Bob Watkins

Sports In Kentucky

'Honeymoon' is over for UK football; Issel jersey to be retired

Three-oh-and-one and things.

That's UK's football record after an impressive 22-0 thumping of Southern Mississippi last Saturday. But don't get too excited, it's still wait 'n see on Jerry Claiborne's team. The "honeymoon part" of UK's schedule is over.

■ Good items from the last two victories.

✔ Tailback Ivy Joe Hunter has started to demonstrate the consistent power running he has always been capable of, a weapon UK needs to compliment it's passing attack.

✔ The swarming defense has started to exhibit confidence, maturity. It might even be time for a nickname.

✔ Punter Jeff Nelson has emerged as a reminder to the days of Larry Seiple (1964-66).

■ The wait 'n see.

✔ Starting with Ole Miss (2-2-1) this weekend, and continuing the next three with LSU (2-1), Georgia (3-1) and Virginia Tech (4-1), well, we shall see.

The "honeymoon" of UK's schedule is over.

Kentucky Mr. Football?

Who is the hottest high school football prospect in Kentucky this season? Kentucky Mr. Football? Certainly no college recruiter is going on record with the name of *one* player, lest it offend others and compromise his ability to sign them, but the state's top prospect, and therefore Kentucky's Mr. Football, might be Eddie Thomas of Fort Knox High School.

The 6-1, 177-pound wide receiver exhibits many of the same qualities that made basketball star Rex Chapman such an fascinating performer to watch last winter. A blend of talent and charisma.

University of Kentucky assistant coach Jerry Eisaman watched the Fort Knox-Danville game last week and said he was impressed.

"The thing about Thomas is that not only does he have break away speed, he can move and cut and think," Eisaman said. "Every time he touches the football it's a potential touchdown. He's just one of those gifted players, a super athlete. Real exciting."

Recruiting hype? Maybe. But I don't think so.

"I'm amazed at Thomas's savvy," the UK coach added. "He's head and shoulders above anybody else on the field."

Eisaman has no doubts that, "Thomas can play in the Southeastern Conference."

It is a fair comparison to note that Thomas bears a resemblance and playing style to Alabama All-American flanker Albert Bell right down to their jersey numbers - No. 1.

"Potentially, Thomas can be a better wide receiver than either (Cornell) Burbage or (Eric) Pitts," Eisaman said, adding, "He has the opportunity to come in at our place and step in for Pitts next year."

Another bonus? Thomas has the concentration and hands to be quite a kickoff returner.

But, given Coach Jerry Claiborne's preference for redshirting freshmen, Eisaman's last remark could be hype. But on the other hand Mark Higgs, Carwell Gardner last year, and Al Baker and Donnie Gardner this year, played as freshmen.

There may be some question as to whether or not UK will throw the football as often what with Bill Hansdell's graduation this season.

"I introduced Thomas to Chuck Broughton (sophomore quarterback from Ashland) during his visit," Eisaman said with a grin. "In fact, we're recruiting" (Cawood High School) quarterback Freddie Maggard) this year.

"I think Eddie and Freddie would make a nice combination."

Of course UK's courtship with Thomas could be academic since he is also interested in Purdue, Georgia, Michigan, Louisville and UCLA, among others.

But Thomas attended the UK-Southern Mississippi game. It was his second visit to UK this season.

UK-Dan Issel

The University of Kentucky's athletic department will do something quite nice, and perhaps overdue, this basketball season, something the school has not done in 32 years, retire a former player's jersey.

No. 44, Dan Issel will be honored at one of UK's home games.

"The last time anybody's jersey was retired here was for the starters on the 1954 unbeaten team," a UK spokesperson said last week.

UK has an illustrious list of star basketball players worthy of consideration for such an honor, but none more worthy than Issel who was a two-time All-American in 1969 and 1970, and remains the all-time leading scorer in men's basketball at UK.

