Bob Watkins
Sports In Kentucky

UK may have a dandy in Ellis, but the deal ain't signed yet

Quiz time.

If you are a UK basketball fan who is sky walking after LeRon Ellis said last week that he is "Lexington-bound," then, before you shade in a likeness of the 6-11, 225-pound prep star onto your jim-dandy UK basketball calendar for 1987-88, take time out for a quiz in Roundball History 101.

Ellis, the prize from Mater Dei in Los Angeles has told Eddie Sutton that he is going to UK, right? Well, please keep in mind that it's eight weeks to national letter of intent signing time. Which brings us to a little history quiz.

Question: What do the following have in common: ... Terry Mills, Ralph Sampson, Darryl Dawkins, Bill Willoughby, Tommy Lewis and Gunther Behnke?

A. They all appeared in Police Academy III.

B. Each has taken a swing at Danny Ainge.

C. Each wears Nike sneakers.

D. All six took lessons on how to say "Stafferino" from Joe Dean.

E. All the above.

F. Who cares?

G. All six "said" they were going to play ball at Kentucky, but none did.

Answer: If you said "E" and your wife answered "G" then you do the dishes every Sunday from now until basketball season starts. And coliseum dust don't count.

If you said "F" then turn the page.

But if you're still with me, consider that, yes, Sampson and Dawkins and Willoughby, Lewis and Behnke and Mills gave every indication they would play basketball at UK. None did.

And verbal commitments have not been kind to another basketball program we are familiar with either. Once upon a time the University of Louisville had "yes, I'm coming to UofL" words of honor from Cedric Henderson, Vern Fleming, and maybe even John Williams.

After some harsh words among coaches, they wound up at Georgia, Georgia and LSU.

Getting on with today's history lesson, let's see ... Sampson's mom made him sign with Virginia, Dawkins and Willoughby decided they were good enough to jump directly to the NBA, Lewis signed with Southern Cal, played a year, then quit, and Behnke got homesick, left UK before picture day and went back to West Germany. And Mills said he would have liked to "play for both schools, but I think I'll stay home and play at Michigan."

The moral of this little story is that a verbal commitment from high school kids is like selling cars—"it ain't a deal, till it's a deal ... on paper."

In case you still are not persuaded that it might be better to wait-and-see, then consider a comment from a fellow who has watched and written about LeRon Ellis since his junior high days. Frank Burlison, columnist of the Long Beach Telegram.

It's two months till signing time and the reaction here (on the west coast) to his commitment to Kentucky is that all it means is that, since Ellis cancelled his other visits, now Southern Cal only has to beat out Kentucky to get him. I still believe he'll go to USC.

On the other hand, if it holds up that UK has gotten itself a dandy recruit—and certainly indications point in that direction—then UK and Dwane Casey deserve congratulations.

"If" potential and plaudits mean anything then Wildcat basketball (and chief recruiter Casey) got some good news this week.

If Ellis sticks to the words he gave Kentucky, and St. John's and Syracuse and Georgetown and Southern Cal this week—that "yes" to UK and "no thanks" to the other finalists who had scheduled visits from the kid some recruiters consider to be the best big man prospect in America, then things are peachy for Kentucky.

If those soothsayers who make a living evaluating high schoo basketball talent know what they're talking about, then Kentucky has itself the best "big man" prospect to put on blue and white uniform since 1979. That's when Sam Bowie said "yes" to Kentucky and "no thanks" to Nevada Las Vegas.

That brings us to Casey again. Let's believe that the guy with a pearly smile has hit the jackpot first time out.

Anybody wonder what his recruiting pitch must have been like?

During the course of recruiting Ellis, professor Casey must have given the big Californian a semester of UK Basketball History 101.

■Highlight film: Joe B. Hall Wildcat Lodge, Rupp Arena, horse farms, connections. All with Happy Chandler singing "my home-whatsong in the background.

