

'Cats Wrestled And Pinned By Gators, 83-76.



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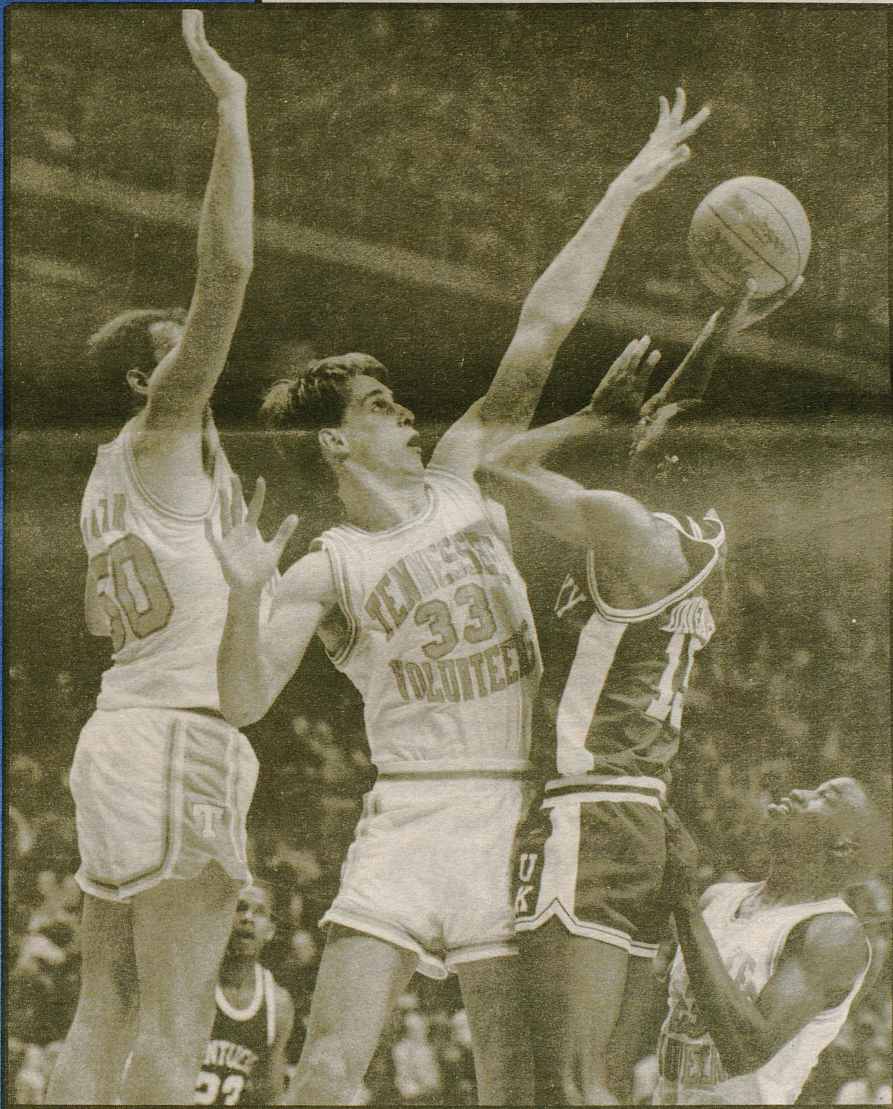


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LEXINGTON, KY



Pair of losses to Tennessee, Florida leave 'Cats hanging in air, barely atop SEC standings

UK

KENTUCKY
WILDCATS

...Can Get Off Mat With Wins Over LSU, Syracuse

THE CATS' PAUSE



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Gimme The Ball



That's what Syracuse All-American candidate Rony Seikaly will be saying when the 6-10 center leads his highly-ranked Orangemen against Kentucky this Sunday in Rupp Arena. Tipoff time for the contest, which will be aired nationally on CBS-TV, is 2:30 EST.

The Ideal Gift

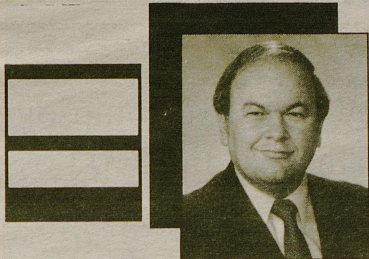
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OSCAR L. COMBS

CATS' PAUSE EDITOR/PUBLISHER

Crunch Time's Here, And It's Do-Or-Die For 'Cats

Crunch time?

You'd better believe it!

Coming off a two-game losing streak at the hands of Tennessee and Florida, Eddie Sutton and his Wildcats face a do-or-die situation as the regular-season Southeastern Conference race winds down during the next seven days.

With just three SEC games remaining on the UK schedule, the 'Cats know full well they must win all three contests if they have any hopes of claiming the SEC title outright. There is a possibility the 'Cats could win a share of the title with one more loss, but the loss could not come at the hands of LSU, which is suddenly breathing down everyone's neck.

After last Saturday's action, there was a virtual four-way deadlock for first place. Kentucky and Vanderbilt were tied for first place with identical 10-5 league marks while LSU and Florida were tied in the loss column with five losses (both at 9-5), but a half-game back overall.

What all this means is that there is going to be a wild scramble for the league title, and an almost impossible task of trying to figure out the SEC tournament seedings before the last regular-season game. It could be the first time in SEC history that more than two teams tie for the title and it could well become the first time in history when a team with six losses has won the regular-season crown.

There are a lot of "ifs" for any of those things to happen, but who would have thought of a four-way tie for the league lead with just two weeks remaining?

Some of the mystery could be solved this week, beginning on Wednesday night (which already will have been played by the time many of our out-of-state subscribers read this) when Kentucky entertains the LSU Tigers.

The loser of that game will definitely become a darkhorse, if any horse at all. LSU could stand the loss, perhaps, better than Kentucky because the Tigers have two of their last three (only Mississippi State is on the road) at home and finish the season by taking on one of the leaders—Florida—the final day of the season.

On the other hand, Kentucky is through with the league leaders after LSU. That's good news if the 'Cats are in the lead, but if they need to make up ground, then their fate would depend on outside forces, something no one likes to depend on.

Plus, UK still has to face Georgia at home and giant-killer Ole Miss on the road to close out the regular season.

Both Florida and Vanderbilt are at home on Wednesday and are expected to win those respective games which would keep them in the hunt. Florida hosts Tennessee and Vanderbilt hosts Auburn.

By the time Saturday rolls around, either Kentucky or LSU will have fallen to fourth place, with the other hanging tough at the top.

Saturday's action has only four games, but none of them will affect the SEC race as UK and LSU are idle from SEC action. Kentucky goes outside the conference to play Syracuse on Sunday and

LSU is off until next Wednesday.

Auburn is at Alabama, Georgia goes to Ole Miss, Mississippi State is at Tennessee and Vanderbilt journeys to Notre Dame.

So everything will come down to the final five days of the season. And scheduling could be a major factor.

Next Wednesday, the game of games has Vanderbilt on the road at Florida with LSU at Mississippi State and Kentucky hosting Georgia. Then comes the weekend action when two of the frontrunners must play conference games on both Saturday and Sunday.

Florida hosts Alabama on Saturday and then has to hop a plane and head to Baton Rouge for the season finale the next afternoon. It won't be easy for Norm Sloan's Gators to pull off the double sweep, especially the latter.

LSU is faced with the same mission, except that the Tigers get to play both games at home, first Auburn and then Florida. However, when you bunch games like that, a team has been known to look ahead to the big one. With the race as tight as it is, every game is a big one.

Both Kentucky and Vanderbilt close out their seasons a day earlier on Saturday, and in a state—Mississippi—where some say the two should enjoy a decided advantage over LSU and Florida.

Vandy goes up against Mississippi State while Kentucky battles Ole Miss. The two Mississippi schools were tied for last place earlier this week with identical 4-10 records. Wouldn't it be ironic that a last-place team should have the opportunity to dictate the winner of the SEC?

□ □ □

Back to last week's action.

The two losses to Tennessee and Florida should not be all that shocking to Kentucky fans. The Wildcats have paved a pretty good (or pretty bad) track record, 2-14 over the past 16 years, in Big Orange Country and there have been some far greater UK teams to lose in Knoxville than the one which lost there last Wednesday.

The loss to Florida was to a team which has equal talent to Kentucky this year and both clubs were facing the same challenge last Saturday. Each had lost its previous game and it was time to check in or check out. Unfortunately for UK, the Gators were playing at home.

This is not to mean Kentucky should have stayed home and saved the travel expenses. This merely points out that this is not a great Kentucky team. There aren't many great teams in the country this year. I would have said none, except Temple proved in waxing North Carolina 83-66 Sunday, that the Owls just might be a cut above everyone else.

In the SEC, however, the records prove my point. There are four teams with five losses. Perhaps the middle of the pack is a little stronger than in past years, but there is no dominant one or two teams in the league like past seasons.

If UK should beat LSU and Georgia,

but lose at Ole Miss, and if LSU should beat Mississippi State, Auburn and Florida, and if Vanderbilt should lose to Florida, but beat Auburn and Mississippi State and if Florida should beat Vanderbilt, Tennessee and Alabama but lose to LSU, then you would have a four-way championship with the co-champions owning six losses each.

Never before have more than two teams tied for the SEC title. And never before has a team with more than five losses won a title. It could happen.

The real question now. Is the SEC that balanced this season or that weak? Even the non-conference games have failed to prove the point thus far. Kentucky is undefeated outside the conference. Vandy upset then top-ranked North Carolina and gave Indiana quite a scare. Florida has been on both ends of the yo-yo stick against out-of-league opposition.

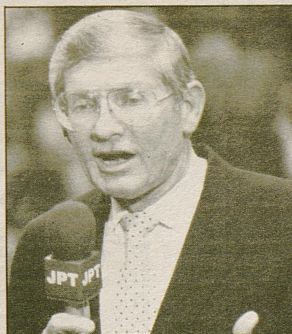
A more up-to-date barometer will probably come this weekend when UK hosts Syracuse and Vanderbilt goes to Notre Dame.

Two years ago, experts said the SEC was down, partly because Kentucky ran away with the league title. In the NCAA, the SEC proved it was the nation's finest conference.

The jury is still out on this season.

□ □ □

Kentucky, which moved up to the No. 9 spot last week after a modest three-game winning streak, was expected to drop way down in the ratings after the back-to-back



Dean, Left, Says Chapman, Right, Will Be Better Player In The NBA

director at LSU, said recently Rex Chapman "will be a better pro basketball player because his shot selection in the college game is very questionable, but in the pros no one will care because they get the ball back every 24 seconds." . . . In the UK locker room after the Kentucky-Alabama game recently was 6-5 sharpshooter Pat Graham, a high-scoring guard from Southern Indiana who is one of the top junior prospects in the state. Graham reportedly has narrowed his list to Big Ten schools along with Kentucky and Louisville. He plays for the same Indiana school which produced former Wildcat Jerry Hale . . . Florida writers

To some, the number 13 is unlucky, but not this one.

Why?

Because the NCAA tournament seedings rely very heavily on the polls when determining where the teams are placed in the tournament bracket.

The big poll will be the one which will come out the Monday after the regular-season finale. Next week, Kentucky could be in an even better position because the 'Cats will have two home games—LSU and Syracuse—on which to improve their No. 13 ranking. If the 'Cats cannot win at

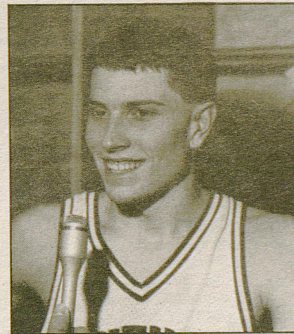
home, they don't deserve any better.

If Kentucky could sweep the remainder of their games, and that's a very big "if," the 'Cats could get back into the Top Ten before the NCAA bracket is announced. If the 'Cats want a shot at the Final Four, they need a friendly first- or second-place seeding in a regional and Kentucky officials would much prefer to stay close to home.

That can be assured only if UK wins the SEC regular-season title. That with a victory over Syracuse would be good testimony for the Kentucky case.

□ □ □

HITS AND MISSES . . . Former UK assistant Leonard Hamilton has been in the news quite a bit recently. He recently appeared on the cover of *Basketball Times* with a story on how Hamilton is rebuilding the Oklahoma State program. And then he got a dose of the other kind of publicity Sunday when he was banished from the *Oklahoma State-Missouri* game won 92-70 by Missouri. Missouri was up by only a pair at the half. Hamilton was hit with a double technical foul early in the game and was then kicked out of the game when a third technical was whistled on the State bench. In college ball, a coach is kicked out of the game after three technicals, and any technical against a team's bench automatically goes against the head coach. Hang in there, Leonard, sunshine is on the way . . . Former SEC television analyst Joe Dean, who is now athletics



[Continued On Page 22]

Knoxville Jinx?

No, The Stokely Center Ghosts May Have Made The Move To Thompson-Boling Arena, But UK Was Victimized By Its Own High Jinks In 72-70 Loss

By TCP Columnist Mike Estep

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Like the old saying goes, you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink. After Don DeVoe's rag-tag Volunteers got through with his Kentucky club, UK coach Eddie Sutton could have added a new corollary to the rule: Sutton led his horses to Knoxville, but he couldn't make them think.

Yes, Sutton's stable of thoroughbreds boarded the plane to K-town with an opportunity to break the SEC race wide open. The 'Cats entered the UT game with a 10-3 record in league play, a game ahead of Vanderbilt, a game and a half ahead of Florida and LSU. Had the frontrunning Wildcats been able to top the seventh-place Vols, who came into the contest riding a three-game losing streak, they could have almost assured themselves a spot in the SEC winner's circle at the end of the season.

Instead, UK came out of the gate slowly and then failed down the backstretch. And after redshirt freshman Greg Bell threw in an off-balanced, buzzer-beating jumper snap a 70-70 tie with :02 remaining, the 'Cats escaped Big Orange Country a half-game ahead of LSU, lucky that Alabama and Ole Miss took care of Vanderbilt and Florida, respectively.

This Time, Kentucky Beat Itself In Knoxville

What caused the 'Cats to stumble was not the so-called Knoxville jinx which had haunted them in 13 of their previous 15 trips to Tennessee, although the last 1:18 of the game certainly brought back unpleasant memories of Stokely Center. Instead it was UK's own brand of high jinks—most notably a lack of patience and smarts on the offensive end in the first half.

"I thought the first half we really kinda dug ourselves a hole by not playing very smart offensively," a distraught Sutton said after the game. "And I don't take anything away from Tennessee, because I thought they played excellent in the first 20-minute period. But offensively, we were shooting the ball too quickly, the shot selection was not what we really wanted."

"But then we fought back and got ourselves back in a good position in the second half and the game could've gone either way."

As it happened—Bell picked up a loose ball in the lane and had his five-foot prayer answered just ahead of the buzzer—it went Tennessee's way. But had the 'Cats used their heads a little more in the early going, been more patient, worked for better shots, they would have never been in position to lose it at the end.

"At this point I thought we had realized what we have to do," Sutton said, "but evidently we haven't done a very good job of teaching because they certainly reverted back to (the way they were playing earlier in the season). We were almost in a frenzy in the first half. It was almost like every time we shot it was, 'Boy, this is the last shot we're gonna get.' It shouldn't be that way. That's when guards should take over and make a team run its patterns."

First-Half Hole Too Much To Overcome For UK

You could almost count on the fingers of one hand how many times the much-ballyhooed backcourt of Rex Chapman and Ed Davender set up the offense in the first half. While Tennessee was busy running up a lead which ballooned to 13 points at 39:26 with 4:14 remaining until halftime, UK's guards were playing bombs-away. Chapman, who didn't find his shooting eye until late in the game, was three for eight from the outside in the first period. And Davender, the same Davender who had put up just two shots—instead handing out 10 assists—in quarterbacking the club so expertly in a win over Alabama three days before, went wild. Although Easy Ed's stat sheet looked good for the first half—he was six of 12 from the field and four of four from the line for 16 points—he never allowed UK's inside players to get their hands on the ball. The inside trio of Winston Bennett (0-1), LeRon Ellis (1-2) and Rob Lock (3-5) took just eight shots.

"When you look at the statistics," Sutton said, "I think we did not get the ball inside as much. We depended too much on perimeter shooting, and that's not really what we want to do. We want to get the ball inside and establish an inside game, and then when the defense collapses, kick it back out on the floor."

First-Half Defense Could've Been Better, Too

All the blame can't be placed on the offense, however. UK's man-to-man defense was suspect in the early going as the Vols got off to a 10-4 lead in the first three minutes, all five of the UT baskets coming on layups. And with leading scorer Dyron Nix having trouble getting untracked in the first half, Bell and Clarence Swearingen penetrated the Wildcat defense almost at will. Tennessee's starting guards were outscored 41-1 by their UK counterparts in Kentucky's 83-65 thumping of the Vols earlier this season in Lexington, but Bell and Swearingen combined for 25 Wednesday, 19 of them in the first half.

Despite the offensive and defensive breakdowns in the first half, the 'Cats did battle their way back into the game. A 9-0 Kentucky run, punctuated with a five-foot half-hook from Lock, put Kentucky ahead for the first time at 51-50 with 12:30 to go.

The teams traded baskets for the next six minutes, before Tennessee threatened to pull away again. Nix, who finished with a team-high 20 points, 14 of them in the second half, went to work inside with three straight baskets, moving the Vols in front 64-59 at the 6:29 mark. Kentucky fought back, and a pair of 10-footers by Chapman put the 'Cats back on top 67-64 with 3:33 remaining.

Then Mark Griffin, a 29.2-percent shooter from three-point range making just his second start of the year, hit his fifth bonus baby of the game to pull the Vols even at 67.

"That was a big-time shot," Davender said. "If he had missed that shot, they would have folded a little."

Instead, the Vols were pumped up for the Stokely-like finish.

A three-point possession—a free throw from Davender and a left-handed hook from Lock—put the 'Cats back in front 70-69 with 1:18 to go. A Nix free throw evened the score again at 70-70 at the :47 mark.

Last 1:18 Brought Back Memories Of Stokely

That's when it got interesting.

Kentucky called its last timeout with :37 left to set up its final strategy. Sutton said he wanted to isolate Chapman one-on-one for the final shot that would either give UK the win, or at least salvage overtime. As it turned out, neither was the case.

"We wanted to work the clock down to :10 and then give the ball to Rex and run what we call '1 flat,'" Sutton said. "We wanted him to go one-on-one but he never got the ball back."

But freshman Eric Manuel was trapped on the baseline near the left hashmark before he could return the ball to Chapman, and the ball popped out of bounds to Tennessee.

"One Tennessee guy grabbed my arm and knocked it loose," Manuel said. "You'll get calls like that on the road. I didn't hit it again."

Another questionable call—at least from UK's point of view—would occur just seconds later at the other end. Swearingen drove the left side of the lane with under :10 to play, and bulled into Chapman.

"A lot of times you try to fake (a charge)," Chapman said. "I definitely didn't fake it."

The officials thought otherwise, however, and no call was made. Bell scooped up the loose ball and hit the game-winner.

"I was off-balance," Bell said. "I just cut between them (Chapman and Bennett), put it up and said, 'I hope that goes in.' It wasn't the kind of shot you want at the end."

The result was, though—it swished the nets with :02 left on a clock which Kentucky could not stop again, giving the Vols the two-point upset. And dropping the 'Cats back to the pack in the SEC race.

OFFICIAL NCAA BASKETBALL BOX SCORE Date: Feb. 17/88 Site: Knoxville, Tenn. Includes player stats for Kentucky and Tennessee, team rebounds, and officials.

UK-Tennessee Play-By-Play Table showing time, Kentucky score, Tennessee score, and play descriptions.

—Cats' Pause chart

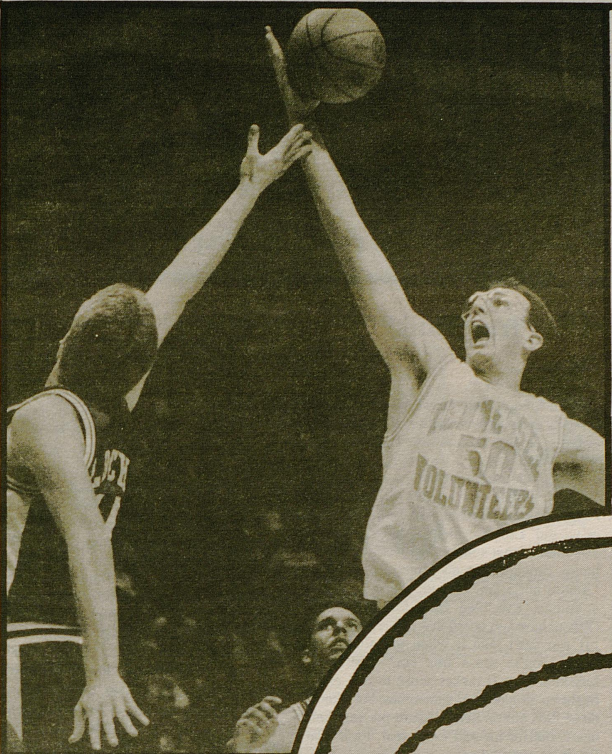
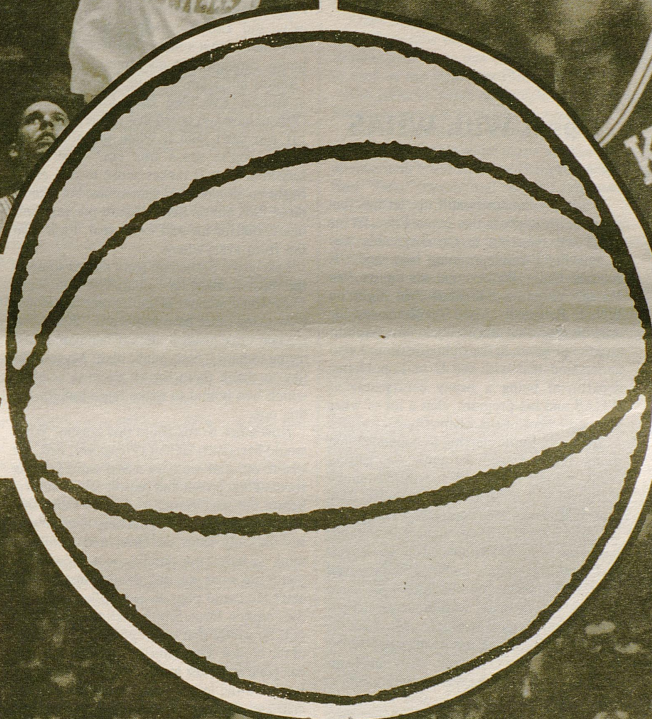


Photo By David Sterling



Photo By David Sterling



KNOXVILLE JINX
 (Top) Rob Lock And Doug Roth Stretch For The Ball As LeRon Ellis Looks On.
 (Bottom) UT Forward Dyron Nix Scored Team-High 20 Points.

