Bob Watkins

UK Sports Report

Around the state

From Lexington University of Kentucky football coach Jerry Claiborne got an early start on his typical tack. "I'm hoping the winning season from last year will carry over into the atmosphere and enthusiasm," he said. "We'll have to play at our maximum if we're going to win."

UK will have only 12 seniors on the squad.

Looking at the schedule, Claiborne said he hopes UK can keep its head above water early and get some wins.

Seems to me the chances of that are excellent considering the Wildcats' first six foes had losing records a year ago — Kent State, Indiana, Tulane, Rutgers, Mississippi State and LSU.

The Wildcats began 2-a-day workouts earlier this week.

An early prediction: I think the Wildcats will be the SEC's surprise team again this season for lots of reasons, but the first among them is the offense. UK will put points on the board with a big, strong quarterback, Bill Rasodell, and proven running backs George Adams, Curt Cochran, Chris Derry and Mark Logan, with freshmen Mark Higgs and Ivy Joe Hunter also available.

UK/U of L football?

University of Louisville director of athletics Bill Olsen was talking *Frozen Games* with the University of Kentucky last week.

"I think it makes as much or more sense to play football than basketball," Olsen said. "Because football is a numbers game where you can generate more income. Hopefully, someday we'll play."

What about a regular season series, UK and U of L?

"We've expressed an interest in playing them, but although Coach (Jerry) Claiborne is willing, I think the decision rests higher up."

Yes, across UK's campus from Commonwealth Stadium, in Cliff Hagan's office. But, from all accounts, the UK director of athletics would be interested in a series that included dates at Commonwealth Stadium *only*.

And, from Hagan's point of view, why not? Since he can sell 57,000+ tickets while UL can offer only 35,500 at Cardinal Stadium.

But you can't run a program like that, playing all the games there (Lexington). Olsen said.

On the upcoming season Olsen painted a "hopeful" picture.

Olsen wasn't through yet. "I hope we have a good team, and if UK does too, then it would be really nice if we were both worthy of being in a bowl game together. Maybe somebody down south would see that they could sell a lot of tickets on a game like that."

Yes indeed.

Olsen added that Coach Bob Weber is optimistic about the upcoming season. He feels like this year he has four quarterbacks instead of one and we have more numbers this year. He's optimistic.

'Unbelievable'

After Akeem Olajuwon signed a contract with the Houston Rockets Wednesday for for more than $6 million, the NBA team's general manager Ray Patterson was licking his chops.

"It's unbelievable," Patterson said. "If you set out to invent three people with the temperament and physical abilities to complement each other, you couldn't get three better to go together than these guys," Patterson said.

He referred to Olajuwon, Sampson and former Louisville star Rodney McCray, the Rockets' other first-round pick last year.

It is is equally unbelievable how much money the Rockets must have. The payroll for the three-pronged front liners alone goes something like this: Sampson an estimated $1.8 per year, Olajuwon $1.4 and McCray around $800,000.

Facing the music

Television sportscaster Tom Brookshier was in Louisville a couple of weeks ago to speak at UL's football kickoff dinner. A touch of class, Brookshier flying into Derby City to face his once enraged critics because of a remark he made about coach Denny Crum's basketball team last year.

Brookshier said UL's basketball team had an IQ of 40. It must be said that Louisville officials showed its best side too, forgiving Brookshier and even fitting him in a Cardinal blazer sports coat.

A solid analyst for NFL football on CBS, Brookshier was kicked into the network's doghouse after his remark last year. But, while his employer bailed out on supporting him soon after the remark was made, somebody at CBS who makes the decisions used the good judgement to give him a vote of confidence and signed him to a new three-year contract.

TV viewing

Still on the subject of sports on television, an interesting bit of a survey on viewing preferences showed up in a Los Angeles newspaper recently.

TV's most popular sports attractions
Five Year Trend — 1979-1983*

	Avg. Telecast**	Avg. Rating**
1. Pro Football	42.0	16.4
2. College Football	36.7	14.3
3. Wide World of Sports	44.4	9.1
4. Boxing	41.1	9.0
5. Bowling	30.0	7.7
6. College Baseball	33.6	7.2
7. College Basketball	37.4	6.7
8 (T). Sports Spectacular	28.0	5.9
9. NBC Sports World	48.0	5.8
10. Pro Basketball	17.2	3.9

*per year
**percentage of households with TV sets tuned in after
Source: ABC, CBS, NBC, A.C. Nielsen Co.

