



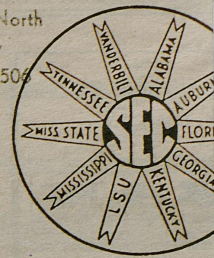
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The Cats' Pause

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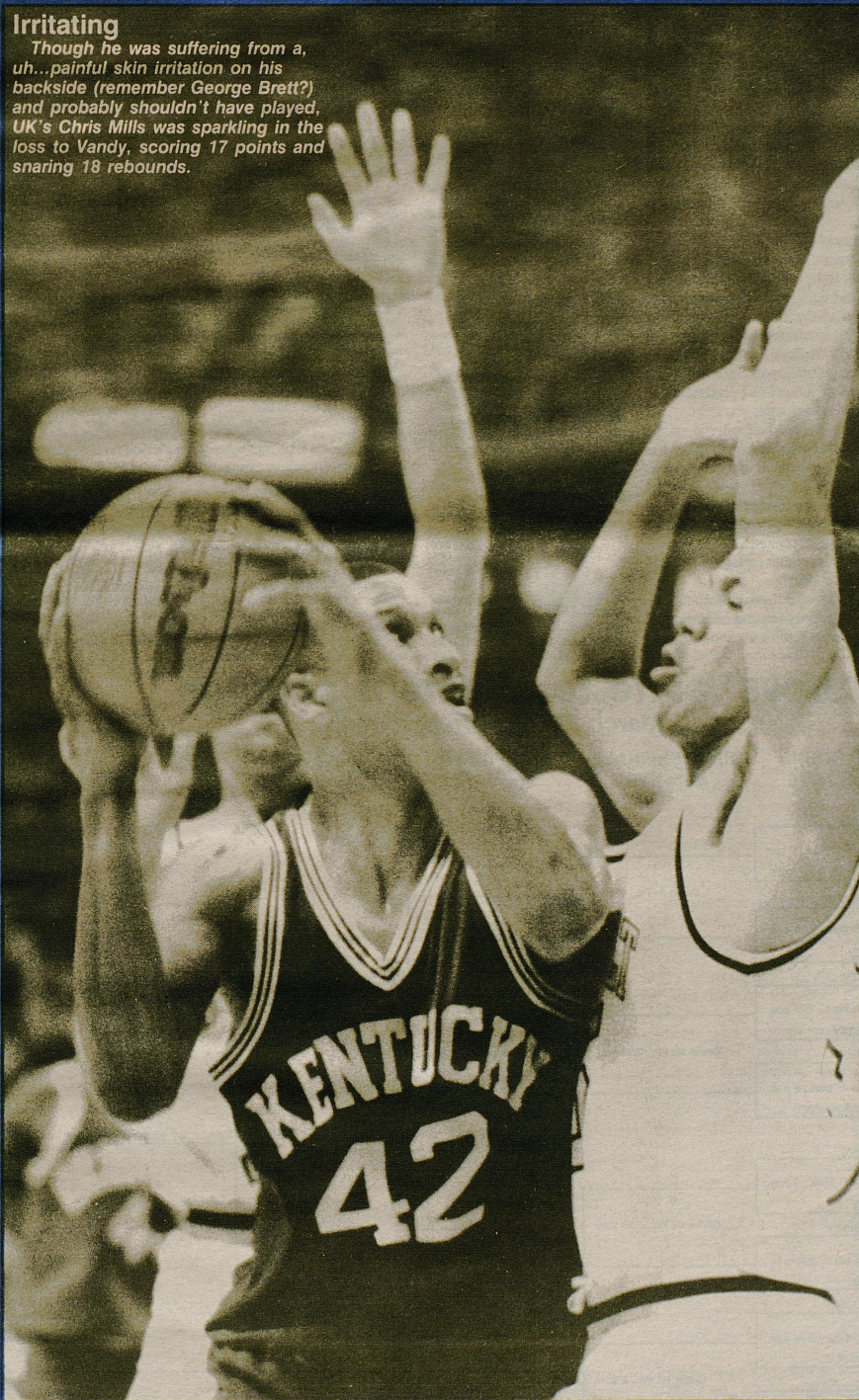
VOLUME 13 - NUMBER 28

SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 1989

LEXING

Irritating

Though he was suffering from a, uh...painful skin irritation on his backside (remember George Brett?) and probably shouldn't have played, UK's Chris Mills was sparkling in the loss to Vandy, scoring 17 points and snaring 18 rebounds.



Vanderbilt ends
UK's season in
Knoxville with
77-63 victory
in SEC tourney

—pages 14-15

Kentucky's
Chris Mills and
Eddie Sutton:
Will they stay
or will they go?

—Vaught, page 13

Tourney time:
Get ready for
office pool with
Sweet Sixteen,
NCAA pairings

—pages 2, 24-25



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Rice to join TCP as managing editor

TCP staff report

Russell Rice, the sports information director at the University of Kentucky for almost two decades, will join *The Cats' Pause* as managing editor on June 1 according to editor/publisher Oscar Combs.

Rice, currently an assistant to the athletics director at UK, retires from UK on May 20. In addition to the appointment of Rice, two other promotions with the publication and Wildcat News Company were announced today.

Mike Estep, who is associate editor of the *TCP*, will continue in that capacity and has also been named managing editor of a sister publication, *Oscar Combs' Big Blue Basketball* monthly.

Associate editor Nick Nicholas has also been promoted to managing editor of the *TCP Kentucky Basketball Yearbook*, the No. 1 selling basketball annual in the state of Kentucky. He will also continue as associate editor of *TCP*.

"I'm extremely pleased Mr. Rice has decided to join our company," said Combs. "He will bring to us an invaluable source of information and background no other journalist can offer in the state. His knowledge and wealth of information on UK sports goes back to the days of Bear Bryant."

Rice's primary duties will be writing and being in charge of the overall production of *The Cats' Pause* newspaper.

Estep will be in complete charge of the monthly four-color publication, which has shown a tremendous growth in just two years of publishing.

Nicholas will be in charge of the annual yearbook, which has been acclaimed for its tremendous volume of basketball facts and information on UK, the state college scene and Kentucky high schools.

"The promotions and the addition of Rice will enable us to greatly expand our editorial content in covering Kentucky sports," said

Combs. "Although Estep and Nicholas have been named managing editors of the other two publications, they will continue their same roles with *TCP*."

"Adding Rice to the *TCP* staff will enable both Estep and Nicholas to spend more time on the two newer publications, yet still continue in their present roles with *TCP*."

"What we now have is the finest organization of writers and management people on the college scene."

"I cannot say enough good things about Estep and Nicholas. They're the big reason we're enjoying the success we have today. They have gone beyond the call of duty in carrying the *TCP* load. Now with the addition

of Rice, our readers can expect even more," the *TCP* publisher added.

Combs said the company will be offering some exciting and special packages to readers in the near future where they can purchase mail subscriptions to all three publications at the same time with a substantial savings in cost.

"What with all the NCAA controversy and uncertainty around the Kentucky basketball program, these have been trying times to say the least," said Combs, "but the program will come back and we want our readers to know we're excited about the future, the arrival of new athletics director C.M. Newton and the 1989-90 season."

Russell Rice



A native of Paintsville, Rice was a three-sport letterman at Van Lear High. After serving with the Marines in the South Pacific during World War II, he played baseball one year at Ken-

tucky Wesleyan College before transferring to UK, where he earned his B.A. in journalism in 1951. He also attended Columbia University briefly in 1967.

He was news editor of *The Mountain Eagle* at Whitesburg (1951-52) and *The Hazard Herald* (1952-53) before joining *The Lexington Leader* as police reporter. The last five years of his 13-year tenure at *The Leader* were spent as sports editor.

Rice was named assistant sports information director at UK in May, 1967, and took over the head position two years later, serving in that capacity until being named special assistant to the athletics director two years ago. He has written four books on UK sports—*THE WILDCATS*, *A Story of Kentucky Football*, *Kentucky Basketball's Big Blue Machine*; *Joe B. Hall, My Own Kentucky Home*. (see RUSSELL RICE, page 8)

Mike Estep



Estep, 25, a Harlan native, moved to Richmond and attended Madison Central High for one year before moving to Florida and graduating from Crystal River High in 1981, where he was a

three-year letterman in basketball and baseball. After enrolling at the University of Central Florida in 1982, majoring in computer science, Estep transferred to Central Florida Community College to major in journalism, where he won Florida State Jr. College Awards in 1983 for Best Sports Column and 2nd Best Sports Reporting and also wrote for *The Tampa Tribune*. He eventually transferred (again) to UK 1985 before

joining the *TCP* staff as an intern in the summer of 1986 and full-time in August of that year. In his spare time, Estep enjoys deer hunting, fishing for smallmouth and doing a fair Hugh Durham impersonation. He says he hasn't written any books yet...although he vaguely remembers reading one in 1983. Estep, who is single, also graces the airwaves from time to time on various radio call-in shows.

Nick Nicholas



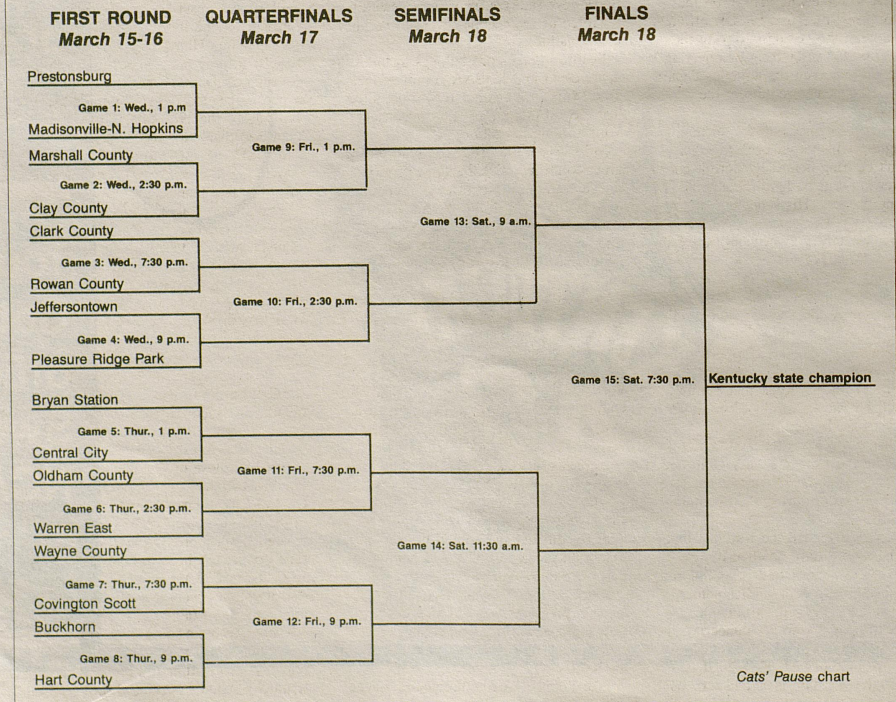
Nicholas, 28, a native of Owensboro, has covered the Wildcats five seasons for *TCP*. He graduated from Owensboro Senior in 1978 and has from UK a BS in education (1983) and a BA

in journalism (1984). Was a staff writer for the *Kentucky Kernel*, the school's student publication, in 1984. After getting his second degree from UK, Nicholas worked in the sports department of the *Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer*, where he covered high school sports for four months. While working under then-sports editor Danny McKenzie, Nicholas was hired as a senior writer for *TCP* in the fall of 1984.

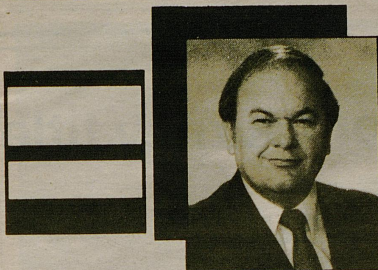
In his spare time, he can usually be found on a golf course. A one-time State Amateur qualifier, he enjoys the game he learned from his dad, who's played in the British Amateur and is a former Owensboro City champ, and his brother, Madison, golfing pro at Ben Hawes State Park. He's the son of Dr. and Mrs. N.N. Nicholas of Owensboro, has one brother, and one sister, Suzanne, a free-lance photographer in New York.

1989 boys' state tournament pairings

March 15-18 at Rupp Arena



Cats' Pause chart



OSCAR L. COMBS
CATS' PAUSE EDITOR/PUBLISHER

'Cats right for the fight all the way to the end

□ One of Kentucky basketball's darkest hours has passed. The basketballs have been put away for another year, the kids who wear the sneakers are off for a much-deserved spring break.

Perhaps no other time in their life, have the UK players so welcomed a break away from the sport. It came in Knoxville last Friday when the 'Cats flirted with a monumental upset early in the game, only to lose for the ninth time in their last 11 games.

It brought to an end a season which witnessed only 13 victories, an ominous number in itself. It saddled UK with its worst record (in number of defeats) in the history of the school as the team compiled a 13-19 mark.

This isn't a way to the Wildcats were looking for to say to lose. They fought to the end. It's difficult to say what frame of mind the players were in. One could argue they were all ready for a week away from the limelight. Who could blame them? College youngsters may only be 18 to 20 years of age, but they're not stupid. They're smart enough to say the "right" thing at the "right" time.

Nevertheless, it was a season we'd all just as soon forget, but one which we must never forget because of the lessons taught this very proud and once respected program. The end of this nasty saga is here.

It's clean-up time, time to take action and move forward for the future. Time for the NCAA to render its verdict on the Kentucky program. Time for UK officials to tell us what they couldn't during the season. Time for supporting or rejecting those people who run the athletics department and basketball program at the university.

Time to tell us once and for all how this program will be put back together.

It won't be long before Vanderbilt coach C.M. Newton will be here to start the rebuilding process. His schedule calls for him to arrive in Lexington on April 1, unless his Vanderbilt team is still alive in the NCAA Final Four.

Before that date arrives, UK president David Roselle will have made some crucial decisions concerning UK basketball, like deciding the fate of UK coach Eddie Sutton and his staff. Rumors were swirling about in Knoxville during the SEC Tournament last week that Sutton's fate would be known within 72 hours of Kentucky's final loss.

Less than a week earlier, Dr. Roselle spoke before the Corbin Rotary Club and, during his address, he spoke to what Kentuckians can expect during the upcoming weeks.

He strongly defended the way in which he and the school have handled the investigation of the basketball program, saying the outside investigator left no stone unturned in arriving at the truth. Dr. Roselle said people who are concerned that UK isn't supporting its basketball program are uninformed. He said if people think UK will hide facts and turn its

head from the truth, then neither he nor UK is defending the program.

In other words, he wants the truth. At the same time, he has reassured fans that he is dedicated to rebuilding the program to the status it once enjoyed.

The UK president said he harbored no desire in running the athletics program when he came here and all the problems facing the program have done nothing to cause him to change his mind.

He reassured the audience that once Newton arrives on the UK campus, Newton most assuredly will be in complete charge of the UK athletics program. But, warned Dr. Roselle, don't take his lack of desire to run the athletics program as a sign he doesn't want a winning program.

Said Dr. Roselle: "When this program is rebuilt and winning again, no one will be happier than me."



□ **THE SWEET SIXTEEN** is upon us as Rupp Arena becomes the center of attention this week from border to border.

Sixteen of the Commonwealth's top teams, a champion representing each of 16 geographic regions, will battle it out for the right to become the state's best high school basketball club.

And the event appears ready to top all of its illustrious past great events. The Kentucky High School Athletics Association's boys state tournament is generally regarded as the premier event of its kind in the nation.

Record after record belongs to the Kentucky event and KHSAA commissioner Tom Mills says another record could be just around the corner if advance ticket sales are any indication.

Mills says the tourney has enjoyed the greatest advance ticket sale in history.

There are all kinds of attractions for the tourney, not to mention the much-acclaimed Sweet Sixteen Academic Showcase which was launched by Lexington mayor Scotty Baesler several years ago.

The major headlines, though, belong to the likes of prep stars such as Madisonville's Travis Ford, Bryan Station's Michael Allen, Louisville PRP's Andy Penick, Central City's Greg Franklin, Jeffersonton's Travis Ziegler, Marshall County's Dan Hall, Clay County's Russ Farmer and Eugene Rawlings and Bryan Station's Robert "Nimbo" Hammons to name a few of the well-known stars.

The list of participating coaches is like a Who's Who roster. You start with Clay County's Bobby Keith, who is retiring after the current season and has his Tigers undefeated at 33-0 and hoping to pull off the ultimate dream.

You have top-notch tutors like the legendary Guy Strong at Clark County. Here's a coach who's worked at almost every level, yet finds his greatest thrill on the Kentucky prep scene.

Take Rodney Woods, the young Wayne

County coach who once pounded the hardwoods for the University of Tennessee Vols. Now, Woods has Wayne County headed to the Sweet Sixteen for the first time in modern history. No doubt, it will be a trip to remember.

You have Bryan Station's Bobby Washington (who once played pro ball after a brilliant Eastern Kentucky University playing career), finally earning his first trip as a coach. And the state will finally get a chance to watch the state's most underrated candidate for Mr. Basketball in Allen, who blistered Madison Central for 45 points in the championship game of the 11th Region.

Allen, who is ticketed to the University of Georgia, has blossomed into one of the state finest players. The point-guard deluxe has been phenomenal all season and leads the state in scoring. Although the Bulldogs have a great point guard in Litteral Green, the only thing which could keep Allen from seeing lots of action next season would be academics. Allen, reportedly, is yet to meet all his academic requirements under Proposition 48.

About the only thing missing from this drama will be the possibility of a third straight championship matchup between perennial powers Louisville Ballard and Clay County. Such a matchup was nixed when the two regions drew into the same bracket. And any kind of state tournament rematch was quashed last week when Ballard was upset by J-town in the Seventh Region tourney. After Ballard and its star Allan Houston captured the state title by turning back Clay County in a rematch of the 1987 title game, most everyone labeled Ballard as the odds-on favorite for the 1989 title. More often than not, that's the kiss of death.

It's about as difficult to defend your way to the title game as it was for a World Series champion to repeat.

That's what makes the Clay County story so intriguing. Here's a team which is undefeated in 33 games, it has its coach retiring at the season's end and the club is trying to make the state tournament championship game for a third straight season and the fourth time in six years. Unheard of!

The odds of Clay County making a repeat performance are astronomical. Borders on the line of impossibility. Such dreams are what the Sweet Sixteen is all about. Clay County probably won't make it, but the dreams live.

Just like those of tiny Central City of the Third Region. There have been better Central City teams which haven't made it to the big show. And there's pretty good reason. Owensboro, the king of kings in state hoops, has been the representative in 16 of the last 19 seasons. The region is also home to Owensboro Apollo, which produced Rex Chapman.

There was a time when Central City was a major factor, but that was before school consolidation and the tiny western Kentucky schools became dwarfed. Until

this season, a season which would become the Muhlenberg County's second to last shot at the "Greatest Show On Earth." In the fall of 1990, the school will fall victim to consolidation.

So after a 23-year absence, Central City is back to the big show, and you can bet the Golden Tide will become one of the crowd favorites. Playing Lexington Bryan Station won't hurt the Tide's underdog role as state tournament crowds have a history of rooting against teams representing the state's largest cities—Louisville and Lexington.



□ **OTHER INTERESTING TIDBITS** ... Little **Buckhorn** made its first trip ever to the state tournament last year and liked it so well that the Wildcats are making a second straight appearance. The Wildcats were only 15-13 when district play began and not among the favorites, but quietly worked their way through the 14th Region ... Speaking of the 14th Region, controversial **Hazard** coach **Roy McKamey** has called it quits after six years at the school. The fact that little Buckhorn made it big-time two years in a row probably didn't help his situation any and there had been reports of player dissent in recent years ... One of **Jeffersonton's** top stars is senior **Travis Ziegler** who nailed Louisville Moore for 27 points in the championship game of the Seventh Region. Ziegler's layup with just two seconds remaining defeated Moore 71-70. In case you recognize the name, Travis is the younger brother of former UK and Western Kentucky University forward **Todd Ziegler** ...

Without question, the upper bracket of the state tournament is loaded with most of the great teams and the survivor should be a heavy favorite. Handicapping the two Louisville representatives is the fact they square off in the first round and the winner will probably be expected to take on either Madisonville or Clay County in the semifinals. The latter two clubs will be first-round favorites with Madisonville expected to handle Prestonsburg and Clay County a slight favorite over Marshall County. This game, however, could spring an upset ... In the bottom bracket, the winner of the first-round game between Bryan Station and Central City could very well be playing on Saturday night ... The semifinals and championship games of the tourney will be televised over a statewide network including WKYT-TV, Channel 27 in Lexington and WYMT-TV, Channel 57 in Hazard.



□ **SEC TOURNNEY NOTES** ... Gossip, gossip galore during March Madness and last week was no exception in Knoxville. Speculation there had the Vols' coach **Don DeVoe** in trouble unless Tennessee won the SEC Tournament. The

(continued on page 26)

SEC TOURNAMENT
Game-by-game review

Tide outlasts weary Florida 72-60 for tourney title

Depth powers 'Bama to second SEC tourney title in three years

by TCP associate editor Mike Estep

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — In a tournament with very few surprises, regular-season champion Florida and runner-up Alabama, as expected, advanced to the championship game. And for the second time in eight days—the Tide whipped the Gators 83-63 March 4 to close out the regular-season—depth won out as Wimp Sanderson's club captured its second tourney championship in three years with a 72-60 victory.

For more on UK's season-ending 77-63 loss to Vandy, please turn to pages 14-15.

What follows is a recap of the 11th renewal of the SEC tournament, tagged this year as the Shootout in the Smokies:

GAME 1

Georgia 83, Mississippi State 68

Although they were separated by only one game in the final SEC standings, Mississippi State and Georgia entered the game as two teams going in opposite directions. Georgia, picked by the media as the league's preseason favorite (over coach Hugh Durham's objections), struggled to a 6-12 SEC record and dropped seven of its last eight games. Mississippi State didn't do much better, finishing 7-11 in conference play, but Richard Williams' team ended the season on a positive note, winning four of its last six games.

If you were looking for a first-round mismatch, this one figured to be it. And it was...only it was Durham's 'Dogs that came out on top.

