

Chapman Explodes For 37 Against Henry Clay



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The Cats' Pause

"SPOTLIGHTING UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY AND SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE"



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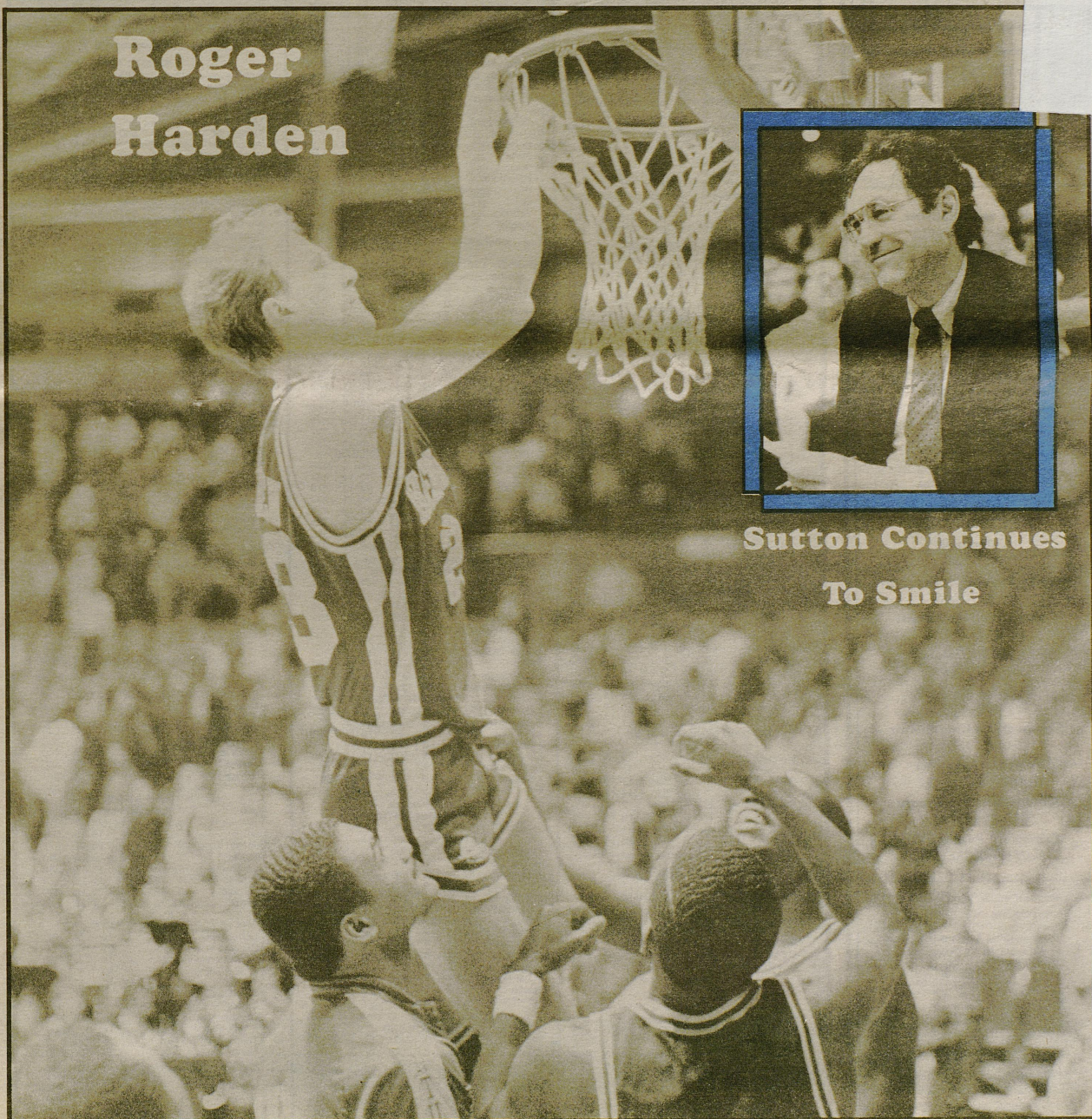
LEXINGTON, KEN

To The Champions Go The Victory Twine

Roger Harden



Sutton Continues To Smile



THE CATS' PAUSE



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Major College Scoreboard Standings

SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE

Conference	W	L	Pct.	All Games	W	L	Pct.
Kentucky	15	1	.938	24	3	.889	
Alabama	12	4	.750	19	6	.760	
Auburn	11	5	.688	17	9	.654	
Louisiana St.	9	7	.563	21	8	.724	
Florida	8	8	.500	14	11	.560	
Georgia	7	9	.438	14	11	.560	
Vanderbilt	6	10	.375	12	13	.480	
Tennessee	5	11	.313	12	13	.480	
Mississippi	4	12	.250	11	14	.440	
Mississippi St.	3	13	.188	6	19	.240	

x-clinched regular-season title

OHIO VALLEY

Akron	9	4	.692	19	7	.731	
Middle Tenn.	8	4	.667	18	9	.667	
Murray St.	8	4	.667	16	9	.640	
Austin Peay	7	5	.583	13	12	.520	
Youngstown St.	7	6	.538	11	15	.423	
Tennessee Tch.	5	8	.385	14	12	.538	
E. Kentucky	4	7	.364	9	15	.429	
Morehead St.	1	11	.083	8	18	.308	

METRO COLLEGE ATHLETIC

Memphis State	8	2	.800	23	3	.885	
Louisville	8	2	.800	21	7	.750	
Virginia Tech	5	5	.500	20	7	.741	
Cincinnati	5	5	.500	11	13	.458	
Southern Miss	5	6	.455	15	10	.600	
South Carolina	2	7	.222	12	12	.500	
Florida State	2	8	.200	10	15	.400	

SUN BELT

Old Dominion	11	3	.786	21	6	.778	
W. Kentucky	10	4	.714	21	6	.778	
Ala. Birmingham	9	5	.643	22	9	.710	
Jacksonville	9	5	.643	18	9	.667	
Va. Commonwealth	6	8	.429	12	15	.444	
South Alabama	5	9	.357	16	14	.533	
South Florida	5	9	.357	13	13	.500	
N.C. Charlotte	1	13	.071	8	19	.296	

ATLANTIC COAST

Duke	10	2	.833	27	2	.931	
N. Carolina	9	3	.750	25	3	.893	
Georgia Tech	9	3	.750	21	4	.840	
Virginia	7	5	.583	18	7	.720	
N. Carolina St.	7	6	.538	18	9	.667	
Maryland	4	8	.333	15	12	.556	
Clemson	3	9	.250	17	11	.607	
Wake Forest	0	13	.000	7	19	.269	

ATLANTIC 10

x-St. Joseph's	16	2	.889	22	5	.815	
y-West Virginia	15	3	.833	20	9	.690	
Temple	15	3	.833	23	4	.852	
St. Bonaventure	10	8	.556	15	12	.556	
Duquesne	9	9	.500	14	13	.519	
Geo. Washington	7	11	.389	12	15	.444	
Massachusetts	6	12	.333	9	18	.333	
y-Rhode Island	5	13	.278	9	18	.333	
Penn. St.	5	13	.278	11	16	.407	
Rutgers	2	16	.111	7	20	.259	

x-clinched regular-season title

y-won tiebreaker

BIG EAST

Syracuse	13	1	.929	22	3	.880	
St. John's	12	2	.857	25	4	.862	
Georgetown	9	5	.643	20	6	.769	
Villanova	9	6	.600	19	12	.613	
Pittsburgh	5	9	.357	14	11	.560	
Providence	5	9	.357	13	12	.520	
Boston College	4	10	.286	13	12	.520	
Connecticut	3	10	.231	12	11	.522	
Seton Hall	3	11	.214	13	15	.464	

BIG EIGHT

x-Kansas	11	1	.917	25	3	.897	
Oklahoma	8	4	.667	23	5	.821	
Iowa St.	8	4	.667	17	8	.680	
Nebraska	6	6	.500	16	9	.640	
Missouri	6	6	.500	12	19	.613	
Oklahoma St.	5	7	.417	14	11	.560	
Kansas St.	4	8	.333	16	11	.593	
Colorado	0	12	.000	8	17	.320	

x-clinched regular-season title

BIG SKY

Montana	9	4	.692	19	8	.704	
N. Arizona	8	4	.667	18	7	.720	
Weber St.	7	6	.538	17	9	.654	
x-Idaho St.	7	6	.538	14	12	.538	
Nevada-Reno	6	6	.500	12	13	.480	
Montana St.	5	8	.385	10	16	.423	
Idaho	4	8	.333	11	15	.423	
Boise St.	4	8	.333	10	15	.400	

x-ineligible for conference tournament

BIG TEN

Indiana	10	4	.714	18	6	.750	
Michigan	10	4	.714	23	4	.852	
Michigan St.	9	5	.643	18	6	.750	
Purdue	10	5	.667	21	7	.750	
Illinois	9	6	.600	18	8	.692	
Iowa	8	6	.571	18	9	.667	
Ohio St.	8	4	.667	12	10	.545	
Minnesota	5	9	.357	15	12	.556	
Wisconsin	3	12	.200	10	14	.414	
Northwestern	2	13	.133	8	17	.320	

COLONIAL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Navy	12	1	.923	22	1	.846	
Richmond	12	1	.923	22	4	.846	
George Mason	10	4	.714	16	10	.615	
East Carolina	6	7	.462	12	14	.462	
N.C.-Wilmington	6	8	.429	15	12	.556	
William & Mary	3	10	.231	7	18	.280	
American U.	2	11	.157	10	16	.386	
James Madison	2	11	.154	4	22	.154	

EAST COAST

x-Drexel	10	3	.769	15	11	.577	
Bucknell	8	5	.615	16	10	.615	
Hofstra	8	5	.615	14	12	.538	
Lafayette	8	5	.615	13	12	.520	
Lehigh	6	7	.462	13	14	.480	
Delaware	4	9	.308	11	14	.500	
Rider	4	9	.308	8	18	.308	
Towson St.	4	9	.308	7	19	.269	

x-clinched regular-season title

ECAC METRO

F. Dickinson	10	3	.769	18	7	.720	
Marist	9	4	.692	14	10	.583	
Loyola, Md.	9	6	.600	14	11	.560	
Wagner	8	6	.571	13	12	.520	
St. Francis, P.	8	6	.571	10	14	.417	
Robert Morris	6	8	.429	9	15	.375	
Monmouth, N.J.	4	9	.308	7	16	.304	
Long Island U.	4	10	.286	9	16	.360	
St. Francis, N.Y.	4	10	.286	9	16	.360	

ECAC NORTH ATLANTIC

Northeastern	13	2	.867	20	4	.833	
Canisius	13	4	.765	19	7	.731	
Boston U.	11	4	.733	17	7	.709	
Siena	10	5	.667	18	6	.750	
Niagara	10	6	.625	14	11	.560	
x-Hartford	9	7	.563	11	13	.458	
New Hampshire	5	11	.313	13	14	.440	
Maine	5	12	.294	7	18	.280	
Vermont	3	12	.200	7	17	.292	
Colgate	0	16	.000	1	22	.043	

x-not eligible for conference title

GULF STAR

x-Sm. Hstn. St.	6	1	.857	24	4	.857	
x-Stephen Astn.	7	2	.778	22	4	.846	
NW Louisiana	6	3	.667	12	11	.522	
SE Louisiana	5	5	.500	9	17	.346	
Nicholls St.	2	6	.250	7	13	.350	
SW Texas St.	0	7	.000	5	19	.208	

x-Division I eligibility 1986-87

IVY LEAGUE

Cornell	9	3	.750	14	10	.583	
Brown	8	4	.667	14	10	.583	
Pennsylvania	6	5	.545	12	11	.522	
Columbia	6	6	.500	12	12	.500	
Yale	6	6	.500	12	12	.500	
Princeton	6	6	.500	11	12	.478	
Dartmouth	5	7	.417	9	14	.391	
Harvard	2	10	.167	6	18	.250	

METRO ATLANTIC ATHLETIC

Fordham	6	7	.462				
Holy Cross	6	7	.462	10	16	.385	
Army	5	8	.385	9	16	.360	
Manhattan	1	13	.071	2	25	.074	
x-clinched							
			regular-season title				
			MID-AMERICAN				
Miami, Ohio	14	2	.875	21	5	.808	
Ohio U.	12	4	.750	19	6	.760	
Ball St.	9	7	.563	16	9	.640	
No. Illinois	9	7	.563	14	10	.583	
W. Michigan	7	9	.438	12	13	.480	



Oscar L. Combs

Cats' Pause Publisher



Hey Eddie, Can Ye Handle The Big Orange?

Awright, Eddie Sutton.

So you've won the Southeastern Conference title in a breeze. Or should we say with a tidal wave?

Sure, you've amassed an amazing 24-3 mark, a top ten national ranking and even won seven of eight road trips in the SEC.

Heck, you've even beaten Indiana, not to mention Louisville this season. Yeah, I know, your Cats have dumped Alabama and LSU not once, but twice this season.

Okay, Eddie!

You've proven your point.

You're a pretty fair country coach. We've known that for years.

Hey, we followed your Razorbacks here in Kentucky.

And all your accomplishments have justified President Otis Singletary's decision in selecting you to carry on the great Kentucky tradition.

Even ole Adolph is probably smiling up there somewhere in basketball heaven.

But (ah, there's always a *but* in every juicy story) can you beat those Tennessee Volunteers in Knoxville?

Oh, you haven't heard about that little problem? Didn't the prez mention anything about that Eddie?

Really?

Well coach, meet Mr. John J. Barrett, the III.

He's a Kentucky fan.

Sorta.

He loves the Big Blue, Eddie. Really and truly! But he has this problem.

You see, John resides in Knoxville, Tennessee and he's been living a pretty lonely and miserable life these last seven years. It's been that long since Kentucky has beaten the Big Orange in Knoxville.

John is a *Cats' Pause* subscriber, Eddie. And his \$25 check each year is very important to our well-being. It helps pay a lot of bills.

He writes us often, especially after every UK game in Knoxville. John has written us *before* the games in Knoxville. He's tried psychology on the Wildcats by challenging their so-called "lack of desire" to meet the Big Orange challenge. He's blistered their behinds with some not-so-kind remarks and he's suggested more than once that a new coach (*pittry ole Joe B.*) was needed, if for no reason other than to beat UT in Knoxville.

Poor John has endured a long dry spell. UK hasn't won in Knoxville in eight years. Prior to a 68-57 win for the 1978 championship team, UK had suffered through another losing streak of five years.

Knoxville is not one of Joe B. Hall's favorite "get-away fishing holes" to say the least.

John finally gave up.

I think.

At least we haven't heard from John the past couple years. I believe he is still alive somewhere in Knoxville, Eddie. But when Melvin Turpin went completely wild, scored 42 points and the Cats still lost 65-63 back in 1983, well John sorta disappeared, fainted, died or something.

Hasn't been seen or heard of since.

No more letters to the editor. No more threatening phone calls. No more demands

of resignations. No more psychological ploys. Presto. Vanished. Gone.

Eddie, some people believe Tennessee's reputation as a basketball power rests more on its ability to beat the Cats once each season in Knoxville, rather than the Big Orange's overall record.

There could be some truth to that. Guess what?

Coach Don DeVoe has never lost to UK in Knoxville.

A couple of UK fans last spring even suggested that UK hire him to replace Joe Hall, figuring that the Cats would finally win in Knoxville.

Some hoop experts say DeVoe is an awesome bench coach, that he lacks only good talent from having a top ten powerhouse. On the other hand, DeVoe's Tennessee teams are only 8-10 against Ole Miss.

Eddie, are the experts saying Ole Miss has more talent than Tennessee?

There's no question the Vols put all their marbles in one game when Kentucky heads to Knoxville.

Just look at the DeVoe era.

At Tennessee, DeVoe has enjoyed a fine Vol career winning percentage of .636 entering this season with 143 wins and only 82 losses.

A quick check of the Vols record book shows just how much *emphasis* the Vols put on the Kentucky battle in Knoxville. Tennessee has enjoyed a flashy 6-1 mark in the game immediately following the Knoxville contest with UK over the past seven years.

The Vols have also won all seven games against the Wildcats.

So far, so good.

But what about the game *before* the battle with the Big Blue in Knoxville. UT shows only a losing 3-4 worksheet. The "looking ahead to UK" theory is amplified when you notice that two of the three UT wins required four overtime periods and that the only victories came at the expense of Ole Miss, Vanderbilt and Georgia.

What does all this mean?

I'm not really sure.

Except that John J. Barret could care less about those victories over Indiana, Louisville, Alabama and LSU. This guy lives in Knacksville, not Bloomingdale, Louieville, Baaton Roooe or Tuskalloosa or whatever you want to call the places.

With the "Knockout In Knoxville" upon us, we wondered if J. J. is still alive. After all, we hadn't heard from him in over two years. A quick check of our subscription files shows that either John J. is still alive or his ghost is carrying on the tradition from a closet deep inside Big Orange Country.

I suspect John J. has seen many of the Kentucky-Tennessee games in Knoxville, but I also suspect he rarely identifies himself to friends or acquaintances as a *die-hard* Big Blue fan.

The man has gotta have a little pride.

It wouldn't shock me if John J. comes out of hibernation this Thursday, if for no other reason than to see if this new kid (with a perm) on the block can conquer where others have failed.

So Eddie, if you could just give him one moment of happiness, just *one* slim victory to enjoy for *one* short year.

Well, you might have a friend indeed if you should ever need a friend.

Oh no, Eddie. You're in great shape now. We mean sometime like the first season you don't go 24-3. Or the year you don't win the SEC title *two weeks prior* to the end of the season. Or you don't beat both Indiana and Louisville and you fail to take care of those messy chores in Tuscaloosa and Baton Rouge.

After all, John, the III, cares only about one measley game played in Knoxville each winter.

By the way Eddie, a few other people have suggested a win over the Vols in Knoxville wouldn't be a bad idea, if you'd like to have a new contract. It could be a vote of confidence after a *so-so* 24-3 start.

Huh?

You want to know how many people are crying for a victory over Tennessee in Stokely Athletics Center?

Count all the people who live in Kentucky, Eddie.

Then deduct those die-hard UL supporters. Add the Memphis State (*they're for whoever UL fans are against*) fanatics.

Double the final total to account for all those transplanted Kentuckians living outside the Commonwealth and soldiers stationed in the armed forces around the world.

Then, you'll be somewhere in the ballpark.

A good guess would be somewhere between five and ten million, including Georgia's Hugh Durham (*you know he loves those Vols*), but not counting Florida's zillion or so football faithful (*they like that Majors fellow*).

Hey Eddie, I was just kidding. You really don't have to beat Tennessee in Knoxville. You're safe.

Your five-year contract says so.

Kentucky fans never talk about firing a coach until he's lost at least six games and you've got three to spare.

Course, if you took a poll among your own players, you might be surprised to see how strong their sentiments are in turning the tables around in Knoxville.

A Footnote To Above: Just moments after Kentucky's 80-75 victory over Georgia in Athens Saturday, Sutton was enjoying a lighter moment with his staff as he was preparing to do his post-game radio show when he threw his staff a curveball.

"Fellas, you know I said this (Georgia game) would be the toughest challenge the rest of the regular season," grinned Sutton, "but I've changed my mind, it'll be Tennessee."

Sutton is a pretty bright fella . . . to be a college basketball coach.

Kentucky All-American Kenny Walker is one of eleven finalists for the coveted *John R. Wooden Award* awarded annually to college basketball's top player by the Los Angeles Athletic Club.

The winner will be announced in the not too distant future. Walker, who could become the school's No. 2 all-time scorer before he

finishes, is also a top candidate for the Adolph Rupp Trophy and the James A. Naismith Trophy. All three awards go to players selected as the best in college basketball, but are voted on by different people.

Others in the final running for the Wooden award are: Steve Alford of Indiana, Walter Berry of St. John's, William Bedford of Memphis State, Len Bias of Maryland, Dell Curry of Virginia Tech, Brad Daugherty of North Carolina, Johnny Dawkins of Duke, Danny Manning of Kansas, Mark Price of Georgia Tech, and Roy Tarpley of Michigan.

Last year's winner was St. John's' Chris Mullin. Ralph Sampson is the only player to ever win the award twice.

While so much is being said about the upcoming battle with Tennessee, all that will be forgotten less than forty-eight hours later when 23,000-plus fans say goodbye to UK seniors Kenny Walker, Roger Harden and Leroy Byrd.

There may be the Kentucky Derby and there may be Bardstown, Kentucky, but there's nothing quiet like singing "My Old Kentucky Home" at the home finale each season in Rupp Arena.

To say there will be some wet eyes would be an understatement. Kenny Walker has already said it'll be an emotional time for him. Roger Harden admits he'll not hold back the tears and well, Leroy, knows the meaning perhaps better than both of them. He's the natived Kentuckian of the trio.

That's to say nothing of the opposition. When LSU comes to town, fans come out of the woodwork. Nobody, other than the Big Orange, can stir up excitement on the hardwoods like Dale Brown and his Tigers. It'll be some kind of an afternoon.

Perhaps it's only fitting the NBC-TV cameras will be here to capture this annual sendoff. Here's hoping the network's first game (*Oklahoma vs. North Carolina State*) doesn't go overtime and prevent the rest of the world from witnessing what Kentucky fans have come to cherish as one of the truly great moments in all of sports.

Hey, Dick and Al. Keep the tissue handy. You'll need it.

HITS AND MISSES . . . With all the coaching changes around the country, you'll see lots of new faces on the major college scene next year. Some are expected and a few could be very surprising. There are even rumors that retired UK coach **Joe B. Hall** could be lured back into the business after a year away from the rat race. Sportscaster **Joe Dean** says in the current issue of *Basketball Times* that several schools are interested in Hall and that he might be talked into coming back . . . At least two current members of the UK staff have their names being tossed around the job market. Assistants **Leonard Hamilton** and **Doug Barnes** have been mentioned in connection with current vacancies. Hamilton, according

[Continued On Page 33]

Walker Shines In Home State

Cats Claim 36th SEC Title With Win Over Dogs

"I've never been prouder of a group of young men than I am of these guys. They're not the most talented bunch of players, but they don't know that. Somehow they figure out a way to win and they're very team oriented."

- Eddie Sutton
Head Basketball Coach
University of Kentucky

Those words pretty much illustrate why this version of the Kentucky Wildcats won the school's 36th Southeastern Conference basketball championship Saturday in Athens, Ga. by turning back host Georgia 80-75.

The win, Kentucky's 15 in 16 league contests this season, improved the Wildcats' overall record to 24-3 on the year and sent the Cats climbing in the nation polls over the weekend. In the new *CNN-USA Today* poll released Sunday, the Cats moved up to No. 5 nationally.

Thanks to a superb 22-point, 9-rebound effort from All-American Kenny Walker and a 20-point, 7-rebound masterpiece from junior Winston Bennett, Kentucky never allowed the Georgia express to get uncranked.

But Walker and Bennett weren't alone. James Blackmon came through with another stellar offensive show while Richard Madison came off the bench to add 6 points.

Ed Davender, who didn't score a single point the first thirty minutes, hit two clutch baskets during the last twelve minutes when the Bulldogs tried to rally back.

And Roger Harden's floor work the final ten minutes helped preserve the big road victory.

Walker, the All-American from nearby Roberta, Georgia came prepared to put his best foot forward in his last performance at the Georgia Coliseum.

And Bulldog fans were just as prepared. Throughout pregame warm-ups, Georgia fans shouted, "turncoat, turncoat."

When the television cameras began to roll, it was vintage Walker at his best. And at the game's end, it was Walker who was cutting down the SEC victory nets from one of the Georgia goals.

In the first half alone, Walker hit six of eight from the field and hauled down five rebounds. At one point, Walker scored four of UK's six baskets midway in the first period, his last giving UK an 18-18 tie with 11:09 remaining.

Walker's Basket Puts UK In Front For Good

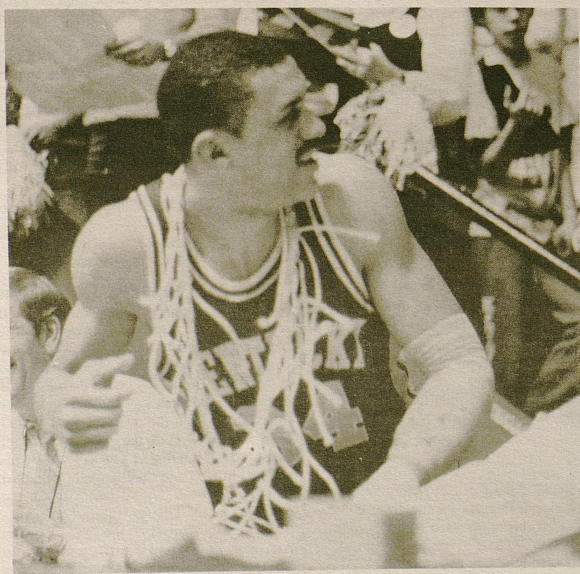
At 3:41 Walker put UK in front 32-30 with a short jumper from the baseline. Kentucky never trailed again in the contest.

First half play was played on the pro level, moving up and down the court at a pace a 10-second clock would have been hard-pressed to expire.

Inside, Bennett and Walker dominated the backboards to the tune of a 17-12 advantage for the Cats in the opening twenty minutes.

Keeping the 'Dogs right on Kentucky's heels was Joe Ward's nine points along with six points each from Donald Hartry and freshman sub Toney Mack.

Both clubs enjoyed sizzling shooting percentages in the first half with UK scoring at a 56.3 clip on 18 of 32 while Georgia was stride for stride at 55.6 percent on 15 of 27.



Dressed In Championship Fashion



Walker & Blackmon Named Co-MVP's By Atlanta Chapter Of UK Alumni Assn.

Kentucky provided itself with a little breathing room early in the second half, thanks to a quick baseline jumper by Blackmon.

But Georgia came right back.

Dennis Williams got a backdoor layup to slice the lead to 40-37 and then for the next five minutes the two clubs played on even terms.

Until...

Until a Georgia alley-oop failed. It may have been the difference in the entire game. Two similar plays worked earlier, but not this time.

Kentucky, clinging to a 46-44 lead after a three-point play by Horace McMillan at 15:52, got caught in another backdoor situation. The Georgia crowd was just beginning to fire up and a dunk would probably have been a big emotional lift.

Big Georgia Play Backfires In Second Half

Instead, the play called by coach Hugh Durham from the sidelines backfired when Dennis Williams tried to stuff the ball instead of laying the ball off the glass. The ball bounced back and UK then scored six straight points to take a commanding 52-44 lead.

Durham acknowledged it was a big missed opportunity.

"You don't have to dunk it," Durham said. "Vern Fleming (ex-Georgia All-American guard) didn't dunk it in four years."

Kentucky eventually enjoyed a ten-point lead at 56-46 on a Walker jumper from the lane, but Georgia refused to throw in the towel.

The Bulldogs slowly pecked away at the Kentucky lead and got within six on six different occasions down the stretch. But it wasn't until 0:37 that Georgia really gave UK a big scare.

After a miss from the free throw line by Ed Davender on a bonus shot, Anderson rifled in a sizzler from the right of the key to close the score to 75-71.

Winston Bennett hit one of two free throws at 0:32. Then Donald Hartry canned a long jumper from 24 feet to get the Dogs within three (76-73) at 0:24.

A pair of Bennett free throws at 0:19 insured the win with a five-point cushion at 78-73.

Despite leading the entire second half, Sutton was never comfortable with the small margin.

