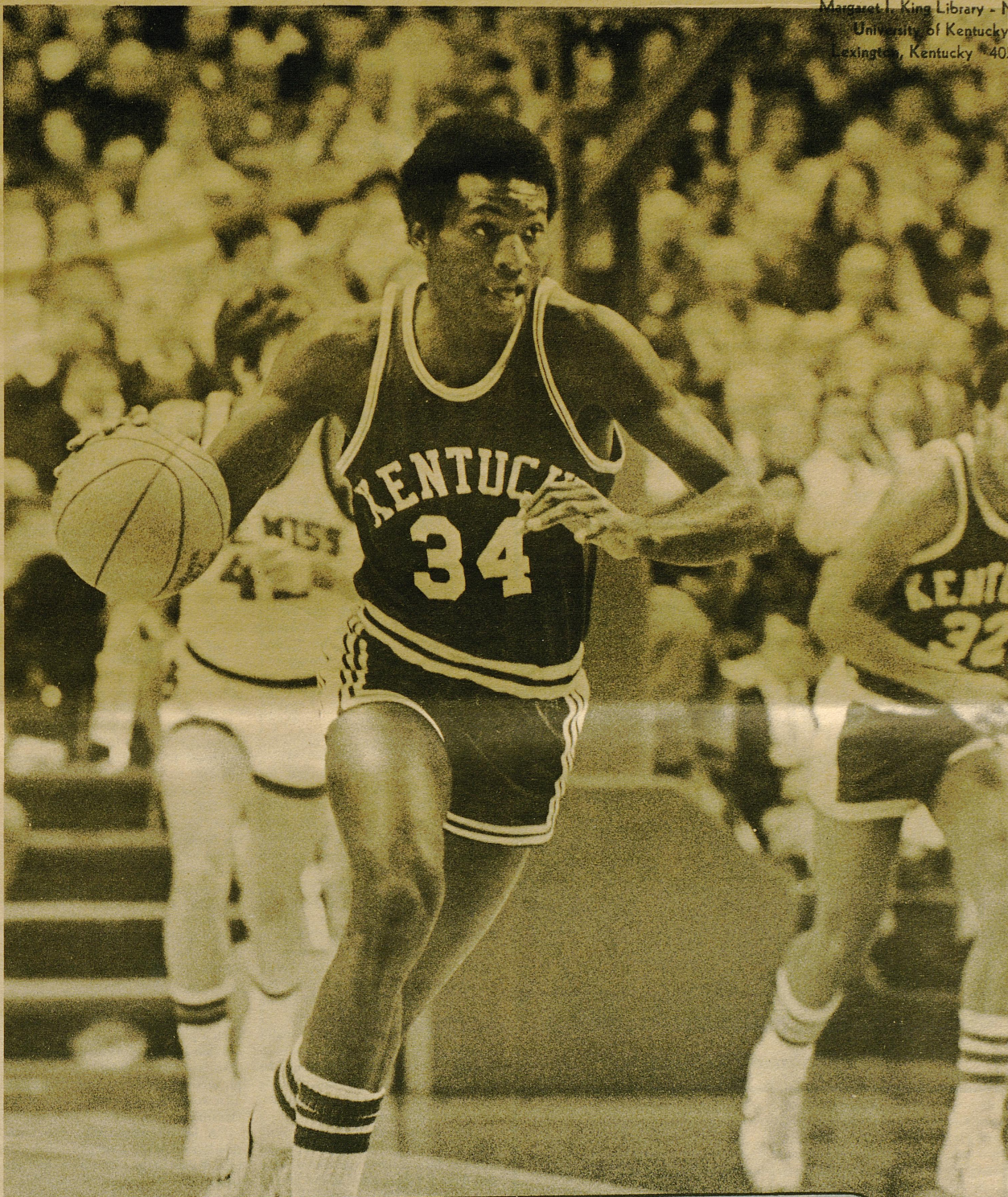


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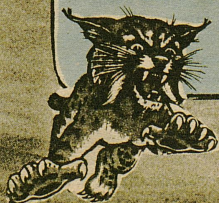


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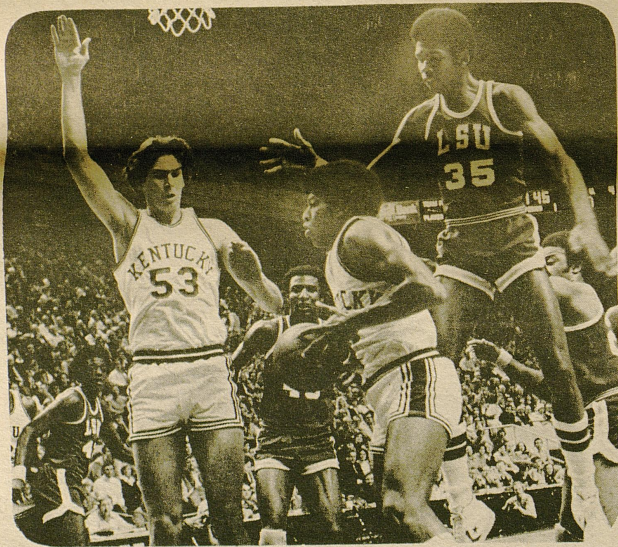
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Brown Pushing For Post Season Tourney In SEC

By Oscar L. Combs

If LSU Coach Dale Brown has his way, the Southeastern Conference would offer fans an eight-team post season tournament to select its second representative to the NCAA tournament.

Brown took the opportunity to push for the plan after his Bengal Tigers suffered an 87-72 loss to the Kentucky Wildcats at Rupp Arena for the Tigers' fourth league loss against two wins.

The fiery LSU boss says it's high time for the basketball coaches in the SEC to take a peek at the football bosses in hoop scheduling.

Brown has two items high on his list of priorities.

First, Brown wants to eliminate the complete, round-robin scheduling in basketball. He insists conference teams are just killing each other off while many independent teams can choose their opponents and thus end up with better records.

Secondly, he would like to see the SEC adopt the policy of sending the conference champion to the Midwest Regional, as in the past, but to sponsor an eight-team tournament to select the other representative. With the proposal, the SEC club with the worst conference record would not be permitted to play in the tourney.

"I think we're making a major mistake playing each other twice each season," Brown said following the game. "I think it cuts our records apart. The football people of the SEC have got much more vision."

"We, the basketball coaches, voted 8-2 and the athletic directors approved it 7-3 to forget about the round-robin and have a tournament at the end of the year and I think we've got to do that," added Brown.

"I think it would be good for basketball and I think by letting the first place team go to the NCAA and the tenth place team not getting to play in the tourney and let the other eight teams play, wow, I think we've got a heck of a set-up," argued Brown.

"Right now, we send two teams to the NCAA, but if you'll notice, in the records, we had only two teams in the SEC with less than ten losses, Tennessee and Alabama," Brown continued, "and the same thing is going to happen this year."

Maybe but Kentucky might not hit double digits this time.

Wonder why Brown offered his two long-sought innovations in Lexington?

It just so happens one of the two coaches to vote against the measures was Kentucky Coach Joe B. Hall.

And until you hear Hall's side, the two plans seem to be good ones.

The other side of the issue.

"The way we have it now, you get the true champion," said the UK mentor, "but if you drop the true round-robin, then there would be some teams with a definite home-court advantage because he would not have to travel to some schools in certain years."

A clear example might be: "LSU has to play every SEC team once, but five of the teams twice. Of the fourteen games, two of the teams would be played on the road only and two of the teams at home only. If the two home only games were say, Kentucky and Tennessee, LSU would be in the driver's seat. Eventually, each school would end up in the same matter, but it would still be a distinct advantage for schools which usually aren't basketball powers."

Thus you can understand why Kentucky and Alabama were against such a plan.

What happened to the proposal?

It was shot down by the SEC presidents, mostly because they figured it would take the students out of the classrooms even more.

"A lot of people may not know this," said Hall, "but we tried this type of plan in the SEC a long time ago and agreed the present round-robin is better."

The idea has tones similar to the NCAA which likes to tax the rich and give to the poor. Only in this situation, they want to take victories from one and give to another.

For a coach and school which have never won a basketball game in Lexington, you can't blame them for trying.

After Saturday night's 87-72 loss, LSU's basketball record stood at 0-19 in Lexington and 3-43 overall.

Look for Brown to continue his selling program for spring.



Oscar L. Combs

Cats' Pause Publisher



WILDCATS

And Now Two Big Ones At 'Bama And State

Rupp Arena is the home of the Kentucky Wildcats, finally. It was so proclaimed Monday night by the Big Blue in Big Blue fashion.

It took quite a few efforts but the Wildcats blistered the nets for a torrid 62.1 clip while demolishing Ole Miss 100-73 to serve notice on SEC opponents that the Cats are back.

For they had better be. Kentucky will be facing its toughest road assignment thus far as Coach Joe Hall's crew invades Crimson Tide land Saturday for a duel with C. M. Newton's natives before journeying over to Starkville Monday and a date with Mississippi State.

For the Wildcats, it is a must situation. Meanwhile, Alabama and Mississippi State cannot afford to lose at home.

Alabama was knocked from the ranks of the unbeaten Saturday by Tennessee, then forced into overtime before finally turning back pesky Georgia, 78-74, Monday.

Mississippi State blew a big game at Georgia Saturday, then pushed Tennessee for a half before falling, 68-59. So the two clubs will be in high gear for the Cats.

A two-game losing streak and Kentucky would be out of the running. However, a pair of wins would put the Cats right back in business.

Tennessee's colorful coach Ray Mears made the quote of quotes Monday while declaring anyone (Kentucky) with a home court loss out

of the SEC race.

Wildcat players took the Mears' statement on a low-key note and agreed everybody is entitled to his own opinion.

A few hours later, the Wildcats blistered the nets for 100 points as the lights at Rupp Arena went haywire in the final five minutes.

Officials decided to finish the game although one-third of the lights were out.

Hall later was prompted to say, "I've heard of shooting the lights out, but this goes a little too far."

+ + +

Larry Donald, editor of the highly-respected Basketball Weekly, says Michigan fans are pulling for the Tennessee Vols in the Southeastern Conference race.

"They don't want to face Kentucky in the Mideast Regional at Rupp Arena," said Donald, "and they figure Tennessee is the best bet to eliminate the Cats."

Donald says Kentucky is the best team he has watched this season, but also noted the ups and downs of the Wildcats.

+ + +

LaVon Williams, the Wildcats' talented freshman from Denver, Colorado, is rapidly becoming a big crowd favorite at Rupp Arena.

Displaying the talent Wildcat coaches saw in him a year ago, LaVon came to play over the weekend and exploded for 12 points in 13 minutes against Ole Miss Monday night.

"He really looked good out there tonight," said Hall of Williams' play, "he's beginning to loosen up and get his confidence. He's going to be a fine one."

+ + +

Rick Robey was schedule to visit a local hospital after the game Monday night to undergo x-rays on his chest and have his elbow worked on.

Robey has been suffering recurring chest pains as a result of an automobile accident a week ago and he injured his elbow in the Ole Miss game while diving for a loose ball.

+ + +

NBC-TV, which now calls itself the king of collegiate basketball coverage, continues to show its inability to compile a Top 15 list each Sunday.

This past Sunday ratings once again turned their back to the powerful SEC,

with the exception of Kentucky.

To give the devil justice, how anyone can keep Tennessee and Alabama out of the Top Ten is beyond me. Tennessee, with its sensational play in recent weeks, should be in the top five and Alabama should be only a couple of notches behind. Instead, Tennessee is No. 11 and Alabama No. 12.

One cannot argue with the No. 1 spot going to San Francisco since the Dons are still undefeated in intercollegiate competition despite losing to the Athletes in Action group.

Somehow, Nevada-Las Vegas holds down the second spot and shouldn't even be in the top five with the schools on its schedule not to mention the home-court conditions Vegas enjoys.

Another stumper is North Carolina which holds down the No. 3 spot despite losing to North Carolina State and almost getting knocked off by Maryland. Pollsters, NBC included, just refuses to release a rating sheet which excludes a team from the so-called power conference of the ACC.

The rest of the poll. Michigan in No. 4 and probably deserves it. Kentucky is No. 5 and should be about No. 8 or 9. In the No. 6 spot is UCLA which is probably overrated. No. 7 is Marquette with Cincinnati No. 8, Arizona No. 9 and Louisville No. 10. Cincy has no business in the Top Ten. Rounding out the top 15 are Wake Forest in the No. 13 slot followed by Arkansas and Minnesota.

+ + +

HITS AND MISSES. . . Footballer Tom Dornbrook, the 6-2 junior offensive guard, will be playing baseball for coach Tuffy Horne this spring and look for the hardballers to have a good one.

. . . Speaking of football reminds us that Fran Curci has set March 7 as the beginning date for spring practice this year. The spring intra-squad game will be played sometime in mid-April.

. . . Almost twenty high school football recruits were guests of UK over the weekend and attended the Wildcats' 87-72 basketball win over LSU Saturday. Just so happens the on-campus presentation of the Peach Bowl trophies were made at halftime.

. . . For those who have been wondering, both Richard Jardine and Dan Fowler are in school and will apparently be ready for action on the 1977 UK football team. Jardine, who was injured in an accident last summer, reported out of shape and was redshirted this past season. Fowler, who had academic problems, is back in school and is expected to meet the guidelines. As of last week, four grid underclassmen

were missing from the UK scene. They are Johnny Grubb, Dave Toler, Greg Chinn and Casey Jones. Reports are that Chinn and Jones have decided they want to work rather than perseue college at this time. Grubb, according to sources, is headed to a small school known as Northern Alabama. The only other player on the 100-plus Peach Bowl roster which is registered for second semester classes is All-American Warren Bryant who had problems attending class during the fall.

. . . With the crowd of 21,680 against LSU, Kentucky established a new all-time season home attendance record even though the Cats still have seven more games to count. The previous all-time home high was 181,295 in fifteen games in the 1969-70 season. After nine games this season, the Wildcats have attracted 187,415 for an average of 20,824 at home. Games played in Louisville also count as home games for Kentucky.

. . . Basketball Coach Joe Hall has been around the country the past ten days. Hours after the Tennessee game, Hall was on a jet to scout a recruit in Texas, then took time-out while in Florida to eye some high school stars then sprouted wings for a visit to the Big Apple Tuesday after the Cats whipped the Gators.

How's recruiting going thus far. "You never know," said Hall, "you can't be sure or even confident of anything until they've signed the national letter." . . . Durand Macklin, the great LSU freshman, made it clear why he chose LSU over Kentucky. Macklin said he wanted to attend a school where he could play immediately. He's done just that, but the Tigers are losing in the tough SEC. Wonder if he's having second doubts now? A man with his ability can start anywhere, Kentucky not withstanding.

Which brings to mind the situation next season in the Bluegrass. The Wildcats will be in extreme need of some big people, at least one 6-10, or 6-11 and one in the 6-7 or 6-8 range. And when these kids hear garbage from rivals that "you won't get to play at Kentucky for two or three years," they will only have to look at Jay Shidler and the fact that all eleven Kentucky players get in just about every game.

