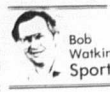
Kentucky got what it needed: super guard Rex Chapman



A blue letter day.

University of Kentucky basketball has taken a battering in recent months, but all that was put aside Saturday when Rex Chapman announced that he had chosen Kentucky over Louisville, Georgia Tech, North Carolina and Western Kentucky.

Perhaps because of the timing, and because of its setbacks in recent months, this is no ordinary bit of good sports news for UK basketball.

It said in this space several months ago that Louisville (and the other schools listed above) would like to have Chapman, but Kentucky needed him. And UK got him.

Young Chapman he is is the daughter of much the way Bret Sutherhagen of the Kansas City Royals came to be "good news" for baseball at a time when the sport was reeling from adversity generated by drug trials. Chapman's decision revitalizes UK's basketball future at a time when Kentucky fans needed some good news. The young player's decision has sent Wildcat fans into a well deserved dither. Certainly these fans have suffered more than their fair share of setbacks recently.

■ A (forced) basketball series with the University of Louisville two years ago.

■ The announced departure last summer of WHAS-Radio as major conveyor of UK basketball and football beginning next year.

■ Recruiting debacle. Louisville landed Kenny Payne away from UK, and signed the state's Mr. Basketball, Tony Kimbro to go with him, and earlier this week 7-1 Felton Spencer chose Louisville as well.

■ Last month revelations (and the timing) of misdeeds by eight UK basketball players by the Lexington Herald-Leader left a pall of gloom over the UK camp and prompted a still-to-come investigation by the NCAA.

But now comes Chapman and it is a blue letter day for Kentucky fans.

To be sure the 6-4½ stringbean is no ordinary player. He is a thoroughbred who, I believe by spring time, will be a shoo-in for Mr. Basketball honors. And that will be the first in a list of good things to come.

In itself UK's landing a Mr. Basketball would be a coup, since except for Winston Bennett, Kentucky has managed to sign (and keep) only three of 12 players who earned Mr. Basketball honors since 1974 (Jack Givens in '74, Dirk Minnefield in '79 and Bennett '81).

Because of his physique and savvy for the game as well as the typical abilities to run the floor, jump and shoot, Chapman has been compared to a fellow I believe was the finest college player in history, Jerry West.

In the state college recruiters have heralded this youngster as the finest, most complete basketball prospect in Kentucky since Darrell Griffith came out of Louisville Male in 1976.

Certainly Chapman will be the most promising Kentucky signee since Johnny Cox went to Lexington from Hazard in 1956. Interesting that physically, Cox and Chapman are remarkably alike.

Cox became a college All-American at Kentucky. But records tell us that UK has produced only one other native born who went on to All-American status in 29 years since Givens in 1978.

I believe Chapman will be the next. Not only because of his immense talents and versatility, but because of the youngster's demeanor, the way he handles himself.

Upon committing to Kentucky Saturday Chapman made a point to praise fellow signee Reggie Hanson. And, he said, he was "impressed with the players at UK now. They're all nice guys." And, he added, "I liked the way the other guards at Kentucky treated me during my visit there."

Unusual, if meaningful observations from a high school hot shot, don't you think?

Chapman also said something else unusual for a prep phenom. He wanted to play for a coach who emphasizes defense. When is the last time a prep All-American said he *wanted* to play defense?

And, Chapman is an admirer of Winston Bennett. A good choice for Bennett is a young man who has his head screwed on properly.

Because of Chapman's physical and other talents, as well as the timing of his arrival at UK, I believe the youngster could become the finest guard ever at Kentucky. It is a statement not made lightly considering the list includes All-Americans Kyle Macy, Louie Dampier, Frank Ramsey and Ralph Beard.

In the short range UK's signing Chapman is significant for other notable reasons too:

1. It is a signal that Eddie Sutton was successful in persuading the Chapman family that the alleged transgressions by past UK players not only have nothing to do with his program, but they will not bring any severe sanctions from the still-to-come NCAA investigation.

