

Oscar Combs'

BIG BLUE BASKETBALL

January 1988

Volume 1, Number 10

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He's Had His Troubles, But UK's Derrick Miller Says He's Here To Stay

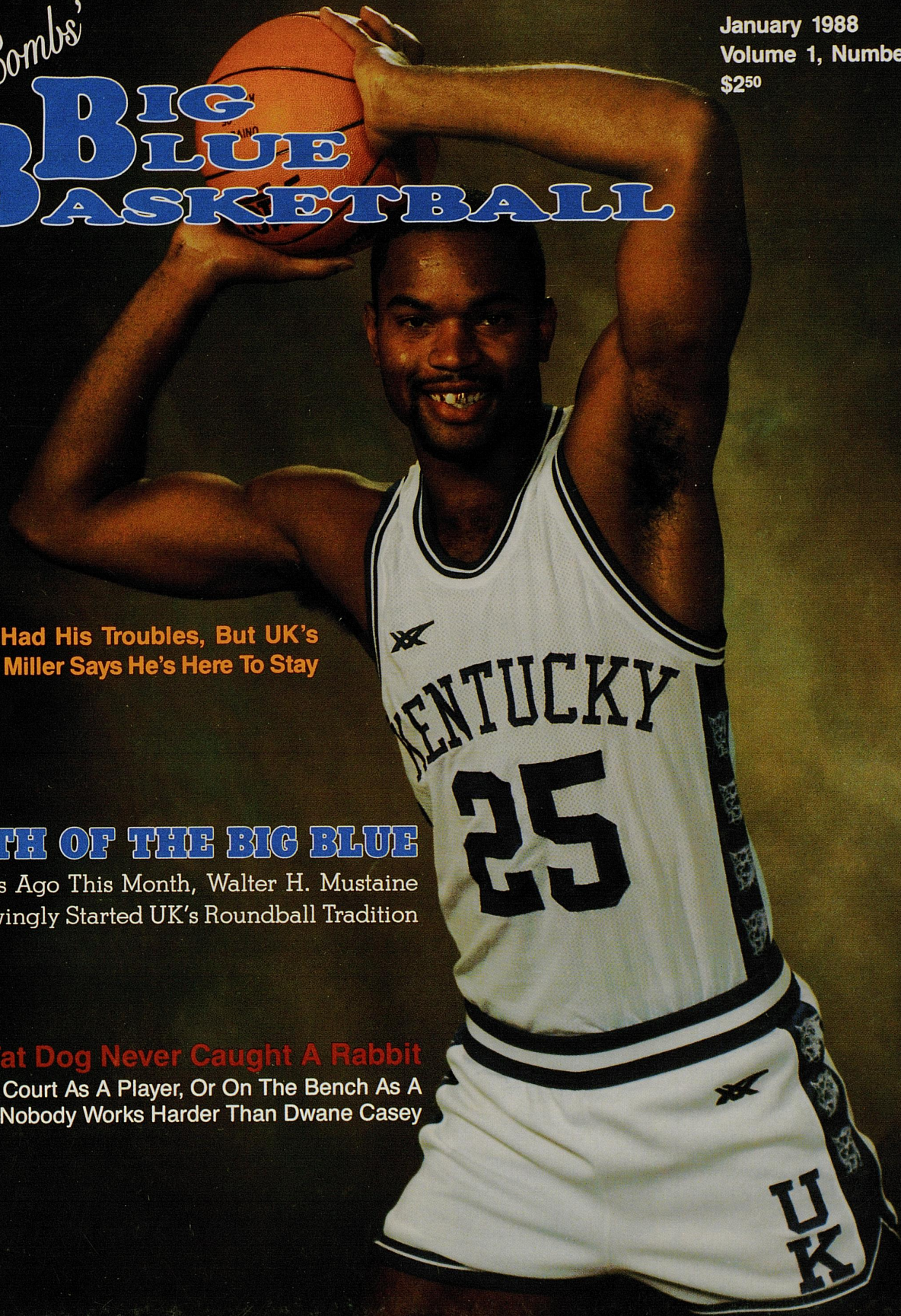
BIRTH OF THE BIG BLUE

85 Years Ago This Month, Walter H. Mustaine Unknowingly Started UK's Roundball Tradition

The Fat Dog Never Caught A Rabbit

On The Court As A Player, Or On The Bench As A Coach, Nobody Works Harder Than Dwane Casey

Winston Bennett:
UK's Latest 1,000-Point Club Member



**OSCAR COMBS'
BIG BLUE BASKETBALL
MONTHLY MAGAZINE**

EDITOR-PUBLISHER
Oscar Combs

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Nick Nicholas

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Mike Estep

GRAPHICS COORDINATOR
Winfred Jennings

BUSINESS MANAGER
Donna Combs

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR
Wanda Hooker

HOBBY COLUMNIST
Jack Maiden

CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER
Gary Cromwell

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Clarence Miller Jr.

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER
Tim Walden

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
**Rick Bolus, Bob Gibbons
Russell Rice**

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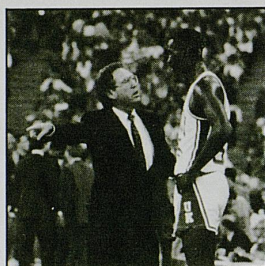
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BASKETBALL**

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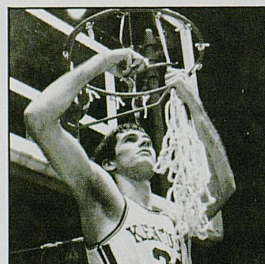
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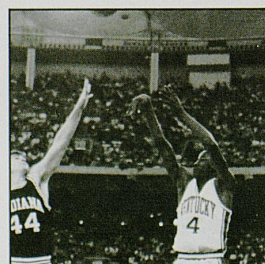
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The Savannah, Ga., product's first year and a half in a Wildcat uniform would have to be categorized as stormy at best. And even though he isn't getting much playing time, the man some call "The Shooter" says he's growing up. **By Nick Nicholas**



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It Says Here

Publisher Oscar Combs

Oscar Combs'
BIG BLUE BASKETBALL

As the new year begins, Kentucky was on the verge of closing out a very impressive beginning with a 7-0 mark entering the final game of the old year Dec. 31 against Vanderbilt.

As the new year begins, Kentucky hopes to pick up where it left off the old year, a victory over Vanderbilt and a perfect 8-0 slate as the 'Cats headed on the road to Atlanta for their first SEC trip of the season.

With Kentucky's seven-game streak in 1987, a large chunk of credit must go to fifth-year senior Winston Bennett, the hard-working youngster from Louisville who refuses to accept defeat.

Sir Winston, it seems, has always been in someone's shadow, whether it be the Twin Towers of Sam Bowie and Melvin Turpin, or Kenny Walker or Rex Chapman.

And there was a time when he probably was just happy to be in someone's shadow.

That was last season when he recuperated from serious knee surgery and pondered his future, or if he would even have one on the hardwoods.

There was plenty of doubt in a lot of minds around Kentucky and the nation, but not in Winston's. It was only a matter of "when" he would return and not "if" he would return.

You often hear in this world of athletics that if anyone can come back from a serious knee injury, "this" particular kid can do it or "that" particular kid can do it. Few seldom do.

Winston is one who has.

All those lonely nights of pain in the hospital room and the days which followed at Wildcat Lodge still are very clear in Winston's mind.

But it only means the achievement of returning to his old form is that much more significant. Winston's play during December leaves no doubt that he has returned successfully.

Don't get the wrong impression. He isn't back to the level he was at when he went down with the injury some 15 months ago. But he's getting close.

And because of his great inside play, Kentucky is forcing opponents to play other Wildcats more honestly.

The player who benefits most is probably center Rob Lock. With Bennett to be con-

cerned with, opposing teams have to play Lock one-on-one and Rob is showing he's a pretty tough cookie to crumble, one-on-one. Ditto for senior Cedric Jenkins.

When Bennett, Jenkins and Lock are playing well, then you can imagine how Ed Davender and Chapman feel around the three-point line where they're used to be ganged up on like a couple skinny kids circled by a gang of bullies.

There is a growing list of experts proclaiming Davender and Chapman as the nation's finest guard combination. ESPN's Dick Vitale started the campaign and there have been few dissenters. I certainly don't know of a better pair, but Vitale and others should remember that UK's newfound inside game should receive a nice assist.

When the history books record the 1987-88 season, I'll be very surprised if Winston Bennett doesn't go down as the one missing ingredient from 1986-87 which solved the chemistry problem for 1988.

□ □ □

The boys over at the athletics department finally gave due justice to one of Kentucky's favorite sons, Dan Issel.

The Wildcats' all-time leading scorer (2,138) and rebounder (1,078) had his jersey retired moments before the tipoff of the Louisville-Kentucky matchup last month. UK athletics director Cliff Hagan pointed out that it was the first time since 1954 that UK had given such an honor to a former basketball player.

"It's very, very nice," Issel noted, "and a complete surprise. My wife (Cheri) isn't here and I wish she could have seen it."

The All-American from Batavia, Ill., played under the legendary Adolph Rupp from 1968-70. From there he went on to the American Basketball Association Kentucky Colonels and later the NBA, playing for the Denver Nuggets. In his days with the Colonels, Issel was the crowd favorite at Freedom Hall. During his stay with the Louisville organization, he became a part of the team's lone championship season.

After retiring from the Nuggets in 1985, Issel's point production was amazing, scoring more than 30,000 points which currently places him fourth among the all-time

scorers in the professional ranks.

"I had a great 15 years in the pros," Issel said, "but my favorite years were at Kentucky. Because of the enthusiasm and the support of the fans."

Today, Issel owns a thoroughbred horse farm in Versailles. He also is active in various charity and civic activities.

□ □ □

Several recruiting experts in Lexington for the Coca-Cola Thoroughbred Classic believe Kentucky will still wind up with California Don MacLean when the April signing period arrives.

Bob Gibbons of *All-Star Sports Publications* says he believes it will come down to Georgia Tech or Kentucky and that if he was going to pick Tech, he would have done it in November.

Both Bill Cronaaur and Van Coleman also believe Kentucky's chances are as good or better than anyone else's, although some think UCLA might have an outside shot.

Speaking of MacLean, Don had a brilliant tournament at the Beach Ball Classic in South Carolina late in December and scored 35 points and 18 rebounds in a 95-91 loss to Clay County of Kentucky in the title game of the losers' bracket.

MacLean had a total of 48 rebounds in the tournament which is only one shy of the tournament record.

Richie Farmer led the winners with 33 points and set a single-game assists record with 16 in the game against MacLean's Simi Valley High team. Clay County improved its record to 10-1 with the win while Simi Valley fell to 9-3.

Farmer and teammate Russ Chadwell, along with MacLean, were named to the all-tourney team. Farmer was selected the tourney's Outstanding Player while Kenny Anderson of Archbishop Malloy was named the Most Valuable Player.

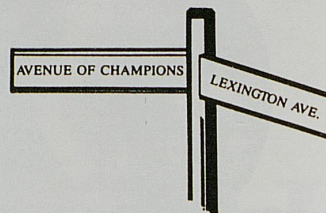
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HOOP TIDBITS . . . Auburn, expected to make a strong run for one of the top three

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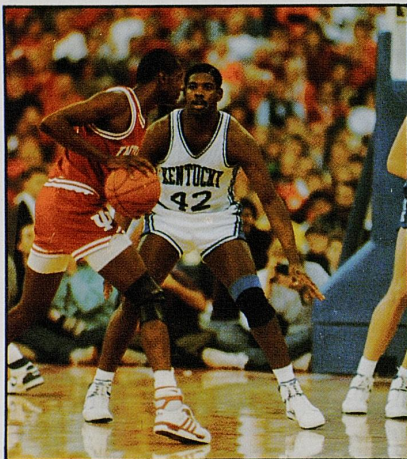


Oscar Combs'
BIG BLUE BASKETBALL



Last month Kentucky finished its pre-Southeastern Conference schedule with a 100-58 victory over Alaska-Anchorage. The blowout over the Seawolves gave the Wildcats a 7-0 mark as they prepared to enter conference play. Kentucky, however, will slip out of SEC play to face **Notre Dame** Jan. 30 at Freedom Hall and **Syracuse** Feb. 28 at Rupp Arena. Both games will be nationally televised.

Speaking of Alaska, coach **Ron Abegglen** mentioned that UK will be taking part



Madison Escapes Close Call

in next season's Great Alaska Shootout, although there has been no official statement from UK officials. Abegglen said that those Wildcat fans planning to attend next year's Shootout will have the time of their lives.

"You should try to make that," the Alaska coach said following his team's loss in Lexington. "If you haven't been to Alaska, it's a great experience and a unique place. Anchorage has about 250,000 people, about the size of Lexington. The people their love basketball and they love outdoor sports of all kinds. They are a very aggressive crowd, much like the crowd here.

"It's a great, great basketball tournament. You'll really like that. We just sent a contract to the **University of Florida**, they were very interested in playing in it. We've got the **California Bears** coming in, we've got **Stetson** coming in, **Iona** is going to be there. It's (scheduled) at Thanksgiving time.

So, if you can make it up there, you should. It's a great place to look at the wilderness."

He then quipped, "We've (even) got moose running down the streets."

□ □ □

Abegglen, like most coaches are, was impressed when he saw **Rex Chapman** play for the first time.

"I had watched a few tapes on him," Abegglen noted, "and it looked like he was struggling a little bit. But, we made him look like an All-American tonight. He's a very, very good and quick shooter. He's a little stronger physically than what I thought from watching game films (Louisville-UK). He's a lot more wiry and physical than I expected. I thought I would see a kind of lean, thin-looking guy. He's pretty strong, physically. Much more than I expected."

□ □ □

Onlookers following **Richard Madison's** automobile accident said that Madison and passenger **Eric Manuel** were very lucky to come out of the wreck with just bruises. The two Wildcats had just spent Christmas Day with the entire Wildcat team having dinner at coach Eddie Sutton's house. Madison's car pulled onto Harrodsburg Road and collided with another automobile.

No one was seriously hurt.

"It (Madison's car) was hit on an angle and the officer on the scene said it was worse than being hit head on," said **Russell Rice**, assistant to the athletics director. Rice, who was later at the site of the accident, termed the wreck as "scary" after looking at Madison's vehicle. The impact even knocked off one of Madison's rear wheels.

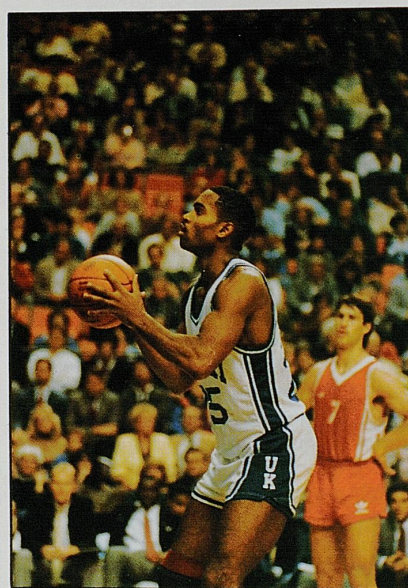
Both Madison and Manuel dressed out for the Alaska game but did not play.

Another 'Cat forced to the sideline over the holidays was freshman center **LeRon Ellis**. During a practice session, the 6-foot-10 Californian severely sprained his ankle and wasn't expected back until the second week of this month.

Against Alaska senior center **Rob Lock** had a portion of one of his front teeth knocked out. "I got hit in the jaw or something," said Lock. "I felt it break I spit it out as I

ran downcourt. Half of my tooth is still on the floor in Rupp Arena."

Reportedly, Lock also is suffering from a broken bone in his hand. Last season he had a broken bone in his hand and kept on playing. During this season, again he broke a bone in his hand, but he will keep on play-



Bennett Joins 1,000-Point Club

ing. He noted that he's having difficulty catching passes because of frequent pain.

□ □ □

There was one positive note that came about during the holidays, though. UK senior forward **Winston Bennett** earned a place in the Kentucky record books by joining the prestigious 1,000-point club. With 14:09 left to play in the first half of UK's win over Alaska, Bennett took a pass from teammate **Cedric Jenkins** and canned a 16-footer from the left side of the lane to secure his place in history. The Louisville native finished with a game-high 24 points.

□ □ □

Kentucky recruit **Chris Mills** is following up his junior campaign with an outstanding senior season. The 1987 Los Angeles Sec-

tion 4-A Division Player of the Year currently is averaging more than 30 points per outing for Fairfax. In a game against Valley League rival Cleveland High, he scored 42 points (including four dunks), pulled down 17 rebounds and blocked four shots as Fairfax won its conference opener 78-69.

"That guy is the best player I've seen in the city since **John Williams** (former LSU player and currently with the NBA's Washington Bullets)," Cleveland High coach **Bob Braswell** told the *Los Angeles Times* after the game. "He scores, he plays at the other end of the court, he rebounds, he blocks shots. I have nothing but respect for Chris Mills."