. . . Rick Robey will celebrate his 21st birthday Sunday, January 30, and teammate Truman Claytor will be 20 years old February 2. Other birthdays are footballers Greg Woods, January 26; Robert Murray, January 30; John Nochta, February 5 and John Pierce, February 6. Pierce and Woods will be 22 and Nochta and Murray will be 23. Some 2,500 tickets were still available (as of last Friday) for the Kentucky-Florida State game in Louisville on February 7.

SEC standings

Team	Conf.			Team	Conf.				
	W.	L.	All		W.	L.	All		
Tennessee	8	0	14	2	Vanderbilt	3	4	7	8
Alabama	6	1	15	1	Auburn	2	5	8	6
UK	6	1	13	2	LSU	2	5	9	7
Florida	4	3	11	4	Miss.	2	6	7	9
Miss. St.	3	4	11	5	Georgia	1	7	6	10

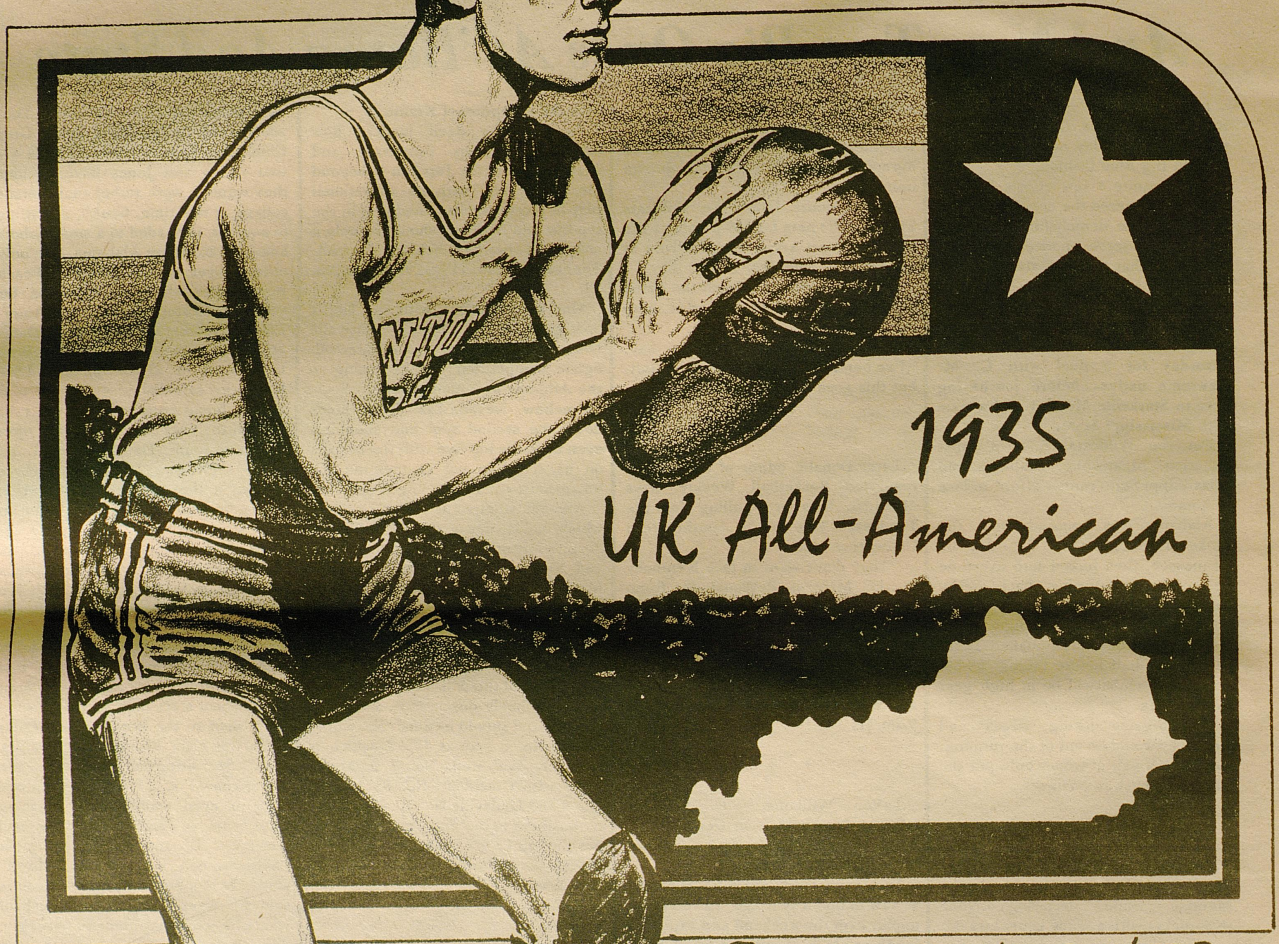
OVC standings

Team	Conf.			Team	Conf.				
	W.	L.	All		W.	L.	All		
Murray	5	1	13	4	East Tenn.	3	3	7	9
Austin Peay	5	1	15	2	Tenn. Tech	1	5	6	10
Mid. Tenn.	4	2	12	4	Western	1	5	4	11
Morehead	4	2	8	6	Eastern	1	5	4	9

AP college basketball poll

Pos.	College	1st-place votes	Record	Pts.
1.	San Francisco (47)	19	19-0	1,049
2.	Michigan (3)	15	13-1	875
3.	Alabama	14	1-1	785
4.	North Carolina (4)	13	1-2	658
5.	Nevada-Las Vegas (1)	12	1-1	566
6.	Kentucky	12	2-2	562
7.	Tennessee	12	1-2	500
8.	UCLA	12	1-2	435
9.	Marquette	12	1-2	404
10.	Wake Forest	12	1-2	364
11.	Louisville	12	1-2	359
12.	Cincinnati	12	2-2	276
13.	Minnesota	12	1-2	219
14.	Providence	12	1-2	121
15.	Arkansas	12	1-1	102
16.	Arizona	12	1-2	79
17.	Syracuse	12	1-2	45
18.	Purdue	12	1-1	33
19.	Clemson	12	1-2	24
20.	Memphis State	12	1-2	21

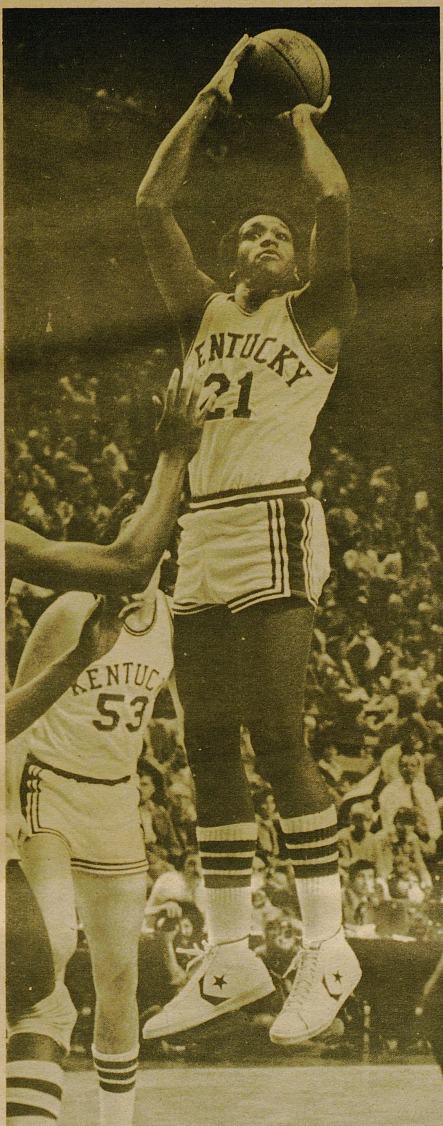
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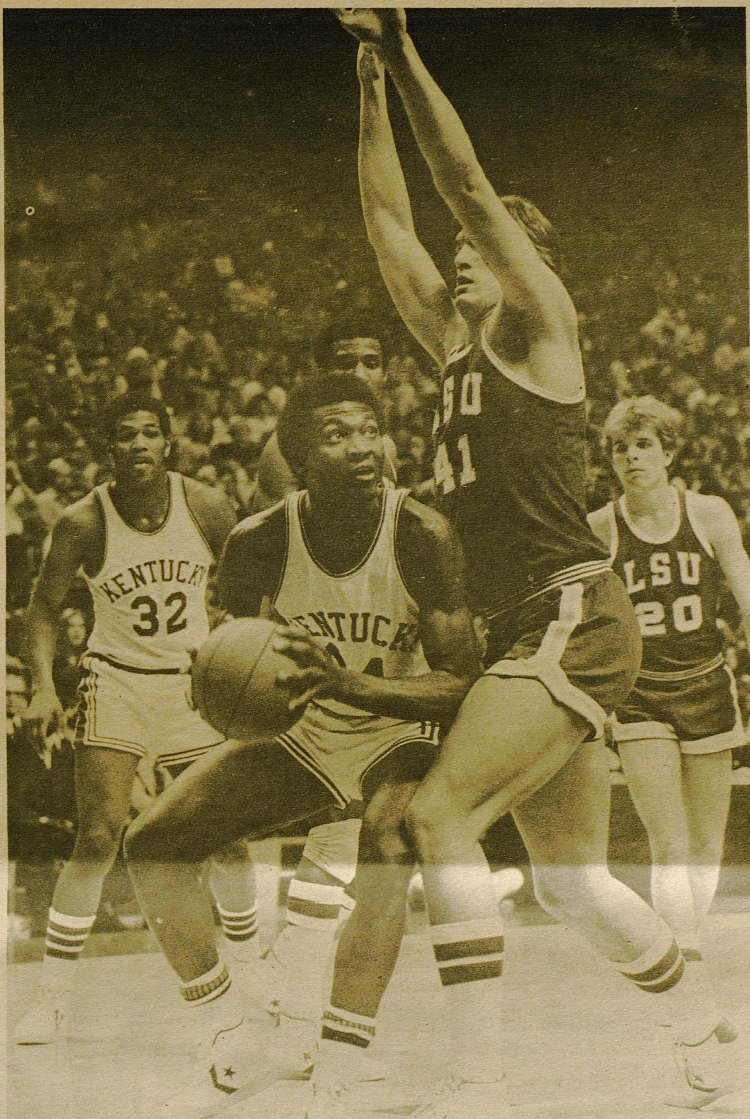


Photo by Ken Weaver

LaVon Gets Ready For Jumper



Assistant Dick Parsons Offers Encouragement

**Photos
Of Cats-Tigers**

Battle

by Bill Kight

Joe B. Hall

UK Head Basketball Coach



And About Those 'Super Kittens' Of Kentucky

Question - Kentucky's offense still didn't play as well as it did before Notre Dame, but the defense appeared to be the difference in the win over LSU. How do you evaluate the team's play?

Coach Hall - We had two key factors. One of them was the defense, generally. The other was our team play. We moved the ball much better than we have in recent games. The ball was not sticking. We gave a much better team effort and our defensive effort on (Durand) Macklin was good. (James) Lee and (Jack) Givens did a good job on him and we got some other help.

Question - There were a lot of whistles in the LSU game. In fact, there were 55 personal fouls and 70 attempts free throws. How did this affect your game plan?

Coach Hall - You just have to go along with it. With your game plan, you've got to figure in the officials' game plan, too. That was an important factor for both of us. Both teams had people in foul trouble and had to protect them. The game was played very aggressively and LSU is a very physical ball club. They're very big and play with a lot of emotion. All that leads to very physical play.

Question - What about Mike Phillips against LSU tonight?

Coach Hall - Mike played just a super ball game, both offensively and on the boards. He did a great job inside on the boards, both offensively and defensively. I don't know how many he got but he was about the only one we had inside battling two and three people and he protected the ball well after he got it.

Question - Are you satisfied with the team's overall play against LSU?

Coach Hall - We were real pleased, especially the spurt in the second half where we were running well, shooting well and playing good defense. We forced a lot of turnovers in that stretch. We played alert tonight. It's the most alert game we've had since the Notre Dame game. We were real happy to see that.

Question - Another big defensive assignment went to Larry Johnson. How did you rate Larry's defensive job of Kenny Higgs?

Coach Hall - Larry did another supreme job, but he does every time out. So it wasn't anything exceptional. He plays good offense every night. Take away all the free throws Higgs had, it would have been a very exceptional defensive effort.

Question - You had a pleasant contribution from substitute LaVon Williams tonight, didn't you?

Coach Hall - LaVon played his best game since our preseason scrimmage. He played great in our preseason scrimmages but he's been tense and tight and hasn't been shooting well. And that's bothered his game. He was much more alert tonight, got a couple of baskets and that's really going to help him. Tim Stephens is still playing tense and when he comes out of it, he's going to be just another good, exciting ballplayer.

Question - There were a lot of turnovers against LSU tonight. Kentucky had 26. Does this bother you?

Coach Hall - We caused a lot of our own, fumbling our passes. But we played aggressively and when we do that, I'm not going to be concerned about our turnovers. We forced LSU into just as many with our good defense.

Question - What about the practice situation in Rupp Arena. How many

times did you practice in the Arena the week of the LSU game?

Coach Hall - We only practiced once, Friday. We did come down here this morning (Saturday) and did some shooting. Of course, we do this all the time we're on the road. We're going to have to start treating this place like we're on the road. Of course, we won't be able to come down here on Monday because of school.

Question - A reader wrote us recently and wanted to know if Kentucky would be playing the Wisconsin Badgers next year and where the game would be. Will Wisconsin be on the Kentucky schedule?

Coach Hall - No, this was only a one-game contract and there will be no return game at Wisconsin.

Question - Many fans are wondering where all the "Super Kittens" are now after that fabulous finish as NCAA

runners-up year before last. What can you tell us about them?

Coach Hall - Bob Guyette is playing semi-pro basketball in Spain. Mike Flynn plays with the Indiana Pacers of the NBA. Jimmy Dan Conner lives in Louisville where he has various business interests. He also owns a Burger Queen in his hometown, Lawrenceburg. Kevin Grevey is playing with the Washington Bullets of the NBA. G.J. Smith is assistant coach and teacher at Laurel County High School at London. Jerry Hale works for National Mines in Lexington and Steve Lochmueller is employed by Crescent Mines of Lexington.

Question - Will you have a basketball camp this summer for young boys on the UK campus?

Coach Hall - Yes, we have an exciting program every summer at our basketball camp. There will be four weeks of camp during June, July and August. We have excellent facilities and have room and board available in our package. There are air-conditioned rooms and we have four floors. Information can be obtained by writing: Kentucky Wildcat Basketball Camp, Basketball Office, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Ky. 40506.

Question - You finally got a good shooting performance from your team at Rupp Arena against Ole Miss. Tell us what happened?

Coach Hall - Yes, we shot well. Of course, we got the run-outs, and the steals off our 1-3-1 zone defense really helped our offense and gave us confidence to put up the outside shots. We had excellent shooting but we had an awful lot of good inside shots, and lay-ups off the break.