■Trivia information. "Didja know, LeRon, that University of Kentucky basketball has produced 31 All-Americans and eight, count 'em, eight of the last 16 of those All-Americans were centers"

"And remember, LeRon, seven of those eight All-American centers came here from other states. And one even stuck around to become director of athletics."

UK ALL-AMERICAN CENTERS. Kenny Walker 1986 (Georgia). Sam Bowie 1981 (Pennsylvania). Rick Robey 1977-78 (Louisiana). Dan Issel 1969-70 (Illinois). Cotton Nash 1962-63-64 (Louisiana). Bob Burrow 1956 (Texas). Cliff Hagan 1952. 54 (Kentucky) and Bill Spivey 1951 (Georgia).

■ TeeVee exposure"! Hey, LeRon! Remember, *every one* of those UK All-American centers played in the NCAA Tournament, and the last three made it to the Final Four!

■And naturally, Casey had to tell the kid that basketball is in Kentucky what beach 'n' surf parties are to California. Hee-lajous, man. And every day's a revival. All camp meetings are SRO and held at Rupp Arena with a sign out front that says "Sold out. Every night!"

Yes, if Ellis signs with Kentucky come November, UK fans will have one more reason to party. By then they will know that he is a better than average student and averaged 15.7 points and 6.5 rebounds last season at Mater Dei High, a school which is to basketball west of the Mississippi what DeMatha is to the game east of the big river.

"Ellis is at the top of the list of centers," says Van Coleman who publishes the National Recruiter's Cage Letter. "He's the most consistent of the top centers in the country. Smooth, quick prospect who can do it all. Good passer, solid rebounder, blocks shots and can score out to 15 feet."

If he develops his strength, he's a big-timer," Burlison adds.

It so happens that UK has what is generally recognized as one of the premier strength programs in college basketball.

So, "if" Ellis stays with his commitment—and remember Coleman: he's signing date is awhile off—then Kentucky fans have a new star on which to hang their future NCAA title hopes.

Oh yes, one more thing. Just to help "keep contact" with Ellis, his high school coach, Gary McKnight, will be one of the featured speaker's at Eddie Sutton's camp next June in Lexington in November.

Other people in sports

■ Aside from LeRon Ellis, the University of Kentucky had a couple other blue chip basketball "guests" on campus the last two weekends ... Treg Lee, a 6-8 forward from Cleveland, Oh. visited along with Ellis, and 6-11 John Pittman from Bowling Green, Ky. was in town last weekend. Still to come what may be the country's premier forward prospect ... 6-8 Marcus Liberty of Chicago ... Incidentally, Lee is said to be on his way to Ohio State.

Shopping list?

■ UK's Eddie Sutton may not use all "free, six or seven scholarships" next season, but assistant coach Doug Barnes hinted he might. But then, on the other hand, UK's "shopping list" could be full by next spring if some of the best of the following choose Kentucky.

✔ Reggie Hanson sticks around (small forward).

✔ LeRon Ellis signs (big forward).

✔ Eric Manuel, a 6-6 swingman from Savannah, Ga. signs.

✔ Lyndon Jones, a 6-2 guard from Memphis, Tenn. signs (second guard).

✔ Mike Scott, 6-10 of Scott County, ventures after Christmas (center).

✔ John Pittman, 6-11 (center) from Texas picks UK.

✔ Jeff Higgins, a 6-9 forward chooses UK over Syracuse and Duke.

✔ Sean Sutton, 6-1 guard from Henry Clay signs.

News 'n views

NEWS Another precedent was established last week toward cleaning up college basketball. Memphis State University president Thomas Carpenter fired basketball coach Richard Kota. The beleaguered ex-coach called a news conference at midweek, but didn't show. On Friday he said he would talk when there was something to say.

VIEWS. With Kirk out, it might also help college basketball if ...

✔ Jim Valvano left North Carolina State to become an evangelist.

✔ Dale Brown quit Louisiana State to join the U.S. diplomatic corps.