□ □ □

HITS AND MISSES: Former Kentucky guard **Dirk Minniefield** recently was picked up by the NBA's defending Eastern Conference champion Boston Celtics. Currently, Minniefield, **Kenny Walker** and **Melvin Turpin** are the only ex-Cats playing in the NBA. . . Although UK's numbers are dwindling in the NBA, six former Wildcats, including Minniefield, were taken recently in the first International Basketball Association draft. **Dicky Beal**, **Leroy Byrd**, **Kyle Macy**, **James Blackmon** and **Dwight Anderson** were also selected to play in the 10-team



Walker Struggling With Knicks

league for players standing 6-foot-4 and under. . . Speaking of **Sky Walker**, the No. 2 leading scorer in UK basketball history lately has been on the receiving end of boos from New York supporters. His play last month was not up to par and he was demoted to the bench. Knick coach **Rick Pitino** said that Walker was trying too hard. Meanwhile, Pitino noted that by coming off the bench, the second-year pro would have

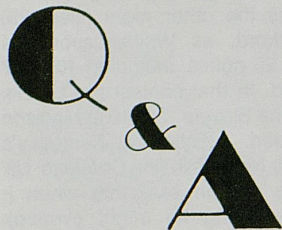
a better chance at regaining his confidence. It paid off as the other night (Dec. 29) against Portland, as Walker scored a season-high 25 points, including 10 of 17 from the field. In that contest the Knicks turned back the Blazers 123-110 at Madison Square Garden. . . Following Kentucky's 84-81 win over North Carolina Charlotte, UK coach **Eddie Sutton** said that when it comes to recruiting he might overlook speed, only if the player has adequate quickness and is an excellent shooter. His remark was triggered by UNCC's uncanny ability to hit 10 of 15 three-pointers against his club. So, does this mean the Wildcat staff interested in Clay County bombardier **Richie Farmer**? Time will only tell. . . From the no-news-is-bad-news department: When asked if UK has received test scores (ACT or SAT) from **Sean Woods** or **Shawn Kemp**, assistant **James Dickey** said the Wildcat staff hasn't. Neither Woods nor Kemp has yet to meet Proposition 48 guidelines, in regard to the entrance exam. . . Kentucky actually won't play its first "true" road encounter until Jan. 13 when it travels to Tuscaloosa to take on **Wimp Sanderson** and the **Alabama Crimson Tide**. In its first 11 games, UK's two games away from Rupp Arena were at Indianapolis for the Big Four Classic and at Atlanta's Omni (Jan. 2) against the Georgia Bulldogs.

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BIG BLUE BASKETBALL
With Coach Eddie Sutton



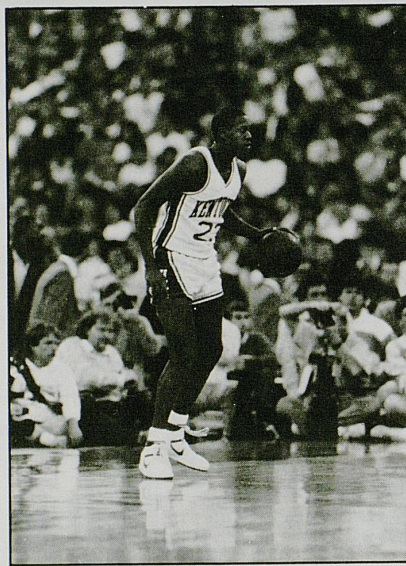
Even Rex Chapman Can Improve. . . And He Has

Question: What have you and opposing coaches been surprised by the most with sophomore Rex Chapman?

Eddie Sutton: I believe that Rex is a better basketball player this year than he was a year ago—from the standpoint that he's much stronger and has had the year of competition as a member of Kentucky, and what he was able to gain from his experience in the Pan American tryouts and in the competition in the Pan American games. He's a great athlete. I think he becomes a better basketball player every day because he's a tireless worker. He wants to get better. He's certainly not complacent. And as long as he has that attitude he will continue to get better because he has been given a lot of talent. In talking with other coaches I believe they're always impressed with how hard he plays and the uncanny ability to come up with big time plays. There are some great players that I've known through the years that never were able to maybe make as many big plays as Rex has been able to make in one-plus year. He's hit some big shots for us. We often look at just the shots that go in, but I still remember that play in Indianapolis when he stripped the ball, dove on the floor and in a very unorthodox position he was able to get the ball to (Richard) Madison. That's a big-time hustle play and a lot of players are never able to make plays like that.

Question: To take the question a step further, a couple of times Rex has left his man to come over and trap. Is that by design or is that something he does on his own?

Eddie Sutton: Just like we give certain players offensive freedom, we do teach in practice there are times you can gamble. When the gamble is one where you think it might be advantageous to your ballclub then do so. (Ed) Davender and Chapman are a couple of the players we give freedom to double up on the ball. Those are spontaneous plays. You can show them but they have to act on instinct, whether or not they feel like they can make the play. I would have to believe that the two players I just mentioned are the best that we have, but I'm not going



Manuel Most Impressive Freshman

to let some of our big guys have defensive freedom to go out there running and jumping. So, it is taught, yet when the time comes it's almost an instinctive play.

Question: Could you talk about what Derrick Miller is going through, concerning his poor shooting of late?

Eddie Sutton: He has been shooting the ball well in practice. Over the weekend (in UKIT) he would have had a good shooting performance, but he really didn't have that much of an opportunity. His attitude is good. He perhaps has lost some confidence.

Question: Is Derrick now basically a designated zone-buster, or can he play against a man-to-man defense?

Eddie Sutton: I believe he can play against the man, but I do believe he must understand that his biggest value is to shoot. This doesn't mean he can go out and mess up in the other areas of the game. His teammates realize that he can shoot the ball. If we are struggling, whether it be against a man or zone, when the shot comes along

he's got to be able to hit it. We did that against Miami (Ohio) and he got shots which were barely off. I mean they were all straight on target but they were just a little bit short. Now, I can't say that much for the shot he took (an air ball) against North Carolina-Charlotte.

Question: If Miller has a hot-hand, does he have permission, like some of the other players, to shoot at any time?

Eddie Sutton: Sure. If he's on—if he's running a fever—and if he comes up with the shot then we'll give him the green light to put it up.

Question: On the first pass?

Eddie Sutton: Sure. That would go to anyone if they're extremely hot. We would feed them the basketball and tell him to shoot it and then tell the rebounders to go fetch it.

Question: Would you go over the progress of the freshmen (excluding redshirts)?

Eddie Sutton: Well, of the four freshmen that have played, the one that has stood out in the minds of the coaching staff and you all (local media) would be Eric Manuel. Eric Manuel has played excellent basketball. LeRon (Ellis) has made a lot of progress. I don't believe it helped him any by missing the Miami game (due to curfew violations). He could have played quite a bit in that ballgame. And in the game against North Carolina Charlotte he didn't get that much playing time. We're not that concerned with LeRon (Ellis). Freshmen develop at different stages. But in the six games, Eric has played the best and LeRon has played well at times. Reggie (Hanson) has not been given the opportunity to play that much. Sean (Sutton) knows his role. The times he's played he's played very well. His problem, as it is for all the players, is defensively, who does he cover? The other night I would have liked to put him in the ballgame (against UNCC) to give Ed Davender some rest but I didn't believe he could cover (Jeff) West or (Byron) Dinkins. That's what it comes down to. I know offensively he can play against anybody. In fact, our ballclub runs very smoothly when

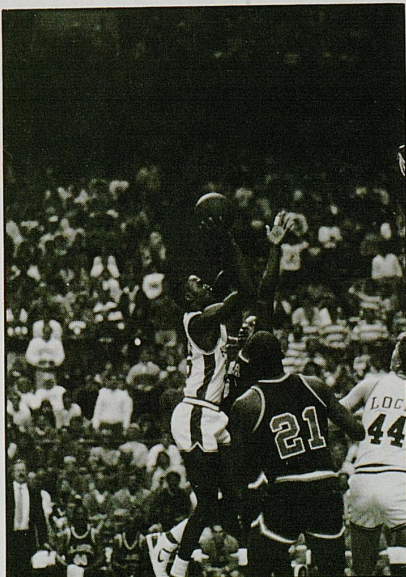
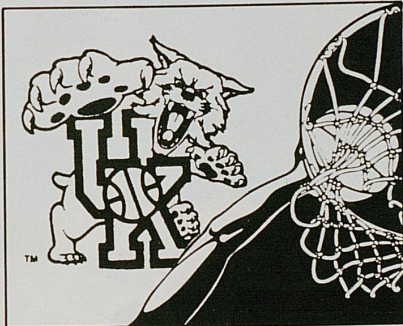
he's out there because he's really not looking to shoot the ball. He moves the ball and he doesn't make mistakes. But, I'm very pleased with the four freshmen.

Question: What about play throughout the country in December?

Eddie Sutton: This is to show you how crazy college basketball is. I use this (example) because I'm familiar with the teams. This is why that during the month of December that it's even crazier—strange things happen. Tulsa beat Arkansas 68-47. The next week Arkansas beat Ole Miss 79-40. So, that's 60 points difference. Tulsa is now going to play Mississippi, having already beat Arkansas and Arkansas beat Ole Miss. So, if you look at figures of the games you'd say that Tulsa is a 60-point favorite over the Rebels. Well, Ole Miss beats Tulsa by 13. So there is a difference of 73 points in opponents. That's why you can never compare scores, because that isn't the way it works.

Question: You were favored by 50 points over Louisville, weren't you?

Eddie Sutton: And I said we'd take a one-point victory (the UK coach said with a smile).



Hanson Must Play Better Defense



Sutton Says LeRon Ellis Is Making Progress, Too

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Saying; As A Role Player
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Nation's Best Assistants

By Mike Estep

When you reflect back on Kentucky's championship season of 1978, immediately, all the great stars come to mind: All-Americans Jack Givens, Kyle Macy and Rick Robey; Mike Phillips, who teamed with Robey to form Kentucky's first "Twin Towers" combination; super sixth-man James Lee.

But even though he spent the season in the shadows, little-known reserve Dwane Casey played as big a part in the drive to the title as anybody.

"(Dwane was) one of the most important people on the team that year," Givens was quoted as saying in Bert Nelli's book *The Winning Tradition: A History of Kentucky Wildcat Basketball*. "Everyday in practice and every minute he was in a game he showed more heart and desire than any guy I have ever seen. Considering the limited amount of time he got to play he could have complained and caused dissension. Instead he was always the happiest and most optimistic member of the team."

In those few words, Givens managed to describe Casey perfectly.

Heart. Desire. Happy. Optimistic. You can add determination, dedication and leadership to that list, too.

A two-time all-state selection at Morgantown's Union County High School, Casey followed his best friend, Larry Johnson, to Kentucky in 1976. And although he was never able to attain star status as a Wildcat—for his four-year career Casey scored 125 points and grabbed 51 rebounds in 95 games—he was always an integral part of the club.

"I've got a little special All-American team in the back of my mind," former UK coach Joe Hall once said. "You won't find the usual high-scoring stars on it because these players are the ones whose contributions off the floor exceed their contributions on the floor. Dwane Casey is right there."

Dwane Casey is still right there. Only now he does his thing as one of college basketball's best young assistant coaches.

Following his playing career, Casey spent a year as a graduate assistant under Hall, before moving to Western with coach Clem Haskins. After some soul-searching—he left Western briefly to work for a Lexington TV station, only to return a few months later—Casey started a coaching career that would eventually lead him back to his alma mater.

Always considered an excellent recruiter at Western, Casey was recently selected by a national publication as the best recruiter in the college game today, an honor he accepts reluctantly.

Casey was able to find time in his busy schedule—he says his work days often stretch from daylight to midnight—during the UKIT to talk to *BBB*.

In the following question-and-answer session, Casey talks about his playing days, his coaching career and his plans for the future:

Big Blue Basketball: Dwane, first of all I'd like to discuss your playing days. You had an outstanding career at Union County High School, you were a two-time all-stater, and deservedly, you were inducted into the Kentucky State High School Hall of Fame last year. Was it difficult for you to come to UK and see yourself develop into a role player?

Dwane Casey: It was, and I think that's one of the most difficult things for a so-called high school star to do, is to come in and feel out his role and find out what his role is on the team. My role under coach Hall was as a defensive player and handling the ball and getting the ball into the offense, getting the ball inside to guys like Robey, Phillips and Jack. I felt like I adjusted well. It was tough at first, as it is for any freshman, but I feel like I adjusted and accepted it mentally, to do the things coach Hall wanted.

Big Blue Basketball: It came down, basically, to a decision between UK and Vanderbilt. Was there ever a time when you wished you had gone to Vandy, or some other school where you could have seen more playing time?

Dwane Casey: No. You do think about that sometimes, it's human nature to do that, but in my heart I've always been a Kentucky fan. I grew up being a Kentucky fan. My hometown, that's all it is, is Kentucky. So it was very easy for me to make that decision.

Big Blue Basketball: I was thinking about this the other day, you probably played ball during one of the most exciting times in UK basketball history. You were a part of the 1976 NIT championship team and the 1978 NCAA championship team. And you were one of the few players that had the opportunity to play in both Memorial Coliseum and Rupp Arena. What was it like?

Dwane Casey: I'll tell you, in my experience here at Kentucky I played on a lot of winning teams. It was a great situation. Like you said, we won the NIT there in New York. And that was very exciting because no one expected us to win. We were 10-10 and one point and we came out down the stretch and won our last 10 games. That was probably as exciting as winning the NCAA because nobody really expected us to do it. We had lost five seniors—(Bob) Guyette, (Kevin) Grevey, (Jimmy Dan) Conner, (Mike) Flynn and Jerry Hale—and (Steve) Lochmueller the year before that. They went to the Final Four in San Diego, but nobody really expected us that next year to do anything. And then to come back and win the NIT the year after the Final Four, that was really a great time. And then to come on two years later and win an NCAA championship.

Big Blue Basketball: In between the '76 NIT championship and the '78 NCAA championship was the '77 club, which lost that heartbreaker to North Carolina in the East

Regional Finals. You had almost the same personnel that season—Kyle Macy hadn't become eligible at UK yet, that would be the most notable exception—as you did in '78. Mike Phillips, Truman Claytor and Jay Shidler were suspended for the UKIT that year for curfew violations, and I read somewhere that coach Hall said that the incident caused a division among some of the players, and he said he thought that kept you from possibly going to yet another Final Four. How would you respond to that?

Dwane Casey: Well, on any team. . . you're like a family and you're gonna have problems here and there. And I thought we handled, and coach Hall handled, that situation very well. It kinda disturbed us during that UKIT a little bit, but we bounced back and had an outstanding season. We got in the finals of the East Regional against North Carolina up in Maryland, and they had a great team with Phil Ford, Walter Davis, and (Mitch) Kupchek. They had a helluva team that year.

Big Blue Basketball: And then that next year, of course, you won the NCAA title in St. Louis, a season a lot of people have called "the season without celebration," or "the season without joy." Looking back, was it really as businesslike and unemotional as some people would like to portray it?

"Like anybody else, I wish I could've played more and been a great player, but I did what I could do to help us win a national championship."

—Dwane Casey

Dwane Casey: It was strictly business. We knew what our job was gonna be, and we started out the first day of school with our running program. As soon as we reported, we had a running program that day. So we knew that coach Hall and the coaching staff meant business. We had a great running program that year, and I think there's something to it that your running program is gonna be a barometer of what kind of season you're gonna have. I think we got up to something like 15 220s or 18 220s that year, and that was very difficult. (Strength coach Pat) Etcheberry put us through a rigorous running program, and we ran the last 220 as a team. And at that time we knew that year was gonna be something special because everybody was working hard and paid the price. Rick came back in great shape, he'd slimmed down to 220; Mike Phillips dedicated himself, he came back in great shape; everybody dedicated themselves and we came back in great shape ready to go. So that running program set the tone for the rest of the year. We had one bad practice that entire year, the rest of the time we had knock-down, drag-out practices because there was so much com-

petition in practice. . . the first team against the second team. Guys got into it, there was a lot of competition—diving on the court, taking a charge, busted lips, getting fingers in the eyes. You had everything going on but it was all in competition. And then we went out and took it out on the other teams.

Big Blue Basketball: You've mentioned some of the starters on the team, but you haven't mentioned yourself. You didn't get a lot playing time, only 177 minutes in 26 games, but coach Hall has said you were very important to that team. And Jack Givens said that if it wasn't for you, displaying a great attitude and pushing everybody in practice, it's very possible there would have been no championship. I think that says a lot about Dwane Casey.

Dwane Casey: That was nice of Coach to say. I won the 110 Percent Award that year, and that was probably the most valued award I've ever received because I did go out and lay it on the line every day in practice, tried to make the first-team players work hard, tried to make the best of the opportunities I got in the games to produce. So that was really an honor for coach Hall to give me that award. Like anybody else, I wish I could've played more and been a great player, but I did what I could do to help us win a national championship.

