps taught Turner.

Years later, Turner savors UK decision

By Brett Dawson
Associate Editor

A loose ball, a mad scramble. And Wayne Turner's hand, as if acting on its own, reaches out and flails at the basketball in the most desperate minute of the young man's basketball career.

Little more than a slap, really, and it was over.

"I've only watched the tape about a hundred times," the UK point guard says seven months later.

The tape in question is of UK's 84-79 overtime loss to Arizona in last season's national championship game — a game in which Turner, then a sophomore, fouled out in the final minute of regulation.

For the five most important minutes of the 1996-97 basketball season, Wayne Turner sat and watched from the bench, a place he'd come to know well, if not to enjoy, during his first two seasons at UK.

If it's up to him, he won't see much of it this season.

Though before it's over with the Wildcats' opponents might wish he would.

The waiting game

Wayne Turner entered and ended the 1994-95 basketball season as one of the top 10 high school players in America, one of the nation's three best point guards. The two floor generals mentioned in the same breath are names you may have heard

— Stephon Marbury and Chauncey Billups.

In 1995-96, the nation heard their names considerably more than Turner's. As the lightning-quick Massachusetts native spent most of his nights watching from the bench, UK rolled to a national title while Billups and especially Marbury put up big numbers at Colorado and Georgia Tech, respectively.

By the next year, Marbury was a college hoops memory, a starter in the NBA. Billups would follow the next season. And as this season begins, only Turner remains in college ball.

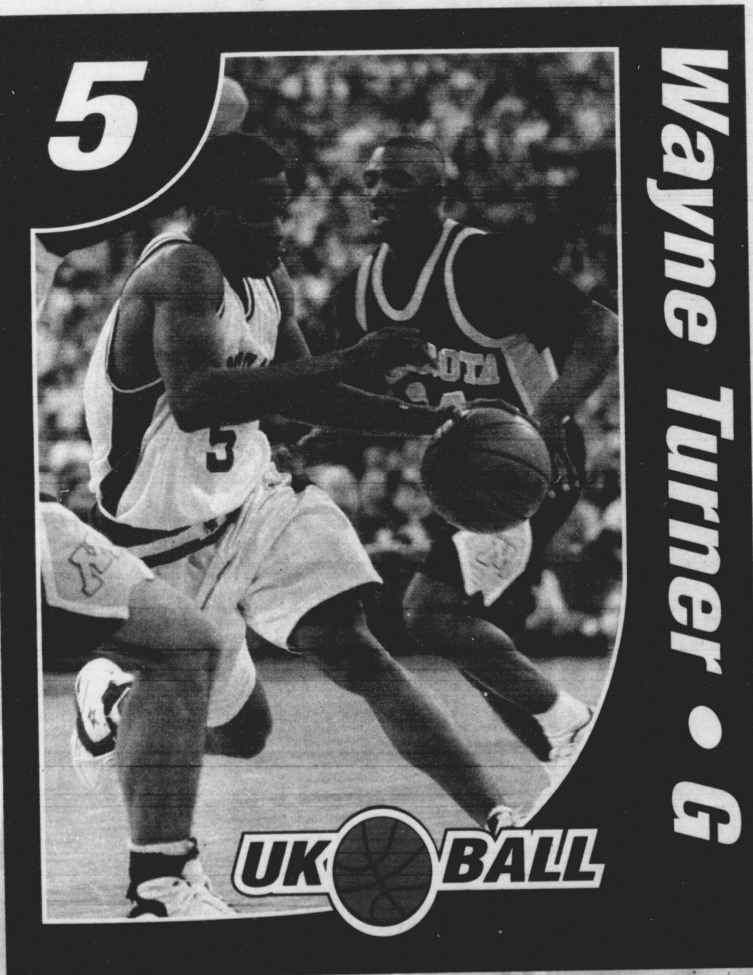
He does so without regret. "I guess (Marbury) chose a school where he could go in and be a star," he says. "I chose a school where I could win a national championship. I knew I wasn't going to be an immediate star."

His role instead was to watch and learn and wait for the call. It came last March 7.

The playing game

Days before UK took on Auburn in the first round of the Southeastern Conference Tournament, UK coach Rick Pitino announced Turner was to be inserted into the starting lineup at the point.

The results were all that Pitino had hoped for and all that Turner had expected. Over the next nine games, eight of them Wildcat wins, Turner averaged 12.2 points and 4.3 assists. In six NCAA Tournament games,



Turner totaled 27 assists and just five turnovers.

Twice Turner tallied 19 points in that stretch, his career high. Twice he dished out six assists, just one shy of his one-game best. Never did he have more than four turnovers.

In short, he began to resemble the player who had dominated opponents in averaging better than 36 points a game as a senior at Beaver Country Day School in Chestnut Hill, Mass.

"It was like I had a flashback to high school with all those points," Turner said. "I was real comfortable and confident and I was ready to show what I could do and things just worked out."

The whole new game

Things have worked out to the degree that Turner is a no-doubt opening night starter for UK this season.

Tubby Smith, the man who replaces Pitino, requires a point guard to get out and attack, to

run the show, to be a coach on the floor.

"And I think we have that guy," Smith says, "in Wayne Turner."

Besides leading the team, Turner will serve as mentor to Smith's son Saul, UK's new backup. In that role, he'll try to duplicate that which Epps taught him.

"He's a seasoned veteran," Saul Smith says of Turner. "He's been in two Final Fours, won a national championship. I can learn a lot from him."

So Turner enters his third season with two new roles, as on-court leader and off-court teacher. And does that transition bring with it added pressure?

"Not at all," Turner says without hesitation. "This is the position I've wanted to be in since I came to Kentucky. I'm excited."

And with good reason. There are dominant guards at Arizona, spectacular ones at North Carolina. But in the col-

lege game, the Billupses and the Marburys are nowhere to be found. The best player in the nation at breaking down his man off the dribble just might be one Wayne Turner.

"I've always felt like nobody could really stop me from scoring," Turner says. "Either they're going to foul me, or I'm gonna get two points. Not saying they won't stop me all the time, but 90 percent of the time I'm gonna get to the basket and make something happen."

Smith hopes he will do so at least that often.

Turner knows he will. He's certainly waited long enough.

"I could've gone somewhere else and probably been a star, but I wouldn't have won a national championship and probably never would have made it to the Final Four," Turner says. "I look at my decision and see that everything has worked out. I waited for my turn and now here it is."

Mills, Masiello employ similar road to success

Walk-ons become valuable resource for UK program

By Aaron Yelton
Staff Writer

Two basketball players. One comes from the northern country of White Plains, N.Y. The other grew up in Lexington.

One averaged just under 15 points per game during his senior year of high school, the other put up an impressive points-per-game average of nearly 35 a game.

One decided to attend UK for the love of Wildcat basketball. That desire to wear a UK uniform was so great that not even former head coach Rick Pitino could talk him out of coming. The other was invited to come and play Kentucky basketball by that same coach.

Both started their careers — separated by two seasons — as walk-ons. One, through patience and a hard work ethic, has earned a scholarship and has seen his playing time rise each year. The other is starting out in that same situation, and is anticipating his turn to shine.

The careers of UK guards Steve Masiello and Cameron Mills share many ties. Though in some ways their backgrounds contradict each other, their present and future are nearing the same page.

With a few more years of experience under his belt, Mills has fulfilled his dream of being a Wildcat contributor. Masiello is continuously working day in and day out during practice to reach that plateau. Mills goes up against Masiello every day in practice, and said his determination and desire to play is intense.

"I don't think he believes he'll be here three of four years and not play at all," Mills said. "Right now, he's expecting to play, whether it be this year or next."

Having gone through the same ordeal, Mills says Masiello

needs to stay focused and not let anyone or anything side-track him from improving his game.

"What he needs to do is not get frustrated. With me, I really didn't get a lot of playing time until the end of my third year," Mills said. "So it's just a matter of sticking with it, coming to practice ready to work every day. And eventually that opportunity will open itself up, and then he'll just have to take advantage of it."



I don't think I could ever look back and question coming to a school like Kentucky."

▼
Steve Masiello
guard

Mills was granted his advantage last year when Derek Anderson went down with a season-ending knee injury. Someone had to step up and take care of the offensive gap left behind. Mills went from playing four minutes a game to more than 10. Most of those minutes came when UK needed them the most, tournament

time.