And here is heart of the reason why. "When you talk about retiring somebody's jersey, you have to look not only at what a player did while he was in school, but also the things he did two and three years after he graduated," the UK spokesperson said.

No athlete I can think of has been more a credit to his alma mater than Issel. After his UK days, he went on to success in the American Basketball Association with the Kentucky Colonels, then the NBA Denver Nuggets—after which he took time out to write an autobiography of his basketball days called "Parting Shots." And now he is back on his farm near Versailles where he has become a success in the horse industry.

So, after 32 years, UK will retire a player's jersey.

Footnote There is a bit of a catch to retiring Issel's jersey however. It goes something like this.

So, what happens to Rob Lock's No. 44?

He'll keep it," the UK spokesperson said. "We don't retire numbers, only jerseys."

Cats Night Out

UK's popular midnight basketball introductory for the Wildcats, staged every Oct. 15 at 12:01 a.m., will be turned into quite a bash this year. With Coca-Cola footing the bills "it's going to be free," Brad Davis, UK sports information director for basketball, said this week. "A fans' appreciation event—free admission, free hotdogs, free Cokes, free posters. In the past we've always sold these things, but this was a chance to say *thanks* to our fans."

Fans will be issued tickets as they arrive for the "event" which begins Tuesday evening at 9:30 p.m. Oct. 14 at Memorial Coliseum.

Coach Eddie Sutton cannot introduce his Wildcats until after midnight, of course, but plenty of entertainment will be in store beforehand. Members of UK's unbeaten 1953-54 team—featuring Frank Ramsey, Cliff Hagan and Lou Tsioropoulous, will be introduced.

So far 14 of the 16 members of that team have agreed to be here," Davis said, adding that Jess Curry and Dan Chandler are the missing two. The players will enjoy a private reunion before going to the Coliseum for what will certainly be a rousing appreciation by fans who remember the '54 team.

Jackets see victory 'snatched' by Boyle

Just when it seemed the Bluejackets were about to record win number one of the season, victory was literally snatched away last Thursday at Boyle County.

In the fourth quarter of a scoreless deadlock, Nicholas County had driven to the Boyle 20.

Quarterback Todd Day, back to pass, lost control of the ball. It was picked up by the host team's Ron Walls who raced 80 yards for the winning touchdown.

The pass for two points after was no good. The final score was 6-0, as the Jackets lost for the sixth time in as many games.

Statistics of the game were not made available.

The Jackets travel to Versailles Friday night for a game with Woodford County. Kick-off is at 8 p.m.

Bike-a-thon Saturday

Saturday, Oct. 11 has been proclaimed St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Day in Carlisle by Mayor Lee Bentz.

That's the day of the Wheels for Life Bike-a-thon from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Nicholas County Elementary School.

According to Merolyn Sams, chairman, prizes donated by area merchants will be awarded, including bikes for first and second place finishers.

Proceeds go towards childhood cancer research at St. Jude Hospital.

Voc-ag project

Mark Allso left, and William Workman, rear, work on a trailer as vocational agriculture teacher Jim Fields checks their work. — Staff photo

'Fun' type horse show

A "fun" kind of horse show will be held Sunday, October 26.

Judy Thompson, one of several people involved in the show, said this week that the event would be held at the East End Park, beginning at 1 p.m.

Sixteen classes, most of the fun variety, are being planned. They include barrel and junior barrels, potato, catalog, rescue, shovel and mule races, a costume class and lead line. In addition, two pleasure classes are scheduled.

Trophies and ribbons will be awarded.

Half of any profits after expenses would be given to the recreation park board, the rest being placed in a savings account so that sponsors will not be needed in future shows, Mrs. Thompson said.

Persons with questions may contact Shailiet Cheek at 289-2741, Shirley Adamson at 289-2160 or Thompson at 289-7907.

In case of rain, the show will be cancelled.