Question - Were you pleased with the play of your guards?

Coach Hall - Larry (Johnson) played one of his best games, offensively. Jay hit the bucket well and we got 30 points from the two starters and they didn't play but about half the game.

Question - Is the team back now after the dull play for the past three or four weeks?

Coach Hall - It's obvious to everyone that we're totally back now. We're just not that accustomed to playing with that much enthusiasm and we're going to have to get use to it.

Question - Now it's on the road to Alabama and Mississippi State. Is Kentucky ready?

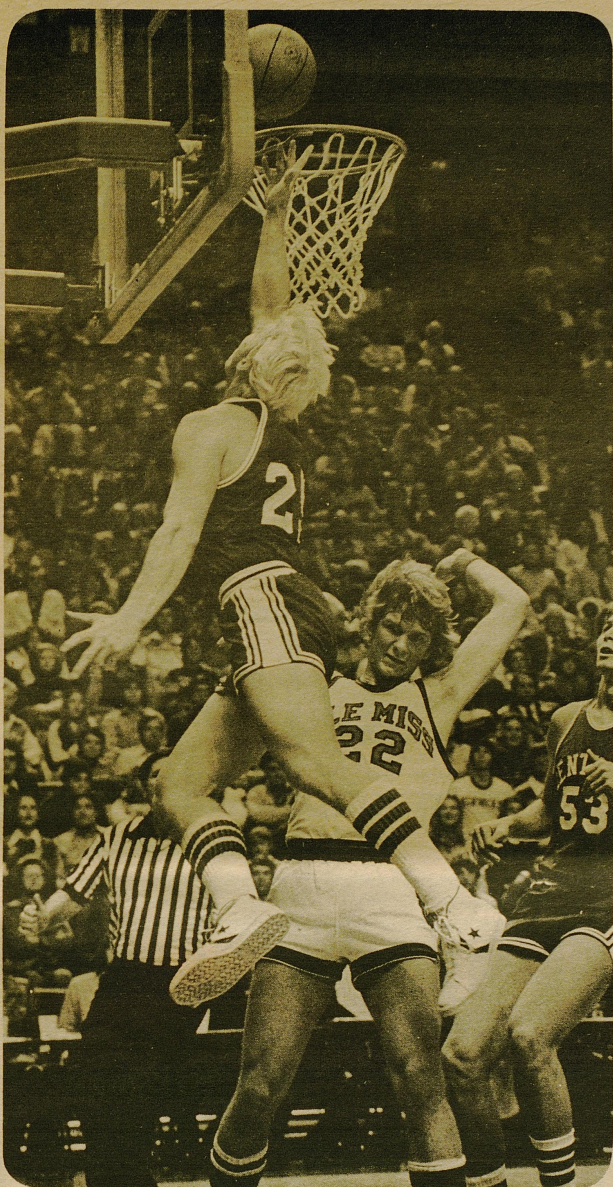
Coach Hall - I think we're near ready for the task we have in playing Alabama and Mississippi State on the road. I wouldn't say we're totally ready for them but the few things that we can sharpen up this week should help us tremendously.

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Shidler Drives Against Ole Miss

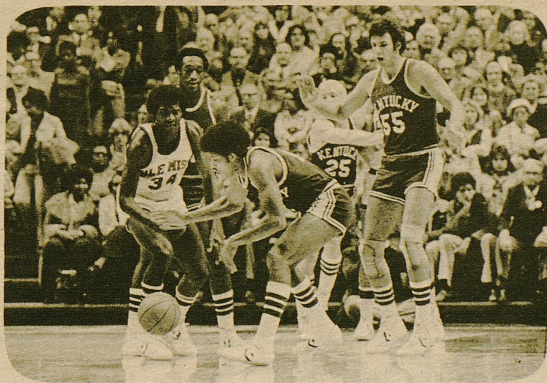


Dewey Bentley

Weekly UK Sports Quiz

Who Declined 1959 NCAA Bid?

1. In the 1958-59 season, Kentucky was 24-3 but did not win the SEC conference title. However, they represented SEC in NCAA when the SEC champion declined the bid. Who was the winner? A) Auburn B) Mississippi St. C) LSU D) Vanderbilt.
2. Coach Rupp went 18-7 in 1959-60 season. This was his poorest record up until that time. True; false.
3. After the 18-7 season in 1959-60, Kentucky went out and recruited two junior college all americans. One was Doug Pendygraft of Lindsey-Wilson. Who was the other?
4. Who was Coach Adolph Rupp referring to when he said, "He's one of the greatest I have ever seen. He seems to be standing around out there and psst, he's got the ball and there she goes. I just wish everybody could see that kid play basketball. It's a treat"? [Hint: he played for an opposing team in the UKIT].
5. Kentucky's biggest win margin over Alabama was 42 points in 1949 [74-32]. Alabama, since then defeated Kentucky by more than 42 points.
6. In 1945, UK held an opponent to only two field goals for an entire game. Who was the opponent? A) Fr. Knox, B) Cincinnati C) Arkansas St. D) Ohio U.
7. Which of the following UK teams has hit the 100 or more points mark the most times? A) 1965-66 B) 1954-55 C) 1970-71 D) 1974-75.
8. Who is the former UK guard that ranks as the 5th top scorer in Wildcat history? A) Mike Casey B) Louie Dampier C) Frank Ramsey D) Vernon Hatton.
9. Which one of the following did not reach the 1,000 point mark at Kentucky? A) Jimmy Dan Conner B) Larry Conley C) Bob Burrow D) Tom Parker.
10. Last year's Wildcat team set a best field goal percentage mark. They hit 65 percent vs. Florida on Feb. 21, 1976 and equalled this later in the season. Who was the opponent? A) Auburn, B) Mississippi C) LSU D) Alabama.



Kentucky-Ole Miss Action

UK SPORTS QUIZ ANSWERS

1. B. Miss. St. was 13-1 in SEC. Ky. was 12-2.
2. False. He was 17-8 in 1940-41 more 15 times.
3. C. The 1970-71 team hit 100 or more 15 times.
4. B. 1,575 in 3 years. Played 80 games for 19.7 average.
5. B. Larry Conley
6. A. The following game Feb. 23, Ky. 93- Auburn 82.
7. False. Bama's biggest win was 24 points [101-77] in 1956.
8. True; False.

Central Kentucky Dining Guide



University of Kentucky President Otis Singletary, second from right, receives a \$15,000 check from Dr. Michael Prunty, president of Lexington Country Club, to establish a golf scholarship at UK in memory of Charles W.

Vittitoe Jr., who was the country club's golf pro for 26 years. Dr. Gordon Hyde, the country club's fund-raising chairman is at left, and Dr. Robert Drake, special assistant to

the UK president, is at right. The scholarship money represents contributions by Lexington Country Club members and proceeds from special fund-raising events.



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Golf Scholarship Established

Members of Lexington Country Club have given the University of Kentucky \$15,000 to establish a golf scholarship in memory of Charles W. Vittitoe Jr., who was the club's golf pro for 26 years.

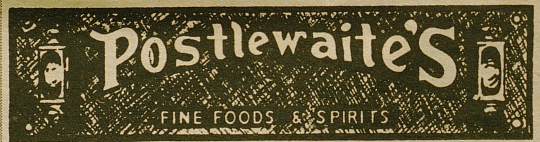
Dr. Michael Prunty, president of Lexington Country Club, and Dr. Gordon Hyde, the club's fund-raising chairman, recently presented the check to UK President Otis Singletary and Dr. Robert Drake, special assistant to the UK president.

Prunty said the scholarship money represents contributions by individual

club members as well as proceeds from special fund-raising events.

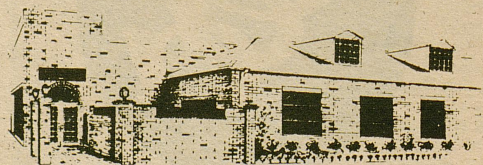
The Charles W. Vittitoe Memorial Golf Scholarship will be awarded annually to a student golfer of varsity caliber from Kentucky selected by UK. Lexington Country Club hopes to inaugurate an annual golf tournament to honor Vittitoe and produce more contributions to the scholarship. Vittitoe died this past September.

Prunty said that contributions for the scholarship from persons not members of Lexington Country club are welcome.



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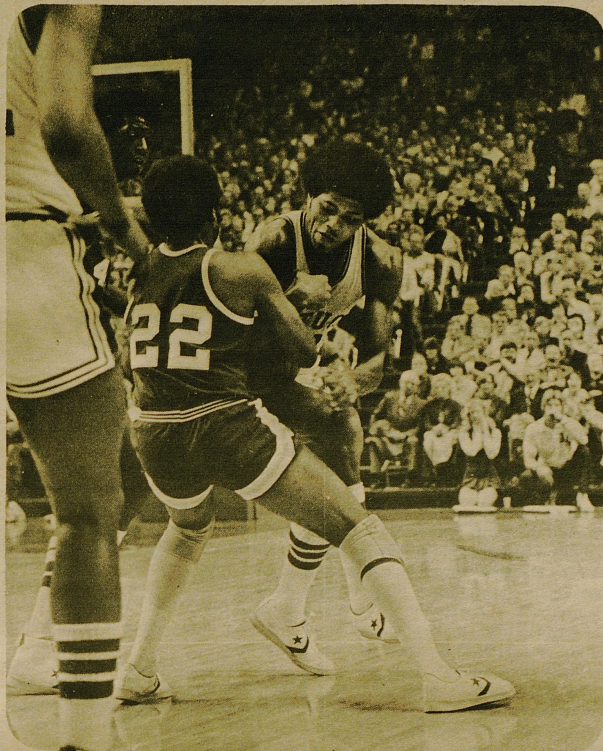
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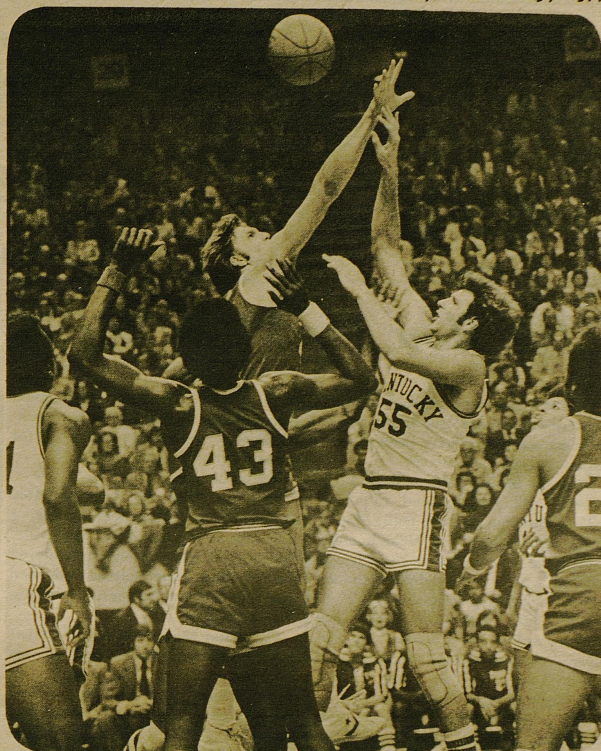
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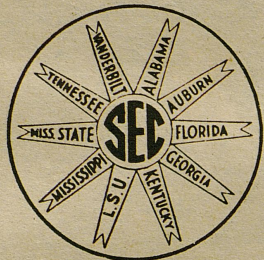
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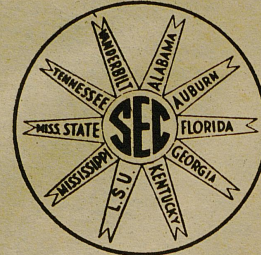
KENTUCKY FINANCE COMPANY

THE AMERICAN DAIRY ASSOCIATION



Around The SEC

With Bill Straub



Just How Are Those SEC TV Games Selected, Anyway?

For the past many seasons, Southeastern Conference basketball games of some importance have been televised on Saturday afternoons.

Now in the past there have been several problems related to these games although they are really of very little significance. Joe Dean's voice does have a rather nasal quality to it and the camera work does—at times—leave something to be desired.

But SEC basketball fans have learned to live through adversity. The overall officiating in the conference—in a word—stinks as do many of the facilities ala Gator Alley.

So problems never keep a true Southeastern basketball fan from tuning in the local channel broadcasting the tilt. Trouble, however, has arisen that deserves some note.

Saturday afternoon over channel 18 in Lexington, local viewers were treated to a bombastic contest pitting Mississippi State against Georgia. A more thrilling match-up of squads never existed. Coach Kermit Davis' Maroons are generally regarded as being a year away although they do possess some talent. It must also be noted here that the Dogs were on the weekly SEC broadcast just one week before, against Alabama.

Then there's darling little Georgia. Up until Saturday coach John Guthrie's squad had failed to win an SEC game. They have, in reality, been pitiful. The Dogs lost the two games prior to the Mississippi State outing by a total of 20 points. They entered the fray as the lone SEC team without a conference victory. All season long, the Dogs had been without some performers who could have aided the starting line-up. The fact that they did, indeed, beat State is more a tribute to the Maroon's ineptitude than to the Dogs' talent.

In case you haven't gathered by now, it wasn't a very engrossing game. It ranked right up there with walking down to the bakery and watching the bread rise. One got the feeling the station would be switched if "Mr. T and Tina" repeats were playing on channel 62.

Going into the 1976-77 campaign, it was pretty well agreed that three teams—Kentucky, Alabama and Tennessee—would be battling for the championship. Although the conference has admittedly shown some overall improvement over the past few seasons, the Georgia's and the Ole Miss' still exist.

Would it be too much trouble to ask, then, what the people setting up the

television schedule for the National Broadcasting Company take into consideration the importance (or impotence) of a certain game?

For instance:

Last Saturday, as you probably already know, Tennessee was facing Alabama in a game at Knoxville. Coach C.M. Newton's Tide entered the tilt with a completely unblemished record in both conference and non-conference play.

Coach Ray Mears' Vols, on the other hand, were the hottest team in the league—perhaps in the nation. Not only had they torn through the first half of the SEC schedule unscathed but they defeated pre-conference favorite Kentucky in Lexington to do it.

It was a classic match-up. The Ernie and Bernie Show had not made an appearance on the Game of the Week up to this point in the campaign.

So what do we get? Mississippi State vs. Georgia. Marie Antoinette said let them eat cake. An executive for the network undoubtedly said let them eat baloney.

There is really no excuse for it. There are enough games played through the 18-game SEC schedule to assure exposure for everyone. This Saturday, for instance, Kentucky plays at Alabama. That game should be televised. The week after, on Feb. 5, however, there are no games that bear a true effect on the conference race. None of the three top teams are meeting face-to-face. The network can show anything they want to. Heck, if they want to substitute repeats of "Please Don't Eat the Daisies" in that time slot, more power to them.

Long-suffering basketball fans, who have watched Kentucky dominate the SEC for ions, should get a chance to see the best. The Alabama-Tennessee encounter would have been perfect. But instead of prime rib we get chopped liver.