✔ Jerry Tarkanian left Nevada Las Vegas to become a blackjack dealer across the street.

Berea tops Bluejackets 26-8; Paris here Friday

The Paris Greyhounds, always one of the top Class A teams in the state, will provide the opposition Friday when upset-minded Nicholas County looks for its first win of the season.

Game time is 8 p.m.

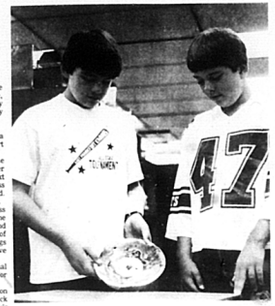
The Bluejackets traveled to Berea last week and came out on the short end of a 26-8 score.

Berea scored on a pass to Jamie Jones midway of the opening quarter and never looked back. On the next possession, Billy Hall grabbed a pass to give the home team a 13-0 lead. NCHS blocked the try for extra point.

The second quarter was a scoreless affair, but with less than half of the third period remaining, Hall found himself on the receiving end of another touchdown pass. Stuart Boggs added his second point after to give Berea a 20-0 advantage.

Berea made it 26-0 in the final period as Pat Giocondo scrambled for six points. The point after failed.

Nicholas County came right back on a touchdown pass from quarterback Todd Day to Terry Hall. Day's pass added two more points for the final 26-8 tally.



3-D study of cell

Brad Allison, left, and Travis Sims display a three dimensional model of a cell that they made for science class. They are students of Beverly Griffith. — Staff photo

4-H Club horse show results told

Results of the Shamrock Bit and Bridle 4-H Club Horse Show Sept. 14 are as follows:

Leadline — Jennifer Denham.

Mutt and Dad — Charlie Matthews, Karen Kinlerside, Dr. David Kinlerside, Willard McLain, Sarah Terrell, Ann Barnett.

Plantation Walking — Shawna French, Cindy Hanson, Shawna French.

Plantation Pleasure — Christy Jackson, Christie Mayfield, Tish Hanson, Shawna French, Allison Jones, Ezra Mathes.

Western Pleasure — Brian Matthews, Rodney McDowell, Kristina Kinlerside, Tammy McLain, Michael Matthews, Chris Aleo.

Country Pleasure — Shawna French, Chris Aleo, Billy Denham, Allison Jones.

Nicholas County Pleasure — Rodney McDowell, Cindy Hanson, Shawna French, Ezra Mathes, Jan Hanson, Rusty Johnson.

Hunter Hack — Kristin Kinlerside, Ezra Mathes, Senca Johnson, Alicia Highlander.

Western Equitation — Kristin Kinlerside, Michael Matthews, Sandy McLain, Brian Matthews, Rodney McDowell.

Walking Equitation — Jennifer Maynard, Cindy Hanson, Shawna French.

English Equitation — Christy Jackson, Shawna French, Christina Hall-Aleo, Erin Mathes, Tish Hanson.

Hunt Seat — Kristen Kinlerside, Alicia Highlander, Senca Johnson.

Fag and Spoon — Brian Matthews, Michael Matthews, Shawna French, Jennifer Maynard, Kristen Kinlerside, Allison Jones, Billy Denham, Tish Hanson.

Barrel Race — Rodney McDowell, Michael Matthews, Brian Matthews, Billy Denham, Kristen Kinlerside, Tara Aleo.

Pole Bending — Rodney McDowell, Michael Matthews, Shannon Highlander, Brian Matthews, Chris Aleo.

Flag Race — Michael Matthews, Rodney McDowell, Brian Matthews, Billy Denham.

Costume — Allison Jones, Jan Hanson, Billy Denham, Cindy Hanson, Tish Hanson, Kristin Kinlerside.

Hunter Over Fences — (All received participation ribbon) Senca Johnson, Alicia Highlander, Sandy McLain.

Rosettes were donated by Dr. and Mrs. Allen Hanson and trophies by the Kroger Company of Cincinnati.