Win Lists

A telephone call came last week from Maurice Davis of Central City who played basketball at Madisonville Rosenwald in the 1960s. His coach, Caldwell Smith, coached for 34 seasons at Rosenwald. Contacted this week, Smith said his teams won 20 games most every season and he would try and locate records.

Parting shots

■ U.S. Olympic basketball coach Bob Knight was tired of being asked if the USSR's not being at the Los Angeles Olympics tarnished the USA's gold medal plans. "Who cares whether they're here or not?" barked Knight. "They didn't make the finals in 1980. They didn't win in 1976 and they stole the game from us in 1972."

■ Under the heading 'did you know?' While Hank Iba was signing the official protest form following the U.S.'s 51-50 loss to the Soviets in Munich in '72 somebody was picking his pocket for $270.

■ Lump sum: Under his new contract agreement U of L basketball coach Denny Crum will receive $50,000 per annum, plus accumulated interest, all in one payment...if he is still coach of the Cardinals at the end of the 1993-94 season.

■ In football the University of Louisville will host Eastern Kentucky University at Cardinal Stadium next season, Nov. 22. EKU wanted U of L for a home-and-home contract, but, according to an Eastern official, "they didn't want to come to Richmond." Hangar Stadium seats 20,000+ fans.

And so it goes.

If you have a question, comment or opinion you would like to share, write to Bob Watkins, Route 1, Glendale, Ky. 42740. ■

Jackets limit Mercer to field goal

Fleming foe as season opens Friday

The Nicholas County Bluejackets defeated Mercer County 21-3 in the CKC Gridorama Friday night at Henry Clay High School in Lexington.

Mercer scored first on a 23-yard field goal following two Bluejacket fumbles and two fine gualline stands. The team had improved quite a bit from the previous week's scrimmage with Bourbon County, Coach Ben Pumphrey feels.

Bluejacket scores came on an 85-yard run by Rocky Young, a two-yard run by Ron Blakeman, and a three-yard run by Phillip Coldiron. Young kicked all three extra points.

The second touchdown was set up on a pass interception and return by Gary Dotson. Tgi Pope made key runs in third down situations to allow the Jackets to maintain drives.

The Fleming County Panthers will provide the opposition here Friday night when the season officially gets underway. Kickoff is at 8 p.m.

SCRIMMAGE STATS— Blakeman, 15 carries 45 yards; Young, four carries 136 yards; Coldiron, seven carries 16 yards; Pope, six carries 32 yards; Ledford, one reception five yards.

Defensive tackles — Wells, Robinson (one fumble covered) and Young, night; Watkins, seven; Baker, six; Willoughby, Hardin, Smith, three; Ledford, Curtsinger, Duncan, Dotson, Anderson, Howard and Curran, two; Dotson and Farah, one interception each.

Ellington boys on top team

Sean and Chris Ellington, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Scott Ellington of Kokomo, IN and formerly of Nicholas County, are members of a minor league baseball team that have received the following awards for 1984: UCT Minor League Tourney Champion, Taylor S.E. Minor League Tourney champion, East Side Minor League Tourney champion and UCT American League champion.

Chris and Sean are the grandsons of Mr. and Mrs. George Fisher of Nicholas County.

New addition to band

Flag Corps members who will perform routines with the NCHS band this year are, front, l-r, Melody Hammons, Joy Bath Tolliver and Christel Bussell. Back, Ronda Smart, Lisa Holbert, Viola Cleaver and Leslie Duncan. — Photo submitted

Band, flag corps 'tune up'

Halftime to have new look

In an effort to get ready for the opening football game here Friday night, members of the Nicholas County High School Band attended band camp from Aug. 6-11.

Under the tutelage of Danny K. Baker, new band director, the camp lasted from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. daily and consisted of both music and marching practice.

A new addition to halftime shows this year is the seven-member Flag Corps under the direction of Mrs. Ginger Fields, which will perform with the band.

BAKER, who succeeds Charles Capps, is a native of Dayton, Ky. and a graduate of Dayton High School. He holds bachelor and masters degrees from Morehead State University. While a student at MSU he performed in the symphony, marching, concert, collegiate and jazz bands. As a graduate assistant Baker served as band librarian, administrator of the record library and assistant to the director of bands.