Georgia took the early lead, jumping out by eight at 20-12 nine minutes into the game. But with UGA's Marshall Wilson and Alec Kessler on the bench with foul trouble, MSU was able to fight back and take a pair of one-point leads before Georgia's Rod Cole gave his team the lead for good at 36-35 with a buzzer-beater just before the half.

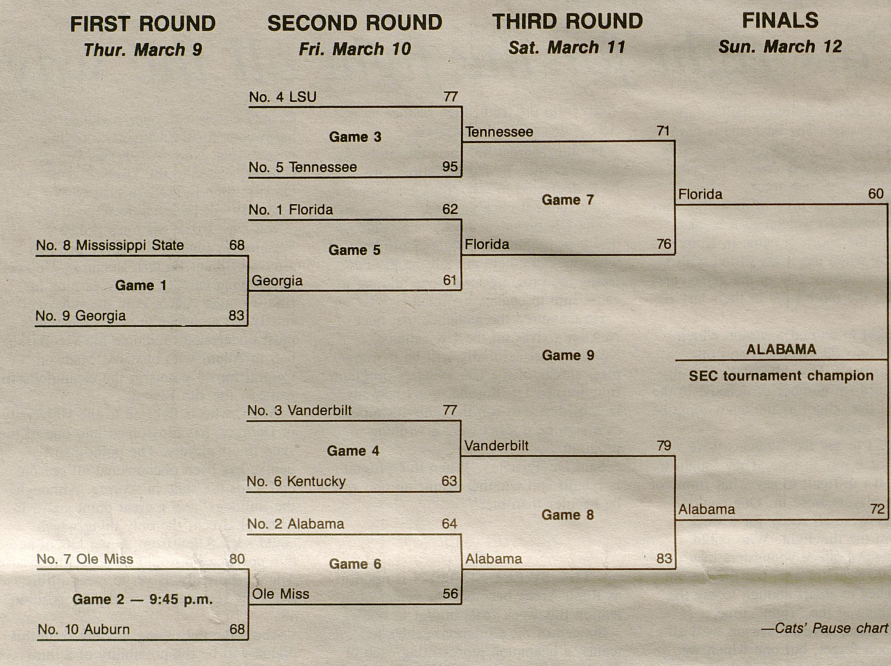
Kessler and Pat Hamilton, who finished with 16 points each, combined for all but two of Georgia's points in a 13-2 run that allowed Durham's 'Dogs to retake control of the game and lead 49-37 early in the final period.

"I got more into the game in the second half," Kessler said. "We knew if we lost, we were probably done playing."

State, with its top player Cameron Burns scoring only 11, could get no closer than eight the rest of the way, thanks to an eight-minute drought that produced just one bucket and Georgia freshman Litteral Green. Green scored 20 of his game-high 30 points in the second half, including 14 of his team's last 19.

GEORGIA (83)							
Name	fg-a	3pt-a	ft-a	reb	pf	tp	
Rod Cole	4-6	0-0	0-1	4	2	8	
Marshall Wilson	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	4	0	
Alec Kessler	6-9	0-0	4-4	8	3	16	
Litteral Green	7-16	0-1	16-17	3	1	30	
Pat Hamilton	7-11	1-3	1-2	3	2	16	
Jody Patton	2-3	0-0	0-0	0	0	4	
Lenn Howard	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	1	0	
Ariando Bennett	1-2	0-0	1-2	2	0	3	
Neville Austin	3-5	0-0	0-2	8	2	6	
Team				2			
Totals	30-53	1-4	22-28	31	15	83	

1989 SEC tournament results



—Cats' Pause chart

MISSISSIPPI ST. (68)

Name	fg-a	3pt-a	ft-a	reb	pf	tp
Greg Carter	0-0	0-0	0-0	2	0	0
Cameron Burns	3-5	0-0	5-8	6	4	11
Todd Merritt	3-6	0-1	0-0	5	3	6
Greg Lockhart	7-12	3-4	2-2	2	5	19
Tony Watts	6-12	3-7	0-0	2	5	15
Chris Hall	1-3	1-3	0-0	0	0	3
Reginald Boykin	2-7	0-1	4-4	4	1	8
Doug Hartsfield	1-6	0-3	0-0	1	2	2
Carl Nichols	1-2	0-0	2-3	3	3	4
Chris Clark	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Team				2		
Totals	24-54	7-19	13-17	25	25	68

Georgia, 25.0; Miss. St., 36.8. FT%: Georgia, 78.6; Miss. St., 76.5. Assists: Georgia, 18; Miss. St., 12. Turnovers: Georgia, 14; Miss. St., 14. Technicals: none. Officials: John Clougherty, Don Rutledge, Mac Chauvin. Attendance: 12,221.

GAME 2

Ole Miss 80, Auburn 68

Auburn coach Sonny Smith was sick. Real sick. So sick he probably shouldn't have even been on the bench when his Tigers took on Ole Miss in Thursday night's nightcap.

"I felt very bad before the game and I don't feel too good right now," Smith, weakened by a stomach virus, said after the game. "This is about the sickest I've been."

Smith's team has been sick, too. With records of 9-18 overall and 2-16 in the SEC entering the game, the Tigers probably shouldn't have even been on the same floor with Ole Miss with just under 15 minutes left to play.

But, like their coach, Auburn's Tigers gritted their teeth and hung in there. And following a layup by Keenan Carpenter at the 14:47 mark, Auburn, which trailed just once in the first half, led 50-42.

At that point, though, the Tigers suffered a costly relapse. Ole Miss guard Tim Jumper got loose for a 14-footer, the first two of a

dozen unanswered points, with 14:26 to play. When Gerald Glass canned his only three-pointer of the night some 4½ minutes later, the Rebels, who hadn't been in front since it was 6-4, led for good.

Auburn center Matt Geiger ended the run with a 10-footer to bring the Tigers back to within two at 54-52, then got a layup to cut the lead to three at 57-54 minutes later, but Ole Miss streaked again. The Rebels went on a 6-0 run to extend the lead to 63-54 with 4:42 to go, then coasted the rest of the way.

AUBURN (68)

Name	fg-a	3pt-a	ft-a	reb	pf	tp
Kirt Hankton	4-6	0-0	0-0	6	4	8
Zane Arnold	3-6	0-0	0-2	4	2	6
Matt Geiger	8-16	0-0	2-4	14	5	18
Derrick Dennison	4-11	1-5	0-0	5	4	9
Keenan Carpenter	6-18	1-7	5-7	2	2	18
Clarence Wrencher	1-1	0-0	0-0	1	0	2
Bill Eaddy	1-1	1-1	0-0	1	0	3
Robert McKie	0-3	0-0	0-0	6	4	0
Chris Brandt	2-3	0-0	0-2	4	2	4
Team				1		
Totals	29-65	3-13	7-15	44	23	68

OLE MISS (80)

Name	fg-a	3pt-a	ft-a	reb	pf	tp
Gerald Glass	13-26	1-4	4-7	10	4	31
Greg Turner	2-4	0-0	3-8	9	1	7
Sean Murphy	3-9	1-3	1-2	7	4	8
John Matthews	3-6	0-0	2-2	1	3	8
Tim Jumper	2-7	0-0	0-0	1	2	4
David Midlick	0-3	0-1	5-6	0	1	5
Hunter Atkins	4-7	0-2	2-3	2	1	10
Bernard Sylve	2-3	0-0	3-4	1	1	7
Team				4		
Totals	29-64	2-10	20-32	35	17	80

Auburn, 23.1; Ole Miss, 20.0. FT%: Auburn, 46.7; Ole Miss, 62.5. Assists: Auburn, 16; Ole Miss, 12. Turnovers: Auburn, 21; Ole Miss, 10. Technicals: none. Officials: Don Shea, Wally Tanner, John Ferguson. Attendance: 12,221.

GAME 3

Tennessee 95, LSU 77

When Tennessee traveled to Baton Rouge

for a Feb. 11 encounter with the Bayou Bengals, the Vols did a pretty fair job of impersonating a lawfirm, if not a basketball team: The defense rested, literally. That day on court, Griffin, Swearingen, Nix & DeVoe scored 106, but gave up a ghastly total of 122.

"They taught us a lesson down there on how not to play defense," UT's Mark Griffin, who taught LSU how to shoot three-pointers by hitting five of six for the game, said.

"Everybody wanted to play LSU because of the way we played down at LSU," Dyrone Nix added. "They embarrassed us. I think we wanted to pay them back."

They did. UT's defense held the Tigers to 77 points and forced them into 40.0 percent shooting from the field, 16.8 and 9.0 points below their averages respectively. And although superfresh Chris Jackson lit up the scoreboard for 37 points, it took him an SEC tournament record 36 field goal attempts to do it.

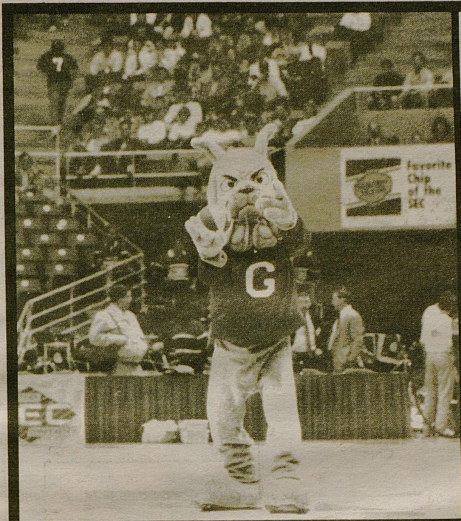
"When you play hard," guard Clarence Swearingen said, "good things happen."

Good things started happening early for Tennessee. The Vols jumped in front 5-0 and led 21-10 at the 11:24 mark of the first half...all without star Nix, who now finds himself coming off the bench.

Nix, who wound up with 17 points in only 25 minutes, sat for the first 14 minutes of the game, then watched the first nine minutes of the second half. The Vols didn't need him on this day, however, as all five starters were in double figures, led by Griffin with 22. Swearingen and Ian Lockhart tossed in 13 each, Travis Henry had 12 and Doug Roth 11.

The Tigers, who trailed all the way, never could get it going. It appeared they might just before they half—LSU pulled to within five at 38-33 with 1:07 in the period—but Griffin's three at the buzzer extended the Vol lead back

(Continued on page 6)



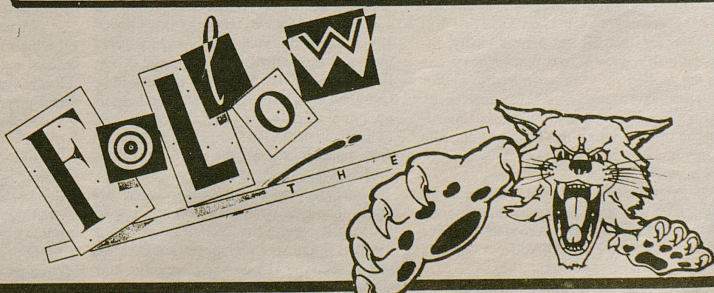
YOU MAKE ME WANNA SHOUT
(Top left, clockwise)

□The Georgia Bulldog was one of 10 SEC mascots who captivated the fans at Thompson-Boiling arena during last week's league tournament.

□Flu symptoms didn't stop Auburn coach Sonny Smith from directing his Tigers in the first round. Despite rumors of his departure, Smith says he'll be back at Auburn next season.

□Although now a reserve, All-SEC Dyron Nix helped lead the Vols past LSU.

□When all was said and done, Wimp Sanderson's Tide rode the week out as tourney champs.
SEC tourney photos by Gary Cromwell



SEC TOURNAMENT
Game-by-game review (cont.)

(continued from page 4)
to eight at 41-33.

"It was like the last spear in us," LSU coach Dale Brown said of Griffin's bomb. "I thought we were in trouble from the start," Brown, who complained that his team was never able to get in sync, added.

Wayne Sims and Vernel Singleton had 13 and 11 points in support of Jackson, but Ricky Blanton was never a factor. The senior forward entered the game with a 20.9 average but could manage just nine points for the contest, after going scoreless for 29 minutes.

LSU pulled to within six at 42-36 27 seconds into the second half, but scored just three points over the next five minutes as UT stretched its lead to 54-39 with 14:14 left and was never seriously threatened again.

TENNESSEE (95)						
Name	fg-a	3pt-a	ft-a	reb	pf	tp
Le Lockhart	5-11	0-0	3-4	13	2	13
M. Griffin	7-11	5-6	3-4	7	2	22
Doug Roth	5-8	0-0	1-3	11	2	11
Travis Fry	1-4	0-1	10-12	4	3	12
C. Swearingen	4-9	0-0	5-10	6	4	13
Dyron Nix	7-14	1-2	2-4	6	0	17
Jay Price	0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0
Ron Taylor	0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0
Greg Bell	3-6	1-3	0-0	1	4	7
Ronnie Reese	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Team				4		
Totals	32-65	7-14	24-37	52	17	95

LSU (77)						
Name	fg-a	3pt-a	ft-a	reb	pf	tp
Ricky Blanton	4-12	1-5	0-0	4	3	9
Wayne Sims	5-13	0-0	3-4	7	4	13
Vernel Singleton	5-10	0-0	1-2	14	4	11
Lyle Mouton	2-6	0-0	0-0	3	4	4
Chris Jackson	15-36	3-12	4-8	5	4	37
Dennis Tracey	0-1	0-0	1-3	0	5	1
Russell Grant	1-2	0-1	0-0	1	4	2
Richard Krajewski	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Team				4		
Totals	32-90	4-18	9-17	38	28	77

Tennessee, 49.2; LSU, 40.0 3-pt. FG%: Tennessee, 50.0; LSU, 22.2. FT%: Tennessee, 64.9; LSU, 52.8. Assists: Tennessee, 19; LSU, 11. Turnovers: Tennessee, 18; LSU, 13. Technicals: none. Officials: Don Shea, Danny Hooker, David Jones. Attendance: 17,187.

GAME 5

Florida 62, Georgia 61

Florida came into this contest as the top-seeded team in the tourney, winners of 11 straight in SEC play before dropping the regular-season finale to Alabama. Georgia, as was mentioned earlier, was going nowhere.

Fitting it is, then, in this wacky Southeastern Conference season, that this game should be the best of the tournament.

With a game under their belts, Georgia's heavy under-Dogs answered the opening bell with fire in their eyes. While rusty Florida was going scoreless from the field during the first 4½ minutes of the game, Alec Kessler and Pat Hamilton threw in a pair of buckets each, staking UGA to an early 8-1 lead. And before you could whisper, "back into the title," it looked as though Florida would be banished from the tourney with their lizardly tails between their legs.

Georgia dominated the first 20 minutes, taking a 41-30 lead into the locker room as Kessler, Hamilton and Litterial Green outscored Florida 37-30.

"This was the first game in a tournament," Gator coach Norm Sloan said, "and I'm a firm believer that tournament play is totally different than regular-season play. When I was in the ACC, there were seven teams, and for two years in a row we came in first and received the bye and then had a heckuva time. If you're playing a team that's already played a game in a tournament, it's generally a disadvantage to you."

It showed at the half. Although Florida hit the basket with more regularity than Georgia in the first half, the Gators turned the ball over 13 times and their WWF-like front line was whipped on the boards 21-15.

The trend continued in the second half, at least until Kessler got into foul trouble mid-

way through the period.

Georgia led 53-45 with 12:04 remaining when Kessler picked up No. 3. Just 15 seconds later, the big guy was whistled for No. 4. And with Marshall Wilson waiting to come in for him at the scorer's table with 9:25 to go, Kessler—the league's best basketball-playing student with a 3.88 GPA in micro-biology—committed his fifth personal of the game (and possibly the dumbest of his career) when he reached in as Dwayne Schintzius attempted a follow shot.

Schintzius made one of his two free throws to pull the Gators to within 55-50, but Georgia wouldn't wilt. Coach Hugh Durham ordered his club to take the air out of the ball, and it worked perfectly...for nine minutes and 19 seconds.

Florida closed the gap to one with 1:20 left, but Georgia was still in good shape when Hamilton, the 'Dogs second-best free-throw shooter at 78.3 percent, went to the line with only 18 ticks left on the clock. But the 6-2 senior guard, who was two for two on the night to that point, missed the front end of the bonus and Florida took its only lead of the night at 62-61 when Dwayne Davis followed a Schintzius airball with :06 remaining.

Georgia had one last possession, but Green's 12-footer went in and then rimmed out as the buzzer sounded.

GEORGIA (61)						
Name	fg-a	3pt-a	ft-a	reb	pf	tp
Rod Cole	1-5	0-1	0-0	6	4	2
Marshall Wilson	1-5	0-0	2-4	4	4	2
Alec Kessler	11-19	0-0	2-3	10	5	24
Litterial Green	5-15	0-2	7-10	1	2	17
Pat Hamilton	5-12	1-3	2-3	2	2	13
Neville Austin	1-5	0-0	1-2	5	3	3
Jody Patton	0-1	0-0	0-0	1	1	0
Ariando Bennett	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Lem Howard	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Team				3		
Totals	24-62	1-6	12-20	32	22	61

FLORIDA (62)						
Name	fg-a	3pt-a	ft-a	reb	pf	tp
L. Chatman	9-13	0-0	7-9	0	5	25
Dwayne Davis	4-6	0-0	1-2	11	4	9
Dwayne Schintzius	2-8	0-0	6-8	11	3	10
Renaldo Garcia	2-8	1-4	0-0	1	3	5
Clifford Lett	4-6	1-2	2-5	3	2	11
Michael Kerr	0-1	0-0	0-0	3	0	0
Brian Hogan	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	1	0
Kelly McKinnon	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	2
Team				2		
Totals	22-43	2-6	16-24	32	18	62

Florida, 41 20-61
Georgia, 30 32-62
FG%: Georgia, 38.7; Florida, 51.2. 3-pt. FG%: Georgia, 16.7; Florida, 33.3. FT%: Georgia, 60.0; Florida, 66.7. Assists: Georgia, 12; Florida, 9. Turnovers: Georgia, 9; Florida, 19. Technicals: none. Officials: John Clougherty, Allie Prescott, Larry Ware. Attendance: 13,841.

GAME 6

Alabama 64, Ole Miss 56

All-conference forward Gerald Glass came into the game having scored in excess of 30 points seven straight times, so even though he was mired in a shooting slump midway through the second half you had to figure somehow, somehow, he would come up with a key play that would figure in a win.

And so he did. His team trailing by four, 43-39, at the 9½-minute mark, Glass was about to erupt to spur Alabama—not his Ole Miss club—on a game-winning run.

Alabama's Michael Ansley had just missed a jumper from the lane when the Tide's Robert Horry exploded from the left blocks for a controversial tip-in that made the score 45-39. Referee Mac Chauvin thought the play to be legitimate and signaled as much by holding up two fingers to the official scorer. Glass (with many of the 14,459 in attendance on his side) thought the play to be offensive goalden-ting, and let Chauvin know it.

Although any press-row lip-reader can testify that there were no obscenities involved, Glass received a technical. Alabama received a foul shot and an extra possession that allowed the Tide to break out of its funk and take control of the game.

"I just told him the ball was in the cylinder,"

Glass said. "He said to be quiet but I kept talking and got a T."

The play proved to be the final nail in the Ole Miss coffin, when what should have been a four-point game with the Rebels in possession of the ball quickly turned into a nine-point Alabama advantage. The Tide was credited with the two points it shouldn't have gotten (on Horry's tip), then got three bonus points when Alvin Lee converted the technical free throw and David Benoit added a field goal on the ensuing possession.

Ansley added insurance with a pair of free throws and a dunk to extend the Tide's lead to 52-39, and it was all over.

OLE MISS (56)						
Name	fg-a	3pt-a	ft-a	reb	pf	tp
Gerald Glass	7-17	0-2	1-4	5	3	15
Greg Turner	4-11	0-2	4-4	9	3	12
Sean Murphy	1-3	0-0	1-1	7	1	2
John Matthews	3-6	2-3	4-4	3	4	12
Tim Jumper	2-9	0-2	3-4	5	0	7
David Midlick	3-8	0-0	0-0	1	2	6
Hunter Atkins	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Bernard Sylve	1-3	0-0	0-0	3	1	2
Team				5		
Totals	21-57	2-9	12-17	38	14	56

ALABAMA (64)						
Name	fg-a	3pt-a	ft-a	reb	pf	tp
Robert Horry	6-8	0-0	0-0	11	4	12
Michael Ansley	7-8	0-0	9-12	13	2	23
David Benoit	8-13	0-0	0-0	4	3	16
Alvin Lee	2-12	1-3	4-4	2	1	9
Gary Waites	0-5	0-1	2-2	3	1	2
Keith Askins	1-5	0-4	0-1	4	4	2
James Sanders	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	2	0
Bryant Lancaster	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Melvin Cheatum	0-2	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Marcus Webb	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Team				4		
Totals	24-64	1-8	15-19	41	19	64

Ole Miss, 29 27-56
Alabama, 33 31-64
FG%: Ole Miss, 36.8; Alabama, 37.5. 3-pt. FG%: Ole Miss, 22.2; Alabama, 12.5. FT%: Ole Miss, 70.6; Alabama, 78.9. Assists: Ole Miss, 5; Alabama, 12. Turnovers: Ole Miss, 12; Alabama, 11. Technicals: Glass, Jumper. Officials: Wally Tanner, Jake Bell, Mac Chauvin. Attendance: 14,459.

GAME 7

Florida 76, Tennessee 71

Following Florida's heart-stopping, come-from-behind win against Georgia in their first tournament game, Gator coach Norm Sloan was singing the praises of his team. Sloan classified his players as gutsy, saying they don't know when to quit. He went on to add that they are at their best in the last few minutes with the outcome of the game hanging in the balance.

Saturday afternoon, for the second time in less than 24 hours, the Florida players proved their coach right.

This time the victim was homesteading Tennessee, and the hero was Gator forward Livingston Chatman, who paced Florida with a game-high 25 points and came up with a big steal and bucket to help seal away the win.

It was a see-saw affair all the way as their were 12 ties and 14 lead changes before Chatman gave the Gators control with just under four minutes to play. The sophomore forward cashed in on a free throw to give UF a 62-61 lead at the 3:55 mark, then stripped the ball away from Vol guard Clarence Swearingen and took a pass on the other end from Renaldo Garcia and stuck a jumper to make it 64-61.