Big Blue Basketball: All during coach Hall's tenure, all the players went out around the state and had a lot of speaking engagements to various clubs and organizations, yourself being one of the most popular guests. Since coach Sutton's arrival, however, we haven't seen much of that. Your thoughts on that?

Dwane Casey: A lot of it is the change made in NCAA rules and a change in policy. I think there were a lot of questions that came up about how you go about arranging those speaking engagements. I enjoyed going out in the state and making speaking engagements, speaking to different groups. I think I've spoken to almost everyone in the state of Kentucky. I think a lot of it was because Kyle, Rick and the other guys were so booked up that I was the easiest one to get. So I enjoyed it, met a lot of great people around the state of Kentucky, made a lot of friends around the state and tried to pass the word out about the Kentucky basketball program.

Big Blue Basketball: I was reading a feature story that appeared in *The Cats' Pause* during your junior year, and you were quoted as saying you wanted to coach a few years on the college level and then wanted to get into business, which is pretty much what you did. But after you worked in the sales department at Channel 27 here in Lexington for a year, you got back into coaching. What was it that drew you back to the game?



Casey Takes A Momentary Break From Reviewing Videotape

Dwane Casey: Well, I'd say it was really like three or four months. I just didn't know what I wanted to do. I was like any other young man that graduates from college, I really wasn't sure. I stayed here and worked for coach Hall as a grad assistant, then I went with coach (Clem) Haskins at Western and stayed a year. We won the OVC that year, I had a great first year. At that time I still wasn't sure if I wanted to be in coaching or not. So I came and worked in sales at 27 for about four months, so then before the season was over I went back to Western. I'm grateful coach Haskins and coach (xx) Roland allowed me to come back. I enjoyed working at Channel 27, it's a great organization, but it just wasn't what I wanted to do at that time in my life.

Big Blue Basketball: You've worked under three very successful coaches—Joe Hall, Clem Haskins and Eddie Sutton. How has each one shaped your coaching philosophy?

Dwane Casey: That's a great question. I tell a lot of recruits, a lot of parents and a lot of people that I feel like I've had one of the best backgrounds for coaching that I could possibly have. Coach Sutton, first of all, is an innovative, great coach. He knows the game inward and outwards, he's a veteran coach and he learned most of his basketball from coach Henry Iba at Oklahoma A&M. It's ironic that I've also had the opportunity to coach under coach Hall, who got a lot of his philosophy from Adolph Rupp, who along with coach Iba was one of the two top coaches ever in the game. And then coach Haskins worked for coach (Gene) Keady for two years as an assistant coach, and most of his philosophy came from him. And coach Keady, of course, learned his basketball from

coach Sutton. So it really helped me when I first got here to work for coach Sutton because (at Western) we had the same numbering system, the same offensive philosophy, the same terminology as coach Sutton did, because we were running the same things that they did at Arkansas. So I've been a believer of coach Sutton, I've followed his basketball teams ever since he was at Arkansas. I've learned so much basketball from him. His method is so sound, he coaches basketball the way his players can understand what he is talking about. Some people can X and O all day long, but if your players can't understand it, what good is it? He breaks it down into a philosophy that the players understand. He gives the players a lot of freedom, but yet still it's within a method. So that's why I've been so impressed with coach Sutton and why I've learned so much from him.

I also learned a lot from coach Hall, more from a mental aspect, than say, a philosophical aspect. Coach Hall was an excellent basketball coach. He will never get the credit that he deserves for his coaching career here at Kentucky. But I think history will be good to him, for the fact that he did make it to the Final Four twice and won a national championship in 13 years. Some coaches stay in coaching 30 years and only win one championship, or don't win any. So he did it in 13 years, and he had a lot of pressure on him. Coach Rupp's people will never give him credit, and they have their reasons I'm sure, but he did a great job. I understand him better now, it's a lot like a parent and a child—you understand your parents after you become a parent, moreso than when you were growing up. And I

understand more about coach Hall, I understand his philosophy and his reasons for doing things a lot better now than I did when I played for him. So it has helped me have a better understanding of young people and basketball.

Coach Haskins, I've learned a lot from him just about people, knowing people, dealing with people—because he's a "people person."

So I think I've had the best of three worlds, working for coach Sutton, who I regard as a tactician, a teacher, an innovator; coach Hall, who was a psychologist, a motivator; and coach Haskins, who is a basketball person, a people person, and a teacher also. I feel like I've had the best of three worlds.

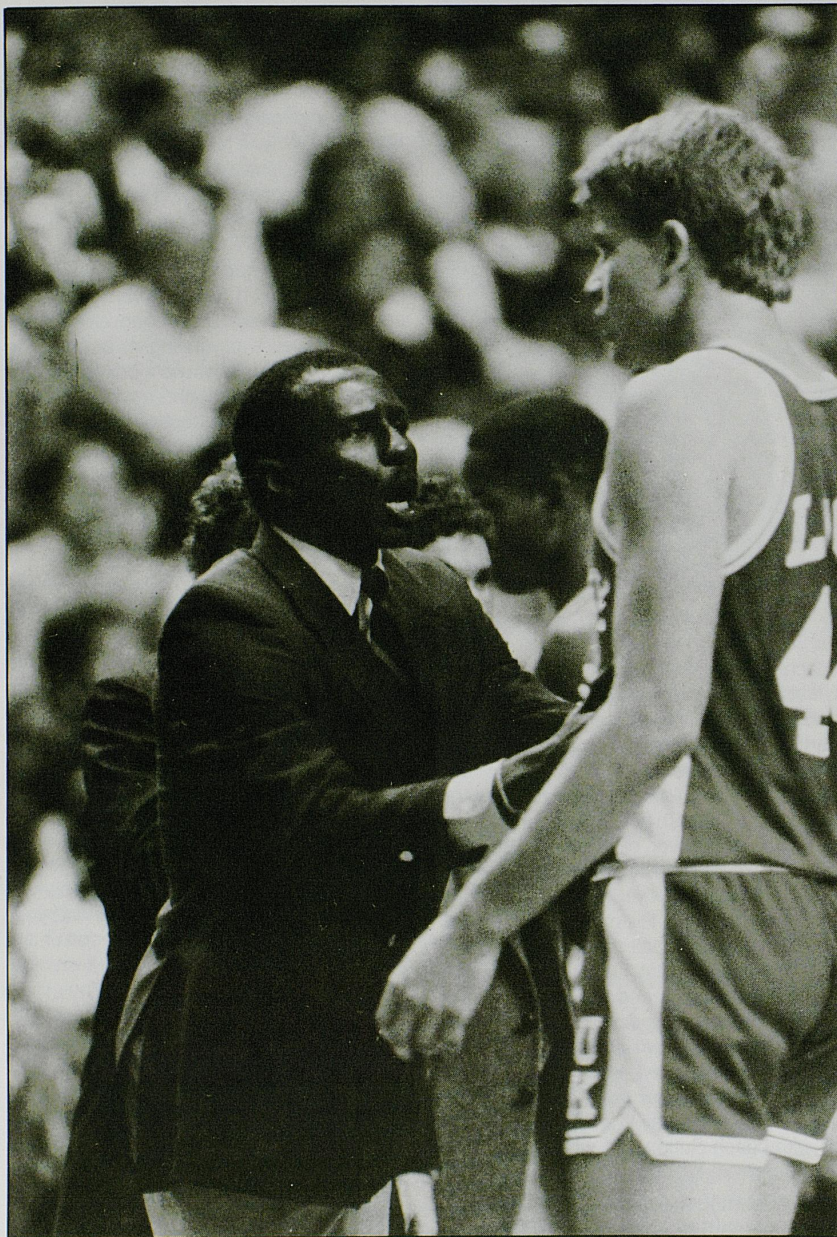
Big Blue Basketball: Ever since your days at Western, you've been regarded as one of the nation's best recruiters. Do you attribute that to plain hard work, or is that just something you're born with?

Dwane Casey: Well, I really don't like being labeled as just a recruiter, because that makes it look to some people like, "Well, he can recruit, but he can't coach." I study the game of basketball, I read everything about basketball that I can get my hands on, I watch teams on television and study the way they're playing, I try to understand coach Sutton's philosophy inside and out—why he does things, why he makes that decision—so it can benefit me if I'm ever a head coach. So I really try to stay away from being regarded as a recruiter. Recruiting is something you have to do, because you can X and O your behind off and still get beat if you don't have the athletes. That's something I do, it's natural for me. I enjoy meeting people, I feel, like I said, I'm a people person. I've always gotten along with people ever since I was very young. I appreciate that compliment, but then again I try to stay away from it, because I want to be known as a "coach" and not just a "recruiter." I feel like I understand the game of basketball and how to deal with people. I'm doing something I have to do, and that's an evil of coaching.

Coach Sutton is a great recruiter. James Dickey, Jimmy Dykes are two people-oriented coaches, they do a great job as far as that is concerned. So I'm not the kind of person that wants to take all the credit for recruiting. It's a nice tag, I'm proud of it, but I want people to remember the basketball part, too.

Big Blue Basketball: As long as we're on the subject of recruiting, though, I know it's a year-round proposition. Could you break it down and explain what you do during the off-season, and then once the season gets underway?

Dwane Casey: In the summertime, what James and I will do is go to the all the different camps around the country—B/C, Five Star, and then the most prestigious camp go-



Casey Wants To Be Known As "Coach," Not "Recruiter"

ing right now is the Nike Camp, which will invite probably the best 200 prospects in the nation. So you can go there and save the university and save your budget a lot of money. And the Nike people do a good job of promoting education, promoting anti-drug programs, anti-alcohol programs for the athletes. Not only do they teach basketball, they teach you how to study, how to take the SAT and ACT tests, which is a big issue right now. They just do a great job. So not only from a basketball aspect do you learn a lot about a young man, you learn what he does in an educational/academic environment. So I'll go to that for a week and a half in June,

and just go around the country to all the camps and try to pick and choose what players fit into Kentucky's philosophy. The type of person that fits into the University of Kentucky's program. . . it takes a special person. And if he's a good enough athlete to be at the Nike Camp then he's a good enough athlete to be playing in a bit-time situation the way it is here at Kentucky. So that's what we do during most of the summer. They've cut that down now where we go out for about a month in the summertime, which has helped coaches coach instead of just going out on the road recruiting all the time. So that's great, I enjoy it a lot more. Your recruiting is

condensed into two periods, and you can concentrate on coaching basketball, which is what you should be doing. We had a great tournament here at the university (the Kentucky Prep All-Star Festival) sponsored by Mr. Brown Badgett, so we got a lot of great prospects here. We go around to different tournaments like that. What we try to do is hit all the densely-populated areas, that way we kill a lot of birds with one stone. We're cost-conscious, every university is cost-conscious—that's why we hit California, Chicago, Atlanta, Houston, New York, the D.C. area, all of the densely-populated areas.

Big Blue Basketball: Let's pretend that I'm a prospect that the University of Kentucky is thinking of recruiting. And as long as were pretending, let's say I'm a high school All-American and I've been at the Nike Camp. How early in my career will you contact me?

Dwane Casey: We believe we have to contact you. . . if you're a great athlete, you've probably been earmarked during you sophomore year, which is fairly early. But it's not that early with the early signing date. So virtually, players are signing before they even start their senior year, they're signing one month into their senior year. Really, they're juniors, so you have to get started a little earlier nowadays. And that's one evil about early signing—it's backed up recruiting a couple of years and now you're looking at freshmen and sophomores, like you would have been in the past with sophomores and juniors. Now some athletes are even getting letters when they're in eighth grade. I think it's detrimental to contact anyone at that age because so many things can happen. But we start looking at people during their freshman and sophomore year, evaluating talent, finding out as much about them as people as we possibly can, finding out if they have the right kind of chemistry to play at the University of Kentucky. Academically, we're looking very strongly at that, moreso than ever. So that's when we first make contact and start building a relationship with them, but we're not making commitments as far as scholarships go at that time.

Big Blue Basketball: Can you compare recruiting at Western and at UK? Does Kentucky sell itself, because of the great tradition, a little more than Western?

Dwane Casey: Yes, it does. We can be a little more selective at the University of Kentucky, but everything's relative. Even though we can be selective, so can Georgetown, so can North Carolina, so can Indiana, so can UCLA, so can the other schools in our conference, now that we've established ourselves as a basketball conference. So everything is relative. In the past coach Rupp had the luxury of holding tryouts, which you can't do nowadays, but no more can you sit back and say, "We're the University of Kentucky." We

have to work just as hard as anybody else. We have the same big arenas, the same exposure, the same targeting public as other people do, so it's all relative. At Western, we didn't have the same budget, but then we weren't going up against the same schools, either. We had to try to go out and find sleepers—guys like Tellis Frank, who wasn't highly-recruited, and Clarence Martin, who was a high school football All-American. Those two guys are playing pro basketball now. So at that time we had to go out and find sleepers and try to develop them into basketball players, where at Kentucky we have the luxury of recruiting players that are so-called ready to step in and play, physically. I might emphasize "physically," because mentally they might not be ready, but physically they are.

Big Blue Basketball: One more question about Western: Was it difficult for you to coach against UK in that '86 NCAA game?

Dwane Casey: No, it wasn't, because my paycheck was red (as in Hilltopper red). As a coach, your alma mater is great, but you're coaching a team, you've worked hard to get where you are and you have to pull for your players. My emotions were mixed before the game, but once they threw the ball up I wanted to win like anybody else. Then after we got beat, I was for Kentucky the rest of the way for the rest of the tournament.

Big Blue Basketball: Being a major college basketball coach is so time-consuming—you're always busy with recruiting, game preparation, scouting, etc. How do you find time to get away from basketball and relax?

Dwane Casey: I usually try to find at least an hour a day where I can go and play racquetball. I love playing racquetball. I still enjoy playing basketball, but playing pickup basketball games is very time-consuming and I really find a lot of relaxation in competing in racquetball. When I'm on the road sometimes I play with (Georgia coach) Hugh Durham, who's a great racquetball player, and (former UK player and current Owensboro High coach) Randy Embry, who's one of the top racquetball players in the state of Kentucky. So we have some great games and I really enjoy the competition. It gives me an outlet to get rid of a lot of tension.

Big Blue Basketball: I happen to know that you and UK assistant Jimmy Dykes recently were involved in a charity event where you and other bachelors were "auctioned off" to young ladies here in town. Seriously though, how does a former Wildcat basketball player now coaching at UK stay single at 30 years of age?

Dwane Casey: It's tough. . .no, wait a minute, I don't mean it's tough. Marriage is something I'm looking forward to, I'd like to find the right person to settle down with. But basketball is so time-consuming. And it's

hard to find a companion that can understand that, unless she's been involved in basketball. Most of my time is consumed with basketball recruiting and coaching. I'm busy a lot of times from daylight to midnight. So it's hard to find time to go out. And I'm not a run-around type of person, I don't get out and about around town because I'm aware and very concerned of the kind of image a basketball coach should have. I've never

been that type of person. But dating is something that I do in my spare time, if I can find the time.

Big Blue Basketball: We've mentioned how time-consuming it is to be top-flight recruiter because you're on the road all the time. So do you see yourself becoming a head coach, and if so, do you have a timetable for that?

Dwane Casey: That's my goal. And coach Sutton really pushes James (Dickey) and me to think in those terms. We'll have meeting where he'll say, "Someday, when you become a head coach, when you get your own program, you'll want to think about this." He's helped us start looking in those directions and thinking in those terms. I think when you're a young coach, my first couple of years back in the early '80s at Western, I never thought of even thinking like that. I was just happy to be recruiting and be part of the staff. Now though, the more you start thinking in those terms—and coach Sutton is great in giving us responsibility and leeway as far as coaching is concerned—I'm thinking. When coach Sutton makes a decision, I'm thinking, "What would I do in that situation?" He always seems to make the right decision, so I've learned from him. But that's my goal, I'd like to have my own Division I program. I haven't set a timetable or anything like that, but I'll just wait for the opportunity to present itself.

Big Blue Basketball: We read many accounts of schools being placed on probation for recruiting violations, of all the dirty deals that go on in the recruitment of a prospect. You're out there every day, how much cheating is really happening?

Dwane Casey: I think a lot of that is blown out of proportion. You hear those horror stories, but I don't think there's that much of that going on. I think the integrity of the game is the highest it's been in a long time. As far as overall cheating, I'd say the NCAA has done a great job of policing. They have a "Big Brothers" program where they follow a recruit through his entire junior and senior year, and that makes it virtually impossible for them to commit an NCAA violation, because they follow them so closely for that entire period of time. That has really helped clean up violations, even minor violations, as far as recruiting is concerned.

Big Blue Basketball: Have you ever been recruiting a kid, and along comes somebody—whether it's a booster, an assistant coach or anybody—that offers the kid something to come to his school?

Dwane Casey: You know you hear about that, but I haven't seen it happen. I mentioned those horror stories while ago but I haven't seen it happen yet. Everyone likes to talk about that but I think most of it's blown out of proportion. I haven't seen any of that in my nine years, and I hope I never will.