Masiello says Mills' story of getting here and his play in last year's NCAA Tournament were both amazing.

"I think Cameron was remarkable last year, and it's something I would love to do," Masiello said. "He had to fight to get here, and he was the one who kept us alive in the Final Four, so it's kind of ironic. I definitely admire what he has accomplished."

Most fans know about Mills' account of coming to UK, but few may be aware of Masiello's background.

Coming out of high school, Masiello was recruited by many other Division I schools, the most notable being Davidson University, which was ranked in the Top 30 at the time. But Pitino's charisma and coaching style brought the 6-foot-2 guard here.

During his freshman campaign last season, Masiello played in 23 games, averaging almost four minutes per contest, with a high of seven minutes coming against Georgia.

The playing time has been limited, but he says the knowledge gained from playing for Pitino, and playing with past and present UK stars is invaluable.

"You just learn so much in a short period of time," Masiello said. "Looking back on my freshman year, I can't believe some of the little things I was missing. Every single mistake you made, Coach Pitino would let you know about it."

That coach has left. Upon Pitino's departure, Masiello said thoughts of transferring arose, but through a commitment from Athletics Director C.M. Newton, and a team goal of winning another championship, he stayed in the Bluegrass.

"I considered transferring heavily. Coach Pitino was the person who brought me in. I love Kentucky, and the fans are great, but he was the major key in me coming here," Masiello said. "But then Coach Newton came in and spoke with us, and said he'd get the best coach available, and he did. It was tough on us, but we stuck together as a team."

New head coach Tubby Smith arrived, and with him came a new playing system. In the past three years, Masiello has been through three different coaches (high school coach, Pitino and now Smith), and three different offenses.

Due to his position as point guard, it is vital to the team's success that he picks up yet another offense quickly. He said the changes have put him back where he started from.

"A new system is hard to get, it's like I'm a freshman again," he said. "It gets frustrating, but you have to accept it, and make sure to keep your head up."

Masiello has probably been through more adjustments in one year than most players experience in four. Through it all, he says, there are no regrets in his decision to come to Lexington or in his decision to stay.

"I don't think I could ever look back and question coming to a school like Kentucky," he said. "The people are great. If I didn't love it, I wouldn't be here."

Unfortunately, Masiello can't be here forever, at least not as a player. So what does the future graduate want to do with himself after taking a final bow during senior night, year 2000?

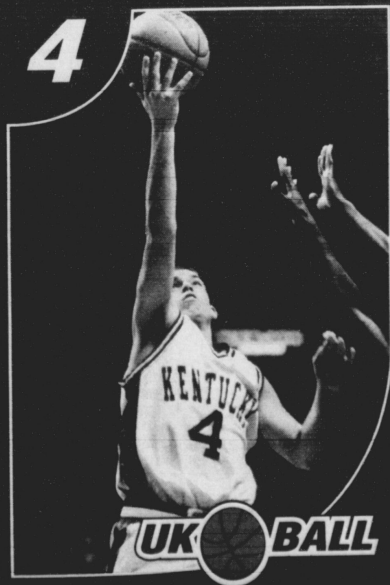
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UK BALL

Cameron Mills • G

4



UK BALL

Steve Masiello • G

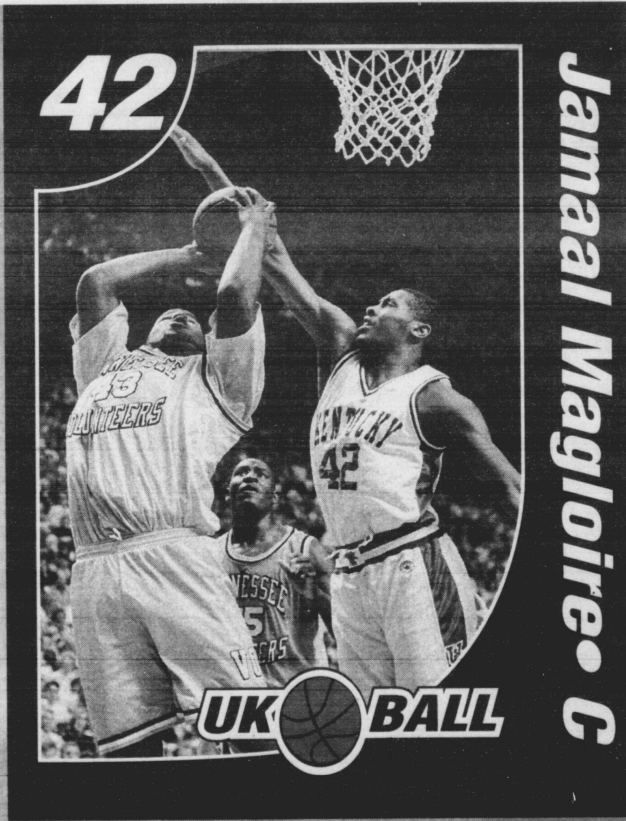
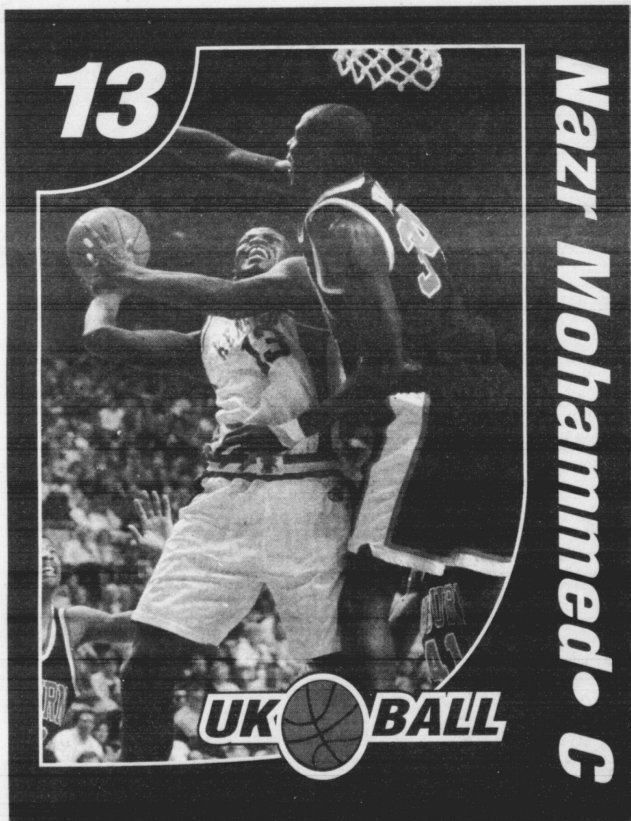
Easy — become a coach.

"I would love to coach college," he said. "It's tough, and it's far from easy. I would definitely use the same coaching philosophy as Pitino, the fast-paced style."

UK is looking for big contributions from Mills this year. And

Masiello, like the Mills of last year, will be there to back up Mills and the rest of his teammates.

He will be watching, waiting and ready for his time to come. The talent is there; the opportunity to showcase it may be rapidly approaching.



With firm swats, UK's center tandem denies talk of soft middle

By Price Atkinson
Senior Staff Writer

Able to stuff tall centers with a single swat, the Cats return two seasoned big-men to roam the paint this season.

As the "centers of attention," Jamaal Magloire and Nazr Mohammed combine for a dominant twin-tower tandem in the Cats' lineup for the 1997-98.

"I think the center spot with Nazr and Jamaal is pretty solid," Smith said. "I think they have shown why they are two of the top big men in the country."

Combining to start 34 of UK's 40 games last season, Magloire finished his freshman campaign averaging 4.9 points per game and 4.4 rebounds a contest while Mohammed added 7.9 ppg and 5.8 rpg.

Both stand at 6-foot-10, 240 pounds, but the differences outweigh the similarities between the two towers.

The long-armed native of

Toronto, Magloire boasts the defensive skills of a true center and his presence on the court is felt by others.

Magloire led the Southeastern Conference in blocked shots with 79 (2.0 bpg), the highest for a UK rookie despite averaging just 15.7 minutes game. His playing time was trimmed somewhat because of foul trouble due to his aggressive play.

With a year under his belt, the sophomore said his approach to the game is different now.

"I feel that my work ethic is much better than it was last year," Magloire said. "I feel so much more confident and stronger."