(Top) As Usual Manuel Comes Off The Bench To Spark 'Cats.
 (Bottom) Here, Greg Bell Splits UK's Defense For The Winning Bucket.

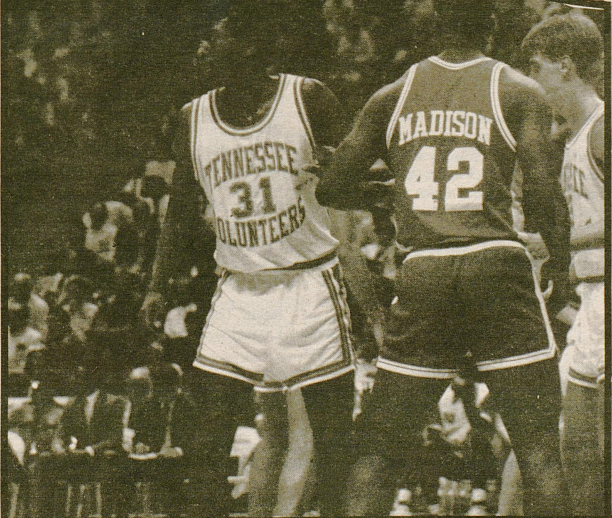
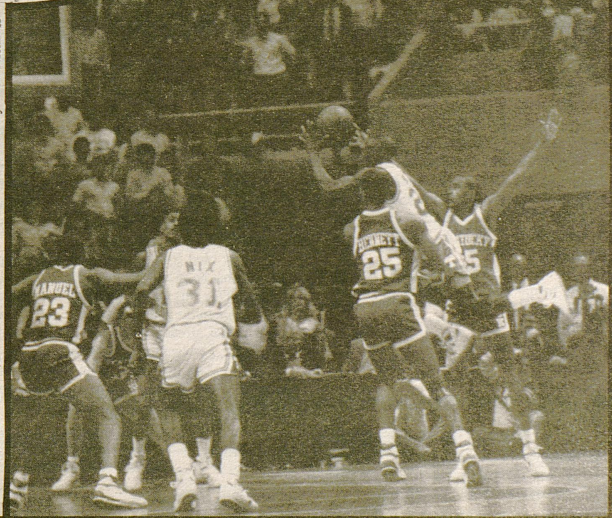


Photo By Nick Nicholas

Photo By Nick Nicholas





VIEWPOINT

Letters To The Editor

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



'Cats, Cops & Cawood

Dear Sir:

Kentucky basketball is exciting to me! In fact, it is so exciting that I am willing to do more than just read about the games in your newspaper. No, mere words are not enough, in spite of the literary abilities of your staff. The next best thing to being there is to watch and/or listen to a live broadcast. That is a tough chore here in central Florida. Yes, my wife has gotten used to waving goodbye to me as I drive away on game nights, not knowing when I will return. She used to resist my game trips. But now she has a bag of popcorn and a small shopping list ready for me after I've come out of the bedroom wearing as many articles of clothing that say "Kentucky" as weather permits. You see, none of the radios in my house can pick up WLW-AM 700, but if I get in my car and go to the Winn-Dixie Plaza on the edge of town, it comes in loud and semi-clear! I have to park on the north side of the building to shield my antenna from the Latin American stations from the Caribbean basin. Cawood Ledford and I meet there nearly twice a week.

This season's UKIT was no exception. I backed into my parking place in front of the already closed Eckerd Drug Store facing north. After finding Cawood and Ralph, I began to read my *TCP* when my loyalty to the Big Blue was about to take its biggest test. Out of the corner of my eye, a white flash caught my attention. "Oh," I sighed, "it's only police car. There's another one. . . and another one. They are turning in! They are turning their lights off!! They are surrounding me!!! What do I do, Lord?!" I did not have a problem telling them why I was there, my only concern was how long would I have to turn the radio down to talk to them? "They won't send me home, will they? Here they come. They are getting out of their cars. Look at that, three female police officers! Oh, no! At least men would understand!! Worse yet, what if they are Gator fans!!! Well, it won't be long now, they are coming over!"

As I rolled down my window, I felt I better initiate this discussion:

"Cat Fan: "Would you like me to get out of the car?"

Officer No. 1: "No, stay put."

Officer No. 2 (As she shines her flashlight in the passenger window): "We've got an alarm off in the drug store, don't move."

"Cat Fan: "Oh, I couldn't even hear it for some reason. (Turning the radio down) Now I hear it. (Noticing her puzzled look, I continued). . . This is Kentucky basketball!"

Officer No. 2: "Oh, yeah?" (Chuckle, chuckle)

"Cat Fan: "Yes! You see, I can't pick up the game in my house, so I have to come here to hear it."

Officer No. 2: "I see." (She turns to meet the other officers behind my car. After some mumbling and a loud burst of laughter breaks the tension of the moment.)

"Cat Fan: "I guess that means they believe me."

Officer No. 3 (After they get the alarm turned off): "That wraps it up." (They returned to their cars and sped off into the night—with Kentucky back into the lead.)

Yes, Kentucky basketball is exciting to me!

The poor Gator fans down here can't even sell out more than one basketball game each season. They wouldn't even sell that one out if it wasn't for people like me helping them out. Maybe I'll see some of you there when the 'Cats come to town! I know you guys will cover the game well as usual. Keep up the good work so that those of us who live in the outer fringes of the world can get a glimpse of the excitement we once knew back home!

Sincerely,

Bob Hensley
Winter Haven, Florida

Upset With WHAS

Dear Sir:

While my dander is still up, let me vent some of my anger in this letter. First, let me say I am referring to the dispicable way (Louisville Fairdale running back and UK recruit) Craig Walker was set up on Van Vance's phone-in talk show last night on WHAS. Personally, I like Van Vance and admire his quick wit and ability to take over and turn the program in the right direction. I also understand that with the U of L publicity department being a heavy contributor to WHAS and his program, that a lot of what goes on is out of his control.

The event I am referring to happened just as the Kentucky-Auburn game was getting ready to start on WAVE and the Kentucky Network. So I am sure many of you Big Blue fans missed this. However, Craig Walker did not miss it and I am sure he was deeply embarrassed by it. As I said before, it was a "set-up," with the parties involved being given "hot line" phone numbers to call in to WHAS. One of these, was unquestionably a U of L publicity agent. He called in requesting to speak to Craig Walker about why he chose UK over Louisville. Well, quite conveniently I must say, he was on the phone trying to defend his choice.

I just wish you could have heard this U of L backer, or agent as I call him, berate Kentucky and the way he put Craig Walker on the defensive. This agent said that he could understand Craig's decision if he had chosen Notre Dame—but Kentucky, which would be lucky to have a 2-9 won-lost record this season, was unbelievable. He appealed to Walker's patriotism and loyalty to the city of Louisville rather than going 65 miles away and playing in Lexington. He, also, made reference to the hostility to expect when he returned to Louisville after four years playing football in Lexington.

I really bled for this young man and kept hoping that he would tell this agent to go "fly a kite." This was all done in very poor taste, unsportsmanlike, and useless, as Craig Walker had already made his commitment. Although, I am sure his enthusiasm has taken a tumble. And just think what other young signees and future prospects might be thinking.

Respectfully,

Charles L. Morgan
Crestview, Florida

True Fans?

Dear Sir:

What kind of fans do we have out there? It seems everybody is sending in a report card or has some expert opinionated observations. Why? Why can't you be a true fan?

Throughout the years we've had the football team break our hearts. But you know their hearts were broken, too. They felt as bad as we did. I once made the statement that I was tired of that some thing every year. My buddy brought it to my attention. He said, "You're not a fan." I said, "Now wait just a minute. I've bled Blue for 20 years!" (Where have you heard that before?) He said, "If you can't take it when the going gets tough, you're not a true fan." I've never forgotten that. It makes sense to me, and I might be disappointed sometimes, but I know those kids out on that field are playing their hearts out for me and every real, loyal 'Cat fan from everywhere.

Last year's basketball team played some of the most exciting basketball I've ever seen. They won a number of games on heart alone. How many times have you heard, "Rob Lock is a non-force inside," "Rex (Chapman) is just trying to hard," blah, blah, blah? Myself, I'd like to thank them for an exciting season, which was bound to make them hungry for this one.

Now a few words about this season: What would Mr. (Bill) Hench (*Viewpoint*, Feb. 13) like to do after we have a bad game? Grade them? Then go out and recruit other players, before the next game, to replace those that don't make the grade? This here is *our* team. It's the only team we have, and frankly, I think we have some dandies on it. How could you write what you did about Winston Bennett? He could play on any college team in the country. Dean Smith would eat his heart out. So would that tough guy (?) from north of the border. This team's free-throw shooting has gone from last to first. In fact I think Mr. Lock led the league and free-throw percentage and the team in field-goal percentage.

Well, I think that we should put these men on the back, give 'em a big smile and say, "Let's go get 'em." Let the chips fall where they may. Nuff said.

Steve Marples
Westmore, Tennessee

P.S.—I would like to express my condolences to Derrick Miller for the loss of his grandmother. Mam-maws are something special.

UK Basketball Is. . .

Dear Sir:

Every year at this time all across the country, basketball teams and their fans get prepared for the NCAA tournament. All of these schools firmly believe in their abilities and their aspirations are limited only by their imagination. With all the hoopla around, it makes me think of a question: What is Kentucky Basketball? Kentucky Basketball is not a place, or a particular person, nor is it being No. 1 in the polls. Kentucky Basketball is a feeling. It is the pride and tradition that

has been handed down from legends such as Adolph Rupp, Dan Issel and Louie Dampier to tomorrow's legends like Winston Bennett, Eddie Davender and Rex Chapman. Kentucky Basketball is a young boy who lives in rural eastern Kentucky lying by his bedside at night with an old A.M. band radio listening to Cawood and Ralph call the action and dreaming of someday suiting up in the Blue and White and representing UK. Kentucky Basketball is two old men sitting on the front porch of a farmhouse discussing the incoming freshmen and tears rolling down the face of these men as they watch the UK seniors' final game in Rupp Arena. Kentucky Basketball is hundreds of fans gathering at the airport in Lexington to welcome home the 1984 team that lost in the first round of the Final Four in Seattle. It sickens me to hear some people talk in disgust of our program, some may even say that tradition is stronger in Carolina or Indiana. I once saw a six-year-old boy cry after the 'Cats had lost, but the very next game nobody cheered louder for UK than that kid did—that is Kentucky Basketball. It is alive and strong today and it always will be as long as there is that one little boy, somewhere in eastern Kentucky, listening to the 'Cats, and dreaming! If you want to find Kentucky Basketball today, you don't have to go to Lexington, because it can be found in the hearts and souls of elderly and kids alike, from the two old men in western Kentucky, to the little boy in the mountains, to this 17-year-old college student in Pine Knot, Ky.

Go Big Blue!

Bill Simpson
Pine Knot, Kentucky

Statistics Don't Lie

Dear Sir:

I just finished reading a letter to the editor from Mr. Tom Fowler of Dunnnville, Ky. In this letter, Mr. Fowler urges us to look at the percentage of turnovers in comparison to minutes played, Rob Lock vs. LeRon Ellis. With calculator in hand, I turned to the Wildcat statistics in the same *TCP* issue and here's what I found: Lock turns the ball over once every 13.61 minutes, Ellis every 13.69. Out of curiosity, I also found that Lock scores a point every 2.3 minutes and grabs a rebound every 3.7 minutes (compared to Ellis' 2.8 minutes per point and 4.4 minutes per rebound). Maybe Mr. Fowler should research a little better before writing these three paragraphs ripping Lock. Come on people, quit blaming Rob and check out the 46.9 shooting percentage of two certain guards.

Bobby Tandy
Lexington, Kentucky

C'mon Earl

Dear Sir:

This letter is to Earl D. Bell of Smyrna, Tenn. I hope you read this aloud and please use only one side of your mouth to do so.

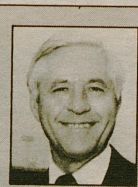
[Continued On Page 22]

Ermal Allen Was A Lot Of Things At Kentucky

But Most Of All, He Was A Winner

When Ermal Allen retired in 1984 after 22 years as an assistant coach with the Dallas Cowboys, sports columnist Earl Cox asked, "Who was the best all-around athlete ever to wear the Blue and White of Kentucky?"

After speculating that oldtimers usually start with Jim Park, Ellis Johnson, Charles



Russell Rice

Cats' Pause Columnist



"Turkey" Hughes and then skip to Wallace Jones. Cox then noted that real students of UK's athletic history also would add the names of Ralph Beard, Cotton Nash and Allen.

Instead of casting a vote in either direction, the diplomatic Cox gave a brief synopsis of the first six aforementioned former Wildcats and then devoted the remainder of the column to Allen. I'll follow along those same lines in this tribute to Allen, who died several weeks ago.

□ **Jim Park** lettered in football in 1911, 1913 and 1914. He called signals, ran the ball from scrimmage, punted, kicked field goals, ran back punts and kickoffs and was a key player on defense. Against Earlham in 1914, he ran for five touchdowns and passed for five touchdowns, single-game records still on the UK books.

Park also lettered in basketball in 1914 and was such a fine baseball player that he pitched three seasons with the old St. Louis Browns and was also with Columbus and Kansas City before returning to UK, where he served as basketball and baseball coach and assistant football coach under athletics director John J. Tigert.

□ **Ellis Johnson**, a multi-sport star who led Ashland to the National High School Basketball Tournament championship, lettered three years each in football and basketball at UK, earning All-American honors under Adolph Rupp in 1933. He also earned two letters in track and one in baseball ('31 as UK discontinued baseball in '32 and '33).

□ **Charles Hughes** was a star halfback for the Wildcats in 1923 and 1924, lettering two years each in basketball, baseball and track, according to UK records.

□ **Bob Davis**, who won an Ohio middleweight boxing championship before coming to UK, was one of the finest football players ever to wear the Blue and White, holding such school records as 281 yards rushing versus Maryville in 1937, along with career marks of 30 TDs and 180 points scored. He lettered in basketball and track, failing to letter in baseball only because UK fielded no diamond teams during his varsity years ('35, '36, '37).

□ **Wallace Jones** earned a UK record 11 varsity letters, four each in basketball and football and three as a standout hitter and pitcher in baseball. He earned All-SEC honors in the two major sports and also was a basketball All-American in 1949.

□ **Ralph Beard** came to UK in 1945 on a football scholarship, but switched to basketball after a misunderstanding with the UK grid staff. In addition to being a three-time All-American in basketball, he earned three letters in baseball and was a fine sprinter (UK discontinued the sport during World War II) and golfer.

□ **Ermal Allen**, at 5-foot-10 and 155 pounds, was the smallest of the group. At Morristown High in Tennessee, he was awarded 16 letters in various sports under coach Petie Siler. He ended up at UK instead of Tennessee because of one of famed coach Bob Neyland's few talent judgement mistakes.

Having won the Southern Amateur as a high school senior, Allen was offered a golf scholarship at the University of Texas while Siler, in fact, offered to sponsor him on the pro tour if he would postpone college and concentrate on golf.

"I loved golf and thought one day I might like to try it professionally," said Allen, who defeated the likes of Bobby Nichols and Frank Beard in the amateur days. "But I wanted to play college football—Tennessee always was my first choice—so I thanked my high school coach for his offer and waited to see what other offers might come.

"One day Petie took me to see the General (Neyland was a major in the Army reserve at the time)," Allen recalled. "He later talked to Neyland and when I wanted to know what was said, he said he'd tell me later. I said I wanted to know then. Neyland's comment about me was, 'He's too small.' I went back to Gen. Neyland and told him, 'You'll be sorry.'"

After being contacted by UK basketball coach Adolph Rupp and accepting a half-basketball, half-football scholarship, Allen got his first shot at UT on Thanksgiving Day of his sophomore year, when Neyland brought to Lexington a Vol team that had won 22 straight games and was bound for the Rose Bowl.

Two weeks earlier, UK had trailed Georgia Tech 13-0 with two minutes of playing time remaining when Allen connected on a 67-yard TD heave to Jim Harden to avoid a shutout. As a starter the following Saturday, he led the Wildcats to a 13-6 victory over West Virginia, giving UK a 6-1-1 record entering the UT game.

For the record, the Vols beat the 'Cats 33-0 that afternoon and followed up with wins of 20-7 and 26-0 the following two years. However, Allen drew raves in his initial encounter with the dreaded invaders. As Larry Shropshire, a *Lexington Leader* sports editor, wrote: "Kentucky's spindly little sophomore halfback stole the show with his unerring marksmanship and it was chiefly his throwing that kept Wildcat supporters hopeful—of at least a score, if not a victory—until the late stages of the fray."

Allen connected on 18 of 30 passes for 139 yards while UT was held to 41 yards in the air; however, the superior Vol runners outgained the 'Cats 166-98 on the ground. Here's how *New York Times* sportswriter William D. Richardson described Allen's performance:

"If there's ever been a better passing exhibition than this persevering little chap put on today, it must have been one of Davey O'Brien's greater days. So expert was his marksmanship that, despite the fact that he was swarmed on and over by the more powerful Tennesseans, he had their secondaries dizzy with his bull's-eyes to his mates."

The Wildcats were 51-20 and two-time SEC champions during Allen's varsity basketball tenure. An all-conference forward in 1942, he drew a high compliment from Rupp that year when he hit two free throws with four seconds remaining to give UK a 40-39 victory over Xavier in Cincinnati.

"It was like sitting in an electric chair, strapped and ready for the executioner to throw the switch," Rupp said, "and then having this fellow dash in and yell, 'Hold it, we got a reprieve.' That boy Allen doesn't have blood in him. It's all ice."

Allen earned three letters in basketball and was an All-Southeastern Conference forward his senior year. He also won three letters each in football and golf. He played on Wildcat grid teams that were 16-9-3. The golf team was 5-1-1 his sophomore year and 9-0 in each of the following two seasons.

The paths of Allen and Neyland crossed again during WWII, when Allen got to play for the general on an All-Army team that lost only one game while he was on the squad.

Shortly after his tour of duty was completed, Allen heard a radio broadcast that indicated he might be eligible under a new wartime ruling to play another year of football. Immediately on returning home from the Philippines, he walked into the office of UK's new head coach Paul "Bear" Bryant and said, "I hear you need a tailback."

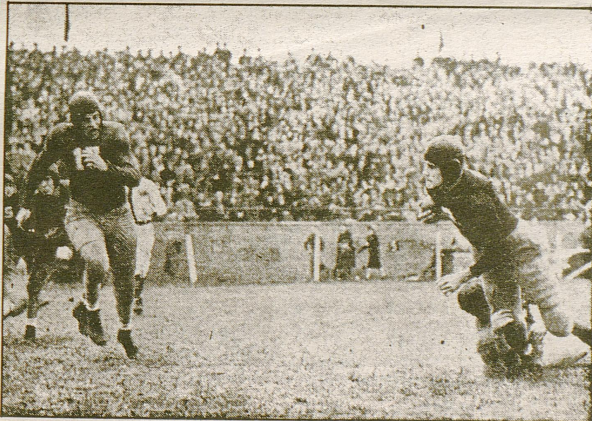
"That's right," the Bear said.

"You're looking at him," Allen shot back.

Bryant laughed and just told Allen he wished that were true.

"I told him I was eligible," Allen said. "At first he didn't believe me, but he did some checking, called me back in, and said it looked as if I was right."

"So in 1946 I played the first two games—we beat Mississippi and Cincinnati—before the other schools began raising so much Cain about my playing that I was finally ruled ineligible. When coach Bryant told me I wasn't going to be able to play, he asked if I would stay on and help coach the offensive backs."



Late Ermal Allen Returning A Kickoff Vs. Georgia Tech In 1940

The following fall, however, Allen was still eager to compete and requested a leave of absence from his coaching duties to accept a tryout offer with the Cleveland Browns. He made the team as a defensive back, backup quarterback, punter and kick returner. The Browns won the All-America Conference title that year.

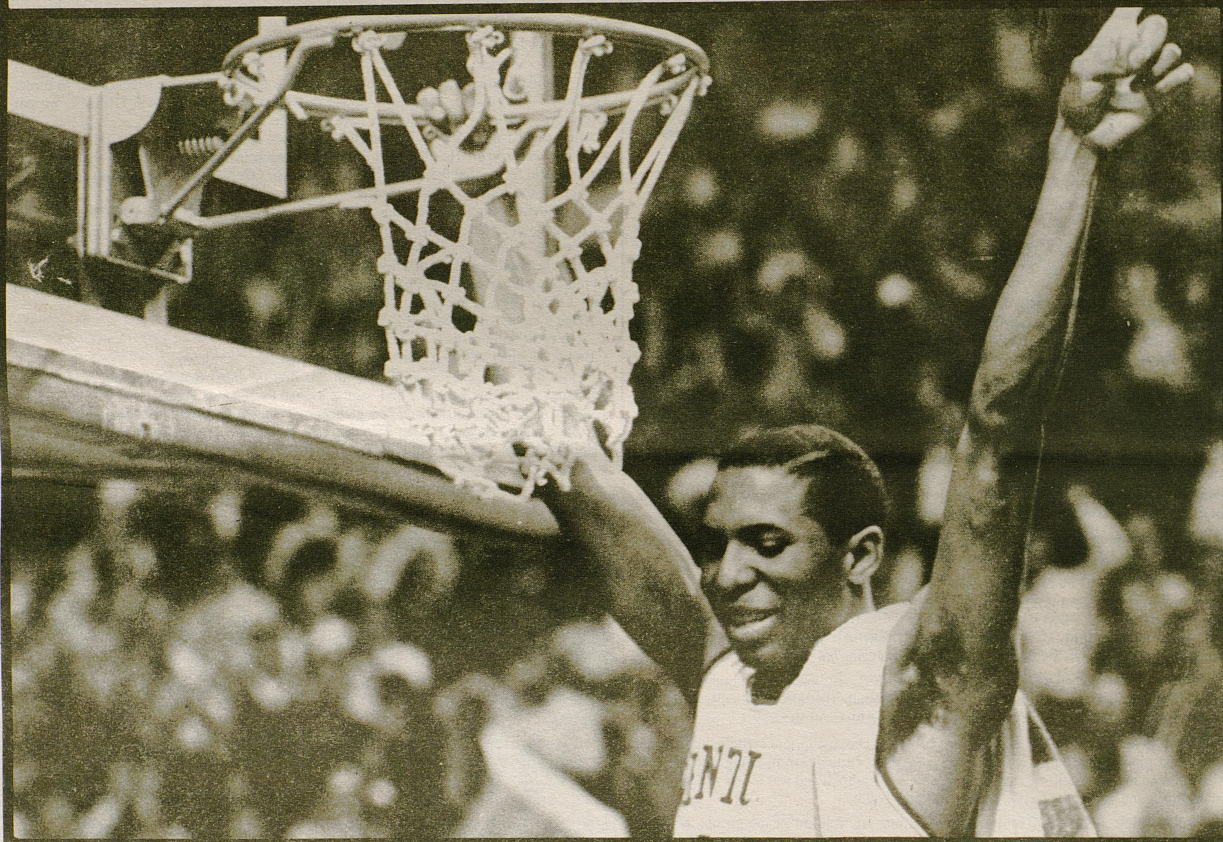
"One of the reasons I had gone to the Browns was because coach Bryant wanted me to learn the T-formation while I was there and bring it back to Kentucky," Allen said. "We had Babe Parilli coming along and we wanted to know how to use him."