Dwane Casey's Favorites

Hobbies: racquetball, listening to music, reading about successful people

Cartoon character: The Roadrunner

Movie: *The Color Purple*

Singing group or artist: Patti Labelle, Luther Vandross

Athletic hero: Larry Johnson

Meal: fried chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, homemade rolls and ice tea

Book: "Season On The Brink"

Parts of the country: Kentucky, L.A., Seattle

Holiday: Christmas

Quote or saying: 1) The fat dog never caught a rabbit; 2) There's no free ice cream; 3) You can't whip a bear with a switch; 4) You can't win the Kentucky Derby on a mule, you have to have a thoroughbred; 5) You can't soar with eagles in the day and hoot with owls at night.

Three people, living or dead, that I would like to sit down and talk with: John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Adolph Rupp

People I most admire: The President of the United States, because of his awesome responsibility; My father and my grandfather because of their work ethic; Happy Chandler because he helped open baseball to Jackie Robinson; The head basketball coach at UK, because of all the pressure involved.

Dwane On Dwane

Your New Year's Resolution is to . . . "spend more time with my family."

You've never been able to . . . "accept success or compliments very well."

You'd give anything to meet . . . "Martin Luther King."

You knew you were grown up when . . . "I moved out of Wildcat Lodge and got my first bill in the mail."

Nobody would believe it if they saw you . . . "teaching basketball in Japan."

Your friends like you because . . . "I'm an understanding and caring person, and always there when they need me."

The worst advice your parents ever gave you was . . . "Give up basketball, get a job!"

The best advice your parents ever gave you was . . . "Work hard and good things will come to you!"

Your greatest accomplishment in life has been . . . "helping contribute to a national championship."

A VIEW FROM THE STANDS

BIG BLUE BASKETBALL'S LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

How 'bout Them 'Cats, Jocko?

Dear Sir:

I don't care if Kentucky wins another game this year (just kidding of course), Eddie Sutton and the Big Blue have already given me my best two Christmas presents—wins over Louisville and Indiana.

Living here in Louisville is pretty tough sometimes with those Cardinal fans and Jock Sutherland, but I think I can put up with them for another year.

I get amused with Jocko the more he hangs around those Louisville fans. All I hear now is how *close* Louisville came to beating UK after being down 15 early in the game.

If memory serves me well, it's the final score which counts and Kentucky has now won five, count 'em fi-v-e of the last six games with UL.

It'd be nice if Eddie would quit scheduling the automatic wins and play someone who would be decent competition. Remember how we used to beat Kansas so much we finally quit scheduling them?

Everybody talks about how tough Louisville is at the end of the season. Well, some people don't follow basketball very much. When Louisville had its best team, the Cards were just as impressive in December as they were March. Only a couple times in Crum's 17 years have the Cards actually been substantially better at the end than the beginning. All that other garbage is just a bunch of bull which everybody keeps repeating.

Regardless, I'll take Kentucky's one-point win in Rupp Arena and that 34-point blowout a year ago in Freedom Hall any day and worry about the end of the season when it gets here. If December games don't count, why play them?

Keep up the good work. I really enjoy the features in *BBB* on the assistant coaches.

Jeffrey Andrews
Jeffersonton, Ky.

Too Many Benchwarmers!

Dear Sir:

I think Kentucky is off to a fine start this season, winning against IU, Louisville and the UKIT, but I can't understand why coach (Eddie) Sutton isn't playing more of his players.

After last season when he was caught short-handed, he said he'd never get in that situation again. Well, he isn't but he isn't playing some of the players who weren't even redshirted.

I'm glad he decided to redshirt (Deron) Feldhaus, (Johnathon) Davis and (John) Pelphrey because they probably would not have gotten a lot of playing time anyway. But what about LeRon Ellis, Derrick Miller, Mike Scott and even Eddie's own son, Sean?

I always thought Eddie liked to play lots of people, keeping his starters fresh and press-

ing full-court a lot. If you're not going to play your bench people a lot against teams like UNCC, Cincinnati and Miami, they're certainly not going to be ready to take on the Floridas, LSUs and Georgias of the SEC.

C'mon Eddie, let's play all the kids. There might come a night when one of them will be sorely needed.

Barry Ezart
Cincinnati, Ohio

Why Not Richie?

Dear Sir:

Could you please tell me why Kentucky isn't recruiting Richie Farmer of Clay County?

He's going to be Kentucky's Mr. Basketball and one of the top 100 prospects in the nation, yet the only schools reportedly to be interested in him are the OVC level schools.

Anyone who saw him play in last year's state tournament knows what a great player he is and he can shoot the lights out. Above all that, his high school team won the state championship which shows he is a team player.

The only thing I ever hear is that he is slow. Slow? Is speed the only thing that matters in basketball? He must have been pretty fast the way Clay County has been playing this year, and they just got through beating Don MacLean's California team in the South Carolina Christmas tournament.

Tell Eddie to give this Kentucky kid a chance and he won't be sorry.

Ms. Louis Grindstone
Somerset, Kentucky

Thanks, Russell

Dear Sir:

I've read with a great deal of interest Russell Rice's articles about the recruiting of black basketball players at the University of Kentucky in recent issues of *BBB*.

They have been the best sports articles I've read on Kentucky basketball since Dave Kindred left Louisville a decade ago.

I had never before read stories about coach Adolph Rupp and his attempts to recruit blacks. Sure, I'd heard all those horror stories about how he supposedly hated blacks. I'm glad to know there was another side to those stories.

Kentucky has come a long way since the days of segregation and I believe we were a leader in the South. I'm just as proud of the Sam Bowies, Charlie Hurts and Eddie Davenders as I am of the players in the '50s. They all were, and still are, great people.

I can remember how tough it was for coach Joe Hall back in the early 1970s when he was trying to recruit blacks and all the other schools around the country would use hate mail to keep them from coming to UK.

A lot sure has change over the past 20 years

and we're better for it. Just wanted to let you know I really like the stories on Wildcats of the past.

Robert Malone
Dayton, Ohio

BBB No. 1 On My List

Dear Sir:

Here's my renewal to *BBB*. My subscription isn't up until February but I don't want to miss an issue of the greatest sports magazine on the face of this earth.

There was a time when the most important thing in my life was *Sports Illustrated*, but that changed when you starting publishing *The Cats' Pause* several years ago. Now, *TCP* is No. 2 behind *BBB* and *SI* has slipped to No. 3.

I bleed Blue every time I nick myself with a razor and that happens every morning the 'Cats play. This is going to be Kentucky's year and a trip to Kansas City. I don't expect Kentucky to lose over two or three games before tournament time.

The way I see it, Kentucky will lose at Florida and at Tennessee (I thought Eddie might change our luck there when he won his first year, but you saw what happened last winter).

Nobody will beat UK in Rupp Arena and the 'Cats will eat Notre Dame alive in Louisville.

Everything will be great if Eddie will just play LeRon Ellis a little more and give him the experience he'll need in March.

James R. Ray
Louisville, Kentucky

Picture Perfect

Dear Sir:

I just picked up my first copy of *BBB* at my local Winn-Dixie Supermarket and I was wondering if there is any possible way to purchase back issues?

I love the big full-color photo in the December issue and was wondering if each issue has a picture like the one of Sean Woods. If so, how do I go about ordering them?

Also find enclosed a check for \$21 to cover the cost of a new subscription to this great magazine, I love it.

Roger Mitchell
Louisville, Ky.

(Editor's note: Roger, give us a call at the office and we'll see if we can locate some back issues for you.)

Letters should include name and address of the writer and be addressed to:

A VIEW FROM THE STANDS
BIG BLUE BASKETBALL
P.O. BOX 21809
LEXINGTON, KY. 40522

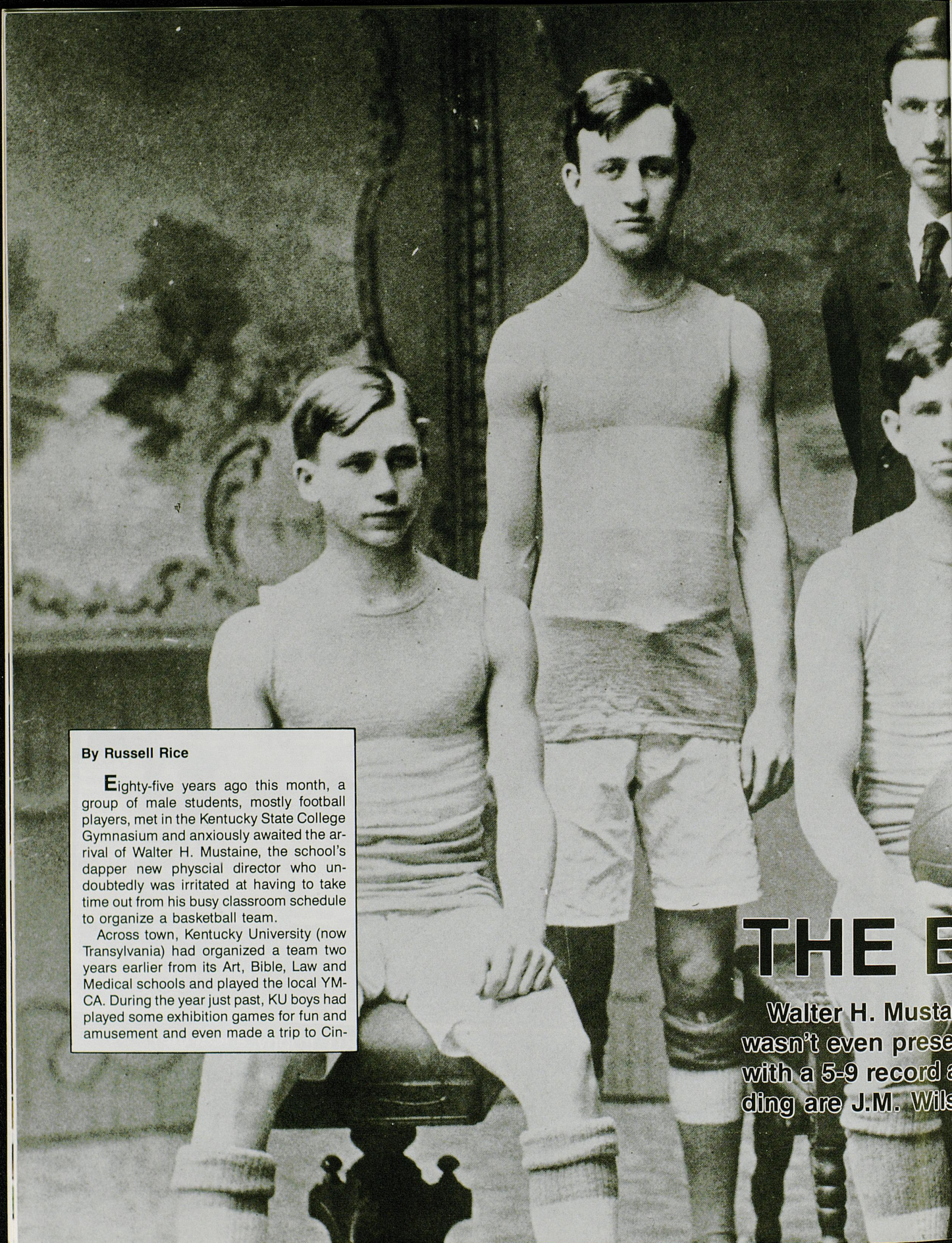
Oscar Combs'

BIG BLUE BASKETBALL

Remember
When...



...Joe Hall and his players accepted the 1977 UKIT Trophy, a feat they would duplicate at the end of that NCAA championship year in St. Louis?



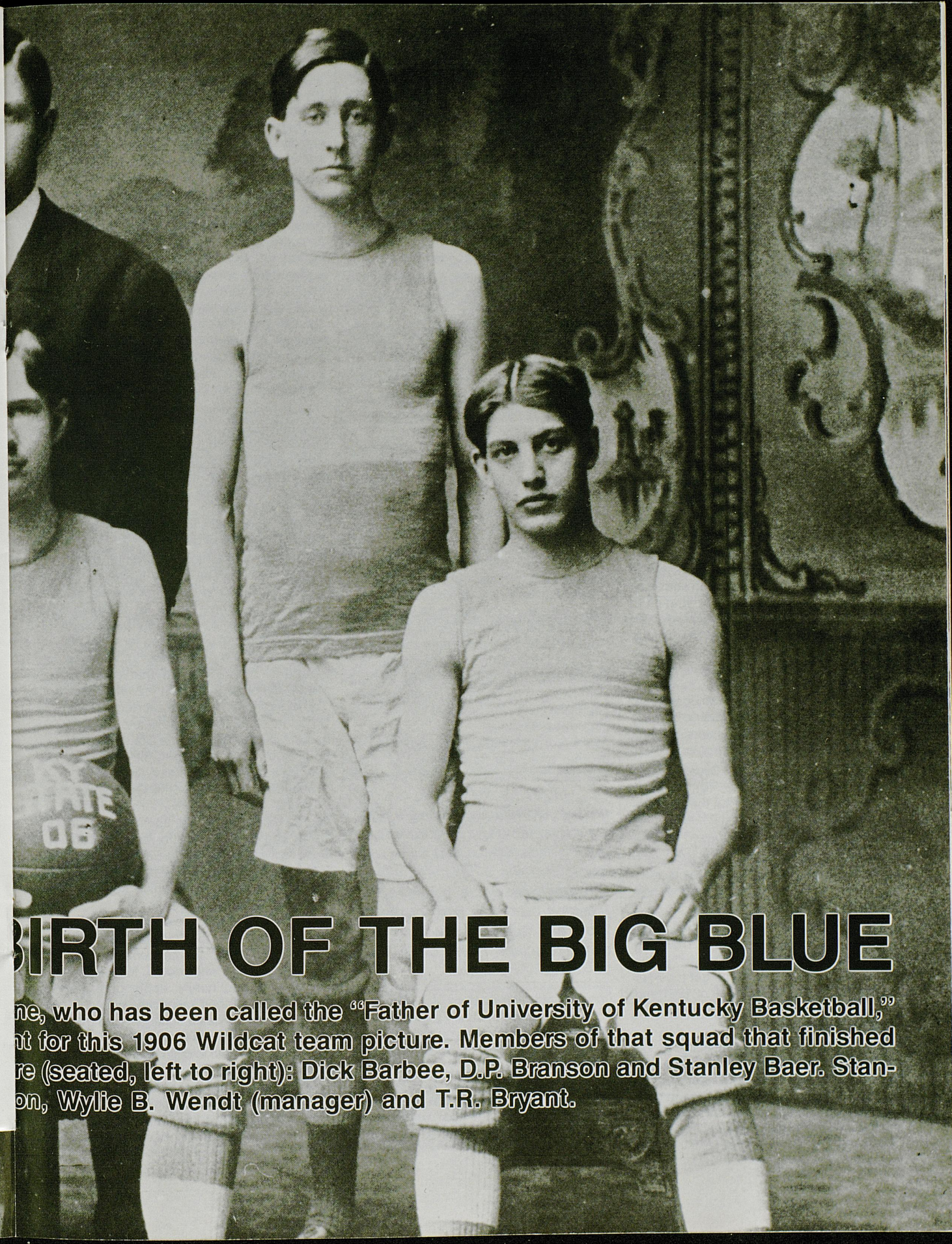
By Russell Rice

Eighty-five years ago this month, a group of male students, mostly football players, met in the Kentucky State College Gymnasium and anxiously awaited the arrival of Walter H. Mustaine, the school's dapper new physical director who undoubtedly was irritated at having to take time out from his busy classroom schedule to organize a basketball team.

Across town, Kentucky University (now Transylvania) had organized a team two years earlier from its Art, Bible, Law and Medical schools and played the local YM-CA. During the year just past, KU boys had played some exhibition games for fun and amusement and even made a trip to Cin-

THE B

Walter H. Mustaine
wasn't even present
with a 5-9 record and
standing are J.M. Wils



BIRTH OF THE BIG BLUE

...ne, who has been called the "Father of University of Kentucky Basketball,"
...nt for this 1906 Wildcat team picture. Members of that squad that finished
...re (seated, left to right): Dick Barbee, D.P. Branson and Stanley Baer. Stan-
...on, Wylie B. Wendt (manager) and T.R. Bryant.

cinnati, where they were whopped by a strong YMCA team.

Although his thoughts were on preparing the KSU gym team for its first invitational match in early March, Mustaine had to admit that the new game, invented only 12 years earlier by Dr. James A. Naismith at Springfield (Mass.) College, was becoming, as one writer noted, the "rage of the hour" on the State campus and making inroads on such established winter sports as gym, boxing, wrestling and fencing.

The gym meet and the move to organize a basketball team coincided with the opening four months earlier of Barker Hall, a three-story structure with two broad wings, one housing Buell Armory, where cadets drilled on a dirt floor, the other containing a gymnasium that had an elevated circular track where spectators could sit on three rows of chairs that provided space for almost 300 persons at basketball games.