"I never felt secure in this game, even when we had a 10-point lead," said the UK head coach. "Georgia's been pretty successful lately in making great comebacks. They did it at Mississippi State and the other day against Auburn (although Auburn still won). That had us worried."

Was the win especially sweet for Walker, playing his final game in Athens?

"I'm very happy for Kenny, for us to be able to win an SEC championship in Georgia," said Sutton. "I know he was excited with his parents and friends here to watch."

And just how good are the Wildcats, a team which won a piece of the title with a week and half remaining in the conference race. Just how good a champion is this team when compared to others?

"I feel we didn't win it," beamed Roger Harden. "We ruled it."

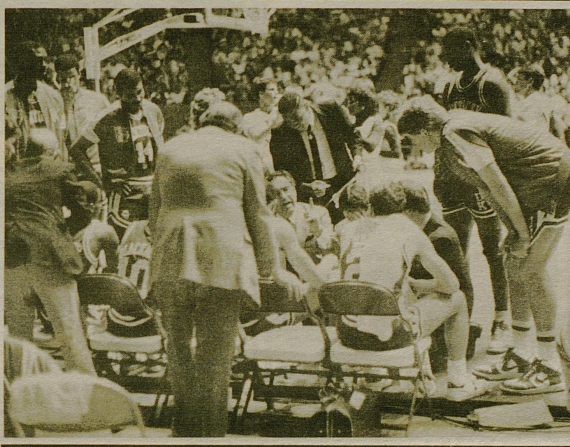
Hum!

Kentucky-Georgia Game Notes And Tidbits

The crowd of 10,826 was the largest of the season for the Bulldogs at **Georgia College**. Some 4,000 student tickets are reserved for each home game, but Georgia students reportedly took only about a 1,000 with the remainder being bought up by the public . . . The public as in *Kentucky*. At least 1,200 Wildcat fans made their way to Athens for the game, including large groups from **Western Kentucky** and the Atlanta chapter of the UK Alumni Association . . . After the game, the Atlanta group named **Kenny Walker** and **James Blackmon** as co-winners of its annual MVP award at the Georgia game . . . The same group presented a cake to coach **Eddie Sutton** after the Cats won the SEC title . . . Sutton wasn't the only person with a cake after the contest. **Kenny Walker** strolled toward the team bus after the game, carrying a homemade cake from the finest bakery in the land, his *home*.

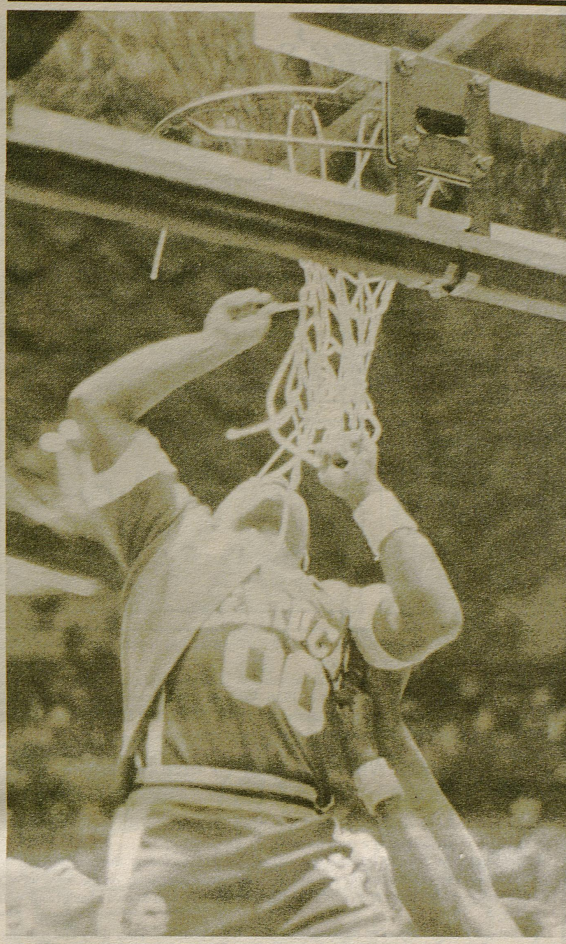
Scoops And Comments On The Wildcats

Senior Wildcat guard **Roger Harden** picked up six assists, giving him a total of 185 for the year, leaving him just three short of **Dirk Minniefield's** single season record of 188. Harden should set a new record in Knoxville on Thursday. If he does,



Words of Wisdom

what a finish for the senior from Indiana. All Harden has accomplished this season is: (a) kept a lease his starting position which some insisted he would lose (b) set a season record for assists (c) become the *best* shooting guard (over 53 percent) on the club (d) hit game-winning shots in not just one, but two games and in two of the toughest places in the country, at Baton Rouge and Tuscaloosa (e) named player



Cutting Down The Victory Threads

of the week in the SEC (f) named the SEC's **Most Improved Player** by *The Jackson (Miss) Daily News*. . . . Some interesting notes I thought you'd be interested in: When Kentucky is ahead at the half, the Cats have won 24 of 25 games. When the Cats are behind at the half, UK has won none and lost two. When UK outrebounds its opponents, UK has fashioned a 14-2 mark. In games when UK has been outrebounded, the Cats are 9-1. Once, UK was tied in rebounds and UK still won. And when the Cats are hitting, they are clicking. In games when UK has hit better than fifty percent from the floor, UK is a perfect 18-0. When shooting under fifty percent, UK is only 6-3. . . . Walker's 22 points now give him 1,878 points, good enough for third place on the UK all-time list behind **Dan Issel** and **Jack Givens**.

UK's 24-3 Best Start Since 1977-78

Kentucky's 24-3 mark is the best record after 27 games since the 1977-78 NCAA championship team. That club finished the year at 30-2. . . UK Traditionally, UK is hot in February and this year is no exception. The Cats' 6-1 mark is part of Kentucky's overall record of 90-22 in the last fourteen years. That's an impressive winning percentage of better than 80 percent. . . UK has now won seven of eight games on the road in the SEC. No Kentucky team has won eight SEC games on the road since **Dan Issel's** farewell season in 1970. The Cats' only loss on the SEC road that season was an 89-81 decision in Nashville to **Vanderbilt**. The Cats finished 26-2 that season. Sutton's Cats have a chance to equal that team's 8-1 road mark this Thursday if UK can turn the tables on **Tennessee** in Knoxville. . . **Winston Bennett's** 20 points against Georgia was the 21st time in his last 27 games that he has scored in double figures. . . When the club arrived back home at Lexington's **Bluegrass Field** after the game Saturday, an estimated crowd of some 1,000 or so fans greeted the new SEC champs. . . Not to be forgotten in all the celebration Saturday was the fact that the win was the 1,400th victory in Kentucky basketball history. That is also a record. Just think, every time UK wins a basketball game, it sets a new record. But the Cats have been doing this for a long time. . . Although the game was televised on a split-national basis via NBC-TV, fans in the South's largest city, Atlanta, could not pick up the game because the network's Atlanta affiliate has a contract to carry **Atlantic Coast Conference** games on an exclusive basis. That should tell you something about the state of SEC basketball in Georgia, not to mention the fact that Saturday was only the second time this season that 10,000 or more fans showed up at the Coliseum. Last week's game against **Auburn** in Athens attracted only 6,000 fans, about half the coliseum's capacity. So it goes.

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Here's Your Guide To The Final Four

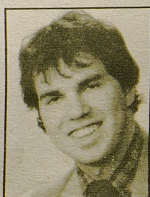
The Trail Can Be A Confusing One, However

Kentucky, North Carolina, Memphis State, Kansas and other select basketball schools across the country don't have to worry about a certain phone call on a certain Sunday in March from a certain selection committee.

In one week we'll all know who the lucky 64 collegiate participants involved in *Destination Dallas*. Only one week mind you.

Have you made your picks? . . . you haven't?

Well, TCP is here to guide you along the path of wisdom. But following this treacherous trail you must stay on our tracks and not let influences like coaches' comments, TV sports announcers' quips, oddsmakers' forecasts and other non-important factors stop you from reading the correct answers to the party bound for Dallas.



Nick Nicholas

Cats' Pause Columnist

I'll accompany you (in spirit) to make sure you're not tripped up by evil forces. Is your guard up? Are you sure?

Grasp on to your TCP Yearbook because in it holds mystical powers to guide you to the eventual national champion in 1986. Without it you may have to rely on one of those evil forces I talked about earlier to lead you to Dallas. But BEWARE of conference tournament upsets as underdogs are our biggest enemy.

SEC Will Have Four Or Five Invites

Let the journey begin.

Since Lexington is our base, the SEC is our first order of business. As I said before Kentucky, 23-3 at presstime, is a sure thing.

(Yeah, but if we were to lose the rest of our games, including the quarterfinals of the SEC tourney, I might decline the bid because we may be practicing on the night we're supposed to play. And if that's the case, . . . we'll practice — A well-known coach from Wildcat territory.)

What did I tell you, you've really got to watch these coaches. They'll try and pull the rug over your eyes everytime. But keep following me. For now (whatever UK does prior to the NCAA tourney) the SEC teams headed for NCAA play will be Kentucky, Alabama, Auburn, LSU and maybe one more.

(Hey, we won't go because I haven't decided to retire yet — A mentor from the Tiger den. . . or is that a War Eagle? . . . or is it a Plainsmen?)

Oh, keep cool Sonny you'll be there.

Going out West we see that the pickings are rather easy. . . and slim. Western teams, by the way of automatic bids or invitations, that will be on the party list include: Nevada Las Vegas, Brigham Young, Texas El Paso, Arizona, Washington, Pepperdine and Weber State.

What are the odds on a team from the West making the Final 4? Final 8? Final 16? As of February 17th's AP Top Twenty only UNLV (No. 11) is featured. Now do you wonder what their chances are?

(Have you ever heard of my friend Slim? Well, he was last seen walking out the front door — An oddsmaker from Atlantic City no doubt.)

When arriving at the Midwestern selections there's a vast improvement, when comparing it to the West, in the brand of basketball played. When strolling by this neighborhood you know the pace picks up when you see players like Danny Manning, Ron Kellogg, Darryl Kennedy and Anthony Bowie scoring hoop after hoop.

Oklahoma and Kansas are shoo-ins and both should be around when the party dwindles to only 16. Speaking of filling footwear (shoe-ins) there's a school from the Missouri Valley Conference, however, which could be easily nominated as the Cinderella selection this year. Currently, Bradley is sporting a 26-1 record and is ranked 12th in the country.

Other Midwestern teams that have promising records and should make the tourney via an automatic bid or at-large berth are: Iowa State, Drake, Tulsa, Texas Christian, Texas, Sam Houston State and Baptist College.

(Hee hee hee my pretty, hand over the NIKE shoes and your Cats' Pause Yearbook and maybe I will give you my coveted predictions on who'll be in Dallas — The wicked warlock of ESPN.)

You better watch out Vitale or we'll hit you with a bucket of water. You wouldn't want to melt now, would you?

Besides four or five entrants from the SEC, the Mideast area of the country is the site of many quality teams.

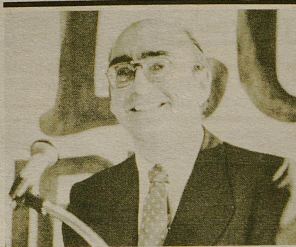
(Oh, Tom you've got to love it. It's string music time in the Mideast)

Oh no, not another distraction. Hey, stringmusic man, pipe down.

Sun Belt Could Be A Force In NCAAs

As I was saying, before I was so rudely interrupted, the Mideast has some quality teams which will be in the tournament. Talented squads like: Memphis State, Louisville, and Virginia Tech of the Metro Conference; and Michigan, Indiana, Michigan State, Purdue, and Illinois of the Big Ten.

The Supporting Cast



Vitale



Sutton



Washington



Dean

The man whom you see straddling the fence next to Hugh Durham and Norm Sloan is Iowa's coach George Raveling, whose Hawkeyes will be picked if some upsets take place in league tournaments prior to the NCAAs. For now his club must finish on a high note. What may give Durham and Sloan a better seat than the Big Ten representative is a high finish in the SEC tournament.

Remember, though, if two of these teams are selected, one of 'em will be the Hawkeyes. As far as the other conferences in the Mideast the selections will look like this: Western Kentucky, Old Dominion and Alabama-Birmingham (Sun Belt); Miami, OH (Mid-American), Xavier (Midwestern Collegiate); Tennessee-Chattanooga (Southern); McNeese State (Southland); Cleveland State (Mid-Continent); Austin Peay (Ohio Valley), Southern University (Southwestern Athletic); and Howard (Mid-Eastern Athletic).

Notre Dame and Dayton or Marquette are the likely Independents to receive bids. (OH MY, David Rivers and the Irish. OH MY — Guess who?)

Traveling to the hotbed of college hoops you'll note that we have 19 spots remaining. The East certainly can fill these vacancies.

(It's me again, ole Dick Vitale. Watch the fantastic Pearl Washington he's on my All- . . . hey, what's with the water. I'm melting, I'm melting.)

I told you about trying to influence my readers. Does anyone have a mop to clean up this mess?

Anyway, the ACC should send five representatives — North Carolina, Duke, Georgia Tech, North Carolina State and Virginia. The Heels, Demons and Jackets are all Final Four material and should their presence felt.

Three of the four Big East teams which will make the NCAA — Syracuse, St. John's, and Georgetown — are also loaded. Rollie Massimino's Wildcats will be invited on the skin of their whiskers. With the addition of the 45-second clock in the tourney, plus the subtraction of Ed Pinckney, Dwayne McClain and Gary McLain, don't bet on a Nova repeat.

Rounding out the field are: St. Joseph's, West Virginia, and Temple (Atlantic 10); Navy and Richmond (Colonial Athletic); Hofstra (East Coast); Fairleigh Dickinson (ECAC Metro); Northeastern (ECAC North Atlantic); Brown (Ivy League); and Fairfield (Metro Atlantic Athletic).

(If we play Navy we'll put it to those swabbies this time — Obviously a Bayou mentor with revenge on his mind.)

Don't bet on it.

And The Winner Is. . .

So there you have it. Any questions?

Ah, you want to know who's going to win it all?

You've been carrying the answer all along in your TCP Yearbook. Turn to pages 3 and 4. . . you'll see that Larry Brown's Jayhawks are picked to win it all.

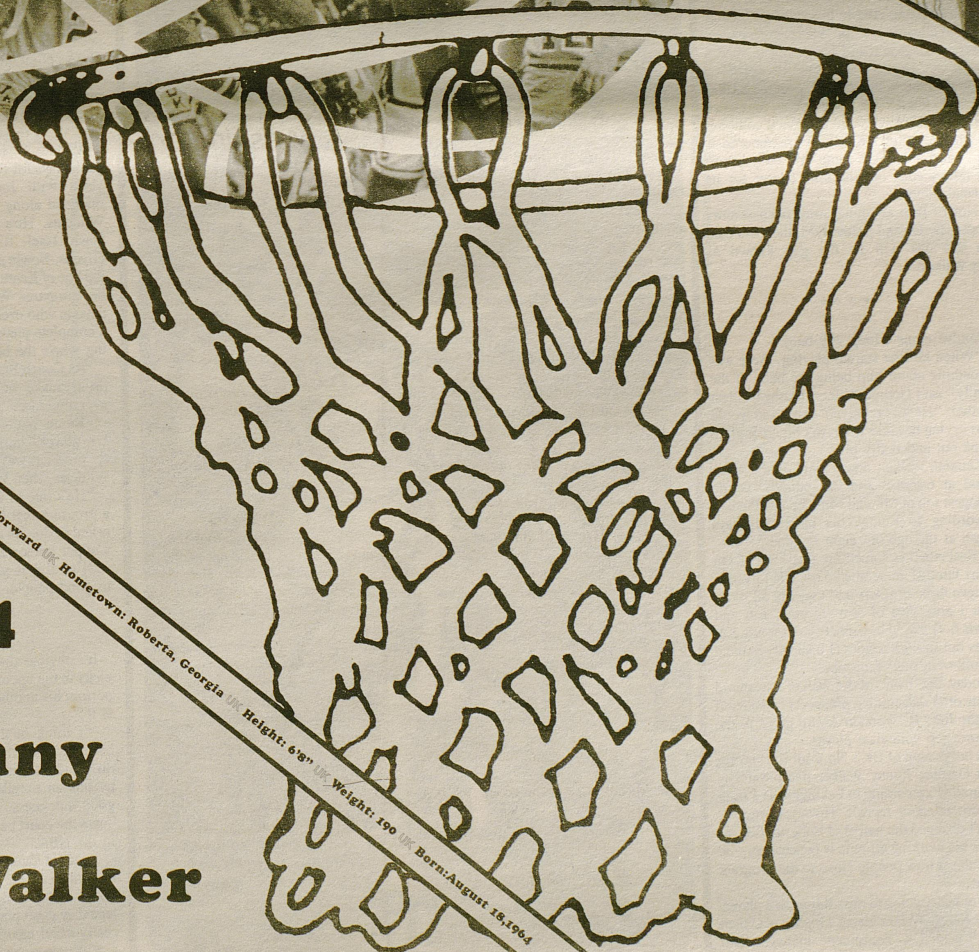
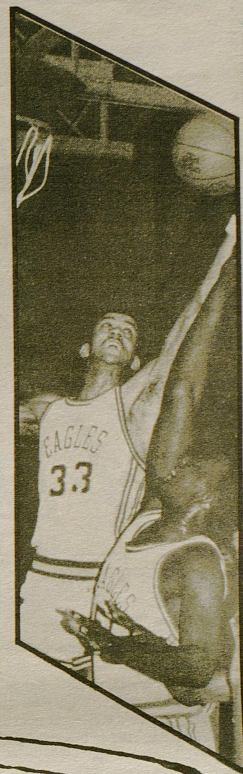
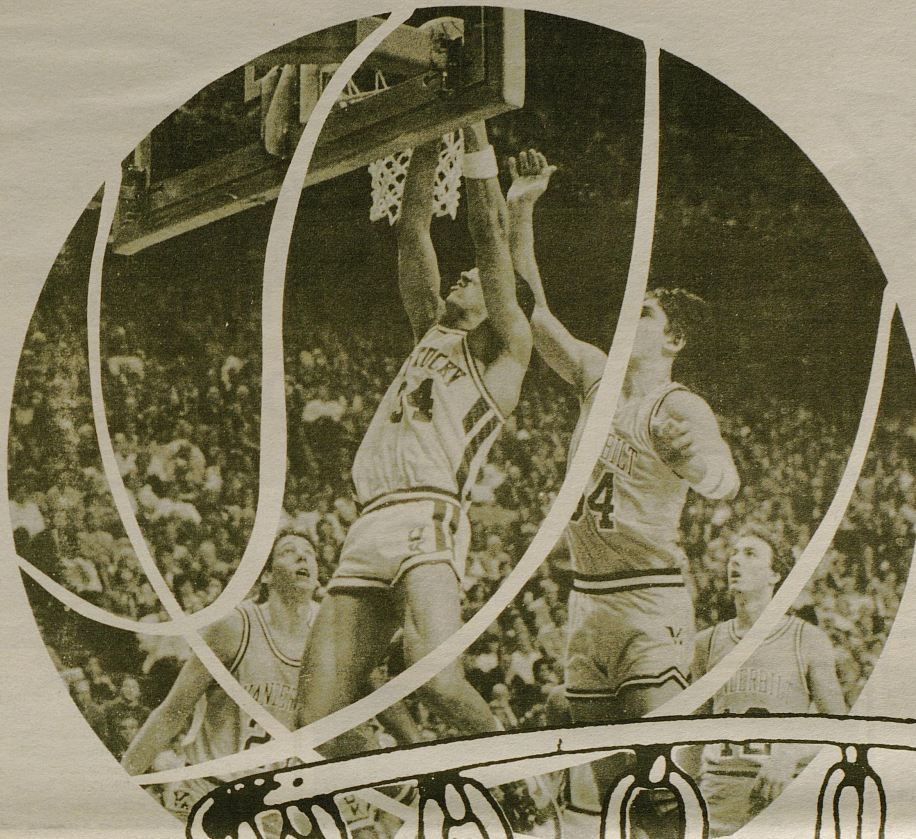
Any way you look at it Kansas fits this story book ending.

(Where's Tito)

You mean, Toto.

(No, Tito)

Hey, that's a whole different adventure all together.



34

Kenny

Walker

Class: Senior Position: Forward Hometown: Roberts, Georgia Height: 6'9" Weight: 190 Born: August 18, 1964

Sky Walker

A "Can't Miss" Blue - Chipper Who Didn't

By Nick Nicholas

This Saturday against LSU, Kenny Walker may have to do away with his protective goggles. Tears inside the eyewear tend to cause blurred vision. And in this, his last regular season ballgame at Rupp Arena, don't expect this proud, 21-year old senior not to shed a tear.

On the other hand, don't expect the 23,000 UK fans jammed into Rupp Arena, plus a national television audience to remain composed when all three UK seniors are honored at mid-court before the game. It's a day where Kentucky rolls out the blue carpet for its special honorees.

Not to take anything away from seniors Roger Harden and Leroy Byrd, the main man on this day will be the guy known as Sky-Walker.

You've come a long way, baby.

"When he first started playing, there was something about him being the baby of the family," said George Walker, Kenny's oldest brother. "He was relatively small and would start crying because he wasn't big enough to come out and really play."

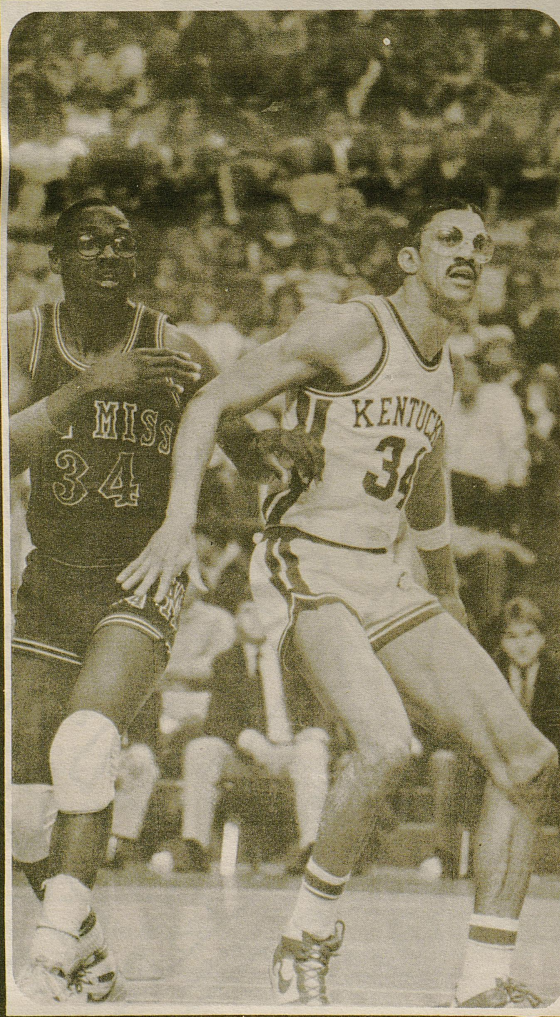
Kenneth Walker, now a giant on the hardwood at 6-foot-8 and 210 pounds, is the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Walker. According to Kenny, his basketball days began at the age of "eight or nine."

"Basketball is something that kind of ran in my family," remembered the UK forward. "I have three brothers and they are all older than I am. Two of 'em (Jerome, 6-6 and Lewis 6-4) played basketball, not for any colleges but in high school. I basically wanted to follow in their footsteps."

Today, the "baby" of the Walker household is one of 11 outstanding prospects considered for the John R. Wooden Award given to the nation's top collegiate player.

In hot pursuit of UK's No. 2 all-time scorer Jack Givens, Kenny Walker has physically matured since coming to Lexington as a skinny, but talented recruit. However, success hasn't changed the native of Roberta, Ga., as far as his working attitude is concerned. . . at least that's how people close to the program see it.

"I'm really going to miss Kenny as a player. . . but Kenny Walker leaves a higher void than that," said UK equipment manager Bill Keightley.



While working with the Wildcats for the past 24 seasons, Keightley has seen some of the best talent to ever don the Blue and White.

"He's one of the hardest workers I've ever seen," said Keightley of Walker. "Today, I always point out to the young players that all they need to do is watch Kenny Walker in practice and they'll learn to play the game. There's only one way to play it and that's all-out, all of the time."

Working 11 years as equipment manager on game days for the late Adolph Rupp, plus 13 years with Joe B. Hall, Keightley has operated along side many of the legendary Wildcats. He's seen the likes of Pursiful, Nash, Issel, Riley, Parker, Greavy, Macy, Givens, Bowie and now Walker, the latest in the line of Kentucky's all-time greats. Though he compares Walker "very favorable with anyone who ever came through this place as a complete player," he sheds away from saying who's the best.

"As Coach Rupp said, 'All you're going to do is make one guy happy and alienate everyone else.'"

"Kenny has never changed," said former UK player Charles Hurt. The Shelby County product was a senior member of the Wildcats when Walker was a mere freshman.

"He's one of those guys who comes into a program, that he does everything that he's asked to do. He plays hard all the time. He's a super person and a good player."

"I've always said that good things happen to good people."

It's obvious that Walker will be one of top picks in the upcoming NBA draft. How he'll perform his another question all together. Or is it?

"I think he'll do real well in the pros because he really hasn't shown what he can do," said teammate James Blackmon. "Kenny has an excellent outside touch and has good quickness. I think he can run up and down the court better than anybody I've seen in the NBA."

*Said Ed Davender, Walker's teammate and roommate for the past two years, "There's no doubt that he'll do well in the pros. In college they don't play him man-to-man. He can really excel against the man-to-man."

*"Whatever he wants to do, Kenny Walker can do it," said Hurt.



"As far as where he plays, George Walker hinted with a smile that he "wouldn't mind seeing him play for the Lakers or the Celtics."

While leaving behind the college days at Kentucky, Walker has many things to look forward to — starting a life in the NBA, a possible big figure and long-term contract, displaying his talents against the best round-ball artists in the world, and... no more zone defenses.

"The NBA is kind of a scary situation for me, especially after last year as it came up all the time," Walker said.

After leading the conference in both scoring (22.9) and rebounding (10.2), many figured the junior sensation would be bound for the pros. However, answering his parents' wishes of obtaining a college degree in Telecommunications, Walker decided to stay at the university for his senior season. According to him there really wasn't a decision to make.

Of course, to Wildcat fans and new coach Eddie Sutton's delight, Walker's fourth year at UK meant he would still be performing awesome dunks for the 'Cats.

"The more time I spent thinking about the NBA the more I wanted to go. First of all you think about the money and second you think about fulfilling a childhood dream," Walker remembered last season of tossing around the idea of entering a hardship situation.

"This year I know it's my last year. I just want to concentrate on helping the team win. I'm putting the team first, because we're having such a great season right now. If we keep improving there's a great chance we can go a long way in the NCAA Tournament and possibly end up in Dallas."

Ex-UK great Sam Bowie, one of the players

Walker said he looked up to during his first two years at Kentucky, told him that the most difficult thing about the professional ranks is the transition from college to pro ball. "But he said that it was fun... and I expect it will be a whole lot of fun for me also."

It's going to be especially fun since the zone is outlawed in the NBA, right Kenny?

"I would like to see the man-to-man any night opposed to teams playing zone."

'Life-after-basketball' should be very promising to Walker, whom still considers himself a small-town person. In fact, Central Kentucky is where he would like to call home after he hangs up the sneakers and goggles.