There was a time (1954) in Allen's life when he almost landed a head coaching job. "Bryant and I were getting ready to drive up to the national coaches convention," Allen said, "and shortly after he picked me up, he told me the first thing he wanted me to do when I got to the convention was to withdraw my name from consideration for the Texas A&M job. It came as quite a surprise to me because he had recommended me for the job in the first place. And it was beginning to look as if I had a good chance of getting it. I just couldn't understand. Finally, a few more miles down the road, he explained: 'Ermal, they've offered me the job for so damn much money that I'm gonna take it myself.' That's how I missed out on the A&M job."

After turning down Bryant's invitation to move to Texas with him, Allen applied for the UK position, but lost to Blanton Collier, then coaching on Paul Brown's staff in Cleveland. When Collier was fired seven years later, Allen gave some serious thought to forgoing football for business, but then he received a call from Tom Landry and was destined to spend the next 22 years as the Cowboy coach's righthand man, first as the

[Continued On Page 22]

For The Wildcat Fan Who Never Gets Enough Of The Big Blue. . .



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UK Must Connect On Critical Points In NCAA

Improvements Needed In All Areas For Title Run

When LeRon Ellis decided to leave the west coast to play basketball for the University of Kentucky, he thought the Wildcats could challenge for a national title in 1988.

"I knew Kentucky would have a lot of good players coming back and was also br-



Larry Vaught

Cats' Pause Columnist



inging in some good recruits," said the 6-11 California product. "I knew the team would have some great athletes and would have a chance to contend for a national championship right away.

"Now that we are at crunch time, I think we can win the national championship. The team is coming together. The teaching and learning stages are over and we have become a fluid basketball team."

Kentucky has appeared to begin putting all the pieces together in recent games as it tries to win its 36th SEC championship and prepare for the NCAA Tournament.

"We really want to win the SEC because if we do, we get a big diamond ring," said UK senior center Rob Lock. "That's a little extra motivation for everybody. Really, though, the big thing about winning the SEC is that it would mean we are on a roll for the NCAA Tournament."

Kentucky has improved steadily and has not been sharper all season than it was in the first 25 minutes of the recent 82-68 victory over Alabama. The Cats were ahead by 26 points early in the second half before UK Coach Eddie Sutton went to his bench.

After the game Alabama Coach Wimp Sanderson thanked Sutton for not demoralizing his team.

"Kentucky has a tremendously talented team," said Sanderson. "They are a lot better than when we played the first time. They have the luxury of being very talented off the bench and their younger players are starting to make big contributions. They just have a good, sound club."

It takes more than a "good, sound club" to make a major impact in the NCAA Tournament. Sutton knows that. He's pushed his team to the limit daily trying to make the Wildcats reach a higher plateau before tourney time.

So what must happen for Kentucky to have a legitimate chance at winning the national crown? Here are what I think are the key factors:

- Continued growth of Ellis and Eric Manuel. The two freshmen are suddenly making solid contributions after Sutton inserted Ellis into the starting lineup and made Manuel his top reserve.

Ellis gives UK a defensive intimidator and inside scoring threat while Manuel provides outside scoring, solid ball handling and quickness.

- Improved shooting. Kentucky is still shooting only 46.8 percent from the field but has improved in recent games. But the Wildcats have displayed better ball movement recently and are showing the offensive patience Sutton has wanted all year.

"When we get the ball in motion it makes the defense move around a lot more," said UK sophomore guard Rex Chapman. "We can always get the shots but better movement gives us more options."

- Full-court pressure. Kentucky has been able to dictate tempo with its full-court press. Teams have been forced to play at the faster pace UK likes because of the press. Ellis has created havoc on the point of the 1-2-1-1 press and UK must continue to use this attack to wear down opponents and speed up the game.

- Rebounding. Kentucky can't stay alive in March without better rebounding. Senior forward Winston Bennett has been a force on the boards all year but Ellis, Lock and reserves Cedric Jenkins and Richard Madison have to become more consistent.

- Accepting roles. This could be the biggest factor for Kentucky. Senior guard Ed Davender has fully accepted his job as playmaker and proved it by taking only two shots against Alabama when he had a career-high 10 assists. Manuel has done a great job in his sixth man role just as James Lee did in 1978 when Kentucky won the national crown. Even Madison and Jenkins have accepted their backup roles without complaint.

If all the pieces come together and Chapman and Bennett can continue their consistent scoring and all-around play, Kentucky could be one of the teams at the Final Four in Kansas City.

"I have said all along that we are one of 25 or 30 teams that could win the title," said Sutton. "I haven't seen anything to make me change my mind. There are a lot of good teams out there. But I do like the way we are playing and we might be reaching a peak at just the right time."

IT TOOK Lock two years to learn that he could stop more opponents by standing his ground than leaving his feet.

That's why the 6-11 University of Kentucky pivotman led the Wildcats in taking charges last year and is again the team leader this season.

"Rob is the best we have at taking the charge," said UK assistant coach Dwane Casey. "Usually a guard leads the team in that category. It's unusual to see a post player get in position to take that many charges."

"Rob, though, has learned his limitations. He understands that he's not going to block a lot of shots. It's better for him to get himself in position and take the charge."

Lock drew 30 charges during the 1986-87 season. He started this year by drawing at least one charge in UK's first 10 games and has just hit the deck for the 31st time this season.

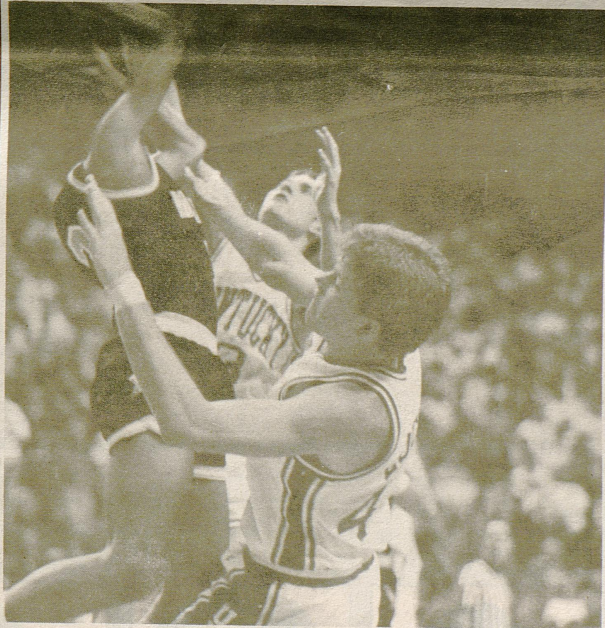
"I wanted to break my own record," said Lock. "Nobody usually keeps track of who takes charges but it is just as important as blocked shots. It's a great individual play because it gives your team back the basketball."

"Every year more players try to drive in the middle. I have a much better chance to draw a charge than I do to block a shot the way a Sam Bowie or Kenny Walker could. I just don't jump like them."

Lock, though, has noticed one difference when he hits the floor this year after taking a charge.

"It hurts more," said Lock. "Taking those charges takes a toll on you. Maybe I'm just getting too old."

When Lock stops hitting the floor, however, he'll probably take a seat on the bench. His best contributions to the UK team come when he's banging bodies, diving for loose balls or taking charges.



Rob Lock Doing What He Does Best—Taking Charge

"Rob never has been and never will be a finesse player," said Casey. "But he does other things that finesse players wouldn't do. He hustles and sacrifices his body. He'll dive on the floor to get a loose ball or tip a ball to keep it alive on the backboard. He also helps out a lot more on defense than he gets credit for most of the time."

Even when he broke his own record for taking charges this year it was overlooked.

"I thought maybe they would stop the game and give me the game ball," said Lock. "Or at least I thought they would give me a piece of the floor."

That sense of humor is another side of Lock that most UK fans don't see. And he has kept that trait despite the way his career has gone up and down. No player in recent history as turned jeers to cheers and cheers to jeers like Lock. He's the darling of the crowd one game but may get booed the next outing.

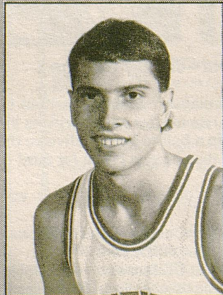
"It's been strange in a lot of ways but I don't worry about that," said Lock. "I just go out and play."

WILDCAT BASKETBALL STATISTICS

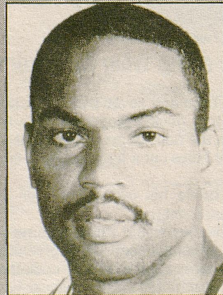
(Thru 23 games)

G	GS	Min	Avg	FG	FGA	Pct	3PT	3PTA	Pct	FT	FTA	Pct	Reb	Avg	PF	D	Ast	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
CHAPMAN, REX																						
23	23	796	34.6	158	338	46.7	38	108	35.2	62	74	83.8	71	3.1	47	-	86	66	14	40	416	18.1
DAVENDER, ED																						
23	23	782	34.0	121	259	46.7	18	55	32.7	104	124	83.9	41	1.8	47	1	80	51	3	42	364	15.8
BENNETT, WINSTON																						
23	23	760	33.0	129	267	48.3	-	-	-	82	115	71.3	194	8.4	69	3	38	39	2	31	340	14.8
LOCK, ROB																						
23	23	606	26.3	82	155	52.9	-	-	-	87	113	77.0	167	7.3	78	5	18	45	21	20	251	10.9
MANUEL, ERIC																						
22	1	366	16.6	49	95	51.6	1	2	50.0	25	29	86.2	54	2.5	17	-	39	12	2	23	124	5.6
ELLIS, LeRON																						
18	7	244	13.6	33	71	46.5	-	-	-	15	27	55.6	51	2.8	30	-	10	15	12	10	81	4.5
JENKINS, CEDRIC																						
22	11	368	16.7	27	66	40.9	-	-	-	33	40	82.5	83	3.8	42	1	19	19	14	8	87	4.0
MADISON, RICHARD																						
21	4	367	17.5	30	75	40.0	-	1	-	14	25	56.0	82	3.9	26	-	16	20	1	5	74	3.5
SCOTT, MIKE																						
11	-	62	5.6	10	20	50.0	-	-	-	3	4	75.0	18	1.6	8	-	2	5	5	4	23	2.1
MILLER, DERRICK																						
13	-	77	5.9	8	33	24.2	3	21	14.3	2	3	66.7	9	.7	8	-	3	7	-	-	21	1.6
SUTTON, SEAN																						
17	-	128	7.5	4	12	33.3	-	1	-	18	27	66.7	8	.5	5	-	30	10	1	4	26	1.5
HANSON, REGGIE																						
12	-	69	5.8	4	14	28.6	-	-	-	5	6	83.3	14	1.2	10	-	1	3	1	2	13	1.1
TEAM																						
23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	51	2.2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
WILDCATS																						
23	-	4625	201.	655	1405	46.6	60	188	31.9	450	587	76.7	843	36.7	387	10	342	294	76	189	1820	79.1
OPPONENTS																						
23	-	4625	201.	606	1348	45.0	86	248	34.7	255	368	69.3	764	33.2	483	20	330	406	57	152	1553	67.5

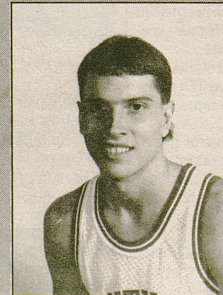
Date	Record	UK	Opp	Opponent	Margin	Top Scorer	Top Rebounder	Attendance
Nov. 28	1-0	86	59	Hawaii	27	18 LOCK, ROB	9 BENNETT, W.	23,049 (H)
Dec. 01	2-0	101	77	Cincinnati	24	22 CHAPMAN, REX	13 LOCK, ROB	22,865 (H)
Dec. 05	3-0	82	76	Indiana	6	22 DAVENDER, ED	10 JENKINS, CEDRIC	43,601 (N-Indy)
Dec. 12	4-0	76	75	Louisville	1	21 CHAPMAN, REX	11 JENKINS, CEDRIC	23,489 (H)
Dec. 18	5-0	85	71	Miami (Ohio)	14	28 BENNETT, W.	10 BENNETT, W.	23,995 (H)
Dec. 19	6-0	84	81	North Carolina-Charl	3	24 CHAPMAN, REX	16 MADISON, RICHARD	23,995 (H)
Dec. 28	7-0	100	58	Alaska	42	24 BENNETT, W.	11 JENKINS, CEDRIC	23,169 (H)
Dec. 31	8-0	81	74	Vanderbilt	7	24 DAVENDER, ED	17 BENNETT, W.	23,104 (H)
Jan. 02	9-0	84	77	Georgia	7	26 CHAPMAN, REX	10 BENNETT, W.	13,666 (A)
Jan. 06	10-0	93	52	Mississippi State	41	17 BENNETT, W.	8 JENKINS, CEDRIC	23,047 (H)
Jan. 09	10-1	52	53	Auburn	-1	20 BENNETT, W.	10 BENNETT, W.	23,379 (H)
Jan. 13	11-1	63	55	Alabama	8	17 DAVENDER, ED	5 LOCK, ROB	12,391 (A)
Jan. 16	12-1	83	65	Tennessee	18	23 CHAPMAN, REX	9 BENNETT, W.	23,819 (H)
Jan. 20	12-2	56	58	Florida	-2	20 BENNETT, W.	11 BENNETT, W.	23,433 (H)
Jan. 23	13-2	76	61	LSU	15	21 DAVENDER, ED	10 BENNETT, W.	13,853 (A)
Jan. 27	13-3	66	83	Vanderbilt	-17	18 CHAPMAN, REX	8 BENNETT, W.	15,646 (A)
Jan. 31	14-3	78	69	Notre Dame	9	23 DAVENDER, ED	7 LOCK, ROB	19,502 (H-L'ville)
Feb. 03	15-3	94	65	Ole Miss	29	16 BENNETT, W.	11 BENNETT, W.	23,133 (H)
Feb. 06	16-3	83	59	Mississippi State	24	21 DAVENDER, ED	11 BENNETT, W.	6,863 (A)
Feb. 10	17-3	69	62	Auburn	7	25 CHAPMAN, REX	7 BENNETT, W.	12,599 (A)
Feb. 13	18-3	82	68	Alabama	14	25 BENNETT, W.	9 BENNETT, W.	23,288 (H)
Feb. 17	18-4	70	72	Tennessee	-2	27 DAVENDER, ED	14 LOCK, ROB	24,378 (A)
Feb. 20	18-5	76	83	Florida	-7	24 CHAPMAN, REX	12 BENNETT, W.	11,921 (A)



Leading Scorer:
Rex Chapman—18.1



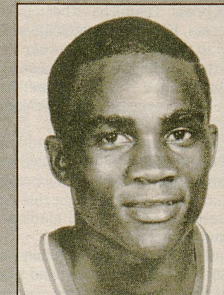
Leading Rebounder:
Winston Bennett—8.4



Assist Leader:
Rex Chapman—86



***Best FG Percentage:**
Rob Lock—52.9



°Best FT Percentage:
Ed Davender—83.9

*minimum of 2 FG attempts per game.

°minimum of 2 FT attempts per game.

Pairings Set For 1988 Boys' State Basketball Tournament

If everything goes according to plan when they tip it off in the semifinals of the 71st Kentucky High School State Tournament March 19 at Freedom Hall, the state's top four teams could be battling it out for the 1988 title.

The pairings were drawn Friday Feb. 19, and they set up a possible collision course for Clay County, Madisonville, Ballard and Marshall County—regarded by *Associated Press* as the state's top four teams right now—to meet in the semifinals.

Clay County coach Bobby Keith, whose defending state champion Tigers are currently 24-1 and have been ranked No. 1 in Kentucky all season, drew the pairings with the help of the KHSAA's Earl Cox in the studios of Kentucky Educational Television.

"When I look across Kentucky there are several teams with as much talent as I've seen in some time," Keith was quoted as saying last week. "Teams like Ballard, Madisonville, Bardstown and PRP... if all of them win their regions it will definitely be one of the greatest state tournaments in many, many years."

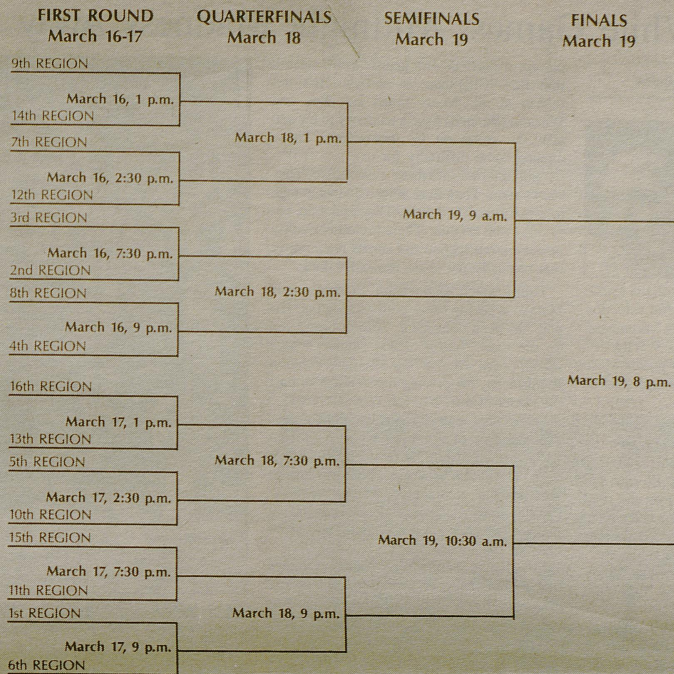
Should Clay County, which has a 35-game winning streak against Kentucky competition and is rated No. 11 in the country, repeat as 13th region titlists, the Tigers could face a tough field. Clay County would be placed in the lower bracket, which could contain No. 4 Marshall County (1st Region), No. 5 Bardstown (5th Region), No. 6 Pleasure Ridge Park (6th Region), No. 8 Bryan Station (11th Region) and No. 10 Russell (16th Region). The upper half of the bracket could contain No. 2 Madisonville or No. 9 Christian County (both of 2nd Region), No. 3 Ballard (7th Region), No. 7 Laurel County (12th Region).

"You've definitely got to have some luck, you've got to be injury free and at the top of your game," Keith said. "If we're fortunate enough to get to Louisville, we'll have to

shoot the ball extremely well to win it again. We're not big enough to overpower anybody. We've got to play intelligent basketball."

Tickets to the event, which is being played in Louisville for the first time since 1980, can be obtained until March 1 from the KHSAA,

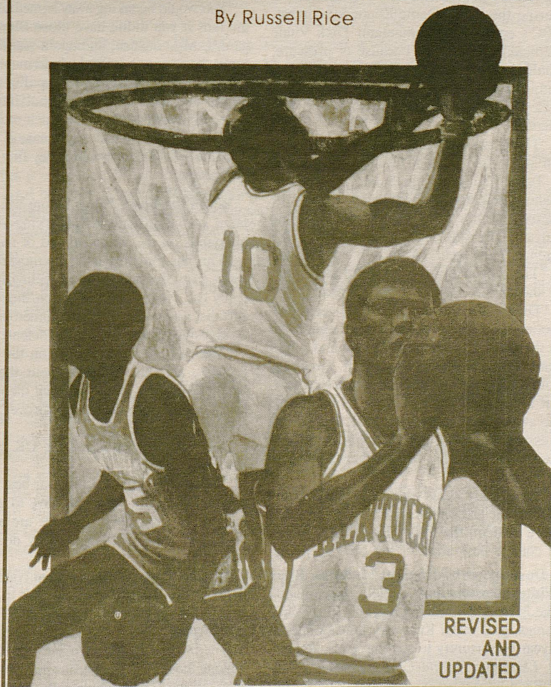
560 E. Cooper Drive in Lexington. After March 1, tickets will go on sale at the Kentucky Fair & Exposition Center in Louisville.



Cats' Pause chart

KENTUCKY BASKETBALL'S BIG BLUE MACHINE

By Russell Rice



Strode Publishers announces the release of "Big Blue Machine: Kentucky Basketball," the most complete and comprehensive volume available on the proud winning heritage of UK basketball. Written by Russell Rice, UK's Special Assistant to the Athletics Director, this book takes the reader from the early rough house years of basketball at UK to the first championship of the South won by the Wildcats in 1921, through all of the historic eras including Adolph Rupp's reign, Joe B. Hall, and the current winning era of Eddie Sutton and star player "King" Rex Chapman.

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Meet The Press

Despite All The Pressure And All The Demands, Sutton Not About To Take Blue-White Games, Midnight Madness Away From Wildcat Fans

By TCP Columnist Nick Nicholas

With the Tennessee loss fresh on his mind, Kentucky coach Eddie Sutton wasn't thrilled about his team's performance in K-town. During his weekly press conference at Wildcat Lodge, Sutton pointed out that he was upset with his team's discipline on the court. Bad shot selection and poor defense resulted in the Volunteers' 72-70 victory over the then-No. 9 Wildcats. But as they say, the show must go on. Here are Sutton's remarks on various topics asked by the media:



Sizing up the conference race: Kentucky could have done itself a tremendous favor by beating the Volunteers at Thompson-Boling Arena last Wednesday, because Florida and Vanderbilt were handed losses on the road that evening. Instead, the Wildcats entered the Florida game with just a half-game lead over Dale Brown's LSU Tigers.