Although it wasn't much by modern standards, the gym was a shiny new addition in those days, providing a much-needed facility in which athletes, young men and women alike, could work off steam during the long dry spell between football and baseball. So it was no surprise that more than two dozen young men were present when Mustaine walked into the gym on that cold January morning in 1903, tossed up the ball, told them to start playing and stuck around a little while before hurrying off to meet with his gym team, little aware that he had just presided over the "Birth of the Big Blue" and would go down in history as the reluctant "Father of University of Kentucky Basketball."

As we light 85 candles in celebration of that rather inauspicious beginning, let's ring out echoes by recalling past interviews with such early basketball pioneers as:

Thomson R. "Tommie" Bryant (preps 1903, '04; varsity 1905, '06, '07), who was 90 when I interviewed him on the UK campus in January 1975.

Wylie Broderick "Rodie" Wendt (basketball manager 1906, track 1905), who was 89 when I interviewed him in his room at Wesley Manor in South Louisville in December 1974.

Dr. E. Cronly Elliott (basketball 1903, football 1900, baseball), **Dr. H.H. Downing** (basketball 1908) and **S.A. "Daddy" Boles** (basketball coach 1918), who got together on the UK campus in the fall of 1961 and discussed one of their favorite subjects—Wildcat basketball.

Dr. Elliott, a member of that initial group that met with Mustaine, remembered that players wore gym suits that they bought themselves. He said the school generously provided them with a ball and hung hoops on each end of the gym. The hoops

were not as high as those at present, he recalled, and the ball was a large, laced affair that you had to inflate with a foot pump.

Bryant, who was a starting center for the Cadets, as the KSU teams were known then, disagreed with Dr. Elliott on one point,

"He came in to see us practice twice during the season, and remained a few minutes each time."

—Former Wildcat player H.H. Downing, describing the coaching methods of Walter H. Mustaine, the first basketball coach in University of Kentucky history.

recalling that the players pitched in to purchase the ball, which cost \$3. The college loosened up a little in Downing's day, providing long stockings for the players. During Boles' tenure, it purchased complete uniforms and two basketballs.

Dr. Elliott played forward on the basketball team, quarterback on the football team and third baseman on the baseball team, winning letters in football and baseball. Players in those days were presented letters and that was it, no sweaters or blankets.

When Dr. Downing and Bryant were jumping center for their respective Wildcat teams, Mustaine was the coach in name only. "He came in to see us practice twice during the season," Dr. Downing recalled, "and remained a few minutes each time."

"Dr. Mustaine was a prince of a fellow," Bryant said. "He had a wonderful team of tumblers and he taught a class in swinging Indian clubs, but he didn't know or care about basketball."

At 6-0, Bryant was considered a big boy at the time. He had played a little

... Mustaine walked into the gym on that cold January morning in 1903, tossed up the ball, told them to start playing and stuck around a little while before hurrying off to meet with his gym team, little aware that he had just presided over the "Birth of the Big Blue" and would go down in history as the reluctant "Father of University of Kentucky Basketball."

unorganized basketball in high school at Nicholasville, which put him ahead of some of the older varsity players; however, the preps were not allowed to participate in the varsity games.

"Basketball was more like football," Bryant recalled. "I remember when guys from KU came onto the floor wearing football pads while we came out in jerseys and

basketball panties. J. Franklin Wallace, a big football tackle and I were thrown out of the game for fighting. A good fight was the expected thing."

There were no set plays and no need for signals. The opposing centers jumped after each field goal and there was no limit to the number of fouls a player could make. Furthermore, the team captain designated the foul shooter to the official before each game. That player did all the foul shooting, no matter which player was fouled. A player fouled in the act of shooting was automatically awarded one point with an additional free throw.

All four oldtimers remembered that squads weren't big in the early days; often there were not enough players out to practice to allow a scrimmage, and only one substitute was taken on road trips to Georgetown, Danville and Louisville.

Dr. Downing remembered one trip when only five players took off for Louisville to play an independent team. When a State player became ill during the game, action was stopped while the student manager changed into the sick player's uniform and finished the game.

"They gave me a letter and sweater in 1908," Dr. Downing recalled, "but I made the mistake of washing the sweater and it shrunk so badly that I gave it away."

Wendt purchased UK's first scorebook. "I think it only had pages for the home team," he said. He also talked the Faculty Athletic team into purchasing jerseys and arranged for the team's first out-of-state basketball trip. They lost that game to Miami (Ohio) 15-10 on Jan. 12, 1906.

The *Lexington Leader* reported Feb. 6, 1903, that the first intercollegiate basketball game in the history of State College would be played that afternoon in the KSC gym against a crack Georgetown team.

Scheduled to start for the Cadets were J. White Guyn and R.H. Arnett at the guards, H.J. Wurtele at center, and Joe Coons and Lee Andrus at forwards. William Goodwin, Harold Amoss, Ed Pierce and G.C. Montgomery also were listed as members of the squad, which consisted mostly of football players.

The *Herald* reported the score as 17-6, the *Leader* said it was 15-6. "When the game began at 4 o'clock," the *Leader* said, "the gym was packed with rooters for the two teams who continually applauded the brilliant plays of their respective colleges. The initial game was a success in all particulars. The game was very interesting and both teams gave an excellent exhibition of basketball playing."

"Georgetown had the advantage on account of having been in training since last fall and having played a number of games while the local team only had a few days

practice.”

The Cadets defeated the local YMCA and lost to Georgetown 42-2 in that three-game season. Kentucky U. (Transy), which had won two of three games with Georgetown and defeated the fledgling KSU team, declared itself the state champion.

“This was the first season that basketball contests were ever held between Kentucky colleges since it is comparatively new as a college game,” the KU yearbook reported. “Every game was attended by large and enthusiastic crowds. The intense interest taken by the public in the games makes it assured that from now on basketball will become a prominent factor in college life during the winter months.”

□ □ □

What they did later:

Thompson P. Bryant: Associate director emeritus of the UK Agricultural Experiment Station at the time of his death. Served as a member of the staff from 1908-55. . . influential in establishing the system of county agents in Kentucky. . . named superintendent of extension work in 1910 and helped plan the necessary emergency programs to meet the needs of World Wars I and II, the Depression years and the Korean War. . . coached UK's women's

basketball team in 1907.

Wylie B. Wendt: A native of Newport, retired in 1954 as professor emeritus at the University of Louisville, where he had served on the engineering faculty for 29 years, heading the department of civil engineering. . . member of Kansas State University faculty from 1920-25. . . at U of L, member of the Faculty Committee on Athletics.

S.A. Boles: A native of Williamstown, he received his B.A. from Kentucky Wesleyan, M.A. from Vanderbilt. . . UK in 1916 as Phys. Ed. instructor and assistant football coach. . . named athletic director and head football coach in 1917. . . basketball coach one season, 1918, compiling a 9-2-1 record. . . after 17 years as AD, two more years as graduate manager of athletics, retired. . . died Dec. 4, 1961.

Dr. E. Cronley Elliott: Retired after many years of dental practice in Lexington.

J. White Guyn: A local boy, earned one letter in basketball, five (1901-05) in football. He explained in October 1946 that after his collegiate career officially ended, he was working as an engineer with the City of Lexington when he was at Stoll Field on the afternoon of a football game in 1905 and became a participant again when his teammates pressed him into service. He was the

university's first alumnus coach, guiding the 1906, '07 and '08 teams to a 17-7-1 record, with a best of 9-1-1 in 1907. After spending 30 years as city engineer of Lexington, he died in 1953.

Henry Joseph “H.J.” Wurtele: Lettered in football in 1902, basketball in 1903-04. Retired in 1950 as vice president of Birmingham Southern Railroad. . . joined the firm in 1909 after two years with the Tennessee Coal, Iron and RR Co. . . died Sept. 15, 1973. . . brother **E.C. Wurtele** lettered in baseball in 1903-04, retired lawyer practicing in Chicago many years before moving to California during WWII. . . killed in auto accident in Los Angeles in 1961. . . their great grandfather, **Jacob Wurtele**, farmed in Louisville from Third and Broadway all the way to Preston Street.

William “Billy” Goodwin: Lettered in football in 1903-04. Family moved from Pulaski County to Lexington in 1900, father in wholesale grocery business—Bryant-Goodwin-Hunt on East High Street. . . brothers **George** and **Joe** established Goodwin Brothers, pioneer auto firm in Lexington. . . son **William I.** and grandson **Joe** regulars at Wildcat and Lady Kat games, and at Lexington Wildcat Club sessions. . . stood 6-2, weighed 300 pounds at time of death in 1941.

It Says Here

[Continued From Page 3]

spots in the SEC this winter, received a jolt over the holidays when it was revealed that star **Mike Jones** became academically ineligible after the first semester and has decided to turn pro. He was averaging more than 20 points per game at the time . . . Down in Gator Country, coach **Norm Sloan** and his **Florida Gators** have been on some kind of a roller-coaster. They got everyone's attention by winning the Big Apple NIT and then fell from grace when they stumped their toes in Dallas at the hands of SMU. The Gators came back strong with a cou-

ple wins and then got bombed by Duke in the Fiesta Bowl Tournament. Now, people are beginning to wonder just how good this team will be over the long haul. The challenge for Sloan this winter will be a season-long motivational seminar . . . *All-Star Sports Publications* rates **Don MacLean** as the top unsigned senior prospect in the nation. It also says 89 of the nation's top 100 players either signed in November or have already verbally committed . . . One high school senior UK is still following, in addition to MacLean, is

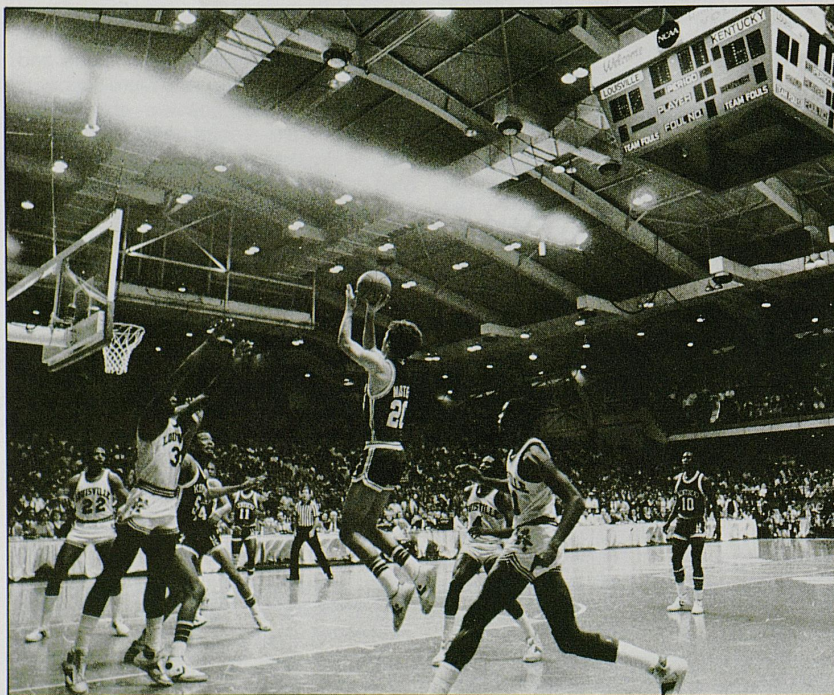
Michael Boykin, a 6-8 center/forward out of Georgia. Other schools interested include Louisville, Indiana, Minnesota and Georgia Tech . . . The early recruiting race, as far as conferences are concerning, almost ended in a dead-heat with the SEC and the Big East reaping big harvests. The SEC got 27 players from Bob Gibbons' top 250 list while the Big Ten was second with 24 and the Big East third with 20. However, Gibbons ranked the Big East No. 1 with the SEC No. 2 and Big Ten third.

Bob Gibbons' Conference-By-Conference Recruiting Update

Conference	Total Signees	Top 6	Top 25	Top 50	Top 100	Top 150	Top 250
1. Big East.....	20	2	5	10	16	19	20
2. Southeastern.....	27	3	5	8	13	19	27
3. Big Ten.....	25	0	3	6	17	22	24
4. Atlantic Coast.....	11	1	2	4	8	10	10
5. Pacific 10.....	18	0	1	5	6	8	14
6. Big Eight.....	15	0	1	2	5	10	13
7. Independents.....	25	0	1	4	8	8	10
8. Southwest.....	16	0	3	3	3	3	6
9. Metro.....	11	0	0	1	5	8	8
10. Atlantic 10.....	14	0	0	1	1	2	9
11. Western Athletic.....	17	0	0	0	2	5	10
12. Pacific Coast.....	10	0	0	1	2	2	6
13. Sun Belt.....	10	0	0	0	0	2	6
14. Missouri Valley.....	17	0	0	0	1	2	4
15. Metro Atlantic.....	11	0	0	0	0	1	3
Others		0	0	0	2	3	19
Totals		6	21	45	89	124	189

EXCLUSIVE • BBB EXCLUSIVE

A TRULY MASTERFUL EXHIBITION



Master's 12-Footer Sent The First 'Dream Game' With U of L Into OT

Page 20

As the ball nestled through Kentucky's cylinder with 0:00 showing on the Stokely Athletics Center clock, Jim Master etched his name alongside of "The guy who sent the original Dream Game into overtime."

It was the junior's 12-foot baseline basket which sent the Louisville-Kentucky Mideast Regional final matchup into overtime. No matter that the winner advanced to the Final Four in Albuquerque, this game was more. Much, much more. Leading up to the Mideast Regional final, for 24 years these two teams from the Bluegrass state had avoided each on the hardwood. Despite U of L's dominance in the overtime period, outscoring UK 18-6, it was only fitting the first 40 minutes the two teams would be even.

And it was Master, a 6-foot-5 slender guard, who coolly tied the game at 62-all at the end of regulation.

Master's overall performance in the much-anticipated battle was truly a clutch performance. He connected on nine of 13 attempts from the field, tying Melvin Turpin for team-high honors with 18 points.

Before the game, a lot of fans began sizing up the matchups. You know, Kentucky's forwards Derrick Hord and Charles Hurt against the McCray brothers, Scooter and Rodney. Well, when it came time to sum up the guards most everyone said that while Dirk Minniefield could hold his own, Louisville's backcourt was too quick, especially for Master.

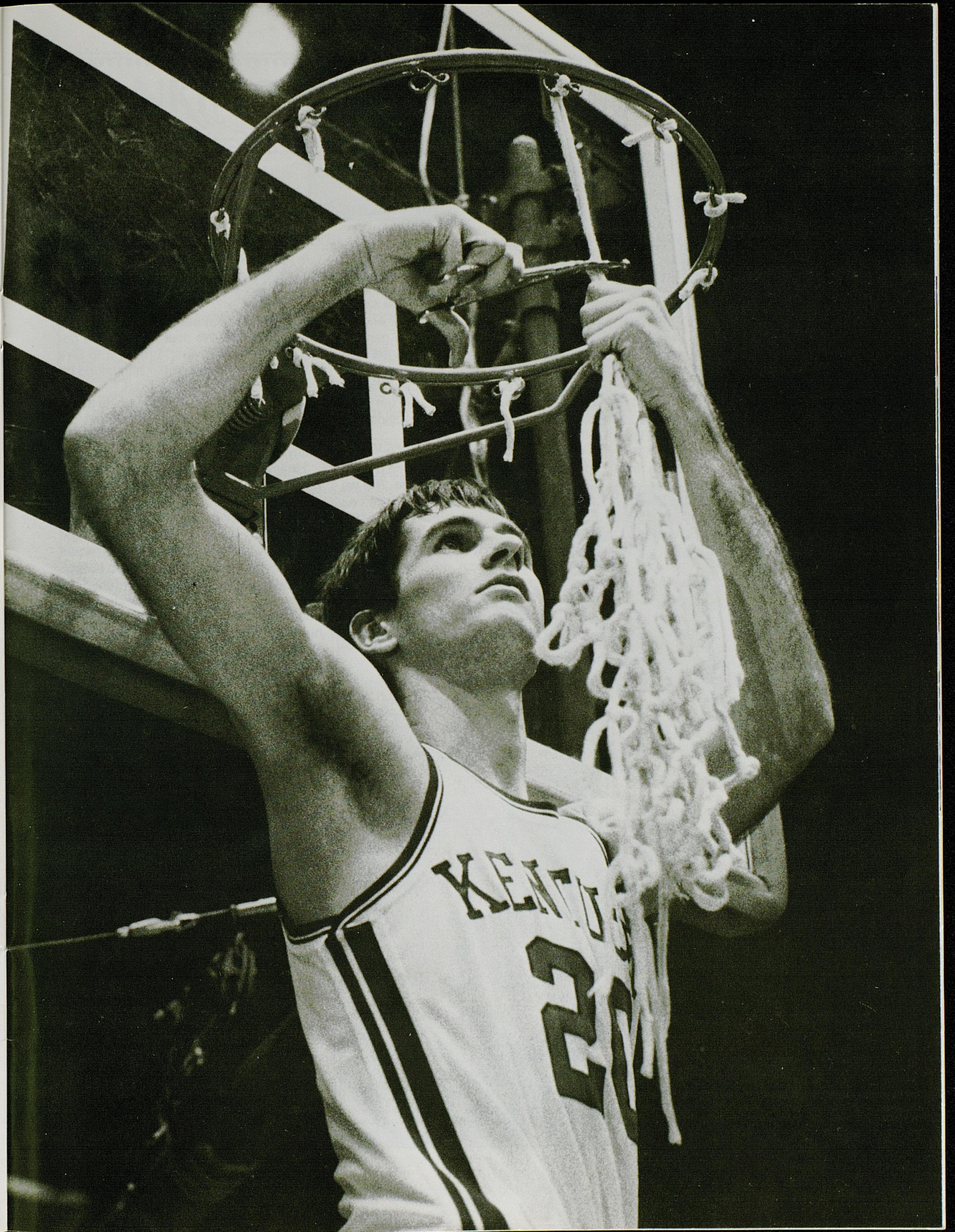
He was considered an average defensive player and not the fleetest of foot. This was not supposed to be his kind of game—a fast-pace brand of basketball.