"We were in a dribble-screen situation and Livingston jumps in, forces a turnover, goes down and gets an uncontested jump shot," said losing coach Don DeVoe. "He's a fine basketball player. His focus was there; he made a fine defensive play. He's a multidimensional player."

Clifford Lett, who scored 17 points, and Garcia, who scored all eight of his points on free throws in the final 2:07 of the game, stretched the Gator lead to 71-61 from the line following Chatman's heroics.

The Vols trimmed the margin to 71-67 on three-pointers by Mark Griffin and center Doug Roth, but came no closer the rest of the way.

Florida didn't have long to celebrate the win, however, because it was learned that starting forward Dwayne Davis may have been lost for the rest of the year. Davis, who led Florida with 15 boards, tore ligaments in his knee diving for a loose ball in the final 30 seconds of the game.

"Our enthusiasm with the victory has been dampened considerably," Sloan said. "He's probably out for the season."

(Florida-Tennessee boxscore unavailable)

GAME 8

Alabama 83, Vanderbilt 79

Thompson-Boling Arena figured to be a battlefield when Alabama and Vanderbilt tipped it off in the second semifinal matchup. Florida notwithstanding, the game pitted two of the hottest teams in the league: 'Bama had won five of its last six games against SEC competition, Vandy bettered that slightly by winning seven of nine.

It also figured to be an aerial show, as Alabama and Vandy ranked one and two in the league in three-point field goal percentage.

As it turned out, Vanderbilt's vaunted Bomb Squad won the battle in the air, outgunning the Tide from three-point range (11 of 19 for Vandy, seven of 10 for Alabama), but Alabama supplemented its outside artillery with a strong showing in the trenches, beating the 'Dores 34-25 on the boards and shooting 55 percent overall to claim the win.

The game was close early, but 'Bama forward David Benoit, who had 16 points, gave his club the lead for good when he broke a 27-all tie with a pair of free throws at the 5:37 mark of the first half. Benoit scored eight points and fellow bruiser Michael Ansley added the other four as the Tide rolled up a 12-3 run before the break that resulted in a 39-30 lead.

Alabama led by eight at the half, 43-35, and Vanderbilt never got closer than the final margin of four points the rest of the way.

Alvin Lee led Alabama with a game-high 24 points, including three consecutive three-pointers in one stretch to fend of the 'Dores comeback bid.

VANDERBILT (79) — Barry Booker 7-12 4-6 2-4, Eric Field 4-8 8-9 1-6, Frank Korrel 7-13 1-1 1-5, Derrick Wilcox 5-10 0-1 3, Barry Goheen 4-8 0-1 0, Steve Grant 0-1 0-0 0, Morgan Wheat 0-1 1-2 1, Alberto Ballestra 0-3 0-0 0, Todd Milholland 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 27-56 14-18 79.

ALABAMA (83) — Robert Horry 1-4, 0-0 2, Michael Ansley 7-16, 4-5 18, David Benoit 5-6 6-6 16, Gary Waites 6-9 0-0 13, Alvin Lee 7-12 6-9 24, Keith Askins 1-2 0-0 3, James Sanders 1-3 0-0 3, Melvin Cheatum 2-3 0-0 4. Totals 30-55 16-20 83.

FG%: Vandy, 48.2; Alabama, 54.5. 3-pt. FG%: Vandy, 57.9; Alabama, 70.0. FT%: Vandy, 87.5; Alabama, 80.0. Assists: Vandy, 21 (Wilcox 10); Alabama, 15 (Lee 5). Rebounds: Vandy, 25 (Ballestra 6); Alabama, 34 (Benoit 9). Technicals: none. Attendance: 17,453.

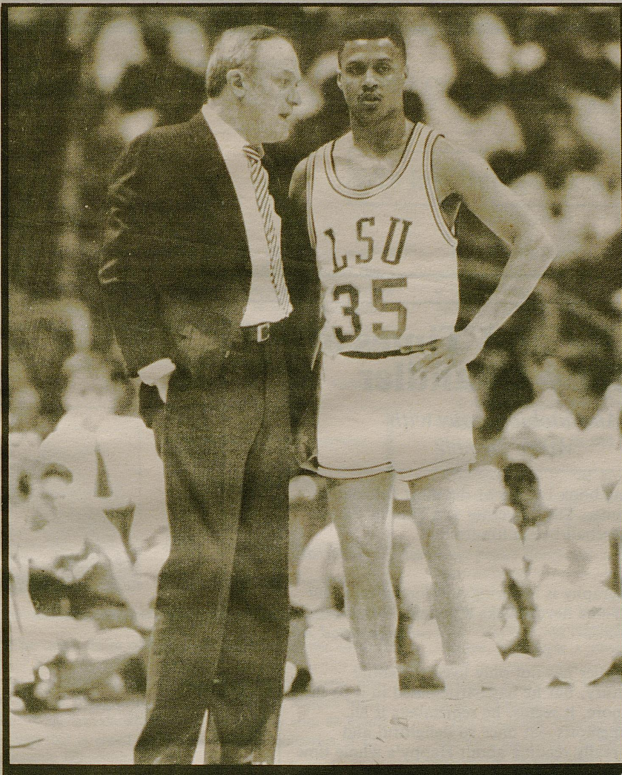
GAME 9

Alabama 72, Florida 60

Norm Sloan's Florida Gators, battling back from a ton of on- and off-court adversity and poor start in SEC play all season to win the regular-season round-robin outright, finally ran out of gas early in the second half the SEC tournament championship game, succumbing to second-seeded Alabama in the last 15 minutes of the contest.

Although it was the top seed in the tourney, Florida's path to the championship game was anything but easy. The Gators' two prior games were both white-knucklers—a 62-61 win over Georgia, a 76-71 victory over Tennessee. To make matters worse, Florida, thin of bench in the first place, was without the considerable services of forward Dwayne Davis (and his 13.8 ppg. and 9.2 rpg. averages), who was injured the previous night against the Vols. The deeper Tide hadn't exerted as much effort to gain the finals, sleep-walking to a 64-56 win over Ole Miss and edging Vandy 83-79.

(continued on page 26)



FORMER AND CURRENT STARS OF THE SEC

(Top left, clockwise)

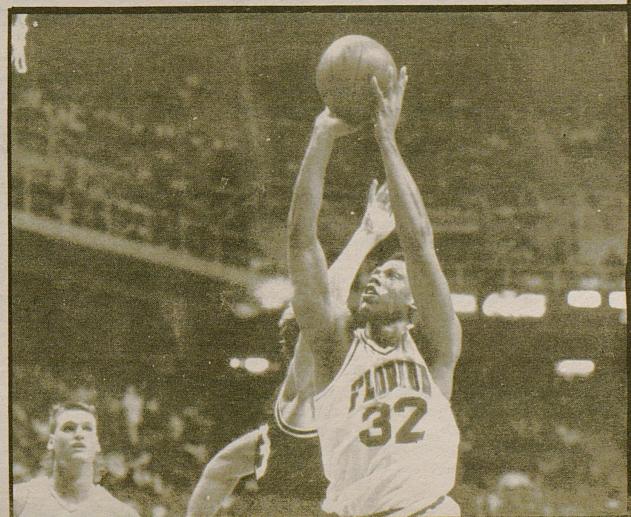
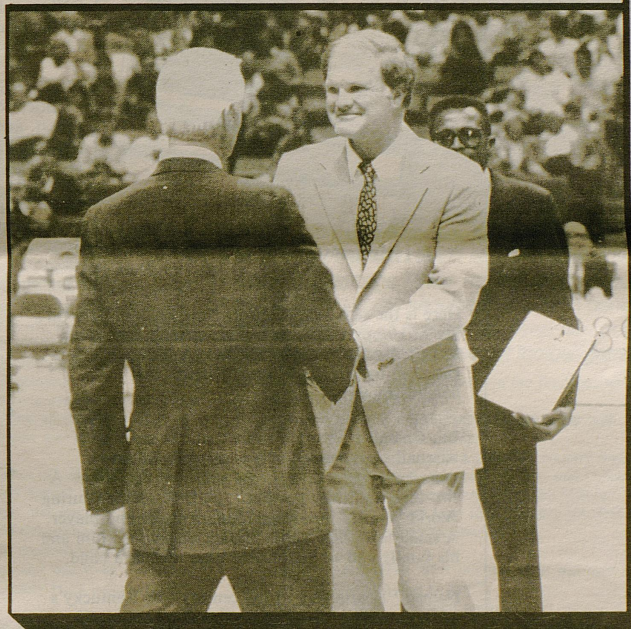
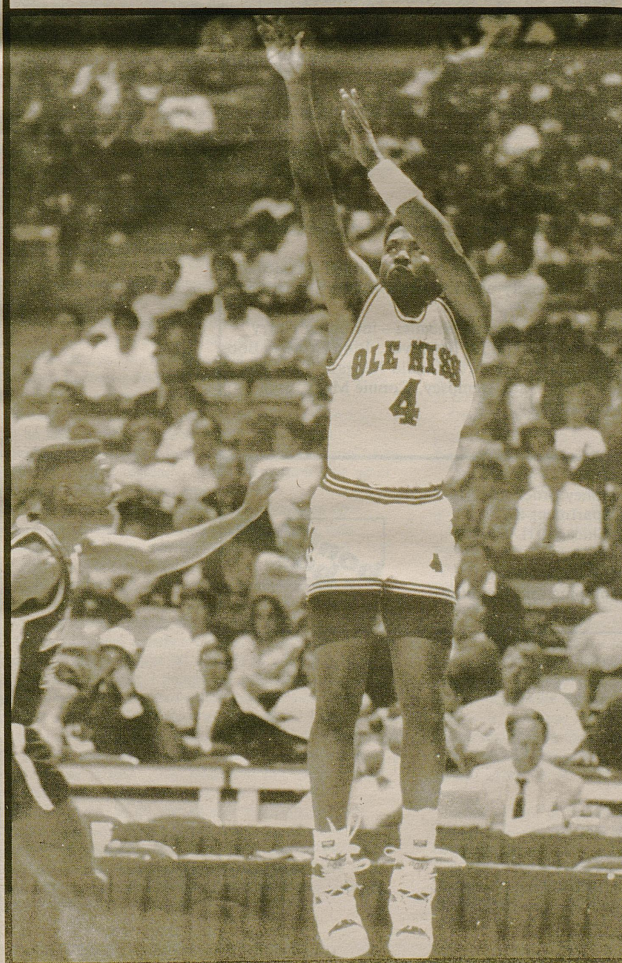
□ Dale Brown has a word with All-SEC freshman Chris Jackson. Jackson scored 37 points, taking 36 shots, but LSU lost to tourney host Tennessee in the quarterfinals, 95-77. The Tigers along with UT and three other SEC schools will participate in the NCAA tournament, which gets underway this Thursday.

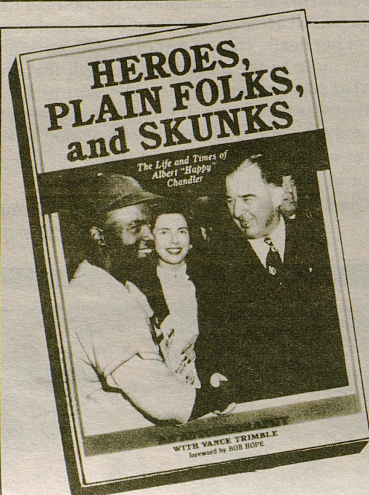
□ Former Kentucky Wildcat Ed Beck, currently senior pastor at the Sunrise Methodist Church in Colorado Springs, was one of 10 former SEC basketball greats to receive the Maxwell House Coffee/SEC Spirit Award for Alumni. It was in 1955 when he and Billie Beck were married. Two years later she died of cancer. Beck played on the 1956 UK national championship team, which achieved greatness because of a special motivating factor. "Out of her death, came a sort of solidification of the team," Beck said. "She was close to the players, all through that entire experience, they knew what was happening. It created sort of a mutual experience, they knew what was happening. It created sort of a mutual covenant to each other, and we dedicated the 1957-58 season to her memory."

□ The play of sophomore Livingston Chatman was one reason the Gators earned a spot in the championship game.

□ Gerald Glass showed off for NBA scouts against Auburn by scoring 31 points.

SEC tourney photos by Gary Cromwell





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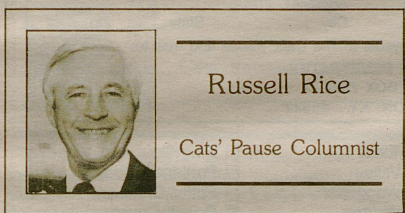
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Tragic fire claims life of 'iron man' Curtis Sanders

Was last living link to UK's FB win over 'Bama

"It is fourth down with three to go. The signals ring out on the frosty air—the ball is passed—Sanders takes the ball—First down. That is the way it happens, for there is no backfield man on the squad who is more dependable when yards are needed than the Nicholasville lad. Over the line, through it and around it—if there is a way he will find it—if not he will make it."

—1923 Kentuckian



Russell Rice

Cats' Pause Columnist

The tragic death of Curtis N. Sanders, former University of Kentucky football star who perished in a fire at his home in Harrison County last week, removed what may be the last living link to the only Wildcat football team ever to defeat Alabama, while leaving me with an empty feeling that is eased somewhat by fond memories of an enjoyable friendship.

I first met Curtis in January, 1975, when I drove through the snow to interview him at his home in Berry. He greeted me cheerfully, sat me down in a chair facing Super Bowl IX on the tube and produced two large scrapbooks containing clippings and other mementoes of his football career at the university.

The first thing I discovered was that Sanders, who even then at age 73 looked ready to don a set of pads, was a virtual grid "iron man" who at 6-foot, 185 pounds, averaged almost 60 minutes a game for four years, playing in constant pain from midway through his sophomore year until his final game in the fall of 1924.

He related how he played five games with a broken hand in a cast, had bones chipped in both ankles, and played with cartilage damage in his neck.

It was enough to cause Wildcat trainer Frank Mann to throw up his hands and exclaim: "Sandy, if you had any brains, you'd quit."

"They made me a special helmet with heavy canvas straps across the top on the inside so my head wouldn't touch the helmet," he recalled, "but you know leather gives and helmets sometime go sideways. There were no fancy training rooms or equipment in those days. I remember the trainer did a lot of massaging of bruises, and he had an infrared machine. I 'cooked' those shoulders in the shower, and that was our 'whirlpool.' Our ankles were taped regularly before every game. We never thought of playing without tape.

"When players get a little shoulder separation now, they're out. I couldn't raise my arms above my eyes without pain. That was in my sophomore year, and I had my right shoulder knocked down first. They made me a special shoulder pad, one that was heavy and had no 'give.' Then I got the other shoulder knocked down, and they made another one of those heavy, stiff pads, and laced the two of them together. I could hardly move my arm, but I played almost 60 minutes of every game.

"In my senior year, I bought me a rubber noseguard that you held in your mouth, but coach (Fred) Murphy laughed and said, 'You'll lose all your teeth.' I didn't wear it, and I got my nose broken again. I broke it a fifth time when I was coaching at Paducah, and the doctor said, 'Curt, it's pulverized. I can make you any kind of nose you want.' Did a good job, didn't he."

Sanders played in an era when football players paid their own tuition. Working part-time in-season and full-time off-season, he worked in tobacco, as a life-guard, plumber's helper, millwright's assistant, night clerk in a hotel, waiter, elevator operator, fraternity house manager, and bill collector.

He pushed a concrete buggy, parked cars in an all-night garage, drove a bus, sold dry-cleaning tickets, worked on a railroad repair gang, drove T-Model Fords from Cincinnati to Lexington for \$5 a trip and helped build Dix Dam, which formed Herrington Lake.

He dropped out of school in March of his sophomore year because of eye problems and worked in an uncle's lumberyard in West Helena, Ark.

"I meant to stay out there," he said, "but I came back to tell everyone goodbye and I saw them out there scrimmaging and I went in and got me a uniform and joined them."

Sanders came to UK as an 18-year-old freshman in 1920 and played only class ball that year. He then played four years of varsity ball under a rule that was changed a short while later.

He played linebacker and fullback and place-kicked for three different coaches—W.J. Juneau, J.J. Winn and Murphy.

The university's 6-0 victory over mighty Alabama in 1922 ranked as the highlight of Sander's career as a Wildcat. He caught a 20-yard pass and gained nine crucial yards in three carries to set up a seven-yard scoring run by Bruce Fuller, and he had 29 of UK's 53 carries for 93 of its 125 yards.

The *Louisville Courier-Journal* reported that he also was the "main cog" in the UK defense, "making a large part of the tackles, even at the line of scrimmage, and blocking Alabama passes in the first moment of the game."

Sanders was captain of the 1924 Wildcats, and had the honor of scoring the first 16 points in a 29-0 victory over Louisville in a game dedicating the new Stoll Field. Before 5,000 fans in the finished half of the stadium, he started the scoring by plunging through center from one yard out and kicking the extra point. In that same quarter, he threw a key pass to Charles "Turkey" Hughes and kicked a 25-yard field goal. He scored his final six points on a 25-yard run in the second quarter.

Against Georgetown the following weekend, he scored a TD and hit five of five extra point attempts in a 42-0 rout. He scored 51 points that year and was UK's best defensive back.

Sanders coached football, basketball and baseball six years at Paducah Tilghman High School; basketball two years at Paducah Junior College; and returned to Lexington as basketball coach and mathematics teacher at the old Picadome High School. He coached basketball and baseball 14 years at Berry High and was vo-ag instructor at the consolidated Harrison County High before retiring to his 355-acre farm.

One of his fondest memories was during the wartime year of 1942, when his Berry Eagles won the 10th Regional Tournament, earning a trip to the Sweet Sixteen.

The Cynthiana Bulldogs had earned a trip to the state tournament in 1920, but none of the county schools had turned the trick up to 1942.

Berry had a fine little team that went 14-7 during the regular season, then came on strong at tourney time. The Eagles were considered a high-scoring outfit, hitting at 39 points a game to their opponents' 31.

It was a senior-dominated team with 6-4 Eugene Hannah at center, 5-6 Robert Hardy and 5-9 Harold Lyons at guard, and 5-11 Clinton Limerick at forward. Junior Jack Lyons was the other starter at forward. Reserves were juniors Robert Fogle and Lewis Bell, sophomores Virgil Hannah and Billie Bell and freshman Curtis Sanders Jr. (Curtis Jr. later was a manager for the UK football team). The Eagles won their first game over Dorton 50-39, with Eugene Hannah scoring 22 points, Limerick 13, Harold Lyons seven, Jack Lyons six and Virgil Hannah two.

In the second game, the Eagles, playing without Robert Hardy, who was ill, were tied 14-14 with powerful Lafayette after the first quarter. Lafayette went ahead 21-17 at the half, but the Eagles battled back to go up 23-21 in the third period. As fouls started to mount against Berry, the Generals went back up 33-26 at the end of the third



The late Curtis Sanders, an iron man if there ever was one, who didn't let trivial things like cartilage damage in his neck, simultaneous separations in both shoulders or broken bones in his nose, hand and ankles keep him from averaging nearly 60 minutes per football game.

quarter. Berry scored only one point in the final quarter and Lafayette won 49-27.

Lafayette went on to win the state championship with victories over St. Xavier and Harlan.

"It was very satisfying to take a bunch of country boys and see them progress and improve," Sanders said. "You see boys change into young men and carry the lessons they learned in basketball to later life. It makes you feel like you're doing something worthwhile."

PERSONAL NOTE: After our interview was over, Curtis asked: "Do you like to fish?"

"Is the Pope Catholic?" I shot back.

Then he asked if I had any children still living at home, and did they like to fish.

I told him my daughter Kim was approaching 10, had caught her first bluegill at the tender age of five, and could bait her own hook and cast expertly with an open-face Zebeo reel.

Curtis then told me about a pond on his property that was loaded with big bass, bluegill, frogs and turtles. He neglected to say that you had to open seven gates to get to the pond, and that one side of one of the gates was attached to a "live" bee tree.

To make a long story short, Kim and I traveled to Berry the following Memorial Day in our pop-top VW camper and were joined by my brother Jim, a GE engineer out of Erlanger, and his son Doug and daughter Becky.

We enjoyed the campsite, the fishing and the solitude so much that a trip to Berry on Memorial Day became a tradition; of course, we also squeezed in some trips.

Curtis visited the UK sports information office at least once every summer. I saw him early last summer and then called him prior to the Alabama game. He explained that he wouldn't be attending any of the games, but that he would watch them on the tube and listen to Cawood and Ralph on the radio. I felt then that perhaps his health was slipping, but I wasn't prepared for the manner in which he went to meet his Maker.

We feel that news about the sports programs at the University of Kentucky should be required reading for all of the state's high school students.

So, the staff of *The Cats' Pause* is starting a program we call "Big Blue Penetration."

Below, we have listed all the high schools in the state of Kentucky, and it is our aim to give every high school student in the commonwealth the opportunity to read *The Cats' Pause* by making the paper available to every high school library in the state.

In order to accomplish this, it will be up to our subscribers to carry out "Big Blue Penetration" during the coming months.

If you would like to see *The Cats' Pause* in one or more high schools in your area, fill out the subscription blank provided to the right and return it with the appropriate payment.

We will begin sending it to the school(s) and we'll notify the school librarian about your gift.

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

BIG BLUE PENETRATION

YES, I want to send a gift subscription to one or more of Kentucky's high schools. I have enclosed \$28.50 for each subscription of 35 issues per year.

GIFT TO:

- 1) Name of high school _____
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- 3) Name of high school _____

GIFT FROM:

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Make check or money order payable to *The Cats' Pause* and mail to:

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- Fleming County
- Fleming-Neon
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- Fort Knox
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- Glasgow
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- Graves County
- Grayson County
- Green County
- Greenup County
- Greenville
- Hancock County
- Harlan
- Harrison County
- Harrodsburg
- Hart County
- Hazard
- Heath
- Henderson County
- Henry County
- Hickman County
- Highlands
- Hopkinsville
- Hughes-Kirk
- Jackson City
- Jackson County
- Jefferson County
- Jeffersonton
- Jenkins

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

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

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

Sweet 16 turns little boys' dreams into reality

To be there is like living history

Call it what you will – the Sweet Sixteen, the Big Show, the Greatest Show on Earth or the Boys' State Tournament – it's here again and, once again as they first did about 1943, my juices are flowing.