Also bunched at the front were Vandy (9-5), Florida (8-5) and Auburn. Who's the team to bet on?

"I think the race is still a wide open affair," said Sutton. "That's why I felt like the game last night was so important to us. By winning we could go into Florida, which is one of the most difficult places to play... and we could afford the luxury of losing and still be leading the league. We've got two games left on the road (counting Florida) and two (SEC) left at home. All four teams are good basketball clubs, especially Ole Miss in Oxford, and that was proven last evening (the Rebels beat Florida 82-75).

"Florida has a tough schedule, too. They have four games at home, but they still have to go to LSU. LSU actually, when you look at their schedule, is in pretty good shape. They've won some close games and that's what has put them in this position (9-4). They have Alabama in Tuscaloosa, and that won't be a cinch for the Tigers. They've got to go to Mississippi State but they do have Auburn and Florida at home.

"You know, every game is important. It's hard to say who has the best schedule (left) and who's in the driver's seat. I said this before, I thought 14-4 would win the league. Well, it's for sure to win it now. I said that before the season began."

Like wow, man, what's with the radical change? Against Alabama, Kentucky worked the ball to the open man to perfection. Timely passes, mainly by Ed Davender—10 assists—keyed UK's offense like clockwork. Just a few nights later, meanwhile, the Wildcats' shot selection was horrendous at times. Sutton noted that his team can't win games when it scores 70 points and dishes out just eight assists.

And Davender? Sure, he scored 27 points. But Davender, the point guard in the Alabama contest, played to a different tune against the Vols. Only two assists popped up next to the senior's statistics. And while taking just two shots against 'Bama, he fired 17 in Knoxville. Why the change?

"That was not our game plan," Sutton said of his team's most recent performance. "I would hope we will play more like we did against Alabama when we play the Gators."

Later in the conference Sutton discounted a certain rumor which has endured itself in the Wildcat camp despite a 18-4 mark.

"I don't think in any way that any of our

players are selfish. I've heard *thrown around* that Rex (Chapman) is selfish. He's not selfish at all. Many times Ed, Rex and Winston (Bennett) have a tendency to try and take the game on by themselves. That's created some difficulty for us.

"But in no way are those guys selfish. They want to win. They were able to do that in high school for their ballclubs. They're not the only ones who do that. There are other quality players in our league and across the country that basically try to do the same thing."

Thank coach Richardson: Freshman Eric Manuel is getting better with each outing. His play has been consistent, both at home and on the road. Sutton credits Manuel's high school coach, Macon (Ga.) Southwest's Don Richardson, for driving the Wildcat to past the normal limit.

"He's very mature," the UK coach said. "He came out of a program where a lot was expected of him by Don Richardson. It is an outstanding program. He knows how to win. He's a complete basketball player—handles the ball, scores, defensively he's a good player, is a good rebounder and plays hard all the time.

In both the Auburn and Alabama games this month, Manuel scored 12 points and grabbed six rebounds. In Knoxville he continued to be an impact player off the bench, scoring 11 points and grabbing seven rebounds, five of which were of the defensive variety.

Steady is the best word describing the play of this cool freshman.

"I've been very impressed with the way Eric Manuel has matured as a player," Sutton said. I think he has a chance to be a great basketball player. He is playing like I'd hoped LeRon (Ellis) would be playing at this stage."

Ellis, who earned his first starting assignment against Notre Dame on Jan. 31, played only 11 minutes, scoring two points and grabbing one rebound in the loss to the Volunteers. He failed to check in during the second stanza.

Winston, freshmen only difference '87 to '88: Entering this season many were expecting an automatic Final Four berth for this club.

James Blackmon and Paul Andrews departed. Bennett was back. Add three freshmen to last season's nucleus and *walla*... the 1987-88 Kentucky Wildcats.

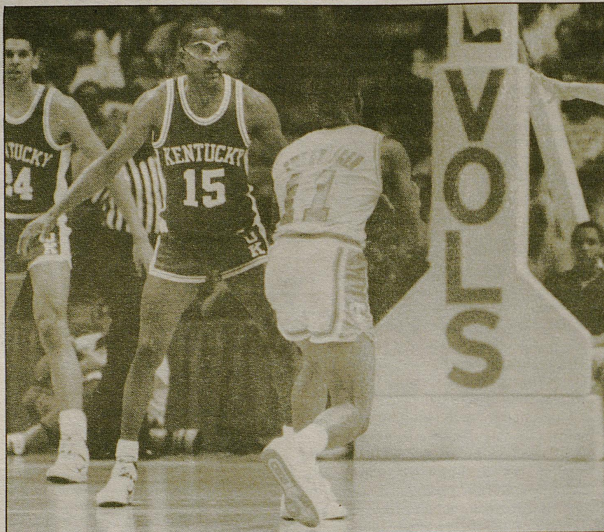
"I thought early in the year that too many people got too high on this ballclub, from the standpoint that we went 18-11 last year and the only addition to the club really is Winston," Sutton said. "Winston has played outstanding, but he didn't play well last night.

"The difference I felt, where the ballclub would be even much better, would be how quickly LeRon and Eric could come along. Eric has certainly done that. LeRon has not progressed as quickly as I hoped he would.

Is there still hope for Richard, Cedric? Where, oh, where have Richard Madison and Cedric Jenkins gone? The two have played sparingly in February. And with Manuel and Ellis earning more PT, do we foresee any quality time for the "Master Blaster" and "Swoop?"

"We gave them a lot of opportunities, about half of the season," said Sutton. "They were very inconsistent and that's why we made the decision to go with the younger players. Eric Manuel is doing very well and LeRon has been inconsistent.

"We've certainly have not given up on Richard Madison and Cedric Jenkins. We believe that if we're to be a good basketball team in postseason those two guys have got



Last Week Ed Davender Went From Point Guard To 'Points' Guard to help us."

One has to wonder what has happened to the Jenkins, who played a big role earlier this season in UK's wins over Indiana and Louisville. And, one has to wonder where has the rebounding from Madison (remember 16 boards against North Carolina Charlotte?) has disappeared.

Abracadabra... now you see them, now you don't!

Madison only played five minutes against the Volunteers, but that was five more than his 6-9 senior teammate.

Pressure cooker not too hot, says Eddie: During the Notre Dame-Kentucky contest, ABC's color(full) commentator Dick Vitale predicted that Sutton, because of pressure, would vacate the heat and leave his duties within five years. Hey baby, coach Eddie says no, no, no, Mr. Vitale.

"There was a lot of pressure on me," Sutton said, "and I felt it myself, when I was at Tulsa Central (High School), Southern Idaho, Creighton and Arkansas. I think the pressure comes from what a coach puts on himself. The fans don't make that much difference. Fans want you to win everywhere.

"There probably is a lot more mail, call-in shows here than at Tulsa Central.

"Dick was a little out of line. He keeps promoting me to the pros and I don't want to go to the pros. I've enjoyed the two and a half years here at Kentucky very much. I'm disappointed that we've lost four games this year, but I'm certainly not going to let that chase me away. There's pressure here. But there's pressure at a lot of places. I talked to Gene Keady the other day, he says there's pressure at Purdue.

"Everybody wants you to win today. I can't see that the pressure at Kentucky is that much more difficult than it is a lot of other places in college basketball or the pros as well."

Do away with Midnight Madness, Blue-White barnstorming? Public appearances, like Midnight Madness and the Blue-White games, give many Kentucky fans a once-in-a-year opportunity to see the 'Cats. Recently, *Lexington Herald-Leader* columnist Billy Reed wrote that by doing away with Midnight Madness, Blue-White (along with some

other changes) would ease the burden on the players, coaches in the Wildcat program.

With this in mind, Sutton says he would never forsake these events for a chance to ease the pressure.

"I don't think doing away with Midnight Madness or taking the ballclub out in the state playing Blue-White games has anything to do with it," he said. "We have great fans and there's great interest in Kentucky basketball, more so than probably anywhere that I've ever been and probably anywhere in college basketball. That wouldn't lessen the desire for those same fans to want us to win.

"You would be taking away something from the fans if you didn't have those Blue-White games. My concern, and again you're looking at an economic issue, I would much prefer not to play in Cincinnati, Louisville, or Lexington and take the ballclub out into rural areas. You wouldn't make as much money but I think the fans would appreciate it more.

"That was the intent when they first started doing that."

Who's the boss? Never before has Sutton faced such a difficult task of trying to corral his pupils on the offensive end of the floor.

"This has probably been the most difficult team, from the standpoint of feeling like you really had control of the situation," he said. "It isn't that we haven't told them numerous times... offensively more than at the defensive end.

"You can put some people on the bench, I guess, and put somebody out there that would do exactly what you want them to do. But I'm not sure that's the answer at this point."

One reporter then asked the UK coach if that really works.

"Well, we've got basically our best players playing," he said. "We just have to go back and try to show them that we are a better basketball team when everybody does what they're supposed to do.

"Players must do exactly what coaches tell them to do. Then if they do that it isn't as frustrating on coaches. Losing is frustrating on everyone. That's why guards, because the ball is in their hands so much, and I'm not making those guys scapegoats, must make sure they do the things offensively that are practiced on."

UK 15-3? (Blush) Catbird Seat Now Crowded

Wildcats' Passing Attack Needs Davender

TALK ABOUT A short-lived prediction. It took less than 48 hours after my last column hit the street for the Kentucky Wildcats to blow my guess of a 15-3 Southeastern Conference record right out the window.

The "Knoxville Jinx" continues to plague Kentucky even in the new



Dan Brandenburg

Cats' Pause Columnist



Thompson-Boling Arena. Coach Eddie Sutton is finding out what coaches Rupp and Hall learned the hard way.

Volunteer coach Doug DeVoe, who may have saved his job for another season with the victory, is now 11-10 against Kentucky and Tennessee now has a 37-36 record against the Cats in Knoxville.

Finding coaches with a winning record against UK and finding cities in which Kentucky is under .500 are both rarities, but there is one of each just a few hours south down I-75.

As I said last week, the Cats were in the conference's catbird's seat, needing only to sweep Tennessee and Florida on the road last week in order to virtually lock up yet another SEC crown.

BUT, EVEN AFTER the Vols put a kink in those plans, Kentucky could still have remained at the top with a win in Gainesville's Alligator Alley Saturday. A pair of unexpected upsets (Ole Miss over Florida and Alabama over Vandy) on the same night as the Tennessee tragedy kept the Cats in first place in the SEC.

Kentucky will now close out its conference slate with LSU and Georgia in Rupp Arena and Mississippi in Oxford.

On paper, it looks like Kentucky should roll past the three remaining teams, but then the Cats were four-point favorites in Knoxville last week, too.

Dale Brown's Tigers are always a force to be reckoned with. Although they haven't managed to string together anything resembling consistency this season, they can play like the nation's No. 1 team on any given day on any floor. I don't suppose anyone has forgotten the 76-41 thrashing LSU handed Kentucky last season in Rupp, but I'm sure you've tried just as hard as Eddie Sutton has.

HUGH DURHAM'S GEORGIA Bulldogs are a team still looking for direction and should cause few problems in Lexington. But Ed Murphy's Ole Miss Rebels pose an entirely different story.

Although the Cats had no trouble with them at Rupp, UK did lose to Norm Sloane's Gators at home. And then, Florida was handily defeated at Mississippi last week.

The Rebs' win over Florida should be enough to let Kentucky know that Ole Miss isn't going to roll over and die next Saturday.

And besides, I have all the respect in the world for Murphy. I think he's an excellent, but he does have one big fault — he looks too much like Oscar Combs.

Vanderbilt, despite being led by C.M. Newton — my pick as SEC Coach of the Year — is still holding true to Danny's Basketball Cliche: If you live by the three-pointer, you will die by it, too. Who would have imagined the Commodores falling to hapless Alabama, which has been rightfully sharing the SEC cellar with Mississippi State.

* * *

SINCE I DIDN'T make it down to Knoxville the other night, I will have to rely on the box score, television and Cawood to comment on what sent Kentucky to its fourth conference loss of the season.

It's too easy to lay much of the blame on Ed Davender. Sure, he was practically Kentucky's entire offense with 27 points on 10 of 17 from the field but it was at the point and on defense where the numbers go against him.

His inability to stay with Clarence Swearngen hurt the Cats all over the floor. But part of the fault also has to go to Davender's teammates who also didn't stick with their men because Swearngen managed to dish off eight assists, including the one that went to Greg Bell who won the game with a leaner.

With the possible exception of Rex Chapman, Davender can score as well as anyone on the Kentucky team. But when he does take charge, no one seems to pick up the slack as far as running the offense, i.e. if Davender doesn't hand out the assists, no one else does either.

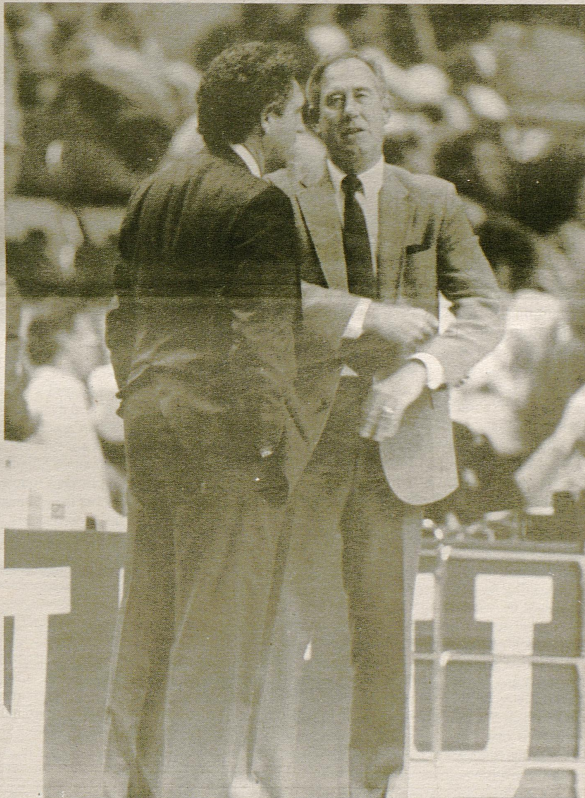
AS EVIDENCE I submit his four-point, 10-assist performance against Alabama. He ran the UK offense like a well-oiled machine. Then, against Tennessee, he scores 27 but gets just two assists. Chapman added two more and four other players had one each, which equals the total Swearngen managed on his

own.

Being from the playgrounds of New York, I'm sure Ed loves to score but the team needs him to concentrate on running the show and let the points come when and where they may. UK has other scorers, but no one to take control of the offense like Davender can. The Kentucky passing attack is virtually nonexistent when Davender isn't at the helm.

Yet, it's hard to say anything bad about Davender. He has been a huge part of UK's success over the past three seasons and should be a member of every all-defensive team in the country. He plays with all his heart, but sometimes he tries to be Mr. Everything too much. Maybe, as a senior, he feels he needs to pick up the team wherever he can when it's slumping.

ANOTHER SORE POINT was Winston Bennett's 3 points and 5 rebounds in 35 minutes on the court. There is no way UK is going to win consistently with Bennett only attempting four shots in a game.



Sutton's, Newton's Clubs Still In The Hunt

Rob Lock had one of his finest games of the season and took up some of the slack left by Bennett. Lock got 14 rebounds and 15 points against Doug Roth, a player any decent center should be able to man-handle.

LeRon Ellis was disappointing for the fourth straight game. He had 1 rebound and 2 points in 11 minutes and may have played his way out of the starting lineup. Sutton was considering inserting Eric Manuel at Florida and that may not be such a bad move.

Manuel has been playing his best ball of the season lately and has steadily improving the entire year. He came off the bench to get 11 points and 7 rebounds at Tennessee.

* * *

UK ATHLETIC DIRECTOR Cliff Hagan may be gone from the pro ranks but he's still not forgotten.

For nearly 20 years Hagan had held the Atlanta Hawks' team record for points scored in one quarter before Dominique Wilkins snapped it last week with 28 in the third frame.

Florida Lowers The Boom

Balanced UF Attack Led By Maxwell's 32 Points Sends Sutton's 'Cats To Second Straight Loss

By TCP Columnist Nick Nicholas

GAINESVILLE, Fla.—Thunder and buckets of water pelted off O'Connell Center's bubble-like ceiling while the Kentucky-Florida contest was taking place. Throughout this dreary Saturday afternoon made for reptiles and not felines, many a boom rumbled in northern Florida.

"Kaboom!" blasted from the heavens, as if cannons were taking fire on Gainesville. And... "kaboom" Florida blasted the No. 9-ranked Kentucky Wildcats out of the Gators' home waters by a count of 83-76.

Norm Sloan's team baited the visiting Wildcats in the beginning before taking control late in the first half. Senior guard Vernon Maxwell, who by his account played the best game of his college career, poured in 32 points.

"Yeah, I feel good about it," said Maxwell, in reference to his big-time performance before a national television audience. "In the first half I wasn't as offensive minded as I was in the second half. I felt like I had a pretty good first half, but in the second half I went out looking to score more."

Maxwell countered UK's man and zone defenses with 23 second-half points. His big explosion was a three-pointer at the 3:29 mark that increased his team's lead to 15, 78-63. And when that shot fell through the net, a boom, from the Florida faithful and not Mother Nature, rang in the Wildcat players' ears.

Maxwell, meanwhile, wasn't a one-man show.

Maxwell The Man, But There Were Others, Too

Six-foot-seven (and all 242 bouncing pounds) freshman Livingston Chatman tallied 18 points, six rebounds and five assists in 35 minutes of action. Chatman, who made plenty of noise underneath, was recovering from knee surgery the first time these two squads hooked up.

"I had seen him play on film and certainly he's an outstanding basketball player," Eddie Sutton said of Chatman. "He has a chance to be a great player. . . Without a doubt he's an excellent player and he played very well today."

Also contributing heavily to their important victory were starters Dwayne Schintzius, Chris Capers and Ronnie Montgomery. Schintzius, the 7-2 sophomore, tapped in 13 points. A thorn in Kentucky's side the first time around, Capers continued his success against the 'Cats with 11 points and six boards.

Montgomery was the one who wagged the Gators' tail, dishing out eight assists and picking off four steals in 36 minutes. Overall, Florida's defense was credited with nine steals. Fourteen turnovers also spoiled Kentucky's chances to regain lone status of the Southeastern Conference lead on this day.

"Limiting them to just one shot and coming up with the loose balls was the main thing," added Maxwell. "I thought our press wore them down a little bit in the second half. We need to do that more often and keep playing hard."

If Florida performs like it did against the Wildcats then it can optimistically hope for an SEC regular season title. With the win Florida, 9-5, pulls to a half game behind Kentucky and Vanderbilt, both 10-5. LSU currently is tied with the Gators at 9-5, while Auburn is one game back with an 8-6 league mark.

For Sutton it's back to the drawing board. The loss was the team's second consecutive setback, the first time that's happened this year.

"We certainly have to correct the way we're playing because all three (SEC games) are very difficult," Sutton said. "The way everybody's playing there's liable to be several teams tie for first."

"We were very careless, I thought, in handling the basketball against their press. We didn't really attack it. I think Ed (Davender) and Rex (Chapman) both turned the ball over against their half-court defense and they led to easy baskets. They did get some points off their defense."

Trailing 37-30 at halftime, UK managed to cut the deficit to three on a banker by Chapman followed by a Winston Bennett tip in. A Chatman three-point play put UF in the second-half scoring column, now leading 40-34.

Bennett, who for the second straight ballgame turned in a sub-par performance, threw in a Chapman miss, cutting the lead to four (40-36). Four points was the closest UK would get in the final 18:40.

Two field goals by Capers and Maxwell started things rolling for the Gators, pushing the advantage to eight. A Davender jump shot in the paint and two free throws by Rob Lock pulled UK to again within four at 44-40. Then a three-pointer by Maxwell against Kentucky's man-to-man defense ignited a 20-11 spurt by the hosts.

Maxwell, during the run, scored nine of Florida's points, highlighted by a steal resulting in a score and a behind-the-back

assist from Montgomery for an uncontested layup.

"Maxwell is a tremendous leader for those guys," said Bennett. "Any time that he's playing well their team is normally successful."

Four-Point Play Was Final Nail In UK's Coffin

Florida, aided by a four-point play from Maxwell when the senior was intentionally fouled by Chapman, increased the lead to 15. And in the closing moments not three three-pointers by Chapman and one by Eric Manuel, nine points for the game, could bail out UK.

Meanwhile, Kentucky's best opportunity to pull out a victory was at the start of the game. The Gators were having trouble finding the basket. . . but so was UK. And when husky Dwayne Davis was stuffed by the cylinder but was able to grab the loose ball and score, things were beginning to shape up in Florida's favor.

Chapman gave UK its biggest lead, 25-22, with a three-point shot "from the moon", as described by the UF play-by-play sheet. The Gators crawled back to take the lead for good, 26-25, when Chatman connected on a 15-foot turnaround over Bennett's reach.

The freshman's score prompted a 13-5 run before intermission.

Chapman led Kentucky with 24 points while Ed Davender added 17, thus UK's guards totaled 41 of its 76 points. Bennett for the second straight outing was held below double figures (eight points). His 12 rebounds tied Lock for game-high honors in that category.

Florida, though, was the more determined of the two. At times the Gators patiently worked their offense like clockwork. Three Florida players—Montgomery, Maxwell, and Chatman—combined for 19 assists, six more than the Wildcats.

Davender, who only could spot two open men against Tennessee, was credited with just one assist.

"At the offensive end we're just not very smooth," said the Wildcat coach. "We're doing too much one-on-one, creating too much. That's not good. They have 22 assists and we have 13. The other night against Tennessee we have eight assists and score 70 points."

"So, in the two games this week we just haven't played good basketball."

Kentucky hit on just 34.5 percent of its attempts from the field (10 of 29). In the second half the 'Cats improved to 43.6 percent but missed a couple of one-and-one opportunities that would have enabled them to climb back in the contest. On the other side, Florida hit on a consistent 50.8 percentage (31-61) from the field.