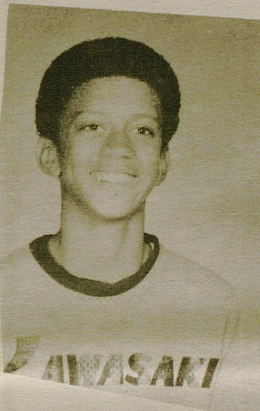
"After the NBA I can see myself settling down in the Lexington area," he said. "I've made a lot of contacts here and it's been really, really great for me to come to Lexington. It's an area where I would want my kids to grow up in."

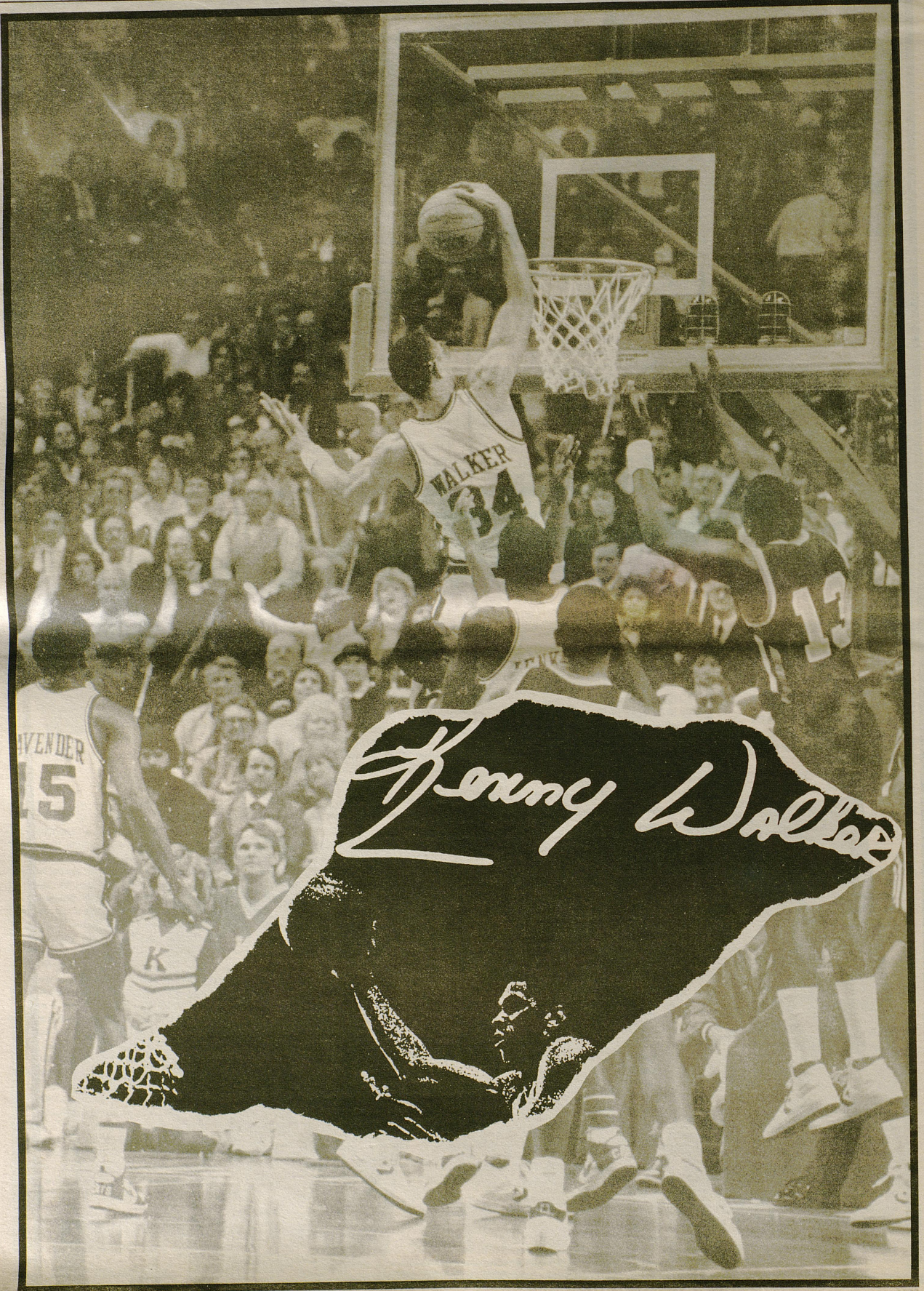
Following in the footsteps of Jack 'Goose' Givens is the type of situation Walker's looking for. This season Givens has covered college games for UK, ESPN and NBC-TV and is considered one of the top newcomers in the business.

After his pro career Kentucky fans may see 'Sky' still closely followed on the hardwood by the TV cameras, but this time with a microphone in hand.

"I worked for Kenny Rice (sports director) out at Channel 36 for two semesters," said Walker. "It was good for me because it gave me the opportunity to go out and get some ex-

[Continued On Page 11]





First Of Three-Part Series On '86 UK Seniors

[Continued From Page 9]

perience and see what it was like to work at a TV station. Kenny gave me a lot of freedom to go out and do my own stories."

At the Lexington station Walker was involved with horse-related stories for ESPN by doing some on the scene interviewing. His work also evolved around the Cincinnati Reds and UK football.

"When my playing career is over I think that I can draw people a perfect picture as far as how the game is being played and give my own personal insights."

Walker has caught the imagination of Wildcat fans everywhere ever since an eye-catching dunk against Notre Dame in December of his rookie season.

It seems like only yesterday when, as a sophomore, his jumper bounced around the cylinder and fell through as time ran out giving Kentucky an SEC Tournament championship.

Time flies when you're having fun.

"(Against Notre Dame in 1982) I had probably one of the most exciting plays in my career," said Walker of the dunk in the 'Cats' 58-45 win in South Bend. "It was a close ballgame, but I was in the game for 21 minutes because Melvin Turpin was in foul trouble. That was really the start of me getting a whole lot of playing time."

"Going to the Final Four and looking back on that last-second shot against Auburn (SEC tourney) are probably the two things that stick out more than anything."

"My career here has been fun and very exciting."

Fun is what Walker has had so far in his final campaign. Though double and triple teaming concepts have harassed the forward throughout the season, he's still having fun.

Prior to the start of his senior campaign he expressed to the media the need for self-happiness. As Walker said at the SEC Media Days in Lexington, "I want to have more fun this year."

Averaging 19 points and 7.5 rebounds entering the final leg of SEC play would please most players and fans alike. During preseason, however, Walker was unjustly billed by everyone concerned. People were expecting 25 to 30-point performances matched with 10 to 15-rebound efforts game after game.

Facing sagging defenses or box-and-ones geared to stopping the UK star, along with a strong returning nucleus, Big Blue sup-

porters realistically couldn't expect him to improve on his '85 statistics. They did, however.

The senior forward and Eddie Sutton would probably agree that Kenny Walker is more of a complete player than a year ago.

"Here's an All-American: eight out of 12 (from the field); seven out of seven (free throws); 10 rebounds; no turnovers; and a great defensive effort," said Sutton of Walker after a recent victory over Florida. "Now, if those aren't All-American stats then he ought to be Player of the Year."

When your team has just racked up its 23rd win in 26 tries and clinched an SEC Title, 30-point performances don't seem as important.

There's no telling what Walker will be thinking about Saturday when he runs through his personal paper hoop held by his parents and brothers.

The clutch shot against Auburn, playing for Joe Hall and Eddie Sutton, friendships gained on and off the court, or his accomplishments while at the university might be banging around inside his head during pre-game ceremonies.

Said Hurt of Walker's regular season home finale, "I'm sure he'll be on a lot more winning teams, but he'll never forget the feeling of the night he comes out on the floor against LSU."

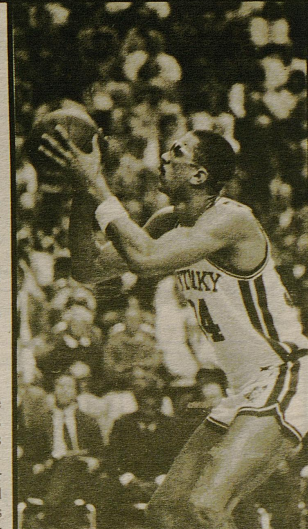
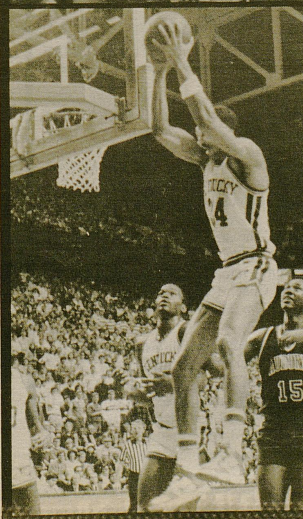
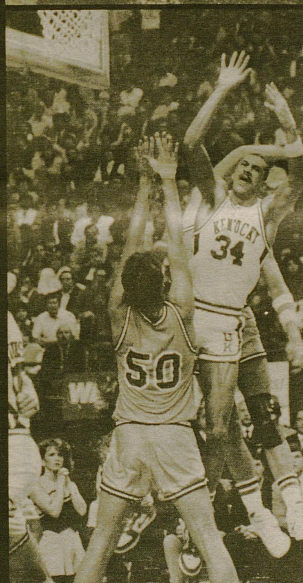
While most fans will remember Walker as Kentucky's scoring machine of the '80s, those closer to him realize his friendship is more valuable than his patented turnaround jumper.

Whether it's helping freshmen Wildcats learn the ropes of collegiate life or by visiting children in the hospital, Walker has always had time to give.

"How ever good a basketball player Kenny Walker is," Keightley said, "he's 10 times a better person. He's one of the greatest kids who has ever come through here. He's a very humble, unspoiled person."

The Kentucky senior, in Kenny Walker-like fashion, reflected on his experiences at his soon-to-be favorite alma mata.

"What's going through my mind right now is that this career has been a great one. I've made a lot of friends and met a lot of people along the way. It's all about to come to an end right now. Somehow or another, though, you wish that you could stretch it on for a little while longer, but as they say all good things must come to an end."



McBrayer Not Afraid To Tell It Like It Is

Was Adolph Rupp's First Assistant

Paul McBrayer, who was the late University of Kentucky head coach Adolph Rupp's first assistant, is basketball crazy.

And if you want an opinion on anything to do with the roundball game, he's not afraid to give it to you. After all, he used to walk over five miles to get home after playing a basketball game when he was in high school because he loved the sport so much. So why shouldn't he have something to say about it. Right?

*Like about the lack of discipline amongst today's so-called stars.

"I don't think the talent is as developed today," said McBrayer, who was the head coach at Eastern Kentucky University from 1946-62. "It's not good, sound fundamental basketball like we once learned. For example, the defenses these teams play today. It may be called a zone, but it's a wad to me."



Mel Holbrook

Cats' Pause Columnist

*Or what he calls the tremendous pressure on prep athletes today, especially at UK. "It's ridiculous to give guys that kind of publicity before they ever put on a blue and white uniform," McBrayer stated. "Look at the (Rex) Chapman kid (of Owensboro Apollo). He's already under all kinds of pressure and he hasn't even played here yet! That's bad. Once a player signs a basketball scholarship at Kentucky, the fans expect to see one of the greatest players in the world instead of what he is, an 18-year old kid. It's ridiculous. As soon as a kid can dribble between his legs and dunk the ball, he thinks he ought to have an NBA (National Basketball Association) contract."

*Read enough? How about the way McBrayer feels about Rupp's rejection when he returned from the service in 1946.

"I had been at Kentucky for nine years, 1934-43, when I enlisted in the service because of World War II," McBrayer explained. "(Bernie) Shively said Adolph didn't want me back anymore. Some of my friends thought I was doing a good job here. But Shively said some people were giving me too much credit for the program's success and that Adolph didn't like it. I was destroyed. I loved that school (UK). It hurt me awful bad. It still hurts today. Adolph didn't want to give any of his assistants any credit. And there's enough credit to go around. I would have felt better if Rupp had come to me and told me himself. At no time in my life would I have wanted to take his job."

McBrayer Says Mauer Started Kentucky Basketball

McBrayer, now 76-years old, played under John Mauer at Kentucky from 1926-30. Rupp arrived as head coach the fall of 1930, and McBrayer became The Baron's first full-time assistant. But McBrayer thought a lot of Mauer.

"He was responsible for the start of basketball at Kentucky," said McBrayer. "He brought the first screens to the South. He taught exceptionally good fundamentals and started a big improvement." Mauer was 40-14 in three seasons at UK.

"And there's no comparison between the way the game is played now and when I played," McBrayer continued. "We had a center jump after one of the teams scored. We didn't have any 10-second lines. We didn't have a six-foot lane. On offense, you could stay in the middle on offense as long as you wanted to. There was always a big delay after each possession because you had to jump it up after every basket. And if you didn't have a center who could control the tip you wouldn't see the ball for a long time."

McBrayer was a 6-4 guard, big for those days but commonplace today. Still, he was one of the biggest players on the team.

"Our opponents thought we had a tremendous team, size wise," McBrayer explained. "Up until that time, big people weren't recruited that much to play basketball because they were thought to be too clumsy. But today, the kids are bigger, faster, quicker. The big change came when the black athlete showed up. That's made all the difference in the world."

McBrayer said it was Rupp's ability to choose which athletes he wanted for his teams that made The Baron so successful.

"There's not any denying that the man had something extra. He really knew how to pick them," said McBrayer. "Of course, every kid in the country wanted to get on a team like that. But he didn't really start to get top-flight material until after the war. Once that happened, Coach Rupp took off. Chances are there won't be anybody come along and break his won-loss record."

McBrayer's Feats At Eastern Will Be Hard To Match

It may take awhile for someone to match McBrayer's feats at Eastern Kentucky University, too. McBrayer went to what was then known as Eastern Kentucky State College when he was 37-years old. In the 16 years he coached at Eastern, the Colonels won the Ohio Valley Conference tournament championship two times and the OVC's regular-season title thrice. EKV also made two NCAA tournament appearances during

McBrayer's tenure, which ended in 1962. "The thing I got the biggest kick out of was being able to raise Eastern out of the NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics) into the NCAA Div. I," said McBrayer.

But he added that it was tough to coach at EKV then not only because Richmond is virtually in UK's shadow but also because of the prominence of the basketball programs at other state schools during that period.

"Western Kentucky (University) got a lot of boys from their area and the University of Louisville had a good program, too," McBrayer said. "I may not have gotten most of the glamour boys but during my coaching career only one player I ever recruited and signed to a scholarship didn't graduate, and that was because he got married when he was a sophomore and quit college."

McBrayer says today's student-athletes are spoiled by the excellent treatment they get. And that bothers him a lot.



Paul McBrayer

"We had no alumni support then," he stated. "Myself, I had to work in the school cafeteria when I was in school. I made 30 cents an hour carrying dirty dishes around, and I had to eat on that. We'd work about three or four hours a day and still have to practice, too. That's the kind of help you got back in those days."

McBrayer says today's UK basketball players ought to feel lucky that they get to play in as beautiful a facility as Rupp Arena.

"Alumni Gym looked like a fabulous place to me," he stressed. "I played many a game in Alumni Gym where the people would stand the whole game. There was a tremendous interest in Lexington about basketball even then. I remember when some out-of-town reporters would come to our practices and ask Coach Rupp how many fans had attended a previous game that week. Rupp would say, 'Oh, about 8,000. Isn't that right, McBrayer?' Alumni Gym only seats 2,800."

McBrayer says that he used to play before some packed gymnasiums when he was at Kavanaugh High School in nearby Ninevah, a town in rural Anderson County. "We didn't have a place to play when I was first growing up," McBrayer explained. "We took the steel tires off buggy wheels and a basket and nailed it to a tree. We didn't have any basketballs but used rubber balls about the size of today's volleyball that were sold at grocery stores in the area. Then we used the old laced-up basketballs. But when one of those got a bad spot in it, you had to make sure you dribbled it on the side opposite the bump."

[Continued On Page 17]

Yarano Hopes To Make Headlines With Success

Don And Brother Have Played In Six Bowl Games

The offensive center who snaps the ball on speciality teams has a thankless task. Far too often his job goes unnoticed and is taken for granted. That's the way it is in college football when you're not carrying the pigskin and accumulating all those quarterback sacks from the defensive side of the field.

In Don Yarano's case, he accepts his duty in a position where he is practically put into a 'no win' situation.

"It's like an expected operation," said Yarano of his role on field goal and extra point situations for the Wildcats. "If the ball goes through the uprights the kicker did a great job, but if something happens because of a bad snap then your name comes out in big print."



Todd Hallum

Cats' Pause Columnist

Yarano's name did make headlines three years ago when Kentucky faced Georgia in Stanford Stadium. With UK protecting a seven-point lead midway into the second quarter, Yarano had the misfortune of snapping the ball over punter Paul Calhoun, deep in Kentucky territory.

"Everybody knew my name when that happened," remembered Yarano. "Fortunately, they only got a field goal out of it.

"The only responsibility is to snap the ball and try to stay strong in there as long as you can. You can take some nasty shots when you are snapping for field goals and extra points."



Linebacker Don Yarano

However, Yarano aspires to become recognized for his defensive exploits at linebacker. At 6-foot-2, 225 pounds Yarano doesn't possess outstanding speed or quickness but makes up for that deficiency with his smarts and awareness of UK's defensive philosophy. "I think I know our defense well," said Yarano. "At times I can take chances because I know where everybody is going to be at."

Although he's a solid tackler at linebacker, Yarano realizes his limitations and indicates that his pass protection has been a flaw that needs more work.

"My biggest weakness is pass drops," said the native of Zanesville, Ohio. "I can get back alright but it's breaking on the ball which is my toughest problem."

As a linebacker in UK's wide-tackle-six alignment, Yarano has a disliking for opposing centers.

"I hate centers," he chuckled. "In our defense the center is always open (not covered by a defensive lineman). They usually try to 'chop block' you. You have to hit them and try to shed them as quickly as possible."

With players such as Larry Smith, Chris Chenault, Jeff Kremer, and Guy Neal returning for next season, Yarano sees his fellow *backers* becoming one of the team's strengths.

"The linebacker situation is shaping up really well," he explained. "We all can play. You can put both teams of players in there and you're going to get the same quality of play from any of the linebackers."

What Yarano has surmised is that all of the returning linebackers have seen plenty of action and are accustomed to game-type conditions.

"Experience is always a big key," said Yarano. "It's hard to make up for it."

Brother Played For Big Ten's Wolverines

At Zanesville High School, Yarano was elected to two all-state teams as a tight end (third team) and a defensive end (second team) and grew up following in his brother's footsteps. Dan Yarano was a standout performer for Zanesville and went on to become a starting offensive tackle at the University of Michigan.

"When I was in high school everybody would always compare Dan to me," said the younger Yarano. "At first I didn't like being compared to him, but after a while I took it as a compliment and realized how good my brother was, since he went to Michigan. I wanted to try to be as good as he was."

"We get along really great. I know now what he's been through at Michigan and I can relate to it. He had the glory of going to four different bowl games (Rose, Sugar, Gator and Bluebonnet) and I have been to two bowl games myself."

Furthermore, Yarano does see some similarities between his brother's coach — Bo Schembechler — and Jerry Claiborne.

"They both want the best out of your ability," said Yarano. "That's how they have produced winning teams. You can't argue with either one's record. They also want you to do well academically."

What Yarano would like to do in the future is to further his knowledge under Claiborne after he earns his degree in physical education.

"I would like to stay on as a graduate assistant, especially under Coach Claiborne because you can learn a lot from him," said Yarano, who'll be a senior member on the '86 Wildcat squad.

Always Been Interested In Coaching

"It would be nice to coach in college but if not it would be nice to help build a high school program and try to win a state championship somewhere.

"I have always been interested in coaching. During the summer I have worked in a football camp at my high school and helped out with the linebackers."

Both Yarano and Claiborne have intentions of amending last year's disconcerting 5-6 season by regaining that much needed 'intensity' to accomplish a winning season.

"We lost a little bit of our intensity after the Hall of Fame Bowl," Yarano said. "After we went 9-3 it was like we had accomplished our goals so quickly."

"But, I think we will regain that intensity and the competitive attitude back again."

UK Sports Notebook

Linebacker **Chris Chenault** was selected second team freshmen All-American by *Football News*. Chenault, who showed great promise as a college rookie, will be a major force in UK's defensive scheme next season. . . Kentucky has not signed its full allotment of scholarships and the coaching staff will remain on the recruiting trail for high school recruits. This is not an unusual occurrence for **Jerry Claiborne** and his staff. When Claiborne was at **Maryland** the recruiting campaign was usually not over until the end of spring. Look for the Wildcat staff to sign a few more players in the near future and save some grant-in-aids for walk-ons who might make an impact.



Chenault



Claiborne

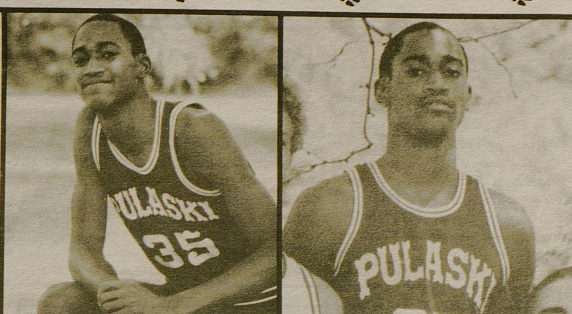
Tracking Future University Of Kentucky Wildcats



Rex Chapman

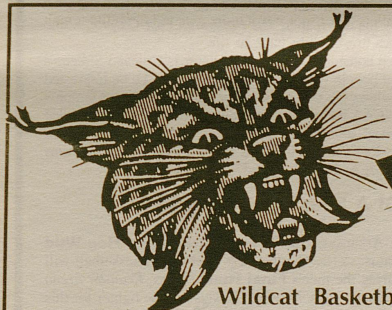
Opponent	Score	FGM-FTA	PCT	FTM-FTA	PCT	REB	A	PF	TO	S	TPS
Madisonville	73-68	10-16	62.5	5-5	100.0	7	4	4	2	0	25
Henderson	98-83	7-19	36.8	14-15	93.3	7	5	1	3	1	28
Davies County	62-49	9-19	47.4	7-7	100.0	5	3	1	2	0	25
Owensboro	64-62	11-22	50.0	8-10	80.0	7	5	1	1	2	30
O'boro Catholic	77-47	6-11	54.5	5-9	62.5	2	7	4	1	4	17
Lou. Southern	68-54	12-27	44.4	4-5	80.0	7	4	3	4	5	28
Lou. PHP	63-70	12-25	48.0	6-7	85.7	7	1	3	1	0	30
Clark County	54-49	9-21	42.9	1-1	100.0	7	4	1	6	0	19
Carson (Cal)	61-57	9-21	42.9	1-1	100.0	7	4	1	6	0	19
Bowling Green	70-49	10-15	66.7	5-5	100.0	1	5	1	4	2	25
O'boro Catholic	73-38	8-15	53.3	3-4	75.0	11	3	4	1	1	19
Owensboro	65-75	8-21	38.1	3-8	37.5	11	6	3	3	0	19
Breckinridge	55-54	9-20	45.0	9-10	90.0	7	7	4	2	2	20
Central City	66-52	8-20	40.0	4-6	66.7	8	5	2	2	2	20
McLean County	78-58	8-15	53.3	1-2	50.0	7	6	3	1	2	17
Lou. Ballard	79-76	17-23	73.9	11-16	88.8	10	7	5	3	3	45
Lou. PHP	48-49	8-25	32.0	6-6	100.0	10	2	0	3	1	22
Owensboro	55-67	9-23	39.1	5-6	83.3	3	3	1	4	0	23
West Hopkins	69-66	Did Not Play (Flu)									
Bowling Green	59-42	9-21	40.9	8-9	88.8	8	3	0	3	4	26
Bullitt East	64-60	9-18	50.0	8-9	88.8	12	5	2	3	3	23
Otlio County	75-51	12-19	63.2	3-3	100.0	7	7	1	3	3	27
Davies County	82-54	9-15	60.0	10-11	90.9	14	9	1	2	3	28
O'boro Catholic	92-59	7-19	36.8	8-9	88.9	13	7	3	2	2	22
Meade County	88-68	19-32	59.4	1-2	50.0	16	5	3	2	1	39
Union County	72-69	16-28	57.1	9-10	90.0	9	3	2	4	3	41
Henry Clay	68-67	16-31	51.6	5-5	100.0	13	4	1	2	4	37
Totals		265-530	50.0	146-175	83.4	213	124	57	66	46	674

(Legend: Score, Score Of Game, FGM=Field Goals Made, FTM=Free Throws Made, PCT=Percentage, TP=Total Points Scored, OR=Offensive Rebounds, DR=Defensive Rebounds, TR=Total Rebounds, TO=Turnovers, S=Steals, A=Assists, BS=Blocked Shots, PF=Personal Fouls)



Reggie Hanson

Opponent	Score	FGM-FTA	PCT	FTM-FTA	PCT	TPS	OR	DR	TR	S	A	BS	PF
Monticello	66-58	10-14	71.0	2-2	100.0	22	4	5	9	11	5	1	8
Danville	66-43	10-19	53.0	9-10	90.0	29	5	7	12	3	4	1	2
Corbin	71-48	8-11	73.0	5-5	100.0	21	2	8	10	2	1	0	3
Bryan Station	58-55	9-17	53.0	11-12	92.0	29	3	4	7	3	4	2	4
Lou. Seneca	60-62	3-8	38.0	1-1	100.0	7	6	3	9	1	3	1	3
Lou. Fairdale	70-58	12-18	67.0	13-15	87.0	37	3	6	9	6	5	1	2
Lou. Southern	68-51	11-18	61.0	11-12	92.0	33	4	10	14	3	4	1	0
Kirby (Tenn)	50-52	13-18	72.0	6-6	100.0	32	5	5	10	5	4	1	0
Monticello	80-61	14-18	78.0	6-7	86.0	34	3	9	12	3	6	1	4
Wolfe County	80-49	6-13	46.0	3-3	100.0	15	4	12	16	2	4	2	6
Somerset	80-48	8-13	62.0	5-7	71.0	21	2	12	14	5	4	1	3
Wayne County	60-35	6-12	50.0	5-6	83.0	17	6	6	12	1	6	0	2
Jackson Co.	46-33	9-12	75.0	6-6	100.0	24	3	9	12	1	3	0	11
Harrodsburg	69-50	11-21	52.0	7-9	78.0	29	7	4	11	3	3	1	8
Somerset	80-61	8-9	89.0	13-14	93.0	29	1	14	15	3	2	1	5
Tates Creek	72-70	9-6	50.0	9-9	100.0	15	2	7	9	2	5	0	5
Clay County	50-48	5-10	50.0	6-6	100.0	16	3	3	6	1	2	0	2
Monticello	63-55	5-10	50.0	0-2	0.0	10	3	8	11	3	3	3	1
Laurel County	72-70	12-18	66.0	8-10	80.0	32	6	5	11	2	1	2	2
Sheldon Clark	73-69	6-10	60.0	10-11	90.9	21	2	6	8	3	3	0	3
Mullins	66-48	10-11	90.9	1-1	100.0	21	6	5	11	2	6	0	8
Pulaski County Did Not Play This Week Because Of Snow													
Sheldon Clark	65-47	12-25	48.0	4-4	100.0	28	2	7	9	1	3	1	3
Mullins	76-50	5-8	63.0	5-6	83.0	15	1	6	7	2	5	1	4
Totals		196-319	61.1	146-164	89.1	537	83	161	244	68	83	19	89



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What Do Conference Tournaments Resolve?