On the flip side, Mohammed is the finesse player with an arsenal of offensive talent and his back to the basket.

Mohammed was steady last season, recording a team-high seven double-doubles with

the seventh and final one against Arizona in the National Championship (12 points and 11 rebounds).

One aspect of his game was fine-tuned over the summer.

"I worked on free throws," Mohammed said after missing on six attempts versus Arizona. "Of course that was part of my game that wasn't alright."

Mohammed said with Magloire's strengths, they make a pretty good couple.

"Jam being a great shot blocker and good rebounder, it's gonna put a lot of pressure

on the teams in the post," he said.

"It'll take a lot of slack off each other's back as far as the pressure being focused on one of the two of us," Magloire said. "Me and Nazr are looking forward to playing with each other."

This brings up another question Cat fans have been asking: Will they play at the same time?

Last year, Rick Pitino elected to use Magloire and Mohammed interchangeably rather than simultaneously. The first year Smith, recognizing the strength of his team being the front-court, gave a pleasing answer to Cat fans.

"There will be times Mohammed and Magloire will play together," Smith said.

On offense, this combination would force other teams to play a bigger lineup rather than a small lineup due to the height discrepancies of "M

and M." Defensively, with the quickness of Wayne Turner along with Jeff Sheppard and Heshimu Evans, the Cats could form the most lethal half-court defense in the country.

"I feel we are getting better every day," Magloire said. "I still am not at the point where I'd like to be as player, but Nazr is definitely helping me a lot."

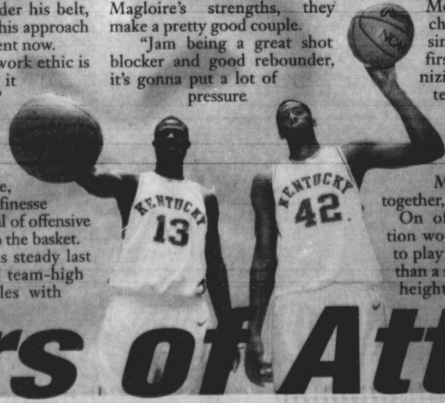
"We just realize that we're not doing it for ourselves. It's not an individual goal but it's a team goal we're trying to accomplish and that's winning an NCAA Championship this year."

For Mohammed, the individual goals are secondary to the team goal, winning another title.

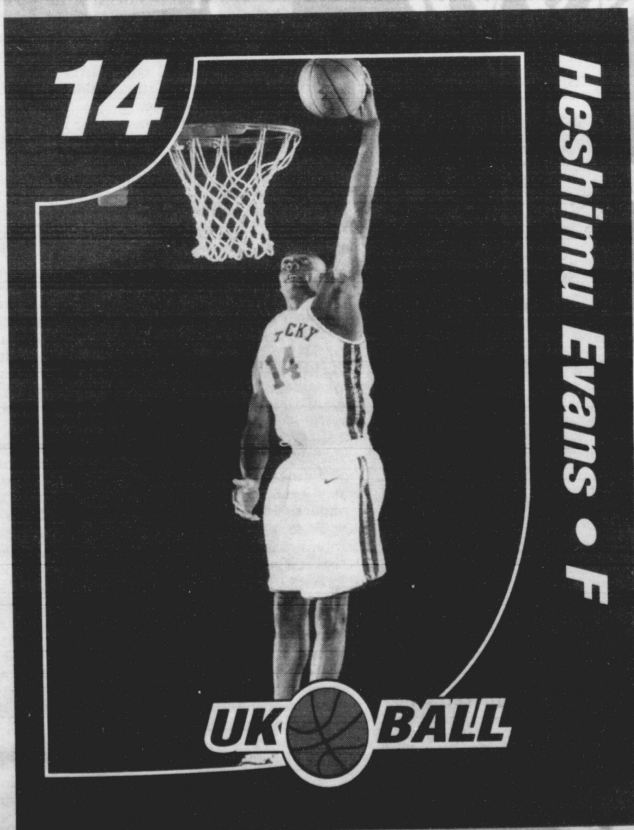
"I really don't think about individual goals," Mohammed said. "Since I've been here, I've been fortunate to win the championship. That's all I've known since I've been here."

"All I know is that we have to get there and I want to win this one."

Centers of Attention



A Bronx tale: Evans sees UK as a chance for glory



By Jay G. Tate
Sports Editor

Somewhere in the hustle and controlled chaos of Jamaica, N.Y., there's an autographed UK practice jersey stashed away in one of the hundreds of nondescript offices that encompass the land just outside New York City. The jersey rarely sees the light of day, but still manages to illuminate its surroundings.

The man who signed the jersey is from these parts, the New York City boroughs, having graduated from Evander Childs High School in the Bronx, but the jersey doesn't hang in his mother's home. Nor does it decorate the rafters at Childs or Trinity Pawling Prep, where he led his team to a 22-0 season in 1994.

Nor is the jersey associated with the Gauchos — the famed AAU team for which he played alongside city prep legends Stephon Marbury and Felipe Lopez.

Instead, it sits in the office of Fran Frascilla, head basketball coach at St.

John's University.

"It's something I keep very close to me," Frascilla says of the jersey, signed by UK junior forward Heshimu Evans. "I really cherish Heshimu as a player and a person. He's tremendous in so many ways — the jersey is a way to somehow keep him close by."

Though Frascilla now spends many of his winter nights working the sidelines of the vaunted Big East Conference against college basketball giants like Georgetown and Syracuse, there was a time not long ago when he was a young coach at Manhattan College squaring off against Niagara and St. Peter's.

After spending three years as an assistant at Providence College, Frascilla accepted the head coaching job at Manhattan in 1992.

And it was at Manhattan where Evans and Frascilla crossed paths.

"After high school, Heshimu went to a preparatory school and I think a lot of people forgot about him," Frascilla says.

"But we kept track of him and we got lucky because his family was from close by."

Evans played two years for Frascilla at Manhattan, helping the Jaspers to consecutive NCAA Tournament berths in both 1995 and 1996. During his time at Manhattan, Evans showed his worth in a variety of ways.

There were the formal accolades: Rookie of the Year in the Mid-Atlantic Athletic Conference his freshman season, All-MAAC in his sophomore year.

But there were the other ways, the more important ways, which garnered no public credit. Frascilla likes to tell a story about the time during the 1994-95 season when Evans was selected to guard the conference's best player, Charles Smith of Rider.

Evans gave Smith little room to breathe and shut down the Rider star, Frascilla says, providing the Jaspers an easy road to a key win.

"The next day," Frascilla says, "Heshimu's limping all around the office and I ask him what's wrong. He had stayed in defensive position so long during the game that he had injured his abdominal muscles.

"That's what kind of player Heshimu is."

So when Frascilla accepted the head coaching job at St. John's in 1996, it was a surprise to some that Evans didn't make the cross-town trip to follow his head coach into big-time college basketball.

Evans says Frascilla never asked. "I never really sat down and talked with Coach Frascilla about it," Evans says of his coach's decision to leave Manhattan.

"I would have gone to St. John's but we never talked about it."

Leave a two-time all-conference player behind as you try to rebuild a program? Some said it was madness.

After all, the coach was showing no overt interest in a player he raves is "one of the best kids I've ever coached."

So what happened? "I just didn't feel that I could raid Manhattan's program," Frascilla says. "I love Manhattan — they were so good to me and I just didn't feel right about taking all the talent with me to St. John's."

"It was like giving him up for adoption — it really hurt."

Spurned but not disheartened, Evans elected to go where he felt most comfortable. Having spent a summer working Pitino's summer basketball camp and familiarizing himself with the UK program, he elected to head for Lexington — this time to play.

"I really like Lexington and this program," Evans says. "I had been here and had gotten to know some people, so that made me want to come back."

But part of the reason Evans came here, Frascilla says, was an opportunity to play for Pitino. The former UK coach

had gained the reputation of rewarding players who worked hard.

For Evans, and his undying work ethic, it would have been the perfect match, but Evans insists he committed to UK first and Pitino second.

"I knew there was an opportunity for him to leave when I came here in the first place," Evans says. "We wanted (Pitino) to stay, but we have Tubby (Smith), and he's done a great job so far, and I'm excited about playing for him."

Though Pitino's departure meant Evans never had the chance to perform for the former coach, Evans' teammates have been more than impressed with his performances both on and off the court.