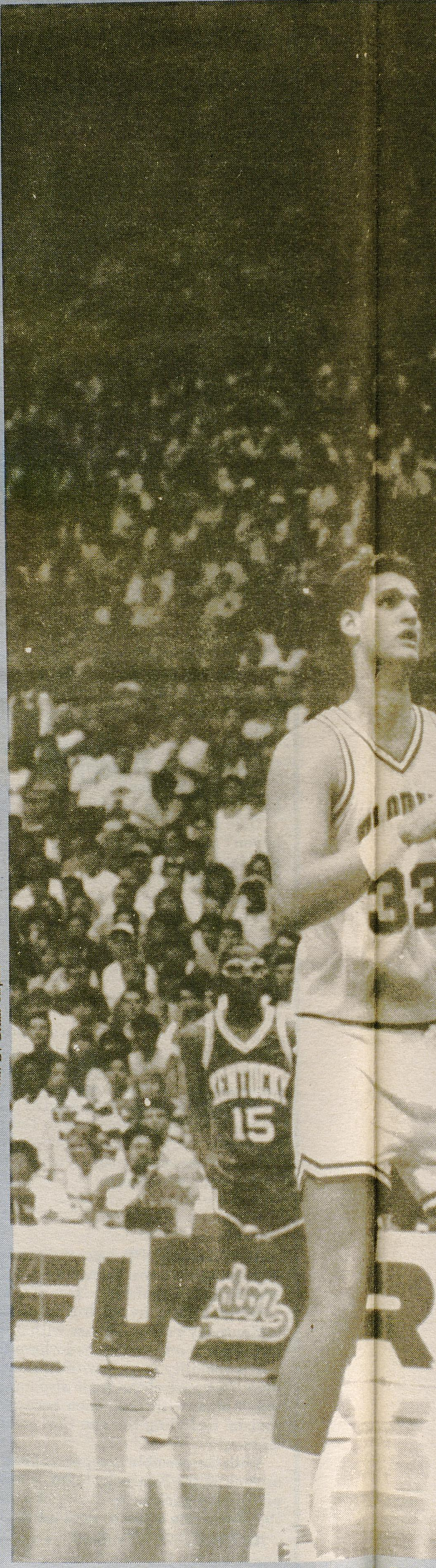
While Sutton was trying to explain his team's sudden disappearance, Sloan may have found his.

"It was a tremendous ballgame," Sloan said. "I told the ballclub before the game our best team is undefeated this year. Our best team just doesn't show up all the time. I was proud of our team. . . I hope this game corrects whatever problems we've ever had."

OFFICIAL NCAA BASKETBALL BOX SCORE Date Feb. 20/88 Site Gainesville, Fla.

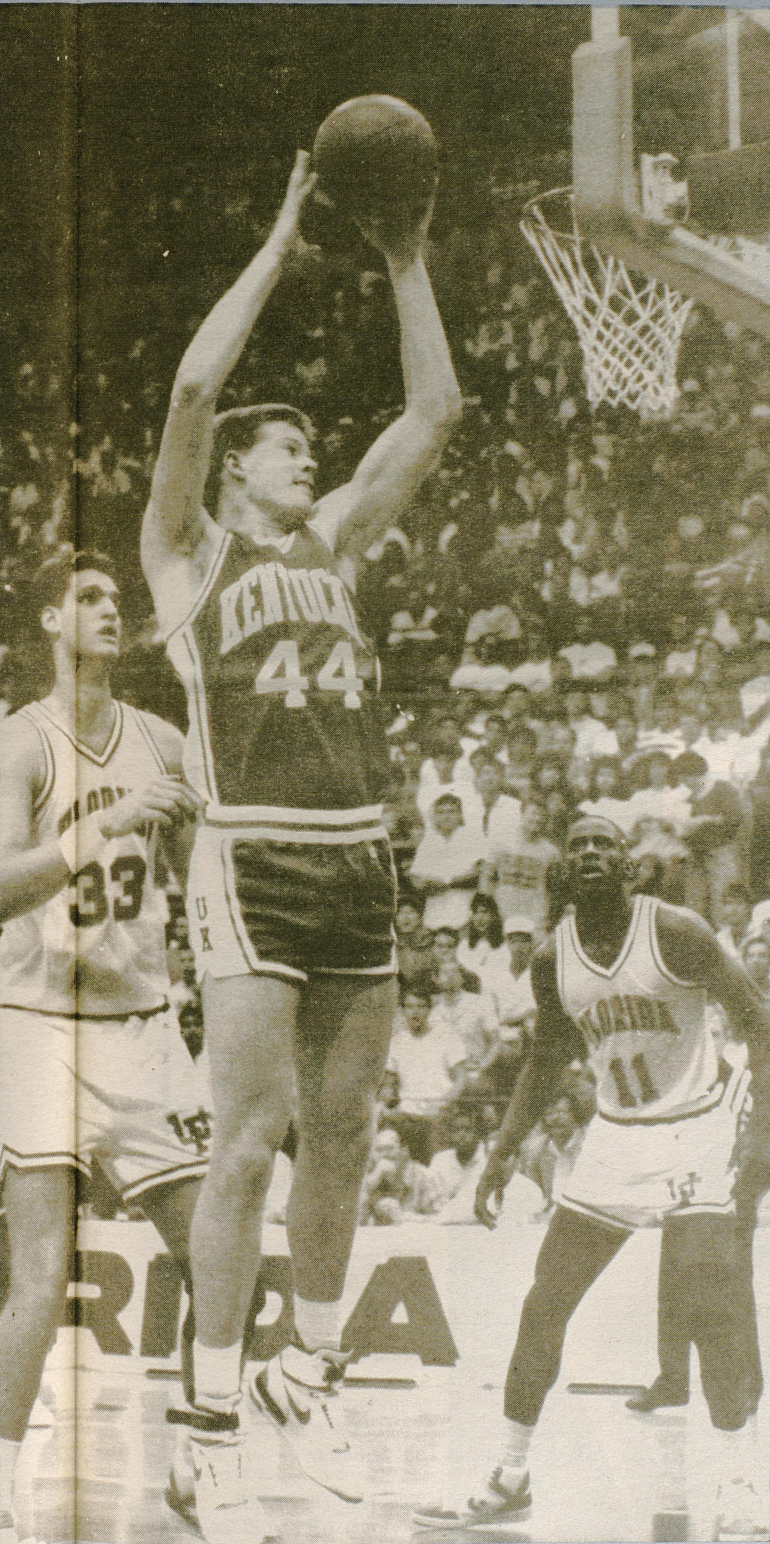
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3	Chapman, Rex	0	9	12	4	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	1	17	1	3	1	0	17	1	3	1	0	0	17	17	17								
15	Davender, Ed	0	7	16	1	6	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	17	1	0	0	0	0	17	17	17								
20	Sutton, Sean	4	6	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	1	9	3	1	0	0	0	0	17	3	1	0	0	0	17	17	17								
23	Manuel, Eric	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	17	0	1	0	0	0	17	17	17								
42	Hudson, Richard	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	17	0	1	0	0	0	17	17	17								
55	Jenkins, Cedric	0	2	0	0	2	2	3	5	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	17	17	17								
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32	Chatman, Livingston	1	7	0	0	4	5	11	5	11	1	11	1	18	5	2	1	0	17	5	2	1	0	0	17	17	17								
22	Capers, Chris	1	4	8	0	1	3	3	3	3	4	5	11	2	1	0	0	17	2	1	0	0	0	0	17	17	17								
23	Schintzius, Dwayne	0	6	14	0	0	1	1	1	1	3	4	4	13	1	0	0	0	17	1	0	0	0	0	17	17	17								
00	Montgomery, Ronnie	0	0	3	0	2	2	2	2	2	4	2	2	18	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	17								
11	Maxwell, Vernon	0	11	18	3	7	7	7	7	7	15	6	0	33	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	17								
3	Laurence, Pat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	17								
13	Jenkins, Wendell	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	17								
21	McClary, Kenny	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	17								
21	Letts, Clifford	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	17								
50	Davis, Dwayne	3	6	0	0	0	1	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	17								
TOTALS		131	61	6	17	18	27	12	22	34	19	83	22	11	3	9	200	22	11	3	9	200	22	11	3	9	200								
TEAM REBOUNDS (included in Totals)																		22	11	3	9	200													
TOTAL FG % 1st Half		15-35, 42.9%		2nd Half		16-26, 61.5%		Game		31-61, 50.8%		3PT FG % 1st Half		1-3, 33.3%		2nd Half		2-4, 50.0%		Game		3-7, 42.9%		FT % 1st Half		2-11, 18.2%		2nd Half		12-15, 80.0%		Game		14-27, 51.9%	
OFFICIALS: John Clougherty, Joe Forts and		SCORE REBOUNDS		TKN		BLK		OT		FT		PTS		REB		AST		STL		BLK		MIN		PTS		REB									
Dennis Donaghy		KENTUCKY		30		146		--		--		--		76		13		14		6		2		200		13		14		6		2		200	
Tehuchi, Fome		FLORIDA		37		146		--		--		--		76		22		11		3		9		200		22		11		3		9		200	
Attendance: 11,321																																			

Photo By Brian Tirpak



Sneaking Past UF's Dwayne Schintzius

Boom, Blasts 'Cats 83-76



Who Will Take Checkered Flag In SEC?

By TCP Columnist Nick Nicholas

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — The Southeastern Conference 500. Is it a race, or is it four or five teams taking turns in mediocrity?

Right now Florida, Kentucky, Vanderbilt and LSU probably are kicking themselves in their respective spare tires. Why? Because not one has laid claim to the regular-season crown. Opportunities, you ask? Each of the four have had the chance to put some distance between themselves and the challengers.

And they say not to look a gift horse in the mouth. Don't look now but we're staring at four beauts.

Last Saturday while Kentucky was losing to Florida 83-76, Alabama, stranded near the cellar, had already upset LSU 72-59. Strange league folks. Strange.

So strange, that Auburn, 7-6, Georgia, 6-7, and Tennessee, 6-7, entered last weekend's battles as long shots for the title. With those near-or-just-below .500 marks, they shouldn't be in the race or even mathematically involved.

"The way everybody's been playing I don't know who would have the advantage," said Kentucky coach Eddie Sutton after UK dropped its second loss in as many games. "It's almost like, 'Let's all end up in a tie.'"

Team	All	SEC	GB
Kentucky.....	10-5	18-5	—
Vanderbilt.....	10-5	17-6	—
Florida.....	9-5	19-8	½
LSU.....	9-5	14-9	½
Auburn.....	8-6	15-8	1½
Tennessee.....	6-8	13-10	3½
Georgia.....	6-8	14-12	3½
Alabama.....	5-9	13-13	4½
Mississippi State.....	4-10	12-12	5½
Ole Miss.....	4-10	10-13	5½

*thru games of Feb. 21

Vanderbilt sidetracked Georgia on its home course 77-71, sending the talented 'Dogs to the second division of the league. Also, Auburn kept its slim hopes alive with a five-point revenge over Tennessee.

Heading into Wednesday night's contests, four teams are dragging along five losses while Sonny Smith's Tigers have been captured six times.

Can anyone figure this crazy race out? Just look at Auburn.

The Tigers best reflect this race which is destined for an unpredictable finish. Example, some of their rides have reached top-speed performances—at Kentucky and against Florida twice. Yet, they suffered losses to less talented teams such as Tennessee (75-64) and Mississippi (69-66).

Though this juggling act of the SEC elite continues to amaze many, Norm Sloan's Gators might have an edge down the stretch.

"It's a big win and we're in the SEC race again," said Sloan of his 602nd victory. "If we win the rest of the ballgames, we can't be any worse than tied for the title."

"We've got an advantage because three of our next four games are at home," said Vernon Maxwell, whose club lapped the Big Blue for the second time this season. "We've got the advantage but we have to go out and take advantage of it now."

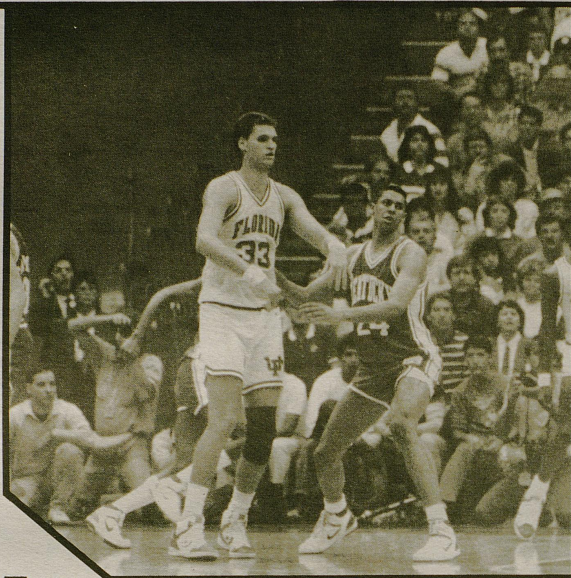
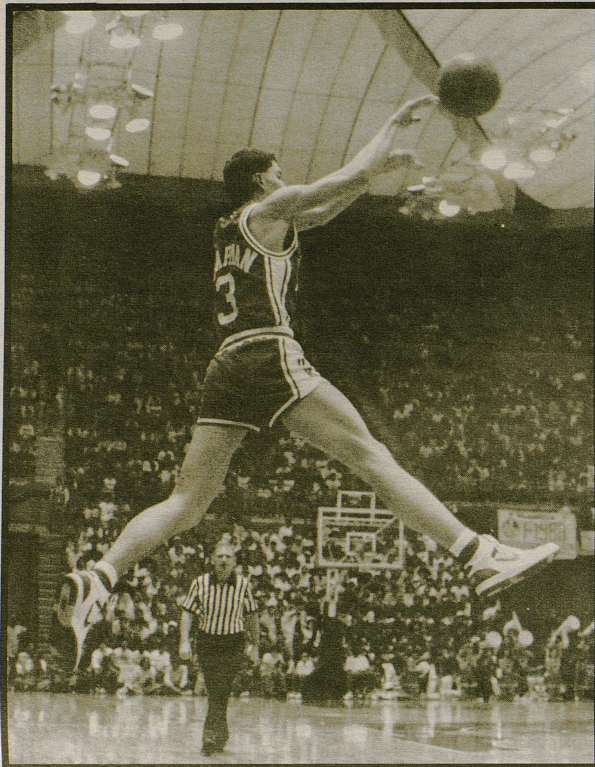
With the win over Kentucky, the Gators' [Continued On Page 22]

Time	Kentucky	Score	Florida
19:20	Davender layup	2-0	
19:00		2-2	Capers layup
18:34	Ellis 15 ft.	4-2	
16:34		4-4	Schintzius layup
15:24		4-6	Schintzius 10 ft.
15:01	Lock layup	6-6	
14:23	Chapman layup	8-6	
13:52		8-8	Chatman 15 ft.
13:06		8-10	Maxwell layup
12:23	Manuel 12 ft.	10-10	
12:10		10-12	Davis follow layup, FT
11:40	Chapman 6 ft.	12-12	
10:49		12-14	Capers layup
9:31		12-17	Maxwell 21 ft.
9:02	Madison FT, FTA	13-17	
8:49	Chapman 15 ft.	15-17	
8:14	Bennett layup follow	17-17	
7:58		17-19	Maxwell 4 ft.
7:25	Lock FTA, FT	18-19	
7:10		18-21	Schintzius 12 ft.
6:33	Davender 18 ft.	20-21	
6:07	Lock FT, FT	22-21	
5:57		22-22	Capers FT, FTA
5:44	Chapman 21 ft.	25-22	
5:34		25-24	Chatman layup
4:55		25-26	Chatman 15 ft.
4:43	Lock FT, FTA	26-26	
4:27		26-28	Chatman 6 ft.
4:10		26-30	Maxwell dunk
3:03	Davender FT, FT	28-30	
2:43		28-32	Capers 6 ft.
2:24		28-34	Chatman FT, FT
2:02		28-35	McClary FTA, FT
0:28		28-37	Capers FT, FT
0:23	Chapman FT, FT	30-37	
HALF		30-37	
19:18	Chapman layup, FTA	32-37	
19:17	Bennett tip-in	34-37	
19:01		34-40	Chatman layup, FT
18:40	Bennett tip-in	36-40	
18:22		36-42	Capers 12 ft.
17:22		36-44	Maxwell 8 ft.
16:51	Davender 10 ft.	38-44	
16:30	Lock FT, FT	40-44	
16:10		40-47	Maxwell 21 ft.
15:57	Manuel 10 ft.	42-47	
15:32		42-49	Schintzius 5 ft.
15:17	Manuel layup	44-49	
14:57		44-51	Davis dunk
14:37	Davender 19 ft.	46-51	
13:25		46-53	Davis tip-in
12:41	Davender 21 ft.	49-53	
11:37		49-56	Maxwell layup, FT
11:35		49-58	Maxwell layup
10:58	Jenkins FT, FT	51-58	
10:21		51-60	Schintzius layup
9:38		51-62	Maxwell dunk
9:05		51-64	Chatman layup
8:43	Ellis FT, FTA	52-64	
7:55	Bennett FT, FT	54-64	
7:07	Davender layup	56-64	
6:52		56-65	Maxwell FT, FTA
6:31	Ellis 5 ft.	58-65	
6:05		58-68	Schintzius 5 ft., FT
5:34		58-69	Chatman FT, FTA
5:18	Chapman 15 ft.	60-69	
5:13	INT—Chapman	60-73	Maxwell layup, FT, FT
4:22	Chapman 21 ft.	63-73	
4:09		63-75	Maxwell FT, FT
3:29		63-78	Maxwell 21 ft.
3:10	Chapman 22 ft.	66-78	
2:28	Chapman 21 ft.	69-78	
2:01		69-80	Montgomery FT, FT
1:44	Manuel 21 ft.	72-80	
1:17		72-81	Maxwell FT, FTA
0:24	Ellis 6 ft.	74-81	
0:13		74-83	Chatman dunk
0:04	Davender layup	76-83	
FINAL		76-83	

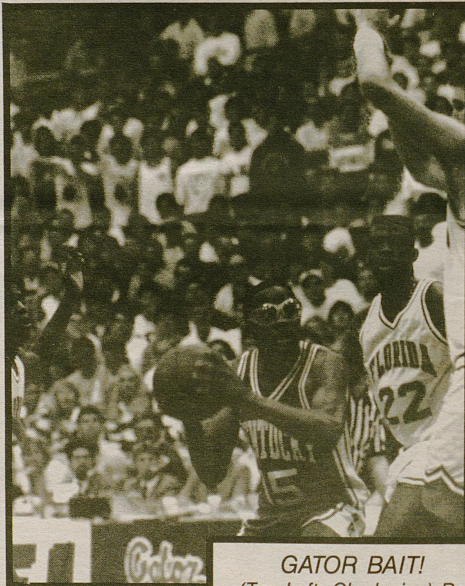
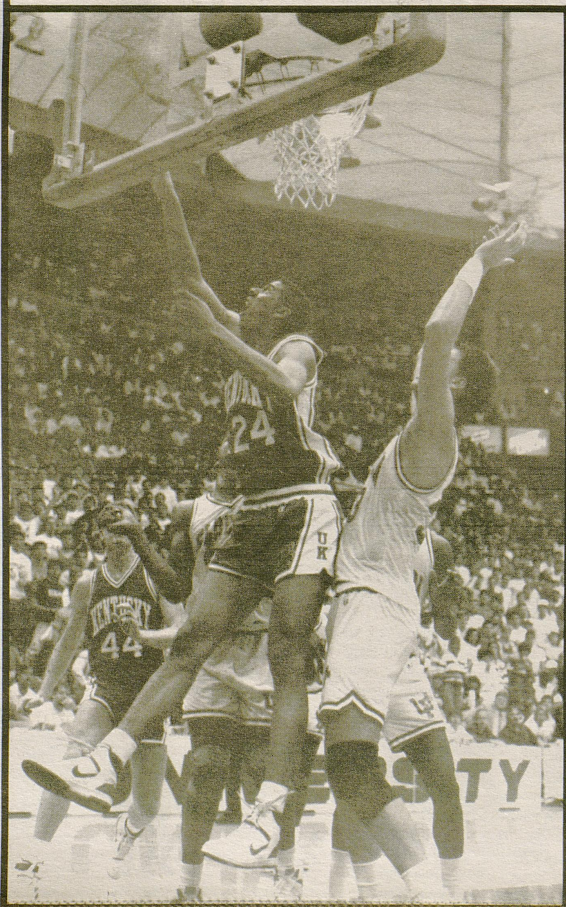
—Cats' Pause chart



's Dwayne Schintzius For One Of His 12 Rebounds Is UK's Rob Lock



KENTUCKY



GATOR BAIT!
 (Top Left, Clockwise) Rex Looks One Way While Passing In Another Direction.

Schintzius And UK's LeRon Ellis Battle For Territory Outside The Paint.

Ed Davender Looks To Get Off This Shot With Schintzius and No. 22 Capers Set To Spring A Florida Trap.

Florida Coach Norm Sloan Racked Up His 602nd Win Last Saturday.

Ellis Had His Hands Full Against Physical Gators.

UK-Florida Photos By Brian Tirpak

We feel that news about the sports programs at the University of Kentucky should be required reading for all of the state's high school students. So, the staff of *The Cats' Pause* is starting a program we call "Big Blue Penetration."

Below, we have listed all the high schools in the state of Kentucky, and it is our aim to give every high school student in the commonwealth the opportunity to read *The Cats' Pause* by making the paper available to every high school library in the state. In order to accomplish this, it will be up to our subscribers to carry out "Big Blue Penetration" during the coming months.

If you would like to see *The Cats' Pause* in one or more high schools in your area, fill out the subscription blank provided to the right and return it with the appropriate payment. We will begin sending it to the school(s) and we'll notify the school librarian about your gift.

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

BIG BLUE PENETRATION

YES, I want to send a gift subscription to one or more of Kentucky's high schools. I have enclosed \$25 for each subscription of 35 issues per year.