Big Ten May Have Mystery Guest In Final Four

At the risk of being that proverbial voice in the wilderness, I'd like to call for a moment of silence here as the concept of athletics for the fun of it versus the utter greed-baggery of this nation's colleges enters its most stressful week. Of course, I speak about post season conference basketball tournaments.

There will be 64 teams invited to the NCAA tournament and we can already take a pretty certain guess at who'll be on the invitee list, so why a post-season conference tournament? Are we concerned about the well-being of our student/athletes? Are we resolving anything meaningful in a basketball sense? You know the answer.



Larry Donald

Cats' Pause Columnist

No, what we do with these three of four day mardi gras things is generate more money for the member schools. We steal from the athlete's strength and sap the game's integrity so the bottom line will be more palatable. It's a terribly sad commentary on a world already overloaded with grief.

Are you surprised there's been no media rush at this year's **Notre Dame** team? After all the Irish are going to surpass the 20-win mark, have an All-American type player in guard **David Rivers** and could even become a factor in post season play. Yet headlines nationally have been sparse for **Digger Phelps'** club. Try this explanation: Last year's NCAA first round was played on Notre Dame's chummy home floor.

This year's national television appearances by the Irish have given new definition to the meaning of "stacked deck." They played **North Carolina** a few hours after the Tar Heels won an emotional game over Georgia Tech. Then came the victory over Syracuse in the **Carrier Dome** (also in the middle of the Orangemen's Big East season) and finally came the game with **Duke**, which played at North Carolina State on the previous evening.

In truth the Irish haven't had much success despite some obvious advantages which apparently has led basketball thinkers to conclude this team hasn't proven much at all.

Harter Could Be Candidate At Minnesota

A viable candidate for the Minnesota coaching job could be **Dick Harter**, currently an assistant with the NBA Detroit Pistons and formerly head coach at Oregon and Penn State. Harter would provide the high profile type coach which the Minnesota administration says it desires.

Jack Hartman, ex of Kansas State, is said to be interested in the **Florida State** job, but officials there want an aggressive, young coach and may be leaning toward a prominent assistant. What scares prospective candidates for the **Pittsburgh** job is the unanswered questions of NCAA probation. Temple's **John Chaney** appears to be the forerunner.

Miami of Florida would be a more serious candidate to join the Metro Conference if athletic director **Sam Jankovich** was better liked in that league.

Mentioning the **Metro**, what about the rumors which suggest **Alabama-Birmingham** is interested in becoming a member? Ironically, UAB's albatross may be the lack of a football program as well as the fact it isn't particularly strong in other non-revenue sports. Serious trouble, I'm told, for **Bill Foster** at South Carolina and that's a shame. This is a fine man and coach.

Bobby Knight at Ohio State? Yes, I am aware this is a business where the word "never" shouldn't be seen in print, but let's call that one a loooooong shot. Contrary to what's been said, **Don DeVoe** of Tennessee would accept the Buckeye job if it was offered to him.

Could Frieder Be Lured Away With Big Bucks?

Here's another interesting thought: Would Michigan's **Bill Frieder** listen to a big money offer from some school as his old boss **Johnny Orr** did a few years ago? Frieder probably earns just in excess of \$100,000 at Michigan, not big money by major college coaching standards today.

Coach-of-the-Year balloting will center on two men, Duke's **Mike Krzyzewski** and North Carolina's **Dean Smith**. However, I think you could make a great case for Bradley's **Dick Versace**. This is a man whose career was on the ropes a year ago and now he's got a top ten club. I'll give you the fact this is a down year in the Missouri Valley Conference (too many young players), but if you think it's easy winning on the road in this league you've missed a beat along the way. His club has taken the best shot of every opponent and lost just once. Not only that it is a young enough team to be a factor for the next two years. *Let's give the guy credit.*

I keep hearing the name St. Joseph's **Maurice Martin** when pro scouts gather. Another popular mention is Miami's **Ron Harper**. Ask about St. John's **Walter Berry** and you get a variety of reviews. Well, heck, who ever heard of **Joe Dumars** at this time a year ago?

The slow lane seems to be agreeing with **Abe Lemons** and Oklahoma City. At last



Bobby Knight



Digger Phelps

look Abe's team was sporting a 17-3 mark and was ranked among the NAIA's top ten. It is OCU's first year of NAIA play after dropping out of Division I last year.

Thompson Will Be Happy To See Jensen Depart

Do you think John Thompson will send Villanova's **Harold Jensen** a congratulatory telegram when this youngster graduates from college. Talk about *de ja vu*.

If you are from the Pittsburgh area or just have some fond memories of the **Dapper Dan Roundball Classic**, there's a new book detailing the game's history you shouldn't be without. Called "The Classic Years" this soft-cover volume is expertly written by **Phil Axelrod** and is published by his newspaper, *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. Some great names and some great games are brought back to life.

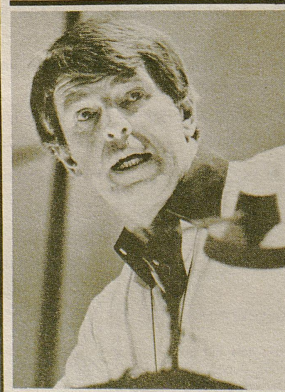
A prepster whose stock has risen considerably over the winter is Chicago Simeon's **Nick Anderson**. He's got a lot of people very interested now. I'd be interested to know how the legal profession views the two-game suspension handed to Memphis State's **William Bedford** by the NCAA because he was guilty of driving booster owned automobiles on several occasions. And, along that line, I remember coach **Dana Kirk's** comment when Bedford's transgressions came to light last spring. "How many programs do you know where a 7-foot star has to borrow a car?" he said.

A Disaster Of A Season At Arkansas

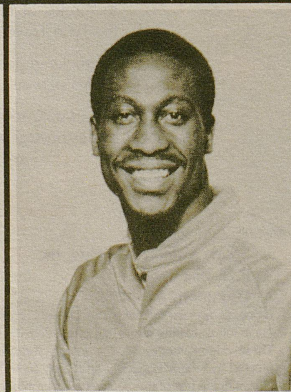
It's been a disastrous season at Arkansas, but I'm here to tell you the **Hog Wild** band hasn't lost its number one status. The toughest weekend in basketball will be endured by NCAA officials during the men's **Final Four**. Dallas' **Reunion Arena** is beautiful, but it's woefully inadequate, capacity wise. Tickets will be tighter for this Final Four than any in recent memory. And if **Lexington** was the last small city to host a final for the foreseeable future then certainly **Reunion Arena** will be the smallest with its 16,500 capacity.

Mentioning that, you probably want to know who'll be there. Really, I have no idea, but if it's a guess you want then jot these names down: **North Carolina, Duke, Memphis State** and the mystery guest, Purdue.

Remember, I said "guess!"



Bill Foster



Walter Berry

Notes And Tidbits On The 'Cats, Vols And Tigers

Kentucky vs. Tennessee

Thursday, February 27, 1986

Stokely Athletics Center - Knoxville, Tenn. - capacity: 12,700

8:05 p.m. EST

LORIMAR SEC TV NETWORK (Tom Hammond and Joe Dean) - Seen regionally throughout the Southeast. Also seen nationally on USA CABLE.

UK RADIO NETWORK (Cawood Ledford and Ralph Hacker) - 90+ stations throughout Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia, Tennessee and Arkansas, including two 50,000-watt stations (WHAS/Louisville and WKYC/Cincinnati)

Kentucky vs. LSU

Saturday, March 1, 1986

Rupp Arena - Lexington, Ky. - capacity: 23,000

3:05 p.m. EST

NBC TELEVISION NETWORK (Dick Enberg and Al McGuire) - Seen nationally on NBC-TV.

UK RADIO NETWORK

THE COACHES:

EDDIE SUTTON was named Kentucky's head coach April 2, 1985, becoming only the third coach in 55 years at UK. And it hasn't taken long for Sutton to make his mark. With his Wildcats racing out to a 24-3 record, the Bucklin, Kansas, native has become the most successful first-year coach in the history of the Southeastern Conference. Prior to coming to Lexington, Sutton was at Arkansas for 11 years, where he compiled a winning percentage of .77.6, averaging nearly 24 wins a season. His Razorback teams won five Southwest Conference titles and made nine straight trips to the NCAA Tournament - a feat matched only by North Carolina. Sutton's overall 17th-year college coaching record now stands at 366-128.

DON DEVOE is now in his 8th season at Tennessee, where he has compiled a 155-95 (.620) record. His 15th-year career record now stands at 272-165. DeVoe's record against Kentucky is 9-7.

DALE BROWN is now in his 14th season at LSU, where he has compiled a 252-148 record. His record against Kentucky is 11-19.

Kentucky Wildcats (24-3; 15-1 SEC Champions)

		PPG	RPG
F 34 - Kenny Walker (6-8 senior)		19.2	7.6
F 25 - Winston Bennett (6-7 junior)		13.2	6.8
G 10 - James Blackmon (6-3 junior)		9.3	3.9
G 15 - Ed Davender (6-2 sophomore)		12.4	2.6
G 23 - Roger Harden (6-1 senior)		6.7	2.1 (6.9 assists)

THE SERIES:

Kentucky leads the series with Tennessee that dates back to 1910, 105-53. The Wildcats own more victories over the Volunteers than any other school. And while Kentucky has won four of the last six meetings between the two teams, the Volunteers remain a nemesis for Kentucky at Knoxville's Stokely Center. The Wildcats have not defeated UT there since 1978. The series record in Knoxville is tied at 35-35. Earlier this season, Kentucky crushed the Vols at Rupp Arena by 17 points, 74-57. Winston Bennett led the way for Kentucky with a career-high 26 points. Kenny Walker added 17 for UK. Guard Tony White paced the Volunteers with 28 points.

Kentucky leads the series with LSU that dates back to 1933, 54-12. The Wildcats have won four of the last five meetings between the two teams. LSU's record in Lexington now stands at 2-25. Earlier this season, UK's Roger Harden connected on a 24-foot jumper from the top of the key at the buzzer to give Kentucky a 54-52 victory. The Bayou Bengals were playing without leading scorer John Williams, who was in street clothes on the bench because of a case of chicken pox. The Wildcats placed four players in double figures with Winston Bennett leading the way with 17. Guard Derrick Taylor led LSU with 20, while Don Redden added 18.

THE WILDCATS:

The dynasty continues! The Wildcats captured the school's 36th Southeastern Conference title in the 53-year history of the league with an 80-75 victory over Georgia Saturday afternoon in Athens. It marks the 29th time that UK has claimed sole possession of the crown and also marks the fourth time in the last five years that Kentucky has come out on top of the SEC. Kentucky's dominance of SEC basketball continues to be perhaps the greatest supremacy enjoyed by any team in any sport.

Forwards Kenny Walker and Winston Bennett paced the Wildcats with 22 and 20 points, respectively, as Kentucky downed Georgia before the NBC-TV audience and the largest crowd in Athens this season (10,826) Saturday afternoon. Junior guard James Blackmon added 16 points. Horace McMillan and Donald Hartry shared high-scoring honors for Georgia with 14 each. After the game, Coach Eddie Sutton led his team on the floor to cut down the nets, celebrating the Wildcats' SEC championship.

* - Kentucky's 24-4 record is the best mark after 27 games since the 1977-78 National Championship squad. That team finished 30-2.
* - Kentucky defeated both LSU and Alabama on the road this season, the first time that has happened since the 1976-77 season.
* - Much of Kentucky's success this season can be attributed to the Wildcats' defensive efforts. UK has forced its opponents into an average of 16.2 turnovers a game, while committing only 12.4 a contest. The Cats have picked up 217 steals this season to just 146 for the opponents.

KENTUCKY'S RECORD WHEN:

Ahead at the half: 24-1
Behind at the half: 0-2
The Cats outrebound the opponent: 14-2
The Cats are outrebounded: 9-1 (1-0 when tied)
The Cats shoot better than 50% from the floor: 18-0
The Cats shoot less than 50% from the floor: 6-3
The opponent shoots more than 50% from the floor: 14-2
The opponent shoots less than 50% from the floor: 10-1

"SKY" WATCH:

Kentucky's "Player of the Year" candidate, Kenny Walker, enjoyed an outstanding week last week. The All-American forward scored 45 points and pulled down 19 rebounds in games against Flor-

ida and Georgia as the Wildcats clinched the SEC title. "Sky" Walker connected on 18-of-25 from the floor, 9-of-9 from the foul line, blocked five shots and did not commit a turnover. The Roberts, Ga., native has now scored 1,878 career points at Kentucky, which places him third on UK's all-time scoring list. He is now 160 points shy of number two Jack Givens and 260 points shy of the all-time leading scorer in UK history, Dan Issel. Walker continues to pace the Wildcats in scoring (19.2), rebounding (7.6) and blocked shots (32). He has scored in double figures in 36 consecutive games.

CAT SCANS:

Walker and junior guard James Blackmon were named Co-MVP's of the Kentucky-Georgia game Saturday afternoon by the Atlanta UK Alumni Club. Blackmon had a good week last week, scoring 26 points on 13-of-22 shooting against Florida and Georgia....Barring an accident of some sort, senior guard Roger Harden should become UK's all-time leading single-season assist man. With his 10 assists last week, Harden's season total now stands at 185, just three shy of Dirk Minnifield's UK record of 188....Junior forward Winston Bennett continues to be one of Kentucky's most consistent players this season, scoring in double figures in 21 of UK's 27 games. The forward from Louisville, Ky., scored 20 points and pulled down 7 rebounds against Georgia Saturday afternoon. UK Coach Eddie Sutton gives Bennett a lot of credit for UK's success this season. "With Winston playing well, it has prevented teams from stopping Walker and consequently stopping the Wildcats," said Sutton. "Now, they may shut down Walker but Winston, or several other players in fact, can burn them."....After sitting out the Florida game Wednesday night with an inflammation of the left knee, sophomore forward Richard Madison played well against Georgia, scoring 6 points and pulling down 4 rebounds in just 13 minutes of play.

CATS CAPTURE NO. 1,400:

Kentucky's win over Georgia was the 1,400th win in school history. Of course, that's more than any other school in the country. Second on the NCAA list of all-time victories is North Carolina with 1,369 wins.

GAME-TIME CHANGED:

Tipoff for Kentucky's game against LSU Saturday afternoon has been moved to 3:05 p.m. EST. The change was made at the request of NBC-TV, which says viewer levels are higher later in the afternoon. The game was originally set for 1:05 p.m. EST.

Mel Holbrook

[Continued From Page 12]

Basketball Gyms Weren't Much In The Early Days

The gyms of those days—there were only two in town, one at a nearby church and the other in a house behind the high school—were very small, according to McBrayer. Mrs. Rhoda Kavanaugh, who I believe was the greatest educators in the history of Kentucky, spent her own money to buy us a place where we could play," said McBrayer. "That place was so small people who attended our games had to stand in different corners of the gym just to watch the game. That took away any corner shots you'd want to try. And there was usually a pot bellied stove on another area of the floor. You wouldn't drive down the lane near that stove because you didn't want to get burned. If you had claustrophobia, you couldn't play any basketball in those days."

McBrayer said Kavanaugh produced a lot of good athletes that went on to play college ball, like Aggie Sale, Ralph Carlisle, Walter White and Buzz Borres.

"And we did this even without anyone to coach us," said McBrayer. "With the exception of my senior year, we didn't have a full-time coach when I was in high school." During that time, all the games were played at night in dimly-lit arenas. And, since McBrayer's father couldn't leave one of the horses tied up to a fence next to the main highway all night, McBrayer had an hour-long walk home each night after a game.

"That seems like a long ways, but nobody thought anything about it back then," said McBrayer. "Walking long distances was an everyday occurrence."

McBrayer's team played Versailles High School, coached by Happy Chandler during those years.

"He was a good politician even then," praised McBrayer. "When we beat them one game, he said, 'I hate to lose, but if I have to lose, I'd rather you beat me than anyone else.'"

McBrayer got out of coaching in 1962 because he said he just couldn't stand the officiating any more. From there, he served as deputy commissioner on the horse trotting commission during the Breathitt administration. He was also a supervisor at a horse plant in Lexington. He spends a lot of time now as the secretary and treasurer of a fishing club in town.

"But basketball has been my whole life," said McBrayer, who lived in Lexington while coaching at ECU. "I still watch an awful lot of games on television. And I still don't hesitate to speak my mind about how I feel about basketball."

Or about anything else, mind you. McBrayer is forever thankful to then ECU president, Dr. W.F. O'Donnell, who asked McBrayer to coach at Eastern after McBrayer learned he wasn't welcome back at Kentucky.

"It was pretty low at the time," McBrayer said. "And Dr. O'Donnell offered me a job. It was a great break. I was glad to get a chance to coach. I made the most of it."

McBrayer added he had no bitterness towards Rupp. He just felt like Rupp handled the situation badly.

But McBrayer didn't hide his feelings about how he felt about Rupp then, and he doesn't do it now, either. He was outspoken then, and he's the same way today.

Chapman Wows 'Em At Coliseum

The kid can flat play!

Hey, don't take my word for it.

Talk to any of those 10,900 basketball fanatics who paid their way into Memorial Coliseum Sunday to watch Rex Chapman and his merry band of Eagles upset fourth-ranked Lexington Henry Clay 68-67.

And to prove his 37-point exhibition was no fluke, the Owensboro flash rifled home a 22-footer over the outstretched arms of Henry Clay's Sean Sutton with just seven ticks left on the clock to provide the visitors with the margin of victory.

Rex Chapman - the name says it all. Perhaps no player in the storied history of the University of Kentucky has been greeted with greater fanfare than was this young man. Despite Rex's bomb, the game wasn't over. After a time-out, Henry Clay worked out a plan to give his competitor, Sutton, a shot at winning it all for the Blue Devils.

Sutton took the inbounds pass, dribbled the length of the floor, faked, double-pumped and then fired up a jumper which fell off the lip of the rim as time expired. The excitement left the almost capacity crowd in a tizzy.

The classic, put together only five days earlier, drew almost a packed house despite the contest being televised live in Central Kentucky. Obviously, thousands more watched from the comfort of their living room.

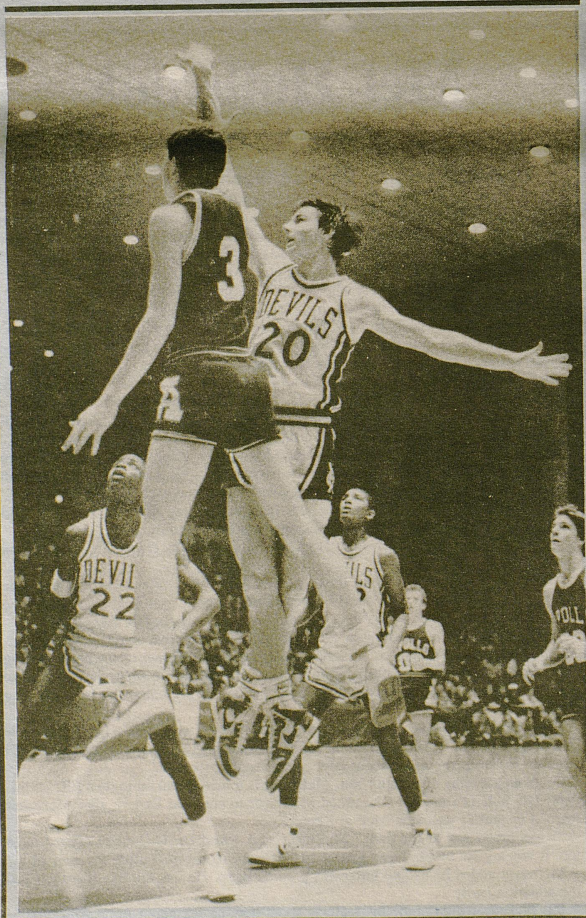
Henry Clay coach Al Prewitt came up with the idea of staging such a contest after his school had been forced to postpone two games due to bad weather.

His reasoning: What a terrific game it would be to see Chapman (already signed, sealed and delivered to UK) go against Henry Clay and one of the state's top junior players, Sean Sutton, who just happens to be the son of UK coach Eddie Sutton.

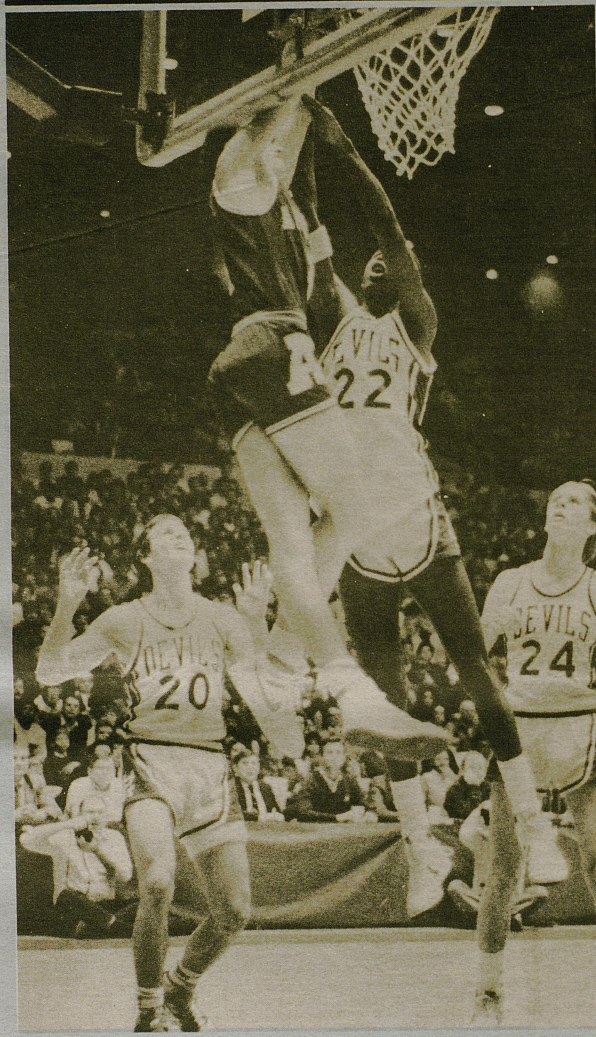
No one was disappointed.

Chapman was a house-afire after a slow first quarter. By halftime, the state's odds-on favorite for *Mr. Basketball* had scored 12 points. Then, Rex exploded for all of his club's 17 points in the third. He capped off the game by scoring another nine in the final period, including the clincher.

"It was a great game," exclaimed Prewitt after the heart-breaking loss. "It was everything I thought it would be. I thought it was great for the fans, great for the schools and great for the players."



Chapman Up Against Sean Sutton



Rex To The Hoop

Apollo coach John Whitmer agreed.

"Before the game I told somebody it was such a great atmosphere that I hoped the game wouldn't be a letdown for the fans, like the Super Bowl usually is," said Whitmer. "But it turned out to be a great game. You couldn't have written a better script."

Unless you were a fan of Henry Clay's.

It had to be a heartbreak for the Blue Devils after leading late in the game, only to be overtaken by the Eagles.

Chapman, a 6-5 senior prep All-American, grabbed 12 rebounds, had three assists, four steals and hit 16 of 31 from the field.

Although he enjoyed an unbelievable second half, Chapman started slow, citing a fatigue factor from playing Friday night and then practicing Saturday before driving to Lexington for the Sunday afternoon battle.

"I started out kinda slow and forced some things myself," said Chapman. "I don't think I played my overall game that well. I think I should have rebounded better, but we won the game and that's all that counts."

Chapman said the game-winning play called during a time-out wasn't planned just for him.

"We just said we were gonna take it inside with ten seconds left and whoever was open would shoot. Then everyone would crash the boards," said Chapman.

Of playing against Sutton, the coach's son, Chapman had nothing but praise.

"The only time I guarded Sutton was when he was in my part of the zone (defense), except the last trip down the court when I told coach (Whitmer) I wanted to take him. I just wanted to put pressure on him to make him alter his shot. There was a lot made of the situation (the two playing against each other)."

"I think Sean is a hope we're playing Henry Clay went 36-35 score at the Chapman's wild se setting up the excit

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Rex

seum With 37-Point Performance

"I think Sean is a great person and great player. He's always around the ball. I just hope we're playing for the same team in a couple years," Chapman added.

Henry Clay went on top early and enjoyed a 20-17 first quarter lead and owned a 36-35 score at the halfway point.

Chapman's wild scoring spree in the third period put Apollo back in the lead at 52-50, setting up the exciting finish.

"We couldn't have done a better job defensively," said Prewitt of guarding Chapman at the end. "If he had gotten a layup or an alley-oop pass, I'd have been the sickest person in the coliseum, because we knew he was going to get the ball. But we did everything except hit him in the head with a jack hammer and he still hit the shot."

When the ball left Chapman's hand, Sutton had a feeling that Henry Clay had just lost its one-point lead.

"I had a feel he'd hit it," admitted Sutton. "Rex is a great player and a clutch player." To Sutton, it was still one of his greatest thrills in sports.

"This was probably the biggest game I've ever played in my life. There was just so much hype and so much emotion involved. It was great."

And what about Chapman's thoughts.

"It was super. I knew it would be loud," he said. "Besides, we needed a game like this to prepare for Owensboro in the district. That game means everything right now and this game should be a big help in preparing us for that game."

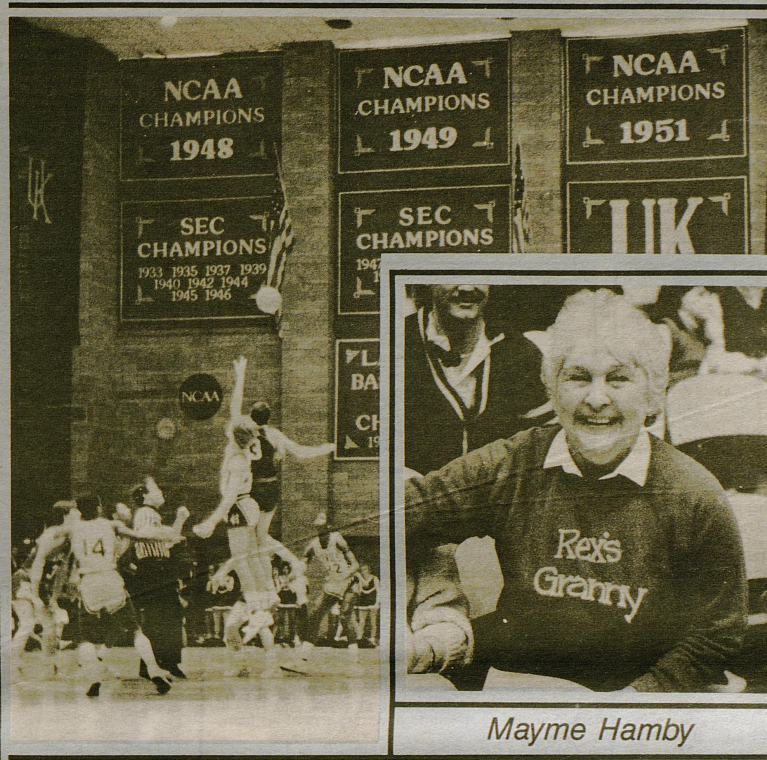
Henry Clay had its 14-game winning streak broken and now owns a 22-4 record. Apollo, ranked No. 6 in the state, improved its mark to 23-4.

Also shining for Apollo were Greg Baughn who scored 12 points and Keith Survant added 10.

For Henry Clay, Matt Yates poured in 19 points on 9 of 11 from the field and one free throw. David Martin had 12 and Rich Nash, son of former UK All-American Cotton Nash, scored 12. Tim Jones also tallied 10.