2. Linked to that, Chapman's decision to sign with Kentucky is a signal to other blue chippers still considering UK, that all is well in Lexington. It puts back into effect what could be the banner recruiting campaign Sutton wants and UK fans yearn for. Certainly one jewel is in the crown. Chapman.

3. Added, for some important around-the-state reasons having to do with the emotional well being of UK fans from border to border, Rex Chapman's decision is the best news Kentucky basketball fans have had in a long time.

They deserve it.

Recruiting Chapman, inside view

Rex Chapman narrowed his choice of colleges to five before choosing Kentucky last Saturday. Frogs a source close to the recruiting scene, what follows is a grade card on "how they finished."

Western Kentucky Chapman had been to WKU's summer camp for years. The player liked Clem Haskins, was good friends with his daughter, Clemette. WKU assistant Dwane Casey was very popular with the Chapman family.

Knockout: WKU did not have the limelight and national exposure the others had.

North Carolina Chapmans were impressed with coaching staff, had a good visit to Chapel Hill and enjoyed a telephone call from Michael Jordan.

Knockout Distance from home.

Louisville Over recruited Chapman. Tried to get him to make a decision before he was ready. Unfit, may have moved from the lead early to the end of the list (of schools) at thereof.

Kentucky The limelight at UK and advantages for life after basketball. Chapman had a good visit to Lexington, liked the players very well. The UK coaching staff left him close to make a decision.

SEC Coaches sidelights

Basketball coaches from the Southeastern Conference meet in Lexington last week. They had a lot to say. What follows are highlights and comments.

■ Bob Boyd, coach at Mississippi State on losing that state's top recruiting prospects the last two years:

Kenny Payne to Louisville and Andy Kennedy to North Carolina State: "Keeping in-state prospects here is something we have to shore up in our program. But I'm not very good at recruiting and I can't do like it."

But kids are pretty impressed when Dave Valhaus comes to town. I mean here's a guy who has just been on Good Morning America and he's come to Starkville."

Boyd added, I think Kenny Payne is going to be another great one and you will see that in here at Louisville.

■ Hugh Durham, coach at Georgia on paying student athletes a stipend: "You're talking about giving athletes in 10 sports say, $200 a month. Because you're not just talking about stipends for athletes in the revenue sports. You're talking about all of them. For 10 months that would cost the University of Georgia $600,000. We could afford that. But how many other schools could afford it?"

■ Eddie Sutton on signing Reggie Hanson: "I like him. I like talented, greyhound type players."

Comment: Sutton has signed two of them already. Hanson and Rex Chapman.

And so it goes.

If you have a question or comment, write to Bob Watkins Sports In Kentucky 61 1, Glendale, Ky. 42740.

Little League basketball scoreboard

RESULTS WEEK NO. 5

BOYS A TEAM

*Rookies (3): Jarrod Wilt (1), Greg Collins 8, Pat Phillips 6
*Pacers (1): Aaron Judge 8, Jamel Sharp 3, Ricky Hughes 1
Hawks (0): David Schaeding 4, Brad Allison 6, Brian Livingood 4
Kats (4): John Lowe 2, Jon Compton 2, Jerry Watkins 2
Hornets (3): Daniel Brown 14, Jason George 6, Shawn Tuggle 2, Stevie Gray 7, Mike Case 2, Jimmie Cox 2
Rebels (4):
Demons (0): Kevin Martin 10, Larry King 4, Brad Brierly 4, John Brown 4, Greg Brierly 2, Raymond Brown 2, Jody Hall 2
Raiders (1): Mike Smith 9, Mike Trusty 1

BOYS B TEAM

Rookies (3): Charlie Joseph 2, Brian Clark 2, Jimmy Chinn 1
*Pacers (4): Ricky Hughes 2, Brian Frank 2
Hawks (4):
Cobras (1):
Hornets (2): Bradley Brown 2
Rebels (3):
Demons (4): Mark Adkins 4, John Brown 2, Joel Smith 2
Raiders (1):