"The sky's the limit for him," center Jamaal Magloire says of his former roommate. "He helped me out a lot off the court ... giving me advice on life and classes and social issues."

"He's got that Derek Anderson charisma," forward Scott Padgett says. "You know, he gets that rebound and gives that big yell. He's a warrior on the boards, and he brings a lot of energy."

A warrior? It's more accurate than it may sound initially. "Heshimu" in Swahili translates as "strong black warrior." That warrior quality comes through in Evans' relentless defense and rebounding — Nazr Mohammad says Evans is "an amazing force on the offensive glass."

His tenacity comes out in other ways as well.

"The dude is a neat freak," Padgett says.

"(UK guard Jeff) Sheppard and I are clean, but he's the cleanest ever. I mean if one thing is out of order, he can't handle it. He's always cleaning."

Evans admits cleanliness is something he values — he's the only UK player with hangers in his locker. And it's a trait that's been with him his whole life.

"I've always been a neat fanatic — my mother never had to tell me to clean my room," Evans says with a sheepish grin. "I can't see things out of place ... it all has to be in order."

So how much time per week does he spend cleaning his room?

"None," he says. "It never gets dirty."

After a reporter asks another question about his cleanliness, Evans laughs and says, "That's OK. That's enough about that."

"As clean as there ever was," Frascilla says. "We used to leave Coke cans and paper on the floor just to frustrate him and he would just freak out."

But after having spent last season watching from the sidelines, it will take more than paper to frustrate Evans this year.

"It's been a year, and I'm definitely looking forward to going back out there and helping this team," Evans says. "I think I have a lot to offer. I may not have a certain skill ... but I definitely make up for it with hard work."

Following in the footsteps

By Aaron Sanderford
Senior Staff Writer

At the end of a long corridor on the second floor of Memorial Coliseum is a large office that overlooks one of basketball's most storied courts.

The office decor is simple, but ele-

gant. A large executive's desk sits in the middle of the carpeted room. In front of the desk is a pair of cushioned chairs for visitors.

To the left are a set of cabinets that hold game film, four TVs and several VCRs.

To the right is a small circular confer-

ence table with chairs around it. The gray carpet and walls draw attention to the basketball memorabilia dotting the room.

For eight seasons, this office was home to college basketball's glamo- rous coach.

He was, as Georgia Tech coach

Bobby Cremins called him, "The Man." With his up-tempo, pressing style and his relentless intensity, he changed the course of a program in college basketball.

Within four years of taking over a program on probation, the Wildcats were back in the Final Four.

Traditionalists had no answer for his new-wave basketball.

His assistant coaches became hot commodities. His players enjoyed success in the pros. He sold everything from pasta to posters. He had the Midas touch.

No one demanded more attention when they entered a room. His charisma brought notoriety back to the Bluegras. And in 1996, he brought UK its long-awaited, sixth championship.

But Rick Pitino is gone.

The challenge of winning at the highest level lured him from the Mecca of college basketball to the shrine of professional hoops.

The UK coach traded in his Wildcat blue for Celtic green and now paces the parkway in Boston.

Pitino's old Lexington office has a new occupant. A man with some big shoes to fill.

Both play similar styles. Both are intense sideline coaches. Both are consistent winners.

But Orlando "Tubby" Smith is different.

Where Pitino sent his assistants to do room checks, Smith can be found. Where Pitino hurled epithets at his players, Smith shoots a stare. While Pitino dealt mostly with the athletes part of his student-athletes, Smith gets to know the person, too.

"I respect everything that Rick accomplished here, but I am not Rick Pitino," Smith said. "I am Tubby Smith."

Smith was an assistant on Pitino's first UK staff. He left South Carolina to help Pitino rebuild one of the best traditions in college basketball.

The challenge appealed to him.

But two years later, Smith left for a new challenge — the head coaching position at Tulsa.

"I was a little scared, a little nervous, anxious to do well," he said. "But the same traits that got you to the door will keep you there."

Smith said it took him almost two years to grow comfortable with his role as head coach.

After two mediocre years of establishing the Golden Hurricane program, Smith took two straight Tulsa teams to the Sweet 16.

Georgia Athletic Director Vince Dooley rolled out the welcome mat for Smith following his second season of Tulsa magic.

In his first year at Georgia, Smith guided the Dawgs to a second-place finish in the Southeastern Conference Eastern Division and the Sweet 16.

It was Smith's third-straight trip to the round of 16.

Last season, he took a team that lost its top eight players from the year before and matched the highest win total in Georgia basketball history, 24.

Smith said leaving Georgia was the hardest thing he's ever had to do.

"There's always going to be a part of you that still cares about the kids. It's like a father and son. You make a lifetime commitment whether you are there or not," he said.

"I had a son playing for me and had another one coming."

Smith's oldest son, G.G., contemplated transferring to UK but stayed at a Bulldogs. Coach Smith said he wouldn't have left Athens for any other school.

"It wasn't like I was just leaving one son, I was leaving 13," he said.

But UK offered something no one else could.

"To me it was a challenge," Smith said. "Can I do it at this level? It's a situation unlike any other job at any other school."

When asked to assess the difference between the Wildcat program he left and the one he inherited, Smith laughed.

"This is where we wanted to be," he said. "Rick did what he set out to do — make this the best basketball program in the country."

Smith's journey to Lexington began in 1964, when Smith was a young, lanky middle school student at George Washington Carver School who wanted to be a football player.

"My older brother Sammy, who went off to college 10 years before me, played high school basketball," Smith said.

When coach Cecil Short approached the bus after school one day, Smith got worried. Smith's father drove the school bus.

"I was trying to think back about what I had done wrong," Smith said.

"What did I do wrong? Oh my God! I used to have to sit right behind my dad in the first seat. If something were wrong he would reach back and whack me."

But this time Smith had done no wrong. Short asked the senior Smith to let Tubby play basketball. He said there might be a scholarship in the cards.

"That was the first time I had heard the word scholarship," Smith said. "Play basketball for an education? It was unheard of in that region."

All his father cared about was how Tubby would get home to finish his chores.

Smith's father cut hair at a local barber shop until late in the evening after driving the bus. The hogs and chickens still had to be fed, and there was still wood to cut.

Short said he would get Smith home. What he neglected to mention was how.

"His idea of getting me home was getting me to the corner where I could hitchhike home," Smith said.

"After practice, I would go down to the barber shop and catch a ride home with one of the people who were getting their hair cut. I lived about 15-18 miles away."

A love of basketball didn't surface until Smith was a junior at Great Mills High School. But a knack for coaching

surfaced much earlier.

"I think I always was coaching, even within the family, choosing sides," he said. "There were 17 brothers and sisters, and with so many brothers and sisters around, you're always competing."

Whether it was kickball, softball or foot races, Smith learned early who to pick in order to win.

His first true coaching job was managing the St. Luke's Methodist Church softball team. Smith was a pitcher and coach.

"I started playing with them when I was 15," he said. "I was coaching at 16."

When Pete Johnson and Billy Jones began their playing days at Maryland, Smith noticed.

Johnson and Jones were the first two black players in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

For a young black man, Smith said, it was a thrill.

"I started looking more seriously at basketball as a means of going to college," he added.

The race issue still confronts Smith 30 years later, because the new Baron of the Bluegras is black.

Smith is the first black head coach of the Wildcat basketball program Adolph Rupp made famous.

He refused to recruit black players until his forced retirement in 1972, and the stigma of racism at UK lingered long after.

National media attention focused on Smith's race after his hiring.

"Being black, being different is always going to bring added pressure and added incentive to do the best you can," Smith said.

"As long as I don't get caught up in it and the team doesn't get caught up in it, we'll be OK."

Smith said his race will matter little in the long run. At UK there is only one thing that matters, he said.

"I think winning can overcome a lot of things."

Heir to the throne

Head Coach
1980-1972
UK record
375-190
SEC titles
27
NCAA titles
Four



Adolph Rupp

Head Coach
1972-1995
UK record
297-100
SEC titles
Eight
NCAA titles
One



Joe B. Hall

Head Coach
1995-1998
UK record
88-39
SEC titles
One
NCAA titles
None



Eddie Sutton

Head Coach
1988-1987
UK record
218-50
SEC titles
Two
NCAA titles
One



Rick Pitino

Head Coach
1987-present
Overall record
124-52
SEC titles
None
NCAA titles
None



Tubby Smith



Road to the throne

1978-88
Lands his first college position as an assistant coach at Virginia Commonwealth. During his time at VCU, the Rams win three Sun Belt Conference Championships and make five NCAA appearances.