Sutton, who gave the Blue Devils a great floor game, scored only five points while dishing out 10 assists. It was the first time this season Sutton had not scored in double figures, hitting two of six from the field.

Photos By Gary Cromwell & Clarence Miller



Mayme Hamby

Tipping Off a Super Showdown

The Eddie Sutton family watched the action from the first row seats of Memorial Coliseum.

Moments before tip-off, the elder Sutton sat in his coliseum office saying he'd rather not go watch the game, too much emotion and etc.

He didn't mean it. You couldn't have kept him away with a loaded cannon. After all, no college coach would miss a game when 11,000 fans (*did you realize that more people watched this game than the largest crowd to see a college game at either Ole Miss, Mississippi State, Georgia, or Florida this season?*) came to see Rex Chapman, Sean Sutton and two fine high school teams.

Eddie Sutton didn't either.

Even the UK head coach was amazed with the two teams' outstanding play time after time.

During the time-out just after Chapman hit the game-winner with seven seconds left, Sutton grinned and predicted, "I know who's going to take (UK's Roger) Harden's shots next season."

He obviously was referring to Harden's game-winning shots against LSU and Alabama on the road earlier this season. Sunday, Chapman picked up where Harden left off.

Another interested spectator was Bates Creek High coach Nolan Barger who left the coliseum, shaking in head in amazement.

"This kid is great," said Barger.

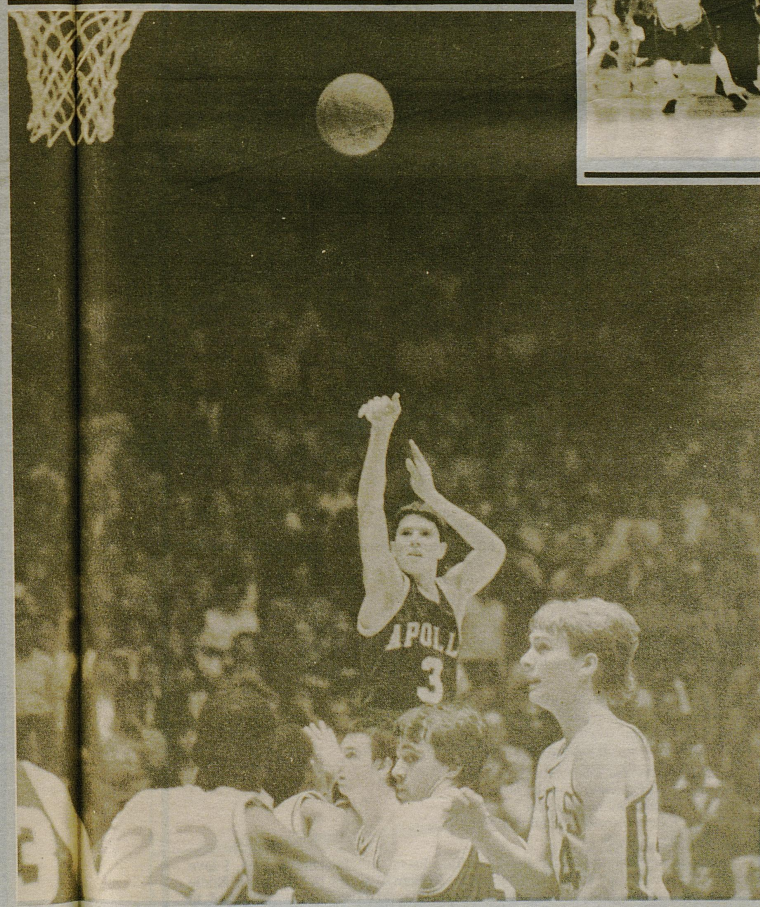
Yeah, that was a big basket by Chapman, a reporter added.

"I'm not talking about Chapman," snapped Barger. "I'm mean Sutton. He's taken Henry Clay and made them the best team in the region. He could have done the same thing with any school in the region. He's such a complete player. Rex? Everyone knows he's great."

APOLLO 68-HENRY CLAY 67

APOLLO (68) - Chapman 16-31 5-5 37, Baughn 6-10 0-0 12, Survant 4-10 2-4 10, Chapell 0-1 2-2 2, Bartlett 1-1 0-1 2, Thompson 2-4 1-2 5. Totals 29-57 9-12 68.

HENRY CLAY (67) - Nash 5-7 0-0 10, Yates 9-11 1-3 19, Martin 5-8 2-2 12, Jones 4-9 2-2 10, Sutton 2-6 1-2 5, Walker 4-8 1-2 9, Stone 1-3 0-0 2. Totals 30-52 7-11 67.



Rex Chapman - The Cream Of The Crop

Chapman Just Another Thoroughbred?

UK Poetry Time

Secretariat 'n things.

To say that Rex Chapman "is a thoroughbred," as one Meade County fan did last week, is nice, but it understates the case.

"A thoroughbred" is a sparkly idea of course, suggesting that the 6-4½ University of Kentucky signee is among the elite. But there is something special about this colt beyond the Vitale hype and Packer hoopla. A quality that may, in time, demand a more definitive comparison, say, to the best of thoroughbreds, Secretariat.

It is that special quality of Chapman's and its possibilities that drew almost 2,000 fans to Brandenburg Feb. 15 for a look see and an answer of their own to the question: "Is this kid for real?"



Bob Watkins

Cats' Pause Columnist

They had come to see Apollo High play Meade County. More specifically, to see Chapman the thoroughbred. To get a gander at the kid whose coach says can and very well might replace Roger Harden at Kentucky's point next winter.

And Chapman demonstrated why it is no idle boast or bit of wishful thinking either. He "had fun," he said, on the way to 19 field goals and 39 points in Apollo's win over Meade County. The kid could have scored 50 or more. He is that good. Chapman is a natural.

"Usually the crowds get on us pretty good wherever we go," he said after the game. "But they got kind of quiet today."

Swishing from outside the circle, from the corners, along the baseline and soaring dunks, the kid struck them silent, left even the hard skeptics scratching their heads.

And, while hardcore Meade County fans perhaps did not want to say it, everyone enjoyed the show even to the last when young girls and boys clad in jeans and green jackets flocked around Chapman to have him scrawl his name onto a bit of paper.

Chapman had a day, rising up above his opponents as if they were spectators. And, to one degree or another, everyone was.

Given the game's free flow there was hard evidence that even the game officials "watched the kid play" and he did, like a thoroughbred.

To the basketball purist, at any level, the 6-4½ stringbean called Chapman is a dream. Really.

He "is" what some of us were once upon a time in our childhood.

Those of you who have played The Game will understand, recalling the times when you played basketball all day in the cold till your fingers cracked open, then you went home, ate, and hit the sack and dreamed the dreams of basketball players—soaring up over the town hero for the dunk shot...gliding across the 3-point line for a pull up that made the net go "snap!"

Or, how about "the move" when you faked left, then whirled nimbly down the lane past two defenders who drifted off someplace while you dipped and double pumped a scoop shot and let out a "let's hear it, Cawood!"

Remember?

If The Game was serious enough to cause you to play until your fingers cracked open, you do.

For Rex Chapman it is no dream.

The kid is blessed with such grace and style and moves on such bandy legs, is the owner of such moxy and street savvy for the game, it is no dream.

Things we dreamed about, Chapman does in broad daylight and with his eyes wide open.

"I've seen Chapman four or five times and I'm not sure I've ever seen a better offensive player," Larry Miller, Meade County coach said. "He doesn't play any defense, but if I was his coach I'm not sure I'd want him to do anything else. Let Eddie Sutton teach him that."

"If Chapman stays injury free I'd think he has unlimited potential," Miller added.

It has been said of Rex Chapman in recent weeks, "since he signed (with Kentucky) the kid is bored, there's nothing else for him. He thinks he has to put on a show."

Not so, Chapman says. "I just go out and try my best, try to please myself and my coach, that's all."

It is true however, that Chapman the colt sometimes gets "full of himself" and perhaps gets too frisky.

It is a point at which he takes his street basketball savvy a bit far. In the jargon—showboating, hot dog.

"Sometimes Rex gets almost bored out there," his coach John Whitmer says. "He just kind of drifts around and I don't think he's even aware of it."

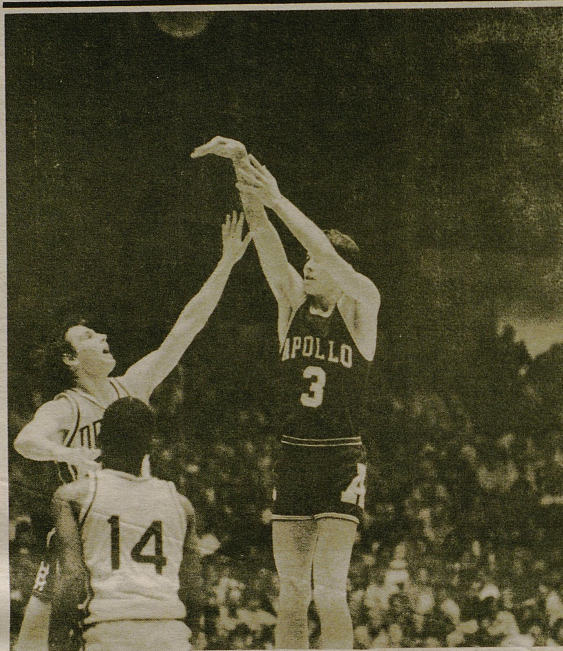
Soon the high school ball will stop bouncing for Chapman and he will join the other thoroughbreds at the University of Kentucky. What about the adjustments?

"He'll have to be more active on the offensive rebounding boards," Whitmer predicts. "Of course he won't be able to shoot as often. He has a pretty free hand about when to shoot now. Those are the biggest adjustments I see for him."

Defense? An area that he showed no enthusiasm for against Meade County. "Oh, he can play defense when he wants to," Whitmer says.

And so, Chapman the colt, is a dream player. If he continues to flow and glow,

be as special in the years ahead as he is now, then another nickname will fit nicely too, Secretariat.



Rex Blessed With...Grace...And Style

Readers write

Before the Kentucky-Alabama game in Tuscaloosa, I predicted 'Bama would win, maybe by as many as 10 points. What follows are parts of a response from Greg A. Hornback of Elizabethtown. "Mr. Watkins, sports editor or Mr. Mud in the face. How dare you pick Alabama over Kentucky? And I thought you picked 'em pretty good. Evidently you don't know the Kentucky Wildcats as well as you think you do. I respect your opinion, or should I say, I used to. The matchup with Kentucky and Alabama, why, there's no comparison. Who could stop James Blackmon or 'the bomb' Roger Harden?"

"As you can tell I'm a Kentucky fan. And if you were, you would have picked Kentucky. I like a sportswriter with spunk enough to put his home team down and boy have you got spunk. Or, are you a Louisville fan? God help ya. Bless our home team of Kentucky."

Mr. Hornback says he picked UK over Alabama by three points.

Comment: Thanks for writing.

(UK) poetry time

It is at about this time each year that loving Kentucky Wildcat basketball fans reach a point at which they feel compelled to express their affections for their team in writing. It usually takes the form of loving prose or a nickname, maybe a jingle.

Last week a gentleman from eastern Kentucky was excited about a nickname he had invented for the UKs—Sutton's Surprises, he said, pleased with himself.

Of course there are always poems. Normally rimes are not published on these pages, but I wanted to share one that I listened to during a telephone conversation Tuesday. A fan from Radcliff, Ky. said she wouldn't tell me her name but hoped I would not be offended by a little poem she was going to "drop on me."

OK, I said, fire away.

The UK Wildcats, ain't they neat?

Playin' Eddie Ball, they can't be beat.

Winnin' and winnin' sure makes time fly,

Love watchin' Kenny Walker do that sky.

I love those 'Cats, but don't mean no malice.

Handlin' the SEC, now it's on to Dallas.

Roses are red and my team is blue.

Oh Sports Ed's a Cardinal, so nuts to you.

Isn't that sweet?

Bumps along like the Super Bowl Shuffle, doesn't it? Basketball fans, I love 'em. But please don't send me your poem. Just mail yours to UK coach Eddie Sutton who, incidentally, waxed a little sentimental last week when asked to express his feelings about his first Kentucky team.

[Continued On Page 34]

The Sky Report

Kenny Walker's Climb Past Kentucky's Elite

Kenny Walker's Climb Past Kentucky's Elite

Kenny Walker's Climb Past Kentucky's Elite

Photos by Gary Cromwell



Rank	Name	Points	Games	Years
1.	Dan Issel	2,135	83	3
2.	Jack Givens	2,038	123	4
3.	Kenny Walker	1,878	123	4
4.	Kevin Grevey	1,801	84	3
5.	Cotton Nash	1,770	78	3
6.	Alex Groza	1,744	120	4
7.	Louie Dampier	1,575	80	3
8.	Mike Casey	1,535	82	3
9.	Ralph Beard	1,517	139	4
10.	Malvin Turpin	1,509	123	4
11.	Cliff Hagan	1,475	77	3
12.	Pat Riley	1,464	80	3
13.	Johnny Cox	1,461	77	3
14.	Kyle Macy	1,411	98	3
15.	Rick Robey	1,395	105	4
16.	Mike Phillips	1,367	120	4
17.	Mike Pratt	1,359	81	3
18.	Frank Ramsey	1,344	91	3
19.	Jim Andrews	1,320	80	3
20.	Sam Bowie	1,285	94	3

**261 To Go
For All-Time
UK Record**

84WHAS - Covering the



country with Wildcat Basketball.

Sutton Says Walker "Player Of The Year"

UK Hustles Past UF; Clinches SEC Tie

Bring out the champagne, or at least put it temporarily on ice as Kentucky clinched a tie for the SEC crown with a 80-69 win over the Florida Gators.

The contest, which was played last Wednesday evening at Rupp Arena, featured the matchup of the Wildcats' three guards against the Gators' three backcourt starters. The UF trio — Ronnie Montgomery, Andrew Moten, and Vernon Maxwell — kept their team close by combining for 49 points.

However, Kenny Walker and the rest of UK's inside gang were too much for Norm Sloan's team to handle.

"Kentucky played extremely well," Sloan said afterwards. "They got a lot of help from some big guys coming off the bench, like (Robert) Lock.

"Kentucky was fired up for us, hoping to clinch the conference championship. They played very well."

Coming off a 72.2 shooting performance against Mississippi State UK continued to connect from the field — 32 of 55 for 58.2 percent.

In his postgame conference Eddie Sutton was very pleased with his star pupil's play on the night. . . and for the season.

"Here's an All-American," as Sutton was about to read the stats of Walker. "Eight out of 12 (field), seven out of seven (free throws), 10 rebounds, no turnovers, and a great defensive effort. If those aren't All-American stats (pause) then he ought to be Player of the Year.

"No one in college basketball takes a beating like Kenny Walker does, believe me."

One thing Sutton failed to mention was Walker's team-high five assists.

With Ed Davender taking care of things on the offensive end early, Kentucky ripped UF's man-to-man defense.

Florida adjusted its game plan with a 2-3 zone defense, which enabled the Gators to get back in the contest. Throughout the night Kentucky controlled the tempo until the final buzzer. UF's guards, though, kept things close. . . but you know what they say about being close.

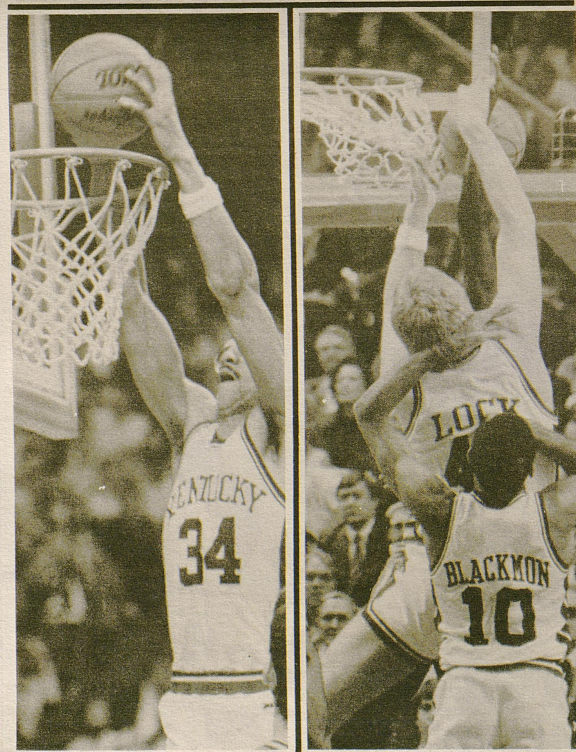
Florida was led by the M&M tandem (Moten and Maxwell). Maxwell was credited for 22 points while Moten added 20. Forward Joe Lawrence gave UK fits early with his outside jumper, mainly from deep in the right corner. Entering the contest with a 9.9 ppg mark, Lawrence hit on 4 of 6 attempts for eight first-half points.

Cats Clinch SEC Title

Either an Alabama loss or a Kentucky win during the three remaining regular season games will give the Wildcats their 36th SEC crown.

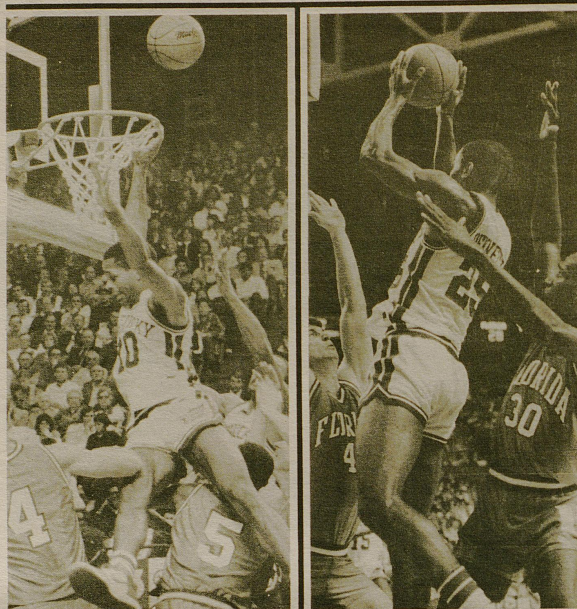
A UK win on this evening paired with an Alabama loss at Tennessee would have given the title outright to Sutton's Cats.

It wasn't to be, however.



Sky Jamming

Lock Blocking



Photos by Gary Cromwell

Up, Up And Away Bennett Down Low

While Florida and UK were battling it out the Rupp Arena PA announcer gave Alabama-Tennessee reports throughout the second half. With 9:37 left the partisan Wildcat crowd boomed as Alabama was ahead 48-45 (second half). Kentucky pulling for Tennessee? Hey, this is getting serious.

Said Sutton about clinching his first SEC Title, "I hope we win a lot more before I leave the University of Kentucky. The first one will always be the sweetest, however. I hope we can continue the tradition that Mr. (Adolph) Rupp and Coach (Joe) Hall started.

The win gives the Wildcats a 23-3 slate, 14-1 in the SEC. Florida now drops to 14-10, 8-7 in league play.

Intensity The Key As Lock Contributes Again

With Richard Madison sidelined because of a bruised knee, someone off the bench had to pick up the slack. That somebody was Robert Lock.

Four nights ago the sophomore scored nine points in 10 minutes of work against Mississippi State. On this evening he netted eight points and snared five rebounds in 14 minutes of action. And at the end it was his hustle that caught the attention of the 23,065 on hand.

With UK holding a 60-51 advantage, Lock picked and pecked the ball away from a Florida player. While trying to catch up with the stray ball in UK's offensive end of the court, the 6-10 redhead dove out of bounds for the round object. The Wildcat fans ate it up.

It was not the most important play of the game. It really wasn't even a factor in the final outcome. Still, it was the play that most people will remember about this game.

A funny thing happened when Lock went flying after the ball.

Prior to the steal, the official at the scorer's table hit the button which started the shot clock at 45. No change in possession, meanwhile, had occurred. Sutton stormed to the bench to see what had happened. And now, Sloan was upset because the UK mentor had stepped out of the coaching box.

After a brief discussion with the two coaches the officials decided there was no technical. . . and Florida retained position.

"Apparently I don't understand the rules," Sloan said. "I'm sure that's the case because I was told that by Eddie and all three officials — that I don't understand the rules. I'll have to check and see if I understood it (coach's box) or not.

"I didn't think you could leave that coaching box under any circumstances. That's all I was saying."

In the press room afterwards, the official at the scorer's table admitted he had made an error.

Gators' Chances Hurt By Cats' Fast Start

Florida failed to get on the boards until Moten cashed in two free throws at the 16:43 mark. By then Kentucky was out in front 9-2.

Davender took advantage of UF's man-to-man defense by venturing down the lane three straight times. Although he missed on the first attempt, the 6-foot-2 Brooklyn native left Montgomery behind twice and hit two baskets underneath.

Montgomery fouled Davender on the second bucket as the Wildcat connected on a three-point play.

"They didn't do anything that surprised us," said Sloan. "We just didn't play very well at the start.

OFFICIAL NCAA BASKETBALL BOX SCORE												
Date: Feb. 17, 1986 Site: Rupp Arena												
VISITORS (Last Name, First)												
No.	FLORIDA	FG	FGA	FT	FTA	REB	PF	TP	MIN	A	TO	BLK
25	Joe Lawrence	1	7	11	0	0	1	3	14	36	3	1
21	Kenny McClary	1	1	0	0	2	5	2	17	2	2	0
20	Ronnie Montgomery	0	3	6	1	2	4	3	7	38	6	2
05	Andrew Moten	0	6	15	8	8	5	4	20	31	3	1
11	Warren Maxwell	0	8	13	6	8	3	2	22	35	4	5
22	Pat Lawrence	1	4	0	0	5	2	2	22	0	2	0
23	Clifford Lett	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0
30	Joe Currington	1	2	0	0	2	4	2	16	0	2	0
TEAM REBOUNDS (Included in Totals)												
TOTALS												
FG: 1st Half 13 of 23-54.7 2nd Half 14 of 30-46.7 Game 27 of 53-50.6												
FT: 1st Half 3 of 3-100.0 2nd Half 12 of 13-92.3 Game 15 of 15-100.0												
Deadball Rebounds 4												
HOME												
No.	KENTUCKY	FG	FGA	FT	FTA	REB	PF	TP	MIN	A	TO	BLK
25	Winston Bennett	1	4	11	2	4	5	1	10	33	2	1
35	Kenny Walker	1	8	12	7	7	10	0	23	37	5	2
13	James Blackmon	0	5	9	0	1	6	4	12	33	2	1
13	Ed Davender	0	6	11	5	5	1	4	17	37	2	1
23	Roger Harden	0	4	5	0	2	2	4	8	35	4	5
20	Leroy Byrd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1
24	Paul Andrews	1	2	0	0	1	3	2	8	3	1	0
30	Irving Thomas	1	1	0	0	2	0	3	1	1	0	0
44	Robert Lock	3	4	6	3	5	0	3	14	0	1	3
55	Cedric Jenkins	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0
TEAM REBOUNDS (Included in Totals)												
TOTALS												
FG: 1st Half 12 of 31-38.7 2nd Half 13 of 24-54.2 Game 25 of 55-52.3												
FT: 1st Half 4 of 5-80.0 2nd Half 12 of 15-80.0 Game 16 of 16-100.0												
Deadball Rebounds 0												
OFFICIALS												
Mac Chauvin, Charles Vacca and Sonny Holmes												
Technical Fouls: None												
Attendance: 23,055												
Copyright 1982 National Collegiate Athletic Association												

Eventually the home team raced out to a 18-8 count. But, the Gators, slowly but surely crawled back into the game.

Moten's outside marksmanship helped pull Florida to within four, 20-24. Maxwell helped ignite his team on the comeback trail with a pair of free throws. Then, Moten scored six of UF's next eight points which kept the score close, 24-18.

While both teams proceeded to half four baskets, UF's Pat Lawrence connected from deep in the right corner closing the gap to four points.

The Wildcats, who shot 63 percent from the field (19 of 30) compared to UF's 48.1 percent (13 of 27), outscored their opponents 18-10 in the final 7:37 to gain a 42-30 lead.

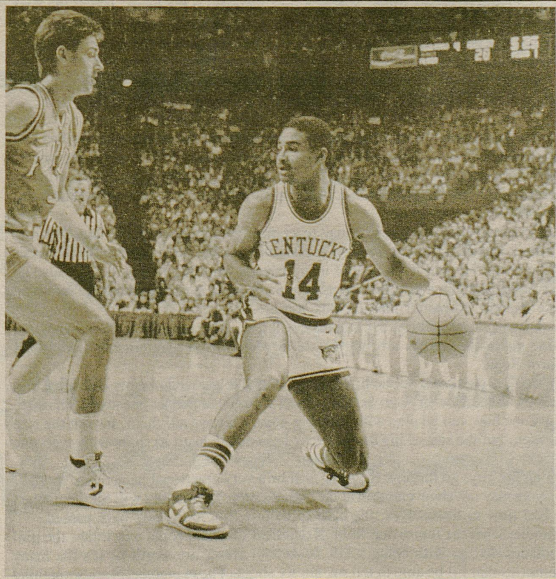
In that stretch Kentucky's guards scored 10 of those points, including a Roger Harden patented jumper at the top of the key, this time with only four seconds remaining.

Davender, who scored 17 points on the night, hit on 5 of 6 first-half attempts while pacing UK with 13 points. Hitting on a perfect 4 of 4 from the field Harden added eight points in the first 20 minutes.

Overall, Kentucky's starting trio hit on 12 of 17 first-half attempts. As a team the Wildcats were successful on 19 of 31 attempts for the floor (61.3 percent). Florida hit on 13 of 28 for 46.4 percent.

Frontline Play Picks Up In Second Half

Having outrebounded their smaller opponents by only a 14-11 count, UK decided to improve their work on the board.



Andrews In Search Of Open Wildcats

The second half effort showed as the 'Cats grabbed 33 rebounds overall compared to UF's 23. Besides Walker's 10, Bennett and James Blackmon added six apiece.

Walker and Bennett fired up only 12 attempts from the field in the first 20 minutes of play. Led by the guards in the first stanza UK's inside play, which also featured a strong performance from Lock, took over.

Walker was superb as the senior hit on 5 of 7 second-half tries and a perfect 7 of 7 from the line.

Going to the offensive board with authority, Walker's putback of a Bennett miss concluded a 13-9 run in which the senior scored 11 points. Walker's determination upped the lead (55-39) and ignited an already enthused audience.

Lock and Bennett also came through in the clutch with six and five tallies as UK outscored the Gators' front line 30-6 in the second half.

Kentucky enjoyed leads hovering around the 10-point spread for most of the half. With the Wildcats ahead 63-55 (7:27), Montgomery picked off a Davender pass and drove all the way to the Gators' basket. While hitting the layup the UF guard was nudged by Davender.

Montgomery's free throw closed the distance between the two squads, 63-56.

Last season Florida defeated UK of 12 points in Rupp Arena. So, being ahead by seven points with 7:27 remaining wasn't a comfortable margin by any means.