Shelves for library

Tim Sampson, left, and Paul Graves are shown assembling a set of book shelves under the direction of industrial arts instructor Jim Simons. The shelves will be used in the high school library. — Staff photo

Parting shots

☺ Tulane football coach Mack Brown was asked about his team's "defensive execution" after a 48-31 loss to TCU earlier this season. "I don't think we ought to execute them right now," he said. "Give them two or three more weeks and see if they improve."

Comment: After watching Tulane get ripped 35-10 by Ole Miss a month later it might be time for an execution.

☺ Chicago Cubs pitcher Ed Lynch on being traded away from the New York Mets earlier this season after being with them since 1980 — "It's like living with a family for a whole year and then being thrown out on Christmas Day."

And so it goes !!!?

If you have a point of view you would like to share, write to Bob Watkins *Sports In Kentucky* Rt. 1, Glendale, Ky. 42740 ■

Strike one!

Students in Bill Anderson's health and physical education class enjoyed a softball game last week. David Bretz swings away at a pitch from Patrick Ritchie (hidden from view). The catcher is Chriso Auxier. — Staff photo

Gate-making

Albert Sparks, left, Duane Gilvin, Charles Cox, Bill Moore and instructor Jim Fields are shown making a gate in vocational agriculture class. — Staff photo

Conserve water

Basketball recruiting notes

LeRon Ellis, the 6-liner who verbally committed to UK last month, according to one national recruiting service, is the No. 1 center prospect in what is being called "the weakest group in a decade."

According to another talent scout, Chris Wallace, who compiles one of the most comprehensive college basketball publications in America, "there are three juniors I'd take now ahead of any of this year's senior big men."

The three are: 6-11 Alonzo Mourning of Chesapeake, Va.; 6-11 Stan Roberts of Hopkins, S.C.; and 6-10 Shawn Kemp of Elkhart, Ind.

✔ Premier forward: It's Marcus Liberty, 6-8 forward from Chicago who visited UK last month. "If there's a better player in the country than this guy, I've got to see him," Wallace said. Reportedly, Liberty will sign with Georgetown, Cincinnati or Illinois.

✔ Premier guard: Could be 6-6 Eric Manuel of Macon, Ga. who is said to be "wide open" on his college choice. UK's Eddie Sutton visited Manuel at his home last month and the player will be in Lexington next month.

Footnote: Wallace he had a bit of advise for Kentucky fans too. "People in your state have a way of going really far out over some of these kids. I've read where lots of folks are already saying that Rex (Chapman) is going to be better than Sidney Moncrief. C'mon. That's not fair to the kid, is it?"

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Saltwell ..... by Mrs. Fred Hollar

Elizabeth Gill, Berea and Mrs. Helen Dean, Lexington visited Mrs. Alice Marie Feeback on Tuesday. Mrs. Delia Dye also visited her on Sunday evening.

Wilma Collins visited Mrs. Gladys Kenney on Thursday evening.

Miss Frances Barlow was moved on Thursday from Nicholas County Hospital to the Mini Nursing Home of Mrs. Adrian George on Jacksntown Rd.

Bob Kenney and Jason, Covington, visited Mrs. Gladys Kenney on Saturday.

Myrrl Hollar visited Benney "Mac" Dotsun on Thursday at Morgan Nursing Home in Falmouth and took him to several places of interest to visit.

Rev. Randy Coleman was Sunday dinner guest of Mr. and Mrs. Claudie Frytnan.

Mr. and Mrs. Gary McCord, Julie, Jeremy, and Jennifer spent the past weekend with Mrs. Ellen Tallaferro of Staunton, Va. and Mr. and Mrs. Steve Tallaferro of Ruckersville, Va. honoring the 6th wedding anniversary of the latter Tallaferros. They returned home on Monday.

Several friends gathered at the home of Mrs. Gladys Kenney for a time of prayer and fellowship Thursday night. Mrs. Kenney also served refreshments at the close of the service.

Mrs. Sue Doyle and Marcy, Mrs. Phyllis Brady, Don Adams and other relatives enjoyed a horseshow held at the new covered arena at the Kentucky Horse Park on Friday night.