Hunting, fishing observance set

Gov. Martha Layne Collins has issued a proclamation marking Kentucky's official observance of National Hunting and Fishing Day on Sept. 27.

Over the years, hunters have contributed more than $1.5 billion through a self-imposed federal excise tax on hunting equipment. Anglers have raised more than $500 million through a similar tax. The proceeds from these taxes are given back to the states to use for approved fish and wildlife conservation projects.

On the state level, hunters and anglers pay for conservation through their purchase of hunting and fishing licenses.

Hopkins third overall in MAC three mile race

On Saturday, Sept. 21 in Morehead as part of the Hardwood Festival, the MAC Three-Miler was run. Local runner Barbara Hopkins was third overall woman with a time of 19: 44.

Hopey Newkirk of Bath County was first with a time of 17:37 and Eve Gamba second with a 19:00 minute mark.

In lieu of trophies local pottery sculptor Adrian Swain designed pottery awards for the winners. Limited edition prints were given the first 200 registered runners by the local Holiday Inn.

Everyone Welcome!
For an Evening of Gospel Singing at the
Barn Mission
Sat., Sept. 27, 7:30 P.M.
Glory Bound Family Singers
of Manchester, Ohio
Regular Services 2:00 Sunday
Preaching: June Hunt
J.W. Roberts, Pastor

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Fall Revival
Sun., Sept. 28 thru Fri., Oct. 3
Sunday 7:00 P.M.
Monday - Friday 7:30 P.M.
Bill and Joy Vernon,
Evangelists
Nursery Will Be Provided
Carlisle Christian Church

Ellis is one of 3 good big men in west
Who is the 6-11 high school basketball star from California who verbally committed to Kentucky last week?
"Physically Ellis is a lot like (Sam) Bowie only he's farther along than Bowie was when he went to Kentucky," one west coast observer said last week. "Offensively, he's more comfortable facing the basket, more like a big forward instead of a true center. He handles the ball well and gets out on the (fast) break the way Bowie did."
Ellis is a good shooter but does not have Bowie's range (15-17 feet out). "The only rap on him," Burlison said, "is that he often gets intimidated by bigger guys."
Ellis is one of three "outstanding big men" in the west coast, Burlison said. The others are 6-9 Sean Higgins and 6-8 Byron Williams.
Higgins is said to have narrowed his college choices to Syracuse, Michigan, Kentucky, North Carolina State and UCLA. Syracuse and Michigan are front runners.
Williams has told Southern Cal and UCLA he is not interested.
Reportedly, he will sign with Louisville or Temple.
"Williams is more of a true center than Ellis," Burlison said. "A much better shot blocker and rebounder."■

Homecoming at
Stoney Creek Christian church
Sunday, Oct. 5 starting at 10 A.M.
Potluck Lunch at 12:30. Afternoon Service at 2 P.M.
Speaker, Quinton McNabb
Minister, Steven Strodtman
"EVERYONE WELCOME!"

Gospel Sing
Carlisle Assembly of God Church
Highway 36 across from Sexton's Trailer Court
Sunday, Sept. 28, 2 P.M.
Featuring: Spencer Family
of Shiloh, Ohio
"Everyone Welcome!"

Saltwell ..... by Mrs. Fred Hollar

Mrs. Stanley Cropper of Fleming County was a Thursday supper guest of Mrs. Hazel Snapp.

Mrs. Roy E. Snapp and Mrs. Roy J. Snapp of Cincinnati and Mr. and Mrs. Sid Jorden of Paris spent Sunday at the home place of Mrs. Roy E. Snapp.

Mrs. Pauline Creech of Paris spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Hampton Faulconer and Larry.

Mrs. Glenda Freback and Rev. Roy Hunt and Mrs. Carol Mann visited Mrs. Alice Marie Freback one evening the past week and on Sunday.

Mrs. Louise Thompson and Mrs. Hazel Snapp visited Garnett Gaunce and Mr. and Mrs. S.B. Ellis, near Milford on Friday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Freddie Gaunce visited Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Jackson, near Ellisville the past Monday.