A well thought-out and planned television schedule should be a must for these broadcasts. Otherwise, the weekly telecasts of the Metro-7 games—which are technically better anyway—will steal all the thunder.

In fairness to all concerned, it should be reported that elementary and high school basketball coaches throughout the country are jamming the NBC switch boards with requests for taped copies of the Georgia-MSU encounter. They want to show their pupils how NOT to play basketball. It appeared the two teams did everything possible to forget whatever had been taught them.

Georgia got ahead early because Mississippi State was lousy. The Maroons caught up because Georgia was lousy. The Dogs finally won because State was just out-and-out lousier.

There were only three bright spots through the entire game. All of them falling on Georgia's side of the ledger. a) Tony Flanagan proved he's a better basketball player than a third string quarterback. b) Lavon Mercer showed the intrinsic talent that will make him a future star. c) Marl Slonaker because he hails from Rahway, N.J. which is about a 20 minute drive from my hometown.

The rest of it wasn't worth the effort.

ALABAMA—The Tide finally fell from the ranks of the unbeaten and probably from the top five with its loss to Tennessee and a closer than expected triumph over Mississippi State. Bama was idle Monday.

Newton's crew stayed close most of the way but never really threatened. Tennessee took a 50-38 halftime lead and made mincemeat of the vaulted Alabama defense for the entire 40 minutes. The final score of 102-93 proves that.

Once again it was the Ernie and Bernie Show—along with a few lesser lights—leading the way. King, perhaps the outstanding performer in the SEC, scored 26 points while feeding off 12 others to center Reggie Johnson standing under the basket. Grunfeld chipped in with his usual 22 while forward Mike Jackson—the most under-rated player in the SEC—added 26.

Three players scoring in the twenties and two others in double figures are hard to beat. Alabama was heading for a fall and it arrived just at the right time for Tennessee. Reginald King hit a whopping 33 points for the losers but no one else had more than 12.

AUBURN—The SEC's most puzzling team got 21 points out of Stan Pietkiewicz Jan. 17 to whip lowly Vanderbilt 74-69. The War Eagles returned to form Saturday, however, falling to Florida 77-73 at home.

The Gator match marked the fourth time in five SEC starts the Tigers of coach Bob Davis lost on their home court this season. No way can they do that and compete for a title.

Pietkiewicz paced the Plainsmen (that's the third nickname for those counting) to a 21-point first half lead at 40-19 and never trailed.

Vandy did close to 59-57 at one point, but behind Mike Mitchell—who scored 18 points—Auburn pulled away.

It was a different story Saturday. Trailing Florida 73-71 with less than a minute to play, the Tigers rebounded a missed free throw by the Gators' Chuck Fritz and headed downcourt. The ball was somehow mishandled, Florida's Bob Smythe picked it up and drove in for a deciding chippy.

FLORIDA—Malcolm Cesare led coach John Lotz's crew against Auburn with 21 points. Smythe and Richard Glasper had 13 each.

Earlier in the week, Florida fell to Kentucky.

GEORGIA—The Dogs finally broke the hex with an 82-73 upset over Mississippi State Saturday. Flanagan led UGA with 21 points followed by Mercer's 20.

Georgia snuck way out on top and was helped when State's high scoring forward Gary Hooker fouled out with about 10 minutes to play. The Maroons made a late charge but it was not enough.

Prior to that, however, it was the same old story with LSU winding up on top 97-77 Jan. 17. You win some and you lose some.

LSU—Coach Dale Brown had the old ups and downs. He beat Georgia—as expected—but lost to Kentucky—as expected. Not a very interesting week at all.

OLE MISS—It was the Rebs' turn to lose to Tennessee 86-72 Jan. 17 which wasn't too bad considering the game was played at Oxford—or anywhere else for that matter.

Saturday coach Bob Weltlich's crew made it two in a row with a 77-72 loss to Vandy. After scoring only four points in the first half, the Commodores' Greg Fuller scored 16 to head a second half surge. It helped Vandy fight back from a 33-27 halftime deficit.

The game was close all the way and ended 65-65 in regulation. Fuller turned out to be the difference in overtime.

MISSISSIPPI STATE—Davis' crew might be the only thing standing in the way of Georgia's winless campaign. Evidently the day off Jan. 17 had its effect.

TENNESSEE—What else can be added to what's already been said? With a win on Kentucky's home floor and a victory over Alabama, the Vols are currently in the driver's seat. The victory game them the undisputed 7-0 lead and a 13-2 overall mark. The only losses came at the hands of Duke and San Francisco.

VANDERBILT—The Commodores exploits have already been well documented.

Kentucky Wildcat Basketball

Game Statistics

PLAYER	G	MIN	FG-FGA	PCT.	FT-FTA	PCT.	REB-AVE	A	PF-D	PTS	AVE	TO	
GIVENS	14	480	114-223	51.1	32- 38	84.2	105-7.5	39	30-0	260	18.6	25	
ROBEY	14	378	74-135	54.8	40- 66	60.6	114-8.1	16	50-1	188	13.4	30	
LEE	14	380	50- 93	53.8	41- 61	67.2	89-6.4	17	48-3	141	10.1	30	
PHILLIPS	12	246	54- 97	55.7	31- 54	57.4	73-6.1	11	33-1	139	11.6	31	
JOHNSON	14	477	53-125	42.4	28- 40	70.0	58-4.1	60	40-1	134	9.6	25	
SHIDLER	12	349	52-129	40.3	16- 19	84.2	28-2.3	32	38-0	120	10.0	24	
CASEY	13	128	10- 31	32.3	15- 22	68.2	7-0.5	13	16-0	35	2.7	16	
CLAYTOR	10	114	12- 37	32.4	3- 5	60.0	7-0.7	15	14-0	27	2.7	13	
STEPHENS	11	94	12- 39	30.8	2- 6	33.3	12-1.1	9	13-0	26	2.4	3	
WILLIAMS, L.	11	98	10- 25	40.0	6- 12	50.0	22-2.0	2	16-0	26	2.4	12	
HASKINS	13	95	4- 10	40.0	2- 7	28.6	19-1.5	6	10-0	10	0.8	4	
WILLIAMS, S.	1	1	0- 1	----	0- 0	----	0-0.0	0	0-0	0	---	0	
LAWLESS	1	1	0- 0	----	0- 0	----	0-0.0	0	2-0	0	---	0	
REBOUNDS							KY TEAM	70	Deadball - Ky-Opp				25-28

KY TOTALS	14		445-945	47.1	216-330	65.5	604-43.1	220	310- 6	1106	79.0	213
OPP TOTALS	14		356-817	43.6	196-285	68.8	507-36.2	187	333-23	908	64.9	286

SEASON RECORD: 12-2; SEC: 5-1; HOME: 6-2; AWAY: 5-0; NEUTRAL: 1-0

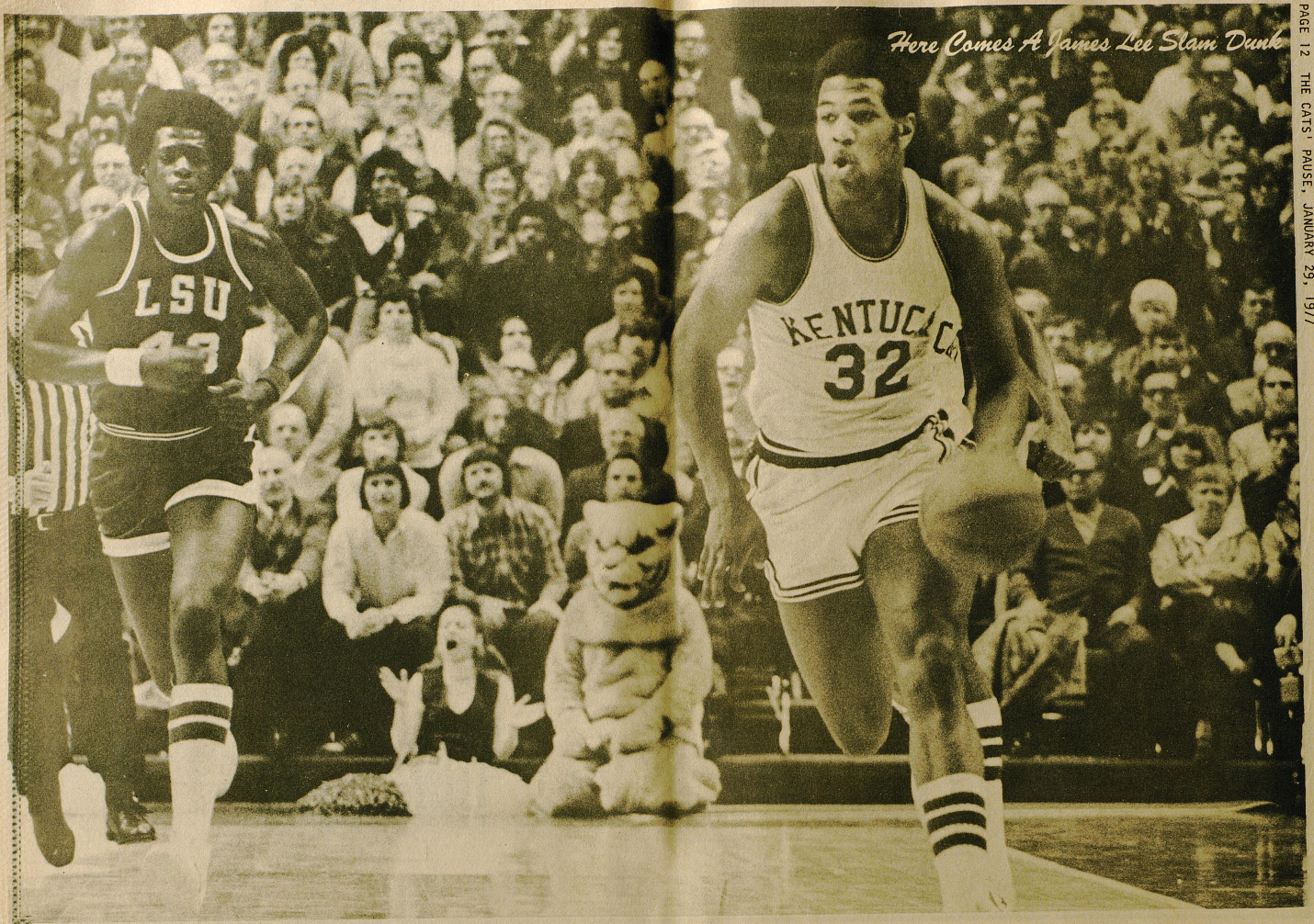
OPPONENT	SITE-CROWD	KY	OPP	INDIVIDUAL HIGHS - POINTS, REBOUNDS
Marathon Oil AAU (EX)	(MC-6,988)	110	93	Givens 19, Robey 10
Wisconsin	(H-23,266)	72	64	Robey 13, Robey 13
Texas Christian	(H-22,312)	103	53	Robey 21, Robey 15
Indiana	(A-17,632)	66	51	Johnson, Shidler 20, Johnson 7
Kansas	(H-23,107)	90	63	Givens 15, Lee 7
South Carolina	(A-10,987)	98	67	Givens 28, Phillips 12
Bowling Green	(UKIT-16,305)	77	59	Givens 28, Robey 14
Utah	(UKIT-18,751)	68	70	Robey 19, Lee 13
Notre Dame	* (N-16,613)	102	78	Givens 30, Robey 8
Georgia	(H-22,100)	64+	59	Givens 17, Lee 7
Vanderbilt	(A-15,626)	64	62	Robey 21, Robey 9
Tennessee	(H-23,271)	67+	71	Givens 23, Lee 12
Auburn	(A-11,902)	75	68	Givens 20, Givens 13
Florida	(A- 5,712)	73	71	Givens 19, Givens 7
LSU	(H-21,680)	87	72	Phillips 24, Phillips 19

* Freedom Hall, Louisville, Ky. + Overtime

BLOCKED SHOTS - STEALS, BY INITIALS IN ABOVE PLAYER ORDER

JG	RR	JL	MP	LJ	JS	DC	TC	TS	LW	MH	SW	BL
9-15	2-14	3-12	9-2	3-19	0-19	1-3	0-5	1-1	2-5	0-0	0-1	0-0

JANUARY SCHEDULE: Jan. 24 Ole Miss (H)
 Jan. 29 Alabama (A)
 Jan. 31 Mississippi State (A)

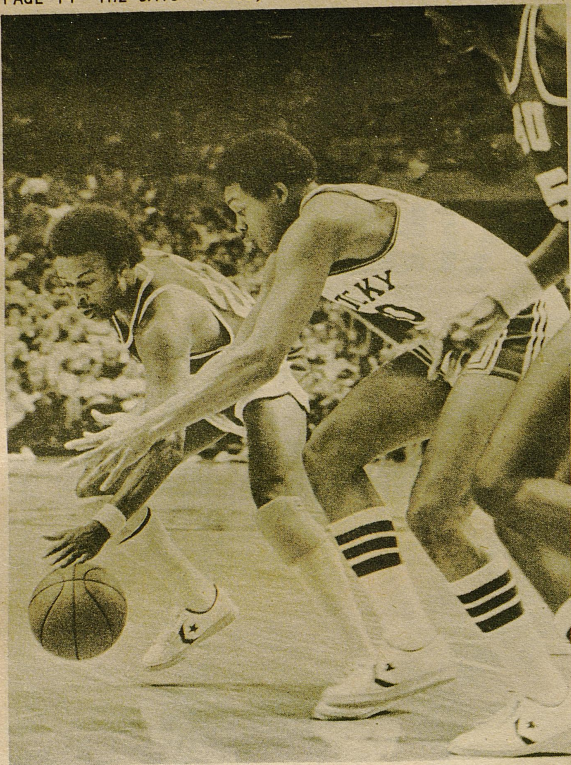


Here Comes A James Lee Slam Dunk

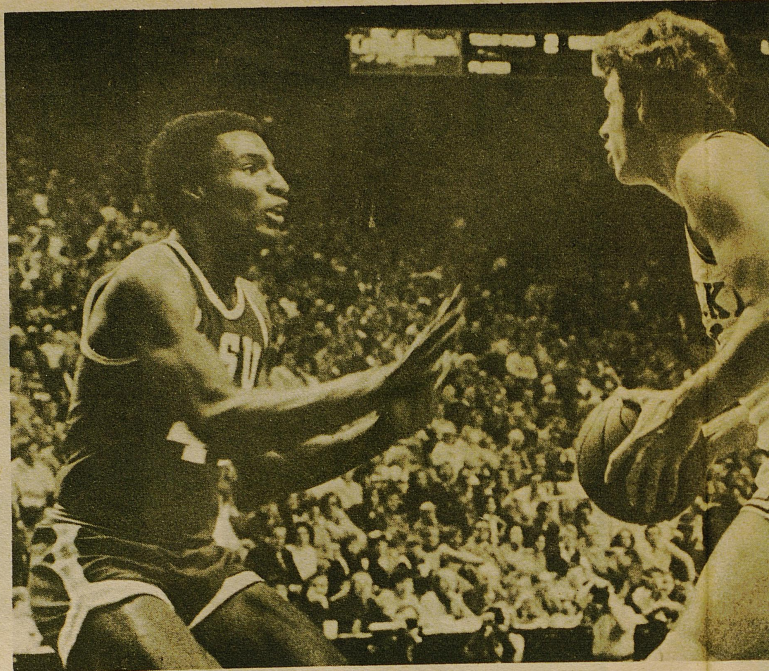
1976-77 Kentucky Wildcat Basketball Album