Master proved the "experts" wrong, playing 40 minutes and committing only two turnovers. No Wildcat played more on this day than Jim Master. His outside touch compensated for his lack of speed. And with U of L leading by two in the final moments, it was Master who hit a 12-foot jumper.

The final buzzer "buzzzzzzed" as Master had given Kentucky as well as its fans new life. . .something which Dream Games should be made of.

When remembering Dream Game I, UK fans would like to forget the extra period, while Cardinal fans probably can recall every detail. But despite getting wiped out in the extra period, Master was a hero to the fans clad in Blue and White. Not only his jumper but his overall performance on Stokely's tartan surface will be something which will always be cherished in his scrapbook memory.

Following is Jim Master's most memorable game in a Wildcat uniform—Dream Game I, Louisville versus Kentucky:





Oscar Combs'
BIG BLUE BASKETBALL

My Most Memorable Game

Master, Wildcats Come Up Short Against Cards

There are so many memorable games, but I guess (the most memorable) would be the Louisville game my junior year in the Mideast Regional finals. The reason being is that without a doubt it had the most hype of any UK game, maybe ever.

It was the in the Mideast Regional finals, and whoever won would go to the Final Four. That, in itself, seems like enough. But when you're playing Louisville for the first time in 25 years. . .that was an unbelievable-type scene with the excitement in Knoxville. It was sort of ironic that we played there, because we've never had too much success down there. All of those things were a factor.

Of course, they had a lot of great players and we did, too. For the game to end in a tie in the first 40 minutes you could not have written a better script. Of course, we got killed in the overtime, which is something we would like to forget.

I think that, in itself, it was a game very neat to be involved in.

The Super Bowl couldn't produce any more hype. A World Series couldn't, either. It was that big. And we all know how big basketball is in Kentucky. Going out on the floor for the first time, that's when we really realized it.

We went out on the floor an hour before the game even started and had a little shoot-around with the Louisville players. When I walked out there with my Kentucky shirt and then I saw Milt Wagner and Lancaster Gordon come out with their Louisville shirts, I think that's when it struck a lot of people—"Hey, we're finally going play!"

Here was the matchup everybody was dreaming of.

At that time we were playing some really good basketball, probably the best we had in a long time. We felt confident and we came out confident.

We jumped on them early. Louisville may have been more tense than we were, because they were favored and they had always wanted to play us. In retrospect, I guess you could look back and say we didn't have Sam Bowie. I don't think we

were tense, which was surprising. And we played well when we started the game.

I think everybody was like: "Hey, let's get out there and get ready to go."

Derrick Hord gave us a big lift. He had an off-senior year, but he started out good in that game, hitting his first three shots. We felt good. We felt confident.

We led by 13 at one time and we were up by seven at halftime. They then put the clamps on us and we got behind. But we came back. It was just a heckuva game.

I remember the last minute and a half pretty well—we had the basketball and we were going to hold it for one shot. I called a timeout with about 40 seconds left,

because we had already stalled the ball for about a minute. We decided we were going to take the last shot. I threw it to Dirk Minniefield and I remember him taking off for the basket.

Then I thought, "Well, we're going to win the game." He shot it with about 20 seconds left. He missed the shot that probably would have put us in the Final Four.

Louisville came down and made a shot and we called timeout with about seven or eight seconds left. We were going to give the ball to Dirk or Dicky Beal and try to "waterbug" it down the court and hit whoever was open. I thought Dirk would probably go ahead and take it to the basket.

I was open on the wing and I wanted the ball very, very badly. Dirk passed it to me, I didn't think he would because I thought he would take it all the way to the bucket. Scooter McCray went after the basketball and just missed it. The ball then got to my hands and I hit the shot, with Charles Jones coming at me in a hurry.

That was a great moment. Not only the shot that I made but, heck, we had just tied them up.

They were a little better than us that year, but we didn't have Sam Bowie. I just thought it was a great game for 40 minutes. In the overtime we were worn out. That wasn't something to remember. Their press finally got the best of us. We committed too many turnovers against their press in the overtime.

I had a pretty decent career at UK but the shot I hit is the thing the fans remember most. But it's like a double-edged sword. It's like, "Boy, I wish you wouldn't have hit it because we would have only lost by two." The fans usually, though, say, "Boy, that was a great shot."

The fans remember that game pretty well. They would have remembered it more if we would have won. Still, it was a big, big thing. A lot of people. . .that's usually the first thing they ask me about.

People remember us for falling apart during my senior year against Georgetown.

[Continued On Page 27]

"Dream Game I"
 Kentucky vs. Louisville
 NCAA Mideast Regional Finals
 Knoxville, Tenn.—March 26, 1983

KENTUCKY (68)					
Name	fg-a	ft-a	reb	pf	tp
Derrick Hord	4-9	1-2	2	1	9
Charles Hurt	3-5	1-2	6	3	7
Melvin Turpin	8-13	2-2	9	4	18
Dirk Minniefield	6-13	0-0	3	4	12
Jim Master	9-13	0-0	2	4	18
Dicky Beal	0-0	0-0	0	3	0
Roger Harden	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Bret Bearup	1-1	0-2	3	0	2
Kenny Walker	1-3	0-0	1	1	2
Team			1		
Totals	32-57	4-8	27	20	68

LOUISVILLE (80)					
Name	fg-a	ft-a	reb	pf	tp
Scooter McCray	3-6	1-1	7	3	7
Rodney McCray	7-7	1-2	8	3	15
Charles Jones	4-9	4-6	7	1	12
Lancaster Gordon	11-21	2-3	1	1	24
Milt Wagner	7-10	4-4	2	2	18
Robbie Valentine	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Chris West	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Jeff Hall	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Billy Thompson	2-4	0-1	2	1	4
Team			1		
Totals	34-57	12-17	28	12	80

Kentucky	37	25	6—68
Georgia	30	32	18—80

Field goal shooting: Kentucky, 56.1; Louisville, 59.6.
 Free throw shooting: Kentucky, 50.0; Louisville, 70.6.
 Assists: Kentucky, 13 (Minniefield 5, Beal 4); Louisville, 15 (S. McCray 4, Wagner 4). Turnovers: Kentucky, 18 (Minniefield 6); Louisville, 11 (Wagner 3). Blocked shots: Kentucky, 1 (Turpin); Louisville, 5 (R. McCray 2, Jones, 2).
 Steals: Kentucky, 6 (Turpin 3, Minniefield 3); Louisville, 11 (Gordon 4, R. McCray, 3). Technicals: none. Officials: Hank Nichols, Joe Forte, Paul Housman. Att.: 12,489.

RANKING THE RECRUITING CLASSES

For The Second Year In A Row, 'Cats Near Top In Early-Recruiting Classes

By Bill Cronauer, B/C Scouting Service

1. SYRACUSE (6): 6-8 **Billy Owens**, Carlisle (Pa.) High; 6-5 **David Johnson**, Morgan City (La.) High; 6-8 **Tony Scott**, Rochester (N.Y.) East; 6-10 **Richard Manning**, North Highlands (Calif.) High; 6-10 **Dave Stock**, Vestal (N.Y.) High; 6-4 **Mike Hopkins**, Santa Ana (Calif.) Mater Dei.

Comment: Owens, the consensus No. 2 player in the country, is aided by four more Top 100 players.

2. KENTUCKY (3): 6-10 **Shawn Kemp**, Elkhart (Ind.) Concord; 6-7 **Chris Mills**, Los Angeles (Calif.) Fairfax; 6-2 **Sean Woods**, Indianapolis (Ind.) Cathedral.

Comment: "Super Six" duo of Kemp and Mills makes this class rival the touted UK class brought in last season.

3. GEORGETOWN (2): 6-10 **Alonzo Mourning**, Chesapeake (Va.) Indian River; 6-6 **Milton Bell**, Richmond (Va.) John Marshall.

Comment: Mourning, the consensus No. 1 player in the country, is Patrick Ewing reincarnated.

4. NEVADA-LAS VEGAS (5): 6-10 **David Butler**, San Jacinto (Texas) JC; 6-7 **Moses Scurry**, San Jacinto (Texas) JC; 6-9 **Antoine Davison**, Chicago (Ill.) Collins; 6-10 **George Ackles**, Garden City (Kan.) JC; 6-7 **Evric Gray**, Bloomington (Calif.) High.

Comment: Three class-act junior college big men; Davison is soooo underrated.

5. FLORIDA (3): 6-9 **Cesar Portillo**, Miami (Fla.) Senior; 6-5 **Stacy Poole**, Jacksonville (Fla.) Forrest; 6-2 **John Ramos**, Miami (Fla.) Senior.

Comment: Portillo is a massive 250 pounds; Poole is a blue-chip athlete.

6. LSU (2): 6-11 **Stanley Roberts**, Hopkins (S.C.) Lower Richland; 6-7 **Harold Boudreaux**, Cecilia (La.) High.

Comment: Roberts is a more-massive 260 pounds.

7. ST. JOHN'S (3): 6-7 **Malik Sealy**, Bronx (N.Y.) Tolentine; 6-10 **Robert Werdann**, Jamaica (N.Y.) Archbishop Malloy; 6-4 **Chuck Sproling**, Denver (Colo.) Manual.

Comment: High-octane offensive trio equals Big East Bonanza.

8. MICHIGAN STATE (5): 6-7 **Matt Steigenga**, Grand Rapids (Mich.) South Christian; 6-10 **Mike Peplowski**, Warren (Mich.) DeLaSalle; 6-7 **Jon Zulauf**, Port Huron (Mich.) High; 6-3 **Mark Montgomery**, Southgate (Mich.) Aquinas; 6-7 **Parrish Hickman**, Redford (Mich.) Bishop Borgess.

Comment: Steigenga-led Spartans signed five of the top 10 players in Michigan.

9. NORTH CAROLINA (2): 6-9 **Kenny Williams**, Elizabeth City (N.C.) Northeastern; 6-4 **Hubert Davis**, Burke (Va.) Lake Braddock.

Comment: Offensive genius Williams will be an instant UNC starter.

10. OHIO STATE (4): 6-6 **Chris Jent**, Sparta (N.J.) High; 6-1 **Mark Baker**, Dayton (Ohio) Dunbar; 6-11 **Bill Robinson**, Canton (Ohio) McKinley; 6-7 **Steve Hall**, Haviland (Ohio) Wayne Trace.

Comment: Buckeyes back in the Big Ten hunt.

11. ARKANSAS (3): 6-7 **Todd Day**, Memphis (Tenn.) Hamilton; 6-1 **Lee Mayberry**, Tulsa (Okla.) Will Rogers; 6-8 **Michael Hogue**, Tulsa (Okla.) Metro Christian.

Comment: Final Four caliber backcourt—Day a legit 6-7 guard.

12. INDIANA (3): 6-9 **Eric Anderson**, Chicago (Ill.) St. Francis DeSales; 6-7 **John White**, Dodge City (Kan.) JC; 6-7 **Matt Nover**, Chesterton (Ind.) High.

Comment: Final Four caliber forwards—White's the No. 1 juco small forward.

13. NOTRE DAME (3): 6-9 **LaPhonso Ellis**, East St. Louis (Ill.) Lincoln; 6-0 **Elmer Bennett**, Bellaire (Texas) High; 6-11 **Keith Tower**, Coraopolis (Pa.) Moon.

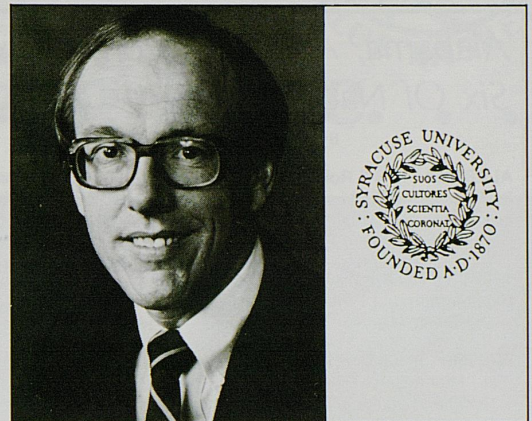
Comment: Irish outdueled Illinois for top 10-banger Ellis.

14. DE PAUL (4): 6-6 **Curtis Price**, Chicago (Ill.) St. Rita; 6-8 **Stephen Howard**, Dallas (Texas) Bishop Lynch; 6-6 **David Booth**, Peoria (Ill.) Manual; 6-2 **Sam Cassell**, Baltimore (Md.) Dunbar.

Comment: Missing the dominator, but all-position aces.

15. LOUISVILLE (4): 6-5 **Everick Sullivan**, Simpsonville (S.C.) Hillcrest; 6-7 **Cornelius Holden**, Los Angeles (Calif.) Crenshaw; 6-5 **Derwin Webb**, Indianapolis (Ind.) Lawrence North; 6-6 **Mike Case**, Pendleton (Ind.) Pendleton Heights.

Comment: Sullivan a big-time scorer; Holden and Webb are big-time leapers.



With five Top 100 players, led by All-American Billy Owens, Jim Boheim's Orangemen are in a position to become the "Beast of the East."



Eddie Sutton almost outdid himself, following up last year's No. 1 class with the second-best crop of 1988. . .and with Don MacLean waiting in the wings, he might not be finished yet.



Going exclusively with home-grown products, Norm Sloan is on the verge of making the football-crazed Gator fans in Gainesville forget about the oblong ball.

RANKING THE RECRUITING CLASSES

Alabama, Auburn, Georgia Give SEC Six Of Nation's Top 30 Early Classes

By Bill Cronauer, B/C Scouting Service

ALABAMA (4): 6-9 Robert Horry, Andalusia (Ala.) High; 6-8 Anthony Lawrence, St. Petersburg (Fla.) Lakewood; 6-4 Kenneth Rice, Decatur (Ala.) Austin; 6-7 Marcus Webb, Montgomery (Ala.) Sidney Lanier.

Comment: Too-thin Horry among the most underrated prep players in America.

ARIZONA (2): 6-8 Wayne Womack, Pasadena (Calif.) John Muir; 6-8 Ron Curry, Bloomington (Ill.) High

Comment: Matching pair of 210-pound, physical forwards.

AUBURN (3): 6-8 Corey Walker, Orlando (Fla.) Jones; 6-8 Robert McKie, Opa-Locka (Fla.) Miami Carol City; 6-0 Reggie Gallon, Miami (Fla.) Edison.

Comment: 250-pound McKie bodyguards finesseful Walker.

CLEMSON (2): 6-4 David Young, Greenville (S.C.) Senior; 6-3 Marion Cash, Pratt (Kan.) JC.

Comment: Cash the No. 1 juco point guard and Young a super combination guard.

DUKE (2): 6-10 Christian Laettner, Buffalo (N.Y.) Nichols; 6-9 Crawford Palmer, Arlington (Va.) Washington & Lee.

Comment: 220-pound twin towers—Laettner's offense and Palmer's defense.

FLORIDA STATE (3): 6-10 Stacey Williams, Alma (Ga.) Bacon County; 6-2 Lorenzo Hands, West Palm Beach (Fla.) Twin Lakes; 5-10 Orient Watson, Memphis (Tenn.) Ridgeway.

Comment: 240-pound Williams will rebound; guards will run.

GEORGIA (3): 6-6 Tommy Gaines, Bainbridge (Ga.) High; 6-9 Arlando Bennett, Danielsville (Ga.) Madison County; 6-9 Mike Green, Cape Coral (Fla.) High.

Comment: Gaines can be a swingman at 6-6; Bennett coming on fast.

HOUSTON (2): 6-3 Derrick Daniels, Ft. Worth (Texas) Dunbar; 6-2 Eddie Cumbo, San Jacinto (Texas) JC.