Rev. and Mrs. Randy Coleman were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Jones.

Mrs. Hensel Grey visited Mrs. Fred Hollar and Mr. and Mrs. H.A. Gaunce and Mandy Sunday afternoon and Delores Caswell, who had spent the day on Sunday with the Gaunces.

Mrs. Mae Kenney and Lovell Kenney visited his daughter, Mrs. Merv Chapman and Mr. Chapman and children of Lexington on Saturday.

Mrs. Janet Kenney and Mrs. Mae Kenney visited Mrs. Margie Ashbrook on Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Brady and Gayle Brady attended the Brady reunion on Sunday at the Kentucky Horse Park.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Doyle and Robbie visited Mr. and Mrs. Greg Doyle and Mindy of Kelat on Friday night. Mindy had undergone eye surgery at U.K. Hospital on Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Leland Morrow and daughter Shirley, Liberty, Ind., Mr. and Mrs. Donnie Doyle, Mrs. Mark Doyle and children Tyler and Justin, Billy Stone and Darrin Doyle visited Orville Doyle the past week.

Mr. and Mrs. Jackie Kenney entertained with a birthday party on Sunday for the second birthday of their son Justin. The following attended: Mrs. Beverly Boots and Kessie, Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Bailey and Randy, Mrs. Debbie Nichols and J.J., Jamie Kenney, Mrs. Wilma Adams, James Kenney and other friends and relatives. Many gifts were received and lovely time enjoyed by all.

Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Brady, Gayle Brady and other relatives attended the Kentucky Walking Horse celebration show at Lawrenceburg on Thursday night.

Mrs. Patsy Blakeman and daughters, Lexington, visited Daley and Martha Kennedy on Sunday.

A very large group attended services at Headquarters Church on Sunday morning and heard the missionary, Rev. Buddy Gaines and his wife and daughters of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

The ladies and men's group of the Headquarters Church will have their monthly meeting this Wednesday night with supper at 7 o'clock as usual.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Gaunce and Brian, Lexington, visited Mr. and Mrs. H.A. Gaunce and Mandy Sunday evening.

Senior Class leaders

Officers of the 1986-87 senior class at Nicholas County High School are, l-r, Tracy Hollar, secretary-treasurer; Lynn Reynolds, president, and Allen Hardin, vice-president. — Submitted

Wheels for Life sponsors sought

Carlisle-Nicholas County riders for the Saturday, Oct. 11 St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Wheels for Life Bike-a-thon are asking citizens for pledges for each mile they ride.

"Every mile our bikers go earns money bringing us closer to a cure for cancer. The lifesaving study of childhood cancer at St. Jude has become critical to children all over the world," said Bike-a-thon chairman Mervilyn Sams.

"Let's show we care. Help this cause. Your generous pledge encourages riders. After the event, help them get the money to us quickly."

The ride starts at the elementary school at 9 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m. in the parking areas. "If you haven't been asked to sponsor a rider, but are interested, please call 289-5656 or 289-5039 and a rider will contact you," Sams said.

Each rider gets a lap card at registration and will pass the checkpoints and at the end of the ride, we check and sign it to show that the rider has earned what the sponsor pledged." Riders return to sponsors to collect the pledge.

"We are asking the child to return the pledged monies within 10 days for them to collect their prizes, she said.

Volunteers to date are: Connie and Billy Ray Sams, Jeff and Joanie Tyrer, Renee and Harold Mauney, Bobby and Brenda Barnett, Helen Flora, Alpha Brierly, Curt Kelley, Phyllis Guthrie, Emma Jones, Leenora Corbin, Cindy Herrington, Linda House, June Wilson, Rita Jane Hogg, Sue Woodall, Marnie Price, Mable Sexton, Juanita Smith, Jeanette Hughes, Lisa Hughes, Linda Mains, Dorothy Marshall and Bill Sams.