1988-89
Assistant coach at South Carolina for three years and at UK for two seasons under Rick Pitino. While at South Carolina, the Gamecocks made their first NCAA Tournament appearance in 15 seasons.



1991-95
As head coach at Tulsa, Smith compiles a 79-43 record, wins two Missouri Valley Conference regular-season titles and takes the Golden Hurricane to the Sweet Sixteen.



1995-97
Smith records back-to-back 20-win seasons at Georgia — the first time ever for UK. He records a 45-10 record during his two years in Athens.



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Familiar faces follow Smith along the way

By Katy Crossen
Contributing Writer

Everybody has heard there's a new head coach in the Bluegrass. Everybody has heard about what he expects for this year's Cats. What has been missing, though, is the perspective of the assistant coaches, coaches who will be working closely with the players. These coaches form a close-knit group of advisers and teachers for the players, and along with Smith, they hope to see the players grow into a championship-caliber team.

Coach Mike Sutton comes to UK after assisting Smith for the past three years at Georgia and Tulsa. The two coaches have a long history of coaching together. In 1980 the two coached together at Virginia Commonwealth. A year later, Sutton left the Rams to coach at Meadowbrook High School in Virginia. His path crossed Smith's later in Tulsa in 1994. He later followed Smith to Georgia.

While at UK, Sutton has noticed that while this is a different team than the one they left in Georgia, many of the players have similar skills.

This team has a lot of talent, Sutton said, but added that they're still a little rusty.

"It's been six months since they really did anything ... they've been out of practice until a few days ago."

Up until official practices were allowed, the players were only allowed to brush up their skills two hours a week, with no more than three players in attendance. During this time, the players worked on shooting, conditioning and working out.

Sutton couldn't say when the team would be in top form.

"We're continuing to develop the areas we need to concentrate on," Sutton said.

Assistant Coach Shawn Finney has been an assistant with Smith for the past six years beginning in Tulsa in 1990 and continuing at Georgia in 1995. Finney said he has gotten a lot of experience with Smith, visiting the NCAA Tournament with both Tulsa and Georgia.

He said he expects to be back to the tournament with UK.

"We gotta handle the ball, we gotta keep fine-tuning the press, we gotta work on our half-



court game," Finney said. "There's not one area we need to drastically improve on (to go to the tournament)."

Finney said all of the players seem to be in good physical shape and should be able to take Smith's up-tempo style of play because it is similar to Rick Pitino's.

The freshmen are looking pretty good as well, Finney said.

"Saul (Smith)'s out there running, shooting the threes," Finney said. "Ryan (Hogan) is shooting the ball well and Michael Bradley's got some really nice moves and Myron Anthony's doing the things he can do athletically — jumping, rebounding."

Assistant coach George Felton left his assistant spot at Oregon State to be with Smith at UK, but coaching with Smith is nothing new to Felton.

Felton and Smith have



Finney



Sutton

known each other since 1986 when Felton was South Carolina's head coach and Smith was his assistant. The two were together until 1989 when Smith left to join Pitino for his first year at UK.

"We want to make sure that these men don't lose sight of what college athletics is all about," Felton said. "We focus on the four circles of life: academics, athletics, social and spiritual."

Felton added the coaching staff is concerned with the players and their welfare, not just on an athletic level.

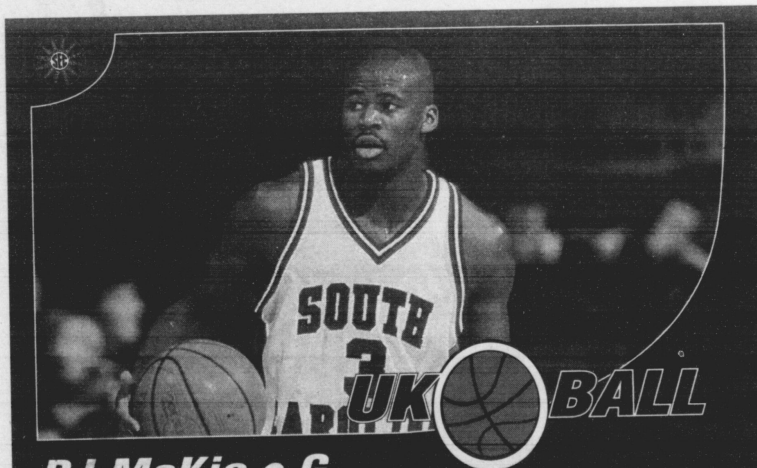
"We've got a group of young men that have really good work ethic," Felton said.

"And that work ethic has transferred over to our staff."

The coaching staff is forming a team of its own, a team to guide the players in all aspects of their lives.

SEC EAST

The SEC East looks to be a three-way battle between Georgia, UK and South Carolina



BJ McKie • G



Points: 83.1 (1st)
Defense: 62.8 (2nd)
SEC record: 13-3
Postseason: NCAA



Edwards

Tubby Smith moves in to replace Rick Pitino, but the more significant loss will be that of Ron Mercer. This year a host of players, including forward Allen Edwards, will have to fill in the gaps.

Kentucky



Points: 74.1 (3rd)
Defense: 66.7 (8th)
SEC record: 15-1
Postseason: NCAA



Watson

Eddie Fogler loses just one player, All-SEC performer Larry Davis, from a 24-8 team that won the SEC regular-season crown. Melvin Watson and BJ McKie form the league's best backcourt.

South Carolina



Points: 69.5 (7th)
Defense: 65.5 (8th)
SEC record: 9-7
Postseason: NCAA



DiSpaltro

Muscle-bound forwards Billy DiSpaltro and Austin Bates, each 6-foot-9 and 250 pounds, provide Vandy with the conference's most physical squad.

Vanderbilt



Points: 57.2 (12th)
Defense: 61.6 (1st)
SEC record: 4-12
Postseason: None



Wharton

With freshman sensation Tony Harris freeing up Brandon Wharton to move to the two guard spot, the Volunteers could be one of the most improved teams in all of college basketball this season.

Tennessee



Points: 72.0 (5th)
Defense: 65.9 (7th)
SEC record: 10-6
Postseason: NCAA



Chadwick

The team Tubby Smith left behind for new coach Ron Jirska is blessed with the rewards of Smith's recruiting efforts, returning all five starters, including deadeye forward Michael Chadwick.

Georgia



Points: 74.0 (4th)
Defense: 72.7 (12th)
SEC record: 5-11
Postseason: None



Stolt

Billy Donovan's club is on the verge of a breakout season, but to achieve it, Gator newcomer Brindley Wright and three-point shooting forward Greg Stolt must step up.

Florida

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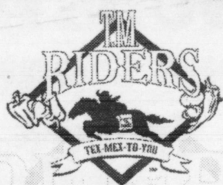
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SEC WEST

Arkansas will challenge Ole Miss and MSU for the SEC West title, leaving the rest playing for pride



Kareem Reid • G



Points: 79.0 (2nd)
 Defense: 71.3 (11th)
 SEC record: 8-8
 Postseason: NIT



Hood

Just like the past two seasons, Nolan Richardson's Razorbacks will be a bubble team come tournament time. The team returns Derek Hood as its hot player who can put fear into opponents.

Arkansas



Points: 69.0 (8th)
 Defense: 63.5 (3rd)
 SEC record: 11-5
 Postseason: NCAA



Sesay

Last year's surprise in the SEC won't be surprising anyone this year, especially with all five starters returning. The most notable returnee is power forward Ansu Sesay.

Ole Miss



Points: 66.3 (10th)
 Defense: 65.1 (5th)
 SEC record: 6-10
 Postseason: None



Caldwell

Head coach Cliff Ellis was supposed to revitalize the hoops program at Auburn, but it hasn't happened yet, unless you count last year's winning record. Derek Caldwell is their top returnee.

Auburn



Points: 65.8 (11th)
 Defense: 68.4 (9th)
 SEC record: 6-10
 Postseason: None



Webster

The Bulldogs have the potential to be this year's sleeper for two reasons. Their offense returns all five starters, including Horatio Webster. A strong recruiting class also helps.