Comment: Daniels delights as a point guard dealer; Cumbo can stroke the jumper.

IOWA (3): 6-5 Ray Thompson, Summit (Ill.) Argo; 6-5 James Moses, Gardena (Calif.) Serra; 6-10 Acie Earl, Moline (Ill.) High.

Comment: Line Thompson and Moses up on the wings and let them fire the three-pointer.

MISSOURI (4): 6-4 Anthony Peeler, Kansas City (Mo.) Paseo; 6-4 Jamal Coleman, Denver (Colo.) Mullen; 6-3 P.J. Mays, Cincinnati (Ohio) Purcell-Marian; 6-3 Mike Wawrzyniak, Parma (Ohio) Normandy.

Comment: Peeler a big-time acrobatic athlete; others will contribute.

OKLAHOMA STATE (5): 6-9 Derrick Groce, Detroit (Mich.) Northern; 6-6 Byron Houston, Oklahoma City (Okla.) Star-Spencer; 6-4 Von McDade, Iowa Lakes (Iowa) JC; 5-11 Darwyn Alexander, New Orleans (La.) Brother Martin; 6-3 Billy Dreher, Fruita (Colo.) Monument.

Comment: Groce is a 215-pound rebounding terror.

PURDUE (4): 6-7 Charles White, El Camino (Calif.) JC; 6-0 Keith Stewart, Milwaukee (Wisc.) Messmer; 6-4 Loren Clyburn, Detroit (Mich.) Southwestern; 6-9 Craig Riley, Ft. Wayne (Ind.) Harding.

Comment: White the No. 1 sophomore in California, as a juco scoring machine.

UCLA (2): 6-0 Darrick Martin, Long Beach (Calif.) St. Anthony; 6-6 Darrin Dafney, Los Angeles (Calif.) Fremont.

Comment: Savvy floor leader, nation's No. 2 point guard behind Chris Jackson.

VILLANOVA (3): 6-8 Marc Dowdell, Lincroft (N.J.) Christian Brothers; 5-10 Chris Walker, Houston (Texas) Milby; 6-6 Greg Woodard, Rochester (N.Y.) McQuaid Jesuit.

Comment: Dowdell ultra-athletic performer as New Jersey's top insider.

WAKE FOREST (3): 6-7 Chris King, Newton Grove (N.C.) Hobbton; 5-11 Derrick McQueen, Darlington (S.C.) St. John's; 6-8 Phil Medlin, Greenville (N.C.) D.H. Conley.

Comment: King should start as a freshman; so should sleeper McQueen.



Wimp Sanderson's club might be in for a rough season in '88, but with back-to-back Top 30 recruiting classes, look for the Tide to roll in the not-too-distant future.



The addition of big men Cory Walker and Robert McKie, who will be gunning to replace NBA-bound Jeff Moore and Chris Morris next season, should bring a smile to SEC funny man Sonny Smith.



Hugh Durham's three new freshmen, combined with recruit Elmore Spencer who is redshirting this season, should give the 1989 Bulldogs more bite than bark.

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



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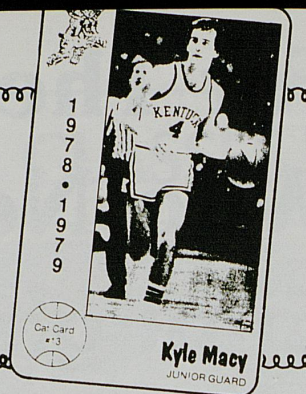
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The Collector Speaks



Old Guides, Program Bring Back Good Ol' Days

Were those really the good ol' days/daze? Maybe they were, maybe not. Let's take a look:

NOTICE!

The sale of season, individual and UKIT tickets will start Monday, November 25. The Coliseum ticket offices will be open from 9 a.m. thru 4 p.m. Prices for the season ticket books are \$22 for chair seats and \$13.75 for bleacher seats. Individual game tickets will be priced at \$2.25 and \$1.25. The book of two tickets for the UKIT will be sold at \$5 each. Make checks payable to the University of Kentucky Athletic Association.

Seems as though this year was good dollar-wise—the notice is from 1958.

Sounds great doesn't it? You had better believe it does. Just think, \$1.25 to see the Big Blue, when I paid \$30 to see Joe B. Hall's first team win the SEC by beating Tennessee! The ticket was good, but someone had stolen the seat, because I never found it. Come to think of it, though, I never sit down at a ballgame anyway—I mean who can?

Speaking of tickets, here is an item that just might interest you fellow collectors. It was taken from an issue of the Lexington paper, circa 1934:

"The athletic council at the University of Kentucky has decided to issue passes to all home games to former lettermen from the cage sport. These passes will be mailed to all ex-K-Men for whom the athletic office has an address. If a letterman doesn't receive a pass, he should contact the athletic office."

It seems as though the athletic office had been issuing these "passes" to the football lettermen for some time prior to this, and decided to let the basketball team have to catch up?

Ahhh! This grand and glorious game of basketball. Basketball by any other name is still basketball, and the most

beautiful of all the "physical sports" to watch, whether it be a three-pointer by Derrick Miller or Rex Chapman, a driving slam-bam dunk by Winston Bennett or Richard Madison or a roll from the high post for a "gimmie" by Rob Lock, it is a beautiful game.

It hasn't always been that way. It was different in those long ago days, when the game was "new." Can you imagine that at one time, prior to the center jump, that the players were lined up at opposite ends of the floor, the ball was rolled toward the middle of the floor, the referee blew his whistle and then it was "Katie bar the door!" Can you, even by the most vivid imagination possible, see this happening with Rick Robey, Mike Phillips, James Lee, Jack Givens and the rest of the '78 bunch? Compared to that, the recent earthquake in California would be akin to a flea sneeze.

These thoughts were brought to mind by a film that I watched recently. Through some special luck and diligent effort, I came upon a copy of the game that started Adolph Rupp and the Wildcats on



LeRoy Edwards

the road to national prominence—the 1935 Kentucky-New York University game! Yes, folks, 1935. This was the game that was used by the rules committee to enact the three-second rule.

I was much surprised at the pace of play in this game, as I had always believed the pace would be slower that it is today. Folks, the fast break that I saw in that '35 game was the same one that I was in film clips of the '48-49 team. *It was the Kentucky fast break!* At least as far as getting the ball off the boards and then to midcourt was concerned. After the ball got to the frontcourt, unless an absolute uncontested layup was available, set plays were used.

Most of the shooting techniques were about as expected, i.e. the two-hand set shot, the one-hand push shot, etc. *But*, the one that I had always wanted to see really threw me for a loop—the underhand set shot from out on the floor. That's right, a "granny shot" from 25 feet. As Harry Caray, the Cubs' man would say, "Holy Cow!" This particular play started with LeRoy Edwards clearing a rebound to a forward at about where the hashmark was, then to the middle, to the opposite side, then to the corner. I thought "open shot" from about 18 feet. No way! The ball was passed back out to Andy Anderson, who underhanded the shot from about four feet beyond the head of the circle—missed! After seeing this shot I got out some old basketball guides to check the rules and style of play, etc.

The first that I reached in my bookcase was a 1915-16 Spalding guide. This book was compiled by the rules committee of the NCAA, AAU and the YMCA. The price marked on the book was 10¢—one thin dime! Today it would cost up to \$25 depending on condition. Spalding offered its other guides from the same 10¢, and covered all athletic activities, from basket ball (as it was spelled in those days) to lawn tennis. Mostly I was amaz-

ed to find that Jock Sutherland was around in those days. At least I assume he was, because there was a book advertised entitled *Dumbell Exercises*.

The big story of this particular year was that the three associations had gotten together to enact *one* set of rules uniform for the entire basket ball world. One must wonder at the energy expended in this effort, when consideration is given to the diversity in the attitudes toward basket ball. Setting these rules down was not nearly the problem that consistent interpretation through the county would prove to be. That problem, interpretation, is still with us 70-plus years later.

Included in this guide is an early history of the game, and it too is interesting to the sports history buff. In the beginning, there was no limit as to the sizes of teams (number of players), with some games being played with as many as 50 players on each side. Seeing that utter chaos reigned with these numbers, the rules were changed to allow only nine players per side. In 1894 the teams were allowed to have nine players only if the playing area exceeded 3,600 square feet, otherwise, teams were restricted to five players. In the latter part of the 1890s, the standard five-man team was the rule. The center jump had replaced the "face-off" of earlier years. 1894 saw the game of basket ball introduced to the women of the world, Smith College being the first to field a women's team.

Other facets of the game, as far as rules are concerned, that might interest you are these: until the late '40s, four fouls put a player out of the game. . .in jump ball situations, the "jumpers" had to hold one hand behind their backs until the jump was completed. . .until 1916 a player could discontinue his dribble as often as he wished to fake his opponent. At this time, the "modern day" rules for the dribble were enacted. . .all rules violations resulted in free throws, that is free throws were taken for personal fouls, as well as walking and lane violations. . .Held balls resulted in a jump-ball situation, *but*, the

jump took place at the spot on the floor where the held ball took place, being moved only far enough to allow for player alignment. . .once a player left the game for a substitute, he could not return. This was the rule until the '30s when a player was allowed to return to the action twice. . .The price of *The Official Basket Ball Book* was \$7.50. Knee-length padded pants were \$18.50 per dozen.

An interesting point for basketball fans to argue is that *our* game was *the* quickest-growing game in the world. Due to the fact that it was invented in a YMCA atmosphere, it was spread throughout the world by the various branches of the Y. Within five years of its invention, basket ball was being played on every continent on earth, and through the islands of the Pacific. In fact, the game became so popular that it had to be restricted, because there were so many playing the game that all other activities in gymnasiums were being forced out.

Around 1905, the NCAA was established as the ruling body of basket ball at the college level (well, everything has its drawbacks).

One sad note for we Big Blue fans, that thought that, for one instant Springfield, Mass., was a part of Kentucky when the game was invented. And that Kenny Walker came from Roberta, Georgia/Kentucky and that Sam Bowie came from Lebanon, Pennsylvania/Kentucky. There are those of us that know that God meant for basketball to be a Kentucky product. For that group of people there was news about Kentucky basketball in this 1916 guide, but alas, a little one liner, as follows: "Kentucky basketball—capt. Zerfoss, coach J.J. Tigert, manager (?). Address: Lexington, Ky."—An insult! But our day would come!

Were those really the good ol' days? Well, you can draw your own conclusions—from listening, reading or better yet, by remembering. If you do, as do I, collect these old basketball programs, it is more fun to re-read those days. It is amazing how your memory is sometimes shaken. Case in point—1975 UK vs.

Florida. I could look you in the eye and swear that at one point during the second half that both teams hit, at the least, 20 consecutive shots. That stat sheet says no, but I can clearly remember sitting in Memorial Coliseum and thinking, "My God, won't Florida ever miss?" Well, they did, and we won. The official stats must be wrong, you know our memories don't lie!

Those old programs allow us to learn more about the UK stars of the past. There was, at various times, sections titled "Meet A Wildcat," this feature brought special attention to an individual player, i.e. "Captain of the '56 edition of the Wildcats, 'Cookie' was on his way to stardom last year before he broke his leg during the DePaul game. This sidelined ihm for the remainder of the season (probably costing UK another NCAA title). He was second only to All-American Bob Burrow in both scoring and rebounding, prior to the injury. This 'gifted southpaw' is a valuable asset against the various zone defenses, since he possesses an extremely graceful 'port-side' one-hander, hookshot and jumper.

"Despite his lanky 6-8 frame, this two-time all-stater is a demon on the boards, and has exceptional speed for a player his size. Plays either forward or center equally well as proven in past performances. Averaged 13 ppg., and 13.5 rpg. Season high was 28 points against LSU (and was 12 of 12 FTs in this game to go with 23 rebounds).

"This Cookie? Phil 'Cookie' Grawemeyer, from Louisville Manual High School!"

Phil is a most interesting individual to talk to. He has many great stories about his days as a 'Cat—but don't call long distance—it cost me a \$25 phone bill. What the heck, it was worth it!

That'll do it for this time. And remember, if you have any questions or comments about Big Blue memorabilia, just drop me a line in care of:

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Master's Most Memorable Game

[Continued From Page 22]

Basically, the same thing happened my junior year. Both times in the last game of the year we had a bad second half. That's what happened against Louisville, marked by a bad overtime. And we had a disastrous second half against Georgetown.

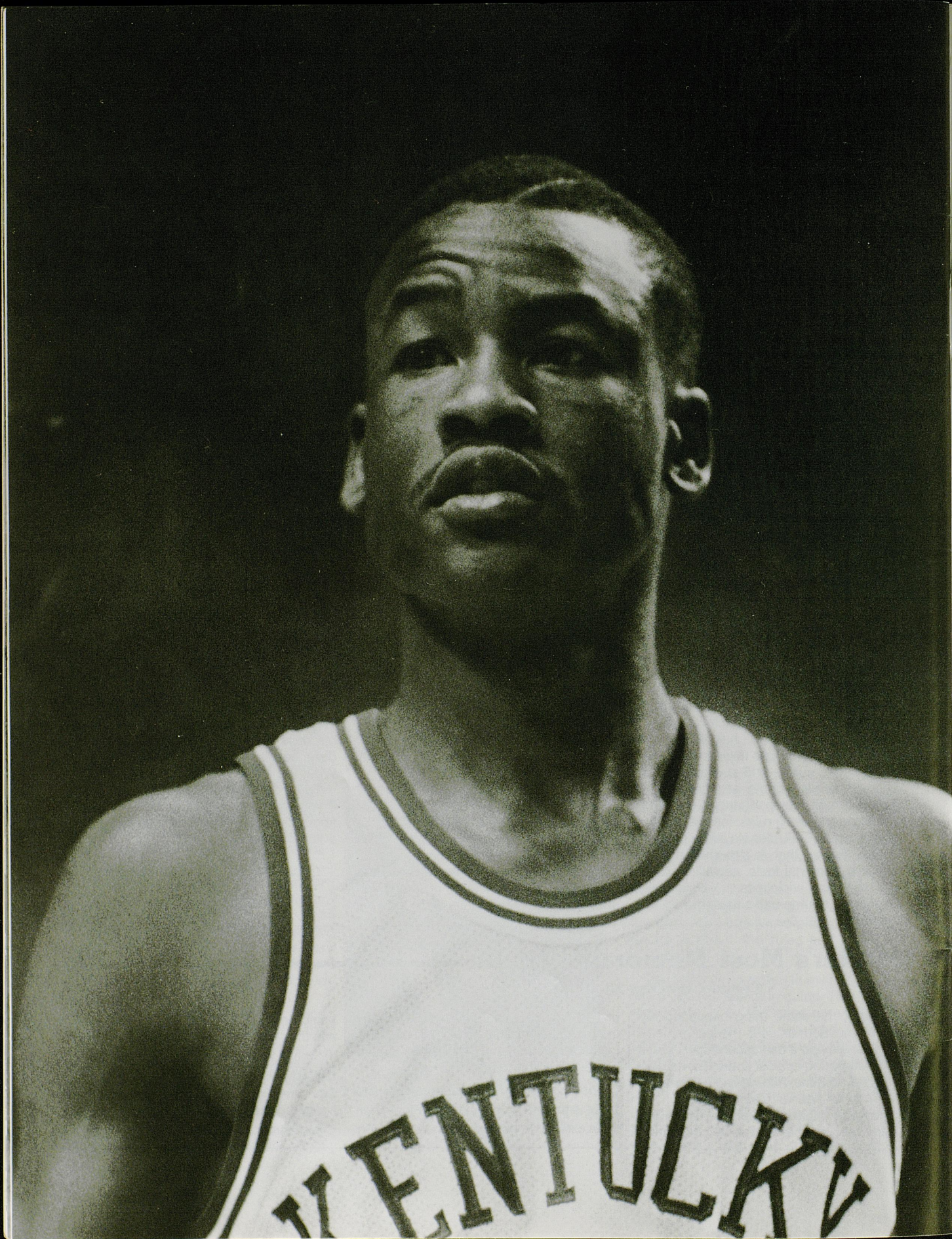
We were snakebit, I believe, twice. But I think we played as well as we could have

played that day. Louisville was definitely more talented, having the McCray brothers, Lancaster Gordon and Milt Wagner; I think they were a little bit deeper.

The only regret I have about the whole thing is that we didn't go to the Final Four. In an extent, we gave the game away. Like

I said before, Louisville was a great team and they were better than us, but that hurts the most. We could have gone to the Final Four two years in a row. That season no one was expecting a lot out of us, especially if we got to the Final Four.

We were just a bounce away.



Derrick Miller

Presently, The Lanky Sophomore Is Battling A Horrendous Slump And Rampant Rumors, But Says He's Here To Stay

By Nick Nicholas

Until a recent chat with Eddie Sutton, Derrick Miller was never happy being at the University of Kentucky. That comes straight from the horse's mouth, Derrick Miller. This Sutton-Miller impromptu meeting took place prior to Kentucky's recent meeting with Cincinnati. And although his performances on the hardwood haven't been glamorous, No. 4 is patiently waiting his turn on deck.