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

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

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

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

KENTUCKY

A L E N D A R



February

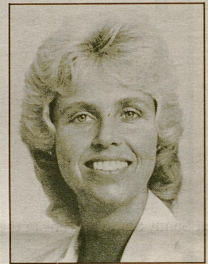
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Women's Basketball: Georgia (A)			Basketball: Ole Miss (H) UK-TV Delayed			
	7	8	9	10	11	12
Women's Basketball: Auburn (A)	14	15	16	17	18	19
	21	22	23	24	25	26
Basketball: Syracuse (H) CBS-TV	28	29				
Women's Basketball: Va. Tech (H)						

Previous Games

- Jan. 2: Basketball—UK def. Georgia 84-77
- Jan. 4: Women's Basketball—Louisiana Tech def. UK 95-63
- Jan. 6: Basketball—UK def. Mississippi State 93-52
- Jan. 7: Women's Basketball—Mississippi State def. UK 68-61
- Jan. 9: Basketball—Auburn def. UK 53-52
- Jan. 10: Women's Basketball—Marshall def. UK 58-57
- Jan. 13: Basketball—UK def. Alabama 63-55
- Jan. 13: Women's Basketball—Alabama def. UK 74-54
- Jan. 16: Basketball—UK def. Tennessee 83-65
- Jan. 16: Women's Basketball—Illinois State def. UK 84-78
- Jan. 18: Women's Basketball—UK def. Belmont 84-78
- Jan. 20: Basketball—Florida def. UK 58-56
- Jan. 23: Basketball—UK def. LSU 76-61
- Jan. 23: Women's Basketball—Florida def. UK 68-64
- Jan. 27: Basketball—Vanderbilt def. UK 83-66
- Jan. 30: Women's Basketball—UK def. Tennessee State 88-70
- Jan. 31: Basketball—UK def. Notre Dame 78-69
- Feb. 2: Women's Basketball—Ole Miss def. UK 75-67
- Feb. 3: Basketball—UK def. Ole Miss 94-65
- Feb. 5: Women's Basketball—UK def. UAB 76-59
- Feb. 6: Basketball—UK def. Mississippi St. 83-59
- Feb. 7: Women's Basketball—Georgia def. UK 86-70
- Feb. 10: Basketball—UK def. Auburn 69-62
- Feb. 13: Basketball—UK def. Alabama 82-68
- Feb. 14: Women's Basketball—Auburn def. UK 93-67
- Feb. 17: Basketball—Tennessee def. UK 72-70
- Feb. 18: Women's Basketball—Tennessee def. UK 99-75
- Feb. 20: Basketball—Florida def. UK 83-76



Eddie Sutton



Sharon Fanning



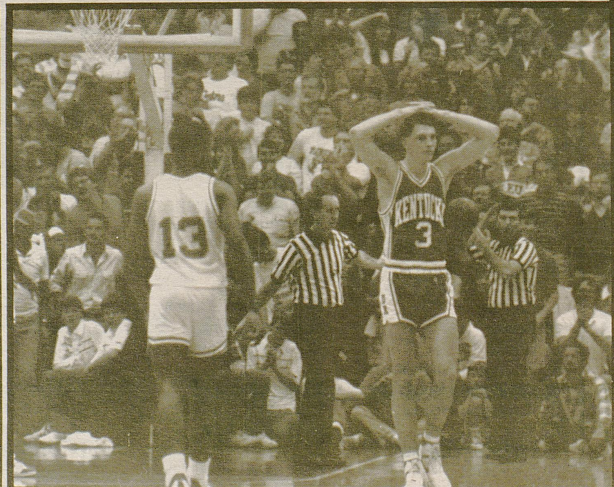
KENTUCKY WILDCATS



UK-Florida Photos By Brian Tirpak



Sutton Would Like Davender To Be 'Point Guard' Conscious



Chapman's Intentional Foul Seals Wildcats' Fate

'Coach X' Rates The Current SEC Coaches

UK's Sutton In A Class By Himself, He Says

There aren't any bad basketball coaches in the Southeastern Conference. League coaches are like women. Some are better than others, but they're all good.

I talked recently with an active coach who is not in the SEC but who has sent his teams against most of the men currently directing basketball programs in our league.



Stan Torgerson

Cats' Pause Columnist



It's his opinions I am quoting. I've known this particular man for years and I respect his honesty. I can't tell you who he is because he still may have to play some of these people.

Stan: Let's talk about Southeastern Conference coaches. Who's the worst in the league?

Coach X: There aren't any bad ones. If they were bad they wouldn't be coaching in the SEC.

Stan: OK, let's go in the other direction. Who's the best one?

Coach X: Eddie Sutton at Kentucky. He's in a class by himself. The man knows basketball, he's a great recruiter and he's working at one of the best two programs in the country.

Stan: Which is the other one?

Coach X: North Carolina.

Stan: OK, now let's run down the list of others in the SEC. For example, I've always felt Sonny Smith was one of the best as a recruiter but that he was not a great coach.

Coach X: That's not right. Sonny will fool you. He gives people that old country boy act but he prepares his teams well. Sonny's a lot better coach than most people believe. By the way, he is absolutely the best after-dinner speaker there is. He is genuinely funny.

Stan: How about Norm Sloan at Florida?

Coach X: Sloan is a pain in the behind as a person but a good basketball coach.

Stan: I'll agree with that. His attitude toward the press is probably the worst of any coach I've known in this league but his teams can play. So let's go from coach Grumpy to the Sunshine Man, Dale Brown at LSU. How do you evaluate him?

Coach X: Dale isn't the best at Xs and Os but he's got something else that makes him a great coach: He can motivate and inspire kids as well as any coach I've ever known. No one is better at getting the most out of his players than Dale Brown.

Stan: Then there's Don DeVoe.

Coach X: I'm sorry to see all this heat on Don. Don is a very good basketball coach and a good teacher. What's happening up there at Tennessee isn't really his fault. He'll be back on top again.

Stan: While we're wandering around Tennessee, how about C.M. Newton at Vanderbilt?

Coach X: Outstanding. Absolutely outstanding. I'm not certain anyone knows more about the game than C.M.

Stan: I am personally very fond of Hugh Durham at Georgia. What do you think of him?

Coach X: Hugh is another guy who doesn't get nearly the credit he deserves. I'm telling you, Hugh Durham is a good coach. His teams are always well prepared and they always play hard.

Stan: Then there's Wimp Sanderson at Alabama.

Coach X: Wimp has done some good recruiting and year in and year out has had really good players on his team. Recruiting, you know, is as important as bench coaching, probably more so, and on that basis Wimp is one of the best.

Stan: What do you know about Richard Williams at Mississippi State?

Coach X: The jury is still out on him just as it is on Ed Murphy at Ole Miss. There's no way to get a line on a coach after just one or two years at a particular school. Come back in three or four years and we'll be better able to talk about Williams and Murphy.

□ □ □

I SHARE MOST OF COACH X'S OPINIONS. Over the past 20 years I've had the opportunity to watch and know every coach in the league. This is just a personal opinion, but in that length of time there have only been two that I thought were downright incompetent. There have been perhaps four, no make that five, who were so-so. I won't name them. None of them are in coaching anymore, so what's the point?

There have been two that I regarded as at the genius level. One was Adolph Rupp. I'll get no argument there. The other was Tennessee's Ray Mears. Say what you want about Ray, his bench conduct or his recruiting standards. The son of a gun would beat you. It didn't matter how.

Ray and his sidekick, the late Stu Aberdeen, would figure out a way to beat you.

There are some leagues with coaches who can't figure out a way to beat you. The SEC isn't one of them.

Not For Broadcast

When 6-foot-11 **Doug Roth** signed with Tennessee back in 1985, he was touted as being the answer to the Vols' big man problems. He hasn't been. After two lackluster years, Roth found himself on the bench, playing the role of a reserve averaging just over six points and less than four rebounds per game, although he did get the starting nod in UT's big upset over Kentucky last week. Fans who believe size is the only criteria for basketball stardom just don't realize the game is a lot more complicated than that. Quickness is an absolute essential, and Roth simply doesn't have enough of it. . . . Would you say Mississippi State's **Richard Williams** is building for the future? In two games against Vanderbilt and Kentucky, six freshmen played for the Bulldogs, and they, the freshmen, combined to score 102 of the team's 125 points as well as pulling down 39 of the team's 51 rebounds. Through the first 20 games of the season, State's freshmen have accounted for 59.3 percent of MSU's scoring, 62.8 of the team's rebounding totals and 62.2 of the club's minutes played. Tomorrow should, indeed, be better in Starkville. . . . Startling statistic: Question—Since the beginning of the 1985-86 season, which has been the toughest SEC team to beat on its home floor? All together, now, Kentucky, right? Wrong! The toughest SEC team to beat at home has been **Florida**. The Gators have been 35-2 at O'Connell Center while Kentucky has been 40-4 at fabled Rupp Arena. Auburn is third. The Tigers have won 27 and lost only five in their gym. In SEC play, Florida is still the best at 18-2 followed by Auburn at 18-3, Alabama at 17-4, and believe it or not, Kentucky back in fourth place at 18-5. . . . Auburn's **Sonny Smith** is still the SEC's most quotable coach. Here's Sonny on his change from racehorse basketball to this year's slower tempo: "We want to control the tempo and play at a snail's pace. We spend a lot of time standing around and watching the shot clock." On Auburn's upset wins over Florida (twice) and Kentucky: "You don't have to worry about this team getting the big head. We have so little talent we couldn't afford to look past a team put together by Ace Hardware." On a possible Top Twenty ranking: "The pollsters obviously haven't taken a look at our roster. When this team wins, it's called stealing." . . . **Greg Bell**, a redshirt freshman basketball player at Tennessee, was a member of the Ray Bell Construction company team that built the Vols' new 25,000-seat arena. . . . **Mississippi State** recently honored the players on their four SEC championship basketball teams of the late 1950s and early 1960s. Approximately 25 members of those teams came back to campus for a reception, a banquet and to watch this year's Bulldog five in action against Ole Miss. . . . I thought we had seen it all until the score came in on the **Virginia Tech-Southern Mississippi** game: Tech 141, Southern 133 in double overtime. I broadcast the all-time SEC wild one when Baylor beat Ole Miss 132-113 in 1971. Have you ever suffered from fatigue of the tongue? I did!



Georgia Coach Hugh Durham Has Had A Rough Ride Lately

The Last Word: (Thanks to *The Sporting News* for this one.) Georgia coach **Hugh Durham** after a bumpy flight from Atlanta to Nashville for a game against Vanderbilt:

"It was so rough that we arrived in Nashville with more white guys than we started with in Atlanta."

UK's Sutton Says Vitale 'Was Out Of Line'

Early Thoughts On All-American Team

Cheers 'n Jeers and things. **CHEERS** to Alabama Coach Wimp Sanderson who, after his team's 82-68 loss at Kentucky Feb. 13 said, "No excuses. We just got beat by a better basketball team."



Bob Watkins

Cats' Pause Columnist



JEERS to Alabama Coach Wimp Sanderson. Keeping in tact his "this business is as serious as WWII" expression during the game, Sanderson excused himself from the postgame press conference by saying, "I can't say it's been good seeing you guys again."

CHEERS to former Kentucky All-American Dan Issel for his insightful and articulate analysis of college basketball games on radio and television. Excellent.

JEERS to Pittsburgh forward Jerome Lane who, after shattering a glass backboard in a game earlier this month, pranced around the floor exchanging High 5s with his teammates as if he'd done something wonderful like pass a mid-term exam in chemistry instead of destroying something.

CHEERS to Dick Vitale's examinations of college basketball games. I don't care for his machine-gun mouth delivery either. But the guy's good for the game.

JEERS to Dick Vitale for falling victim to self praise and Cosellisms: "I had dinner with..." "He's a close friend of mine..."

CHEERS to Rob Lock who owns a little known about and less publicized record of "taking a charge" in a season. Through the Tennessee game, in which he had three, Lock has "taken the charge" 42 times.

JEERS to Rob Lock for remarks made after the UK-Tennessee game. After he fell out of bounds, landing on a television camera, Lock rubbed his rump and said later he had thought about throwing the camera as far as he could. That would have been a big time play all right.

CHEERS to UK freshmen LeRon Ellis and Eric Manuel. Both have been wonderfully refreshing on and off the floor. Don't let the hype change you, guys. This is still only a game.

JEERS to Ralph Hacker of the Kentucky Network who was a poor sport after being taken to task for remarks he made about Rex Chapman's chances of making the Olympic team. The old skin has to be thicker than that, Ralph.

CHEERS to UK Coach Eddie Sutton's reply to an out-of-state scribe who wanted to know if Sutton could lessen the pressure of UK's bigtime basketball by abolishing the preseason exhibition Midnight Madness as well as the four preseason scrimmages?

"No, I don't think doing away with Midnight Madness and not taking the team around the state would lessen the desire of Kentucky fans to see the team play," Sutton said. "Fans want to see their team and sometimes this is the only chance they get."

"My concern is that I'd prefer not to play (the scrimmages) in Cincinnati, Louisville and Lexington. Of course that makes money. But I'd prefer to take the team out to the rural areas, let those fans see the team," he said. "I think that was the original intent."

Comment In fact, three cheers to the UK coach on the last point. It says here the mystique of Kentucky basketball was borne and still has its true roots in communities like Whitesburg and Fleming Neon and Salyersville and Russell in the east ... Owensboro, Benton and Calvert City in the west.

CHEERS to officials at Central City High School in Muhlenberg County. One of Kentucky's premier hot beds for high school hoops, Central City honored Delmas Gish Feb. 19. One of its most distinguished citizens, Gish made a tremendous contribution to Central City's basketball lore when he coached the Golden Tide from 1942 to 1958.

His Central City High School teams won 407 times. He ranks 46th on the all-time Coaches Win List. But that's only the tip of the iceberg. Gish's teams won six region titles, 11 district tournaments, was runner-up to Male in the 1945 State Tournament. He was voted Coach of the Year in 1954 after coaching the Golden Tide to a 35-0 record. In post season play Gish's teams were 63-13.

"Mr Gish is kind of the Adolph Rupp of basketball down here," says Richard Deavers, sports editor of the *Times Argus* in Central City.

Gish was honored at a reception Feb. 19.

It's almost time to think about voting for College All-American teams. With a couple of weeks to go before casting a ballot, here are a few names one reporter has in mind to eliminate early from consideration. I call them *Me* players.

Rony Sekaly, Syracuse.
Dyron Nix, Tennessee.
Jerome Lane, Pittsburgh.
Jarvis Basnight, UNLV.
Willie Anderson, Georgia.
Sixth man — Fennis Dembo, Wyoming.
Coach — Billy Tubbs, Oklahoma.
Asst. Coach — Bob Wade, Maryland.

Bits 'n people

✓ Recruiting. To perhaps bolster UK's perimeter game next season, will Kentucky sign any more players this year?

"We may not sign any more players," Sutton said. "And we might sign three. But we're not going to just sign bodies."

Sutton, along with assistants James Dickey and Dwane Casey were in Corbin Feb. 12 to watch the Clay County-Corbin game. And perhaps "show the flag" to Kentucky fans (and Clay County's Richie Farmer).

✓ The UK coach predicted that college basketball's rules committee will move the 3-point line back before next season. Probably to the international distance. "Some three-point shoot ers this year won't be next year," he said.

✓ Rex Chapman has a streak going. The sophomore guard has scored in double figures in 36 straight college games.

Readers (right) write

Now and then I receive something special in the mail. A letter that might change someone's life because its contents have already changed someone's life. Consider: ■ William Whitten of Hickman, Ky. writes to say the University of Kentucky basketball team is more than "just a basketball team to him and his son."

"In December of 1986 my 12-year-old son was in a traffic accident which nearly killed him. With head injuries and a 95 percent severed right leg, he spent 52 days in a hospital in Memphis."

Doctors transplanted muscles from the boy's back to his leg and after 11 surgeries, Whitten says, "it looked as if we might save his leg."

Two weeks after the accident young Whitten received a copy of the 1987-88 Wildcats Yearbook autographed by Coach Eddie Sutton and the players. "A few days later he received an 8x10 photo of Sutton with best wishes," the boy's father writes. Too, the voice of the Wildcats, Cawood Leford also wrote to the youngster with best wishes.

"And, in the fall of 1987 he received a hand written letter from Rex Chapman telling him to hang on and be tough."

"Those things were very uplifting to a little boy who hadn't even been to school in a year," Whitten goes on.

On Feb. 2, 1988 the youngster celebrated his 14th birthday. "On his birthday, Derrick Miller called to wish him a happy birthday. The next day a letter came from coach Sutton. All of this for a 14-year-old kid. It's the greatest basketball program on earth."

"So, when the boys from Tennessee, where I work, ask me what makes me think Kentucky is so different from the other programs, I just smile and say *Class*."

Whitten offered a postscript: "If you see Sutton tell him that he and his Wildcats have made a little boy smile when there wasn't too much to smile about."

■ Paula Surber of Waynesburg, Ky. writes to defend UK's Rob Lock. "Maybe he doesn't score 30 points a game like Melvin Turpin or Jack Givens used to, but he gives his best every game. He has a lot of courage even going on the floor after the way some fans have treated him."

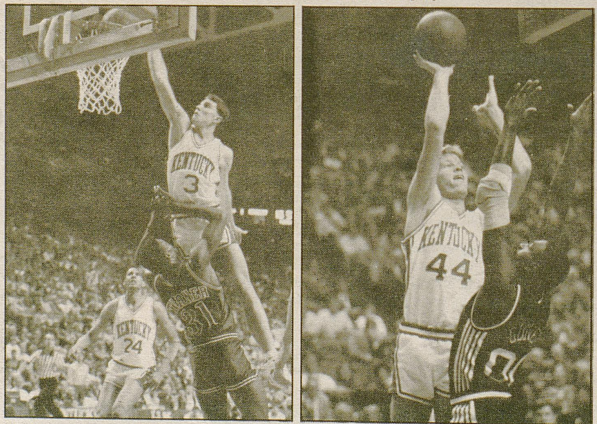
"Rob has come up from the bottom to be one of the best in free throw shooting percentage. When fans boo-ed him last year he didn't walk away. He faced his problems and is doing much better. I just believe Lock could be a great player if we would give him a chance."

Comment Let me clear up my own record concerning Rob Lock. I think it is commendable how far the 6-11 Californian has progressed since he came to Kentucky.

The only criticism I've had of Lock is twofold and both items have been there for all to see.

✓ Until recently, the intensity level of Lock's effort has been spotty, inconsistent.

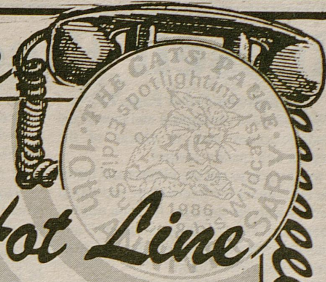
✓ Until recently, he spent too much time whining (like a rookie) to officials and putting when referee calls did not go his way. It hurt his play.



In Kentucky, 3:44 Means Chapman (No. 3), Left, And Lock (No. 44)

■ Jim Bugg of Princeton, Ky. "My son Wesley is four years old and a great UK fan. Riding home one afternoon he looked at the digital clock and got real excited and yelled, 'Mom! Mom! look, it's Rex and Rob.' His mother finally figured out what he was talking about. The time was 3:44. Now you know how to tell time in Kentucky."

Comment Thank you for writing. And so it goes. ■



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WCYN, AM 1400	Cynthiana
WHIR, AM 1230	Danville
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WIOK, FM 95.3	Falmouth
WKED, AM 1130	Frankfort
WFXY, AM 1490	Middlesboro
WMSK, AM 1550, FM 95.3	Morganfield
WEKY, AM 1340	Richmond
WOMI AM 1490	Owensboro
WKCB, AM 1340, FM 107.1	Hindman
WDHR, FM 92.1	Pikeville
WSGS, FM 101.1	Hazard
WSON, AM 860	Henderson
WFKN, AM 1220	Franklin
WNES, AM 1050	Central City
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Russell Rice

[Continued From Page 7]

Cowboy offensive coordinator and then as the behind-the-scenes man in charge of the gameplan and quality control.

It was his job to put the players and teams in the NFL under the microscope and report to Landry with the findings. He soon was being described as a "walking computer" and "Landry's encyclopedia" as the Cowboys became "America's Team."

A heart attack a year before he died slowed Allen down, but he could still tell you Joe Theisman's release time or the number of steps Jim Plunkett used in his drops. Allen used to brief the press after Landry's weekly press luncheons about the upcoming foe but had to drop that chore. The joke was that not having the frustrations of patiently explaining the Xs and Os to the media probably helped Allen's speedy recovery.

Allen was proud of the fact that he had played for or coached for five of the giants of his era—Rupp, Bryant, Neyland, Collier, Brown and Landry. Here are some of the comments he made over the years concerning those coaches:

Allen on Adolph Rupp: "He would have been a success in football or anything. He was a very egotistical man. He believed he could do it. The greatest thing he could do, and I saw him do it when I was coaching football

there, was to have 50 boys on the court. From that crowd, he could absolutely single out the guy who would be great. It might not be the hotshots. He had a great knack of picking the right people.

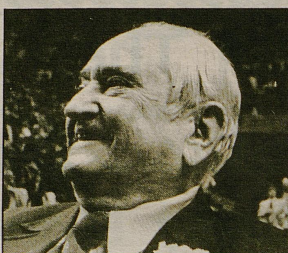
"He had great confidence to the point where he irritated other coaches. He wasn't a humble person at all."

Allen on Bear Bryant: "The greatest thing he had going for him was his leadership. He was a great leader, and insofar as winning consistently, a good recruiter.

"If you walked into a room where a group of people were, you'd notice that if he laughed, they laughed. And when he talked real low, everybody listened. He had a dominating personality.

"I've seen him pull every recruiting trick in the bag. He'd say, 'Ermal, you talk to the boy and daddy. I'll court his mamma.' He always said everybody had a key. . . mother, father, cousin, next door neighbor, girlfriend. 'You find it,' he'd say."

Allen on Gen. Bob Neyland: "A very strict disciplinarian. He had a military air about him. Of course, he was a West Point man. His motto, and he kept it until the day he died, was: Simple, Consistent and Logical. As a coach he was way ahead of his time. He won games for years on just his kicking game alone, until the others got smart



Confident Rupp Could Pick People



Bryant Possessed Great Leadership

and started doing the same things."

Allen on Paul Brown: "Organization was his long suit. He ran the show and there was no doubt about it. He was very innovative, also. He didn't give you a printed playbook. He'd draw a play up on the board and you'd copy it down and he'd expect you to know it."

Allen on Blanton Collier: "Blanton studied football harder than anybody. He knew more about the theory than any coach I ever knew, maybe too much for college football. I thought he might have stressed theory too much and maybe didn't work the players hard enough at times."

Allen on Tom Landry: "Tom knows every aspect of the game. He could coach every position on the team, and not many coaches can do that. He has never been afraid to try new things, and his innovations have contributed a lot to pro football. He's an awful good person, a very religious man, in addition to being a great coach."