Earl Cox

Cats' Pause Columnist

It's what every little boy in Kentucky dreams about, not just reaching the State Tournament, but hitting the winning basket for his team to win the state championship.

For me and a lot of Kentuckians, this is the best week of the year. I'm not surprised that former Kentuckians (but there's no such thing as that, is there?) return home each year to answer the call of March Madness. Many wouldn't miss it.

I never see a State Tournament that I don't think back to fond memories of many others that I have seen. I like to sit at the press table and look around to see all the faces that belong to men who have written glorious stories in the Sweet Sixteens of yesteryear.

Call it living history.

Many are seated near the floor whether the tournament is in Lexington's Rupp Arena, as it is this week, or Louisville's Freedom Hall, where it will be next year.

Look up there! There's Morton Combs, the soft-spoken man who coached Carr Creek's Indians to the 1956 State Tournament championship. Yes, that tournament has gone down in history as King Kelly Coleman's tournament because of his never-matched scoring explosion, but Carr Creek took home the big trophy.

And my memories of Combs don't stop there. Oh, no. Think back to 1932 and the state championship struggle between little Hazard and the big Louisville school, Male High. Male had players named Iler, Hagan, Benson, Goforth, Roberts, Overly and Davis. Hazard had Napier, Lykins, Moore, Thorpe, W. Combs and M. Combs.

It is "M. Combs" who lives in history; yes, the same Morton Combs who coached Carr Creek to immortality. He had to walk miles back and forth to school each day because his grandfather, with whom he stayed while he went to school, lived out in the country. His only basket of the game 'way back in '32 gave coach Pat Payne's Hazard Bulldogs their first of two state championships. The final score: Hazard 15, Male 13. And don't try to tell Combs or any of the fans who saw the game in the University of Kentucky's Alumni Gym that it wasn't an exciting game.

And when one thinks of Morton Combs another Combs – Pearl – comes to mind because he guided the other Knott County school and Carr Creek's big rival, Hindman, to a state championship in 1943 after having coached the Yellow Jackets to a runnerup finish in 1939.

I don't know why Hindman was always so good, but Carr Creek, legend has it, became a state power back in the early days because the Indians practiced on an out-door court. When a player missed, the ball went down a hill and into a creek, and the culprit had to chase it. Thus the Indians became deadeyes.

In the most famous State Tournament game in history, Carr Creek battled Ashland's powerful Tomcats (who were later to win the national championship) four overtimes before losing the championship game 13-11 in 1928. That tournament, too, was in Alumni Gym and by the time Carr Creek got

that far the team had picked up spiffy new uniforms because the people in Richmond made up money. Carr Creek had played in hand-me-downs and overalls during an elimination tournament at Eastern State Teachers College.

I saw my first State Tournament in 1946 when several of us played hooky from Irvine High and hitchhiked to Louisville to see the games in the old Jefferson County Armory. I was a junior in high school that year and had discovered the State Tournament via the radio (WHAS) a couple of years earlier when a team from nearby Richmond, a Madison High team led by Alonzo Nelson, made a strong showing. A couple of Kentucky basketball legends burst upon the state scene that year, youngsters named Wallace "Wah Wah" Jones and Ralph Beard. They went on to NCAA championship glory (back-to-back) and Olympic Gold Medals as members of Adolph Rupp's Fabulous Five at UK. Wah Wah's Harlan Green Dragons captured the championship that year, and he returned the next year, but that proved to be Beard's year. He had a lot of help from fellow All-Tournament selections Gene Rhodes and Ed Mudd (the father of golf star Jodie Mudd), and their Male High team beat a fine Central City team in the final 54-42. That Golden Tide team was coached by Delmas Gish, who earlier this week was inducted into the Dawahares-K.H.S.A.A. Hall of Fame. Beard and Jones were charter members last year, as was Morton Combs.

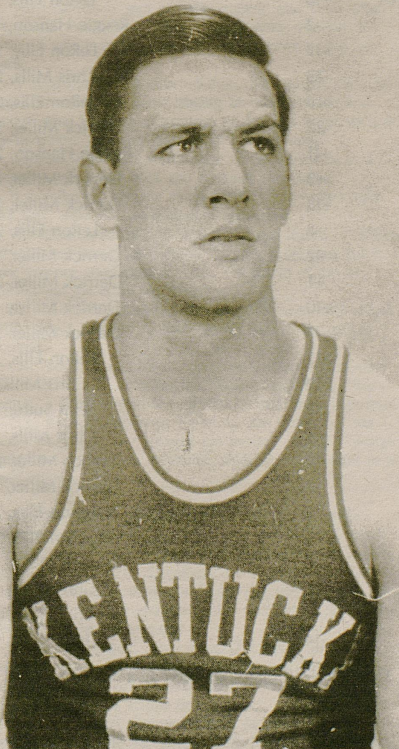
So was Russ Williamson, a front-row observer of nearly all of the State Tournaments. He coached Inez to the 1941 championship and saw all five of his starters selected for the Kentucky All-Star team that played Indiana's best. His 1937 Inez Indians were runnersup to Midway.

BEST TEAMS? – Because I've seen so many of the tournaments, I've been asked many times about best players and best teams. I don't really like to single any out, but John McGill got 18 veteran observers of the Sweet Sixteen to vote on best teams in 1987 for what is now the K.H.S.A.A. Record Book, the successor to the popular Ruby's Record Book that The Courier-Journal and sports editor Earl Ruby used to publish.

The 1961 Ashland team of Larry Conley, Gene Smith, Harold Sergeant, Bob Hilton and Steve Cram won the poll. Here is McGill's poll:

1. Ashland, 1961 (36-1), Coach Bob Wright
2. Inez, 1941 (34-5), Russ Williamson.
3. Louisville Central, 1969 (35-1), Robert Graves.
4. Male, 1945 (30-5), Paul Jenkins.
5. Ashland, 1928 (36-0), James Anderson.
6. St. Xavier, 1935 (28-5), Bob Schuhmann.
7. Brewers, 1948 (36-0), McCoy Tarry.
8. Seneca, 1964 (32-2), Bob Mulcahy.
9. Lafayette, 1953 (27-6), Ralph Carlisle.
10. Breckinridge Training, 1946 (31-2), Bob Laughlin.

In case you are wondering if there have been other undefeated champions, the answer is Henderson in 1916. And, yes, we have had another national champion besides Ashland; that was old Lexington High (now Henry Clay) in 1922. And now there's talk of reviving the national tournament. The National Federation of High School Athletic Associations has been against resumption, but now there's less resistance. Money – especially TV money – talks.



Will there be a "Wah Wah" Jones (left) or a Ralph Beard on the court this week?

KENTUCKY BASKETBALL STATISTICS

(Final season totals - 32 games)

player	Overall: 13-19					Home: 9-6		Away: 2-9		Neutral: 2-4		SEC: 8-10				
	g-gs	fg-a	pct.	3fg-a	pct.	ft-a	pct.	tp-avg.	reb-avg.	pf-d	a	to	blk.	stl.	min.	
LeRon Ellis.....	32-30	200-385	51.9	0-2	00.0	111-164	67.7	511-16.0	177-5.5	101-4	65	66	35	36	1006	
Chris Mills.....	32-32	180-372	48.4	17-54	31.5	82-115	71.3	459-14.3	277-8.7	105-7	92	110	26	45	1124	
Derrick Miller.....	32-29	170-373	45.6	54-139	38.8	52-71	73.2	446-13.9	107-3.3	62-2	67	62	4	25	961	
Reggie Hanson.....	29-29	114-222	51.4	0-0	00.0	57-76	75.0	285-9.8	130-4.5	98-4	44	63	25	47	932	
Sean Sutton.....	31-31	70-147	47.6	18-43	41.9	25-46	54.3	183-5.9	51-1.6	76-2	146	76	1	40	998	
Deron Feldhaus.....	32-2	48-100	48.0	2-6	33.3	20-31	64.5	118-3.7	104-3.3	50-2	32	40	4	14	501	
Richie Farmer.....	27-0	23-82	28.0	15-53	28.3	24-28	85.7	85-3.1	18-7	18-0	10	12	0	4	244	
Mike Scott.....	32-5	35-81	43.2	0-0	00.0	14-20	70.0	84-2.6	81-2.5	47-1	23	33	13	10	385	
Chris Jones.....	2-0	1-1	100.0	0-0	00.0	3-5	60.0	5-2.5	2-1.0	2-0	0	0	0	1	5	
John Pelphrey.....	22-1	14-24	58.3	2-5	40.0	8-13	61.5	38-1.7	23-1.0	28-0	20	20	1	4	208	
Johnathan Davis.....	11-0	1-4	25.0	0-0	00.0	3-4	75.0	5-5	15-1.4	7-0	0	8	1	1	26	
Jeff Ginnan.....	4-1	0-0	00.0	0-0	00.0	1-2	50.0	1-3	2-5	2-0	0	1	0	0	9	
Anthony Mathis*.....	2-0	0-0	00.0	0-0	00.0	0-0	00.0	0-0	0-0.0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	
Team.....	32								69-2.2							
KENTUCKY.....	32	856-1791	47.8	108-302	35.8	400-575	69.6	2220-69.4	1056-33.0	596-22	499	494	1110	228	6400	
OPPONENTS.....	32	849-1833	46.3	167-478	34.9	451-645	69.9	2316-72.4	1079-33.7	569-15	480	454	69	264	6400	

*Walk-on Anthony Mathis academically ineligible second semester

KENTUCKY SCHEDULE, RESULTS

Date	Record	UK	Opp.	Opponent	Margin	Top Scorer	Top Rebounder	Att. (Site)
Nov. 19	0-1	55	80	Duke	-25	LeRon Ellis, 17	Chris Mills, 11	8,908 (N)
Nov. 25	1-1	56	54	Iona	+2	LeRon Ellis, 22	Mike Scott, 7	3,765 (N)
Nov. 26	1-2	60	63	Seton Hall	-3	Chris Mills, 21	Reggie Hanson, 6	3,250 (N)
Nov. 28	2-2	89	71	California	+18	Derrick Miller, 36	LeRon Ellis, 8	3,652 (N)
Dec. 3	2-3	65	81	Notre Dame	-16	LeRon Ellis, 22	Reggie Hanson, 7	45,214 (N)
Dec. 7	2-4	82	85	NORTHWESTERN (LA.) ST.	-3	LeRon Ellis, 37	Reggie Hanson, 8	18,932 (H)
Dec. 10	3-4	78	60	WESTERN CAROLINA	+18	LeRon Ellis, 19	Mike Scott, 5	18,253 (H)
Dec. 16	3-5	54	56	BOWLING GREEN	-2	Reggie Hanson, 14	Chris Mills, 15	20,875 (H)
Dec. 17	4-5	91	78	MARSHALL	+13	LeRon Ellis, 33	Chris Mills, 20	18,945 (H)
Dec. 20	4-6	52	75	INDIANA	-23	Chris Mills, 22	Chris Mills, 11	23,212 (H)
Dec. 27	5-6	85	77	AUSTIN PEAY	+8	LeRon Ellis, 23	Chris Mills, 10	18,178 (*H)
Dec. 31	5-7	75	97	Louisville	-22	Derrick Miller, 34	Chris Mills, 10	19,502 (A)
Jan. 4	6-7	76	65	GEORGIA	+11	Reggie Hanson, 20	Chris Mills, 12	21,209 (H)
Jan. 7	7-7	70	61	VANDERBILT	+9	Derrick Miller, 27	LeRon Ellis, 10	23,338 (H)
Jan. 12	8-7	69	56	Florida	+13	Derrick Miller, 30	Derrick Miller, 8	11,751 (A)
Jan. 14	8-8	62	64	LOUISIANA STATE	-2	LeRon Ellis, 20	Chris Mills, 11	124,288 (H)
Jan. 18	8-9	64	76	Alabama	-12	Derrick Miller, 19	Chris Mills, 7	15,043 (A)
Jan. 21	9-9	66	65	Tennessee	+1	Derrick Miller, 23	Chris Mills, 7	24,464 (A)
Jan. 25	10-9	86	76	Auburn	+10	Derrick Miller, 16	Chris Mills, 11	23,506 (H)
Jan. 28	10-10	65	70	Mississippi	-5	Derrick Miller, 21	LeRon Ellis, 10	7,375 (A)
Feb. 1	11-10	73	61	MISSISSIPPI STATE	+12	LeRon Ellis, 21	LeRon Ellis, 9	22,017 (H)
Feb. 5	11-11	72	84	Georgia	-12	Chris Mills, 19	Chris Mills, 8	9,812 (A)
Feb. 8	11-12	51	81	Vanderbilt	-30	Sean Sutton, 14	Chris Mills, 8	15,646(A)
Feb. 11	11-13	53	59	FLORIDA	-6	Chris Mills, 17	Chris Mills, 11	23,547 (H)
Feb. 15	11-14	80	99	Louisiana State	-19	Derrick Miller, 26	LeRon Ellis, 13	13,050 (A)
Feb. 18	11-15	67	71	ALABAMA	-4	Derrick Miller, 18	Reggie Hanson, 10	23,232 (H)
Feb. 20	11-16	75	77	Auburn	-2	LeRon Ellis, 23	Derrick Miller, 7	6,136 (A)
Feb. 22	12-16	76	71	TENNESSEE	+5	LeRon Ellis, 23	Chris Mills, 13	22,148 (H)
Feb. 26	12-17	73	89	Syracuse	-16	Derrick Miller, 21	Chris Mills, 8	30,695 (A)
Mar. 1	13-17	70	69	MISSISSIPPI	+1	Chris Mills, 19	Deron Feldhaus	23,022 (H)
Mar. 4	13-18	67	68	Mississippi State	-1	Chris Mills, 16	Chris Mills, 11	7,363 (A)
Mar. 10	13-19	63	77	Vanderbilt	-14	LeRon Ellis, 20	Chris Mills, 18	17,614 (N)

*Dec. 27 game vs. Austin Peay was played in Louisville's Freedom Hall but is counted as a home game

¹New Rupp Arena attendance record

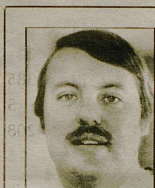
✓SEC record

Big question: Will Mills, Eddie Sutton be back?

Ailing Mills was outstanding in SEC tourney

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Even when Kentucky's coaches wondered if he could play, Chris Mills knew he wouldn't miss Friday's game against Vanderbilt here.

"Although I played with some discomfort I knew I had



Larry Vaught

Cats' Pause Columnist

to put it out of my mind," said Mills. "This game was too important to miss and I never doubted I would play."

And did he ever play against Vandy in the second round of the Southeastern Conference tournament. He hit eight of 14 field goal tries, scored 17 points and grabbed 18 rebounds in the 77-63 loss that ended UK's season.

Mills had missed practice Thursday because of a skin irritation and when UK coach Eddie Sutton entered the arena here Friday he still wasn't sure Mills would play. "He was in a lot more pain than he let on," said Sutton. "He wasn't feeling very well but he didn't let it bother him."

Mills, though, knew what it was like to play in discomfort. All season he had been under intense scrutiny because of the Emery Air Freight package that reportedly popped open in April with a videocassette and \$1,000 cash inside. The NCAA has charged UK assistant coach Dwane Casey with sending the package to Mills' father.

"This has been the hardest year of my life," said Mills. "It has made me a stronger person and I've learned a lot."

"I'll be glad when all this stuff with the NCAA ends and something is finally decided. That will be better for everybody."

"I know I would never want to go through this again. I just went out every day and tried to do my best. I tried to block everything but basketball and school out of mind."

He did a good job of that. No UK player was more consistent this season than Mills.

He led the team in rebounding (8.5) and minutes played (35.1) and was second in scoring (14.4). He had a triple-double—19 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists—against Austin Peay. No other Wildcat has ever done that. And he came just one assist short (he had 13 points, 13 rebounds and teammate Derrick Miller missed a layup that would have given him 10 assists) of another triple-double in Kentucky's 76-71 victory over Tennessee at Rupp Arena Feb. 22.

The 6-7 freshman pulled off 20 rebounds against Marshall, something no Wildcat had done in 399 games since 1976.

"When Chris came here from Los Angeles I knew he was a great player," said UK redshirt freshman Deron Feldhaus. "But I didn't know just how good he was."

"He adjusted to everything here so quick. He could rebound, shoot and pass right from the start."

"He's a great person, too. Despite all that went on he was never in a bad mood. He handled everything so well."

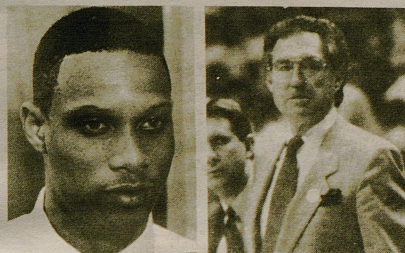
Miller, UK's junior guard, also appreciated Mills' ability to block out distractions.

"He could have left here with all that was coming down," said Miller. "Instead, he stayed and did his best every day. I admire him for that. You will not find a classier guy and better friend than Chris Mills."

Mills doesn't regret coming to Kentucky. He has not enjoyed the NCAA probe but never wavered from his decision to become a Wildcat.

"Once I made my decision to come to Kentucky that was it," said Mills. "Nothing could have changed my mind."

"I had fun this year. Despite all we have gone through



The jury's still out for Mills (left) and Sutton

it has been a fun year for me.

"Some people didn't think I could be this successful in college my first year. But I showed I could play."

"My father was a very strong-willed person and as I was growing up he instilled that same quality in me. That really helped me this year."

His father had not seen him play in person at UK until Friday. Claud Mills liked what he saw and hopes his son can play at Kentucky again next season.

"Number one I would give credit to coach Sutton," said Claud Mills. "Just the individual attention he has given Chris is more than any other coach would have."

"He's made Chris a better player and I'm very pleased with his progress and the discipline coach Sutton has taught him. I'd prefer he be here instead of somewhere else scoring 30 points a game."

"He wanted to come to UK for four years and I hope there is some way all this will blow over. I hope my son can play here for three more years."

So does his son. His status will not be known until the NCAA issues a ruling in April or May but he plans to stay at Kentucky.

"All I can do is wait and stay patient until I see what happens," said Mills. "I hope things work out fine. If not, I'll take it from there but I'm optimistic I will be back."

"I liked playing for coach Sutton. He's taught me a lot and I would love to keep playing for him. But no one knows what is going to happen. As far as I know we'll all be here next year and that's what I really want."

"Our season didn't go the way we all wanted it to. I hope we can come back and be more successful."

If that doesn't happen, though, Mills knows he could not have done any more against Vanderbilt.

"It was a stroke of bad luck that I was in this condition for our last game," said Mills. "I gave it my best but it just was not good enough. Still, I'm proud of the way I played and the effort we gave."

So was his father and that's a major reason why Claud Mills hopes there is no need for his son to change schools.

"We wouldn't just move somewhere else for basketball if something bad does happen," said Claud Mills. "He's getting a good education at Kentucky and that's important."

"I'm pleased with what Kentucky has taught my son and I really hope no changes are needed. But if a change would be in Chris' best interest, then we would have to at least consider it."

□ **KENTUCKY ENDED IT'S** 13-19 season on the court with the loss to Vandy, but the season really won't end until the NCAA decides what penalties it will or will not issue over the 18 allegations it sent to UK last fall. Until that ruling is made, one other big question still looms over the basketball program: Will Eddie Sutton and his staff be back next year?

The answer should come soon, if it hasn't already by the time you read this. C.M. Newton takes over as athletics director April 1 and you can bet the house Sutton's status will be settled before then.

Newton is smart enough to know he would be in a no-win situation if the decision is made after he arrives. In fairness to him and Sutton, the situation has to be settled

before then.

For weeks it has been rumored that UK president Dr. David Roselle did not plan to wait until the NCAA issues its ruling on the current probe to make his decision about Sutton, and the word through the grapevine here at the tournament said such a decision could even come before the state tournament begins in Lexington this week.

And based on an incident after a recent home game, it doesn't look good for Sutton and company.

Roselle wanted autographs for two youngsters after the game. He came into the UK dressing room and walked right by Sutton's assistants without speaking.

That upset Sutton and his staff but it should have also driven home a clear message.

Sutton last week admitted it was tough to coach "when you don't feel wanted" and he only shook his head in an empty UK dressing room when asked if being dismissed as soon as the season ended would surprise him.

"I don't know what the basis for that would be," said Sutton. "I'm not named in any allegation and I would certainly hope nothing is done until the NCAA makes its ruling."

That would seem only fair. Anyone deserves his day in court, especially a man who has 30 years of service without a blemish on his record.

If Sutton and his staff are guilty of major violations, then changes should be made. But I don't buy the argument that a change has to be made just for the sake of the program. No one seemed too upset with Sutton when he won two regular-season titles and two SEC tournaments in his first three seasons at UK. That's a start even Adolph Rupp and Joe Hall couldn't match, yet it didn't even get Sutton a contract extension.

Maybe I'm just a softie. I'd still like to see Sutton have a chance to rebuild the program that has been decimated by the problems that started last April.

It seems, though, UK officials decided months ago that Sutton and his staff had to go. They didn't have the courage to announce that decision then and made the coaching staff suffer through a season of uncertainty. And don't think that didn't hurt the team.

Sutton is well compensated for his time. He'll survive this and land another job because he is a terrific basketball coach.

Unfortunately, assistants James Dickey and Dwane Casey may not be so lucky. At this time last year both were mentioned as two of the top young coaches in America. Both were going to be considered for jobs at other schools and seemed ready to run their own programs. If they are fired at UK they can forget big-time coaching.

Of course, if Sutton or any of his staff helped Eric Manuel cheat on his college entrance exam, they should be dismissed. If Kentucky was sending regular cash payments to players, dismiss the guilty coaches. But Sutton should not be fired for minor violations that can easily be corrected.

Ole Miss coach Ed Murphy echoed some of the above sentiments when he was in town to play the Wildcats a couple of weeks ago. And Murphy said he thinks coaches should have done more to support Sutton. He's advocated due process for Suttons since November but thinks others may enjoy Sutton's suffering.

"A lot of people in our business want to read that their team won and the entire United States lost," said Murphy. "A lot of guys that have not beaten him are jealous. The support among coaches has not been what it should have been."

Sutton's players, though, continue to support him.

"I love him like a father," said Miller. "He has helped me a lot. I would not be here doing what I am today if it was not for him."