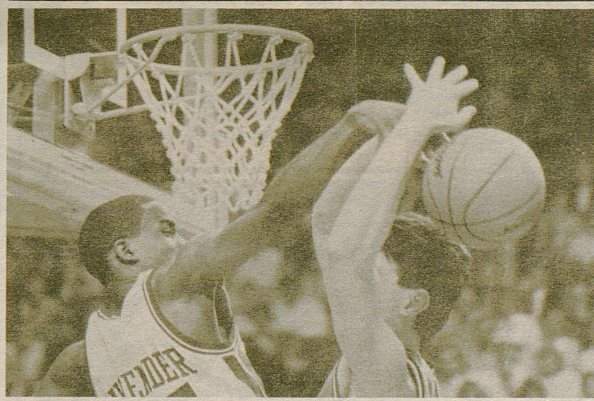
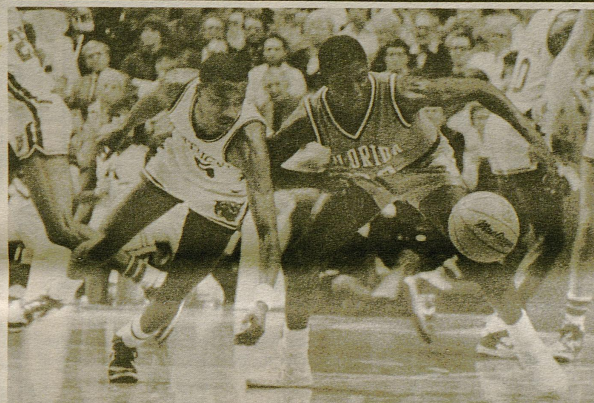
Lock's key points, however, dissolved any chances for a Florida upset.

His short turnaround which kissed off the glass, followed by two free throws gave UK 67-56 lead with 6:39 to play. Responsible for Lock at the line was McClary, whom was whistled for his fifth foul. The Gator forward fouled out with only two points.

Despite all three UK guards being saddled with fouls late in the game, Florida could only close the margin to seven, 71-64 (3:15).

Gator-Wildcat Tidbits

The victory upped UK's overall record with Florida to 53-14, including a 24-3 count in Lexington. Kentucky is now: 23-1 when ahead at halftime; 13-2 when outrebounding its opponent; and 17-0 when shooting better than 50 percent from the field. . . Tipoff for



Photos by Gary Cromwell

UK's Defensive Gem — Ed Davender

the Wildcats' game against LSU (March) has been changed from 1:05 p.m. to 3:05 p.m. EST. This was done at the request of NBC-TV, which wanted the best possible ratings for the game, thus the later scheduling. . . Richard Madison was on the bench in street clothes. He apparently bruised his knee in practice the day before. Madison was scheduled to be ready for the Georgia game. . . Roger Harden's four assists moved him to within nine of tying UK's single-season record of 188. The stat is currently held by Dirk Minniefield. . . Former Governor of Kentucky and Baseball Commissioner Happy Chandler held out his arms to form the 'Y' at midcourt during the traditional Kentucky cheer. . . The 'Cats' record at Rupp Arena (136-14) ranks the fourth-best among home-court winning percentages (90.6 percent) in the nation. According to a CBS-TV survey, Nevada Las Vegas ranks No. 1 with a 41-1 record (97.6) in the dreaded 'Shark Tank.' Next is UCLA at Pauley Pavilion (307-25, 92.5) and DePaul at the Rosemont Horizon (88-9, 90.7). . . After being defeated by Kentucky in Gainesville (55-72), Florida had won 6 of 9 SEC games until tonight. . . In regards to blocked shots UK racked up seven while the Gators were shutout. Kenny Walker was credited with four rejections. . . As far as steals, however, Florida picked Kentucky's pocket 10 times while the Wildcats returned the favor only twice. Point guard Ronnie Montgomery had four steals.

Kentucky Rolls Out The Carpet For Seniors

Final Home Game Is A Day Of Mixed Emotions

Being a senior means that everything you do as a team will be the last time. As a player I never looked forward to ending my career, however, the time eventually came.

This year's seniors, Kenny Walker, Leroy Byrd and Roger Harden have all contributed greatly to the University of Kentucky. They are excellent players, but most of all good people. When they take the court Saturday against LSU it will be a very emotional time. It will be the final salute to the Wildcat seniors.

Butterflies Fluttered About

I recall the time when Charles Hurt, Derrick Hord and Dirk Minniefield all played their last game. As they were introduced, there was a surge of sadness. To see them run through the hoop caused butterflies in my stomach to flutter and lumps to fill the throats of most team members and Kentucky fans. The feeling is parallel to losing a family member. And in reality, we have.



Dicky Beal

Cats' Pause Columnist

When Coach Joe Hall and the assistants gave their final hugs the aura of emotion that surrounded us all, felt as if it were illuminated. The feeling of being drained is pretty much all that's left. The importance of the game, at this time is almost lost to the sentiment of the moment.

There are no fans like Kentucky fans anywhere. It's a well-known fact that basketball is pretty much a religion in this part of the nation. The fans care about what the players do on and off the floor. Many fans attach themselves to specific players and follow that player throughout his career.

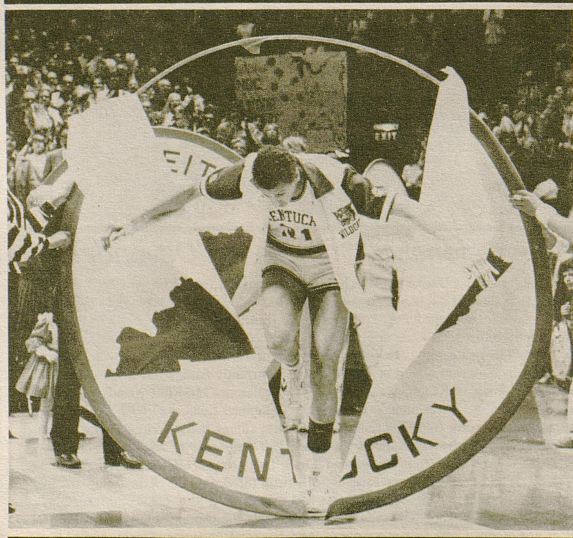
These same fans take on the roles of mothers and fathers. The support and encouragement that is shown to the players during and after their careers is more than anyone could ever ask for or expect.

Current Senior Crop Has Fabulous Season

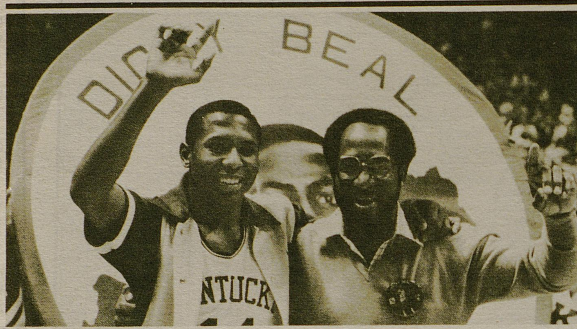
The current seniors have had a great season thus far. What better way to cap it off than with a great showing in the home finale. My advice to the seniors would be to relax and enjoy the festivities of their once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Looking back on my senior season, I remember the great expectations I had of myself. I was injured during most of the year, but I wanted to be a part of that special squad.

To play with the likes of Sam Bowie, Melvin Turpin, Kenny Walker and Jim Master was awesome.



Big Sam Breaks Through



Dicky With Father

Three of those players (Bowie, Turpin, Walker) were or will be first draft picks in the NBA.

It was certainly up and down for me, but as with anything else in life, you must take the bitter with the sweet. I was not in the starting lineup that last year, which hurt mentally, however. I did play most of the last half of the season and was in the lineup when we won the SEC Tournament and the Mideast regional. Those were emotional times, but not as much as the final game.

We Promised We Wouldn't Cry

The seniors all sat around before the final game. We talked about the good times as well as the bad. We all promised that we would not cry...at that time, we felt we could be stronger than what we actually turned out to be.

I was the first to walk around the gym, with my father, waving to everyone. I had tears in my eyes, but I wouldn't let them drop.

After all the seniors had taken their walk around the gym, the time came to break through the hoop.

At the time it felt like I had so much energy I could've jumped to the roof. I had seen other players go through the hoop, but it was finally my turn. Everyone was announced and we all seemed pretty relaxed. We were all waving to the fans and were teasing each other about who was going to cry. Everyone was okay until the band played my 'My Old Kentucky Home.' That was the killer. It made everyone think about what was going on — the last time we would play in front of the home crowd during the regular season.

As the song went on, the coaches came out and congratulated each of us. As the song played on, all the memories flashed across my eyes.

I was looking at Sam, who at the time was crying. I couldn't continue to look because I would have done the same thing. His emotions were from the heart. It was the first time I had ever seen tears of joy from Sam. After seeing him so emotional, I was never ready to play the game. None of us were. It was like we played the game physically but were not there mentally.

As A Wildcat, You'll Never Forget This Day

Senior day was a time I'll never forget — the friendships, good times as well as bad — all in one day. I always wondered how one minute you could feel on top of the world...the next minute at the bottom.

It's great to finally be a senior, but it's also terrible, because you leave behind good friends.

If I had to predict how each senior may react during the playing of my *Old Kentucky Home*, I think Kenny Walker may drop a tear or two. He has been good to the university and vice versa. He will leave behind many friends who like Kenny, not because he is a super basketball, but a great person. Sure, he will be in the NBA, but there's nothing like close friends, no matter how famous you are.

I don't know if Roger will cry, but I think he will feel a little something. He has matured into a fine guard. Roger has a bright future in whatever he may pursue. Look for a smile from Roger.

Leroy won't drop a tear, but he'll feel the effects like everyone before and after him will. Leroy is liked by everyone; he has respect from most people because of his size. People ask me how can he play with such big guys. I always tell them, it's not the size of the person, but the size of his heart. Leroy has enough heart to share with everyone in Kentucky.

Watching the guys go through the hoop will be a very emotional happening, though, some players may not show emotion at the present time. It probably will hit them when they've had time to themselves. It's hard to believe that four years have passed.

You wonder what the future may hold. Regardless of what people may think, the trail and accolades that go with being a UK basketball player are worth it. It's the many fond memories that I'll be able to tell my family about. Those memories are something that will only get bigger and better.

Good Luck to the graduating seniors. You guys are the best!

Ted Deeken



THE 6'-3½" FORWARD WAS
CO-CAPTAIN OF THE '64 TEAM
WHICH WON THE SEC CROWN,
UKIT & SUGAR BOWL TOURNEYS!

Harden Has Come Of Age During Senior Year

Has Quit Comparing Himself To Others

Roger Harden, like a fine Kentucky bourbon, has improved with age. He's become the glue that holds the University of Kentucky Wildcats together.

"Never underestimate the value of Roger Harden on the basketball floor," says UK Coach Eddie Sutton. "He's my kind of player. He does a lot of things that don't show up in the box score."

Sutton views his senior playmaker much the same way a jeweler would a flawless diamond. Both feel they have a priceless product.

Harden leads the team in assists and is responsible for getting the ball inside to All-American Kenny Walker and Winston Bennett, the team's top scorers. That's why he's normally appreciated more by his teammates than by UK fans or the media.



Larry Vaught

Cats' Pause Columnist

"As long as the coach and players appreciate what I'm doing I'm satisfied," says Harden. "Your first priority has to be to the coach. It's great if the fans and media love you but the guy that counts is the coach."

"I appreciate what Coach Sutton has done for me this year and his praise has helped motivate me."

Last season Harden averaged 5.3 points and 4.7 assists per game while playing 25 minutes per contest. This season he's averaging 6.7 points and seven assists per game while playing over 29 minutes per tilt.

Harden is at peace with himself under Sutton. He respected former UK Coach Joe Hall but was never at ease in Hall's program.

He briefly left the team early in his junior season. And he still has to have scars inside from his sophomore year. Harden started most of the season but when Dicky Beal got over his knee injury Harden became a forgotten player as the Cats reached the Final Four in 1984.

"I was fortunate to have some close friends here who cared more about Roger Harden the person than about Roger Harden the basketball player," says Harden, who has hit last-second shots to beat both Alabama and LSU this year. "I always have a strong faith in God that helped."

"Everything that happened, even the adversity, had a purpose. If I hadn't believed that, I couldn't have gone on at times. But I didn't want to quit. This first three years revealed a lot about my character. This year I'm happier and more contented as a player."

Harden no longer compares himself to players like Stew Robinson of Indiana, Scott Skiles of Michigan State or Steve Alford of Indiana that he faced in high school. Harden was named to many prep All-American teams after his senior season at Valparaiso High School and was Indiana's Mr. Basketball.

"One thing that got me in trouble here was comparing myself to others I had faced in high school," says Harden. "It would get me down when one of them had a big game. Then I finally realized that I wasn't playing on their teams."

"Like most players that are highly touted coming out of high school, I thought my numbers would be a little higher here. But we have had such exceptional talent here. Guys like Sam Bowie, Melvin Turpin and Kenny Walker had to take priority on having the basketball. I understand that now."

Harden also understands that he has become a leader at Kentucky. His confidence on the floor, no matter what the situation, keeps the Wildcats poised in difficult times.

"Roger allows his confidence to ooze out of himself into the other players," says Sutton. "He's at his best when the game is tight. Our team wants to see the ball in his hands late in the game."

"He's not as big as some guards I had at Arkansas but he's one of the best passers I've ever coached. He's also become a good defensive player. Don't ever underestimate his value to this team."

Harden enjoys his role as playmaker and team leader. But he feels it is a role he has earned both on and off the court.

"It's not important for a team leader to be popular but it is important that your teammates respect you," says Harden. "I lead by example. I give 110 percent every day. I also try to be sensitive to all that is going on with other players because I know what it is like to go through rough times."

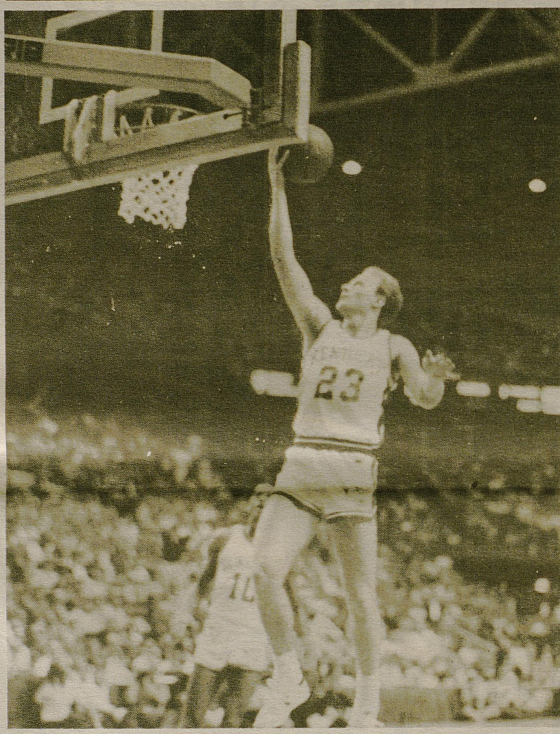
"I think I've earned a lot of respect from my teammates during our times at Wildcat Lodge. I want to be looked to as a leader but it is also a great thrill to me. Knowing I'm one of our leaders helps motivate me even more on the floor."

But Harden, who hopes to go into coaching one day, knows his career is winding to a close. However, despite all the heartache of his first three years he

has no second thoughts about coming to UK.

"If I could go back and do it all over again I would still come here," says Harden. "I've enjoyed my time here. Even during the rough times I loved it."

"I cherish each day more and more as the season gets closer to being over. It's going to be tough to leave the limelight."



Even During Bad Times Harden Loved UK

★ ★ ★

HARDEN, KENNY Walker and Leroy Byrd will all be in the limelight Saturday when the Wildcats host LSU. It will be the final regular season home game for the three seniors and over 23,000 fans will be saying farewell to the trio.

The sendoff the crowd annually gives Kentucky's seniors is one of the more touching moments in collegiate sports. Who can forget Kyle Macy waving goodbye in 1980. Or what about watching Charles Hurt fight back tears when he left.

This year's affair could be the most touching and emotional since UK fans said goodbye to Rick Robey, Jack Givens, James Lee and Mike Phillips in 1978.

Walker is a legend in this state. His brilliant play has made him a folk hero to many Kentuckians, especially those who fill Rupp Arena.

Harden's two game-winning shots this season are enough to assure a great ovation. But he deserves that and more for his courageous play.

And what can you say about Byrd. He may be the most popular player on the team. The 5-5 Byrd has earned a special place in Sutton's heart.

NBC-TV will televise the game. If the network is smart, it won't cut away from the pregame ceremonies and deny fans across the country a chance to see one of the good things about collegiate sports.

And wouldn't it be nice to see UK recognize former Coach Joe Hall Saturday. He recruited all three seniors and should have a chance to shake hands at midcourt with the trio. Like him or not, he brought Walker & Co. to UK and continued Kentucky's winning tradition.

Maybe UK could lower Hall from the ceiling the way LSU has done its mascot before games against UK in Baton Rouge. Or maybe the UK cheerleaders could use Hall to make the "Y" when they spell Kentucky. Either move would excite the crowd and add some flavor to the game.

[Continued On Page 34]

After Win Over Florida

Coach Sutton Says
First Title Is The Sweetest

Following are Coach Eddie Sutton's postgame comments after his team clinched the SEC title with an 80-69 victory over Florida last Wednesday night at Rupp Arena:

Sutton: UK's coach enters the pressroom as Kenny Walker and Ed Davender were answering the press' questions. Are you guys (Walker and Davender) giving them words of wisdom and telling them how happy we are that we clinched the title? Did you also tell them we're not going to be complacent. You can get selfish at this point.

Question: Your comments on the game?

Sutton: I thought Florida played a very fine basketball game; they shot the ball extremely well. Their guards are so quick and they're certainly one of the quickest teams we've faced all year. They made it very tough on us defensively. We certainly set the stage for the game by going out early and getting ahead. That's always important. But, we made some mistakes and didn't play quite as well, in my opinion, as we did in or two games last week.

Coach (Joe) Hall followed. I hope we can continue to have a great tradition that they have given to me. I'm thrilled and happy, but we haven't won it outright yet, we want to do that. Like I said the other night we're going to get on a crusade. We're going to start hunting people; we feel like we get hunted everytime. Today, (afternoon) I wore my Yankee tie. I did that for a reason, because for the years and year everybody wanted a piece of 'em; that's the way Kentucky has been. Now, I know the feeling that the (New York) Yankees had. So, everybody would rather beat Kentucky one time than they would three or four other ballclubs (games). There's a tremendous amount of pressure on these young men who have played for Kentucky through the years. I don't think anyone can really feel it until you get here. I didn't feel it until I came here.

Question: What was the controversy midway through the second half?

Sutton: I wanted a timeout. The person who kept the timing device on the shot clock made a mistake. There was not a change of



UK's Coach Checking Out The Situation

but you can't play perfect game every night out. You have to always give the other ballclub a lot of credit. Defensively, they did a nice job also. I was very, pleased with the performance of Rob Lock. He really played an outstanding basketball game. He played well the other night. It was so important that he follow up so he'll continue to gain confidence and his teammates would gain confidence in him.

Question: How was it that Florida was able to get back in the game during the second half?

Sutton: Well, in the second half I thought we fouled too much. When you get a lead, and they are an excellent free throw shooting ballclub, instead of making them shoot it from the perimeter we kept putting them on the line. That kept them in the ballgame.

Question: What about Florida's three-guard lineup?

Sutton: I think their ballclub in a lot of ways is similar with our basketball team.

Question: What are your feelings of your first SEC championship?

Sutton: I told Cawood (Ledford) earlier today that I hope we win a lot of 'em before I leave the University of Kentucky. But the first one will be the sweetest, as it would be for most coaches. All the great SEC championships that Mr. (Adolph) Rupp won and

possession and yet he reset the clock. That's what I was trying to get a ruling on. I think Coach (Norm) Sloan felt I had left the (coaching) box and felt I should have assessed a technical foul. I think the officials knew there had been a mistake made and the clock should have not been reset. Fortunately, they did not give me a technical foul.

Question: Did you think your team played with lots of intensity?

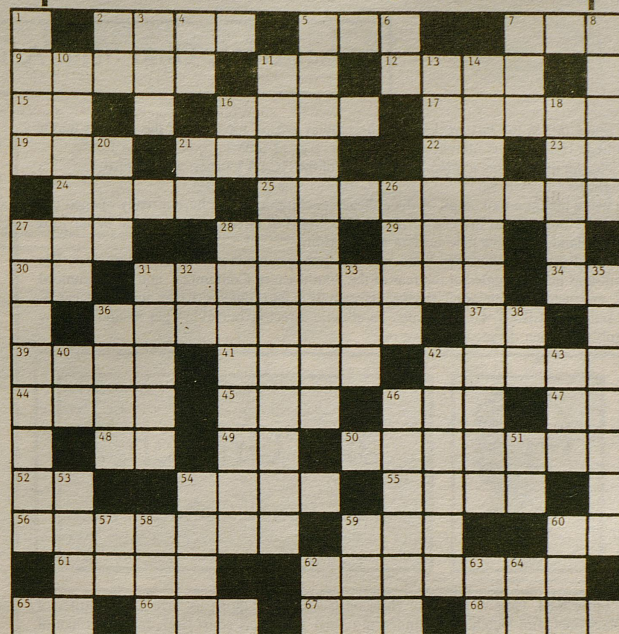
Sutton: The team played hard. We just didn't play quite as well (as in the two previous games). We were careless and we made more turnovers than we have been making. We had several opportunities to maybe where we could have broken open the game, but we didn't take advantage of it. I certainly would not criticize a team, in any way, for their lack of intensity — they played hard.

Question: What about Kenny Walker's play tonight?

Sutton: Here's an All-American: eight out of 12 (from the field); seven out of seven (free throws); 10 rebounds; no turnovers; and a great defensive effort. Now, if those aren't All-American stats then he ought to be Player of the Year. I certainly hope that all of the people that have the opportunity to vote, will vote him Player of the Year. No one in college basketball takes a beating like Kenny Walker does, believe me.

TCP Crossword Puzzle

By Dan Krueckeberg



COMMONWEALTH HOOP COACHES OF THE PAST & PRESENT

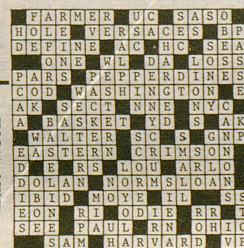
ACROSS

- 2 1st name/nickname of Louisville's winningest coach
- 5 Pick-____roll
- 7 First name of a bluegrass/national champion coach
- 9 20+ wins per year was the ____ result for coach Rupp
- 11 Initials of Stanford hoop star Luisetti
- 12 Small salmon
- 15 Initials of longest-serving UL coach
- 16 Former heavyweight boxing champ Max
- 17 Crime of reputation injury
- 19 Scorecard abbr. for "position"
- 21 Communist philosopher Karl
- 22 Initials of former USF star Lofgran
- 23 NE state abbr.
- 24 Wedding band
- 25 ____ 12 years at Morehead State
- 27 Included three trips to NCAA Tourney
- 28 First name of 5' Down
- 28 Light brown
- 29 Cereal grass
- 30 Common verb
- 31 Was 80-31 at U of L
- 34 1st name of a former Eastern coach
- 36 Bob Wright coached here in '60s
- 37 Initials of ECU's longest-serving coach
- 39 ____ shot
- 41 Brought into life
- 42 Nice to have in the backcourt
- 44 ____dale terrier
- 45 Commercial
- 46 Abbr. for "saint(female)"
- 47 ECU coach Byhre
- 48 Initials of a present-day bluegrass coach
- 49 Initials of coach who took Murray to 3 NITs
- 50 '69-'74 Morehead coach Bill
- 52 Initials of longest-serving present-day Div. I bluegrass coach
- 54 Rhyme
- 55 Coach Rupp ____ only 190 games
- 56 ____ first win on road came at Vandy
- 59 One of 297 for Joe B.
- 60 We
- 61 Actual
- 62 Digits
- 63 Initials of '60s ECU coach Baechtold
- 66 '70s coach Mulcahy of ECU
- 67 # of NCAA tourney appearances for ECU coach of 65 across
- 68 '70s Morehead coach Schalow

DOWN

- 1 880 wins; need we say more?
- 2 Symbol for "plutonium"
- 3 Full initials of a '22-'64 bluegrass coach
- 4 Initials of second-winningest Murray coach to Carlisle Cutchin
- 5 ____ record was 45-54 at Murray
- 6 Initials of bluegrass coach with 12 NCAA Tourney appearances
- 7 Steve Newton got the Murray ____
- 8 Winningest Morehead coach Johnson
- 10 Beaches
- 11 109-66 at Murray
- 13 Took Hilltoppers to a third place finish in NCAA Tourney
- 14 Coached by G.R. and C.H.
- 16 Initials of hoopster Asberry of Western
- 18 Former Vol Grunfield
- 20 42 Down coached ____ years at ECU
- 21 Initials of a present-day bluegrass coach
- 26 Succeeded 47 Across at Eastern
- 27 Coach for 1000th victory in WKU history
- 28 Best bluegrass coach to out-of-staters
- 31 Funny stories
- 32 Pac-10 state abbr.
- 33 Coach Rupp ____ the Wildcats in 5 decades
- 35 ____ coaching put WKU on the map
- 36 37 Across won ____ than any other ECU coach (214)
- 38 Not you
- 40 P : Hawaiian food
- 42 Former Eastern coach Guy
- 43 Slippery fish
- 46 Salt solution
- 51 Popular movie title of recent past
- 53 Street feature
- 54 Horse sport
- 57 Abbr. for a football position
- 58 Designate
- 59 Wayne Martin's first NCAA Tourney ____ for Morehead came against N.C. A&T
- 60 A Pac-10 school
- 62 Initials of '70s Murray coach Fred
- 63 Initials of 8 Down
- 64 Initials of '50s coach at Murray

Last Week



Jobs Aplenty In College Coaching Ranks

Kansas State, Ohio State And Houston Are Real Plums

Since this is the last weekend of the regular season for most of the nation's major college basketball conferences, it might be a good time to look into the future.

No, we're not going to predict the winner of the NCAA tourney, which North Carolina ought to win, but won't...

We're taking a look at all of the college coaching jobs that have already opened up. We're not even to the end of the season, yet, but already, some of the better jobs in the land will have new leaders next season.

Bob Boyd of Mississippi State was the first to announce this is his last year. His Bulldogs have struggled at the rear of the Southeastern Conference, and he announced his resignation on January 2, the day his team went into conference play against Alabama. It seems that Boyd wanted to also be athletic director, but didn't get it, and foresaw problems, then decided to move on.



Jim Griesch
Cats' Pause Columnist

Since then, Guy V. Lewis of Houston has called it quits, as have Eldon Miller of Ohio State, Jim Dutcher of Minnesota (under lots of off-court fire), Jack Hartman of Kansas State, George McQuarn at California State-Fullerton, Joe Williams of Florida State, Roy Chipman at Pittsburgh, and John Weinert of Bowling Green.

There could be more in the next few weeks. But, of the early announcements, three seem to be the real plums. Kansas State has a long and storied basketball history. So does Ohio State. Houston has been prominent for the last 20 years or so, but has always seemed to fall just short of a national title.

Of the rest, there are some interesting possibilities. Pittsburgh could be a good challenge with good, young talent, a tough league, and possible high visibility. Cal-Fullerton could be good, because of the geography.

Houston Job Could Be Real Plum

Anyone who could go to Houston and win big early could be set well for a long time, because of the near misses by Lewis in the recent past.

Several of the jobs could see some effect on Kentucky colleges and their staffs. Louisville assistant Bobby Dotson once was an assistant at Florida State under Williams. He might be a prospect for the FSU job now as well as Alabama's Wimp Sanderson.

Kentucky assistant Leonard Hamilton has often been mentioned as a candidate for certain jobs. His name will probably come up again. This might be an appropriate time for Hamilton to make the jump to a head coaching position.

The most intriguing opening could be the one at Ohio State. Two names that have gotten some media play belong to two alums of the school who have been successful head college coaches. They are Bobby Knight and Indiana and Don DeVoe at Tennessee.