Jay Shidler



Haskins, Higgs Go After Ball

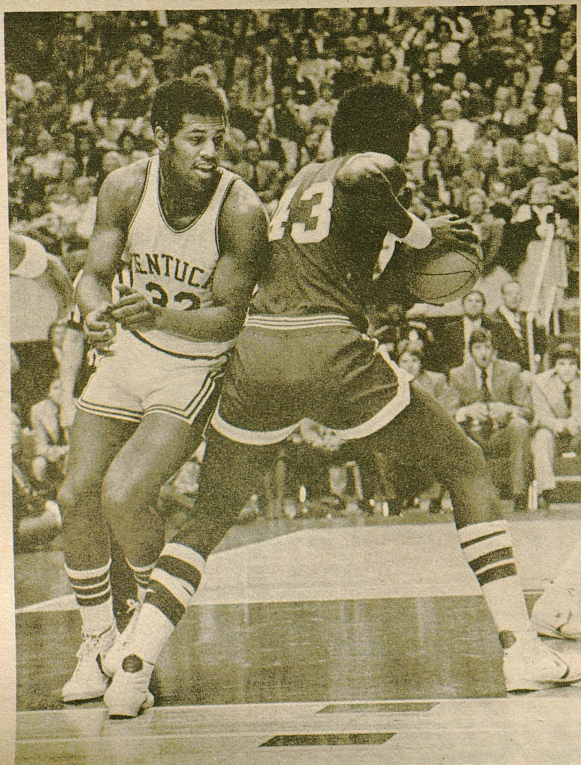


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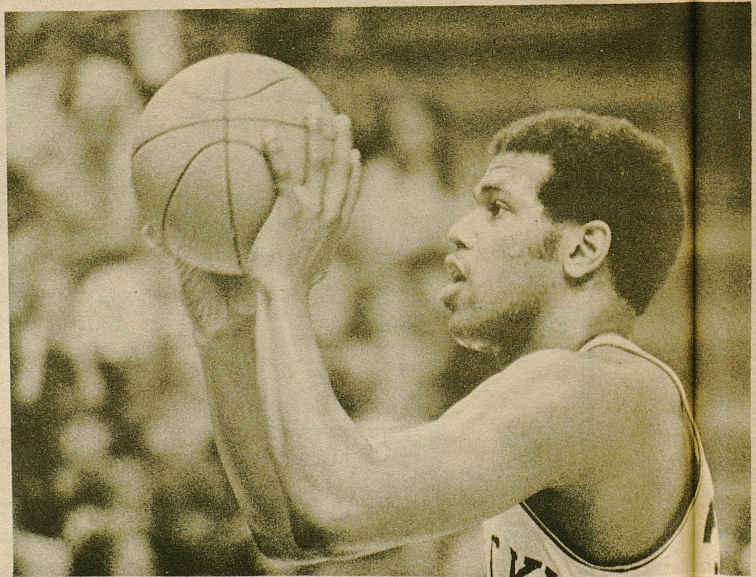
Kentucky - LSU Action

At The Arena

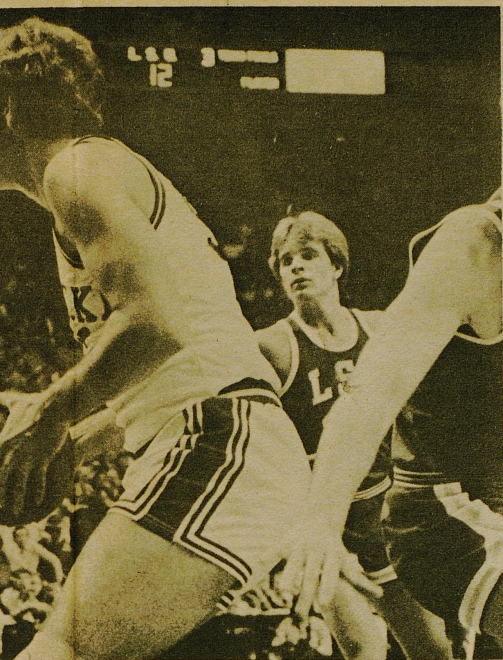
Photos By Bill Knight



Is This The Bump?



The Lee Effect



...e. Please!



Get Them - Brown



Photos By Ken Weaver

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Givens, Lee And Johnson At The Movies?

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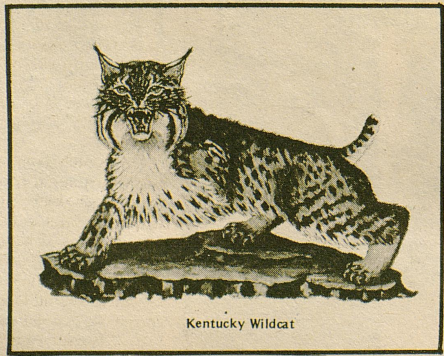
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SEC SCOUTING REPORT

University of Alabama

Location: Tuscaloosa, Ala.
Founded: April 12, 1831
Enrollment: 17,000

Colors: Crimson and White
Nickname: Crimson Tide
Coliseum Capacity: 15,043



DR. RICHARD THIGPEN
Chief Executive Officer



C. M. NEWTON
Head Coach



PAUL BRYANT
Athletic Director

Faculty Chairman of Athletics: Dr. Charley Scott
Associate AD: Sam Bailey; Adm. Asst.: B. W. Whittington
Business Manager: C. D. Tatum
Associate Coaches: Winfrey Sanderson, John Bostick and Wendell Hudson
Asst. AD for PR: Charley Thornton; Info. Dir.: Kirk McNair
Telephones: (AC 205) AD 348-6161, Coach 348-6161, STD 348-6084
Mailing Address: P.O. Box K, University, Ala. 35486

1976-77 Schedule

Date	Opponent	Site	Time
Nov. 26	PURDUE	Birmingham	9:30 CST
Nov. 29	MOREHEAD	Tuscaloosa	7:30 CST
Dec. 1	SOUTH CAROLINA	Tuscaloosa	7:30 CST
Dec. 4	LaSALLE	Philadelphia	9:15 EST
Dec. 17	DAYTON INVITATIONAL	Dayton	7:00 and 9:00 EST
and 18	(Dayton, Oklahoma St., Va. Tech)		
Dec. 22	CAROLINA CLASSIC	Columbia	7:00 and 9:00 CST
and 23	(Georgetown, Harvard, S. Carolina)		
Dec. 28	WESTERN MICHIGAN	Birmingham	7:30 CST
Jan. 3	* AUBURN	Tuscaloosa	7:30 CST
Jan. 5	* FLORIDA	Gainesville	7:30 EST
Jan. 8	* LSU	Tuscaloosa	7:30 CST
Jan. 10	* OLE MISS	Tuscaloosa	7:30 CST
Jan. 15	* MISS. STATE—t	Starkville	2:00 CST
Jan. 22	* TENNESSEE	Knoxville	8:00 EST
Jan. 24	* GEORGIA	Athens	8:00 EST
Jan. 29	* KENTUCKY	Tuscaloosa	7:30 CST
Jan. 31	* VANDERBILT	Tuscaloosa	7:30 CST
Feb. 5	* LSU	Baton Rouge	7:30 CST
Feb. 7	* OLE MISS	Oxford	7:30 CST
Feb. 12	* MISS. STATE	Tuscaloosa	7:30 CST
Feb. 19	* TENNESSEE—t	Tuscaloosa	3:00 CST
Feb. 21	* GEORGIA	Tuscaloosa	7:30 CST
Feb. 26	* KENTUCKY—t	Lexington	4:00 EST
Feb. 28	* VANDERBILT	Nashville	7:30 CST
Mar. 3	* AUBURN	Tuscaloosa	7:30 CST
Mar. 7	* FLORIDA	Tuscaloosa	7:30 CST

1975-76 Results

Opp.	Score
Sou. Miss.	67
LaSalle	57
Providence	67
Middle Tenn.	62
Pittsburgh-bs	53
Fla. State-bs	72
Princeton-mi	61
Seton Hall-mi	64
Vanderbilt	56
* Kentucky	63
* Auburn	62
* Florida	71
* LSU	75
* Ole Miss	41
* Miss. State	81
* Tennessee	80
* Georgia	67
* Auburn	75
* Florida	73
* LSU	74
* Ole Miss	70
* Miss. State-t	61
* Tennessee-t	90
* Georgia	76
* Kentucky-t	90
* Vanderbilt-x	77
* N. Carolina-n	64
* Indiana-n	74

* SEC Game t—Television n—NCAA Tourney
bs—Big Sun Invitational mi—Maryland Invitational
Won 23, Lost 5; SEC 15-3

1977 Prospectus

Alabama is in the unusual position of having four starters and all top substitutes returning from an outstanding (23-5) basketball team, and yet the Crimson Tide of Coach C. M. Newton is in something of a rebuilding situation.

Bama is seeking a fourth straight Southeastern Conference championship in 1977, but the Tide is not a favorite for the crown because of the graduation of four-year starting center All-America Leon Douglas. With Douglas at Alabama the Tide won 22 or more games for four straight years. Alabama is something of a different team without Douglas so far as style of play is concerned, but remains basically a fast break offense and man-to-man defensive team.

The Tide returns perhaps the best pair of guards in the SEC in three-year starter, T. R. Dunn, and two-year starter, Anthony Murray, and also two top forwards, senior Rickey Brown and sophomore Reginald King, who was SEC Freshman of the Year.

Top subs returning include guards Greg McElveen and Tommy Bonds and forwards Keith McCord and Don Bowerman, all of whom saw plenty of playing time last year. McElveen and McCord played in every Bama game.

There could be a couple of position changes this year, most likely Brown to center and Bonds to forward.

Additionally, it must be remembered that Murray and McElveen both had summer surgery. Murray, for an old knee injury, and McElveen, for a dislocated ankle.

Recruiting brought two All-America prep centers and two outstanding guards into the Tide fold. The centers are Chris Bragwell and William Henry, both over 6-9, and guards Robert Scott and Kent Looney.

Crimson Tide Coach

C.M. Newton has been head basketball coach at the University of Alabama for eight years and for four of those seasons he has been named SEC Coach of the Year, including the last two years.

Coach Newton took over a team that was among the weakest in the league and transformed it into one of the strongest in the nation, winning the last three SEC championships and playing in national tournaments three of the past four years.

In the last five years his teams have won more games and more SEC games than any other conference member with a record of 107-30 overall and 71-19 in league play.

Newton came to Alabama from Transylvania College in Kentucky, where he had a 12-year record of 169-138. At Alabama his record is 129-84.

He played collegiately at Kentucky under the legendary Adolph Rupp and was a member of the 1951 Wildcats national championship team. He later pitched in the New York Yankees organization. He holds the BA and MA degrees from Kentucky and has completed most of the work for a doctorate at Alabama.

1976-77 Alabama Roster

No.	Name/Position	Class	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Exp.	Hometown	Course
10	Robert Scott, G	Frsch.	6-1	165	19	—	Birmingham, Ala.	Phys. Educ.
14	Leroy Russell, G	Junr.	6-2	180	22	1L	Brent, Ala.	Social Work
15	Anthony Murray, G	Junr.	6-2	180	20	2L	Birmingham, Ala.	Business
20	Rickey Brown, F-C	Senr.	6-8	215	21	3L	Gadsden, Ala.	Social Work
21	Kent Looney, G	Frsch.	5-10	140	19	—	Guntersville, Ala.	Education
23	T. R. Dunn, G	Senr.	6-4	192	20	3L	Birmingham, Ala.	Management
24	Kelly Shy, F	Soph.	6-7	200	21	Sq.	W. Portsmouth, O.	Education
25	Keith McCord, F	Soph.	6-7	205	19	1L	Birmingham, Ala.	Social Work
30	William Henry, C	Frsch.	6-9	205	19	—	Minneapolis, Minn.	Business
31	Don Bowerman, F	Senr.	6-7	220	21	1L	Birmingham, Ala.	Education
33	Robert Chapman, C	Junr.	6-6	205	21	1L	Birmingham, Ala.	Bus. Educ.
34	Tommy Bonds, G	Soph.	6-4	190	20	1L	Russellville, Ala.	Social Work
42	Chris Bragwell, C	Frsch.	6-9	218	19	—	Russellville, Ala.	Social Work
44	Greg McElveen, G	Junr.	6-4	190	20	1L	Baton Rouge, La.	Accounting
52	Reginald King, F	Soph.	6-6	225	19	1L	Birmingham, Ala.	Social Work

Overshadows LSU's Macklin, Higgs

Phillips Rips Tigers Apart With 24 Points, 19 Rebounds

The slumbering giant has awoken. You could say that and more as 6-10 junior Mike Phillips went to war Saturday night and destroyed the LSU Tigers 87-72 while picking up 24 points and hauling down 19 rebounds.

Phillips, who for one reason or another had been seeing little action in the past month, found himself on the court for 35 minutes and the Kentucky Wildcats needed every bit of him.

Mike ripped off eight points in less than 90 seconds to boost the score of 64-60 to 74-62 late in the game as the Wildcats won their fifth league game in six tries.

The Tigers, which played the Cats on even terms most of the game, didn't have anyone to stay with Phillips down the stretch and the big 6-10's inside power paid off in handsome dividends.

Before Phillips' scoring spree (which included six free throws), the Tiger had fought back from a 12-point (64-52) deficit to close the margin to four.

Phillips flipped in eight and freshman Jay Shidler added a pair of charity tosses as the Wildcats outscored the visitors 10-2 to put the game away with 4:12 left.

Although Phillips was the game's hero, coach Joe Hall's Cats had plenty of help from guards Jay Shidler and Larry Johnson. Shidler, who suffered with a throat problem earlier in the week, found his eye in the second half and scored 16 points.

Johnson hit 6 of 11 from the field for 12 points, his first night in several games over the fifty percent mark. But even more important was his defensive play of SEC stand-out Kenny Higgs of Owensboro, Kentucky.

"Larry did an excellent defensive job on Higgs," commented Hall after the game, "but Larry always plays tough defense so it wasn't anything exceptional."

Kentucky's usual big scorers, Jack Givens and Rick Robey, failed to hit double figures. Each scored 8 points but Givens was given a lion's share of credit in holding super frosh Durand Macklin to 13 points.

The unsung Wildcat star as usual was substitute James Lee, no doubt the best sixth man in the Southeastern Conference and maybe the country. Lee scored 12 points, had his usual slam dunk, and held Macklin to 3 points in the last half.

Still finding Rupp Arena a tough adjustment, Kentucky gave Wildcat faithful yet another scare as the Big Blue allowed LSU to build up a seven-point lead (17-10) in the first half before deciding to go to war.