"I respect all he has taught me and what I have learned from him will help me live comfortably when I do live here."

Miller won't be leaving for another year. Sutton and his staff, though, don't appear to have many more sunsets to enjoy in the Bluegrass.

Season ends at 13-19 w

'Cats throw 21-8 scare into Vanderbilt, but lose grip; question is will UK coach hold on to job?

By TCP Associate Editor Nick Nicholas

KNOXVILLE, Ky.—Defeat No. 19, a 77-63 loss to Vanderbilt, signified the end of a season for Eddie Sutton and his suffering Wildcats. While Vanderbilt's season continues into NCAA play, the name Kentucky, for the first time since 1974, will be omitted from postseason invites.

This is not to say UK basketball is out of the picture until next fall. Various negative statistics compiled by the '89 Wildcats and absence from NCAA or NIT action take a back seat to the nearly year-long NCAA investigation into the basketball program.

That was particularly obvious moments following UK's loss in the quarterfinals of the SEC tourney.

Peering around beaming camera lights to touch base with reporters, the UK coach tried to give a signal that better days would be ahead for him alongside his Wildcats.

Uncertainty, however, trailed Sutton's remarks, with the coach not knowing if his future includes Lexington.

"Yes, I would like to be back at Kentucky," Sutton indicated, handling himself with remarkable calmness despite the hot lights and even hotter topic. "But only time will tell. I hope, that if we do get penalized, that I'm the one that can help put the pieces back together.

"But if it's not to be, then it's not my call." UK fans can only wait and see what, first, the administration has planned, followed by possible discipline procedures by the NCAA infractions committee.

A decision on the fate of Sutton and his staff should come before April 1 from UK president David Roselle, because that's when C.M. Newton comes aboard. The university's CEO was on hand in K-town to watch his favorite team try to rebound in the tourney on its way to an inspirational finish. And, for a while Sutton's troops appeared to be a much-improved unit, especially on the boards.

Freshman forward Chris Mills, playing with a skin irritation on his backside, fought off the pain with a 17-point, 18-rebound performance. It was that kind of play which ignited the Wildcats to a 21-8 lead over the Commodores.

An offensive rebound and putback by Deron Feldhaus broke UK free from a seven-all score. Ellis got in on the act with a steal and a seven-foot turnaround from the baseline, making the count 11-7. And a three-pointer by Mills and Sean Sutton, sandwiched between a Feldhaus bucket underneath widened the gap to 11, 19-8.

Ellis concluded UK's 16-1 spree with another baseline jumper from nearly the same spot where he hit earlier. Score it: Momentum 21, Stunned 8.

A pep talk from skipper Newton encouraged the Commodores not to give up. Indeed, this was an opponent which Vanderbilt had blown out of the water by 30 points last month. Newton's advice plugged any holes poked in the 'Dores' confidence.

"Obviously, we were a little concerned when we fell behind by 13," said guard Barry Booker, who tied Frank Kornet for team-high scoring honors with 17 points. "Coach Newton told us during the timeout that we'd find out what kinda character this team had, and we really got after them.

"We didn't want to start this year's tournament the same way we had the last three (elimination). We stepped up our intensity defensively and we got our running game going. We're a much better basketball team when we run."

Barry, your team's 20-4 run convinced Kentucky. Vanderbilt got its offensive rhythm back in sync with inside goals by Kornet and Charles Mayes. A tip-in by Mills kept the 'Cats' spirits up, as well as a comfortable lead—23-12. But Vandy was starting to jell and even a gallant Kentucky's effort couldn't stop it.

Mr. Mo, a devious but helpful fellow, switched sides. This became evident because of: A) a Kornet offensive board and basket; B) a UK turnover; and C) a three-point bomb by Booker, in that order. An alert tap in by Feldhaus couldn't trip Vandy's stride. Free tosses by Kornet and Eric Reid along with a three-pointer by Derrick Wilcox tightened the screws at 25-24.

That was to be the last time UK led this season. A Wildcat miscue and a fast-break basket by Reid gave Vandy its first lead since a 7-5 advantage. The 'Cats again were grateful foes, this time helping Vandy's cause with an irritant pass by Farmer which assisted Booker in an uncontested slam.

In two offensive sequences Ellis, who scored a game-high 20

points, tied the score at 28-28 on an eight-footer and a free throw. In the final 3:08 Vanderbilt delivered a punch that had the 'Cats wobbling into the locker room.

First, a three-point goal by Booker sent UK into the ropes. Then, a Ellis 12-foot miss followed by a potent putback by Kornet damaged the Wildcats' intensity. Sutton's fighters did counter with an Ellis six-footer, but it was no match for Wilcox's three-pointer and Booker's one-handed rebound dunk.

Once owning a 13-point lead, Kentucky now, like most of the season, had to regroup.

"I thought for sure we would get to halftime with an eight- or nine-point lead," said Sean Sutton, whose team instead trailed 38-30. "It hurt a lot because if we're up at the half they've got to come to us. We were forced to come after them. They had a big spread which made the basket a lot bigger...it made their shots easier."

The second half started like it concluded, with Vandy outscoring UK, this time 9-3. And midway through the final 20-minute session, the margin was pushed to 15, 53-38, in the 'Dores' favor.

"It was another streak finish for this basketball team," said Vandy's head coach. "I'm proud of the way they battled back after a slow start."

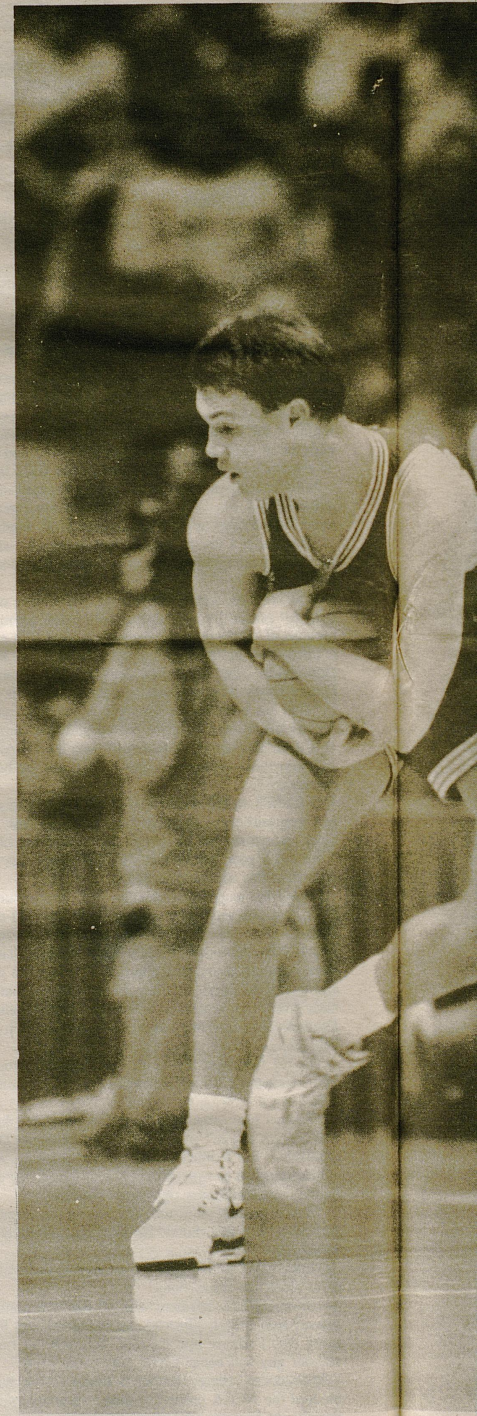
Quiting, though, did not enter the Kentucky players' game plan. A fumbled alley-oop by Ellis from Sean Sutton somehow managed to rattle through the cylinder. At this point UK trailed 64-44 with 7:59 left. Slim chances of a comeback were increased when Ellis scored with Kornet hanging on his back. Ellis, however, missed the free throw. The winners then were able to hang on thanks to target practice at the charity stipe.

Reid drilled two free throws to increase his team's lead back to nine, 66-57. Overall, Vanderbilt made 23 of 35 shots from the line while UK took only seven attempts, hitting three.

After Reid's free throws, a nine-point gap was the closest UK could get in the final 6:12 of the season.

"Emotionally, I think all of us, the players and coaching staff have certainly experienced a lot of different types of emotions," Eddie Sutton said after defeat. "It's been a very tough year. I just talked to the squad in there a few minutes ago. I told them that what we've been through may be the toughest experience they'll have to face in their lifetime...I think they've all grown.

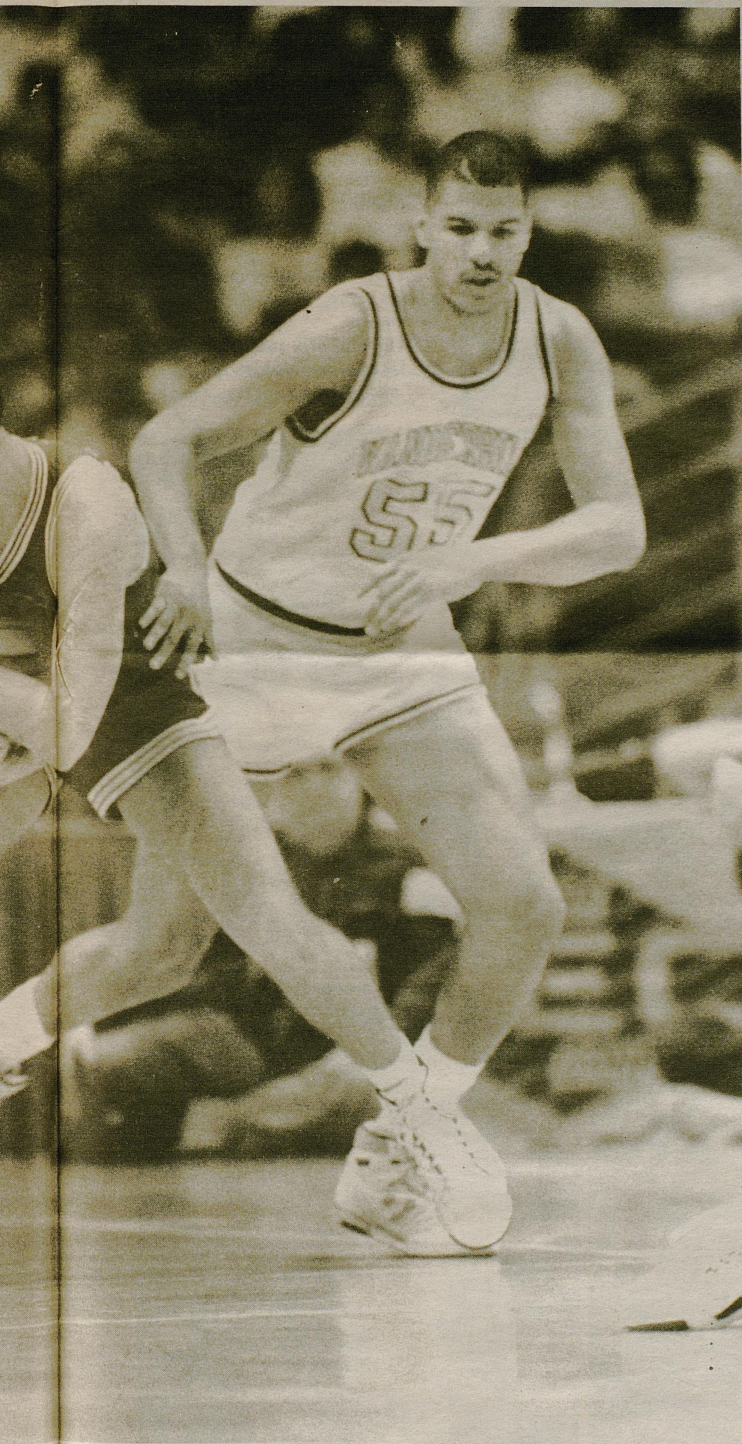
"I've had ballclubs that I'm certainly not nearly as proud of as this basketball team. I'm proud of each and every one of 'em. They never did turn on each other. They hung together and they listened to us even when we were losing. They just kept fighting back."



Deron Feldhaus leaves no questions as to how he appeared to be on their way to an upset over Vandy

KENTUCKY (Last Name First)												
No.	Name	PG	FG	FT	TR	PF	TP	REB	AST	BLK	STL	PTS
12	Deron FELDHaus	1	4	10	0	2	1	2	15	0	5	17
42	Chris MILLS	1	3	14	1	2	0	16	12	18	3	17
23	Sean SUTTON	6	10	0	2	5	3	6	2	20	3	12
14	Derrick MILLER	2	2	10	1	4	0	2	1	3	2	5
20	Sean SUTTON	2	2	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	6
21	Chris JONES	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
32	Richie FARMER	0	4	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	Sean SUTTON	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0
34	John FELDMER	2	4	0	1	0	0	1	1	4	4	4
44	Jeff GINSAN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	Mike SCOTT	0	3	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	0
TEAM REBOUNDS (included in Totals)												
TOTALS 28 71 41 16 31 19 20 39 23 63 19 13 31 5 200												
2nd Hal. 12-35 52.5 Game 23.4 2nd Hal. 11-31 35.6 Game 22.0												
FT % 1st Hal. 50.0 2nd Hal. 50.0 Game 50.0												
3PT % 1st Hal. 12.5 2nd Hal. 25.0 Game 12.5												
VANDERBILT (Last Name First)												
No.	Name	PG	FG	FT	TR	PF	TP	REB	AST	BLK	STL	PTS
41	Barry BOOKER	1	6	10	3	2	2	1	5	0	1	17
15	Eric REID	1	3	5	0	0	0	1	6	7	3	9
34	Frank KORNET	6	7	12	0	3	7	2	4	6	3	17
3	Derrick WILCOX	0	4	7	2	3	3	4	0	4	1	12
12	Barry GOODEN	1	3	10	1	2	3	6	0	2	1	10
24	Jesse ANSLER - DNP.											
31	Steve GRANT	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	2	0	2	2
32	Todd WILHOLLAND	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33	Norvan WHEAT	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
40	Charles MAYES	1	2	0	1	1	4	0	1	1	0	3
42	Alberto BALLESTRA	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
55	Fred BENJAMIN											
TEAM REBOUNDS (included in Totals)												
TOTALS 24 46 61 11 23 25 6 25 31 8 77 16 7 21 9 220												
2nd Hal. 10-20 50.0 Game 52.2 2nd Hal. 11-33 33.3 Game 34.5												
FT % 1st Hal. 50.0 2nd Hal. 50.0 Game 50.0												
3PT % 1st Hal. 0.0 2nd Hal. 0.0 Game 0.0												
OFFICIALS: Don Ruediger, Don Ferguson, Andre Patisio												
SCORES BY PERIOD												
KENTUCKY 30 33 63												
VANDERBILT 36 39 77												
Technical Fouls: 17 6 14												

with 77-63 tourney loss



... as to has possession of this basketball. Fred Benjamin looks on. The Wildcats upset over Vandy, but the 'Dores prevailed 77-63 to advance in the SEC tourney.

UK-Vandy photo by Gary Cromwell

'Cats gave hearty effort despite loss

By TCP Associate Editor Nick Nicholas

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.—Notes and quotes from last Friday's 77-63 loss to Vanderbilt.

□The reason that a decision, one way or the other, probably will be made about the UK coaching staff before April 1 is that C.M. Newton has been told that everything 'in that regard will be taken care of before he arrives in Lexington. Unless, UK president David Roselle is having second thoughts...again, one way or the other.

□Beating Kentucky is never a dull moment for Barry Goheen. Vandy's senior guard, a product of Marshall County, said: "Being from Kentucky, I grew up rooting for them and it's always a big game for me. Whether it be a scrimmage or a game, I'd get excited about playing Kentucky."

□Was there any doubt Chris Mills would play? Mills didn't practice the day before and there was some talk that he might miss his first SEC tournament contest. "I didn't think I would be able to play today. I was under a lot of pain. I just tried to put it out of my mind and come in and give my best effort." And when did he know that he would be able to play? "Right before we came over here (Boiling-Thompson Arena)." Mills played 39 minutes, hitting eight of 14 shots from the field for 17 points, grabbing 18 boards and blocking one shot. To say the least, a remarkable feat turned in by the freshman.

□LSU coach Dale Brown, whose Tigers earlier were eliminated from the SEC tourney, appeared in the UK locker room for a postgame chat. "He was talking to us, telling how everybody is high on you when you're on top and shoot 'in at you when you're on the bottom," said LeRon Ellis. "(He said) our record shows nothing of how much we learned this year. He said we learned how to really handle adversity well. He watched us all year and said that he was proud of us because we didn't quit, we didn't turn on each other. He went around the room and shook everybody's hand.

"Coach Brown said it was like a circle, everything that goes around comes around."

□Here's a comment from Eddie Sutton on C.M. Newton, UK's future athletics director. "I've known C.M. for a great time and I think he would be a great boss."

Taking that one step further, here's Newton's response when asked if Sutton would be a good employee: "I certainly do. I think Eddie's a tremendous basketball coach and I hope I am going to be a good boss."

□In the rebounding category, Kentucky did a complete turnaround from its last game against Vanderbilt. In UK's 81-51 setback at Nashville last month it was outrebounded 39-33. This time, the Wildcats outthudded the Commodores on the glass by a 39-31 figure.

□One big stat was Derrick Miller's poor shooting effort from the field—two of 15.

□Deron Feldhaus gave All-SEC guard Barry Goheen fits, holding him to 10 points.

UK-Vanderbilt play-by-play

Time	Kentucky	Score	Vanderbilt
19:15		0-2	Reid layup
18:54	Miller 20 ft.	3-2	
18:33		3-4	Kornet layup
18:12	Mills 8 ft.	5-4	
17:42		5-7	Booker 21 ft.
17:11	Ellis 10 ft.	7-7	
16:35	Feldhaus follow	9-7	
15:29	Ellis 10 ft.	11-7	
15:04	Mills 21 ft.	14-7	
14:30	Feldhaus 12 ft.	16-7	
13:54		16-8	Goheen FTA, FT
12:53	Sean Sutton 21 ft.	19-8	
11:57	Ellis 12 ft.	21-8	
11:45		21-10	Kornet 14 ft.
10:43		21-12	Mays layup
8:49	Mills tip in	23-12	
7:39		23-14	Kornet 10 ft.
6:55		23-17	Booker 21 ft.
6:19	Feldhaus tip in	25-17	
6:12		25-19	Kornet FT, FT
5:20		25-22	Wilcox 20 ft.
4:45		25-24	Reid FT, FT
4:29		25-26	Reid layup
3:57		25-28	Booker dunk
3:32	Ellis 8 ft.	27-28	
3:08	Ellis FT, FTA	28-28	
2:27		28-31	Booker 21 ft.
1:51		28-33	Kornet follow dunk
1:33	Ellis 6 ft.	30-33	
1:05		30-36	Wilcox 21 ft.
:30		30-38	Booker follow dunk
HALF		30-38	
19:45		30-40	Kornet 14 ft.
19:18		30-42	Goheen layup
18:56	Mills 4 ft.	32-42	
18:43		32-44	Kornet tip in
18:23		32-45	Goheen FT, FT
18:16	Feldhaus FTA, FT	33-45	
18:08		33-47	Wilcox layup
17:51	Mills layup	35-47	
17:34	Ellis 10 ft.	37-47	
16:37	Ellis FT, FTA	38-47	
16:15		38-49	Wilcox FT, FT
15:25		38-51	Wilcox 17 ft.
14:55		38-53	Kornet 8 ft.
14:36	Pelphrey 18 ft.	40-53	
14:16		40-55	Goheen 18 ft.
14:02	Sutton 21 ft.	43-55	
12:42		43-58	Goheen 20 ft.
12:19	Feldhaus 8 ft.	45-58	
12:07	Pelphrey layup	47-58	
11:57		47-60	Booker layup
10:23		47-61	Wheat FTA, FT
10:04	Mills 8 ft.	49-61	
9:43	Miller 16 ft.	51-61	
9:30		51-62	Wilcox FTA, FT
9:01		51-64	Grant FT, FT
8:01	Mills 8 ft.	53-64	
7:59	Ellis alley-oop lay in	55-64	
6:39	Ellis layup	57-64	
6:12		57-66	Reid FT, FT
5:26		57-68	Reid FT, FT
4:42	Mills follow layup	59-68	
3:22		59-70	Reid 6 ft.
2:57	Ellis tip in	61-70	
2:49		61-72	Reid FT, FT
2:10		61-73	Goheen FT, FTA
1:36		61-75	Booker FT, FT
:55		61-76	Kornet FTA, FT
:24		61-77	Mays FT, FTA
:01	Jones layup	63-77	
FINAL		63-77	

—Cats' Pause chart



THE END HAS COME

(Top left, clockwise)

Even Yogi Berra would say that Vandy's 77-63 win meant that UK's season was over. Now, the big question is: Will the Wildcat staff be back next season?

C.M. Newton, who takes over the UK AD job April 1, accepts congratulations from the UK coaches.

