# Gullett wants back into the game

By Mike Embry
AP Sports Writer
for SPORTS EXTRA

MALONETON, Ky. (AP) – Time has been the healer for Don Gullett.

More than 11 years have passed since he pitched in the big leagues, making his last start before the 1978 All-Star game. He was one of the best pitchers of the 1970s, with a fastball that approached 100 miles per hour.

But he lasted only two innings that fateful outing, suffering a devastating rotator cuff injury.

Two years later, following surgery and countless consultations with specialists, Gullett's career ended with his release by the New York Yankees.

Now he would like to return to baseball.

"I wouldn't mind getting into some type of instruction in the major leagues or minor leagues," Gullett said outside a barn on his farm in Greenup County in northeastern Kentucky. "Recruiting would be a good field to be in. I'd like to get back in some capacity.

"It's difficult to get baseball out of your system all together."

But he sure tried.

"It bothered me the first 3-4 years I was away," he said. "I looked at myself and I was only 31-32 years old. It kind of bothered me mentally. It was mentally tough to watch games. Under normal circumstances, I would have been out of the game only 3-4 years now.

"I don't think anybody ever adjusts to it. You always get that feeling to be involved in baseball on a regular basis. After a while you realize it's time to give it up and pursue something else."

Gullett recorded some impressive numbers during his 10-year career with the Cincinnati Reds and Yankees. He was 194-66 with a 3.11 ERA while playing in four World Series.

His career appeared headed into the Hall of Fame.

"You never know what might have happened," he said without a trace of bitterness. "There always a chance of injury. It was just unfortunate in my career. If I had stayed healthy, there is the chance I could have been very successful.

"I think I was a better pitcher right before I hurt my arm than I was earlier."

Injuries haven't eluded Gullett since his days in New York.

While playing softball he dislocated a shoulder sliding into second base and another time threw his shoulder out while trying to throw out a runner.

Nearly four years ago he experienced his biggest physical setback - a heart attack.

"It affected me a couple of years in what I could do," he said. "I was afraid to get out there and do things I had done before. I was scared.

But he gained an appreciation for the things he had in life.

"You look at what you've got and stay around and enjoy it," said Gullett, who will married 20 years in January to his high school sweetheart, Cathy. They have an 18-year-old son, Don Jr., and two daughters, Tracey, 15, and Angela, 10.

Gullett, who will be 39 in January, is 25 pounds over his playing weight of 190. His physique is more like Mickey Lolich than the young fireballing lefty of Cincinnati's Big Red Machine.

He still participates in old-timers' games at the various ballparks and has made a couple of appearances at baseball card shows.

"The old-timers' games are always a good feeling," said Gullett, who wears a Cincinnati uniform at the gatherings. "It's nice to go into the old ballparks. It's like a big reunion.

Gullett was also drafted by in the senior league, although he hasn't been contacted by anyone.

"I think that might be a fun thing to do," he said. "I think that would be the case with the other guys. If they were serious about it, I think they would seek employment in the major leagues."

Every summer he usually makes the 120-mile trip from his home to Cincinnati to see a game.

He roots for both the Reds and Yankees.

"There's a lot of tradition in both cities," he said. "It's kind of easy to do with them being in different leagues."

Gullett isn't the standard gentleman farmer. He's out in the field cutting hay with a tractor or tending to the tobacco crop or tinkering with some machinery. He gets dirty.

"You've got to know a little about everything to be a farmer," he said with a grin. "You've got to know plumbing, mechanics and a lot of other things."

Gullett lives in a two-story Tudor-style home about a mile where he grew up. "If I hadn't gotine into baseball, I'd probably still be doing what I am now," he said.

"I hunt and fish as much as I can," he added. "I like working outdoors too. It's difficult to sit around inside."

Occasionally he'll get in touch with former Yankee teammate Catfish Hunter for a hunting trip in North Carolina.

He plans to sell the farm because its "more work and no pay" and to spend more time traveling.

"I'm semi-retired now," he said with a smile."My wife andI still have a chance to travel like we've always wanted to."

And he still carries the times of his life in the big leagues.

"One of the things I remember is the home run I hit in the '76 playoffs against Pittsburgh," he said. "But just getting into the game of baseball was a big thrill for me and getting to pitch against guys like Hank Aaron or Willie Mays. There are a lot of great memories."

# Eastern continues Western domination

By Mike Embry
AP Sports Writer
for SPORTS EXTRA

RICHMOND, Ky. (AP) – After Eastern Kentucky's Markus Thomas got his mind in the game, it was all over for Western Kentucky.

Thomas, a freshman tailback making his first start, ran 63 yards for a touchdown in the third quarter to spark the NCAA Division I-AA's top-ranked team to a 24-3 victory Saturday night.