He comes to NCHS from Western Brown Local Schools in Mt. Orab, Ohio where he taught general music and served as director of elementary and junior high bands.

Baker is married to the former Catherine Gerard. They have one child, Lena Michelle, born July 31, 1984. His interests include church work, bowling, bicycling, cooking and card games.

"I really enjoy the students I've met here so far and appreciate the hard work the band students have done this summer," Baker said this week.

He plans to introduce one new phase of his total band program each week during the five-game home football schedule.

DANNY K. BAKER
...new band director

Anderson has shutout in Connie Mack tournament

Steve Anderson, a surprise starter, pitched a three hit, 3-0 shutout to lead his South Lexington Comin' Mack teammates to the Regional Connie Mack championship Sunday in Memphis, Tenn.

Anderson, invited to join the Lexington team after it had defeated the Paris team in the finals last week, retired the last 17 batters he faced in going the route.

Anderson and other Nicholas County players were tournament regulars on the Paris entry that advanced to the state tournament. He was expected to be used only as a pinch hitter in regional action but was called on to pitch the fifth and final game.

South Lexington now advances to the National Connie Mack finals which begin today in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

CLASSROOM AGRICULTURE PROGRAM ACTIVATED

A new Farm Bureau-sponsored "Agriculture in the Classroom" program will be activated in Kentucky beginning in 1985, according to Paul D. Everman, Kentucky Farm Bureau executive vice president.

The program, part of a nationwide effort, will be designed to teach Kentucky elementary and high school students about agriculture and its role in the overall economy, Everman said.

"As the number of farmers continues to shrink, we believe it is vital that all students, rural and urban alike, learn about the basics of agriculture, including how food is produced and the marketing system which takes food products from the farm to the consumer's table," Everman said.

Free Hunter Education course for all

A free hunter education course will be held August 22 and 23 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. and August 24, 5:30 p.m. until completed at the Nicholas County Fish and Game Club located on Lake Carnico.

The course, sponsored by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, will include classroom instruction in firearm safety, sportsmanship, hunter ethics, first aid and outdoor survival.

The last session will feature actual range firing and practice with both firearms and archery equipment.

Those successfully completing the course will receive safe hunter certificates valid in any of the 29 states where such certification is required. Completion of this or a similar hunter education course is also a requirement for those youngsters participating in the youth deer hunt at Land-Between-the-Lakes and hunters under 16 years of age at Ft. Knox and Ft. Campbell. Attendance at all three sessions is required for certification.

Any person 10 years of age or older who is interested in the shooting sports or wants to become a safe hunter is welcome to attend. For additional information contact Herbert Booth at 289-6419 or Richard Hines at 289-2564.

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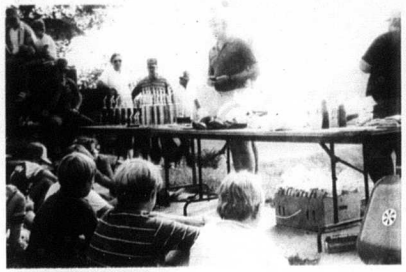

Little League cookout

Nicholas County Little League officials hosted a cookout, swim party and awards ceremony for participants in the 1984 youth baseball program Saturday night at Carnico Country Club. Trophies were presented members of winning and second place teams during the regular season and tournament play, as well as members of the two all stars teams. Larry Allison gets ready to make awards in the 9-10 year division. Marshall Stone, right, is LL president. Some 150 boys and family members attended. — Mercury photo

Lumberjacks to compete

Lumberjacks will compete with the axe, crosscut saw, chain saw and knuckle boom loader during the second annual Kentucky Logging Show, set for Sept. 22 and 23 at Morehead.

Cash prizes and bragging rights for the coming year are on the line as contestants chop, saw, throw and split in head-to-head competition. Men, women and "Jack and Jill" teams will compete. Scheduled events are Horizontal Chopping, Two Person Crosscut, Jack and Jill Crosscut, Stock and Modified Chainsaw, Axe Throwing and Rail Splitting.

Prize money totals over $2,000, with cash awards to first through fourth place finishers in each event.

The 1984 Kentucky Logging Show will also include skidder and knuckle boom loader contests, a horse and mule pull and display of antique and modern logging equipment. There will be demonstrations of chainsaw sculpture and the crowning of a new Kentucky Logging Show Queen.

We will be closed Thurs., Fri., and Sat. for our Trainload Sale in Lexington.
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Saturday: 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.
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