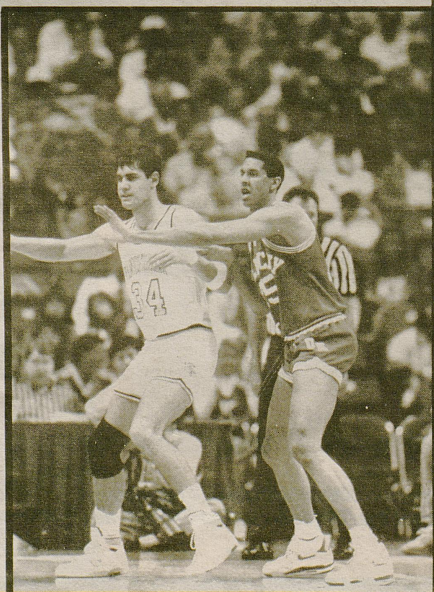
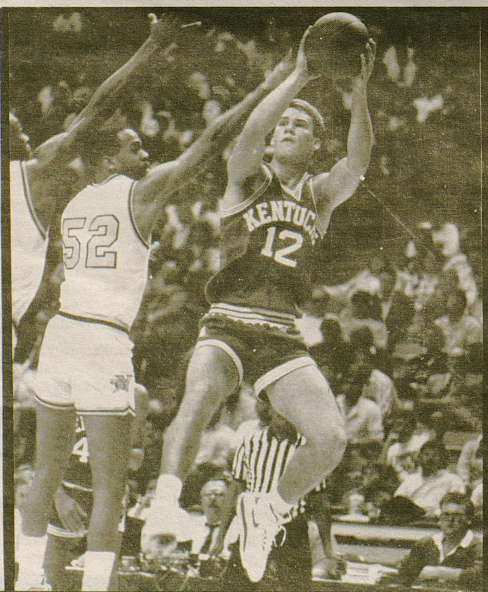
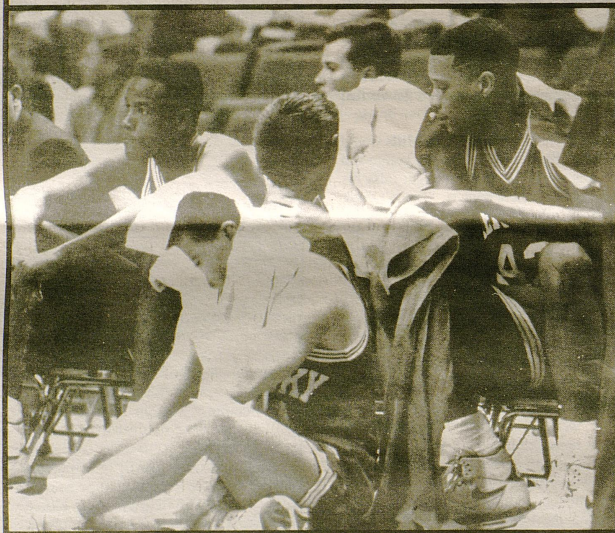
Vandy center Frank Kornet has nowhere to turn, thanks to LeRon Ellis' tight defense.

Making his mark is UK reserve-turned-starter Deron Feldhaus.

Chris Mills overcame great pain to score 17 points and grab 18 boards.

The end of a season was on the faces of the Wildcats.

UK-Vandy photos by Gary Cromwell



Let's talk about it: Who's gonna coach the 'Cats?

Readers suggest their favorite choices

BY THE TIME this hits the street, the University of Kentucky's long basketball season should mercifully have come to an end. Some of the uniforms will be packed away until



Dan Brandenburg

Cats' Pause Columnist

next year, and other for probably much longer than that.

It is now that we can turn our attention to the real headline-maker of the season: the NCAA investigation of the program.

Will Coach Eddie Sutton stay or go? And what about Dwane Casey, Chris Mills, Eric Manuel, Sean Sutton and LeRon Ellis?

I'm tired of talking about it and, frankly, just tired of the whole matter in general. I, like most people, cannot wait to get it over with.

So, in that vein, let me be one of the first to take a look ahead to next year and, specifically, the UK coaching job.

IN A RECENT column, I asked for some readers' comments on who they would like to see as Kentucky's new coach should Sutton get the boot.

The article generated more response than I expected and I wanted to let everyone have a little sample of the letters since the season should now be history. I mean, we might as well look forward to next year, right?

But first, a couple of short notes:

1. Sorry for the delay in getting this into print. I wasn't trying to wait out the public for more response; it just seems my mail was temporarily misplaced at The Cats' Pause office.

2. I don't have the time or desire to read or respond to unsigned letters. If you don't feel strongly enough about what you've written to include your name and address or telephone number, I have better things to do. However, anonymous cash contributions will be readily accepted.

And now to the mailbag...

* * *

DENNIS SWEAT OF Baytown, Texas, who says Eddie Sutton was his "first and only choice to replace Joe B. Hall," casted his vote for Gary Williams of Ohio State.

"He's young, firey, his teams play full-court pressure defense plus he gets the most out of his team," Sweat wrote.

Actually, Sweat's first choice was Duke's Mike Krzyzewski but he says Coach K is "probably too comfortable to leave Duke, plus he's too buddy-buddy with Bob Knight."

Sweat, whose letter was written on UK stationery, says Coach K has the edge over Williams because he's been to the Final Four and because he recruits better. Sweat adds, though, that coaching at UK would help Williams' recruiting tremendously and that Rick Pitino of the New York Knicks was worth considering, also.

"It's a shame all of this had to happen (at UK). I really believed we would have won a couple of NCAA titles with Sutton," Sweat said.

* * *

D.R. AKERNS OF Elsmere, Ky., which is

somewhere near Cincinnati, I'm told, says the choice is simple.

"There is only one man who should coach the Wildcats and he possesses all the credentials. He's a UK All-American, played for Coach Rupp, has a most successful coaching record and possesses the mental and physical attributes, charisma and abilities to handle high school All-Americans," Akerns wrote.

He is, of course, referring to Pat Riley, who has led the Los Angeles Lakers to two consecutive NBA titles.

Akerns says he thinks it's time Sutton was replaced, but adds that the coach shouldn't be the only one heading out.

"Having experienced two of Kentucky's most humiliating defeats in its history — both during Eddie Sutton's brief tenure at UK — not only do I believe it is desirable for him to leave or be relieved of his duties, but highly necessary. He has changed the look of Kentucky basketball until it is unrecognizable to fans like me who have been around for decades.

"But first, you've got to get rid of those pussy-footing politician administrators who are running the program because they don't know how to go about getting the one man that is needed."

* * *

BILL BOGGS — NO relation to Wade — of Warren, Mich., had a couple of top picks for the UK position and then added eight more names who he thought would be qualified candidates.

"I believe that it would be best for the school if Eddie resigns," he wrote. "Although I still believe Eddie's a great coach, I believe it would also be best for him."

Boggs' top pick was Krzyzewski ("Obviously, he fits what UK needs — squeaky clean and a great coach") and No. 2 was a big surprise to me — Lon Kruger of Kansas State.

"I don't think UK could go wrong with him, plus being very young and tough, he has been winning with less than average players," Boggs wrote of Kruger.

Being bogged (pun intended) down in the Big Eight with Oklahoma and Kansas would have a negative effect on just about anyone's record. For the record, Kruger was 72-70 through five years going into this season.

BOGGS' OTHER PICKS and his comments: Mike Montgomery ("Anybody that wins at Stanford has to be good"), Lake Kelly of Austin Peay ("Joe B. Hall and Jock Sutherland swear by him"), Jeff Mullins of UNC-Charlotte, Lee Rose of the New York Nets, Pitino ("Reminds me too much of Larry Brown — always looking for a better job"), Pat Kennedy of Florida State, Eddie Fogler and Bill Frieder ("Nope, just kidding.")

I'm still deciding if Boggs is endorsing or damning Kelly, who was an assistant at UK under Hall and has also coached at Oral Roberts.

Also, Mullins is a graduate of Lexington Lafayette High School and Lee Rose is a former coach at Transylvania in Lexington, as is new UK athletics director C.M. Newton.

* * *

STEVE SAPP OF Finchville, Ky., (I'm still looking for it on my map) suggested Wayne Chapman, coach at Kentucky Wesleyan and father of who-know-who, for the UK job if it comes open.

"Even though the two programs are on different levels, there is an air of expectation before each season for both programs," Sapp wrote. "As a former journeyman pro and father of a highly-

"As a former journeyman pro and father of a highly recruited basketball star, I can't help but feel that he can take those experiences and put them to good use as part of his coaching persona."

—One writer's opinion in favor of Wayne Chapman.

recruited basketball star, I can't help but feel that he can take those experiences and put them to good use as part of his coaching persona."

Sapp adds that Chapman has led Wesleyan to a national championship and says that he is a coach, "not a prima donna." However, Sapp writes, whoever gets the UK job if Sutton leaves will be in a very tough position.

"Unfortunately, the next coach is going to have a deep hole to climb out of because I honestly feel we have not seen rock bottom yet."

Remember those words, sports fans.

* * *

LASTLY, TED DONALDSON of Memphis (I know where that is) wins the award for longest and neatest letter. Since it's on company stationery, he probably typed it — or had someone type it — on company time, also.

Donaldson couldn't decide on just one, so he mentioned 18 names from the college and pro coaching ranks. But he concluded his letter with this bit of pessimism: "Here's betting that UK's choice is not on my list."

His list contains several of the names that have been mentioned before, plus a few surprises. Also, he seems to favor coaches of schools with hyphenated names. Here are Donaldson's picks and comments.

Gene Bartow of Alabama-Birmingham ("Probably too old, but why not?"), Lute Olson of Arizona ("A winner everywhere he's been"), Mike Newell of Arkansas-Little Rock, Nelson Catalina of Arkansas State ("Just ask Larry Finch and Dale Brown if he can coach") and Lou Campanelli of California-Berkely ("If he can win there, in Lexington he can go for the gold.")

ALSO, KRZYZEWSKI, JIM Crews of Evansville, Kennedy of Florida State, Bobby Cremins of Georgia Tech ("Too much New York accent for Lexington"), Roy Williams of Kansas, Dave Bliss of New Mexico ("One year in the desert is probably enough"), Paul Evans of Pittsburgh, former UK assistant Lynn Nance of California St. Mary's, Mullins of UNCC and Pete Gillen of Xavier ("Great record, great coach.")

Also, Pitino ("Why leave Pat Ewing and Mark Jackson for LeRon Ellis and Derrick Miller? Don't laugh. I actually believed him when he said he wouldn't leave Providence"), Larry Brown of San Antonio ("Don't laugh again. UK is the only job in basketball that can match his contract") and Riley ("The very best coach in America. However, would you leave BelAir, Hollywood and Malibu for Keeneland, Churchill Downs and the Horse Park? I wouldn't, but LeRon Ellis and Chris Mills did. Stranger things have happened.")

* * *

I REALLY APPRECIATE everyone who took a few minutes to drop me a line. But next time, let's make those checks out to...



CATS' PAUSE SCOREBOARD

HOME

11:35

VISITORS

10

PERIOD

3

**TCP Board
Of Experts (?)**



**Reader's
Choice**



**Oscar
Combs**



**Nick
Nicholas**



**Mike
Estep**



**Todd
Hallum**



**Gary
Cromwell**



**Hoop
Demon**

Last week		15-10 (.600)	16-9 (.640)	17-8 (.680)	17-8 (.680)	17-8 (.680)	14-11 (.560)
Total		269-106 (.717)	271-104 (.723)	264-111 (.704)	272-103 (.725)	255-120 (.680)	249-126 (.664)

GEORGETOWN vs. PRINCETON (PROVIDENCE)	G-TOWN 23	G-TOWN 20	G-TOWN 18	G-TOWN 22	G-TOWN 16	G-TOWN 21
VANDERBILT vs. NOTRE DAME	VANDERBILT 3	VANDERBILT 2	VANDERBILT 2	VANDERBILT 3	NOTRE DAME 6	VANDERBILT 5
NORTH CAROLINA STATE vs. SOUTH CAROLINA	N.C. STATE 6	N.C. STATE 3	N.C. STATE 11	N.C. STATE 10	N.C. STATE 11	N.C. STATE 14
IOWA vs. RUTGERS	IOWA 10	IOWA 5	IOWA 19	IOWA 9	IOWA 9	IOWA 9
KANSAS STATE vs. MINNESOTA (GREENSBORO)	KANSAS ST. 4	KANSAS ST. 6	KANSAS ST. 2	KANSAS ST. 2	KANSAS ST. 9	KANSAS ST. 6
STANFORD vs. SIENA	STANFORD 6	STANFORD 11	STANFORD 13	STANFORD 17	STANFORD 10	STANFORD 12
WEST VIRGINIA vs. TENNESSEE	W. VIRGINIA 7	TENNESSEE 3	W. VIRGINIA 2	TENNESSEE 2	W. VIRGINIA 5	W. VIRGINIA 4
DUKE vs. SOUTH CAROLINA STATE	DUKE 20	DUKE 22	DUKE 30	DUKE 22	DUKE 19	DUKE 14
ARIZONA vs. ROBERT MORRIS (BOISE)	ARIZONA 22	ARIZONA 24	ARIZONA 17	ARIZONA 30	ARIZONA 19	ARIZONA 21
ST. MARY'S vs. CLEMSON	ST. MARY'S 3	ST. MARY'S 6	ST. MARY'S 5	CLEMSON 1	ST. MARY'S 2	ST. MARY'S 2
MEMPHIS ST. vs. DEPAUL	MEMPHIS ST. 4	MEMPHIS ST. 6	MEMPHIS ST. 2	MEMPHIS ST. 2	MEMPHIS ST. 8	MEMPHIS ST. 9
NEVADA-LAS VEGAS vs IDAHO	UNLV 7	UNLV 3	UNLV 8	UNLV 10	UNLV 8	UNLV 3
OREGON STATE vs. EVANSVILLE (TUCSON)	EVANSVILLE 3	OREGON ST. 2	OREGON ST. 6	EVANSVILLE 4	OREGON ST. 5	OREGON ST. 5
SETON HALL vs S.W. MISSOURI STATE	SETON HALL 10	SETON HALL 10	SETON HALL 14	SETON HALL 9	SETON HALL 12	SETON HALL 8
TEXAS EL PASO vs. LOUISIANA STATE	LSU 3	LSU 4	UTEP 3	LSU 4	LSU 4	UTEP 5
INDIANA vs. GEORGE MASON	INDIANA 13	INDIANA 15	INDIANA 25	INDIANA 20	INDIANA 16	INDIANA 19
ILLINOIS vs. MCNEESE STATE (INDIANAPOLIS)	ILLINOIS 12	ILLINOIS 21	ILLINOIS 23	ILLINOIS 29	ILLINOIS 21	ILLINOIS 23
PITTSBURGH vs. BALL STATE	PITTSBURGH 2	BALL STATE 3	BALL STATE 5	PITTSBURGH 2	BALL STATE 4	PITTSBURGH 11
ARKANSAS vs LOYOLA-MARYMOUNT	ARKANSAS 6	ARKANSAS 2	ARKANSAS 15	ARKANSAS 4	ARKANSAS 7	ARKANSAS 10
LOUISVILLE vs. ARKANSAS-LITTLE ROCK	LOUISVILLE 3	LOUISVILLE 9	LOUISVILLE 8	LOUISVILLE 12	LOUISVILLE 8	LOUISVILLE 8
GEORGIA TECH vs. TEXAS (DALLAS)	GATECH 10	TEXAS 1	GA. TECH 4	TEXAS 2	GA. TECH 5	GA. TECH 6
MISSOURI vs. CREIGHTON	MISSOURI 12	MISSOURI 6	MISSOURI 21	MISSOURI 15	MISSOURI 13	MISSOURI 14
FLORIDA vs. COLORADO STATE	COLO. STATE 4	COLO. STATE 7	FLORIDA 2	FLORIDA 8	FLORIDA 1	FLORIDA 3
SYRACUSE vs BUCKNELL	SYRACUSE 13	SYRACUSE 16	SYRACUSE 11	SYRACUSE 20	SYRACUSE 14	SYRACUSE 19
OKLAHOMA vs. E. TENNESSEE ST. (NASHVILLE)	OKLAHOMA 12	OKLAHOMA 15	OKLAHOMA 7	OKLAHOMA 30	OKLAHOMA 18	OKLAHOMA 16
LASALLE vs. LOUISIANA TECH	LA. TECH 6	LASALLE 3	LASALLE 3	LASALLE 2	LASALLE 2	LASALLE 6
VIRGINIA vs. PROVIDENCE	VIRGINIA 6	VIRGINIA 4	VIRGINIA 3	VIRGINIA 7	VIRGINIA 9	VIRGINIA 4
FLORIDA STATE vs. MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE	FLORIDA ST. 7	FLORIDA ST. 9	MIDDLE 3	FLORIDA ST. 7	FLORIDA ST. 9	FLORIDA ST. 11
ALABAMA vs. SOUTH ALABAMA (ATLANTA)	ALABAMA 4	ALABAMA 1	ALABAMA 12	ALABAMA 4	ALABAMA 6	ALABAMA 7
MICHIGAN vs. XAVIER	MICHIGAN 4	XAVIER 2	MICHIGAN 18	MICHIGAN 4	MICHIGAN 12	MICHIGAN 9
UCLA vs IOWA STATE	IOWA STATE 3	UCLA 3	IOWA ST. 6	UCLA 10	UCLA 4	UCLA 5
NORTH CAROLINA vs. SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY	N.CAROLINA 12	N.CAROLINA 20	N.CAROLINA 17	N.CAROLINA 21	N.CAROLINA 21	N.CAROLINA 17

18-game round-robin schedule's here to stay, folks

Its good points far outweigh the bad ones

From time to time some Southeastern Conference basketball coach will whine about the double round-robin schedule.

SEC schools have been playing 18 conference games



Stan Torgerson

Cats' Pause Columnist

since 1967 but certain coaches still want to turn the clock back to the 14-game league slate, play five teams twice and the other four only once.

If ever fairness of the double round-robin was proven, it was this past campaign.

Under the 14-game plan, some teams would have played Florida or Vanderbilt or LSU twice. Others would have gotten Auburn or Mississippi State twice and the toughies only once.

Which way would you rather go? Whose cage would you rather walk into, the Tiger cage at Auburn or the Tiger cage at Baton Rouge?

You betcha! Me, too.

As far as I'm concerned, the 1989 Florida team settled the argument for all time.

Here's a bunch that staggered around like drunken sailors in the early part of the year. They couldn't get along, they couldn't follow the rules of conduct and they couldn't play up to their potential.

The Gators started a dismal 2-4 in conference play, and with a 14-game schedule they were out of it. Fortunately for Norm Sloan's bad boys, they saw the light, turned their act around and with 12 remaining league games were able to come on and win the title.

Are they the SEC's best team? The standings say they are and an 11-game conference winning streak backs them up.

With 14 conference games they would have been an also-ran. With the double round-robin they are champions.

Isn't that the idea, to find out truly which is the best team?

But there's more to the 18-game controversy than just winning and losing games. The coaches claim that if they played only 14 SEC games they could schedule four more non-conference matchups with big-name opponents, games that TV would be interested in paying to show.

What a crock that is. LSU has the guts to do that. Kentucky has, as well. Some of the others might pick up one outstanding outside opponent, maybe even two. The vast majority of coaches would, however, load up with three or four more pussycats similar to their preseason schedules. They want games they know they can win because wins means job security even if the wins come at the expense of the Mount. St. Mary's, the Augusta Colleges, the Christian Brothers Colleges, the Northwestern States and some of the other little schools whose players walk into an SEC gym with knees that turn into jelly when they realize where they are and who they are.

And there's one more factor, perhaps the most important. Money. It's the conference games which pay the bills.

Alabama's preseason Humpty Dumpty schedule put about three or four thousand in the seats of their big coliseum. Since the conference games began the Tide has averaged over 14,000 per game.

Mississippi State reports nearly 7,000 per conference game, far above their early-season, non-conference average.

No athletic director wants to give up a home game



Coach Norm Sloan and his Florida Gators proved once and for all that the 18-game round-robin schedule is the way to go. Under the proposed 14-game schedule, the slow-starting Gators would have been also-rans. Under the current system, they are SEC champions.

with Kentucky, the SEC's most attractive opponent. When the 'Cats come to town the A.D. knows he's got an automatic sellout which will help pay his bills. However, with a 14-game schedule four teams would play Kentucky only once each year, alternating home and away. That's a revenue cut most schools cannot afford.

The other coaches might like a single matchup with the 'Cats, but the business managers of athletics are more concerned with the P and L than the scoreboard.

No, the 18-game round-robin, like the conference tournament, is here to stay.

It makes sense, which come to think about it may be the reason some coaches want to change it.

□NOT FOR BROADCAST:

I happen to be a great fan of honesty because I believe fans are a lot smarter than some college people give them credit for being. Back when I was broadcasting football and basketball, I was told many times to make my team sound good, regardless of the score. I could never figure out how to make a football team behind by four or five touchdowns or a basketball team down by 30 sound "good." That's why I admire the University of Tennessee sports information department, its assistant athletic director for media relations, Haywood Harris, and its sports information director, Bud Ford. They tell it like it is. Here are examples from a spring press release about the Vols' football team: "Both the offense and the defense (1988) attained high levels of futility." And: "So the question Tennessee fans want an answer to is, which Vol team will show up for the 1989 season? Will it be the bedraggled bunch that did practically nothing right in the early going? Or will it be the rejuvenated team that finished strong and resembled the sturdy outfit that fans had expected from the outset?" When you use words such as "futility" and "bedraggled" about your own team, you're being honest and you earn and deserve the respect Harris and Ford are accorded by the press...

Mississippi State's recent 9,527 crowd for Ole Miss was the 10th largest crowd in the 13-year history of Humphrey Coliseum. Up until that game the Bulldogs hadn't seen 9,000 fans in their gym since the Kentucky game crowd of 1985 when 9,799 crowded the hall... Still on the subject of crowds, over the years Alabama has had 38 homecourt sellouts. Fifteen of them have been against Kentucky...

With their victory over Florida, Alabama has now won 18 consecutive games at home, including its perfect 14-0 record this season.

The NCAA says Tennessee was second only to

Michigan last year in average home football attendance. Tennessee averaged 91,946 while Michigan's mark was 104,801. Georgia was sixth on the national list with 80,284. LSU was seventh with 77,334 and Florida ranked 10th with 73,860. There's an important distinction to be made here, however. It's the one between tickets sold and actual attendance. Most schools give themselves credit for tickets sold whether or not there are no-shows. If they set aside 10,000 seats for the students they credit themselves with 10,000 in attendance even if half the seats are empty. They count the band, the players, the policemen and the press. For example, the SEC press guide lists Tennessee's Neyland Stadium as having a capacity of 91,110. If you believe the Vols averaged 836 more in attendance every game than the SEC says the place seats, then you also believe in Santa Claus and the tooth fairy. As for Georgia, the SEC guide lists Sanford Stadium as having a capacity of 82,122. The 1988 attendance figures show them within 1,838 of a full house for every game. Possible, but not at all probable. LSU's Tiger Stadium is listed by the conference as having 78,882 seats. Their announced average attendance was within 1,548 of filling every one of those seats. When you consider that the Miami game was played in a driving rain in front of half a house, you have to question the Tigers' figures. I still have two tickets to that game, unused because of the weather. Finally, we come to Florida. Honest folks, I didn't make this up. The 1988 official SEC football guide lists Florida at 72,000. The Gators reported to the NCAA an average, per-game attendance of 73,860, some 1,860 more than there are seats. Then you have Ole Miss. The turnstiles at Jackson's Veterans Memorial Stadium broke a number of years ago and they've never been fixed. Therefore, no one really knows how many come to the games. The SID guesses the size of the crowd. Watch the game stories and you'll see that all crowds listed for a Jackson game end in "000" or "500." There are no odd numbers because attendance is only a guess. It's not much of a system, is it?...