GIRLS A TEAM

*Phillies (3): Tara Easterwood 11, Christy Hatter 3, Stephanie Cox 3, Jennifer Kee 2
Kats (2): Kristi Barlow 3, Nikki Stroud 1, Anna Whalen 12

GIRLS B TEAM

*Phillies (1): Jennifer Lee 1
Kats (0):
LEAGUE STANDINGS — BOYS: Hornets 3-0, Hawks 3-0, Demons 4-0, Bears 3-1, Jets 2-2, Pacers 2-2, Raiders 2-3, Rookies 0-4, Colts 0-4, Rebels 0-4
GIRLS: Phillies 3-1, Kats 1-2

SCHEDULE FOR NOV. 23: 5 p.m.: Raiders vs Pacers, 6 p.m.: Rookies vs Bears, 7 p.m. vs Demons, 8: Colts vs Rebels, 9: Hawks vs Hornets

Early morning kill

James Myers, right shot this seven point buck about 8:30 a.m. November 12 while hunting on Cassidy Creek. His companion on the successful outing, Paul Grimes, helps hold the 150-pound deer during a picture taking session after which Myers left to dress his kill.

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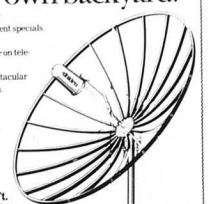

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Saltwell ... by Mrs. Fred Hollar

Joe Kenney and son Joe Jr. of Georgetown spent Sunday with Mrs. Mae Kenney and Lavell. Mrs. Julie Edginton and daughter and Phyllis Ann Peterson, Lexington, also visited the Kenneys on Thursday.

Alberta Snapp visited Miss Frances Barlow the past Sunday night.

Mrs. Hazel Snapp and Mrs. Louise Thompson, Carlisle, visited Mr. and Mrs. S.B. Ellis, Milford, on Thursday. Mrs. Ellis has been ill the past few weeks. Mrs. Thompson also visited her brother, Garnet Gaunce and Mrs. Gaunce in the afternoon.

Hazel Rule, Carlisle, spent one day the past week with Mr. and Mrs. Allen Rule.

Mrs. Sue Gaunce and Mrs. Melissa Campbell, Cynthiana, visited Mr. and Mrs. Freddie Gaunce on Monday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Vaughan Mattox and Lavrille Dailey were Saturday night supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Frank McCoy and "Monkey" Rev. Randy Coleman also visited the McCoys on Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. Naomi Gaunce spent Saturday and Sunday with Mrs. Steve Gaunce in Lexington. She also visited Mrs. Hilda Poynter, also of Lexington, in the afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hollar spent Sunday with Mrs. Gladys Kenney. They also visited Kitty Hollar in the evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenney Gaunce, Cynthiana, visited Mr. and Mrs. Freddie Gaunce one night the past week.

There will be a community Thanksgiving service at the Saltwell Church this Sunday night, Nov. 24 at 7 o'clock. The churches include Saltwell, Rose Hill, Headquarters and Mt. Pleasant and others that choose to come. Rev. Randy Coleman will be speaker and the various churches will present singing from each church.

Mike Sowell was notified of the death of his grandmother, Mrs. Blanche Sowell, who passed away on Tuesday at her home in Padu-cah. Mike and Stephanie Ockerman left on Thursday to attend the funeral and burial there on Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hollar were supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Layne Hollar on Saturday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank McCoy joined Rev. and Mrs. Randy Coleman for supper in a Chinese restaurant in Lexington on Friday night.

Mrs. Richard Cain entered Humana Hospital in Lexington for treatment Friday and remains a patient there.

Oren Ray Gaffin, Richmond, accompanied Miss Frances Barlow to Jerry's in Paris on Monday for noon day meal.

