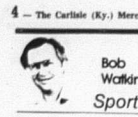

Bob Watkins

Sports in Kentucky

People and things

Kentucky coach Eddie Sutton has agreed to a contract with Nike Company at $100,000 (plus) per year. Incidentally, Nike underwrites the Bermuda Tournament in San Juan, Puerto Rico Nov. 24-29. UK will be one of them this winter.

■ On Aug. 1-Sept. 1 the UK coach will host a bash for media and friends at Laurel Lake near London called the *Eddie Sutton Golf Outing/Retreat*.

■ Two, maybe four ex-UK basketball players will be involved in a Christian basketball clinic in Elizabethtown July 22-26. Ex-UK standout Larry Pursiful is the coordinator and former backcourt stars Jim Master and Jay Shidler will be featured with tentative guest appearances by Mark Price (Georgia Tech), Kenny Walker and Paul Andrews.

"I'm still waiting to hear from Mark Price (Georgia Tech)," Pursiful said last week. "Kenny and Paul have said they will be here for one of the days."

A maximum of 90 youngsters will be registered for the day clinic at Severna Valley Baptist Church. Pursiful can be reached at 502-765-6521.

NBA college draft

Fascinating thing, the NBA draft. An occasion featuring talent, money, greed, irony and comedy. Here are some views on last week's draft.

■ Greed and irony. The Cleveland Cavaliers selected John Williams of Tulane University. "Hot Rod" is under indictment in a point shaving scandal in New Orleans and has already admitted taking money from coaches during his career at Tulane.

Ironic that an NBA team could become the employer of a convicted felon. Times change. Little more than three decades ago professional basketball barred for life University of Kentucky players Ralph Beard and Bill Spivey for alleged point shaving. Spivey was never convicted and still proclaims his innocence.

■ Comedy. Manute Bol, the Sudanese tribesman who is 7-6¾ and 190-pounds, proclaimed last month that he was ready for professional basketball. The Washington Bullets will take the chance. Bulletz center *Jeff Ruland* (6-10, 240), reputed to be the most physical player in the NBA, is the man Bol will try and beat out.

■ Comedy II. Atlanta picked Arvadis Sabonis of the USSR. A 7-footer, Sabonis is an excellent player. But he has prior commitments. And Cleveland selected Gunther Behnke. The 7-4 West German who left Lexington, Ky. last autumn because he was homesick. So how do the Cavs figure Behnke would adjust any better to Cleveland?

■ Talent: The Indiana Pacers picked Wayman Tisdale. A perfect specimen for the NBA, Tisdale is big, quick and physical. Once the former Oklahoma star gets past the crybaby stage he was so good at in Norman, he will be a "player."

Comment: A reaction has already arrived on the "crybaby label" pinned to Tisdale. A gentleman from Hodgenville in LaRue County protested. "Hey, there was a bigger crybaby than Tisdale in college ball last year. The guy in Lexington. Kenny Walker cried (to officials) more than anybody in the game."

Charlie Vacca

In an interview last week one of college basketball's premier referees Charlie Vacca talked about working his first ever Final Four last spring and recalled a much discussed confrontation with Coach John Thompson at halftime of the semi-final game between Georgetown and St. John's.

Thompson accosted Vacca at the scorer's table at halftime and "chewed his ears off" for a call he had made, then tossed the basketball at the officials as they left the floor. Why didn't Vacca call a technical on Thompson?

"I made a mistake," he said. "I'm thinking when you get to this level, the national semi-finals the easist thing to do was walk away from the situation. People told me afterwards that I should have T'd him for his actions at the table. And in retrospect I agree with that. It probably cost me (being assigned) the championship game."

What Vacca said next is dedicated to "infallible" type fans who screech at basketball officials at high school and college games.

"There isn't a day that passes that I don't think about the play (that precipitated the clash with Thompson). You know, 50 percent of the people saying I should have called the technical and 50 percent saying I shouldn't. But we're only human. Referees don't have time to think about those things. You make a decision and it's gone."

A New York native, Vacca played basketball under the legendary Frank McGuire at South Carolina. Now 37, he is a senior vice-president at Commerce Union Bank in Nashville and has been a college referee for 11 winters in the ACC, SEC, Sun Belt and Southwest Conferences. Quite a story, Vacca. Three years ago doctors told him he had Hodgkinson's disease. More on Charlie Vacca next week.

Kentucky/Indiana series

Lexington-ged Rupp Arena may have seen the last of the Kentucky-Indiana all-star basketball series. Attendance for Kentucky's win at Rupp June 15 was poor.

"I was very disappointed really," game director George Stout said of the 8,000 attendance. "Television and the newspapers were on top of it this year, but people just don't turn out. I don't understand it."

Here are some theories:

✔ For the first time since 1970 neither the Kentucky or Indiana boys teams had a UK signee.

✔ When the Sweet 16 is over Kentucky fans seem to have had their fill of roundball.

✔ Indiana is more populus, has more schools where basketball remains king.

✔ Pride

"Maybe Indiana has more pride in their basketball than we do," Stout said. "It seems that we just don't get any support from the town where the (Kentucky-Indiana) game is played."

✔ Stout reported that the smaller schools in Kentucky support the series much than the larger ones.

"This year Bardstown Bethlehem sold more tickets to the game than any school," he said. "They had the (Karen) Carrico girl and people just seem more willing to get out and support their kids. It was the same when they had Jimmy Crawford (1983) a few years ago."