With Higgs and Macklin [of Louis-

ville] teaming up for 11 of the 17 points, LSU raced out to a 17-10 score with 12:30 left in the first period.

Kentucky never caught up until 6:23 of the half when Johnson hit a driving lay-up.

LSU took the lead back 22-20 before Phillips canned a pair of free tosses at 5:12.

Johnson added a 12-footer and Shidler connected from eight feet out for a 26-22 lead.

After Greg Cook narrowed the gap to two, Lee scored two free throws and then seconds later electrified the crowd with a slam dunk for a 30-24 score. LaVon Williams hit from the side for a 32-24 score.

But LSU rallied with Higgs and Macklin and narrowed the score to 36-34 at intermission.

The Tigers got within one point, 38-37, with 18:29 on a Higgs' free toss. They were never to get that close again.

Kentucky built the lead to ten points, 51-41, then 64-52 before the Tigers' last run got them within four a 64-60.

The game was sparked by a couple of technical fouls on Phillips, both for allowing the ball to hit another player. His second technical came when he dropped the ball after being fouled by Higgs. Higgs, after fouling Phillips, was lying on the floor when the ball hit him.

Hall was happy with the performance, even with the 26 Kentucky turnovers.

"We created a lot of our own turnovers, but we played aggressively," said Hall, "and anytime we do that I'm not going to complain."

After Givens got into foul trouble guarding Macklin in the first half, Lee took over in the final half and limited the talented freshman to a mere three points.

Higgs, who wasn't recruited by Kentucky and often told of his bitter disappointment of not being wanted, had a sharp tongue for both Johnson's play and the officials.

"I'm just as fast as he (Johnson) is, and when I did drive by him, I'd get hacked on the wrist by one of Kentucky's big men but of course, they didn't call it because they're intimidated by Kentucky."

He also accused Johnson of illegally faking charging situations. "They wouldn't call anything on him for faking it either," said Higgs.

Higgs, who scored 12 of 14 from the free throw line, was LSU's top scorer with 22 points and had a game-high eight assists.

Kentucky again experienced a supper shooting performance, hitting 45.5 per cent from the field on 30 of 66 while connecting on 27 of 36 for 75 per cent from the charity strip.

LSU hit only 35.4 percent from the field on 23 of 65 and 76.5 from the line on 26 of 34. Kentucky outrebounded LSU 51-39.

LSU Coach Dale Brown, who was worth the price of admission a year ago for his theatrical performance, had nothing but praise for Kentucky.

"they look like the team of two years ago when they had (Kevin) Grevey," said Brown, "They appear to have regained their old form and they did it with their old defense, the man-to-man. That really surprised us because they had been zoning everyone this year."

KENTUCKY WILDCATS									
LSU - 72									
Player	FG	FT	REB	PF	TPS	AS	TO	MIN	
D. Macklin	5-16	3-5	12	3	13	1	2	38	
G. Cook	2-7	1-3	4	5	5	1	8	24	
R. Mattick	2-3	3-4	1	5	7	0	2	18	
J. Hultberg	2-6	0-0	0	3	4	3	2	18	
K. Higgs	5-17	12-14	5	4	22	8	7	38	
B. Miller	1-5	5-6	1	2	7	3	1	23	
F. LeFevre	0-2	0-0	2	1	0	0	0	4	
M. Smyth	3-3	0-0	1	4	6	0	0	9	
J. Breathwit	1-1	0-0	0	0	2	0	0	1	
L. Green	2-5	2-2	6	2	6	0	3	25	
F. Bailey	0-0	0-0	1	2	0	0	2	2	
Team Rebounds			6						
TOTALS	23-65	26-34	39	31	72	16	27	200	
KENTUCKY - 87									
Player	FG	FT	REB	PF	TPS	AS	TO	MIN	
J. Givens	3-10	2-2	3	4	8	3	3	28	
R. Robey	2-6	4-4	7	4	8	2	3	18	
M. Phillips	7-10	10-15	19	2	24	0	8	35	
L. Johnson	6-11	0-0	4	4	12	5	3	36	
J. Shidler	7-18	2-2	5	2	16	4	1	37	
D. Casey	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
T. Claytor	1-2	1-2	1	1	3	2	3	5	
M. Haskins	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
T. Stephens	0-2	0-1	1	0	0	0	0	1	
J. Lee	2-3	8-10	5	5	12	1	5	26	
L. Williams	2-3	0-0	2	2	4	1	0	12	
Team Rebounds			4						
TOTALS	30-66	27-36	51	24	87	18	26	200	
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY				34		38	---	72	
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY				36		51	---	87	
Attendance:	21,680								
Officials:	Jack Manton and Bobby Smith								

Rick Robey

By OSCAR COMBS

There's a tall, handsome eligible bachelor who strolls around the University of Kentucky campus with a vision for the future, a vision of someday settling down with a family and owning a 200-acre horse farm in the Bluegrass Country.

To many, it would be just that, a wild vision which most would still be searching for at the age of 65. But

don't count this young man out.

His name is Rick Robey and basketball is his game. And he's pretty dog gone good at it, if you pardon the expression. He's averaging 15 points and 8 rebounds per game.

While on a recent road trip, Rick took time out to talk about his life since coming to UK from New Orleans, Louisiana, three years ago and what

the future holds for him.

How did Robey end up at the University of Kentucky in the first place? Kentucky has never been known to recruit heavily in the deep South, but there is a first time for everything.

"I guess Coach Jim Hatfield (UK assistant at the time) was responsible for getting me interested in Kentucky," said Robey, "I remember him coming to see me at the beginning of my senior year."

Rick wasn't always a star in the basketball circles, at least not in elementary school.

He attended public schools until the 9th grade when he transferred to a private school known to possess a good basketball coach and a better academic program.

"During the 9th grade, people told me I had some potential for college," explained the likeable 6-10 giant, "but they told me I would have to improve both my game and grades. It really worked out well."

At the private school, both Robey and his teammates flourished. After sitting out his sophomore year due to his transfer, Robey's Brother Martin Catholic High School won the sectional in his junior year then won the state his senior year as the school compiled a three-year won-loss record of 65-7 under coach Andy Russo.

With Robey's sudden success came a bundle of college offers.

"There were a lot of them," recalled Robey, "but I was honest with the scouts and told them if I weren't interested. It really boiled down to Kentucky, Notre Dame and Florida."

Why wasn't nearby LSU considered?

"Well, down in Louisiana, there is a unique situation," continued Rick, "while basketball is the big sport on the high school level, there isn't much emphasis on the college level. On the other hand, there's all that interest in college football but not much on high school football."

So it came down to Kentucky, Notre Dame and Florida.

And that's where his father entered the picture.

Fred Robey is the ideal father. If you don't believe me, just ask son Rick.

"Gosh, I don't know what I would have done if it hadn't been for dad," said Rick, "he was always there helping me. He would sort out those which would tell you anything and he was always able to get information about these guys because he works as an investigator."

Actually, there were two other colleges in the initial running but they were dismissed early in the season. They were Kansas and South Carolina.

Although Rick says there was no pressure exerted, Florida remained in

the running for a while because his father was a Florida native and had attended the Gainesville school. Eventually, Rick decided big-time Florida Gator basketball was a piece down the road.

That left Kentucky and Notre Dame. Digger Phelps, in his book a couple of years ago, said he decided to take Dave Batton instead of Robey when the day of decision arrived.

Rick has a somewhat different version but along the same lines.

"I had pretty much made up my mind to attend Kentucky but he [Phelps] called up one day and said I had two days to make up my mind and that if I didn't sign with Notre Dame by then, they would give the scholarship to Batton," said Robey.

One visit to the Lexington campus and Robey was sold.

"I just couldn't believe the enthusiasm and support people here gave to basketball," said Robey, "heck, I could tell they were real basketball fans too. They weren't like some places I visited where some big-shots just put on a show."

"Then, too, I knew there was a good chance of going to the NCAA the first year even though I had no assurances I would be playing because Mike Phillips and Danny Hall had already signed. But I like competition and it makes you better, and coach (Joe) Hall treated me like a human being, not just another basketball player."

So while playing in the Derby Classic in Louisville, Rick Robey announced he would sign a national letter-of-intent to play his collegiate basketball at Kentucky. Wildcat fans rejoiced almost as much as beating arch-rival Indiana. A few months later, Robey would play a vital role in such an event.

For a young man who is still only a junior, a lot has happened in Rick Robey's collegiate basketball career.

He calls Kentucky's trip to the NCAA finals by far his biggest thrill but he looks forward to greater expectations this season and next.

"Here it was, my freshman year, and playing in the NCAA as a starter," beamed Rick, "it was just like a dream. We beat Indiana which was undefeated in the nation and then went to the finals. I'll always remember that."

But then hard times fell.

Kentucky was hit with the graduation losses of such stars as All American Kevin Grevey, Bob Guyette, Jimmy Dan Conner and Mike Flynn. By mid-season, the Wildcats had stumbled to a 10-10 record.

Worst yet, Robey suffered a leg injury and was sidelined for the remainder of the season. The wolves surfaced and the glory of a year ago quickly disappeared.



The 6-10 Bachelor

Eyes NCAA Crown Then Family Life On 200-Acre Horse Farm

"It's the only time I've been disappointed since I've been here, I was really shocked when our fans thought we would be back last year with a great team," said Robey, "I knew how much Grevey, Conner, Flynn and Guyette meant to our team and I thought our fans did too."

"I looked upon our club last year much like Indiana is this year," he explained, "they won it all last year, but they're rebuilding and of course everyone is gunning for them."

The Cats did rally and finished with a ten-game winning streak last season and championship of the National Invitational Tournament.

With that win streak, a healthy Rick Robey and a sharp-shooting rookie guard named Jay Shidler, Kentucky was expected to do great things in 1976-77.

That they did. For a while, at least. Kentucky breezed to a 7-1 non-conference record including big wins over Indiana, South Carolina and Notre Dame. Only a two-point loss to Utah (when two starters were benched) marred an otherwise perfect record.

Then something happened. Kentucky narrowly escaped Georgia and Vanderbilt and was finally upset by Tennessee on Rupp Arena's sparkling new floor.

Fans began to howl again. Kentucky survived a two-game trip down South at Auburn and Florida, places where the Wildcats have been ambushed frequently.

After an 87-72 win over LSU, Robey feels the Wildcats have regained their old form and are ready for the race to the wire in the tough SEC.

"I think we're coming back and when we're playing well, I don't think



Rick And Bride-To-Be Mary Diana

anyone can beat us," said Robey.

He pointed out that Kentucky hit only 32.9 percent against Tennessee but the Cats still took the Vols into overtime before losing.

"We've had a tough time adjusting to Rupp Arena and we haven't had that many practice sessions in there, but we're coming around," said Robey.

reme compliments to the two after the NCAA two years ago.

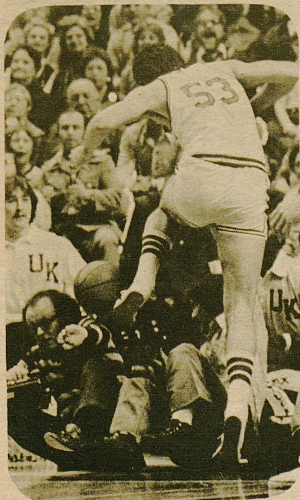
"They really made the difference for us," said Hall.

"Rick is unmatched in aggressive-ness, hustle and desire," said the UK mentor, "these usually are qualities found in a small guard, but when coupled with Rick's physique, these qualities take on awesome proport-

would really be the life."

But before that, Rick figures to spend some time in professional basketball. "I'd like to play at least seven or eight years or as long as I'm healthy and enjoy it. You know, most of the contracts now are for four or five years so I hope to be around that long."

"I've still got this year and next at



Diving For Ball

When We're Playing Well, No One Can Beat Us

What can Kentucky fans expect from here on?

"We're coming out of it and I'm looking forward to the rest of the conference season. We've got two real tough games coming up this weekend with Alabama and Mississippi State. They could be the difference for us this season," Robey said.

And the return match in Tennessee? "Oh, I'm really looking forward to that. We've just got to go down there and play good ball. I played with Ernie Grunfeld in the Pan American games and I look forward to playing against him. He's really a nice guy but we've got to get after them this time."

Coach Joe Hall, who is blessed with having the likes of two big men in Robey and Mike Phillips, paid sup-

ions."

"Over the season, Rick has probably been our most consistent performer," Hall said, "he tends to get in foul trouble but that's because of his aggressiveness."

If Rick has a trademark, it's diving after loose balls. At times, visitors have neared the point to label him a 'hotdog' because of his aggressiveness.

While off the court, Rick has developed a strong love for horses something he picked up while working at Claiborne Farm in Paris two summers ago.

"I just love horses and that's what I want to do someday, come back here and settle down on a 200-acre farm and raise horses," beamed Robey, "that

UK and that's the most important thing to me right now, and one other thing," explained Rick.

The other thing is that Rick Robey is about to withdraw from the bachelor's society on UK campus.

"Yes, I'm getting married this summer," smiled Rick, "I'm ready to settle down. She's Mary Diana McCord, a senior here at UK. We have set the date for July 9."

"She's a great person, does a lot of art. She painted all the pictures of the Wildcats in our dressing room," said Robey, "she's pretty good at it."

And now for a couple of NCAA titles, a few years in the National Basketball Association and Rick Robey will be ready for his 200-acre horse farm.

As Six Score In Double Figures

Cats Are Back, Trounce Rebels, 100-73

By OSCAR COMBS

As one veteran Kentucky booster noted, "the first half reminded me of twenty years ago when SEC teams came to Lexington without a prayer and left without a prayer."

That's about all Ole Miss had going Monday night when the Kentucky Wildcats exploded for a 100-73 win and a near shooting record while running their season slate to a sparkling 13-2.

Joe Hall's cagers sizzled the nets for a blazing 63.1 clip on 41 of 65, thus burying the claim that Kentucky would never regain its famous marksmanship in the new Rupp Arena. The 63.1 percent missed the all-time record of 65 percent set last season twice, once against Florida and Auburn in the old Memorial Coliseum.

For some eight minutes, the 19,221 fans who braves snow and cold temperatures to watch their beloved Cats were about ready to concede the notion Kentucky cannot play well at Rupp Arena.

That's when the Cats shelved its man-to-man defense (which destroyed LSU two nights earlier) and went to a tough 1-3-1 zone and the beginning of the end for the Rebels was underway.

Freshman LaVon Williams put the Cats on top for good at 24-22 with a pair of free tosses at 8:18 and Ole Miss never caught up.


The Johnny Rebs enjoyed five four-point leads early, mostly on high percentage shots. But the UK zone took care of that, forcing 33 Ole Miss turnovers during the forty minutes of action.

Kentucky sputtered to a 40-30 lead with 4:18 to go in the half on a Jack Givens jumper and increased the lead to 15 points, 52-37 at intermission.