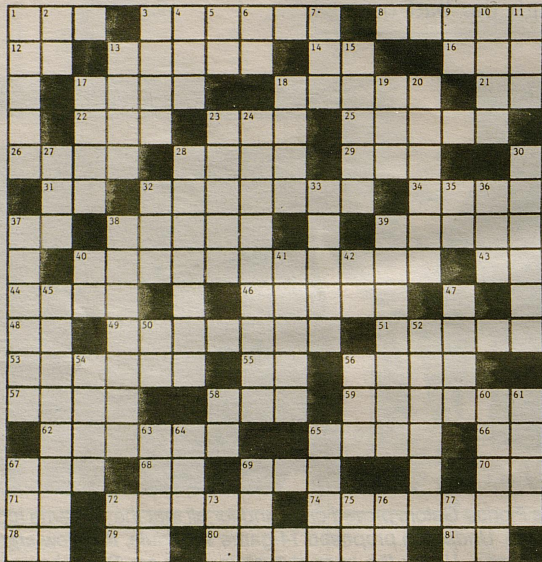
□THE LAST WORD: From a Kentucky press release prior to the Wildcats' game with Ole Miss:

"Ed will try to beat Eddie with the help of his son Sean, while Eddie tries to beat Ed with the help of his son Sean."

The reference is, of course, to Rebel coach Ed Murphy and his son, Sean Murphy, who plays center and Wildcat coach Eddie Sutton and point guard son Sean Sutton.

TCP CROSSWORD PUZZLE

By Dan Krueckerberg



ALL-SEC HOOP STARS OF THE '80S

- | | |
|--|--|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Bluegrass h.s. star turned Vandy star | 1 Star SEC newcomer Jackson |
| 3 '87 & '88 blocked shot leader of SEC | 2 Initials of former ML baseballer Cepeda |
| 5 Namesakes of I Across | 3 Consensus All-American of '83 Vols |
| 12 Initials of '37 Down | 4 Humor |
| 13 Mid-'80s Ole Miss star Eric | 5 Initials of winningest SEC coach |
| 14 See 58 Down | 6 Football abbr. |
| 15 British drink | 7 Actor Malinch |
| 17 Volatile golfer Tommy | 9 Pronoun |
| 18 Ricky Brown was the '80s SEC's _____ | 10 See 47 Down |
| 21 Star Cat Davender | 11 Unhappy |
| 22 Before | 13 Desolate |
| 23 Heat measure abbr. | 15 'Bama Richardson and Ole Miss' Smith |
| 25 _____ neighbor is Iraq | 17 Key |
| 26 Star Ole Miss assist man Tucky | 18 Mel |
| 28 New Mexico city | 19 Attendance abbr. |
| 29 Bashful | 20 Standout '86 LSU Tiger/SEC steals leader |
| 31 Initials of LSU's Leonard or Georgia's | 21 Derrick |
| 32 Jeff _____ 84.3 FT Lage led the SEC | 23 Pride of the Commodores, Goheen |
| 34 LSU _____ the services of J. Williams in '86 | 24 2-year SEC scoring champ |
| 37 Initials of Auburn standout Morris | 27 Tree |
| 38 3-year SEC assist king Comer | 28 Riston _____ school was Ole Miss |
| 39 Former UK gridiron star Doug | 30 John led _____ SEC in scoring |
| 40 '85 SEC's scoring and rebounding king | 32 SEC schools |
| 41 Big 8 state abbr. | 33 Breakfast |
| 42 LA players | 35 Extra session |
| 43 Smaller than mountains | 36 Early-'80s All-SEC Cat |
| 44 Abbr. of state for SEC standouts Wood or Brooks | 37 Early-'80s LSU Tiger Howard |
| 45 _____ All-SEC first team honors came in '83 and '84 | 38 Precedes "one, two, three" |
| 46 Smaller than mountains | 39 Academic All-American at Georgia |
| 47 Abbr. of state for SEC standouts Wood or Brooks | 40 Initials of '80 SEC's Player Of The Year |
| 48 _____ All-SEC first team honors came in '83 and '84 | 41 Blue Jay/Celtic Danny |
| 49 _____ All-SEC first team honors came in '83 and '84 | 42 Initials of ML baseball OFer Landreaux |
| 50 Namesakes of 'Bama rebound star Phillips | 43 Fine Georgia player Willie |
| 51 Initials of former ML umpire Gorman | 44 Alvin _____ 3-point FC Lage led the SEC last year |
| 52 Toward the sheltered side | 45 _____ 5th and 2nd of the five |
| 53 Bobby _____ Hurt of the Tide | 46 Led SEC in rebounding last year |
| 54 One of the finest from Auburn | 47 Losing plan |
| 55 '80 All-SEC Vol Johnson | 48 Abbr. for "Army Post Office" |
| 56 Last team All-SEC (AP) Cat of '82 | 49 Initials of a present-day Cats standout |
| 57 Initials of 3-time SEC rebound leader | 50 Group of eight |
| 58 Time zone abbr. | 51 73 Down is one of the _____ finest |
| 59 Buses abbr. | 52 Hold tightly |
| 60 Peach or pumpkin | 53 Roadside tavern |
| 61 Negative word | 54 Shoe part |
| 62 Outer layers | 55 V. Maxwell's years as Gator came to an end in '88 |
| 63 Namesakes of Florida star McDowell | 56 Tire measure |
| 64 Initials of SEC's top occur last year | 57 _____ was a big loss for Cats in '80s |
| 65 Initials of 59 Across | 58 Initials of the '82 Georgia All-American |
| 66 Vandy's _____ Jones led the SEC in FT Lage in '81 | 59 Abbr. for the Hawkeyes school |
| 67 Initials of 49 Across | 60 Light bulb co. |
| | 61 WAC state abbr. |

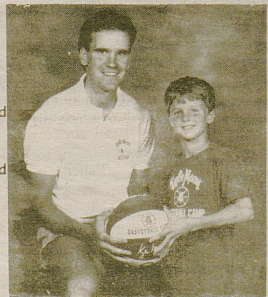
Last Week's Answers



Reggie Hanson, who was sidelined with a stress fracture in his foot and missed the final three games, conducted a press conference last Monday to say that the players were 100 percent behind Eddie Sutton.

Kyle Macy's Tenth Annual Basketball Camp

- 1989
- June 11-16 — Overnight Camp
Georgetown College—Boys 10-18
 - June 18-23 — Overnight Camp
Georgetown College—Boys 10-18
 - June 26-30 — Day Camp
Lexington Athletic Club at Sports World
Boys and Girls—7-12
 - July 10-14 — Day Camp
Lexington Athletic Club at Sports World
Boys and Girls — 7-12
 - July 17-21 — Day Camp
Pikeville High School, Pikeville, KY
Boys and Girls — 7-12
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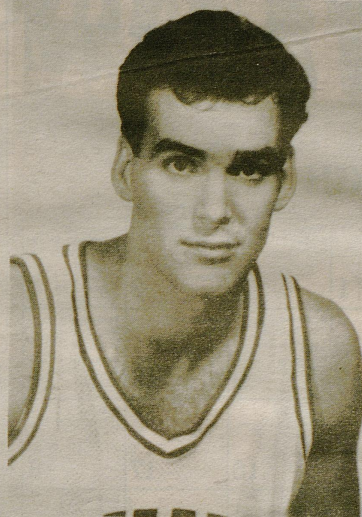
Ferry, King, Elliott battle for Player of the Year

But which one will it be? It's just too close

□The All-American teams will begin making public appearances in the coming weeks and the one constant will be the presence of Duke's **Danny Ferry**, Oklahoma's **Stacey King** and Arizona's **Sean Elliott** on nearly every



Larry Donald
Cats' Pause Columnist



Duke's Danny Ferry should be a lock, along with Oklahoma's Stacy King and Arizona's Sean Elliot, for first-team honors.



Brigham Young's Ladell Anderson, like UK's Eddie Sutton, can appreciate what a winning season means during the hard times

ballot. These three have emerged from the pack during the season, but, interestingly, none has really separated himself from the other two. Player of the Year honors promise to be a split-ticket thing.

Louisville's **Pervis Ellison** will find his way onto a number of first team All-American slots and LSU's **Chris Jackson**, though just a freshman, also will see his name listed among the top five college players by some agencies. Jackson would be the first yearling so honored since **Ralph Sampson** was at Virginia.

Some others who'll get a top five vote here and there are Oklahoma's **Mookie Blaylock**, Indiana's **Jay Edwards** and Michigan's **Glen Rice**. And those who should have been given more consideration are La Salle's **Lionel Simmons**, Stanford's **Todd Lichti** and Syracuse's **Derrick Coleman**.

What all this suggests is that in a year where no team was dominating, similarly, no player really stood above the pack. There's probably a correlation...Oh, yes, one other commonality among all of these players is the remarkable fact that not even *one* of them was able to make the U.S. Olympic team last fall...

□Those agencies picking a Coach of the Year based on the regular season will line up behind Indiana's **Bobby Knight** and that gets no argument from me. Others who deserve consideration and might move up as viable candidates based on tournament play are LSU's **Dale Brown**, North Carolina State's **Jim Valvano** and Arizona's **Lute Olson**...

□Freshman of the Year has to be LSU's **Jackson**, but ask yourself this: Would you trade **Alonzo Mourning** for the Rocket Man? Or even **Billy Owens**?...

□The best job by a first-year coach was **Roy Williams** at Kansas. While he inherited more talent than most people believe, the Jayhawks certainly had enough adversity that things could have gone the other way...

□It is never pleasant to see a man lose his job, but I was especially chagrined to see **Tony Yates** let go at Cincinnati. I'm not really certain why things never fell into place at UC for Yates, but I know these two things: 1) This is a potential sleeping giant. The program here was at a dynasty level in the 1950s and early 1960s and could be outstanding again. 2) I now sense that can only happen when the administration gets serious in its commitment to being great. The coach cannot make it go without proper administrative support. Time after time you can see the correlation between an aggressive, understanding administration and a successful program. So if Yates failed Cincinnati then I also believe the administration failed Tony Yates...

□The same situation exists at Indiana State where **Ron Greene** was broomed. Ten years ago the Sycamores played in the Final Four and no one in the administration has any idea how that happened or what's necessary to make it happen again. Those people might argue that Greene was paid a large salary to make it work, but what they fail to understand is that paying a coach big dollars isn't an end, but, rather, just a beginning. I wouldn't say Greene didn't make errors, but I question if he ever had the necessary tools to make it work. His record elsewhere suggests he knows something about

making a program perk in tough situations so, again, if he failed ISU then I think the school probably also failed him...

□**Michigan State** has played its last game in aged Jenison Fieldhouse. Next year the Spartans will open a modern new facility and I'll be interested to see how that impacts the program. Coach **Jud Heathcote** has long complained about the recruiting disadvantage Jenison created, so now we'll see...Incidentally, not many people remember this, but **Joe Hall** debuted as Kentucky's coach in Jenison. The game was scheduled to dedicate a new building which never got constructed because of student opposition, and Hall was left to start his career in Jenison. For the record, Kentucky won that game, but then went home and lost two straight in Memorial Coliseum...

□**Ray Mears** has stepped out as athletic director at Tennessee-Martin although he'll consult for the next three years. This is one of college basketball's lost stories, at least on a national level. Here was one of the pioneers in bringing showtime to the sport, but he was never able to do so in that national theater. In those days just one team went to the NCAA tournament from the SEC and most often it was Kentucky. Obviously there was no ESPN or network television so outside the Knoxville area no one really had a chance to know or appreciate this man. I can only imagine the fun Mears would have had with **Dick Vitale**...

□**Patrick Knight**, Bobby's son, has made remarkable progress as a high school player this year and scouts are saying he could be a solid Division I prospect...

□**Blaylock's** misadventure certainly couldn't have come at a worse time for the Oklahoma athletics department. I just wonder how everyone would view the incident if Blaylock were at another school...

□Talk about strange leagues, the **Atlantic 10** is a real mystery to me. **West Virginia** rushed through the regular season, lost at Temple and seemed to have all its confidence drained. **Temple**, which should have risen from that victory, instead, lost in the tournament to Rutgers. **West Virginia**, meanwhile, got blown out by Penn State. You figure it out...

□Mentioning Rutgers, you've got to be impressed with the quick turnaround coach **Bob Wenzel** was able to script for the Scarlet Knights. He's got three good

transfers sitting out and next year things should be even better. Along with West Virginia and Temple, Rutgers should have a solid program...

□Early line on next year's pre-season No. 1? Well, I suspect a lot of votes will be cast for **Georgetown** just because of Mourning's presence, but don't overlook **UNLV** or **Arizona**. All three will have key additions who have the potential to put them into contention for an NCAA championship...

□College basketball really has no sequel to football's Heisman Trophy award, but ABC, Mercedes and the United States Basketball Writers Association will try to dramatize that group's Player of the Year selection this year in Seattle. The network will do a live special show on the day before the championship game around the awarding of the USBWA's top player honor...

□**Brigham Young's Ladell Anderson** as he looked at the prospect of a losing season for his Cougars: "I have not seen the down side for about 20 years. I haven't had much experience in this kind of thing, but I've had enough to know I don't like it."

□And this from BYU's star forward **Michael Smith** when asked if he has enjoyed being in the spotlight during his days with the Cougars: "Yeah, it's been fun. I figure I might as well make the most of it. It might not be there tomorrow?!"

□As I looked over the Big Ten's team of the decade, I was struck by the fact that while the league has had a number of good players in the 1980s (notably **Isiah Thomas**) there really haven't been that many great players. I'm talking about Hall of Fame types. In fact, North Carolina has had more marquee guys in this decade than has all of the Big Ten...Maybe that fact, more than the absence of a postseason tournament has something to do with the league's less than spectacular NCAA tournament record...

□Although I've not yet read the book, those who have say **Dan Doyle's Are You Watching Adolph Rupp** is one of the best basketball books to hit the shelves in a lot of years...

□Want to know the difference between major and minor conferences? In the small time when a team wins their league championship it douses the coach with water. The big boys know that stunt has gone out of vogue long ago...

KENTUCKY

A L E N D A R



MARCH

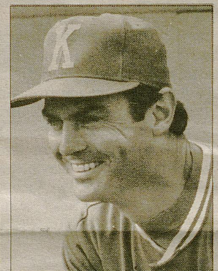
SUN.	MON.	TUE.	WED.	THUR.	FRI.	SAT.
			Basketball: Ole Miss (H) 7:30 p.m. UK-DEL. Baseball: Ark. (N) 2 p.m. Women's BB: SEC Tourney	Women's Basketball: SEC Tourney	Baseball: Florida (A) 7:30 p.m. Women's Basketball: SportsChannel Women's BB: SEC Tourney	Basketball: Mississippi St. (A) 8:30 UK-DEL. Baseball: Florida (A) DH Women's BB: SEC Tourney
	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Basketball: SEC Tournament Finals 2 p.m. Knoxville ABC Baseball: Texas AGM Tourney	Baseball: Texas AGM Tourney	Baseball: Texas AGM Tourney	Baseball: Indiana (A) 3 p.m.	Baseball: Western (A) 3 p.m.	Baseball: SEC Tourney Knoxville TBA Baseball: Texas AGM Tourney
	12	13	14	15	16	17
Baseball: LSU (H) 2 p.m. WDKYTV Ch. 56		Baseball: Eastern Mich. (H) DH 1 p.m.	Baseball: Indiana St. (H) 4 p.m.	Baseball: Middle Tenn. (H) 4 p.m.		Baseball: LSU (H) DH 1 p.m. WDKYTV Ch. 56
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Baseball: Alabama (A) 3 p.m.	Baseball: Eastern Mich. (A) 3 p.m.	Baseball: Marshall (A) 3 p.m.	Baseball: Marshall (A) 3 p.m.			
26	27	28	29	30	31	

PREVIOUS GAMES

Feb. 1: Basketball—UK def. Mississippi State 73-61
 Feb. 4: Women's Basketball—Georgia def. UK 92-70
 Feb. 5: Basketball—Georgia def. UK 84-72
 Feb. 7: Women's Basketball—UK vs. Tennessee Tech 88-68
 Feb. 8: Basketball—Vanderbilt def. UK 81-51
 Feb. 11: Basketball—Florida def. UK 59-53
 Feb. 14: Women's Basketball—LSU def. UK 86-72
 Feb. 15: Basketball—LSU def. UK 99-80
 Feb. 17: Women's Basketball—UK def. Alabama 89-85
 Feb. 18: Basketball—Alabama def. UK 71-67
 Feb. 19: Women's Basketball—Virginia Tech def. UK 75-66
 Feb. 20: Basketball—Auburn def. UK 77-75
 Feb. 22: Basketball—UK def. Tennessee 77-71
 Feb. 24: Baseball—UK vs. Louisville postponed, snow
 Feb. 25: Women's Basketball—Auburn def. UK 89-70
 Feb. 26: Basketball—Syracuse def. UK 89-73
 Feb. 26: Baseball—UK def. Penn State 8-5, 7-2
 Feb. 27: Baseball—Penn State def. UK 12-9
 Feb. 28: Baseball—Arkansas def. UK 6-4
 Mar. 1: Basketball—UK def. Ole Miss 70-69
 Mar. 1: Baseball—UK def. Arkansas
 Mar. 1: Women's Basketball—Florida def. UK 67-64
 Mar. 3: Baseball—Florida def. UK 10-9
 Mar. 4: Basketball—Mississippi State def. UK 68-67
 Mar. 4: Baseball—Florida def. UK 12-6
 Mar. 4: Baseball—UK def. Florida 7-4
 Mar. 10: Basketball—Vanderbilt def. UK 77-63
 Mar. 11: Baseball—Iowa def. UK 17-6
 Mar. 12: Baseball—UK def. Maine 8-7; Texas A&M def. UK 3-2



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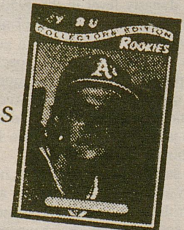
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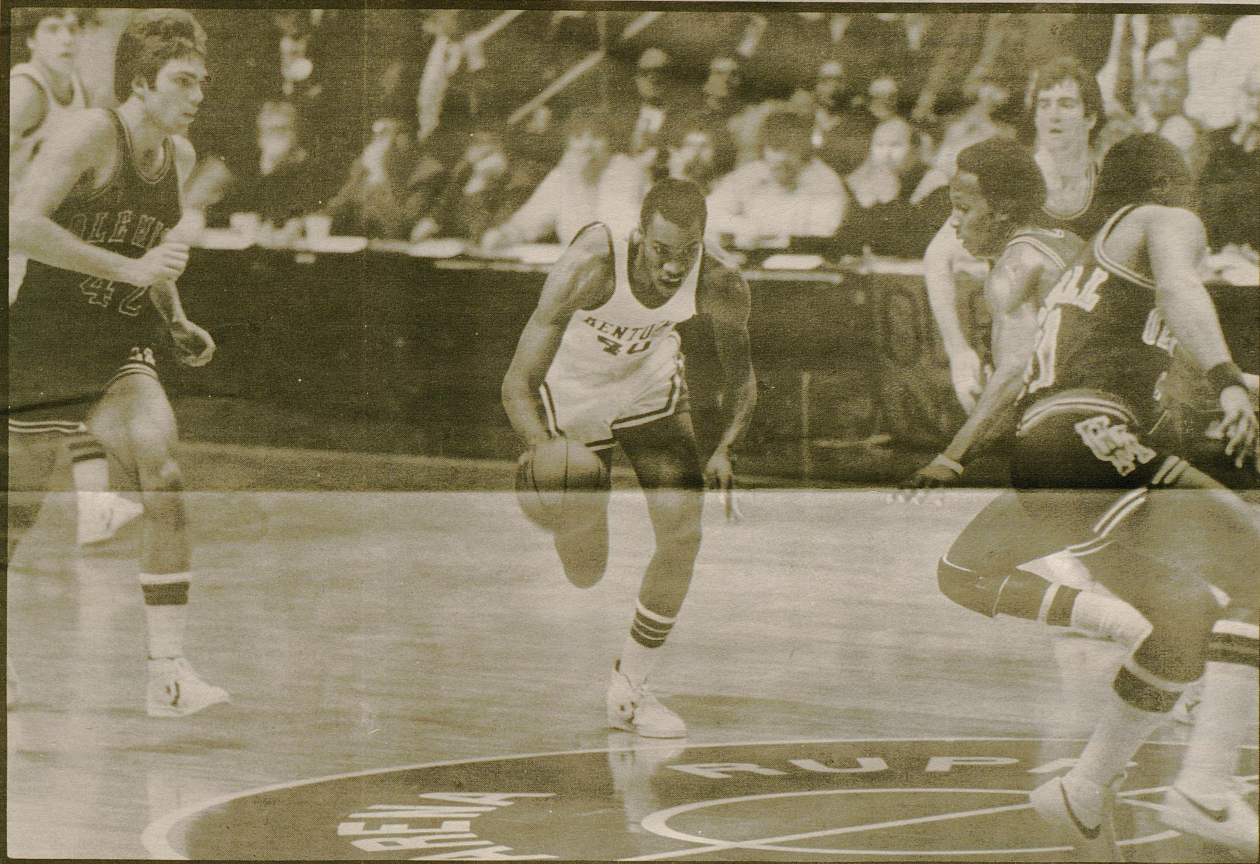
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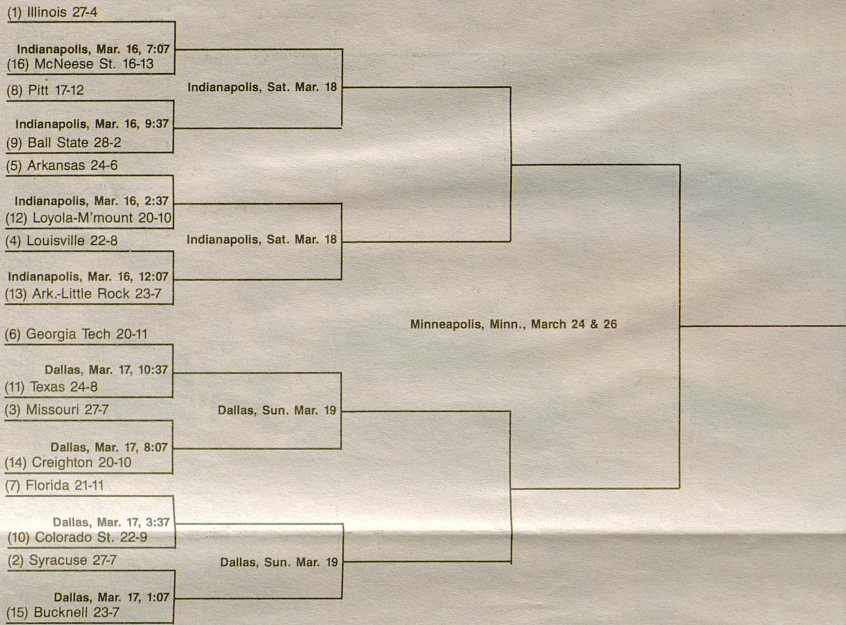
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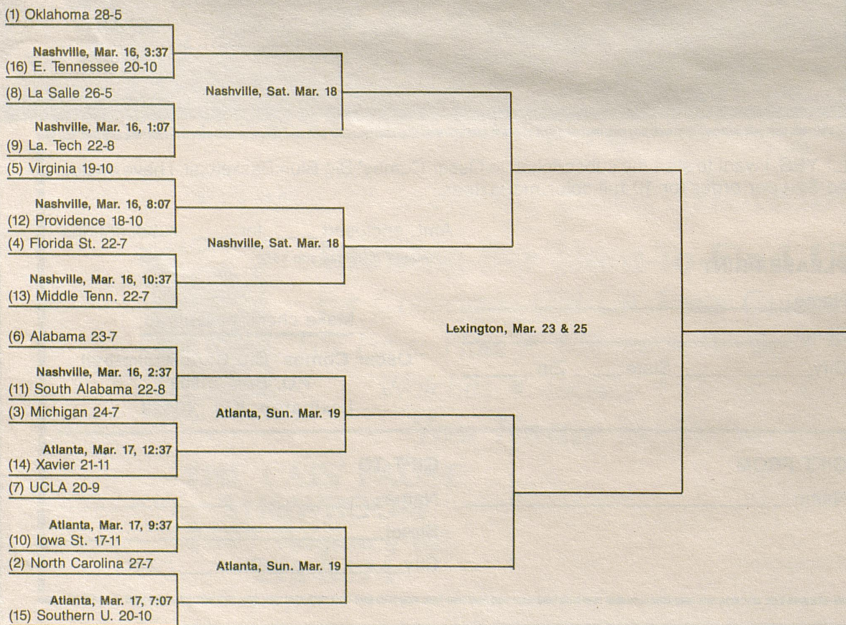


Minneapolis, Minn., March 24 & 26

Kingdome—Seattle, Wash.
April 1

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME:
Kingdome—Seattle, Wash.
April 3

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL



Lexington, Mar. 23 & 25

All times EST. Seedings are in parentheses.