Those six coaches, despite their different philosophies, had three things in common, Allen said.

"First, they were in charge and everyone knew it," he said. "Second, they all knew the game they coached inside out. And third, they were all winners."

And so was Ermal Allen.

Viewpoint

[Continued From Page 6]

1. In the Feb. 13, 1988 issue, you say your blood has and always will run Blue. I believe if this is true, ribbing by Vandy fans should not get your blood boiling. Any true 'Cat fan is going to get "scratched" once in a while.

2. You say you "respect and admire coach Sutton and his staff" and you tell them how to play Sean Sutton. Sean is performing very well and the coaching staff uses him because they are the coaches and see his potential. A true Blue fan would see Sean Sutton as a Wildcat, not the coach's son.

3. Mr. Bell, you don't like open practice? Well, if you had any basketball knowledge

about University of Kentucky basketball, you would know open practices are held because the fans want them and the staff is accommodating the fans.

I don't bleed Blue, but will love Kentucky basketball until the end.

Sincerely,

Timothy Bertram
California, Kentucky

P.S. to the editor—If you like, you can add Earl D. Bell's name to the list of so-called True Blue Wildcat Fans who are so quick to criticize and still claim to "bleed Blue."

SEC 500 Underway

[Continued From Page 15]

record at O'Connell Center is 11-1 in 1987-88. Next up, Florida hosts Tennessee, Vanderbilt and Alabama, but. . ."they've got to go to LSU and that won't be any picnic," said Sutton.

LSU, meanwhile, must travel to Lexington and Starkville before returning home to challenge Auburn and Florida.

Eyeing a possible league championship is Vanderbilt. C.M. Newton's Commodores have the dubious task of playing their last two SEC games on the road—Florida and Mississippi State. Auburn is Vandy's lone game in Memorial Gymnasium.

The last time Vanderbilt and the regular-season title were spoken in the same sentence was in '74. That's when the Commodores posted a 15-3 mark and tied Alabama, which incidentally was coached by Newton.

As for the Kentucky Wildcats? No one knows how this team will react to their recent pit stops in Knoxville and Gainesville. Sutton, whose been coaching college basketball for 19 seasons, can't explain it.

"The way we're playing, even at home, it isn't a safe assumption that we're going to win," the UK coach said. "We've got LSU and Georgia and we have to finish at Ole Miss."

"I thought before the season began that 14-4 would win the league. It certainly would have won the league. Now, 13-5 may get you a tie. . . it's the darndest thing I've ever seen."

That's Southeastern basketball '88 style—a

couple of games the wheels tumble by the wayside. . . the next week the same team appears to be in the driver's seat.



"I thought before the season began that 14-4 would win the league. It certainly would have won the league. Now, 13-5 may get you a tie. . . it's the darndest thing I've ever seen."

—Eddie Sutton

Get ready race fans, four, maybe five, teams are heading for the checkered flag.

But stay clear! One, two, three or four could crash, sending another squad to the finish line first.

Nothing's guaranteed, that's for sure.

"Who's to say that all the teams (contenders) may not lose again?" Sutton asked.

In the Southeastern Conference 500, you just never know.

Oscar Combs

[Continued From Page 3]

were saying before the game that it would be a gross injustice if **Vernon Maxwell** makes the All-SEC team. Huh? Said one Florida writer: "Maxwell has been the biggest disappointment on the team this year, he has been absolutely terrible. Tell all your guys up in Lexington he shouldn't get a single vote." All Maxwell did after that was to go out and score a season-high of 32 in the Gators' 83-76 victory over Kentucky. . . . There's a great deal of talk

which pops up is UAB's **Gene Bartow**, a man who ironically was also involved in the Kentucky scene. Bartow's attractiveness is due to his great connections in Memphis where he once coached. It's also Tennessee's best talent factory although the Vols have never been able to tap the area. Louisville assistant **Wade Houston** has been mentioned along with Purdue's **Gene Keady** and former Maryland coach **Lefty Driesell**. . . . This was expected to be a very down year for major college pro-



With Victory Over UK, What's The Word On UT's Don DeVoe?

about **Don DeVoe's** status at Tennessee. Some believe the win over UK could be a step in the right direction to saving his job, but it will take a lot more than that. There were at least 1,500 empty seats at the UK-UT game and if the Big Orange can't fill it up for the 'Cats, it won't be filled up. Names being tossed about in K-town if DeVoe departs? The coach most discussed is Georgia Tech's **Bobby Cremins**, but Tennessee isn't likely to get Cremins any closer to its campus than Kentucky was three years ago. Another

spects in Kentucky, perhaps a year when none would go the major college route. But Kentuckians are proving the experts wrong. Paintsville's great three-point shot artist, **Keith Adkins**, the state scoring leader with more than 32 points per game, last week announced he will attend **Notre Dame**. He is considered to be one of, if not the best, outside shooter in the state. Still on the bubble are such stars as Clay County's **Richie Farmer**, Caldwell County's **Mike Gray**, LaRue County's **Scott Boley** and Bardstown's **James Brewer**.

UT-Chattanooga Pondering Move To Metro

Will Metro's Musical Chairs Continue?

For the past several seasons the Metro Conference has been operating with an odd amount of members in its league. The league was originally formed in 1975 and was called the Metro Six, with Louisville, Cincinnati, Georgia Tech, Memphis State, St. Louis and Tulane as the charter members. The Metro's musical chairs started in 1976, when Florida State



Todd Hallum

Cats' Pause Columnist



joined the league and brought the membership to seven. After the 1977-78 season, Georgia Tech left the league and was replaced by Virginia Tech. St. Louis left the conference in 1982, and was replaced the same month by Southern Mississippi. The league expanded to eight once again in 1983 with the addition of South Carolina, but dropped to the current seven when Tulane disbanded its basketball program after the 1984-85 season in the wake of a point-shaving scandal.

Because of the odd number of schools, the league has since been searching for an eighth member to complete its conference. Since the Tulane scandal, there has been much speculation about who might be the league's next addition. For the most part, such schools as Dayton, Miami (Fla.), DePaul, Notre Dame and Marquette have been mentioned as possible replacements.

However, recently the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga has expressed keen interest in joining the Metro, and is currently exploring its alternatives in becoming a new member of a more prestigious conference. As a current member of the Southern Conference, the school is interested in exploring the opportunity of seriously upgrading its basketball program. The possible move, of course, would be a definite boost from a smaller to a bigger conference.

"WE'RE GOING TO GO FOR THE GOLD," Chattanooga attorney Bryan Patten said in a recent published story. "It's a dream come true. Our basketball attendance would go up at least 2,000 or 3,000 a game."

Already, UTC athletic director Harold Wilkes has said that the Southern conference school is looking into the possibility of changing to a new league. However, he indicates that UTC chancellor Frederick Obear would have to discuss the situation before the university could take any action.

"We have an interest, of course, but it's premature to say we're applying," Wilkes told reporter Dan George in response to a published report in the *Chattanooga Times* that said UTC would seek Metro affiliation by the first of April. "The decision has not been made."

No definite decision has yet been made, said Patten, who is one of the school's biggest boosters and a prime proponent of UTC's effort to construct a 30,000-seat football stadium. Because of his desire to see the school enhance its status to a complete I-A member of the NCAA, he has confidence that the Tennessee-based university can fill the void left open when Tulane discontinued its basketball program.

"I will go up in smoke if they pass this opportunity by," Patten said. "What this will say if they pass this opportunity by is, 'No, we don't want a stadium.' And they have said they do want a stadium."

As one of the chief members of Sports, Inc., which is a group composed to help fund the new stadium, Patten has become the integral part of UTC's plan to eventually bring Division I-A status to football for the Moccasin program.

Currently, the school has Division I status in basketball, and Division I-AA status in football, along with other Southern Conference members Appalachian State, The Citadel, Davidson, East Tennessee, Furman, Marshall, VMI and Western Carolina.

SINCE 1977, UT-CHATTANOOGA HAS BEEN A Southern Conference member, and has never seen its 80-year-old Chamberlain Field filled to capacity for a league football game, despite the fact that the stadium holds only 10,500. In basketball, the school has one of the biggest arenas in the conference, seating 11,200, but has never sold out any game played against a Southern Conference school.

By joining the Metro, UTC would be a new member in the league and would compete as an independent in football. With the possible change in leagues, the program could become a full-time Division I member in both football and basketball.

Despite all of this preliminary talk, Wilkes would rather not throw caution to the wind in discussing the school's interest into a new conference. In fact, he doesn't want to alienate the Southern Conference.

"I don't want it to look like we're unhappy with the Southern Conference," he said. "We aren't. They've been too good to us for that."

But the outspoken Patten can't resist seeing UTC upgrading its entire athletic department. After all, with the prospect of such talented teams as Louisville, Memphis State, South Carolina and Virginia Tech playing in its relatively new arena, the entire Chattanooga community would definitely be more supportive. In addition, UTC could align itself with national powers in both football and basketball.

"I think they're just being careful not to offend the Southern Conference people," Patten said. "There's been nothing said to me that makes me think they aren't going to move forward aggressively on it."

Once UTC makes the full commitment to changing leagues, then the ball is left in the Metro's court.

Stay tuned.

All's Quiet On Football Recruiting Front

And Not A Minute Too Soon, Either

The huge college football recruiting whirlwind is abated, for the present, for the remainder of February, March and April. The recruiting process, which for many years in college football has been the chief concern of the coach year-round, will resume in May. We are in the "quiet time" of recruiting, a barring of activity in the field by NCAA rules



Scoop Hudgins

Cats' Pause Columnist



and general agreement of the coaches.

And none too soon!

Nearly 10,000 football players advance from high school to college competition each year, to the 531 NCAA institutions governed by the NCAA.

Up to 4,000 players are signing agreements (grants-in-aid), 30 per year up to a total of 95 on scholarship at one time, at the 105 colleges classified as Division I-A. Approximately 2,000 more with the 87 Division I-AA schools, up to a total of 70 scholarships.

Then 135 Division II colleges offer an unspecified number, up to a total of 45, 10 to 12 per year, approximately 1,500. And in Division III, 204 colleges play football, offering no scholarship aid for athletic ability. They dress 30 to 40 players per game, about 10 new ones per year, or 2,000.

In the beginning, 1869 and for the remainder of that century, there were agreements on recruiting. The colleges played whatever fine athletes in the area, who could be admitted for classes. The conferences made the first agreements, among members. The Ivy League, the Big Ten, the SIAA, as football spread across the country.

STORIES FROM THE 1930s AND 1940s ABOUND of high school players being hidden, or kidnapped, at signing time in the guise of going hunting with a coach.

There were vast differences. The SEC started signing players a week after the regular season ended, but the Southwest Conference, because of Texas High School Association rules, could not sign players until after the spring sports season. The signing date differed in almost every section of the country.

The NCAA has resolved that problem, at least temporarily.

Under the current rules, coaches may not visit or evaluate players until Nov. 1. Then from Dec. 1 to Feb. 7, they may visit, three off-campus and three on-campus. Feb. 8 and 9 they cannot contact a player except by telephone, two days of "quiet time" for the prospect before the signing date, Feb. 10.

Boosters are barred from recruiting in any manner, and the head coach may not visit for the signing, Feb. 10-13.

The coaches approve the new recruiting limitations.

Johnny Majors at Tennessee says, "We have worked for years on agreements to recruit at the same time and to reduce overall involvement. It benefits the overworked assistants, will help them have a normal homelife."

Watson Brown, the Vanderbilt coach, says, "It's better that we are doing the same things at the same time. Two days quiet time is fine for the prospect, allows him to make a more satisfying decision. The fall limit prevents a thorough enough evaluation in most areas."

An assistant coach, Mark Bradley of Vanderbilt, said, "The greatest improvement to me is relief from the abnormal family life we are forced into, the simultaneous coaching and recruiting. I'm so happy to be home more."

Dale Brown Up To His Old Tricks. . . Again

Look For N.C. State To Do Well In NCAAs

If one were conducting a Dumb Stunt of the Week-type contest there would be no mystery as to the winner on this seven-day go through. LSU basketball coach **Dale Brown** invited a number of writers to play a supposedly friendly game of H-O-R-S-E with members of his team. Then when his players handily won he went to great lengths to point out to his



Larry Donald

Cats' Pause Columnist



team that those who were criticizing the Tigers' shooting capabilities didn't know a thing about the subject.

Well, one irrelevant illustration always deserves another, old friend. Why not have those writers and several members of the LSU basketball team go over to nearby Southern University, cover a game and file a story for the Baton Rouge newspaper? Perhaps then we'll have an indication of how well LSU is educating and making literate its student-athletes. Fair's fair. . .

The closer we get to NCAA play, the stronger my feeling is about the possibilities for **North Carolina State** to make a deep run. Coach **Jim Valvano** is one of the very best tournament coaches in the game because of his ability to get his team up for a short period of time. And the Wolfpack has an excellent backcourt with senior **Vinny Del Negro** and freshman **Chris Corchiani**. If **Charles Shackelford** gives State some consistent play in the middle, this bunch could make 1983 happen all over again. . .

Just when it looked like **Kansas**, the pre-season No. 1 choice in the eyes of some, might not even make the tournament, the Jayhawks rallied. Say what you want about **Larry Brown**, but the man can coach. As for his future, I'm not fully convinced he's going to depart from Kansas after this season because I'm not sure he has a better alternative. Many say the NBA's Charlotte Hornets and big dollars. But he was dragging down a huge salary with the New Jersey Nets and that didn't create fulfillment. Plus, I'm not certain his coaching ego could handle the drought of victories this new franchise is going to endure for the next three-to-five years.

Others say UCLA, but getting **Walt Hazzard** off the bench won't be easy. After all, he survived the **Sean Higgins** affair. Now some are speculating that Brown might find the best of all worlds at Tennessee. Well, maybe. But how much better as a recruiting spot is Knoxville than Lawrence, Kan.? It will be interesting to watch this story unfold. . .

Incidentally, Kansas' **Danny Manning** will probably be the consensus Player of the Year. Because he's not been dominant and because the Jayhawks have struggled, balloters have searched wildly about for another worthy candidate. In the end, however, I'm sure they'll realize Manning is probably the safest choice.

But there will be agencies which turn elsewhere. Bradley's **Hersey Hawkins** is getting support and North Carolina's **J.R. Reid** has a substantial legion of supporters as well. . .

Aside from participation in the selection of *Basketball Times*' honor teams which, obviously, is something of an obligation, I don't get involved in other All-American balloting. I've said it before: By participating in these things the media makes a declaration of its expertise and sets itself up for situations such as the one at LSU. Our job's already difficult enough. . .

The Big East has been under attack recently, much of it a product of its own infighting. Villanova's **Rolie Massimino** and Pitt's **Paul Evans** engaged in an ugly shouting match after a recent game. Meanwhile, Georgetown's aggressive, all-out defensive style has led to several confrontations this season, creating another verse to the old tune, "I went to a fight and a Georgetown basketball game broke out."

The new ammunition for the league's critics, though, is the continuing decline of basketball in the East. What **Dave Gavitt** and his league have done with their foresight, business acumen and understanding of television has reaped unimaginable benefits for its members while effectively squashing nearly every other traditionally successful Eastern basketball team. The old powers like **St. Bonaventure**, **Duquesne**, **Holy Cross** and **Rutgers** have fallen badly and, frankly, may not be able to get their programs back up. Even those who've weathered the Big East assault, like **West Virginia** and **St. Joseph's**, are beginning to show tattered edges.

Is it possible the Big East will expand to more teams and split into two divisions? Perhaps, but not likely. To the chorus of criticism, Big East members are chucking all the way to the bank. And that, friends, is the bottom line in college basketball. . .

The issue of teams playing on their home courts in the NCAA tournament is certain to be raised again this year with **North Carolina** and **Notre Dame** likely to be assigned to their own arenas. Just so we'll have the matter cleared up well in advance of the story breaking, here's an inescapable fact: If there's any concern in the world of college athletics about fair play then there can be no justification for giving any team a home court advantage. It cannot be done in the name of selling tickets nor can it be done to entice various universities to serve as hosts. If we must have a full arena for the benefit of television, give tickets away and create a studio audience. And if there's a shortage of universities willing to host without a reasonable chance of having its team play there, then simply assign tournament sites on a rotating basis.

It's that simple. . .

With his team sitting atop the wire service polls, Temple president **Peter Liacouras** has talked frequently about putting up a new building to replace the 4,500-seat McGonigle Hall. In fact the school has purchased a large car dealership which is located next door. One alum, though, is already worried about the movement.

"I told him (Liacouras)," says old Owl **Bill Cosby**, "to stop talking about a 20,000-seat arena while looking at my wallet." . . .

Drexel's **Michael Anderson** seems the heavy favorite to win the Naismith Award given to the top college player under six feet. Pro scouts have mixed emotions about his future in the play-for-pay game, though. On one hand you've got **Spud Webb**, but on the other you've got **Muggsy Bogues**. . .

That **Lute Olson** is talking about the college basketball season dragging only underscores why the game has become so popular. The excitement and tension generated in the four-month season of college hoops is so much greater than that in baseball, football, hockey and even pro basketball—sports where the season drags on nearly twice as long. Beyond all the problems it has, the magic of college basketball is the atmosphere it creates. No other sport touches it. . .

Recently Arizona's **Steve Kerr** wrote a column in the campus newspaper at California-Berkeley in advance of the Wildcats-Bears game. He answered those tormentors who asked what kind of hair spray he used, if the knee hurt and why he didn't go to a real college. Kerr suggested the first worry more about how frequently she showered than what kind of hair spray he used, to the second he said the knee was fine but wondered about that individual's brain and to the third said he tried to attend Stanford, but couldn't get in. Well, you can imagine the greeting Kerr got in Harmon Arena that night. But he answered back, by drilling his first three trifectas and Arizona won easily. . .



John Thompson: 'Parity's Another Word For Mediocre'

Oklahoma's **Billy Tubbs** has gotten increasingly uptight as the Sooners have rolled impressively along. He denies his teams are trying to embarrass anyone and says with the three-point play, no lead is really safe. Tubbs also says he wants OU to be portrayed as having a "class" basketball program. And that's fine, but he'd probably have a tough time selling any of it to Loyola's **Gene Sullivan**, who refused to shake his hand after a game in December, or Centenary's **Tommy Canterbury**, who after a terrible beating said: "Billy's gonna be sorry. Someday he'll be old and retired and want someone to go fishing with him. And no one'll want to go." . . .

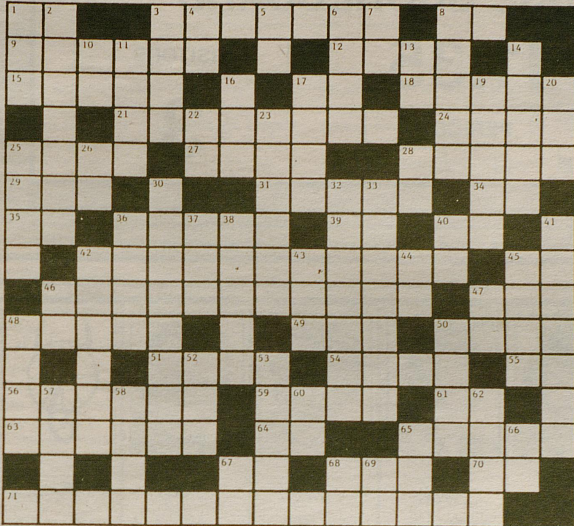
Television's **Bill Raftery**: The more you hear, the more you like. He's getting more assignments with CBS this year, which is as it should be. I also like **Hubie Brown** and **Billy Cunningham** for the college game, but I question if CBS has enough work for those three and resident hoop expert **Billy Packer**. . .

I wonder if there're enough years left in anyone's life to see another year when the Big Eight has this kind of talent? . . . And the Big East doesn't? . . . Nor, really, does the Big Ten, which has a solid, but not great collection of talent at the moment.

Maybe **John Thompson's** correct. Parity is another word for mediocre.

T C P C R O S S W O R D P U Z Z L E

By Dan Krueckeberg



SINGLE-SEASON WILDCAT SUPERLATIVES

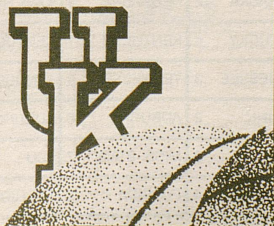
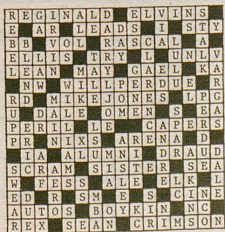
ACROSS

- 1 Initials of 2 Down
- 3 Had 143 assists for '76-'77 Cats
- 8 Initials of Charles; had tremendous 63.0 FG %age in '82-'83
- 9 Had remarkable 17.7 rebounds per game during '54-'55 campaign
- 12 Trail
- 15 College/pro 7-footer Gilmore
- 17 Exist
- 18 Namesakes of 129-assist Cat of '68-'69; a record for that decade
- 21 "16 ppg came in freshman year
- 24 Parking lot damage
- 25 First name of 42 Across
- 27 Metric unit
- 28 Went to the line for record 284 FTs in one season
- 29 Business abbr.
- 31 "Fac and "
- 34 Big East state abbr.
- 35 Initials of 33 Down
- 36 Lose consciousness
- 39 Initials of '30s Cat Turrell
- 40 Adverb ending
- 42 Held one-season assist mark before Roger Harden's 232 in '85-'86
- 45 Initials of '61 letterman Newman
- 46 Averaged 22.6 ppg in '75-'76
- 47 Issel the Cats in rebounding for 3 straight seasons
- 48 '91.2 %age at the line came in '73-'80
- 49 Deep sea shocker
- 50 Partly open
- 51 Hindu garment
- 54 Scream
- 55 Initials of '60s letterman Embry
- 56 Pulled down record 567 boards one year
- 59 Talk back
- 61 Initials of 62 Down
- 63 Aged
- 64 Initials of baseballer Garvey
- 65 Business leaders
- 67 Pronoun
- 68 Noun suffix
- 70 Initials of 24 ppg '63-'64 Wildcat
- 71 Hit then-record 88.2 % of his FTs in '70-'71

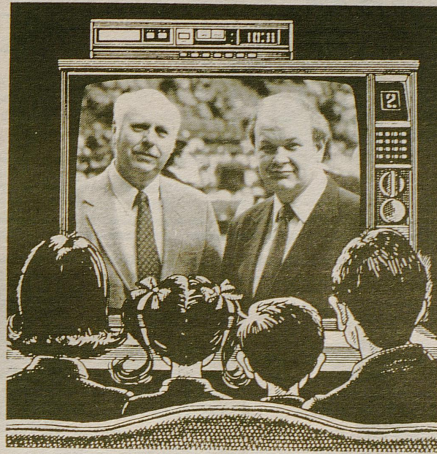
DOWN

- 1 Business school degree
- 2 "Fine '83-'84 season included a 59.3 FG %age
- 3 Masculine name
- 4 Pain expression
- 5 "Foul on the play"
- 6 "He was under the basket"
- 7 Continent abbr.
- 8 Reprimand
- 10 Abbr. for "right"
- 11 Hit record 63.5% from the field in '77-'78
- 13 Initials of '60s letterman Mobley
- 14 Made record 218 FTs one year
- 16 Month abbr.
- 17 In the SEC
- 19 Scored 710 pts. for Joe's swan song year
- 20 Pig house
- 22 Initials of 50 Down
- 23 Had 92.0 FT %age in '81-'82 SEC action
- 25 Pickle
- 26 Initials of 21 Across
- 28 OVC state abbr.
- 30 Was only 52 pts. shy of 1000 one season
- 32 "rebounding average was 17.2 per game in amazing '50-'51 season"
- 33 "45 of 49 FTs came in '69-'70"
- 36 "The Fab" won a record 36 games
- 37 Tavern
- 38 African country
- 40 Initials of '66-'67 Cat with 20.6 ppg
- 41 Led '71-'72 Cats in FG %age, rebounding and scoring
- 42 First name of 2 Down
- 43 Duty
- 44 Adverb ending
- 45 Back
- 46 SEC state abbr.
- 47 Initials of 3 Across
- 48 Mark of affection
- 50 Hit then-record 180 FTs in '48-'49
- 52 Positive response
- 53 Broke Issel's one-season scoring record
- 57 Cincy's Rose
- 58 Nam
- 60 Initials of '48-'49 Cat with then-record 259 Pts
- 62 Had excellent 14 rpg for '56-'57 Cats
- 65 Summer in Paris
- 66 Initials of '61-'62 Cat with record 608 points for a sophomore
- 67 Initials of former ass't. coach Harry
- 68 "He went for the easy layup"
- 69 Initials of '62-'63 Cat with 85.5 %age at the line

Last week's solution



Searching Your Dial For "Cats * Cox * Combs"?