Mississippi State



Points: 66.7 (9th)
 Defense: 70.5 (10th)
 SEC record: 3-13
 Postseason: None



Carter

New coach John Brady brings in eight newcomers, but only returns two of the starters — one of which is guard Maurice Carter — easily meaning that another poor season is on its way.

Louisiana State



Points: 67.9 (6th)
 Defense: 64.7 (4th)
 SEC record: 6-10
 Postseason: None



Alexander

For head coach David Hobbs, a couple of starters return in Brian Williams and Demetrius Alexander, but that duo won't exactly take the Crimson Tide to San Antonio this season.

Alabama

More bodies, more success

By Aaron Yelton
Staff Writer

Look out upperclassmen, there are some new kids in town. Bernadette Mattox, head coach of women's basketball team, has brought in five new hoopsters, bumping up this year's team roster to 12 active players.

Last year's squad consisted of a mere seven Wildcats. Due to a depleted bench, many players were called on to play 35-40 minutes a game. Mattox said the team can take heart knowing they will rarely be asked to put out such a strenuous effort this year.

"No one will have to play 40 minutes a game, so they can smile about that," Mattox said.

The new additions should also give a major boost to the offensive and defensive effort. Last year's team, who ended the season with an 8-19 record, was forced to play conservatively, thus limiting the amount of time they could effectively run a full-court press. This year's team shouldn't have any problem running and gunning.

"When you have this type of depth, you'll be able to run and

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| Nov. 15 HUNGARY-exhibition 7 p.m. | 5:30 p.m. |
| Nov. 18 Indiana 7:30 p.m. | Jan. 24 Alabama 8 p.m. |
| Nov. 21 SW Missouri State 8:05 p.m. | Jan. 26 FLORIDA 7 p.m. |
| Nov. 25 Michigan State 7:30 p.m. | Jan. 31 ARKANSAS 7 p.m. |
| Nov. 28-29 Nebraska Thanksgiving | Feb. 4 Auburn 8 p.m. |
| Tourney TBA | Feb. 8 SOUTH CAROLINA 2 p.m. |
| Dec. 3 OHIO STATE 7 p.m. | Feb. 11 Georgia 7:30 p.m. |
| Dec. 6 DAYTON 7 p.m. | Feb. 15 MISSISSIPPI STATE 2 p.m. |
| Dec. 8 Western Kentucky 7 p.m. | Feb. 17 EASTERN KENTUCKY 7 p.m. |
| Dec. 14 AUBURN 1 p.m. | Feb. 21 South Carolina 7 p.m. |
| Dec. 20 Miami, Ohio 2 p.m. | Feb. 26-March 1 SEC Tournament |
| Dec. 28-29 Dartmouth Invitational | (Columbus, Ga.) TBA |
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| Jan. 7 Vanderbilt 8 p.m. | |
| Jan. 10 MISSISSIPPI 7 p.m. | |
| Jan. 14 LSU (Cincinnati) 6:30 p.m. | |
| Jan. 18 TENNESSEE 2 p.m. | |
| Jan. 21 LOUISVILLE (Louisville) | |

Women's Schedule



press a lot more than in the past," Mattox said. "In order to win, especially in this conference, you have to have numbers."

One Cat that is looking forward to having the help come in is sophomore point guard Natalie Martinez. Last season, Martinez led the team in minutes played with 35 per contest. She agrees with Mattox that it is difficult to win with only seven players.

"Now that we've got a full roster, we're able to play our style," Martinez said. "It's very important to rotate people, you can't win a game having five

players play 35 minutes."

The new kids on the court consist of three freshmen, a junior college transfer and a red-shirt freshman.

Mattox said the five haven't come here with the intention or expectation of just being bodies off the bench; they've come to put in valuable playing time. She said during daily practices, starting spots are constantly being challenged.

"No spots are solid at this point, everybody's pushing everybody," Mattox said. "The

talent of the newcomers is making everybody work."

Mattox said a starting five could not be named yet, but the power forward spot is definitely very competitive. Martinez said no matter what the situation, she will be ready to play with her new teammates.

"Mattox has brought in a lot of new players," she said. "I'm ready to come in and play a role whenever she (Mattox) wants."

Solid team chemistry takes time to form, but if the new Cats can pick up the offense and learn to play with each other, more wins should come. Enough of the hype, here are the names and stats:

Jaye Barnes: A transfer from Florida Community College. She averaged 16.4 points and 11.4 rebounds per game during her two-year career there. Mattox plans on playing her at small forward.

Laura Meadows: Freshman from Huntington, W.Va. She was named Player of the Year by the West Virginia Coaches Association for two straight years. She averaged a triple-double her senior year (21 points, 12 assists and 11 rebounds).

Mattox has really been impressed with both players, performances in practice thus far.

"Laura Meadows and Jaye Barnes have both put a whole new twist on our basketball program," Mattox said.

Natasha Ross: Freshman guard from Beckly, W.Va. She averaged an impressive 26 points and 14 rebounds her senior year at Woodrow Wilson High School. Mattox is looking forward to see how Ross' quickness on defense will help the team.

Kenya Young: Freshman hailing from Greenville, S.C. She was named Miss Basketball after a senior year performance of 17 points, 12 rebounds and five blocks per game. Her season goals are to improve her defensive skills and help the team accomplish its goal of winning the Southeastern Conference.

Last but not least, there's Stephanie Christman. She played high school basketball at Immaculate Heart of Mary, located in Chicago, averaging 12 points and eight rebounds per game as a senior. She redshirted last season, but her time spent practicing with the team has given her experience.

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Cats looking to Wait for a scoring boost

Guard steps into team's 'go-to' role

By Dave Gorman
Staff Writer

"Scooter" is her nickname; playing the part of a tri-captain is her game.

For junior Tiffany Wait, the spotlight is shining on her in her third season as a Wildcat. She was voted to be one of the team's three captains unanimously by the team, alongside Natalie Martinez and Nikki Hay.

And for good reason.

Last season she started in 26 of 27 games, averaging 12.4 points and 4.0 rebounds per game and leading the team with 103 assists.

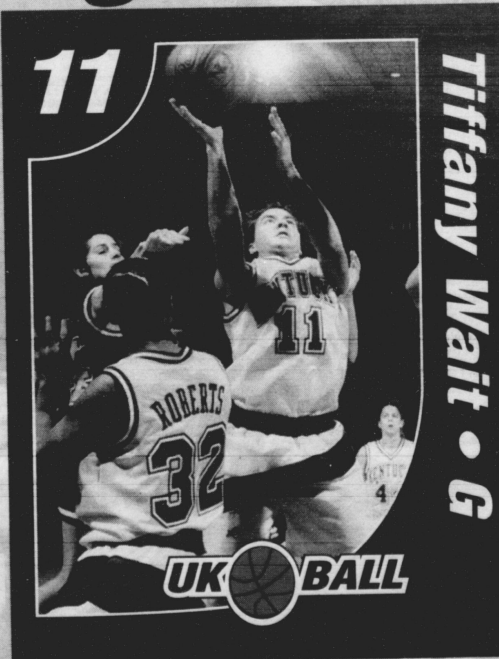
"It feels great. I feel honored that everybody looks up to me like that," Wait said. "I just want to go out there and be myself. I am not going to change myself just because of the role of captain. I'll try to lead the team."

"She will do a super job of leading the team," coach Bernadette Mattox said. "The players feel her hard work, she is such a complete player."

Being a complete player has never been a problem for Wait. She was Class AAA state tournament MVP her junior and senior seasons. She also played volleyball and track at Lake Hamilton High School in Hot Springs, Ark.

But nobody's perfect. Although she led the squad in assists, she also led in turnovers with 123. That's partly because Wait played the power forward spot more in high school, and now she plays the shooting guard and small forward spots for the Cats. Mattox said the junior still needs to work on her ball-handling skills.

"I have been playing against



guys this summer. They are a lot quicker so you have to react faster," Wait said. "I have improved some, but there's always room for more. We also lifted weights every other day and ran."

"I need to limit my turnovers. I just got to go out and have a more of a scorer's mentality."

If she raises her scorer's mentality any higher, she could be the Allen Iverson of UK women's basketball. Last season she scored in double figures in 22 of the Cats' 27 games.

She also had game highs of 21 points three times last season.

That's not bad for someone who sat out 21 games the previous year due to stress fractures in both feet.

Mattox thinks Wait is ready

to turn it up a notch for the Cats.