Knight would seem to be a surprise, but some thought he may feel he needs a change of scenery from Bloomington, Ind., and could make the move. But, moving from one school to another in the same conference is always tough. Knight ended such speculation last week when he announced that he will finish his coaching career at Indiana.

DeVoe has already been quoted publicly as saying that he would not apply, but left it reasonably clear that he would listen if Ohio State officials came calling. And we've learned that he has, in fact, been interviewed for the job in Columbus.

(Remember, Kentucky supposedly called Eddie Sutton first.)

But, what if neither Knight nor DeVoe wind up in Columbus? Who then? Knight could be in a position to offer a recommendation to his alma mater. Would OSU officials listen?

Would A Knight Disciple Be Welcomed At OSU?

Would another of Knight's many ex-assistants who have become successful head coaches want to make the move to Ohio State?

Apparently, one of the problems Miller faced was that Ohio State would not give him more than a one-year contract. Supposedly, it is school policy.

Would an outsider want to work for just one year? We'll find out soon.

Perhaps the most difficult job to fill will be at Minnesota. Dutcher's problems seem to have been many. First, he took over a program beset with problems, not the least of which was the nasty 1971 incident in which several Golden Gophers stomped some Ohio State players in one of the worst incidents in college basketball history.

Oddly, that incident helped propel both Dutcher and Miller into the jobs they have just left (will soon leave) this year.

Three Minnesota players have been charged with various degrees of misconduct stemming from a hotel incident in Madison, Wis., in January.

But, one of those three had just been acquitted of sexual assault the week before from a 1984 incident on the Minnesota campus.

Whoever moves into the job, which could go to current interim coach, and Dutcher assistant, Jimmy Williams, will have to overcome some very real image problems.

Certain names have popped up for the Pittsburgh job. Two include pro coaches, George Karl of the Cleveland Cavaliers and Hubie Brown of the New York Knicks.

Rumors Have Brown A Candidate A Pitt

One rumor has it that if Brown went to Pittsburgh, then John Thompson of Georgetown would be a prime candidate to replace him in New York.

That might be good for college ball.

Brown would not necessarily be a proven college coach, but his intensity would be good at Pitt. The best news would be at Georgetown.

Thompson at one time seemed like a man to be respected. He talked about a lot of things, and made sense.

But, in recent years, his own insecurities, his own fears, seem to have risen sharply to the front. He has never seemed comfortable with the media. Its searching into his life, his mind, seems to have upset him.

According to some race has become an issue at Georgetown, as has the behavior of his players, and his willingness to allow his players to be hostile, nasty, and belligerent on the court.

Over the past four or five years, his players have been involved in many of the ugly scenes during college basketball games.

The pushing, slugging, and assorted other cheapshots by his players have been upsetting to the college basketball community, as a whole.

Boston College's Gary Williams also seems to be someone who's name pops up whenever any high-visibility job comes open.

One of the interesting aspects to having so many attractive jobs coming open this year could be in watching the "ripple effect" that filling certain jobs seems to create.

Hall's Retirement Had Rippling Effect

A great example of that came just last year when Joe B. Hall stepped down at UK. When UK President Otis Singletary and athletics director Cliff Hagan hired Sutton away from Arkansas, the "ripple effect" began.

First, Arkansas hired Nolan Richardson away from Tulsa. Then, Tulsa hired J. D. Barnett from Virginia Commonwealth. Shortly thereafter, VCU hired Mike Polio from Kentucky Wesleyan, and KWC elevated assistant Wayne Chapman to the head job.

But, at each opening, the calender drove deeper and deeper into the recruiting season. As each school filled its own job, someone else had to go scratching around, quickly, for a new man of its own.

Check the scenario...

Say DeVoe does become the new Ohio State coach. Then, the Vols' Doug Dickey will need a coach. Who will he take? Will it be someone already successful as a head coach? DeVoe was. So was wild and woolley Ray Mears (at Wittenberg in Ohio). As soon as UT fills its void, what does the next school do? Then, so and so must find a replacement, and on and on it goes.

What if Knight goes to Ohio State? Then, three Big Ten teams would be involved in looking for a coach. And, if Northwestern should decide to trade in Rich Falk for someone else, then the league would be looking for four coaches. That's almost half the conference involved in changing coaches.

Things may be about as unsettled in the Southeastern Conference before the Spring is over.

Mississippi State is currently the only school looking for a coach.

State's Vacancy May Not Be Only SEC Opening

But, if DeVoe moves to Ohio State, the number is two.

Is Mississippi happy with Lee Hunt? Certainly, the program hasn't improved on-court since Bob Weltlich left for Texas.

Then, at Louisiana State, Dale Brown has been stomping around for years, talking about moving on, getting out of coaching altogether.

Since the program there has been embroiled in more controversy this year than even UK's, Brown may decide to chuck it in. But, word has floated around the SEC, quietly, that the decision will be up to Brown, and Brown alone. And last week, Brown said he would not leave LSU after the current year, but one can change his mind.

And, of the 10 SEC coaches, only Brown has been at his school for more than seven consecutive years.

Brown has said and done some wild things at LSU. To think that he represents stability and continuity in the conference almost seems funny, but it is true.

If Thompson and Williams should make a move, then one-third of the Big East, a young conference with a lot of media impact, would be floating around trying to fill a void.

Job openings and moves always seem to come in cycles. The SEC has seen its share of new faces move in and out. And, in some years, as many as two or three new coaches come on board at the same time.

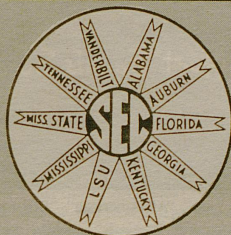
It looks possible for the Big Ten and the Big East, even the Big Eight to fall into this category this season.

In recent years, the Pacific Ten and the Sun Belt have also undergone major changes. Things look quiet in these conferences for the time being, but you never know what inside pressures are put on coaches at various schools.

[Continued On Page 34]

Cats' Pause Board Of Experts

(And Armchair Quarterbacks)



Readers
Choice



Oscar
Combs



Nick
Nicholas



Todd
Hallum



Gary
Cromwell



Don
Coffey



Koop
Demon

Last Week Total	Results From Feb. 15	18-7 264-61	17-8 259-66	21-4 263-62	17-8 251-74	17-8 249-76	19-6 251-74
LSU AT KENTUCKY		KENTUCKY 6	KENTUCKY 10	KENTUCKY 9	KENTUCKY 10	KENTUCKY 3	KENTUCKY 6
TENNESSEE AT GEORGIA		GEORGIA 7	GEORGIA 7	GEORGIA 12	GEORGIA 7	GEORGIA 8	GEORGIA 4
AUBURN AT VANDERBILT		AUBURN 1	AUBURN 1	AUBURN 3	AUBURN 6	AUBURN 2	AUBURN 8
MISSISSIPPI AT ALABAMA		ALABAMA 6	ALABAMA 9	ALABAMA 16	ALABAMA 9	ALABAMA 6	ALABAMA 10
MISSISSIPPI STATE AT FLORIDA		FLORIDA 12	FLORIDA 3	FLORIDA 18	FLORIDA 6	FLORIDA 10	FLORIDA 6
VIRGINIA AT MARYLAND		MARYLAND 3	VIRGINIA 2	MARYLAND 6	MARYLAND 2	MARYLAND 4	MARYLAND 4
N.C. STATE AT OKLAHOMA		OKLAHOMA 3	OKLAHOMA 9	STATE 8	OKLAHOMA 3	OKLAHOMA 3	OKLAHOMA 6
ILLINOIS AT GEORGIA TECH		TECH 4	TECH 4	TECH 4	TECH 6	TECH 5	TECH 4
SYRACUSE AT CONNECTICUT		SYRACUSE 4	SYRACUSE 8	SYRACUSE 5	SYRACUSE 8	SYRACUSE 6	SYRACUSE 6
MICHIGAN AT NORTHWESTERN		MICHIGAN 14	MICHIGAN 10	MICHIGAN 14	MICHIGAN 10	MICHIGAN 4	MICHIGAN 4
MICHIGAN STATE AT WISCONSIN		STATE 2	STATE 3	STATE 3	STATE 6	STATE 3	STATE 1
NEBRASKA AT KANSAS STATE		STATE 9	STATE 1	STATE 8	STATE 6	STATE 6	STATE 4
IOWA STATE AT KANSAS		KANSAS 18	KANSAS 15	KANSAS 19	KANSAS 15	KANSAS 3	KANSAS 8
TEXAS TECH AT TEXAS		TEXAS 7	TEXAS 4	TEXAS 2	TEXAS 5	TEXAS 4	TEXAS 2
TCU AT HOUSTON		TCU 1	HOUSTON 4	TCU 6	TCU 3	HOUSTON 4	HOUSTON 4
TEXAS A&M AT ARKANSAS		A&M 4	ARKANSAS 3	ARKANSAS 7	A&M 1	ARKANSAS 6	ARKANSAS 2
NOTRE DAME AT MARQUETTE		N. DAME 1	MARQUETTE 2	MARQUETTE 3	MARQUETTE 1	MARQUETTE 3	N. DAME 3
WASHINGTON ST AT ARIZONA ST		ASU 4	ASU 7	ASU 4	ASU 4	ASU 6	ASU 3
DEPAUL AT UCLA		UCLA 1	UCLA 5	UCLA 8	UCLA 5	DEPAUL 3	UCLA 3
YALE AT HARVARD		YALE 7	YALE 2	YALE 3	YALE 1	HARVARD 3	HARVARD 10
BOSTON COLLEGE AT VILLANOVA		VILLANOVA 8	VILLANOVA 4	VILLANOVA 9	VILLANOVA 7	VILLANOVA 6	VILLANOVA 8
MEMPHIS STATE AT LOUISVILLE		U OF L 2	STATE 1	U OF L 7	U OF L 1	U OF L 3	STATE 2
NORTH CAROLINA AT DUKE		DUKE 1	DUKE 2	DUKE 4	CAROLINA 1	DUKE 3	DUKE 4
CLEMSON AT GEORGIA TECH		TECH 21	TECH 10	TECH 15	TECH 8	TECH 6	TECH 6
IOWA AT INDIANA		INDIANA 8	INDIANA 9	INDIANA 12	INDIANA 7	INDIANA 21	INDIANA 8

No One Can Predict Future Of Prep Athletes

'Trying' May Be The Best Ingredient

I often tell my daughter, a Veterinarian, and her husband, and M. D. that apparently medicine is not an exact science.

They smile and agree. No argument.

I've said the same thing about recruiting, that it is not an exact science, to fans who live and die by that sort of thing. They don't smile! They usually disagree! Sometimes there's a heck of an argument!

I'm right and they're wrong! It's as simple as that.

No one can predict with absolute accuracy which of this year's high school stars will



Stan Torgerson

Cats' Pause Columnist

be next year's college phenom.

That's what makes recruiting time the silly season. People gobble up every word in publications such as this about kids they've never met and in most cases have never seen, absolutely convinced that if their school signs this boy or that one, next New Year's Eve will be spent in New Orleans.

On national signing day parties are held, chalk boards set up and thousands of dollars are spent in long distance phone calls to various SEC schools, begging for information on which 18 year old has honored the Dogs or the Vols or the Rebels or the Cats or the Tigers or whomever by accepting a free ride scholarship worth thousands and thousands of dollars while turning down other free ride scholarships also worth thousands and thousands of dollars.

It may be fun, but it's pointless.

No one can truly predict an athlete's future. He may be big, he may be strong, he may be fleet of foot, but no one can predict with certainty what his contribution will be.

Reasons Why You Can't Predict Recruits' Success

There are three basic reasons--His studies, his health, his mental outlook.

Some kids go to school and discover that studying and playing football at the same time is very hard to do. Coaches talk about graduation rates and academic achievement, but I've never known a player who could successfully tell his coach that he thought he'd skip practice today in order to bone up for tomorrow's math test. If practice starts at three, you'd damn well better be there at three.

Then comes the subject of his health or to be more exact, injuries. They happen. Everyone connected with football wishes they didn't but they do. The finest prospect in the country is subject to injury the first time he runs out on the field and a hurt player is a non-player.

But to me, most important, are his emotions or, to be more exact his mental outlook on the game.

Some boys are competitors. They love the game. They enjoy the physical contact of it. In other words, they try! They try every play. They give a maximum effort.

But the truth is that many so called blue chip prospects aren't cut out of that cloth. They are 235-pound linemen, even fullbacks, who made a name for themselves beating up on 175 pound opponents in high school. Now they come to college and suddenly the man on the other side of the line is 6'5" and weighs 260 and kicks the stuffing out of our high school hero every day in practice.

You may or may not believe this, but every coach will tell you that before the first 21 days of practice have been completed, one or two incoming freshmen will pack their bags and quietly disappear because college football is tougher and rougher than they ever expected.

No Way To Look Into Boy's Heart

The point is that there is no way to look into a boy's heart and see how badly he wants to play. To be born with great skills is one thing. To want to use them is quite another.

These three factors, studies, health and mental outlook are why no school ever goes into a season with 30 seniors, despite the fact that most of them sign 30 or a few less every year. They fall by the wayside as the years go by for one of those reasons.

Last fall's senior crop looked like this. Alabama 13; Auburn, 18; Florida, 18; Georgia, 20; Kentucky, 22; LSU only 7; Ole Miss, 20; Mississippi State, 19; Tennessee 15 and Vanderbilt, 13.

Where were the others who started their college careers with such high hopes? In most cases gone--and completely forgotten.

I've always had a formula for measuring players, or employees, for that matter. It is TxE=S. Talent times effort equals success.

Some kids bring in a high talent quotient but a low level of effort. Some are lacking in the "T" factor but make up for that with a big "E" number.

Once in a while you recruit a boy who has both. He's high in "T" and high in "E"

TxE=S

Talent Times Effort Equals Success

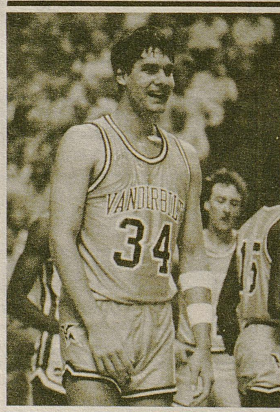
and when that happens the "S" result spells "star", "All-American", "first-round draft choice".

Nobody really knows on signing day who he is and no one will know until this fall when practice starts.

This recruiting fuss, the breathless anticipation over who gets whom, these wild claims of "the greatest recruiting year, ever", are harmless as long as you remember that recruiting, like medicine, is not an exact science. Never has been! Never will be!

Not For Broadcast

The **Vanderbilt** basketball team has as many players from the **Kentucky** as do the Wildcats themselves. Each has four. **Brett Burrow** is from North Hardin. **Barry Goheen** hails from Calvert City and **Frank Kornet** and **Chip Rupp** both come from Lexington. In addition, Vandy Coach **C. M. Newton** is a Kentucky graduate. Kentucky's four home-grown products include **Paul Andrews** from London, **LeRoy Byrd** from Lexington, and **Winston Bennett** and **Todd Ziegler**, both of whom call Louisville home.....Speaking of Kentucky, they sport the longest string of non-losing seasons in NCAA basketball. The Wildcats have not had a losing season in 57 years. The last time the Cats had a bad yer was 1927 when they were 3-13.....While



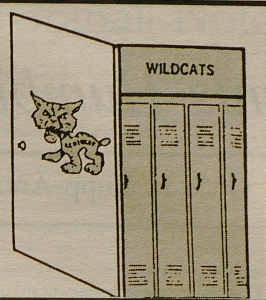
Frank Kornet



LeRoy Byrd

Auburn has struggled this year, they have shown marked improvement at the free throw line. Last year they hit 64.4 percent of their freebees. This year they are up sharply to 73.5.....It is amazing to think of a **Tennessee** team with 11 consecutive losses on the road but that was the story after **Ole Miss** recently wacked the Volunteers. The streak is a record but not on that **Don DeVoe** is proud of.....When **Ole Miss** beat **Tennessee** by four points to extend the Vols' string of futility the Rebels shot 30 free throws. Tennessee had only one.....What's the secret of **Alabama's** success? At the midway point of the season all six Tide players, who had taken 100 shots or more, were shooting better than 50 percent. Two of the six were shooting wver 60 percent.....You realize what a great shooter **Pete Maravich** was when you realize he scored less than 20 points only once in 83 games and 40 or more points 58 times.....How important is good shooting? Last year **Georgia** was 17-2 in games in which it shot over 50 percent from the field. When they hit less than 50 percent they were 5-7.....The last word: "One loss is good for the soul. Too many are not good for the coach." - **Knute Rockne**.

Inside The Locker Room



UK 80, UF 69

ED DAVENDER

(About talking at halftime to get the ball inside)

Davender: It was mentioned, there's no doubt about that. We just needed to get the ball inside. We got it to 'em and it worked.

(About his quick start, offensively)

Davender: Personally, I was surprised to see them play a man-to-man. We haven't seen a man-to-man defense in quite a long time. They came out and played a man-to-man and everytime I just trailed off a pick. Nobody was there with me, so I took it in for a layup.

(About playing against Florida's three-guard lineup)

Davender: They probably have the quickest guards in the league. They are really hard to contain.

KENNY WALKER

(About Florida's defense)

Walker: There defense was about the same (first half and second half). Our outside shooting was good in the first half and we just stuck to our perimeter game. Those guys

(UK's guards) were doing a great job of hitting from the outside. In the second half we just got the ball inside a little bit more. Our outside game has been working real well of late, but you would like to establish the inside game also. In the first half the shots were there; they just packed their defense inside. Our perimeter people just did a great job of hitting the outside shots in the first half. In the second half we kind of took it inside a little bit more. They still had it packed inside, but the perimeter people made some great passes to get it past the defense.

(About his career at the University of Kentucky)

Walker: I've been pleased with the teams throughout the years that I've been on here at the University of Kentucky. I guess I'm extra pleased with this, because we're a bunch of overachievers. At the beginning of the year a lot of people didn't think we would be in the position that we're in right now. I guess that's what makes this year more enjoyable than the others. In the other years you can say that we had the Twin Towers, we had a whole lot of talent, and we should win a whole lot of ballgames. A lot of people didn't think we would be here, now. Just to be in this position makes me feel real happy, probably more happy than I've ever been.

(About this season)

Walker: We're winning and that's the main thing.

UK 80, UG 75

JAMES BLACKMON

(About his improved play this season)

Blackmon: Well, last year we had a lot of set patterns in the offense, but this year we're playing motion offense and everybody's involved. That's the kind of game I like to play — get up and down the court. Plus, I like to play the aggressive man-to-man defense Coach (Eddie) Sutton likes to play. I've got to give credit to the motion offense and the great defense we play. Last year I had my head down a lot. (This year) I love playing the game and we're out there having fun.

(About having to play at Tennessee Thursday night)

Blackmon: They said it was bad luck for Kentucky to try to go down there and win (Stokely Athletics Center). Now it's a whole new different thing; we've got new coaching. I feel like we can go down there and continue to play aggressive man-to-man... and win the ballgame.

KENNY WALKER

(About winning the conference title with two games remaining)

Walker: I wouldn't have thought we would (won it) with teams — Auburn and LSU — picked ahead of us. Coach Sutton is an outstanding coaching. He's really excited the fans and the players; and we want to go out and play hard and win ballgames for him. He's an outstanding coach.

(About playing against Georgia's man-to-man defense)

Walker: I feel real comfortable, with my

game, when a team goes to a man-to-man defense. When we've got guys like James Blackmon, Ed Davender and Roger Harden who are really shooting well from the outside, then that will definitely open things up inside for Winston (Bennett) and myself. That was the case today. We came out and hit some big shots early and that opened up our inside game.

(About James Blackmon hitting his first five shots in the second half)

Walker: I hope that he keeps shooting that way. He's been having an outstanding year; he's been playing the way James Blackmon can play. I knew deep down in my heart that James is an outstanding player. A lot of times we put too much pressure on people to perform. James is a great player and he's going to continue to play that way.

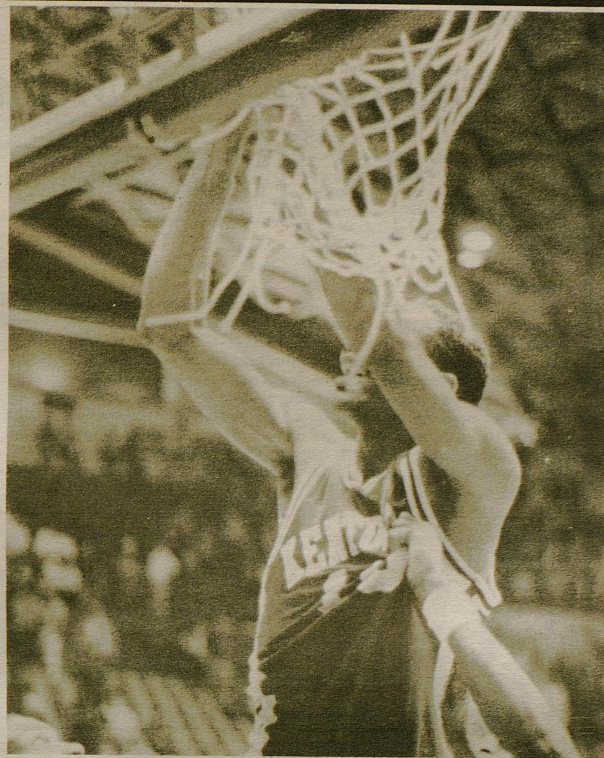
(About Kentucky's next game, at Tennessee)

Walker: I think it's a motivation factor for me because of the previous three years. I definitely want to go down there and win. The team will want to win because we've only won one time in the last 13 years. We're not satisfied with just winning the SEC; we want to go through this thing with only one loss. We're going down there with only one thing on our mind — to win that ballgame — and comeback home and win the game against LSU.

WINSTON BENNETT

(About winning the SEC championship)

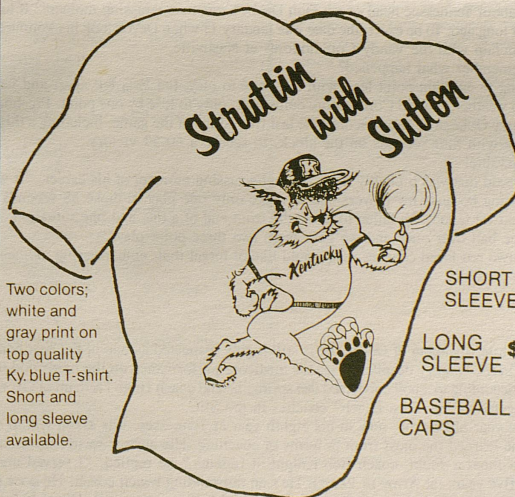
Bennett: This is sort of a surprise that we can win the SEC championship because this is a down year for Kentucky talent-wise. It is extra-sweet to win the championship on the road, especially for the guys on our team who are from Georgia, like Kenny Walker and Cedric Jenkins.



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Sorry, no COD'S

Embarrassing Moments Humble Coaches

Sonny Smith Blushed Once In Rupp Arena

Embarrassing moments.....

If you were a head coach and you received a technical foul for mistakenly arguing over a referee's call that was in your favor, how would you feel?

Embarrassed, right?

That is exactly what happened to Auburn head basketball mentor Sonny Smith in a 1981 game with Kentucky at Rupp Arena. The 49-year-old Smith, in a recent interview, said that was his most embarrassing moment in his long athletic career.

"I think the most embarrassing moment for me in athletics was when I got a technical foul at the University of Kentucky as I rushed out on the floor to protest the call that had gone my way," he recalled. "He (the official) had called it and it had gone my way. And I thought he had called it the other way. It was six years ago in a game they beat us (102-74), the worst beating we took there."



Jamie Vaught

Cats' Pause Columnist

Smith had thought the foul had been called on Paul Daniels, then a freshman guard for the Tigers. But it was Kentucky's Dirk Minniefeld who had the foul whistled against him.

The 28-point loss to the Wildcats still stands as the worst setback Smith has suffered at Auburn.

Want To Know DeVoe's Most Embarrassing Moment?

Okay, let's move on.

What about Tennessee head coach Don DeVoe's most embarrassing moment? It took place not long ago. To be exact, the date was January 15 when DeVoe took his Volunteers for a matchup with the Vandy Commodores at Nashville.

You remember what happened?

Clinging to an eight-point lead with a minute to play, the Vols fell apart and were unable to weather a furious Commodore comeback, only to lose by one point. Freshman guard Barry Goheen of Vandy scored the last five points of the game, including a three-point play with four seconds on the clock, to secure a 60-59 victory.

Unbelievable!

DeVoe said that was probably the most embarrassing moment of his career. "It was embarrassing because my players had to make only one play in those 58 seconds to win it, and we failed. We failed to make the front-end of a one-and-one situation, we turned the ball over once and we gave them two three-point plays."

These two red-faced coaches sure would like to forget their embarrassing moments, if that is possible.

Meanwhile, speaking of DeVoe, he is still highly respected as one of the best bench coaches in the country despite his team's mediocre performance on the hardwood this season. According to a poll conducted last spring, he and coach Hugh Durham of Georgia were selected as the "best bench" coaches in the SEC.

The 44-year-old DeVoe, now in his eighth year at Tennessee, was asked whom did he feel he learned the most from in terms of coaching. His answer wasn't surprising. "Well, without a doubt, coach Bob Knight of Indiana," he replied. "I served under him for five years (at Army in 1960s). He's an outstanding bench coach. He does the right things in the coaching profession as far as ethics are concerned. His teams perform up to their capacity defensively. And they also get the high percentage shots. So, I have been a believer in Bob Knight's system as a coach. If I could get my teams at Tennessee to play as well as his teams at IU, we'd win a lot more games."

Was he anything like the Bobby Knight that people read about today? DeVoe was asked.

"Well, Bobby Knight is a mellow lamb compared to the first five years that I served under him at the Academy," he said. "He was intense; he expected a lot from his players. He was fair to his players, but he was one of the most intense coaches and one of the youngest coaches, I might add, at that point in time in college basketball. He was 24 years old when he first started coaching. I was 22. But Bob Knight, you know, was destined to be one of all-time great coaches from day one."

Dandy Don Says He Intends To Stay At UT

DeVoe said he intends to stay on at Tennessee even though he has been mentioned as one of the leading candidates of the head coaching job at Ohio State, his alma mater. He said the new 25,000-seat riverfront arena being built is a big factor in his decision. "I think the gym is certainly a big factor," he said. "I have been here during a time in which we have made tremendous progress. We have won a couple of SEC champion-

ships, one in the tournament and one in the regular season a few years ago. We would love nothing better than to be able to see a 25,000-seat arena completed, and to have the type of support that would allow us to be No. 1 in the nation in basketball attendance.

"Ohio State, to me, is another great coaching job. But I think I have a great one in Knoxville and I consider myself to be a Tennessee Volunteer. So, I'm hopeful of being able to stay here in Knoxville."

Ten years ago, DeVoe applied for the Ohio State post but Eldon Miller, its current boss, received the nod. Miller recently was forced to step down, effective at the end of the season.

Sutton Likes Idea Of SEC Tournament

It's almost tournament time!

And Kentucky coach Eddie Sutton likes the idea of the SEC holding the post-season conference tournament.

"I'm very much in favor of it (the SEC Tournament)," Sutton said. "What it does — it allows the coach of a team that is buried down in the lower division to continue to motivate his squad and say, 'Look, we're going to get another shot when it comes time for the post-season tournament.' I believe that maybe Ole Miss a few years ago won the SEC Tournament (in 1981). If you did not have the tournament, then they would never have had the opportunity."