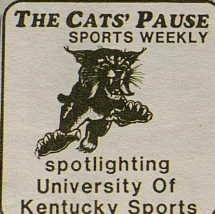







Look For Us On These Cable Television Systems:

System—City	Channel	Airtimes
Times Mirror Cable (Dimension)—Ashland	26	Fri., Sat., Sun. 6 p.m.
Storer Cable Communications—Bowling Green	6	Fri. 4:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. before UK games
Cable One Productions, Inc.—Burgin	6	Fri., Mon., Wed. 7 p.m.
Clarksville Cablevision—Clarksville, Tenn.	10	Sat. 10:30 a.m.
Store Cable of Northern Kentucky—Covington	6	Fri. 7 p.m.
Cable One Productions, Inc.—Danville	6	Fri., Mon., Wed. 7 p.m.
Fleming Home Entertainment—Flemingsburg	19	Fri., Mon. 6 p.m.; Sat noon
Tel-Com, Inc.—Harold	5	Fri. before & after weekly sports game; Sat. morning
Cable One Productions, Inc.—Harrodsburg	6	Fri., Mon., Wed. 7 p.m.
Horizon Communications (TCI)—Henderson	24	Tues, Wed., Fri. 7 p.m.
Smith Radio & TV—Hi Hat	9	Fri. 4:30 p.m. & 8:30 p.m. Sat. 10:30 a.m.
TV 12—Hindman	12	Fri. 7 p.m. & 10 p.m.; Sat. 10:30 a.m.
Pennyroyal Cablevision—Hopkinsville	10	Fri., Mon. 5:30 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.
Maynard Cable TV—Inez	6	airtime unavailable
Irvine Community TV—Irvine	8	Twice Fri.; Sat. morning
Storer Cable Communications—Louisville	11	Fri. 7 p.m. & 11:30 p.m.; Sat. 10:30 a.m.
Madisonville Cablevision—Madisonville	2	Fri. 5:30 p.m., Sat. 10:30 a.m.
Mayfield Cablevision—Mayfield	34	Fri. 5 p.m. & 9 p.m.; Sat. 11 a.m.
Limestone Cable Vision—Maysville	10	Fri. 6:30 p.m., Sat. 7 p.m.
McKee TV Enterprises—McKee	9	Twice Fri., Sat. morning
Union CATV, Inc.—Morganfield	7	Fri. 2 p.m. & 10 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.
Murray Cablevision Co.—Murray	34	Fri. 5 p.m. & 9 p.m.; Sat. 11 a.m.
Owensboro Cablevision—Owensboro	36	Fri. 6:30 p.m. Wed. 7 p.m. (follows College Sports)
Comcast Cablevision—Paducah	13	Fri. 6:30 p.m., Sat. 9:30 a.m.
Centel Cable Co.—Richmond	4	Fri. 7:30 p.m., Sat. noon, Sun. 1:00 p.m.
Gencom of Kentucky—Shelbyville	13	Fri. 8 p.m. & 9:30 p.m. Sat. 11 a.m.
Union CATV, Inc.—Sturgis	6	Fri. 2 p.m. & 10 p.m.; Sat. 11 a.m.
Telecable of Radcliff—Radcliff	16	Sat. 12:30 p.m. Tues. 6:30 p.m., Wed. 9 p.m.

SPORTS PREVIEW

CATS' PAUSE SCOREBOARD

HOME	11:35	VISITORS
10	PERIOD	3
	■ □ □ □	

 <p>spotlighting University Of Kentucky Sports</p>	 <p>Readers Choice</p>	 <p>Oscar Combs</p>	 <p>Nick Nicholas</p>	 <p>Mike Estep</p>	 <p>Todd Kallum</p>	 <p>Gary Cromwell</p>	 <p>Hoop Demon</p>
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Two Weeks Ago		18-7 (.720)	16-9 (.640)	14-11 (.560)	15-10 (.600)	19-6 (.760)	13-12 (.520)
Season Total		221-79 (.737)	220-80 (.733)	214-86 (.713)	218-82 (.727)	228-72 (.760)	225-75 (.750)
SYRACUSE AT KENTUCKY		KENTUCKY 2	KENTUCKY 5	KENTUCKY 1	KENTUCKY 3	KENTUCKY 3	KENTUCKY 4
AUBURN AT ALABAMA		ALABAMA 3	AUBURN 5	ALABAMA 4	AUBURN 1	AUBURN 7	AUBURN 3
GEORGIA AT OLE MISS		OLE MISS 6	GEORGIA 3	OLE MISS 5	GEORGIA 2	GEORGIA 2	GEORGIA 3
MISSISSIPPI STATE AT TENNESSEE		TENNESSEE 3	TENNESSEE 2	TENNESSEE 2	TENNESSEE 10	TENNESSEE 5	TENNESSEE 7
VANDERBILT AT NOTRE DAME		NOTRE DAME 2	VANDERBILT 3	VANDERBILT 2	NOTRE DAME 4	VANDERBILT 4	VANDERBILT 5
N.C. STATE AT VIRGINIA		N.C. STATE 2	N.C. STATE 3	N.C. STATE 4	N.C. STATE 5	N.C. STATE 5	N.C. STATE 6
CLEMSON AT NORTH CAROLINA		CAROLINA 14	CAROLINA 16	CAROLINA 11	CAROLINA 15	CAROLINA 12	CAROLINA 11
DUKE AT GEORGIA TECH		GA. TECH 1	DUKE 2	DUKE 5	GA. TECH 3	DUKE 4	DUKE 5
MARYLAND AT WAKE FOREST		MARYLAND 6	MARYLAND 3	WAKE 2	MARYLAND 9	MARYLAND 1	MARYLAND 7
LOUISVILLE AT VIRGINIA TECH		VA. TECH 1	VA. TECH 5	VA. TECH 3	LOUISVILLE 1	LOUISVILLE 1	VA. TECH 2
FLORIDA STATE AT SOUTH CAROLINA		S. CAROLINA 7	S. CAROLINA 2	S. CAROLINA 2	S. CAROLINA 4	S. CAROLINA 8	S. CAROLINA 5
PITT AT CONNECTICUT		PITT 3	PITT 9	UCONN 6	PITT 4	PITT 5	PITT 3
WEST VIRGINIA AT TEMPLE		TEMPLE 2	TEMPLE 11	TEMPLE 5	TEMPLE 8	TEMPLE 11	TEMPLE 6
MICHIGAN AT IOWA		IOWA 1	MICHIGAN 2	IOWA 3	MICHIGAN 2	MICHIGAN 3	MICHIGAN 4
MICHIGAN STATE AT OHIO STATE		OHIO STATE 3	OHIO STATE 4	OHIO STATE 2	OHIO STATE 9	OHIO STATE 4	OHIO STATE 3
MIDDLE TENNESSEE AT AUSTIN PEAY		PEAY 7	PEAY 7	PEAY 6	PEAY 4	PEAY 8	PEAY 4
DEPAUL AT MIAMI (FLA.)		DEPAUL 6	DEPAUL 4	DEPAUL 8	DEPAUL 5	DEPAUL 4	DEPAUL 5
KANSAS AT MISSOURI		MISSOURI 8	MISSOURI 3	MISSOURI 8	MISSOURI 6	MISSOURI 11	MISSOURI 5
SAN DIEGO STATE AT WYOMING		WYOMING 8	WYOMING 5	WYOMING 12	WYOMING 11	WYOMING 14	WYOMING 5
IOWA STATE AT NEBRASKA		IOWA STATE 4	NEBRASKA 2	NEBRASKA 3	IOWA STATE 7	IOWA STATE 7	IOWA STATE 1
GEORGIA AT KENTUCKY		KENTUCKY 9	KENTUCKY 4	KENTUCKY 11	KENTUCKY 5	KENTUCKY 12	KENTUCKY 9
ALABAMA AT TENNESSEE		TENNESSEE 3	TENNESSEE 3	TENNESSEE 5	TENNESSEE 6	TENNESSEE 7	TENNESSEE 6
OLE MISS AT AUBURN		AUBURN 14	AUBURN 2	AUBURN 6	AUBURN 8	AUBURN 13	AUBURN 5
LSU AT MISSISSIPPI STATE		LSU 1	LSU 3	MISS. STATE 7	LSU 1	LSU 3	LSU 5
VANDERBILT AT FLORIDA		FLORIDA 8	VANDERBILT 6	FLORIDA 2	FLORIDA 12	FLORIDA 2	FLORIDA 7

Back Thru The Wildcat Years

Five Years Ago

*The Kentucky zone defense, plus the hot hands of Kenny Walker and Jim Master, led the 'Cats to a 73-61 victory over the Florida Gators in the O'Connell Center. Kentucky's aggressive zone defense forced Florida to shoot 20-foot jumpers and did not allow them the inside game which is its forte. The Wildcats held a 33-28 halftime lead and slowly widened the margin the rest of the way. Four 'Cat players were in double figures, led by Walker and Master with 18 points apiece. Walker, known as 'Sky', also pulled down eight rebounds to lead Kentucky in that category.

*Kentucky won its fifth game in a row, handing Vanderbilt an 82-63 white-washing in Rupp Arena before 23,782 fans. Again it was Jim Master and Kenny Walker leading the way as Master hit eight of 10 shots for 22 points and Walker scored 16 and grabbed a

game- and career-high 18 rebounds. He became the first 'Cat to grab more than 13 rebounds in a game this season. Kentucky started fast. Leading 15-8 the Wildcats outscored the Commodores 25-7 and took a 44-21 halftime lead. Vanderbilt shot only 19.4 percent from the field in the first stanza Vandy could get no closer than 53-39, when Master then connected from the top of the key and Walker had a stuff and sank two free throws. The win lifts the Wildcats to 10-4 in Southeastern Conference play and 18-5 overall.

*The Kentucky Lady Kats bid farewell to seniors Valerie Still, Lea Wise, Patty Jo Hedges and Terri Naiser with a 77-55 blowout of Auburn before 8,223 fans at Memorial Coliseum. Still led all scorers with 21 points and 10 rebounds. Wise had 10 points and nine assists while Hedges scored 12 and dished out seven assists.

Seven Years Ago

*Kentucky center Sam Bowie blocked a 10-foot baseline jumper by LSU's Howard Carter in the game's final seconds as the Wildcats downed the visiting Tigers 73-71 in a classic confrontation viewed by a national television audience and a Rupp Arena record 24,011 crowd. On paper, the game meant little since LSU had already wrapped up the SEC title. But it was a pride contest for Joe B. Hall's 'Cats as LSU was threatening to become the first team in 25 years to go through Southeastern Conference play undefeated. They entered the game riding the nation's longest win streak, 26, and ranked second nationally. The win gives UK a final season 22-4 record. Kentucky also made amends for an 81-67 loss at Baton Rouge's Assembly Center earlier in the year. With the help of a roaring crowd from beginning to end, Kentucky never trailed during the game. Carter's final miss was one of three chances LSU had to tie the score. Four Wildcats scored 11 points—Bowie, Dirk Minniefield, Melvin Turpin and Chuck Verderber. It was Verderber who Tiger coach Dale Brown said was the difference in the game. Forward Fred Cowan added 10 tallies. Carter finished with a game-high 24 points for the losing Tigers.

*Because they were able to hit 27 of 39 shots for a season-high 69.2 percent, the Kentucky Wildcats escaped Starkville with a 78-74 win over a stubborn Mississippi State team. UK never trailed but State did manage to tie the score in the second half and force Kentucky to hit some key free throws down the stretch. Dirk Minniefield paced UK with 20 points, while Sam Bowie added 18 and Charles Hurt 16. Jeff Malone led State with 22 points.

*The Southeastern Conference basketball tournament will begin this coming week in Birmingham. The bottom four teams will play Wednesday when Vandy meets Miss. State and Florida takes on Auburn. On Thursday, Tennessee plays Mississippi and Alabama plays Georgia while Kentucky and LSU play Wednesday night's winners.

Nine Years Ago

*Kentucky survived a late scare from Ole Miss to win 82-77 in the first round of the SEC tournament in Birmingham. Ole Miss cut a 16-point UK lead to 80-77 with under one minute remaining before Kyle Macy sank a pair of foul shots with five seconds left. Macy was brilliant, scoring a Wildcat career-high 32 points.

*In one of the most classic games ever seen in the South, Kentucky outraced Alabama in a 101-100 shootout in the second-round of the SEC tournament. It was racehorse basketball at its best. UK hit a sizzling 68.3 percent on 43 of 63 from the field, while Alabama hit 41 of 71 for 57.7 percent. Truman Claytor scored 25 points while Kyle Macy pumped in 22. Reggie King scored 38 points for the Tide and grabbed 11 rebounds, to boot.

*Kentucky dumped a highly-ranked and heavily-favored LSU team 80-67 behind the guard tandem of Kyle Macy and Truman Claytor. The game was actually not as close as the final score indicated. UK jumped out in front 15-14 and led the rest of the way. With 18 minutes left in the game, the 'Cats had stunned everyone by marching to a 51-30 lead. Macy was sensational again, hitting 10 of 15 shots from the field and scoring 29 points. Claytor finished with 20 points. UK managed to win without the services of freshman sensation Dwight Anderson, who broke his wrist in the game's opening minutes.

*The clock struck midnight on the Wildcats' Cinderella story, as Tennessee won the SEC tournament with a 75-69 overtime victory before 13,687 onlookers. At halftime Kentucky appeared to be on track to capturing the '79 tournament, which hadn't been played since Louisville hosted the event in 1952. UK held a 44-37 advantage, but because of a Vol stall the 'Cats only could manage 11 points in the second half. After 40 minutes, the two teams were tied 55-all. Both scored more in the extra period than they did in the final stanza—Tennessee 20, Kentucky 14. Truman Claytor led the 'Cats with 27 points, while Gary Carter paced the Volunteers with 22 points. Despite being held to 10 points, Kyle Macy was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player. In four games, the junior guard totaled 93 points. Claytor joined Macy on the all-tournament squad which also featured Tennessee's Terry Crosby, Alabama's Reginald King and Mississippi's John Stroud.

Eleven Years Ago

*Kentucky blew open a tight first half to go on and ease past Alabama 85-70 at Rupp Arena. The first half was a scorcher as the teams virtually traded baskets and UK led 38-35. But the 'Cats' shooting proved too much for the Tide. Kentucky hit 57.8 percent from the field while Alabama hit only 34.6 percent. Six Wildcats scored in double figures. Larry Johnson scored 16 points while 'Sixth Man' James Lee started the second stanza and ignited the Wildcats with 14 points. Rick Robey, Mike Phillips and Jay Shidler all scored 13 points while Jack Givens added 10. Robey grabbed nine rebounds. Reggie King paced Alabama with 21 points while T.R. Dunn contributed 18.

*Thanks to a record 83 percent second half shooting percentage, Kentucky avoided a major upset and downed Mississippi State 77-64 at Rupp Arena. It wasn't until MSU's Ray White and Ricky Brown fouled out late in the contest that UK was assured a victory. Kentucky played poorly but still ran its SEC mark to 15-1, one game ahead of rival Tennessee. Five Wildcats scored in double digits. Rick Robey led all scorers with 19 points while James Lee came off the bench to add 15. Brown led State with 17.

Fourteen Years Ago

*UK football coach Fran Curci is facing problems replacing some of his seniors. "My main concern is our strength in the middle," said Curci. He is hoping that his new recruits can solve these worries.

*Coach Joe B. Hall was honored for being selected Coach of the Year in the SEC for 1972-73. Hall received the award at halftime of the UT-UK game at Memorial Coliseum.

*Mississippi freshman Gary Yoder swiped the ball away from Kentucky's Kevin Grevey with 1:15 left in the game and the 'Cats clinging to a 60-59 lead. Rebel coach Bob Jarvis elected to freeze the ball until 17 seconds were left and who else but Yoder drove the basket and threw up the winning shot. Ole Miss avenged a 93-64 bombing the 'Cats gave the Rebels in Lexington.

Thirty-One Years Ago

*Despite the final 103-85 final score, Kentucky got quite a scare from Auburn but held on for the win and the SEC title. Coach Joel Eaves' squad gave the 'Cats all they wanted and actually led for much of the second half. UK didn't take the lead for good until 8:50 left and couldn't get a comfortable margin until the final two minutes. Vernon Hatton came off the bench to lead the 'Cats with 24 points.

WILDCAT QUIZ

1. True or False? Kentucky has never faced Syracuse in Rupp Arena.

2. Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim played his college hoops at which school?
a) Villanova
b) Iona
c) Syracuse
d) Yale

3. Which team did Syracuse defeat to advance to last year's Final Four in New Orleans?
a) Western Kentucky
b) Notre Dame
c) Providence
d) North Carolina

4. True or False? Syracuse won more than 30 basketball games last season.

5. Which Syracuse player is not from the United States?
a) Herman Harried
b) Matt Roe
c) Rony Seikaly
d) Stevie Thompson

6. Which Kentucky player holds the school record for the most free throws attempted and made in one season?
a) Roger Harden
b) Kenny Walker
c) Kyle Macy
d) Jim Master

7. Which NBA team drafted former Kentucky guard James Blackmon?
a) New Jersey Nets
b) Chicago Bulls
c) Washington Bullets
d) Golden State Warriors

8. Former Kentucky great Ralph Beard is from which Kentucky city?

a) Lexington
b) Louisville
c) Harlan
d) Paris

9. Against which SEC school did UK set a Wildcat record for the most points scored during one half of a basketball game?

a) Tennessee
b) Georgia
c) Vanderbilt
d) Florida

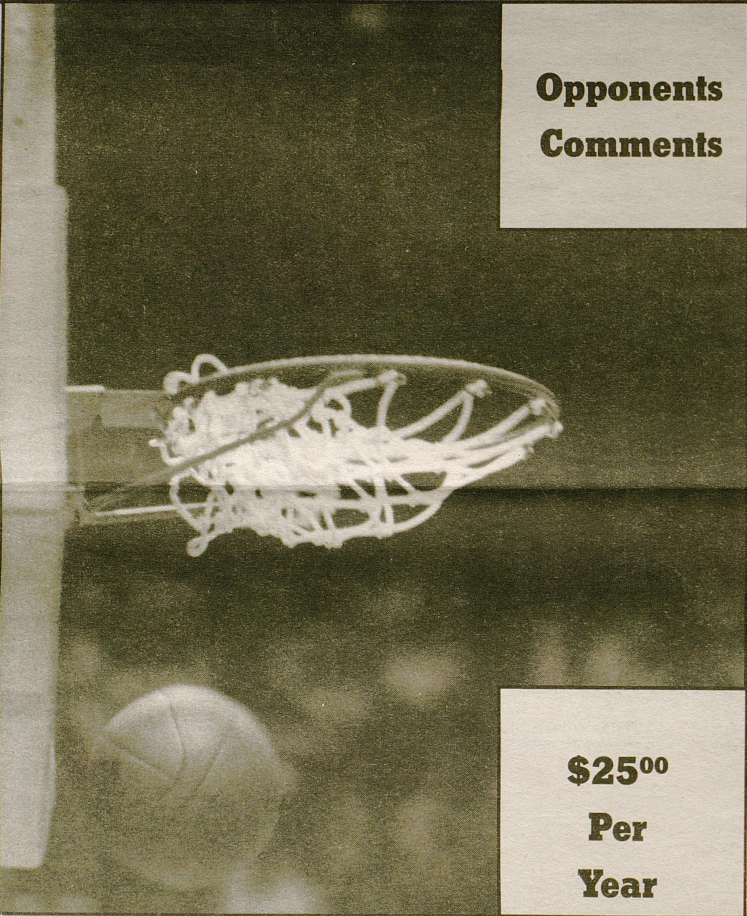
10. True or False? UK's all-time record is better in the month of February than in December.



Answers

1. False (UK defeated Syracuse in the 1978
2. Villanova
3. Tennessee
4. True (81-7)
5. Rony Seikaly (Athens, Greece)
6. Kenny Walker (1985)
7. New Jersey Nets
8. Louisville
9. Georgia (75 points, 1956)
10. False (Dec.—81.5 percent, Feb.—77.1)

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