"I had to get my mind straight," said Thomas, who added a 22-yard TD later in the period to finish with 126 yards on 11 carries against the 19th-ranked squad and Eastern Kentucky's archrival. "It's a mind thing."

Thomas was in the starting lineup because Tim Lester suffered a season-ending knee injury two weeks ago against Delaware State.

After Lowman Fields completed a 12-yard pass to Vincent Ware to the Eastern Kentucky 37, Thomas slipped over left tackle and broke down the sideline on his 63-yard scamper to give the Colonels a 17-3 lead with 11:44 to go in the third quarter.

"Our receivers sustained their blocks better and the fullback was there ahead of me," said Thomas. "I just ran to daylight."

Thomas' second touchdown came after the Eastern Kentucky defense stopped Western Kentucky on a fourth-and-one at the 50. Thomas then went up the middle for a 22-yard gain and fullback Mark Burkhead followed with a six-yard run to the 22.

On the next play, Thomas raced around right end and down the sideline to the end zone with six seconds in the third quarter to help secure the 24th straight victory at home for the Colonels.

"I read the holes and ran hard all night long," said Thomas.

Western Kentucky (2-2) could muster only a 29-yard field goal by Pat Levis with three seconds left in the half to trail 10-3.

"Their defensive line simply manhandled our offensive line," said Western Kentucky coach Jack Harbaugh. "They were much quicker, stronger and faster than our kids."

Western Kentucky quarterback Scott Campbell, who was sacked five times for 30 yards, spent most of the evening scrambling away from defenders.

"I really liked the way we played defense," said Eastern Kentucky coach Roy Kidd. "The key in the second half was to come out after halftime and stop them early."

Eastern Kentucky went 71 yards on seven plays in the opening series to go up 7-0 when Fields connected on a 35-yard pass to Ware in the back of the end zone with 11:51 remaining in the first quarter.

Fields completed a 12-yard sideline pass to Randy Bohler to the Eastern Kentucky 42 and later ran 19 yards to the Western Kentucky 23 on a keeper to set the tone for the game.

James Campbell increased the margin to 10-0 with a 35-yard field goal with 8:32 left in the half.

Fields completed 10 of 16 passes for 139 yards and rushed 11 times for 45 yards.

"Lowman Fields showed a lot of poise and leadership tonight," said Kidd.

Eastern Kentucky travels to Tennessee State while Western Kentucky will play host to Austin Peay next Saturday.

Don Smith led Western Kentucky with 78 yards on 19 carries, while Campbell completed 15 of 31 passes for 121 yards to lead Western.

# Louisville troops can't stop Major

By Ted M. Natt
AP Sports Writer
for SPORTS EXTRA

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) – West Virginia coach Don Nehlen knows what the ninth-ranked Mountaineers' record will be if they execute like they did in the first half of their 30-21 victory over Louisville.

"We won't win another game. I'm sure of that," Nehlen said after watching his team fall behind 14-10 at halftime Saturday. "It's no way to play ball. That's ridiculous."

Quarterback Major Harris, who threw for 245 yards and one touchdown and ran for 73 yards, said impatience hurt West Virginia (4-0) early.

"We were trying to make the big play and it just wasn't working," Harris said. "But we regrouped and got together and made the big drive at the end."

Actually, it was two big drives.

West Virginia trailed until Eugene Napoleon's two touchdowns in the final three minutes enabled the Mountaineers to escape with their 16th straight regular-season victory, the longest such streak in the nation.

"Them making the big plays and we not making the big plays in the fourth quarter in a game between evenly matched teams was the difference," Louisville coach Howard Schnellenberger said. "They continued to battle and battle and battle back.

"It was a very disappointing loss."

The Cardinals had hoped a win would give them the national respect they believe they deserve.

"We lost the opportunity to come out with a big win," Schnellenberger said, "but if anyone thinks I'm going to say anything negative about this team, I'm not. They gave it their all."

So did Napoleon, who had been hampered by an ankle injury for two games. His 1-yard TD run over left tackle gave West Virginia a 22-21 lead with 2:54 remaining and his 46-yard scoring run up the middle at the 1:26 mark put the game out of reach.

Louisville (2-1) had taken a 21-10 lead early in the third quarter on Browning Nagle's 18-yard touchdown pass to Anthony Cummings.

But West Virginia got field goals of 49 and 25 yards from junior Brad Carroll, the former a career-long effort, to pull within five points 10 seconds into the fourth quarter.

Napoleon finished with 121 yards on 17 carries. But the real star for West Virginia was Harris, who repeatedly turned what appeared to be a loss into a big play. He completed 16 of 31 passes, had only one interception and ran the ball 18 times.