Many prizes have been donated along with a bake for the boy or girl collecting the most for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. T-shirts and tote bags can be won for $25 and $75 collected from sponsors.

Youth fish for prizes Saturday

A fishing tournament for youth ages 16 and under will take place Saturday during Court Days in Carlisle.

Sponsored by the Nicholas County Wildlife Club, the tournament will be divided into three age divisions — youngsters nine and under, 10-12 and 13-16. Registration will be held from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Wildlife Club's booth on the courthouse lawn.

Fishing will take place following registration and until the 2:30 p.m. lay-in at the courthouse. All legal fish are eligible to enter, with the boy or girl catching the largest in each age category winning a rod and reel.

The Wildlife Club will have a demonstration at the booth to commemorate National Hunting and Fishing Day Sept. 27.

For information contact Butch Alexander, 289-2633 or Marie Halpin, 987-2603 after 6 p.m.

Wildlife filming has its problems

Journalist Miles Kingston takes a behind-the-scenes look at the making of "The Living Planet", a series written and presented by David Attenborough and now showing on KET Sunday, Sept. 28, at 8 p.m. It reveals some of the secrets of wildlife photography and includes many memorable moments - some of which were totally unscheduled and are seen here for the first time.

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Your Prescription our speciality

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STORE HOURS:
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$100 Payroll Winner: Albert Shields
• We reserve the right to limit quantities.
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Think MEAT
TableRite Choice Round Steak $1.59 lb.
TableRite Lean Ground Beef 99¢ lb.
TableRite Boneless Rump Roast ... lb. $1.99
TableRite Beef Cubed Steaks ... lb. $2.19
Also: Leg Quarters
Mixed Fryer Parts ... lb. 59¢
Armour Hot Dogs ... 12 oz. $1.19
IGA Sliced Bacon ... 12 oz. $1.69
Ky. Border Bologna ... lb. 79¢
Red Hot Specials
8 1/6 oz. Plus Deposit COKE $1.39
lb. box BI RITE SALTINES 59¢
Brown & Serve 12 Pack IGA ROLLS 2/$1
Castleberry 24 oz. BEEF STEW 99¢
5 lb. bag (Limit 1) IGA SUGAR $1.39
Trail Blazer, 20 lbs. DOG FOOD $2.99
Brick Pack 1 Lb. FOLGERS COFFEE $2.99
Jumbo Roll BOUNTY TOWELS 69¢
Chicken Noodle 10 oz. CAMPBELL'S SOUP 3/$1
42 oz. box TIDE DETERGENT $1.79
Think PRODUCE
Golden Ripe BANANAS 3 lbs. 99¢
California, 4 Lbs. ORANGES $1.49
In The Shell PEANUTS lb. 99¢
Crisp Head LETTUCE Head 79¢
Also: Carrots and Peppers CUCUMBERS, RADISHES 3/99¢
Dairy & Frozen
Whipped lb. (6 Sticks) Parkay Margarine 69¢
10 Count Ballard Biscuits 4/99¢
Bright & Early - Gal. Chilled Juice 79¢
Banquet Fruit Pies 20 oz. $1.19
Several Varieties Morton Dinners 10.75 oz. 79¢
Think BAKERY-DELI
Turkey BREAST lb. $3.49
Deli Potato SALAD lb. 79¢
Fresh Glazed DONUTS 6/69¢
Decorated Cakes made Daily.
This Week's Special: Care Bear Cakes to Order

IGA
Support Your Local PTA!
Membership Drive Underway
• "Miss Piggy" will have a registration booth set up at the store Saturday. So stop by and sign up. . .FOR OUR KIDS!
Your Foodstore and more...
★ VCR & Video Rentals
★ Children's Birthday Party Tapes
★ Film Processing (24 Hour Development)
★ Payroll Promotion
★ We Sell Money Orders & Stamps
$100 Cash Prize has been given away 93 consecutive weeks. Register Each Visit!