The Wildcats took up where they left off in the opening minutes of the last period, ripping off 12 consecutive points for a 64-37 lead. It was clear sailing as every Kentucky player logged at least eight minutes playing time.

A well-balanced scoring attack supplied the firepower for the Cats as six players scored in double figures. Givens led the way with 19 points as he regained his silk-smooth touch on 8 of 13 from the field.

Larry Johnson had a great night with 18 points followed by James Lee with 14, LaVon Williams and Jay



Kentucky
Basketball

OLE MISS - 73

Player	FG	FT	REB	PF	TPS	AS	TO	MIN
E. Harris	6-12	0-0	3	1	12	3	5	27
J. Stroud	7-12	8-10	1	4	22	2	1	40
W. Actwood	6-10	0-0	3	4	12	0	0	34
E. Martindale	1-2	0-0	0	2	2	1	4	11
J. Billips	8-10	1-1	8	4	17	4	7	30
H. Jackson	0-1	0-0	1	2	0	1	6	19
J. Varner	2-7	0-0	2	2	4	2	3	11
T. Warda	2-7	0-0	2	4	4	1	6	19
E. Emanuel	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	1	1	5
J. Kyles	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0	0	2
B. Patterson	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Team Rebounds			3					
TOTALS	32-62	9-11	23	25	73	15	33	200

KENTUCKY - 100

Player	FG	FT	REB	PF	TPS	AS	TO	MIN
J. Givens	8-13	3-4	5	1	19	1	0	28
R. Robey	0-0	4-4	5	0	4	4	2	16
M. Phillips	5-6	1-3	9	3	11	0	2	29
L. Johnson	8-13	2-3	2	1	18	3	4	29
J. Shidler	6-12	0-0	1	3	12	5	2	20
D. Casey	2-3	0-0	0	0	4	1	2	8
T. Claytor	0-1	0-0	1	2	0	1	2	9
M. Haskins	0-0	2-2	1	3	2	1	0	9
T. Stephens	2-5	0-1	3	1	4	3	4	15
J. Lee	5-6	4-4	3	1	14	0	5	24
L. Williams	5-6	2-2	3	3	12	0	3	13
Team Rebounds			3					
TOTALS	41-65	18-23	36	18	100	19	26	200

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI	37	36	---	73
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY	52	48	---	100

Attendance: 19,221
Officials: Don Shea and Bill Bennett

Shidler with 12 each and Mike Phillips with 11.

Coach Joe Hall praised the Wildcats an the good doctor proclaimed the once-sickly Cats as "alive and well."

"We're very pleased with their play tonight," said Hall, "things are certainly looking much better now."

What could losing coach Bob Weltlich say, especially when his own Rebels hit 51.6 percent for the game and still lost by 27?

"Kentucky has a good team, there's no doubt about that. All you have to do is look at the scoreboard and that's how much better they are than us," said Weltlich, "as far as comparing them with other SEC teams, I don't do that."

Did Kentucky surprise Ole Miss with anything?

"No, we knew they would play man-to-man and go to the 1-3-1 zone. We knew pretty much what they would do offensively, try to get the ball inside to the big guys. Everybody knows what the other team is going to do, but it's kind of like the old Lombardi sweep. You could tell it was coming, but it's a son-of-a-gun to stop."

Is Kentucky back to its old form?

James Lee had this to offer, "We're not exactly back. We're on our way back and this game was a very positive thing for us. It's going to be a good game at Alabama and I believe we can win if we keep playing the defense like we have the past two games."

James, what about Ray Mears' statement of a home loss eliminating a team from the league race?

"It's just one of those things. He's entitled to his opinion. All we can do is try to keep on winning and meet up again with them down in Tennessee," said Lee.

"Our shooting really came back to us at a good time," noted the much-improved Mike Phillips, "we're getting ready to go to Alabama and we'll certainly need it. I think we'll do all right down there."

John Stoud was the game's top scorer with 22 points for Ole Miss followed by John Billips' 17 points. Eugene Harris hit for 12 points.

The win gave UK a 6-1 conference record, good enough for a second place tie with Alabama as the two collide this Saturday for undisputed possession of the spot next to Tennessee.



VIEWPOINT

Letters To The Editor



Mail All Letters To: VIEWPOINT, The Cats' Pause, Box 7297, Lexington, Ky. 40502

Rupp Arena Parking

Editor
The Cats' Pause
Lexington, Kentucky

Dear Sir:

Your comments concerning South Hill in your analysis of the dedicatory halftime ceremonies at Rupp Arena were typical. They were typical of the mentality of elitist Lexingtonians who don't have any idea of the reasoning behind the actions of UK students; who have no sympathy for people in the lowest of tax brackets; and who continually suffer from a constant state of paranoia because Louisville happens to be the largest city in the state.

It was the student body that realized that South Hill residents were being ripped off when they were forced to give up their homes. HUD has determined that the vacancy rate in Lexington is at 3 percent. Anything below 7 percent is on a crisis level! The compensation money given South Hill residents was not enough to enable any of them to purchase housing on the same level as that which they surrendered, the same housing that you yourself deemed unsuitable for living.

Certainly it was that, it was dilapidated. But it was all they had. Somehow, that seemed just a bit more important than whether or not the Cats played basketball.

It's easy to sit in a beautiful home and dismiss these problems with the stroke of a typewriter key. But the attitude toward Louisville will always remain the same. Lexingtonians continually brag about the state of Kentucky to any out-of-towner who will listen. But they continue to remain petty in their attitudes toward Louisville. A bigger basketball arena, a huge football stadium, or even an NCAA championship--none of these will enable Lexington to replace Louisville as the cultural and metropolitan center of the state. Why can't Lexingtonians realize this and be happy with what they have--a beautiful section of the country, complete with its own kind of personality and charm?

This kind of narrow-minded thinking will serve only to alienate the same people whom Lexingtonians are attempting to convince.

Sincerely,

R. H. Gabriel
Lexington, Kentucky

About Tennessee

Dear Sir:

This is all a letter directed to Fred

Walters. This is a big game and the little orange people of Knoxville are the losers. We the people of Lexington, "Basketball kingdom of the world," have had a weekly newspaper about Kentucky and SEC sports available to us for the past few months. Since your letter was first published we feel you are doing your best to torment the Big Blue fans of Lexington, but again you have lost.

I want to congratulate you for learning a new word. The word "Bush League". To you it is a new word, to us it's nothing new. I've always known that and every time it is mentioned I think of Knoxville. Knoxville is the one and only "Bush League" always has been an always will be.

I say you are losers because you are never satisfied with anything. Not Bill Battle and most likely after a couple of years you won't be with Johnny Majors. Good luck Johnny Majors and remember if you have a losing season you better sneak out of town at night. Most of all good luck to you Fred. You need it.

S. Smith
Lexington, Kentucky

On Denny Crum

Dear Sir:

I was very glad to see that Bob Watkins believed Denny Crum deserving of your first "I wish I hadn't said that" award for his remarks about the relative merits of Gallon, Robey, and Phillips.

However, instead of his saying Gallon was better than Robey or Phillips; (if you look it up) I believe you will find that he actually said he would not trade Gallon for Robey and Phillips and Danny Hall.

This has to be one of the all time dumbest statements.

Thank you,
Joe Armistead
Lexington, Ky.

Football Recruiting

Dear Sir:

Now that the euphoria surrounding the Cats' Peach Bowl victory has somewhat abated, recruiting news is the hottest football item. I am sorry to say that published reports leave me unable to share your enthusiasm for U.K.'s 1977 recruiting successes.

It is my understanding that the three top linemen in the State (Evans, Jacoby and Dungan) have signed elsewhere. Three of the seven announced signees are pony backs--a commodity in which we are rich. Three of the remaining four are linebackers, an area in which we are even richer.

One of the three linebackers even has questionable size and made only third team All State.

Since prospects of landing Rick Buehner appear slim and in view of our likelihood of continued failure in the talent rich Cincinnati area (Koegele and Brown aren't considering U.K.), on what do you base your optimism?

Obviously, Curci is an excellent recruiter. The jury is still out on his assistants and in view of recent letters requesting disassociation of many athletic boosters, recruiting appears to be all uphill.

If you have any good news, please share it with your readers.

Sincerely,
Patrick H. Byrns
Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky

[Editor's Note: Curci will release full list of recruit after national letter of intent date next month and we'll have full coverage].

Last UK Transfer

Dear Oscar:

A few issues back, in mentioning Kyle Macy, you asked or questioned the last major college transfer to U.K.

The last one I can find was Paul Lansaw on the 50/51 NCAA champ team. 6'2" - 180 lbs. 2nd team all Ivy League from Cornell.

Jack Maiden
Daisy, Tennessee

Likes Vols

Dear Sir:

I just read your December 18 coverage of the SEC by Bill Straub. Your article indicates you do your pencil work before you do your homework. I am referring to your remarks about UT, especially the paragraph on the Utah Classic.

Tennessee played that tournament amidst a time of great adversity. Coach Mears was ill and wasn't even allowed to observe. That game just happened to be Bernard's third game of the season. Third, and most important, our point man, John Dardeen, who happens to be the best ball handler in the conference, played sparingly because of an ankle injury. Despite all of the above, we did lead the Dons at halftime.

The remarks about the "Armory" show a lack of class. Just last year UK played in a very dark, dreary and depressing cavern. Our so called "armory" is illuminated, very bright and clean.

Next time I hope your editors proofread your article before publishing. I am sure they desire more class from their scribes than just shown by your article.

We'll really get the no. 2 ranked Wildcats when they come to Knoxville!

Thank you
Bob Teague
Eagan, Tennessee

Cats Choke?

Dear Sir:

A brief word about Kentucky's BIG game performances of the past.

1. In 1964 UK defeated UT in Knoxville 42-38 to win the SEC. Had it lost the race would have ended in a tie.

2. In 1972 Coach Rupp ended his conference wars by whipping UT in Knoxville 67-66 to gain a tie for the SEC championship, with the Cats going to the NCAA via two wins over the co-champion.

3. In 1973 UK whipped UT 86-81 in Lexington in the final game of season to nail down the SEC championship.

4. In late February 1975 UK whipped Alabama 84-79 in Tuscaloosa to insure a tie for the SEC championship, with the Cats gaining the NCAA via two wins over the TIDE.

5. Then a month later came that stunning 92-90 victory over Indiana in the tournament.

6. Then came that sizzling 10 game win streak to the finish in 1976 when the Cats won 4 straight squeakers to take the NIT.

Based on the above you'd have to say that UK does pretty good in BIG games notwithstanding several post-season NCAA losses over the years. Now I'd like to pose three questions:

1. Aside from the brilliant coaching of Ray Mears I would like to know what in the name of kingdom come has happened to allow UT to all of a sudden exercise such consistent mastery over the Cats? It's far beyond the laughing stage. Their streak is now 4 and they'll win number five on March 5. Repeat, number 5 on March 5. Then if next year's series begins in Knoxville UK might be staring at a six game losing streak, and remember, we're not talking about football. And the irony is this: Has Tennessee ever whipped any SEC team 6 straight? Perhaps Georgia.

2. Nashville's WTVF Channel 5 reporter Mike Smith interviewed Coach Hall after the game and he said his players were not properly prepared mentally and thus didn't execute with emotion. May I ask whose job it is to prepare the players to play?

3. Does anyone ever remember when a Ray Mears team blew a 7-point lead during the final eight minutes to lose a game?

Although I am a dyed-in-the-wool UK supporter I would like to respectfully suggest that the Cats' Pause banish from its pages forever that haunting word: "CHOKER".

Mournfully,
Ted Landrum
Nashville, Tennessee



A Bus Ride On The Road In The Southeastern Conference

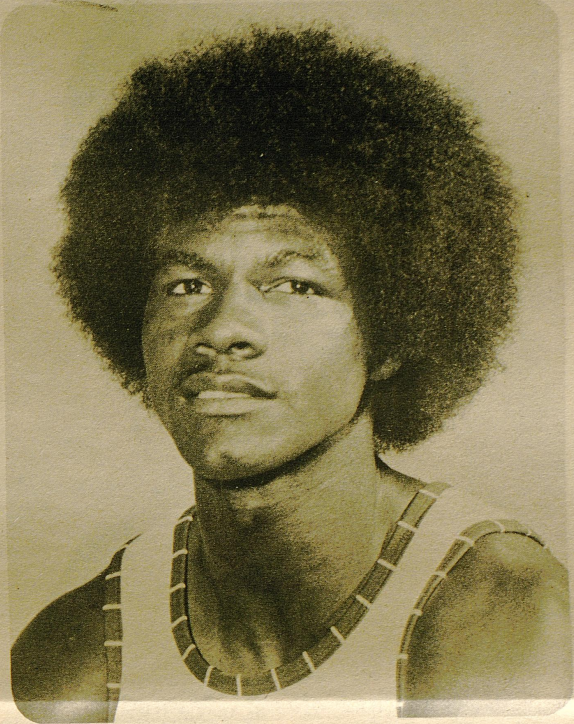


And Pretty Soon, Just About Everyone Is Asleep

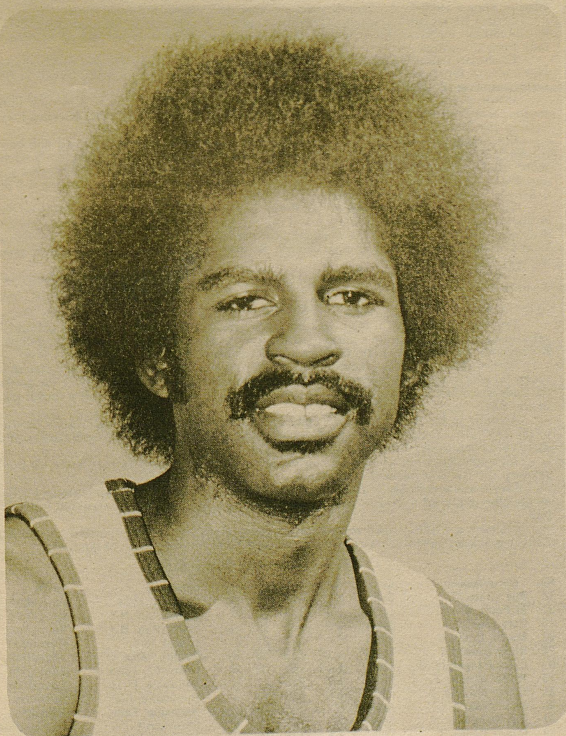
Cats Tackle High-Flying Crimson Tide



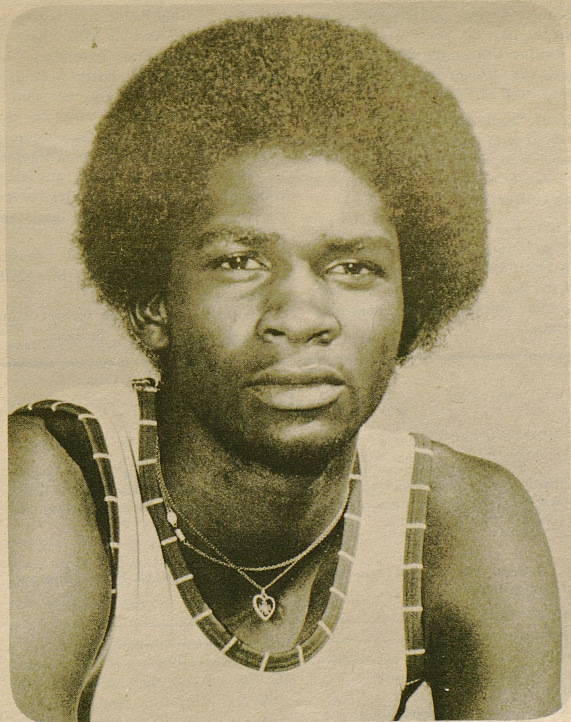
Reggie King



T. R. Dunn



Anthony Murray



Rickey Brown



George Catavolos, 31, Named

New Assistant Football Coach By Curci

George Catavolos, 31, who has spent the past six years working with the Purdue University secondary, has joined the University of Kentucky football staff of Fran Curci.