"Tiffany brings a lot of consistency to the team. She will definitely be one of our top options for the clutch. When we need a basket, we can go to her," Mattox said. "She's one of the two to three go-to players that we have this season."

Wait seems to see the big picture instead.

"Everybody is going to contribute, because they have their own role. My role is to drive, to shoot," she said. "Natalie's (Martinez) role is to pass and take it in. Everybody just has to fill their role."

The Cats will all have to contribute with six Top 25 teams in the Southeastern Conference this season. But Wait has high hopes of not just regular-season success, but for a postseason visit.

"Our goal is to make it to the SEC finals," Wait said. "We should make it there. Everybody else has that goal. That's our goal."

Time on court last year builds Martinez's skill

By Aaron Yellon
Staff Writer

A basketball program cannot carry on without a competent athletic director.

A basketball team cannot be effective without a qualified coach.

And the team's production on the court cannot be efficient without good point guard play.

That is why Natalie Martinez's performance is so valuable to this year's women's basketball team.

Martinez began her basketball career in Albuquerque, N.M. While attending Rio Grande High School, she led her team to a third- and fourth-place finish in the state tournament her junior and senior years.

Leading a high school team to prestige is a notable accomplishment, but collegiate ball is a whole new game. New teammates, new coaches, new offenses; basically a whole new life. She has adapted well.

Martinez is entering her second year as a Wildcat, and is coming back from a solid fresh-

man campaign, in which she posted team highs in minutes played with 35 a game, three-point field goals (38) and three-point shot percentage (31.4 percent).

But with last year's 8-19 struggle behind them, the Cats are looking forward to getting this season off to a good start, Martinez said.

They are also excited about the extra help off the bench. With the new crop of talent Mattox has brought in, the active roster is up to 12 players, a major boost from last season's seven.

"Playing with seven players was tough last year," Martinez said.

"But now that we have a full roster, we can go into each game knowing that we have a lot more people to rotate around."

Playing the point guard position is probably the most challenging role on the team, especially with the type of offense Mattox runs, up tempo and press, press. But Martinez said it was the fast-paced offense that attracted her to UK.

She enjoys leading a run 'n'

gun style of play. The amount of players available to the team last year made it extremely difficult for the Cats to establish that type of play, but with the additions, it's time for her to have fun.

"All of our returners and freshman are going to be key," Martinez said. "Now that we've got a full roster, we're able to play our style and run a full-court press."

Playing the one-guard spot also gives Martinez the responsibility of getting the team involved. Last year, she racked up 91 assists, the second-highest total on the team behind Tiffany Wait's 103. Mattox said Martinez is the only guaranteed starter as of now.

Though only a sophomore, Martinez could start laying a foundation for her life after college this year.

Some of UK's upperclassman have played well enough to bring in the professional scouts.

That will give Martinez a great opportunity to showcase her talents in front of important eyes. She said playing professionally would be a dream come



true, but realizes that the process must be taken slowly.

"Hopefully if I'm at that level,

it would be a dream come true. But we'll just have to see how we develop."

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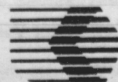
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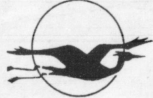
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SEC WOMEN'S

The SEC has emerged as a women's basketball powerhouse, with several teams vying for the title



Points: 77.3 (2nd)
Defense: 67.2 (9th)
SEC record: 8-4



Holdsclaw

It's tough to go against the defending NCAA champs, especially when Chamique Holdsclaw returns for the Big Orange.

Tennessee



Points: 74.1 (6th)
Defense: 64.1 (5th)
SEC record: 9-3



Page

With four starters returning, including center Muriel Page, the Lady Gators have a solid opportunity to win the SEC title.

Florida



Points: 69.0 (9th)
Defense: 59.6 (1st)
SEC record: 6-6
Postseason: NCAA



Hillmon

Na'Sheema Hillmon is a preseason All-SEC power forward. With three other starters returning, the Commodores will be tough.

Vanderbilt



Points: 78.5 (1st)
Defense: 61.0 (2nd)
SEC record: 10-2
Postseason: NCAA



Canty

Last year's Crimson Tide were the ultimate underachievers. Maybe guard Dominique Canty can turn the Tide back in the right direction.

Alabama



Points: 76.1 (4th)
Defense: 61.7 (3rd)
SEC record: 11-1
Postseason: NCAA



Irwin

All five starters are gone for the Lady Bulldogs. Ouch. Guard Pam Irwin does bring her eight points per game average back this season.

Georgia



Points: 76.0 (5th)
Defense: 67.0 (8th)
SEC record: 5-7
Postseason: None



Smith

The Lady Razorbacks, and All-SEC point guard Christy Smith believed they got rooked by not being invited to the NCAA Tournament last year.

Arkansas



Points: 69.6 (7th)
Defense: 61.9 (4th)
SEC record: 5-7
Postseason: NCAA



Krantz

The Tigers made a miracle run in the SEC Tournament to win the title last year but Tiffany Krantz is the lone returning starter for Auburn.

Auburn



Points: 77.1 (3rd)
Defense: 65.4 (7th)
SEC record: 9-3
Postseason: NCAA



Hibbert

LSU's amazingly quick guard duo of Elaine Powell and Pietra Gay is gone and Katrina Hibbert must help replace the pair's 33 points per game.

Louisiana State



Points: 61.4 (12th)
Defense: 68.0 (10th)
SEC record: 2-11
Postseason: None



Hay

The Wildcats will be better. They have to be with all five starters, including guard Nikki Hay returning. Just how much better will be a big question.

Kentucky



Points: 69.3 (8th)
Defense: 65.3 (6th)
SEC record: 5-7
Postseason: None



Bethley

New Lady Rebels coach Ron Aldy's offense will revolve around forward Tasha Bethley. Three starters are gone from last year's squad.

Ole Miss



Points: 65.1 (10th)
Defense: 70.0 (12th)
SEC record: 1-11
Postseason: None



Thompson

Mississippi State returns four starters including center Sharon Thompson, but that's the only bit of talent in Starkville.

Mississippi State



Points: 62.6 (11th)
Defense: 68.1 (11th)
SEC record: 1-11
Postseason: None



Miars

New head coach Susan Walvius returns all five starters, including guard Nikki Miars, but that doesn't mean USC will compete in the SEC.

South Carolina

Greed turning UK into Nike bastion

Another year, another uniform. The UK men's basketball uniforms change as often as George Steinbrenner changes managers, but this year a familiar stench returns.

Nike is here. Now the tune reads, another day, another dollar for University athletics.

UK joins the elite pack of 14 schools with exclusive all-sports contracts. The agreement marks the first time in nine years Kentucky players garb themselves in the swoosh-laden equipment.

Worth \$11 million in cash, clothing, and equipment, the pact with the devil goes against Nike's bad omen precedence.

Nike originally bailed after the 1988-89 season

when Eddie Sutton gave the University its first brown spot in a history of otherwise clean underwear. Dressed in Nike apparel, Sutton and company racked up a host of violations resulting in the NCAA imposed sanctions that wiped out the prior year's Sweet 16 berth.

The year following, the Cats experienced their first losing season in 61 years with a 13-19 record, including a 22-point drubbing from Louisville.

Eddie Sutton resigned, and like the bandwagon fan that people love to hate, Nike resigned its interest in UK basketball until consistent success was reestablished.

This is not to say, however, that UPS packages with a swoosh return

address frequented or will frequent Wildcat lodging.

Instead of viewing sport as a means to vent competitive desires, it turns into an outlet for seeing the latest Nike promotion.

The university thanks Nike by saying, "And thanks to Nike's national and international marketing ability, the Wildcats should see an increase in royalty revenues."

Translation: cab drivers in Bangladesh now have the ability to buy the latest line of UK paraphernalia.

In the Sports Fan Dictionary, "international marketing ability" follows with the words: "an evil stragem designed to promote sports and tradition as product, leading to higher revenues, salaries and ultimately ticket prices."

Give it a while and then count the number of angst-ridden teens with big gold

swoosh necklaces drenched in Wildcat blue because it's "fresh." When hat sales hit the high four-figures, supporting UK basketball, or any team for that matter, runs the risk of becoming a mere novelty.

This characterizes an extreme cynicism but doesn't suggest UK should have an exclusive club with an entrance exam for prospective fans.