Stout said, while the Kentucky Lions Eye Foundation board must decide, he expects the Kentucky-Indiana series to move back to Louisville next summer. "I feel the game ought to be in Lexington. But maybe if it's in Louisville at least more Indiana people will come."

Stout added that he does not believe Kentuckians appreciate what the summer series means in terms of humanitarianism.

"I don't think people in Kentucky or the Lions (Clubs) realize how important the money is," he said. "It goes for research and believe me, it touches everybody one way or another, in the whole world."

Solo II event entries

Cars like these are expected to compete in Solo II time trials July 4 at Blue Grass Industries parking lot. At top left is a Formula 440, featuring a 440 cc motorcycle engine; top right, a street legal Porsche 944, similar to one owned by Mike Dotson; lower left, a C-stock modified Alfa Romero owned by Mrs. Dee Schweikle of Lexington, 1982 national women's Solo II champions, and lower right, a G-stock Ford Escort. — Photos submitted

Solo II event July 4

by Debbie Bolan

The Central Kentucky Region, Sports Car Club of America has been asked by the Carlisle Chamber of Commerce to put on a Solo II event in conjunction with the Blackberry Festival. The event will be held at Blue Grass Industries on July 4 beginning at 10:30 a.m. and running until approximately 5 p.m.

Many folks are not exactly familiar with Soloing, nor the Central Kentucky Region, and my job, provided I perform it successfully, is to educate as many potential championship drivers as possible.

First, a Solo II is an event in which one car at a time is pitted against the clock. While it is not exactly a race, it does provide a driver with a medium with which to test his car and his driving ability.

A Solo II is generally held in a parking lot, such as that at Blue Grass Industries. The course is generally determined by the placement of pylons. It is a non-speed (SCCA regulations say not more than 45 mph) competition which places emphasis on precision driving rather than speed. Solos are a measure of driver deftness and the agility of the car.

The best part of all is they are inexpensive (compared to full blown racing) and other than the time spent running the event and the tread that is worn from the tires, require little other sacrifice.

Each event is required to have a resident safety steward on hand to assure that the course is safe enough for the average driver, and maintain optimum spectator safety as well. These people have received extensive training from the SCCA national organization.

All cars will be placed in different "classes" according to their engine size, make, etc. This way the competition is as close to equal and fair as possible. If you own a Chevy Chevette, you probably wouldn't stand a chance against a Porche 944, or even a Chevy Camaro. Classes are determined alphabetically with each providing for stock, street prepared, and modified. For example if you have a Ford Escort two door with basic dealer options (no fancy stuff, just radio, steering wheel, tires) you would run in G stock.

If you took that car home and put a new carburetor on it, you would have a street prepared. Street prepared takes in most non-factory available options that most people would want to make it go faster. However, if you took that car and managed to place a Chevy V-8 into it, you would be running a modified car (a car which is stock on the outside, but not necessarily street legal on the inside.)

Every car entered in a Solo II event must undergo a mandatory technical inspection. Each driver is required to wear a crash helmet and seat belts are necessary.

Spouses are allowed. In fact in CKR we have many husband-wife solo teams.

If you are still unsure as to whether or not to compete come on out anyway. We will have several "old hands" available to assist and instruct. Spectating is also an option. We hope to put on a fun event. Solo driving is both exciting and educational and we hope if nothing else, you have a good time and become a safe driver as well.

For more information contact John Burke at 289-2242 or Mike Keller, CKR president, at 205-7494.

(Ed. note: The author is editor of Pit Stop, official newsletter of the CKR.)

Bluegrass State Games Aug. 2, 3, 4 at Lexington site

The first Bluegrass State Games, a series of athletic competition in the Olympic tradition for Kentuckians of all ages, will be held August 2, 3 and 4 at Shively Sports Center at the University of Kentucky.

Opening ceremonies will begin at 5 p.m., following the lighting of a torch in Frankfort at 1 p.m. by Gov. Martha Layne Collins. The torch will be carried to Lexington by notable athletes and distinguished citizens. The public is invited to the ceremonies and sports spectacular.

Competition is planned in six categories — soccer, tennis, track and field, equestrian, softball and bowling. Deadline for entering tennis play is July 1, with deadline for all other events July 15.

Application forms and guidelines are available locally from Judge/Executive Reese Smoot and Charles Goldstein, county coordinators, or at the Mercury office.

Closed July 4

The Nicholas County Circuit Clerk's office will be closed Thursday, July 4.

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(2) 6200 Lb. PRO STOCK TRACTOR: 1st Trophy & $100.00. 2nd $70.00. 3rd $30.00

(3) 5800 Lb. 4 WHEEL DRIVE MODIFIED: 1st Trophy & $100.00. 2nd $70.00. 3rd $30.00

(4) 5500 Lb. 2 WHEEL MODIFIED: (Naturally Aspirated 18.45). 1st Trophy & $125.00. 2nd $90.00. 3rd $75.00. 4th $50.00

(5) 5200 Lb. HOT ROD TRACTOR: 1st Trophy & $125.00. 2nd $90.00. 3rd $75.00 4th $50.00

(6) 7500 Lb. FACTORY FARM STOCK 2, 3, 4 Cylinder (No Turbos). 80% Pay Back. 1st Place Trophy. Money Divided. In 3 Places. 18.4 Tire Limit.

(7) 12,500 FARM STOCK: 80% Pay Back. 1st Place Trophy. Money Divided. In 3 Places. One Blower Allowed. 20.4 Tire Limit.

* CLASSES 6 & 7 Allowed 3 Entries. One Money Per Tractor.

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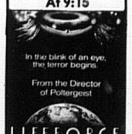

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