Coach Curci has assigned Catavolos to work with the defensive backs. Catavolos replaces John Cooper, who left recently to become head coach at Tulsa University.

A native of Chicago, Catavolos is a 1963 graduate of Cleveland's West Tech High School, where he was an All-City and All-Scholastic offensive end and safety and a basketball letterman.

He earned his bachelor's degree at Purdue in 1967 and his M.A. there in 1969. A three-year letterman, he earned the Noble E. Kizer Academic Award his senior year and was named outstanding defensive back on the Boilermakers' 1967 Rose Bowl team.

Drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles, he tried out, was released, and then returned to Purdue, where he served two years as a graduate assistant under Jack Mollenkopf.

Catavolos was at Middle Tennessee in 1969 and Louisville in 1970, returning to Purdue in 1971.

He is married to the former Tona Jones of Royal Center, Indiana.

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SEC SCOUTING REPORT

Mississippi State University

Location: Starkville, Miss.
 Founded: February 28, 1878
 Enrollment: 12,200

Colors: Maroon and White
 Nickname: Bulldogs/Maroons
 Humphrey Coliseum Capacity: 10,000



DR. JAMES D. MCCOMAS
 President



KERMIT DAVIS
 Head Coach



BOB TYLER
 Athletic Director

Faculty Chairman of Athletics: Dr. Donovan Horn
 Assistant Athletics Director: Alan Jones
 Assistant Coaches: Mike Dill and Steve Newton
 Information Director: Bob Hartley; Assistant, Bo Carter
 Telephones: (AC 601) AD 325-2311; Coach 325-2311, SID 325-2311
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 5308, Miss. State, Mississippi 39762

1976-77 Schedule

Date	Opponent	Site	Time	M.St.	Opp.	
Nov. 27	KENTUCKY WESLEYAN	Starkville	7:30 CST	85	Indiana State	
Nov. 29	NEW ORLEANS	Starkville	7:30 CST	113	Chicago State	
Dec. 1	TROY STATE	Starkville	7:30 CST	96	Southw'n La.	
Dec. 2	SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI	Starkville	7:30 CST	73	Evansville	
Dec. 6	S.W. LOUISIANA	Lafayette	7:30 CST	56	Dayton-di	
Dec. 9	N.E. MISSOURI STATE	Starkville	7:30 CST	70	Long Bch.-di	
Dec. 11	TEXAS	Starkville	7:30 CST	77	Samford	
Dec. 28	OLD DOMINION CLASSIC	Norfolk	7:00 and 7:00	77	Kentucky	
and 29	(Old Dom., Wake Forest, Dartmouth)	9:00 EST	66	Vanderbilt-x	71	
Jan. 3	* FLORIDA	Gainesville	7:30 EST	78	* Florida	79
Jan. 5	* AUBURN	Auburn	7:30 CST	70	* Auburn	75
Jan. 8	* MISSISSIPPI	Starkville	7:30 CST	65	* Ole Miss	54
Jan. 12	* LSU	Starkville	7:30 CST	90	* LSU	83
Jan. 15	* ALABAMA-t	Starkville	2:00 CST	81	* Alabama	92
Jan. 22	* GEORGIA-t	Athens	4:00 EST	87	* Mo. Western	71
Jan. 24	* TENNESSEE	Knoxville	8:00 EST	73	* Georgia	85
Jan. 29	* VANDERBILT	Starkville	7:30 CST	66	* Tennessee	75
Jan. 31	* KENTUCKY	Starkville	7:30 CST	71	* Florida-x	78
Feb. 5	* OLE MISS	Oxford	7:30 CST	75	* Auburn	74
Feb. 7	* LSU	Baton Rouge	7:30 CST	76	* Ole Miss	66
Feb. 12	* ALABAMA	Tuscaloosa	7:30 CST	69	* LSU	80
Feb. 19	* GEORGIA	Starkville	7:30 CST	61	* Alabama	65
Feb. 21	* TENNESSEE	Starkville	7:30 CST	90	* Georgia	79
Feb. 26	* VANDERBILT	Nashville	7:30 CST	76	* Tennessee	78
Feb. 28	* KENTUCKY	Lexington	7:30 EST	75	* Vanderbilt	76
Mar. 5	* FLORIDA	Starkville	7:30 CST	93	* Kentucky-x	94
Mar. 7	* AUBURN	Starkville	7:30 CST	70	Won 13, Lost 13; SEC 6-12	

1975-76 Results

* SEC Game t—Television x—Overtime
 di—Dayton Invitational

1977 Prospectus

Added height and inside muscle from one of its finest crops of freshmen make Mississippi State's 1976-77 basketball team a young, but vastly-improved outfit.

Center Ricky Brown, rated as the best "big man" prospect in the nation in 1975-76 by the annual Roanoke Times survey, puts his 6-10 frame into the middle of a strong attack from the wings.

Freshman sensations Ray White of Gulfport, Miss., and Gary Hooker of Manhattan, N.Y., return for their second seasons as the top one-two yearling scoring punch in SEC history during the 1975-76 outing.

White averaged 19.3 points per game while Hooker chipped in 17.7 in their initial season, and both were named to the All-Rookie SEC squad. White was selected Freshman of the Year.

But helping Brown (28.9 ppg. and 19.8 rebounds per game) underneath will be returning starter Wiley Peck, a 6-7 stringer from Montgomery, Ala., and just a sophomore. Also exerting an influence on the boards are 6-7 juniors Walter Wright (6.3 ppg) and Rick Moss (4 ppg) while freshmen Bill Kamphuis and Buddy Payne bring 6-9 and 6-8 sizes, respectively, into the picture.

In the backcourt, 6-0 junior Al Perry is a proven playmaker who led the SEC in assists last winter with 207 handouts. Transfer Larry Fitzgerald adds another offensive dimension with his 19.3 scoring average and National Juco All-Tournament credentials from Columbia (Tenn.) State Junior College. Soph Lorenza Hall adds good outside shooting and defensive quickness.

If the youth movement grows up in a hurry, Coach Kermit Davis' five may be a deciding element in the always-close SEC race in 1976-77.

Bulldog Coach

Practically a legend in his own time for his outstanding high school record and for rebuilding Mississippi State's basketball fortunes in the 1970's, Kermit Davis is now in his seventh season at the helm of the Miss. State Bulldogs.

Born in Walnut, Miss., the personable, 41-year-old coach earned the rare distinction when he was named Southeastern Conference Coach-of-the-Year in 1970-71 for guiding an undersized but scrappy MSU cage crew to a 15-10 overall record and a fourth place in the SEC.

Actually in his 11th year as a member of the Bulldog basketball staff, Davis returned to his 1959 alma mater on March 24, 1966, as he replaced the late Jerry Simmons as an assistant coach under Joe Dan Gold.

He replaced Gold as head coach on March 23, 1970, and immediately set out to revamp the Bulldog basketball program.

Davis was a member of Babe McCarthy's first SEC championship team in 1958-59 as the club achieved a 24-1 record and a third-place finish in the AP national basketball poll.

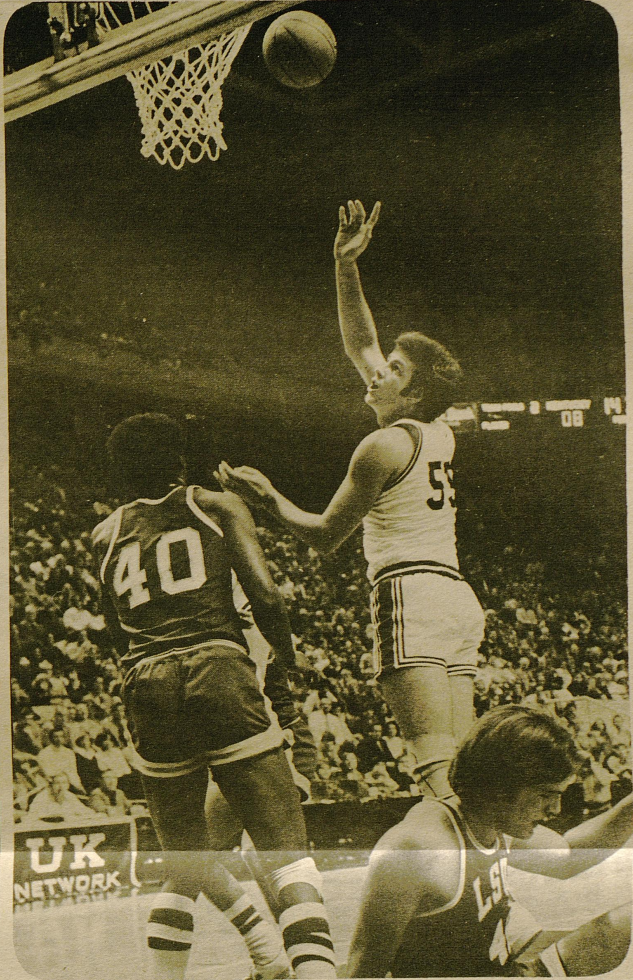
Owning a 77-78 overall record for six years at MSU, Davis recorded an excellent 270-41 mark for seven years of high school and First Army service basketball.

1976-77 Mississippi State Roster

No.	Name/Position	Class	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Exp.	Hometown	Course
10	Ray White, G	Soph.	6-5	190	19	1L	Gulfport, Miss.	Education
11	Al Perry, G	Junr.	6-0	170	20	2L	Manhattan, N.Y.	Education
15	Gary Hooker, F	Soph.	6-5	175	19	1L	Manhattan, N.Y.	Education
22	Martin Cupit, G	Senr.	6-4	185	21	2L	Laurel, Miss.	Business
23	Ricky Brown, C	Fresh.	6-10	215	18	—	Canton, Miss.	Education
32	Larry Fitzgerald, G	Junr.	5-10	160	20	1C	Nashville, Tenn.	Education
33	Walter Wright, F	Junr.	6-7	215	21	2L	Indianola, Miss.	Education
35	James Mundie, G	Fresh.	6-0	165	18	—	Huntsville, Ala.	Business
40	Rick Moss, F	Junr.	6-7	205	20	2L	Nashville, Tenn.	Education
41	Bill Kamphuis, C	Soph.	6-9	215	19	1C	Sheepport, La.	Engineering
42	Buddy Payne, F	Fresh.	6-6	185	18	—	Memphis, Tenn.	Education
43	Don Coleman, F	Senr.	6-4	200	21	3L	Indianola, Miss.	Accounting
44	Lorenza Hall, G	Junr.	6-1	175	19	1L	Baxley, Ga.	Education
51	Dave Hudek, C	Senr.	6-10	240	21	2L	Russellton, Pa.	Education
54	Wiley Peck, F	Soph.	6-7	220	19	1L	Montgomery, Ala.	Education



Where's The Ball?



Mike Phillips Hooks One In

Dale Brown's Comments After Loss To Cats

Question - You've had a lot of close games in the SEC already this season and the game against Kentucky was close until the final six minutes. What's your analysis of the game?

Coach Brown- Kentucky just played very well. They remind me a great deal of the Kentucky team two years ago when (Kevin) Grevey was a senior, when they had that physical play to them. They've been staying in a zone most all year and we were really surprised to see them come out in a man-to-man. The man-to-man did not hurt us until the last six minutes. I feel that Kentucky won the basketball game. They outright won it. They just outthusted us, they dove on the floor for loose balls, they got second shots off the boards.

Question - What about the rebounding situation, where Kentucky held the edge 51-39?

Coach Brown- I felt that they intimidated us, by intimidating us I don't mean they did to the point that the officials did a poor job, I don't mean that. They just intimidated us. I don't think we held our ground well enough. It looked like every time we

got bumped, we looked at the officials for relief. I think it was a mistake. I think the game, in general, was superbly officiated, and we lost. What have I got to gain by saying anything else.

Question - It looked like Durand Macklin had some type of an arm injury in the second half. Was he hurt?

Coach Brown- Yes, he was. He played the whole second half with a shoulder injury. We should have taken him out. I don't know how he hurt it. I saw him the whole second half holding his shoulder, so apparently he got an elbow or pulled a muscle. In retrospect, I wished we would have taken him out and not played him as long as we did.

Question - What was the difference in the game?

Coach Brown- We did not get enough help off our bench. (Rick) Mattick's fourth foul really hurt us to start off the second half. That was a dumb move on our part. I wish we hadn't done that. We decided the first minute of the second half we would go man-to-man and he immediately pick-

ed up his fourth foul and that hurt us. We alter defenses from a 2-1-2 zone to a 1-3-1 zone to a man-to-man to a full court man-to-man press back into a zone to a full-court-man-to-man press back into a man-to-man. We just got beat. I thought it was anybody's game with six minutes to go, I believe it was 68-64. It could have gone either way. They just beat us, outthusted us.

Question - You seemed to shut off completely Kentucky's inside game the first half, but they were quite successful the last half. What happened?

Coach Brown- Well, we had foul trouble. We lost our two big people, Cook and Mattick, both fouled out. This is the first time our young team, I felt, was intimidated. Kentucky did a good job on it. Again, let me emphasize by intimidation, I don't mean dirty basketball, I mean good physical, solid play. But we just flat, got intimidated. Of course, we played four freshmen a majority of the game and this was our worst game of the year. We haven't played this badly all year. Kentucky, I think, made us play

badly. They got us out of our offenses.

Question - Did Kentucky surprise you with anything other than the man-to-man defense?

Coach Brown- No, they've got their spark back and they got it back by going to their old defense. They remind me a great deal of two years ago.

Question - How do you rate Kentucky with the rest of the teams you've played in the conference?

Coach Brown- Of course, I've said all year long that anybody can beat anybody in the Southeastern Conference. I still feel that. We go from here to play Vanderbilt in Nashville and I'm just as scared of them as I am Kentucky. You know, up until tonight, Kentucky has been struggling in the Southeastern Conference. They very well could have not won a game in the league up to tonight and we very well could have not lost a game. Mississippi State got beat by Georgia and everybody said Georgia can't play. And Mississippi will beat someone before it's over. I don't think there is a one or two teams in the SEC.

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