

Joe B. Hall

UK Head Basketball Coach



We Want To Show Good Sportsmanship

Question - Were you satisfied with the overall play of the Wildcats in the opening game against SMU Saturday night?

Coach Hall - All except the final two and half minutes. That about blew my mind. We lost 17 points of the lead in about two and half minutes. The freshmen went in with a 41-point lead and came out with a 24-point lead. That was very discouraging. I'm thoroughly disgusted with their effort. They forgot everything they had been taught and it certainly points up that we don't have as deep a bench as we thought we had. We've just got to find somebody who's going to play better.

Question - SMU's press seemed to give Kentucky problems in the first half, didn't it?

Coach Hall - It was an unorthodox press, and we weren't handling it too well. We were playing too cautious. We need to work on just about everything before we play again.

Question - Although Jack Givens had a great night with 30 points, didn't his shoulder give him some problems?

Coach Hall - Jack's shoulder is bad, but thank goodness it is his right arm but it did cause him a lot of pain.

Question - What about the play of transfer of Kyle Macy?

Coach Hall - Kyle played very well, but I think he can shoot better than he shot. He had some of the first game nervousness that some of the others had too. But he had a fine night. He

does a lot of things on the floor.

Question - How do you assess the game as a whole?

Coach Hall - This was a tough game as an opener for us because of the things that SMU threw at us this early in the season, the press and the transition game they forced us to play. We responded real well except for those few minutes there at the last. And you could see what could have happened to us if we had not been playing well early. I thought this would be a very dangerous team, especially without James Lee and LaVon Williams not able to play. We could have been in a lot of trouble.

Question - What about SMU's play. Did they do anything to surprise you?

Coach Hall - They had a spunky team. Their guards penetrated as well as any guards I've ever seen. Swedlun was really something on those long jumpers from the outside.

Question - SMU cut the big lead down to 12 points right at the end of the first half, did you change anything at halftime?

Coach Hall - We really didn't do anything special. We just tried to get better defense. I thought we did a pretty good job on defense all night.

Question - Jay Schilder has been sidelined since the first day of practice when he broke a bone in his foot. What's his condition and when do you expect him to return to the Kentucky squad?

Coach Hall - Jay goes to the doctor Tuesday (this week) and we hope he can start working out with the club Wednesday.

Question - What is the exact nature of Jay's injury?

Coach Hall - Jay has a metal screw in the end of the bone which holds the two pieces together. The exertion of the screw has caused some problems to him and the healing of the injury. But the screw will insure its better healing in the long run. The doctors say the progress is coming along fine. We're just being over precautious to take ever step that we can not to re-injury his foot before it has completely healed.

Question - Kentucky entertains Indiana at Rupp Arena Monday night. What do you expect from Bobby Knight and the Hoosiers?

Coach Hall - We're looking forward to having Indiana here. We want to have a good ball game, a hard-played contest but we want to show good sportsmanship and show them how a class program treats its guests when they come in. But we want to beat them as bad as we can. We definitely want to win this game. It will be a tough game. Indiana does a lot of things well. They have many talented players and they're deep at every position. They play with extreme aggressiveness.

Question - After checking through the record books, we've discovered

this will be the first time UK students have been able to watch a Kentucky-Indiana game at home in person. The other three games with IU here have been either in the UKIT or during the holiday break. How will this affect Kentucky?

Coach Hall - It's great for our students to see such a game. It's an added motivational factor for us.

Question - Indiana will be playing in Rupp Arena for the first time Monday night. Do you think this will be another plus for Kentucky?

Coach Hall - Yes, we'll get added emotional support from our student body and fans in this game, maybe for the first time in a long time, it will be a mental exercise that's going to be our advantage.

Question - Will this be a speical occasion for Kyle Macy, playing against the state where he was named Mr. Basketball two years ago?

Coach Hall - Naturally, being from Indiana, he's going to think a lot about this game and he wants to have a great one against the Hoosiers.

Question - Most of the Wildcats were able to ditch their opening game jitters against SMU, but what about James Lee and LaVon Williams who didn't played in the SMU game? Will they be ready?

Coach Hall - The newness is off the other players and they've picked up their confidence. James and LaVon are anxious to play and we expect a good effort from them this Monday.



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Oscar L. Combs

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and North Carolina tied for first place in the preseason UPI basketball poll and each school received 21 first place votes. That's about as even as you can get . . . Referring back to Sports Quarterly Basketball Speical, the magazine picked North Carolina number one in the country followed by Louisville and Arkansas. It picked Kentucky number four in the nation. Believe it or not, Notre Dame was not even in the Top Ten, but No. 14 in the country. The magazine's editor is Adrian Lopez. Nope, I've never heard of him either . . . Kentucky's hoop press guide is off the presses and displays a very colorful cover with UK's talented four seniors on the front and a wide-angle view of Rupp Arena on the back. The front cover also displays the trophies won by the current crop of seniors, namely James Lee, Rick Robey, Jack Givens and Mike Phillips.