"My scouts said he was awesome, and he was awesome," Schnellenberger said.

Nagle, who transferred from West Virginia after losing the starting quarterback's job to Harris, also played well, completing 18 of 32 passes for 206 yards and two TDs.

But he took the blame for the loss.

"My ineffectiveness in the fourth quarter was the key. There's no other way to say it," Nagle said.

After Napoleon's first TD, Nagle drove Louisville to its 48-yard line before throwing four straight incompletions. West Virginia took over, and two players later, Napoleon scored for the final margin.

A record 39,152 fans at Cardinal Stadium, including several thousand West Virginia rooters, bettered the mark of 36,914 set against Western Kentucky in Schnellenberger's home debut in 1985.

Louisville took its halftime lead on the strength of a 34-yard touchdown pass from Nagle to Fred Jones in the first quarter and a 1-yard TD plunge over left tackle by Terrell Gardner with 6:50 left in the half.

But Harris kept West Virginia close with his scrambling ability. Never was that more evident than late in the half.

After Gardner's scoring run gave Louisville a 14-3 lead, Harris needed just 11 plays to take the Mountaineers 91 yards for a touchdown. He capped the drive with a 23-yard scoring pass to Greg Dykes in which two Louisville defenders had him halfway to the turf when he threw the pass with a sidearm motion. And Dykes was on the ground when he made the catch.

"This guy (Harris) doesn't like to go down," said Louisville defensive tackle Ted Washington.

Carroll kicked a 26-yard field goal early in the second quarter to pull West Virginia within 7-3.



# Nicholas junior girls ..

Continued from Page 2

### Paris comes calling and Jackets are ready

The seventh grade junior lady Jackets got back on the winning track and improved their record to 3-1 with a 29-13 win over Paris, last Thursday.

Nicholas County took a 4-0 lead at the first stop and extended the advantage to 17-4 at intermission.

Leading 25-5 after the third quarter the Jackets went on to win, 29-13.

Auxier had 10 points and five steals to lead Nicholas County.

Jones finished with seven points and 10 rebounds, while George contributed four points with seven steals and seven rebounds.

Crystal Hamilton, Lisa Livingood, Nikki Sibert and Tracey Fryman had two points each, while Sibert had three steals and Fryman, five.

**In eighth grade action . . .** Nicholas County never let up in improving to 4-0 on the season with a 61-23 win.

The Jackets led 19-6 after one quarter and 39-9 at intermission.

At the third stop the lead was at 40 points, as Nicholas County was ahead 53-13. The reserves preserved the victory as Nicholas County won 61-23.

Tawnya Livingood had 17 points, eight rebounds and seven steals to lead Nicholas County.

Denkins had 10 points, nine rebounds and six steals, while Schanding had 12 points, five steals and three assists.

Alicia Sibert had five points and three steals, as Willoughby had seven points, Kristie Cox had four, and Rose Ann Farah, Crystal Workman and Melanie Jones had two each.

"We have such an unselfish team, I never know who will be the leading scorer," NCES Coach Barbara Kenney said in praise of her team.

"This may very well be the most talented total team I have ever put on the floor."

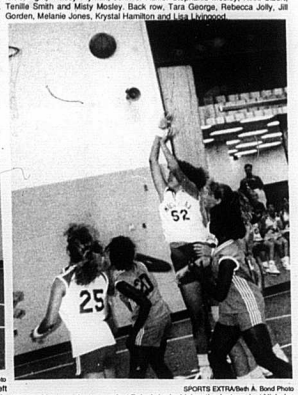
SPORTS EXTRA/Beth A. Bond Photo

Seventh grade Nicholas County junior high girls basketball team features (front, left to right) Tracey Fryman, Jennifer Auxier Stephanie Mosley, Nikki Sibert, Tenille Smith and Misty Mosley. Back row, Tara George, Rebecca Jolly, Jill Gorden, Melanie Jones, Krystal Hamilton and Lisa Livingood.

## Junior High Girls Travel to Bourbon County Thursday

SPORTS EXTRA/Beth A. Bond Photo

Eighth grade Nicholas County junior high girls basketball team features (front, left to right) Jennifer Willoughby, Rose Ann Farah, Elizabeth Schanding, Julie Caswell and Krystal Workman. Back row, Michella Hopkins, Twanya Livingood, Kristie Cox, Kim Denkins, Melanie Jones and Alicia Sibert.



SPORTS EXTRA/Beth A. Bond Photo

Kim Denkins goes for two against Pairs in junior high action last week at Nicholas County Elementary. The Jackets prevailed 61-23, leading from the opening tip.

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