Once a dead-eye downtown shooter, Miller is hoping to regain his three-point marksmanship. In UK's first four games his confidence had slipped so much that his patented long range bombs launched with a gentle flick had quickly turned into ineffective weapons.

At least now he can truthfully say that his attitude has improved. "I can play at UK. I can play at UK," Miller mutters to himself when self-pitty tries to take over.

Against Cincinnati, Miller spent the entire evening on the pines, watching his teammates deliver a 101-77 knockout punch to the Bearcats. Afterward, a local television station uncovered that Miller did not play because he missed the pregame meal. Both Sutton and Miller discounted that rumor the next day.

Still, Miller was unhappy. He said he didn't play against the Bearcats because his attitude had soured on the practice floor. Taken to the limit, Sutton decided to see what was troubling his pupil.

Many Wildcat fans began speculating that Miller would be leaving the university once the fall semester was over. Those speculations dissolved into thin air, because Miller came back to Lexington after his holiday visit to Georgia.

A morale-boosting speech from Sutton as well as talks with UK equipment manager Bill Keightley and Miller's grandmother apparently have helped the Wildcat guard rebuild his once-broken-down confidence mechanism.

Today, for the first time, Miller can honestly say that he is happy to be a Kentucky Wildcat. He wants to be a part of a championship team. . . at any expense. Even if that expense is sitting on the bench for 40 minutes. Meaning: one for all, all for one. And that folks, comes directly from the



Derrick Miller

horse's mouth.

A couple of days before the University of Kentucky Invitational Tournament, *BBB* sat down with a positive Derrick Miller, a happy Derrick Miller, and discussed his latest ordeals, both on and off the floor.

Big Blue Basketball: First of all, Derrick, are you happy at the University of Kentucky?

Derrick Miller: Yeah, I'm OK. I've shown signals of being unhappy, but I think that comes from being immature. Now, I'm in the right frame of mind, being positive. I'm not thinking about transferring; I'm not thinking about anything negative. The only thing I'm thinking about now is winning the UKIT, winning the SEC and hopefully a national championship. If that means me playing and contributing or me being on the bench and contributing then I'll do it. When the team loses, even if I'm not out on the floor, I lose also. When the team wins and I'm not on the floor I win, also. I feel pretty comfortable. . . I think I'm pretty happy.

Big Blue Basketball: So, is it safe to say you'll be in a Wildcat uniform in January?

Derrick Miller: I'll be here, I'll be here for the next three years. I'd be a fool to leave

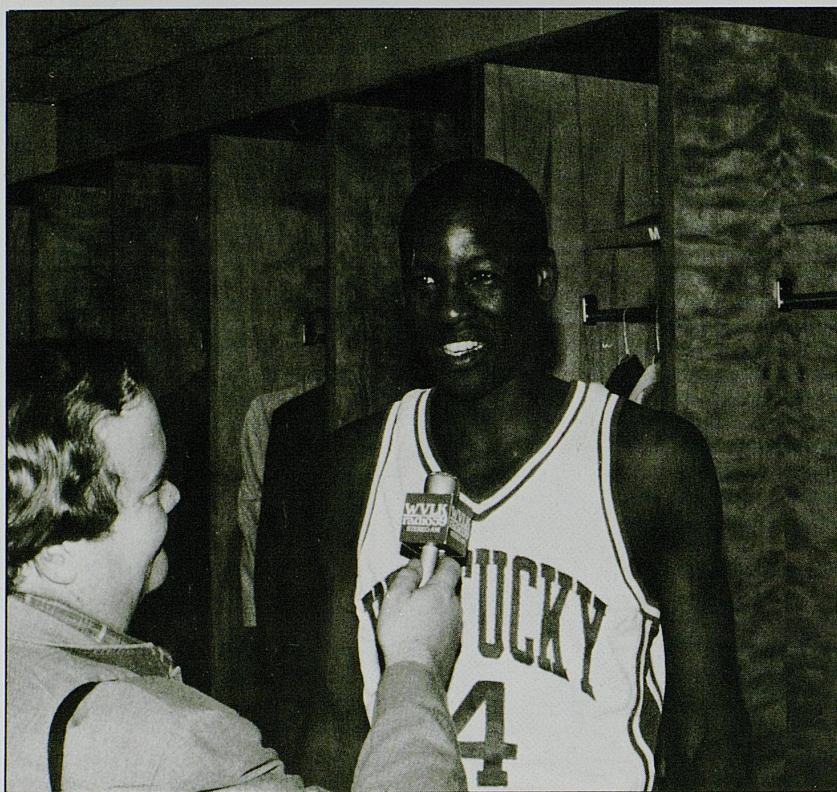
UK because if by chance I do good and have a chance to play pro basketball. . . by me going to UK will help me more than going to a lot of other schools. UK can do a lot for you after you finish playing basketball—I want to get a nice job.

Big Blue Basketball: Was there one thing that triggered a positive attitude into Derrick Miller?

Derrick Miller: Believe it or not, it sounds funny, but it was coach Sutton. A lot of people think coach Sutton and I are always in turmoil. We're not. Coach Sutton sat down and talked to me and he told me that as long as I think negative nothing positive would ever happen. He talked with me for a long time. He said if I would just give myself to him that he would help me in anyway he could and make life a lot pleasant for me in the future—after I finish school, making me a more happier person. He said he would teach me to be happy toward myself without being mad at myself all the time or mad at other people. I then told myself that I would give myself to coach Sutton and listen to him. And whenever he tells me something, I'm going to listen to it and try to learn from it. I know he's going to get on me sometimes, but I know that's just to better me, to help me.

Big Blue Basketball: You've been quoted about how some of the coaches were "getting on you." Were they being too critical?

Derrick Miller: They were not really being *hard* on me. If anybody on the team isn't practicing hard, even if Ed Davender and Rex Chapman are not practicing hard, coach Sutton will jump all over them. So, when I don't practice hard—I don't do what I'm suppose to do—then they'll jump on me like they would anybody else. I think I've been a little immature by getting mad. But now, I've kinda got my life in perspective—I have to do good off the court and on the court. That's not saying I've done bad off the court, I think I've been doing a great job. There are certain things they (UK staff) get tired of teaching you. If you come out and are playing at half-speed then that makes them mad. I've put in my mind I have to have a great attitude and go 110 percent.



Miller Says He's Taking It One Day At A Time Now

Big Blue Basketball: During preseason workouts, you were the first UK player to get "run off the court" by coach Sutton. Would you talk about that?

Derrick Miller: He had a right to run me off practice, because I wasn't practicing hard. Like I said: You learn from your mistakes. You can go ask him now. Ask him right now—If I'm practicing better. I'm quite sure he'll tell you that I am. Everyday, I'm getting out there and trying to better myself each day. He (Sutton) just told me, "Just take life one day at a time." That's helped.

Big Blue Basketball: Would you say that the adjustment from a high school star to a college reserve may have been a reason for your unhappiness?

Derrick Miller: Yes. When I was coming out of high school I didn't realize a lot of stuff. I look at Eric Manuel, LeRon Ellis, Rex Chapman. . . when I came out of high school I didn't have all those honors. Those guys just didn't get tagged McDonald All-Americans or *Street & Smith* All-Americans. That's something I didn't realize. When I came up here I thought people were expecting a lot out of me. I'm at a point now when I play good that's kinda of (like me) saying they (fans) didn't think I could do this or do that. But Eric Manuel, LeRon Ellis or Rex, they come up here and people have high expectations because they're McDonald

All-Americans. I was a great high school player, BUT Rex, Rumeal Robinson, Terry Mills, J.R. Reid are good. Everything they get they deserve. I didn't realize that. I just can't put myself in a category with them. Now I realize that. I just have to go back to the drawing board and work hard. Hopefully, I'll be as good as those guys. Once you do that, you're actually being a man toward yourself.

Big Blue Basketball: By not playing in the game against Cincinnati, were you shocked you checked in a few days later against Indiana?

Derrick Miller: No, I was ready to play against Indiana because I had practiced hard. Whenever I practice hard I know I'm going to play.

Big Blue Basketball: When you came here, the UK staff noted that there were three things your game needed improvement on. First, have your ballhandling skills improved?

Derrick Miller: I can dribble. I read an article the other day and one guy said, in so many words, that I couldn't dribble. When I come into a game I don't know how long I'm going to be in there. The strongest part of my game is not dribbling, the strongest part is my shooting. I let Rex and Ed do all the dribbling and penetrating. They get me the ball because I can shoot it. But, I can

dribble. When I first came here I couldn't dribble that good, but it wasn't because of technique, it was because of strength. You're not used to dribbling off-balance when you have James Blackmon or Ed Davender guarding you. I think from last year to now I've improved my ballhandling a lot. As you can see I feel a lot more comfortable dribbling the ball.

Big Blue Basketball: Second, how about your defensive board play?

Derrick Miller: That's something I could always do. I've never heard a sportswriter here say anything about my rebounding. To be frank, a lot of people say that I'm a sneaky rebounder. Against Indiana I came in and got two rebounds. The more I play the more I can rebound. It's all about positioning, but I can go to the defensive boards for my size. I'm not saying I'm the greatest, but for my size I think I do a pretty good job.

Big Blue Basketball: And last, working for your shot without the ball?

Derrick Miller: That's something, to be honest with you, where I was lost. That's something I didn't know how to do in high school. A back cut, I never heard of that in high school. Now, I know the terminology of coach Sutton's system. And in practice I know how to back cut now (taking a defender high, if he's overplaying, and go backdoor. When he's trailing then you make him follow you around a screen). As time goes on I'll improve a lot more. That comes along with playing time. If I play more I have a chance to show people that I have gotten better. If I don't play this year then I'm quite sure I'll play before I leave here. I've improved a little bit in that I've come a long ways since last year, but there's still room for improvement. I understand now how to backcut on my man and I know when to go around a screen. Those are things I never knew about in high school. I'm moving better without the ball than I was last year.

Big Blue Basketball: Prior to the UKIT, you had hit only two of 11 from the field. Are you worried about your shot?

Derrick Miller: No, that's just (a lack of) concentration. I had a lot on mind. My mind is clearing up and I have been practicing well lately. Something I used to do in high school and I broke out of it, that hurt me more than anything, was I used to stay after practice everyday and shoot. Last year I used to stay after practice everyday and shoot. Once I started hearing what other people were saying about how I would never play at UK and the coaches getting on me, I thought: "Well, I don't really care. I'm not going to practice." Now, I'm getting in the gym and getting my confidence back. My shot will be back.

Big Blue Basketball: Does this all stem from the meeting with coach Sutton?

Derrick Miller: Yes. But it's not only the talk with him but this is a time of my life where I have to say, "Hey, either I'm going to do something right or it's not going to be done." I'm going to do it right and be somebody. I say that everyday now: "I'm going to be somebody; I can play here at UK." As long as I do that everyday then I'll be fine.

Big Blue Basketball: From now until the end of the season, what do you hope to accomplish?

Derrick Miller: A lot of people think that I just think about me. I don't. I just want to help this team in anyway I can. If it's being on the bench being a cheerleader or getting in the game, I just want to help them. I want to be liked by my teammates and I want to be liked by the coaches. By the end of the season I want people to say: "Man, Derrick stuck it out. He didn't get mad. He just gathered himself together and said he was going to be a better person." I want to help my team win a national championship and an SEC championship. I would like to see all the seniors do good. Oh, I'd rather for them to do good before I do. If it means Richard Madison playing before I do. . . hey, let him play, this is his last year. It's now or never for him where I've got two years after this. Right now, I just hope I improve as a person, that I'm happy with myself, and that other people are pleased with me, also.

Big Blue Basketball: Obviously, one of your main goals of last summer was to boost your strength. Presently, are you satisfied with your overall strength?

Derrick Miller: Yeah, I felt like I've gotten stronger. I'm not weak like I used to be, but there is still room for improvement. Sometimes you just have to pay your dues. Right now I'm in that situation. I could do two things, I either could keep my head up and hope for better things in the future or say I'm going to transfer. I'm probably closer to Bill Keightley (equipment manager) than anybody. Last year there were a couple of times I'd cry and go talk to him. He would say: "You've got to pay dues sometimes in your life." I think that paid off—I'm paying my dues. I'm going to go back in the weight room this summer. Probably, I'll start lifting weights a little bit when I get back (after Christmas break), because of the SEC. That's when you've really got to play. The other games are like preseason, but the SEC is "war-time." That's what hurt me last year, playing in the SEC. I hated it, those guys are physical. I think I can play with them this year. That's where people will see my strength—how much I've improved on my strength. But, it might not, and I'll just have to go back to the drawing board.

Big Blue Basketball: How much weight

have you gained since you came to UK?

Derrick Miller: When I came here I was weighing about 154. Now I weigh 175. So, I've been working pretty hard with the weights.

Big Blue Basketball: What's the toughest thing about being a Wildcat?

"I just want to help this team anyway I can. If it's being on the bench being a cheerleader or getting in the game, I just want to help them. . . By the end of the season I want people to say: 'Man, Derrick stuck out. He didn't get mad. He just gathered himself together and said he was going to be a better person.' "

—Derrick Miller

Derrick Miller: There's so much adversity. There are a lot of people who think you should be here. There are a lot of people who think you shouldn't be here. My biggest problem. . . people are like, "I wonder what's wrong with Derrick Miller? Is he unhappy?" I'll smile and they say, "I wonder if this is a disguise. You should transfer," or "I think you should be playing more." That's when you can get caught up in it all. That's when I got my mind tangled up. Where I made my mistake was when I started listening to other people. If I would have told myself I was just paying dues then none of this would have ever happened. That's the toughest responsibility—the fans. But Kentucky has the greatest fans. I always thought North Carolina had great fans. I played in the Sports Festival (past summer in Chapel Hill) and they can't compare to Kentucky's. Kentucky's fans make you feel at home. Right now they think things aren't going right, but I get fan mail from people saying, "Hang in there. We love you and we're happy that you are a part of the UK program." That means a lot to me. I know at a lot of schools. . . I'll bet you guys at Eastern don't get letters like that. I'm not trying to put them down but I bet you they don't get letters like that. You can have a bad day and then you get a letter that brings a smile on your face. But if you show a bad attitude on the floor, get mad, or say bad things in the paper then that can hurt you a lot. That can damage you a lot towards your fans, because the fans here are great, great fans.

Big Blue Basketball: What's the easiest thing about being a Wildcat?

Derrick Miller: There is nothing easy. I think the easiest thing is when I go home I say I play for UK. I'll tell them (back home) that it is a lot of responsibility. The coaches know what I'm doing when I'm off the floor. You have to be a positive influence on the

community. There are a lot of responsibilities. You can't dress tacky, you've got to dress nice. You see a lot of guys at other schools dress as they please. You can't do that here. There are a lot of responsibilities. I can't begin to name all the responsibilities a UK player takes when he comes here.

Big Blue Basketball: In conclusion, it sounds like you have a positive attitude. Would you agree?

Derrick Miller: That (positive attitude) helps a lot. I'm going to have periods where I'm going to say, "Man, I don't think I can do it." Then I say, "Man, I can do it, I can do it." That's what I say to myself everyday—"I can make it at UK. I can make it at UK." As long as I keep a positive attitude, do what the coaches say, know my role, and be happy then I'll be OK.

I forgot to mention the one lady that I didn't listen to—my grandmother—I wouldn't be here. If I were to leave Kentucky I think my grandmother would cry, because she likes Kentucky. She likes the program. She doesn't really know about basketball, but she likes Kentucky because they treat you as a person. My grandmother has always told me to finish school and get a nice job because you're not going to be able to dribble that ball every day of your life. I feel a lot better when I talk to my grandmother. (Before) I told her I didn't think I could make it. She said that was a bunch of bull. She said I was used to being here where I could have my way all the time. The reason I respect my grandmother so much.

. . . like mother, I could play psychological games with her but I can't do that with my grandmother. She knows when something is wrong. When I call home and say, "The coaches, they're just running over me." She says: "They're not doing it for nothin'." So, when I do something wrong I always tell my grandmother. A lot of people back home tell her that the coaches are just not playing me or that I'm not playing as much as I'm supposed to be playing. She'll ask me, "Derrick, what's wrong? What have you done for people to say that." I'll say, "Grandmother, I'm not playing hard." She'll say, "Why are you not playing hard?" I'll say, "Because I'm listening to other people." I can be open with her and tell her exactly what I feel—if I'm listening to other people or if I miss a class. I can tell her, "Grandmom, I missed a class." She says, "You're not supposed to do that. If you miss a class then you get punished for it. . . if you do something bad then you're always going to get punished for it."

To put this whole article in one word, I think I'm just growing up. In a sense that's all it is. I'm just growing up. I feel a lot better about myself; I like being here. That's the first time I can honestly say I like being here.

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