It simply follows a societal pattern plagued by an obsession to stay true to a certain root or sports team.

When that fanaticism is threatened by a commercialist machine which gives us gym shorts that double as two-person tents, so comes the threat of making Big Blue too big.

Entertainment Editor Dan O'Neill is a finance junior



File photo

THE OMNIPOTENT SWOOSH Seemingly everything, from the players' shirts to the socks to even the ball have become Nike advertising space.

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Mascot living lifelong dream

By Aaron Sanderford
Senior Staff Writer

He is the centerpiece of the cheering section at every major UK sporting event.

His antics make children of all ages laugh. From pushups to pyramids, he is a walking carnival.

His real name is Gavin Duerson, but you know his alter ego — the Wildcat.

"Mascots are a different type of person," UK cheerleading coach Saleem Habash said.

Duerson couldn't agree more. "You have to be outgoing, and you can't be afraid to make an idiot out of yourself," Duerson said.

Duerson began his stint in the suit by chance.

As a freshman, Duerson met then-Wildcat Brent Claiborne at a Fellowship of Christian Athletes Meeting. The two became friends and ate breakfast every morning.

One day, Claiborne asked Duerson to give the Cat a try.

Claiborne's responsibilities as a graduate student and as the Cincinnati Bengal were growing cumbersome, and he needed help.

"I didn't take (Claiborne) too seriously, because I didn't know I could handle the physical part," Duerson said. "I was just a back-up for awhile, but Brent began devoting his time to being the Bengal."

Habash said Claiborne set a physical standard with his level of training, adding that he used

to practice with the cheerleaders in addition to working out. He said the toughest part of being the mascot is dealing with the heat inside the costume, but the extra weight of the costume is also a factor in acrobatics and pushups.

It takes a tall, athletic person to make a good Cat, Habash said.

Last season, Duerson debuted during the Indiana football game. Claiborne was sick, and the 3-0 UK victory still echoes in Duerson's mind.

But his first basketball game at Rupp Arena loomed even larger.

"It was pretty emotional stepping out there," Duerson said. "I remember walking out onto the Rupp Arena floor. Just like every other Kentucky kid, I used to dream about playing basketball there, but just to be on the floor was great."

Duerson called his first post-game experience of "My Old Kentucky Home" electric. The feeling reminded him of coming to Rupp as a child, he said. His parents were season ticket holders.

On the court, the Wildcat's antics are not choreographed, Habash said. Only parts, like the pyramid and the C-A-T-S cheer are repeated.

The rest is improvisation. "We set down some rules, but basically, I let him do what he wants," Habash said. "Well, everything he wants, within reason."

The only time Duerson gets embarrassed on the field is when he gets blindsided by another team's mascot.

He said being dropped in front of a home crowd is embarrassing.

"The one thing you have to remember is that little kids are

watching," he said.

But on-floor antics are only a part of the responsibility of the fur. Habash schedules weekly appearances for the Cat around the region.

"My most touching experience was at the UK Hospital," Duerson said.

"There was a baby in a coma, and the whole family was there. We came in, and even though the baby might not have known we were there, seeing the appreciation in the mother's eyes was enough."

Back on campus, the Cat holds a special place in UK lore.

"I think the Wildcat is extremely important," Habash said. "He is one of the first things people associate with UK athletics."

Duerson respects the position he holds.

"It is a big responsibility, but it is fun," he said.

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Scratch: A more 'hip' character for children

By Jill Erwin
Senior Staff Writer

"I think Nate's just one hell of a guy."

Journalism junior Terra Greer had that to say about Nate Brown, sometimes better known as Scratch, the second mascot for the University.

Other classmates have more to say about Brown.

"Nate is wild, crazy, insane and perfect for the job," said theater freshman Mark Weber. "It's his insanity, his willingness to do just about anything to get attention."

"Nate is wonderful to be around," said Ellen Hagan, a theater and English freshman. "He's kooky, he's insane and he's an incredible person, and he's incredible for the job."

If you noticed a common theme running through Weber and Hagan's impressions of Brown, you are not alone. Brown hears the similarity too.

Trouble is, Brown isn't always what other people take him to be. He wants to be known as more than just a wild and crazy guy.

"I like to make people laugh, but more importantly, there is a serious side to me," Brown said. "I think I know when it's appropriate to be serious and when it's OK to make people laugh."

Brown is a communications junior with a 3.7 grade-point

average who also works eight to 10 hours a week at the Gaines Center for the Humanities in exchange for a free room at the center.

He took time to attend the rally against the proposed tuition hike and even took a turn voicing his opinion. He is a dedicated student, taking 18 hours this semester, but he also takes time to have fun.

Surely, part of the allure of being a team mascot is the abandon with which you can do your job. Brown has spent the last two football seasons roaming through the crowd and entertaining the fans from the sidelines.

He saw an ad in the Kentucky Kernel in the fall of his sophomore year announcing tryouts to be the new mascot. The standard Wildcat was about to have a partner.

"It was the idea of the athletics department and media relations to come up with a modern, hipper cat to appeal to a younger crowd," Brown said. "All ages can enjoy Scratch."

Brown worked with then-Wildcat Brent Claiborne, whom he knew through the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, to improve his mascot abilities. His high school, Estill County, didn't have a mascot, so he had no prior experience.

Both he and Gavin Duerson

were chosen to alternate as Scratch. When Claiborne left to become the mascot for the Cincinnati Bengals, Duerson stepped into the Wildcat costume, leaving Scratch all to Brown.

"I like it when little kids get excited," Brown said. "They think I really am a big animal and give me a hug, or a high five."

Unfortunately, it's not all fun and games.

One week last year, Brown spent two nights at women's basketball games as the regular mascot, two nights at men's basketball games and one evening at a gymnastics meet, all as Scratch. Throw in classes and work, and life gets kind of difficult.

Brown is attending UK on a \$1,000 scholarship, and receives a small scholarship (\$500 a semester) for his role as Scratch, but because the cheerleading scholarships are not funded by the University, the proposed tuition increase could hurt him.

"I may have to drop out of school," Brown said.

Barring that, upon graduation, Brown hopes to get a job somewhere helping people.

"God will put me in the job He thinks I'd be best in, whether that's professional mascot or custodian," Brown said. "I don't want a desk job, I want to move around."

That's the Nate his classmates know.

New jerseys keep old-school look

By Jill Erwin
Senior Staff Writer

Out are the cat scratches, zigzags and denim of the recent past.

In are the classic-looking blue, white and gray of this year.

Gray?

When you're talking about the UK men's basketball team's uniforms, anything is possible.

This year's version is a return to the classic uniforms of a few teams ago. The major difference from the gaudy attempts of the past few Converse-ruled years and this year's Nike version is simple: the

swoosh.

The ever-present Nike symbol is highly visible on the front left hip of the white home uniform, with the UK insignia on the right hem. The word "Kentucky" is printed across the back of the waistband.

"Our warm-up gear is pretty nice," Smith joked in his Media Day news conference. "The uniform brings back tradition. Nike did a lot of research, and this is what they came up with."

Senior guard Cameron Mills, who has endured both the denim and "cat scratch" looks, is pleased with the new fits.

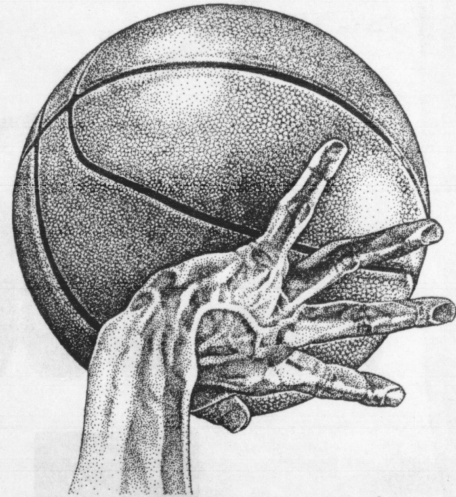
"We've changed uniforms every year," Mills said. "I don't know if it's a tradition yet, but it probably will be soon."

Junior forward Scott Padgett has also been through several uniform changes, and gives his unconditional support to the new version.

"I think I like the regular uniforms rather than all that other stuff," Padgett said. "I'm into the traditional uniform."

However, Mills put the whole thing into perspective.

"As long as it can say 'Kentucky' across the chest, that's all that really matters."



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