Mrs. Bobby Brady visited Mrs. Margie Fryman, Mrs. Brenda Nolen, Billy Stone, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Whitson, all of Cynthiana, the past week.

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Doyle, Mr. and Mrs. Andy Fryman, Mr. and Mrs. Willie Riggle and Stephanie, all of Harrison County, Mrs. Letha Adams, Clintonville, and Don Adams, Paris, visited Orville Doyle the past week.

Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Gaunce and Amanda spent the past Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Gaunce and Brian of Lexington.

Mr. and Mrs. Merv Chapman and three children of Lexington spent Sunday with Mrs. Mae Kenney and Levell. Mrs. Debbie Nichols and J. J. and Mr. and Mrs. Larry Kenney and sons were also afternoon visitors.

Mrs. Roy E. Snapp and Roy J. Snapp of Cincinnati were among the large group attending the Ritchie Reunion at the Old Depot on Saturday. They, along with others of their family and friends, spent Saturday night and Sunday at their home here.

Moorefield

The Moorefield Homemakers met Oct. 2 in the home of Marjiere E. Wilson with Michelle Skidmore as co-hostess.

The devotional was given by Charity Griffith "Just a Thought."

Mrs. Griffith, president, presided as follows: The roll was called with 11 members and our agent Mrs. Margie Wilson present.

The minutes were read and approved, a treasurer's report was given, Pennies for Friendship and dues were collected.

A mini lesson was given by Ruth Gum entitled "List Goals, adhere to them to accomplish more."

Elizabeth Elington gave a mini lesson on Housing, Energy and Environmental up date.

The club voted to participate in the "Party Ideas"-Thanksgiving Family Dinner will be our theme. This will be held on Monday Oct. 10 at Nicholas County High School cafeteria from 7-9.

The lesson "Kentucky Women" was given by different ladies. Lois Hamm read about Mary Breckinridge, Founder of Frontier Nursing Services in Kentucky. Michelle Skidmore read about Alice Lloyd, founder of Mountain School at Pippa Passes. Charity Griffith, gave Loretta Lynn the country music star. Many other's were listed in our leaflet.

The club voted to contribute $1.00 per person to the Cancer Fund.

Ruth Gum, Elizabeth Ellington and Lucille Clark will attend the area meeting at Richmond Oct. 13.

Delicious refreshments were served in the social hour, after which an auction of food, crafts and gifts was held.

The next meeting will be Nov. 6 with Sandra Durham. The lesson will be Strengthening Self-Discipline.

Ellisville

Eloise Moore was hostess to the Ellisville Homemakers Club Wed. Oct.1 with a potluck lunch.

The president, Juanita Hunt, presided. Thelma Standford gave the devotional and prayer. Lessons given her by one of our late members, Belle Hardin.

Roll call was answered by naming one thing you want to accomplished in Homemakers this year. There were 20 members, Margie Wilson, and one guest, Helen Pumphrey, present. Katherine Wells, secretary, read the minutes of the last meeting. Patsy Smoot, treasurer, gave the treasurer's report. Pennies for Friendship were collected.

The club decided to make Ethelyn Jones an honorary member. Margie Wilson announced suggestions were needed for 1987 programs. The area meeting is Oct. 13 in Richmond.

Ruth Anderson gave the family life lesson on "List goals, adhere to them to accomplish more."

Martha Haye Paul gave the lesson on "Famous KY Women."

Sally Martswell led a game on T. V. commercials, prize won by Martha Paul.

Secret pals were revealed and new ones drawn for this year.

We will have an auction at our next meeting which will be Nov. 5 at the home of Patsy Smoot.

$500 smiles!

Fire chief Mark Hughes, left, accepts a $500 check from Tim Garrett of the Carlisle-Nicholas County Club to help defray the cost of a $5,000 Jaws of Life machine which the Nicholas County Fire and Rescue Department has purchased. The equipment is expected this week. — Staff photo

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