Gayle Brady was supper guest of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Brady on Thursday night.

Mr. and Mrs. A.J. Doyle and Ricky and Lisa Southerland of Somerset visited Doyle Dailey the past week.

Mrs. Patsy Blakeman and Dana, Lexington, visited Martha and Daisy Kennedy on Sunday.

Mrs. Phyllis Brady visited Miss Alma Mattox, Paris, Mrs. Mary Florence Millersburg, and Mrs. Nancy Willoughby, Carlisle the past week.

Gayle Brady, Mrs. Bobby Brady and others were Friday night guests of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wilson, Cynthiana.

Mr. and Mrs. Jobie Howard and children visited his aunt, Mrs. Sarah Jones of Harrison County on Sunday afternoon.

Shane, Aimee and Traci Bartells spent Friday night with their grandmother, Mrs. Mary Stubbs, Cynthiana. Mrs. Stubbs accompanied them home on Saturday and remained till Sunday afternoon with Mr. and Mrs. Jobie Howard and children.

Mrs. Diane Smith and Shelley and Phillip Coldiron were Sunday supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Hollar, Chris and Tracy.

Zachary trombonist in UK band

Kevin Zachary, a University of Kentucky junior from Nicholas County, is a member of the 1985 UK marching band which includes 276 musicians and auxiliary members.

Steve Moore, assistant director of UK bands, says the band's primary function is to generate enthusiasm for the football team by getting the crowd excited.

In addition, the marching band represents UK as a whole, says Moore. The band's high visibility, including television coverage, requires the band to be a top quality music ensemble in order to maintain a good image.

Band members practice an average of six hours a week plus two hours before each home football game. Also, members attended a summer camp the week prior to the start of the fall semester.

While playing in the marching band requires a great deal of time and practice, band members reap several benefits from their participation including increasing their musical proficiency, social activities and a sense of family.

Zachary, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Zachary, plays trombone and lives at Cliffway Drive, Carlisle.

School menus

November 25-27

HIGH SCHOOL

Monday, tuna salad, potato chips, lettuce wedge with dressing, fruit. Tuesday, chili, relish tray, bread sticks, peanut butter and crackers, apple. Wednesday, Thanksgiving dinner, turkey with gravy and dressing, mashed potatoes, peas, celery sticks, cranberry sauce, hot rolls, ice cream.

ELEMENTARY

BREAKFAST — Monday, pop tart, juice, milk. Tuesday, toast and jelly, juice, milk. Wednesday, cereal, juice, milk.

LUNCH — Monday, bologna and cheese sandwich, peas, potato chips, apple. Tuesday, pizza, corn, lettuce wedge, peach half. Wednesday, turkey, dressing and gravy, mashed potatoes, celery, cranberry sauce, hot rolls, ice cream.

Ishmael named to Presidential Honor Society

Carl Ishmael, 1370 Ishmael Chapel Road, Carlisle, has been named to the Presidential Honor Society at the DeVry Institute of Technology in Columbus, Ohio.

To be eligible for the honor, students must have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.5 (out of a possible 4.0) after two terms of study. Ishmael, a student in the Electronics Engineering Technology program, has a 3.5 GPA.

DeVry is part of a network of 11 campuses that specialize in electronics technology and computer information systems. It is one of the largest postsecondary technical education organizations in North America.

Frontier life replicas

Robbie Barr's seventh grade Kentucky History class, as part of their study of frontier life in Kentucky, have constructed replica forts, which will be on display in the library of the elementary school for the next two weeks. Front above l-r, James Gallagher, Jon Shrout, Steven Mosley, Back, Jamie Bradley, Robin Brookshire, Robin Griffith, Below, James Pettitt, Eddie Caudill, Charles Dale. Standing, Todd Wilson, Teresa Ross, Tina Minton. — Staff photo

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By Dr. Robert F. Pretzsch, Optometrist

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