"The second thing is, it keeps the fans' interest alive. As long as the fans know their teams are going to get a second shot in the postseason tournament, then they'll continue to support basketball even though their team may have fallen out of the league race. With the way it is set up, the higher you finish, the better off you are. As far as the post-season classic is concerned, there is always going to be a desire there to win the ball game. Whereas, before they started the tourney (which was renewed 1979 after a 26-year absence), I don't believe that was always the case."

Sutton also said he doesn't feel the NCAA's 64-team tournament is too big. "I don't think so," he said. "I have been an advocate of enlarging the field (to 64) for the last couple of years. I don't think anybody would like to have a bye. Maybe the ideal situation is to go back to 32 but I don't think we will ever do that. I think they will stay at 64 for quite some time. I really believe there are 64 good teams each year that can compete for the national title."

Hoop Tidbits

Bob Woodruff, who retired last fall after a distinguished career as athletic director at Tennessee, and **Joel Eaves**, the former AD at Georgia and head basketball coach at Auburn, have been selected as the honorary co-chairmen for the upcoming *SEC Basketball Tournament* in Lexington.....

The only player from the SEC competing in the recent NBA All-Star game was former Mississippi State star **Jeff Malone**, now with the Washington Bullets. He scored six points for the winning East squad..... Auburn star **Chuck Person's** given name is **Chuck Conner Person**. His mother's (Mary) favorite TV series was "**The Rifleman**" which starred Chuck Conners.....

Although his Commodores weren't involved, Vandy head basketball coach **C. M. Newton** was crying foul over the schedule change of two SEC games which were postponed and later make up (*Kentucky-at-Auburn* and *LSU-at-Auburn* matchups), according to a recent article in a Nashville newspaper.....

Last May, Auburn's **Sonny Smith** was a member of race driver **Dale Earnhardt's** Wrangler pit crew at the *Winston 500* at Talladega, Ala. "I was the man who handed the water to him when he came in on pit stops," Smith said. "It was a great experience for me. He is a good friend of mine and he is a winner. And I like to be around winners. He's been good for me. He pulls for me also." Smith plans to get involved in auto racing again in the off-season. "I'm going back to the **Talladega 500** and be in the crew this year."

Winston 500 is one of NASCAR's four biggest races.

Southeastern Pigskin Notes

Tennessee was scheduled to kick off its 1986 fall campaign on the road in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where the football Vols were to play the Lobos. Instead, the season opener with **New Mexico** will take place at Knoxville, switching the site because of one factor: *money*. The Vols were guaranteed \$150,000 for the trip to New Mexico, but the lobo stadium expansion proposal fell through. As a result of that, the Lobos felt they could not pay that amount without increased seating. So, **Tennessee** offered **New Mexico** \$421,000 to switch the game to Knoxville. In five home games last year, the Lobos reportedly grossed \$418,000. Tennessee now has seven home games for this coming season. The **UT-New Mexico** opener is scheduled for Saturday night, September 6.....

Former Mississippi State head football coach **Bob Tyler** was recently selected athletic director and head coach of the Oxford, Miss., *Municipal Separate School District*. Tyler's six-year mark at MSU was 21-44-2 (from 1973 to '78).

In case you missed it, **Alabama** and **Ohio State** will meet in the *Kickoff Classic* either August 27 or 28 to begin the 1986 college football season. The fourth annual Kickoff Classic will be played in **Giants Stadium** in East Rutherford, N. J. Alabama and Ohio State have met only once. On Jan. 2, 1978, Alabama rolled over the Buckeyes 35-6 in the **Sugar Bowl** in a highly publicized matchup between coaches **Paul "Bear" Bryant** and **Woody Hayes**.

UK Football Notes

Oscar L. Combs

With another recruiting sign-up date out of the way and 14 high school stars in the fold, the University of Kentucky football staff has turned much of its attention to the upcoming spring practice which will begin March 26 and end with the annual Blue-White Game Saturday, April 26.

As a preliminary to the spring session, UK will hold its annual "Pro Day" Wednesday, March 12; at that time, scouts representing

all the professional football teams and the scouting combines will spend the entire day measuring, weighing, timing and evaluating members of the Wildcat squad.

The beauty of this situation is that the coaches and sports information director get a true "reading" on player sizes, especially the younger players. Incoming freshmen next fall will be measured, weighed and timed by the UK staff, but that process doesn't seem as

thorough as the spring session with pro scouts.

High school coaches and players sometimes have a tendency to "stretch" such stats as a player's height, weight and speed to make that player a better looking prospect. One highly touted freshman who entered UK at a reported 6-foot-7 a few years ago now is listed at 6-4½ in the pros.

[Continued From Page 3]

to one report, could be in the running for several jobs, including **Oklahoma State**, **Pittsburgh** and **Minnesota**. ESPN's **Dick Vitale** says Hamilton is one of seven top college assistants who should be moving up to head jobs next season. Among the other six are Tennessee's **Jack Fertig**, Louisville's **Wade Houston** and North Carolina's **Ed-die Fogler**. . . . NBC-TV's **Al McGuire** lists his top four basketball conferences as the ACC, followed by Big Ten then Big East and SEC. McGuire believes four SEC teams will be invited to the NCAA Tournament and calls Kenny Walker the "Final-izer." . . . Our thoughts go out to the **Tommy Bell** family. Tommy, a long-time National Football League official until nine years ago, was one of UK's most ardent supporters and a close personal friend of football coach Jerry Claiborne. Bell died of cancer last week. He will be remembered as one who gave of himself to help others. He was truly a great Kentuckian. . . . UK's chances of getting either a first and second seed in the NCAA Tournament next month improved greatly with its win over Georgia last Saturday. If the Wildcats could pull off a pair of wins this week against Tennessee and LSU, then the picture would be mighty clear.

Sutton Gets McGuire's Vote For Top Coach

If noted sports television analyst Al McGuire's vote in "College Basketball Coach Of The Year" is the deciding factor, Kentucky's Eddie Sutton can get ready to accept load of honors at the season's end.

Those were some comments made in a unique way last week by the former Marquette coach to Sutton.

Sutton received a stange envelope with a 1930 copy of *National Geographic* magazine inside. Puzzled by the contents, Sutton flipped through the magazine and discovered a note from McGuire which made mention of the UK-North Carolina State game which McGuire covered for NBC-TV recently.

McGuire then said Sutton, at this stage of the season, is certainly his choice as "Coach Of The Year."

Upon discovering the letter, Sutton broke out in laughter. "That's the way Al is," Sutton said. "He always does thing in some strange way."

Sutton said McGuire knows of the Suttons' interest (wife, Patsy and Eddie) in collecting old magazines and antiques, and that was the reason for the 1930 magazine.

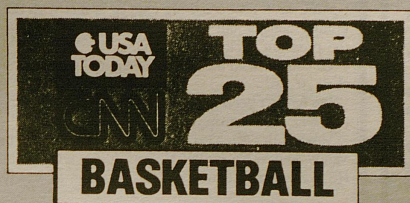
McGuire and Dick Enberg, still the best basketball television pair in the business, will be in Lexington to handle the Kentucky-LSU regular season finale this Saturday.

It was three years ago that Enberg almost wept during the "weep no more, my lady" part of the UK seniors' farewell at Rupp Arena when UK paraded **Charles Hurt**, **Tom Heitz**, **Dirk Minniefeld** and **Derrick Hord** for the final curtain.

Enberg and McGuire were doing the national telecast at the time for NBC-TV.

Because NBC-TV was just returning from a commercial break, Enberg pointed out what the audience had just missed, that the Rupp Arena scene was one of the most touching in all of sports. Commented Enberg, "man, that's powerful stuff."

It will be interesting to see if NBC-TV decides to televise this part of UK's final home game to the nation. After all, this is what college basketball is all about. Right, Dick?



1 DUKE (27-2)

Last week: 2. Points: 871 (32 No. 1 votes). Weekend result: Beat Oklahoma 93-84. The Blue Devils built a 23-point lead 12 minutes into the game, but Oklahoma came back on the shooting of David Johnson to reduce the deficit to 66-65 with 11½ minutes remaining.

2 KANSAS (26-3)

Last week: 3. Points: 828 (2 No. 1 votes). Weekend result: Beat Kansas State 84-69 as Ron Kellogg had 30 points, nine assists and five rebounds. The victory gave Kansas its first Big Eight title since 1978 and extended its home winning streak to 32 games.

3 NORTH CAROLINA (25-3)

Last week: 1. Points: 803 (1 No. 1 vote). Weekend result: Lost to North Carolina State 76-65 Sunday. The Tar Heels, who lost their second consecutive game, were led by center Brad Daugherty with 23 points. Starters Steve Hale and Warren Martin missed the game because of injuries.

4 GEORGIA TECH (21-4)

Last week: 4. Points: 782. Weekend result: Beat Maryland 77-70. The Yellow Jackets made 18 of 21 second-half shots, including 10 in a row. For the game, Georgia Tech made 34 of 48 from the field (70.8 percent). John Salley scored 22 points and Mark Price 16.

5 KENTUCKY (24-3)

Last week: 7. Points: 722. Weekend result: Beat Georgia 80-75. Kentucky won the Southeastern Conference regular-season title for the 36th time in the SEC's 54-year history. It was the 1,400th career victory for the Wildcats, who are 15-1 this season in conference play. Kenny Walker and Winston Bennett scored 22 and 20 points.

6 SYRACUSE (22-3)

Last week: 10. Points: 678. Weekend result: Beat Georgetown 64-63 Sunday. Junior guard Dwayne "Pearl" Washington scored a game-high 24 points, including the decisive free throw with 25 seconds left, and Rafael Addison added 20. The Orangemen led by 15 twice in the second half before the Hoyas came back. The victory kept Syracuse in first place in the Big East with a 13-1 record.

7 UNLV (27-3)

Last week: 9. Points: 661. Weekend result: Beat Fresno State 72-56 as Anthony Jones scored 17 points. The Runnin' Rebels broke open the game midway through the first half with a 17-6 spurt. UNLV has clinched its fourth consecutive Pacific Coast Athletic Association title.

8 MEMPHIS STATE (23-3)

Last week: 5. Points: 588. Weekend result: Lost to Florida State 82-80. Pat Conner tipped in a missed shot by Pee-wee Barber with one second remaining to give the Seminoles the win in Tallahassee.

9 ST. JOHN'S (25-4)

Last week: 6. Points: 570. Weekend result: Lost to DePaul 81-72. The Blue Demons led 41-31 before St. John's rallied to cut the deficit to 49-47. DePaul pulled away again to improve its record to 15-10.

10 MICHIGAN (23-4)

Last week: 8. Points: 568. Weekend result: Beat Alabama-Birmingham 62-54. The Wolverines came back from a seven-point second-half deficit as guard Antoine Joubert scored a game-high 20 points.

11 BRADLEY (28-1)

Last week: 12. Points: 530. Weekend result: Beat Wichita State 74-64 as Hersey Hawkins scored 22 points. The Braves are 15-0 in the Missouri Valley Conference and have won 19 consecutive games.

12 NOTRE DAME (19-5)

Last week: 14. Points: 476. Weekend result: Beat Miami (Fla.) 126-73 as Ken Barlow scored 28 points and David Rivers 19. The Fighting Irish led 66-40 at halftime.

13 LOUISVILLE (21-7)

Last week: 16. Points: 410. Weekend result: Beat Houston 76-59. The Cardinals have won six consecutive games and are tied with Memphis State for first place in the Metro Conference at 8-2.

14 OKLAHOMA (23-5)

Last week: 11. Points: 394. Weekend result: Lost at Duke 93-84. David Johnson made 13 of 15 shots and had a career-high 31 points, but

the Sooners lost for the third time in four games. The Sooners reduced a 23-point first-half deficit to 66-65 before Duke recovered.

15 GEORGETOWN (20-6)

Last week: 13. Points: 380. Weekend result: Lost to Syracuse 64-63 Sunday when Michael Jackson missed a long jumper as time expired. Georgetown, which trailed by 18 points in the first half, was led by Reggie Williams with 19. The Hoyas fell to 9-5 in the Big East.

16 INDIANA (18-6)

Last week: 15. Points: 375. Weekend result: Lost to Purdue 85-68 Sunday. Daryl Thomas had 23 points to lead the Hoosiers. Indiana guard Steve Aford, averaging 23 points a game, was held to eight. Indiana, which had won 10 of its last 11 games, dropped to 10-4 in the Big Ten.

17 NO. CAROLINA STATE (18-9)

Last week: 17. Points: 325. Weekend result: Beat North Carolina 76-65 Sunday. Center Chris Washburn scored 26 points to lead four North Carolina State players into double figures. The Wolfpack got a career-high 18 points from junior forward Bennie Bolton. N.C. State made 10 of 12 free-throw attempts in the final 2:13.

18 MICHIGAN STATE (18-6)

Last week: 22. Points: 287. Weekend result: Did not play.

19 NAVY (23-4)

Last week: 20. Points: 222. Weekend result: Beat Army 55-52 in overtime. David Robinson had 23 points and 11 rebounds for the Midshipmen, who have won nine consecutive and 16 of their last 17 games.

20 ALABAMA (19-6)

Last week: 23. Points: 198. Weekend result: Beat Vanderbilt 69-68 as Jim Farmer scored 18 points. The Crimson Tide had to survive a last-second shot by Vanderbilt's Terry Gooen after Farmer missed a 1-and-1 attempt with two seconds left.

21 VIRGINIA (18-7)

Last week: 24. Points: 173. Weekend result: Beat Clemson 82-69 as Olden Polynice had 21 points and eight rebounds. The Cavaliers led 38-32 at halftime, but were ahead only 54-52 with 11:40 remaining before two baskets by John Johnson and a Mel Kennedy jumper made it 60-52. Freshman Michael Best scored 21 points for the Tigers (17-11).

22 TEXAS-EL PASO (22-5)

Last week: 19. Points: 167. Weekend result: Did not play.

23 TCU (20-5)

Last week: Not ranked. Points: 81. Weekend result: Beat Texas 55-54 as Jamie Dixon made an off-balance 30-footer at the buzzer in Fort Worth. The victory put the Horned Frogs in first place in the Southwest Conference with a 12-2 record. TCU hasn't won the SWC title since 1971.

24 VIRGINIA TECH (20-7)

Last week: 18. Points: 71. Weekend result: Lost to Southern Mississippi 69-66. Randolph Keys had 23 points and seven rebounds as the Golden Eagles came back from a 59-51 deficit.

25 PURDUE (21-7)

Last week: Not ranked. Points: 65. Weekend result: Beat Indiana 85-68 Sunday. The Boilermakers won their fifth consecutive game and improved to 10-5 in the Big Ten. Todd Mitchell had 24 points to lead Purdue.

Dropped from poll this week: Illinois (No. 21 last week); Western Kentucky (No. 25 last week).

Also receiving votes (alphabetical order): Alabama-Birmingham, Arizona, Chicago State, Cleveland State, Illinois, Iowa State, Maryland, Miami (Ohio), Old Dominion, Pepperdine, St. Joseph's, Temple, Western Kentucky, West Virginia.

USA TODAY/CABLE NEWS NETWORK's Top 25 voting panel consists of 35 college basketball experts, including staff members from USA TODAY and CNN and reporters and editors from Gannett newspapers. Members of the panel are from California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia and Wisconsin.

Larry Vaught

[Continued From Page 26]

★ ★ ★

KENTUCKY HAS sent out 1,700 posters to media members across the country promoting Walker as college basketball's player of the year.

Brad Davis, UK's sports information director, says UK plans the same type campaign for Sutton as national coach of the year and Winston Bennett for consideration on the All-SEC team.

Kentucky needs to do more things like this in the future to promote its basketball program.

Sutton, though, is doing a great job himself of promoting his players. Here's what he had to say recently about Bennett and Walker.

"Bennett may be the most complete player on the team," says Sutton. "He should be an All-American candidate next season. His style of play reminds me of Notre Dame's Adrian Dantley a few years ago.

"Kenny Walker is a much better all-around player. He's a much better defensive player now than a year ago. He doesn't get as many opportunities to score but he's playing better. The pro scouts will tell you that."

The UK coach, though, admires the way all of the Cats have performed this season.

"Certain clubs capture your imagination," says Sutton. "You are proud because they surpass what were realistic goals. You've got to have some lucky bounces, get a few friendly calls and have a guy like Roger Harden throw in some 22-footers at the buzzer."

Kentucky has had all that and more this season. That's why the club has become so special to UK fans and Sutton.

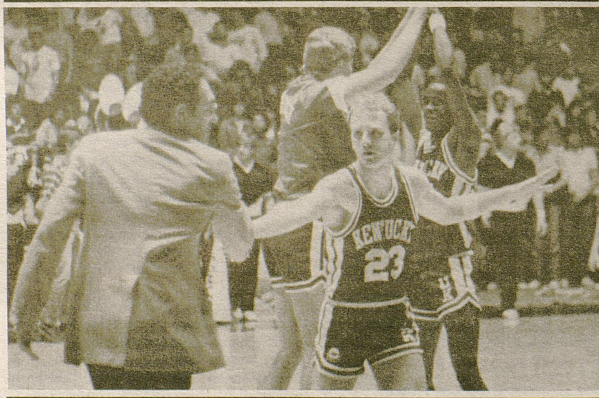
Sutton's Postgame Comments

Following are Coach Eddie Sutton's postgame comments after his Wildcats won the SEC title outright with a 80-75 victory at Georgia:

Question: Your comments on the game?

Sutton: I was proud of our players today; they did play well. They held their poise when Georgia made the run at us late in the ballgame. Now, that we've won the league and we're 24-3 with two conference games

on their guards. We were allowing them to get in their offense and they had a hot-shooting hand. To me, everything they shot seemed to be going in the basket for a while. They did get us down but we kept pecking away. The tempo was too fast. I looked up with nine minutes gone and they had already scored 20 points. I told the players we didn't want this tempo in Athens, Georgia, with the Bulldogs. If it had been in Rupp Arena then that would have been fine. But on the road



to go, it would be possible for us to be 17-1 (conference play). I don't know how long it's been since anyone has won that many games in the SEC. It may be a long time before it happens again, because of the great balance we have in the conference. That's what I keep reminding them — let's don't be satisfied. I want them to savor this victory today because it is such an important one.

Question: What about Georgia being able to play well against the Wildcats today?

Sutton: I think that's a credit to their ballclub; they just played well. I don't know how Hugh (Durham) would compare this game with the others but I would have to think this is one of the best games Georgia has played (this season). Sometimes we play well and we don't win but it may be a very well played ballgame. Early in the game I didn't think our defense put enough pressure

on their guards. We were allowing them to get in their offense and they had a hot-shooting hand. To me, everything they shot seemed to be going in the basket for a while. They did get us down but we kept pecking away. The tempo was too fast. I looked up with nine minutes gone and they had already scored 20 points. I told the players we didn't want this tempo in Athens, Georgia, with the Bulldogs. If it had been in Rupp Arena then that would have been fine. But on the road

Question: What about playing Tennessee Thursday night?

Sutton: Tennessee has played quite well against the Wildcats in recent years. I keep being reminded by all of our great media folks that we've lost 12 of 13 in recent years. I would hope that our ballclub doesn't psych itself out. They just need to go down there and play basketball and they can beat Tennessee, unless (Tony) White has a great night. He can hit you for 40 points. We're happy that we clinched the championship today and we still have a lot of goals to obtain. And one of 'em will be to beat Tennessee in Knoxville, then come home and close out the season against LSU in regular season play with a victory.

Jim Griesch

[Continued From Page 28]

Haskins Puts His House In Good Order

Western Kentucky's Clem Haskins seems to have solidified his job this season. Are Max Good and Wayne Martin still solid at Eastern Kentucky and Morehead State, respectively?

The spring is such an interesting time to watch coaches come and go.

And, each new coaching change is met with the same sort of fanfare, the same pronouncements about wanting to win this or that, to get on with recruiting, with putting the program back in good shape.

Of course, with the tournament coming up next week, fans should also expect a bombshell or two.

We haven't been privy to any secrets or anything, but all one needs do is remember the 1981 SEC tourney.

Vanderbilt's Richard Schmidt seemed to have been at the center of a controversy at Vandy, and in Nashville. He was at war with his best two players, but he was winning. He even upset Kentucky in his last win at Vandy, 60-55.

Remember Richard Schmidt's Sudden Departure?

But, no one outside the Vandy community would have ventured, at the SEC tourney, that Schmidt was out.

Suddenly, within two weeks, he was bought out, and ex-Alabama coach C. M. Newton was virtually dragged out of retirement to move back into coaching.

Shortly after the tournament, Jim Hatfield of Mississippi State was out. That was unexpected also. No one heard much of any move at State, until it happened.

Who knows, maybe a Knight or a Dean Smith, on the eve of the Final Four, will announce his retirement, to be used as a spur to his own team to play better in the tournament.

Remember Johnny Wooden in 1975, or Al McGuire in 1977 at Marquette? Whatever, the next few weeks look like a lot of fun.

Bob Watkins

[Continued From Page 20]

"Certain ballclubs capture your imagination, that is they surpass all the realistic goals you thought possible for them. That is except for maybe the goals you and your wife might have thought possible.

"To be as successful as we've been so far, you have to get some lucky bounces and friendly calls and then have a Roger Harden to throw in some 22-footers." And some good poem writers help too.

Nice time of year

Mid-February on to the NCAAs is the best part of basketball season, it seems to me, because fans become more involved, more excited about their favorite teams.

Certainly the Kentucky Wildcats have made it a Cinderella season for their fans.

Incredibly, considering this team was 18-13 a year ago, there is talk of 30 victories for the 1985-86 Wildcats.

How would Sutton feel about that?

"I'd vote for myself as coach of the year," he said, bringing a howl of laughter. "I'm just kidding of course, but you know it would be easy for these guys to say 'Hey, we've won 22 games, we're gonna win our league,' and be satisfied with that. But they want to accomplish more.

"There's only been five teams in Kentucky history to ever win 30 games in a season," Sutton said. "And there's only been one do it since the Dark Ages and that 1978 team (30-2 and NCAA champions) was a fantastic team.

"Before that the 1951 team did it (32-2). And by saying Dark Ages I don't mean to put down those teams at all. The Dark Ages is when I played in college. Besides, the '51 club could probably have played our socks off. But we've got a shot at winning 30 ball games."

UK's coach was quick to add however, that "winning 30 games isn't as important as getting to Dallas."

Kentucky in the Final Four? C'mon.

Sutton reminded skeptics of Villanova last year and North Carolina State in 1983.

"How well you do in the NCAA Tournament depends on the draw," Sutton explained. "That's why you can never compare scores. Take for example our game against North Carolina State this year, a game we could have won had we shot the ball. But we didn't match up with them very well. We might have done a better job against, say Georgia Tech, because we match up with them better."

At this point Sutton had a bit of prophecy. And one should keep in mind the man has been on quite a roll this season.

"There are going to be some teams in the NCAA who play without a big time center, ones that use three guards like we do."

UK's coach believes even if his team does not win the SEC Tournament (and no team has won it twice in eight years), the Wildcats could get a "preferred seed" in the NCAA if they manage to "pile up enough wins."

And, Kentucky's No. 8 ranking, if the Wildcats maintain it, will help too.

Yes, mid-February on to April is a special time of year with special possibilities.

Kentucky's chances?

For now, let's leave that to the poem writers.

And so it goes. ■



VIEWPOINT

Letters To The Editor

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



A Letter To The Seniors

Dear Kenny, Roger, and Leroy:

The prolonged standing ovation, the giant hoops, "My Old Kentucky Home" sung in quivering voices (quivering either from emotion or because too many of the 23,000 folks in Rupp Arena forgot the words again) — you know what to expect at your final home game.

Maybe you're promising yourselves and each other, I'm not gonna be the first to cry. Your older teammates seemed to think such bravado was expected of them on their senior nights.

Well, fellas, if the tears come, let them. We, your fans, will not think less of you three. You should feel a pang at leaving the University of Kentucky. It's not the Ivy League, but you have it on the best authority that if you wanted a good education, you could get it there.

That authority is Dr. Tom Clark, whom you don't remember (he retired when you were toddlers), but he taught History of Kentucky at UK for many years. He's the only professor I ever saw receive a standing ovation, which he got the old-fashioned way — he earned it.

He knew all the hillbilly stereotypes about Kentucky and hated them. In fact, at the time I was in his class, the TV series "Daniel Boone" was still on the air, and at our very first class he threatened to flunk anyone who even mentioned that series to him! (Dr. Clark did not suffer fools gladly.) When he covered the history of UK itself he said passionately, "This is not a cow college."

You were lucky to play for two coaches

who cared as much about your education as about your basketball, and I'm sure you are mature enough to know that they were strict for your own good. It paid off. You won championships, never knew losing seasons — and your parents never saw you on television, being led off in handcuffs, charged with raping a fellow student or shaving points.

But whatever you took from UK in the way of academics and sports, be assured you gave us so much in return.

Leroy, you were Everyman in Wildcat Blue. If Fantasy Island really existed, we all (the women too) would be Wildcats for a night. As it is, we had to settle for uncredited assists. We identified with you and willed each of your shots through the hoop.

Roger, you came to UK as a high-scoring Mr. Basketball and found that you'd never be a hot-dog scorer again. You could have quit in a huff, but you became instead one of the Big Blue's best-ever playmakers and passers. I hope you derived as much satisfaction from your brilliant passes as you did from blistering the nets in high school and from your last-second "string music" heroics this year.

And Kenny — what's left to say? I've seen many great Wildcats, but many more will come and go before I see one to outshine you. It's the way you do everything 110 percent: the ferocious dunks, the skying rebounds, the volleyball-spike blocks, and your joyous high-fives after a spectacular play that seem to shout I-love-this-game.

What a class act you've been, Kenny. We fans watched you all these years, always wondering if this time the poke in the eye, the elbow in the rib, the karate chop across



Senior Kenny Walker And The Press

the forearm, or the rotten call by the referee would make you lose your temper. But you never threw a punch, a tantrum, or a chair. All you ever did was impale the offender on one of your laser stares, flip the ball underhanded to the ref with that faint look of pity and a shrug, and run upcourt to take your defensive position.

Obviously, where my Cats are concerned, I wear my heart on my sleeve. Not to mention on my car, and if you think it doesn't take courage to sport a Kentucky Wildcats bumper sticker in LSU territory...! For my loyalty I take a terrific amount of flak from boneheads who become basketball "fans" only when they can gloat over a Kentucky loss. But players like you make it worth everything. I tell the witless wonders that even when I'm

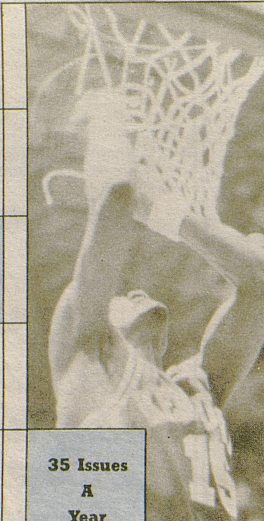
80, I'll still drop everything to be in front of the TV for a Big Blue game, still yelling, "Rip 'em up, tear 'em up, give 'em (pause to push loose dentures back into place) hell, Wildcats!"

So, if you want to cry at your last home game, cry already. All your tears will mean is that we your fans, the university, and the state of Kentucky mean as much to you as you do to us, and we'll love you for that. Besides, it's not that anyone will see you crying. There's sure to be an epidemic of blurred vision in Rupp Arena on Senior Day.

Good luck,

Angela Stockton
Houma, LA

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