—Cats' Pause chart

Oscar Combs

(continued from page 3)

reports had UT ready to go after former UK assistant and current Oklahoma State head coach **Leonard Hamilton** first and then Louisville assistant **Wade Houston** secondly. The same report had DeVoe inking to become head coaching at Cincinnati. Ironically, Hamilton's name was also being banded about in connection with the vacancy at Cincinnati, where he was the only other finalist for the job when **Tony Yates** was hired a few years ago... Auburn coach **Sonny Smith**, who will be guest speaker for the UK basketball banquet next month, told us he wants to remain at Auburn for the rest of his coaching career, but he would leave if he received a financial offer from another school which would be better for his family. His name is being linked to the opening at **Virginia Commonwealth**, where former Kentucky Wesleyan coach **Mike Pollio** called it quits during the season... Making the trip to Knoxville and keeping the official statistics for the tournament last week was the UK stats crew which will also be full of numbers for the next two weeks. They'll be involved in this week's KHSAA state tournament and again next week during the NCAA Southeast Regional at Rupp Arena... Having recaptured the UK radio broadcast rights for football and basketball, **Host Communications** has added another new star to its collection, that of a **SEC Tournament Radio Network** which carried the tourney live throughout the South. The network blacked out participating schools' states in those particular games. SEC officials are becoming more promotion-minded than ever, especially since **Harvey Schiller** became

commissioner... A couple comments about the just-completed tournament. I didn't think anyone could top the hospitality and arrangements for the tourney as LSU did last March, but University of Tennessee officials did just that. The event was conducted in an atmosphere which surpassed any of the Final Fours I've attended. The UT family and Knoxville community are to be commended... Along the same lines, SEC officials can take a bow for avoiding the only embarrassment of the 1988 tourney and that was the constant pushing of commercial corporate messages over the public address system. This time, the only mention was an occasional reminder that fans could enjoy an ole-fashioned Tennessee barbecue between games Friday between the afternoon and evening sessions... A couple nice presentations during the tourney had UK flavor. **C.M. Newton**, who retires as coach at Vanderbilt after the season to accept the UK athletics director's job, was honored by the league for his 500th victory in a presentation before the Tennessee-LSU game Friday... Former Wildcat great **Ed Beck** was selected to receive the Maxwell House/SEC Spirit Award honoring an ex-SEC athlete who overcame adversity to succeed in life. Others nominated included Mississippi State's **Bailey Howell**; Vanderbilt's **Perry Wallace**, the league's first black varsity player; Florida's **Neal Walk** and LSU's **Ricky Blanton**... SEC officials felt Kentucky's poor record this season kept the tournament from being a sellout. Announced crowds of less than 18,000—17,167 for the Tennessee-LSU game, 17,614 for the UK-Vandy game—

attended the session which included LSU, Tennessee, Vanderbilt and Kentucky. Had UK been the usual UK, officials figured a sellout would have been in order. Several UK fans were overheard saying one of the things they'll miss next season will be the SEC tourney if the 'Cats are barred from postseason play. And they'll miss it even a little more because, for the first time in modern history, the tourney will be staged in Florida (Orlando) where lots of folks would love to be in early March... In a statewide Bluegrass State Poll commissioned by the *Louisville Courier-Journal* last week, Kentuckians were sharply divided on how much effect firing **Eddie Sutton** would have on the future of the UK basketball program. The poll asked Kentuckians the following question: "Would it be better for UK basketball if coach Eddie Sutton is replaced before next season?" Of those responding, 33 percent said UK would be "better off," 39 percent said "worse off" and 28 percent answered under the "don't know" category. In the same poll, 50 percent said the charges against UK are "serious and should be fully addressed" while 28 percent said the charges are "not serious but should be addressed anyway" while 13 percent said the charges are "not that serious and the whole matter should be dropped." Another nine percent had other answers or didn't know. A third question had respondents saying 47 percent either "strongly approved" (16 percent) or "somewhat approved" (31 percent) of the way UK president **David Roselle** has handled the charges against the basketball program. Another 28 percent either "strongly disapprove" (18 percent) or

"strongly disapprove" (10 percent) of Roselle's handling. The remaining 25 percent responded they don't know. The final question dealt with how UK basketball might return. Of those replying, 56 percent said the troubles will ultimately strengthen UK by helping to ensure that its sports programs are run honestly while 29 percent said the program will weaken. Another four percent were divided while 11 percent said they had no opinion... From the Florida rumor mill, ex-Wildcat football assistant **Larry Kirksey**, who is now the running backs coach with the Gators, is reported to be nearing a decision to leave Gator Country for an assistant's job in the NFL... Several top UK officials, including president Roselle and acting athletics director **Joe Burch** attended the SEC tourney game between Kentucky and Vanderbilt. Unlike past years after the Wildcat's final loss, there was no visit to the UK locker room by the university president... UK assistants were more than a little miffed, according to a couple of their close friends, when the UK president brought a couple youngsters into the UK locker room for autographs after UK's last-second win over Ole Miss in the home finale a couple weeks ago. Supposedly, Roselle passed two of the assistants, never congratulated them and totally ignored their presence. *Please continue.* The next day during his speech to the Corbin Rotary Club, the UK president noted, in his opinion, that the youngsters on the UK team are of high character and not like some kids who are problems at other schools. Roselle then added: "It's not the kids who've caused the problems, but adults."

Tide tops weary Florida for SEC tourney title

(continued from page 6)

So all of this, combined with an amazing two-minute drill by forward **Keith Askins**, allowed the Tide to capture its fourth SEC tourney title and its second in three years.

The gamey Gators, however, down to only five legitimate players, made a contest of it until early in the second half. With 6-8 freshman forward **Michael Kerr**, who also plays linebacker for the UF football squad, emerging as a star in his first collegiate start, Florida was hanging tough. With Kerr, who finished with 15 points, and fellow frontcourters **Livingston Chatman** and **Dwayne Schintzius** doing their thing down low, Florida trailed just 35-34 at the 16-minute mark of the second half.

That's when Askins, the SEC's second-best

bomber with a 45.0 percent track record from three-point land, broke the game wide open from the outside. He nailed a three-pointer from the right corner at the 15:50 mark, giving the Tide a 38-34 advantage. He then hit three more threes—two of them turning into rare four-point plays when tourney MVP **Chatman** was guilty of overguarding—in the next 2:04 and Alabama led 49-38 with 13:46 left.

"I think it gave us momentum," Askins said of his run. "The shots began to fall and they gave me the ball at the right time."

"It's my duty to just hit them and let them get the assists."

And those four-point plays? "(Chatman) just arrived late and ran into me," Askins said. "I never had that happen

once before, let alone twice."

The weary Gators were never a factor from that point. And for the second time in eight days, Alabama breezed past the Gators in the second half.

"Florida took the fight to us early today, but we hung in there and our depth really began to pay off in the second half," Tide coach **Wimp Sanderson** said.

"I think the two games prior to today took a little too much out of us," Sloan said in agreement. "I'm not trying to take anything away from Alabama, but the fatigue was a factor."

All-tournament team: The two finalists, Florida and Alabama, dominated the honor squad. Florida's **Livingston Chatman**, who

finished the tourney with 70 points, was named MVP and was joined by teammate **Dwayne Schintzius**. Alabama's **Keith Askins** and **Michael Ansley** also were selected, as was Vanderbilt's **Barry Booker**.

ALABAMA (72) — Roberty Horry 2-7 3-4 7, Michael Ansley 6-14 2-2 14, David Benoit 3-6 2-2 8, Gary Waites 1-4 3-4 5, Alvin Lee 2-6 6-8 11, Keith Askins 8-12 2-2 23, James Sanders 1-1 1-2 4, Melvin Cheatum 0-1 0-0 0, Marcus Campbell 0-0 0-0 0, Marcus Webb 0-0 0-0 0. **Totals 23-51 19-24 72.**

FLORIDA (60) — Michael Kerr 7-11 1-1 15, Livingston Chatman 10-14 0-0 20, Dwayne Schintzius 7-17 2-2 16, Renaldo Garcia 1-4 2-6 4, Clifford Lett 2-8 0-0 5, Kelly McKinnon 0-1 0-0 0, Brian Hogan 0-1 0-0 0, Tim Turner 0-1 0-0 0. **Totals 27-57 5-9 60.**

FG%: Alabama, 45.1; Florida, 47.4. 3-pt. FG%: Alabama, 53.8; Florida, 12.5. FT%: Alabama, 79.2; Florida, 55.6. Assists: Alabama, 14 (Waites 7); Florida, 13 (Lett 6). Rebounds: Alabama, 31 (Benoit 7); Florida, 30 (Schintzius 13). Technicals: none. Attendance: 11,285.

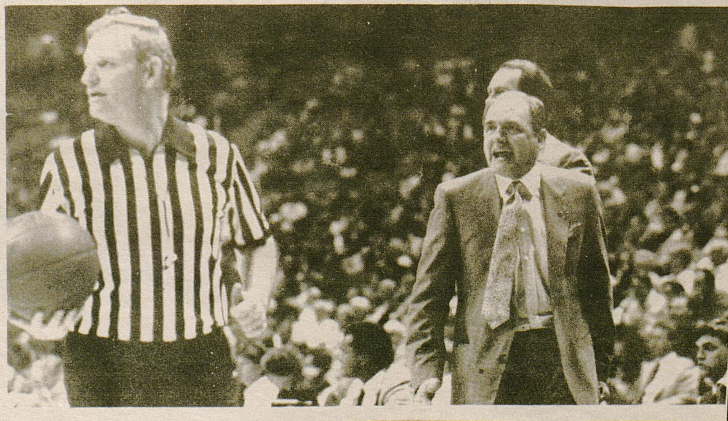
Russell Rice bio

(continued from page 2)

and *The Wildcat Legacy*. He also co-authored *The Official University of Kentucky Basketball Book*, wrote the Kentucky portion of *The SEC, A Pictorial History of Southeastern Conference Football* and contributed to the award-winning *Kentucky: A Pictorial History*, which was published by the University Press of Kentucky.

Rice is married to the former Doris Thacker of Knott County. They have a son, Rusty, of Salisbury, Md., and three daughters, Mrs. Dan Gardiner of Louisville, Mrs. Mike Covington of Georgetown, and Kimberly of Lexington.

Hugh Durham's club led the whole way until Dwayne Davis scored on a putback to give the Gators a 62-61 victory in the quarterfinals.



Back Thru The Wildcat Years

Seven Years Ago

✓"Shocked" was the best way to describe how the Kentucky Wildcat fans felt after losing to Middle Tennessee 50-44 in second round action of the NCAAs played in Nashville.

If Kentucky would have won, then the Louisville Cardinals would have been its next opponent. But after jumping out to an 8-0 lead, the 'Cats simply ran out of steam.

"I just don't feel we were moving," said UK coach Joe B. Hall. "We did not go to the offensive board. We had one offensive rebound at the half. And we missed a bundle of shots. We were just not moving. It was more psychological than it was physical. But I really think our players wanted the game and they were trying to get themselves into it mentally.

"I don't know if they were looking past it or not. I can't really say.

While Hall was dejected, Middle's head man, Stan "Ramrod" Simpson was happier than ever.

"We had to win this game because I didn't have a ticket for Saturday (Middle-Louisville game)," Simpson joked. This is the most tremendous basketball victory I have ever experienced in 21 years of coaching and seven years of playing.

Two of the big keys enabling MSU to pull off the upset were solid defense and rebounding. Kentucky hit on just 21 of 56 attempts from the field. The Wildcats also were out-rebounded by the smaller Blue Raider squad 36-27.

No one for the 'Cats hit for double digits. Four Wildcats scored eight points each—Charles Hurt, Jim Master, Dirk Miniefield and Melvin Turpin.

MSU had the game's leading scorer, Rick

Campbell (19) and rebounder, Jerry Beck (10).

✓The Kentucky Bat 'Cats swept the visiting West Virginia Mountaineers, winning 4-3 and 10-3.

In the first game, Bill Barker's RBI double helped the 'Cats pull even in the seventh frame at 3-all. UK then won the game on Mike Botkin's single.

Kentucky scored three runs in the fourth inning and added four more in the fifth, bolting out an 11-2 lead en route to an easy win in the night cap.

Joe Farmer, a freshman from Louisville, was credited with the win in the second game.

✓Junior guard Lea Wise scored 30 points and junior forward Valerie Still added 21 to spark the Kentucky Lady Kats to an 88-80 victory over Illinois in the first round of the NCAA tournament. The postseason event was held at UK's Memorial Coliseum.

Wise connected on 15 of 16 shots from the field while Still was almost as impressive, hitting 10 of 14 attempts. Overall UK hit on 39 of 66 for 59.1 percent.

Next on tap for the Lady Kats is a second-round date with South Carolina in Ruston, La.

Eight Years Ago

✓The Southeastern Conference tournament will be played in Lexington's Rupp Arena, next year, it was announced last week. Since the renewal of the tourney in 1979, the tournament has been held in Birmingham.

The SEC tourney will return to Birmingham in 1983.

✓The University of Kentucky baseball team traveled to Florida last week and after winning three of four games against competition in the Sunshine State, the 'Cats lost two games against SEC foe Florida. UK dropped the twinbill by scores of 5-4 and 2-1. The 'Cats lost the first game in extra innings, 12 to be exact.

Controversial calls against Kentucky could be found in both contests.

Earlier in the trip, UK defeated Tampa by 11-8 and 8-5 scores, knocked off South Florida 3-1 and lost to Eckerd 10-9. UK is now 10-4 on the year.

✓Unranked Simon Kenton became the first Ninth Region team ever to win the boy's state high school basketball championship, beating Mason County 70-63 before 21,287 Rupp Arena fans.

That crowd broke the national record for the most fans ever to watch a single high school game.

The tourney's Most Valuable Player, Troy McKinley, scored 17 points and pulled down 11 rebounds for Simon Kenton while Dave Dixon added 18 points. Besides McKinley, the other top performers in the tournament were Virgie's Todd May and Moore's Manuel Forest.

Nine Years Ago

✓A Kyle Macy jump shot from 17 feet out was off-target and Kentucky couldn't get another shot in the air as the 'Cats NCAA hopes went down the drain in a 55-54 Mideast Regional loss to Duke. The loss was even harder take because it happened at Rupp Arena, home of the Big Blue.

Kentucky dug itself in an early hole and trailed the Blue Devils by 14, 37-23 at the half. Behind junior Fred Cowan, who scored a game-high 26 points, UK came back to make a game of it. The 'Cats even tied the count at 54-44 when Cowan connected with a clutch hoop. Then Duke's Gene Banks appeared to lose possession out of bounds but a foul was called on Derrick Hord. Banks hit one of

two foul shots, which turned out to be the winning point.

Kentucky had a chance to win the game, but Macy's attempt from the wing in the final few seconds kicked off the mark.

Kentucky hit only 40 percent of its shots and committed 17 turnovers. Cowan was the only Wildcat in double figures. Center Sam Bowie's playing time was limited to nine minutes because of foul problems.

The Wildcats finish the season with a 29-6 mark.

✓Although UK was knocked out of NCAA play, there was good news in the Wildcat camp. Indiana prep All-American Jim Master announced he will be attending UK next year.

✓Thanks to pitcher Jeff Keener, the UK baseball team swept conference foe Tennessee in a doubleheader 4-3 and 4-2. Keener pitched in relief in the first game and started in the night cap, earning wins in both games.

The next day in the series finale Tennessee came back to trounce the 'Cats 11-4.

Twelve Years Ago

✓North Carolina hit on a perfect 16-of-16 from the charity stripe in the second half on its way to defeating Kentucky 79-72 in the East Regionals in College Park, Md.

The Wildcats were forced to play catchup, falling behind by 15 in the first half, 12 at intermission. In the second half, Carolina went into its patented four-corner delay game. However, UK slowly chipped away and gallantly pulled within one point on a Rick Robey three-point play with 1:32 left.

Twenty seven seconds later Wildcat guard Larry Johnson and Carolina's John Kuester collided, resulting in a foul on Johnson.

Kuester hit both free throws. Next, Jack "Goose" Givens drilled a short jumper to again cut the deficit to one. However, UK's fate was sealed when Steve Kraficis sank two free throws.

Givens paced the Wildcat attack with 26 points while Rick Robey scored 15 and Mike Phillips 12.

Walter Davis scored 21 for Dean Smith's talented Tar Heels, who now are headed to the Final Four. Kuester added 19 while Mike O'Koren tallied 14.

In the end, Kentucky had five more field goals than Carolina and took 23 more shots from the field. The game finished in somewhat of a controversial manner. Robey fouled out with five seconds left and when he headed toward the bench the UK player was verbally taunted by UNC's head coach.

Thirty Two Years Ago

✓The Michigan State Spartans came from 12 points down to eliminate the Kentucky Wildcats from NCAA action, 80-68. In the finals of the NCAA Midwest Regionals, held at Kentucky's Memorial Coliseum, Adolph Rupp's Wildcats led 47-39 at the half but were outscored 45-21 in the second stanza. During second-half action, UK hit only eight of 35 shots.

Jack Quiggle led State with 22 points. Gerry Calvert paced Kentucky with 18 points, one more than sophomore Johnny Cox. Vern Hatton scored 15. The defeat ended Kentucky's season at 23-5, far better than even the most optimistic fans expected at the start of the year.

✓Minnesota has been invited to play in the UKIT next year. The Gophers join North Carolina in the UK Invitational.

✓Sophomore Johnny Cox finished as Kentucky's leading scorer this year with a 19.4 game scoring average. It was the highest average for a UK sophomore and the fifth highest season average in UK hoop history.

WILDCAT QUIZ

1988-89 Wildcats

1. When was the last time Kentucky failed to make either the NCAAs or NIT?

- a) 1967
- b) 1970
- c) 1974
- d) 1979

2. True or False? Eddie Sutton's team dropped more games this season than through the '86-88 campaigns.

3. Who was Kentucky's best three-point shooter this season (percentage-wise)?

4. Chris Mills finished as the 'Cats' No. 1 rebounder. Sam Bowie also led UK in rebounding as a freshman. Who was the only other Wildcat to pace the Wildcats in rebounding during his freshman campaign?

- a) Clarence Tillman
- b) Mike Phillips
- c) Melvin Turpin
- d) Rick Robey

5. True or False? Nine of UK's 19 losses were of six points or less.

6. When was the last time Kentucky's SEC mark was below the .500 mark?

- a) 1961
- b) 1967
- c) 1974
- d) 1979

7. Before ending its season in the SEC

tourney, how many years in a row was UK in the NCAA tournament?

- a) 10
- b) 11
- c) 12
- d) 13

8. True or False? In every game LeRon Ellis failed to score in double digits the 'Cats were 1-7.

9. True or False? Kentucky's attendance was down this year, but it still remained second in the country in that category behind only Syracuse.

10. How many losses in Rupp Arena did the Wildcats suffer?

- a) three
- b) four
- c) five
- d) six

Answers

- 1. 1974
- 2. False (21)
- 3. Sean Sutton (18 of 44—40%)
- 4. Rick Robey
- 5. True
- 6. 1967 (8-10)
- 7. 10
- 8. False (0-8)
- 9. True
- 10. six

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