

Bob Watkins' Sports In Kentucky

Last weekend was a rev-up for Joe Lunardi's Pairings Show



Bob Watkins

Last weekend provided enough drama moments to wake up even the sleep-walking Kentucky Wildcats.

√ In Lexington, a season first. Julius Randle scored a game-winner against LSU igniting a player pile-on. A what? Fans witnessed a flicker of college-kid-joy when a couple teammates pummeled Randle. Then the Wildcats put their NBA faces back on.

√ Louisville. Down a point in Cincinnati and last seconds ticking off the clock, Russ Smith rose for a jump shot. Then, in an Earth-must-have changed-on-its-axis nano-second, he passed the ball, got a pass back and swished a falling down jumper to stun Cincinnati at home, and rocket the Cardinals into top two seed talk. Russ doth adore Russ Hero Moments. Kid is a winner, period.

From the No Kidding Dept. a national writer concluded the No. 7 Louisville's body of work this season has come against a weaker schedule ... but the Cards might not be as far behind the championship team as perceived." Really?

√ In Bowling Green Western's defense smothered Louisiana Monroe without a field goal for nine minutes, built an 18-1 lead, and stopped a two game skid. The Hilltoppers (18-9) have four regular season

games left in the Sun Belt. √ At Auburn Vanderbilt's starters decided to coast against the Tigers and fell behind by 16. Kevin Stallings did what good coaches do, skipped the plead and whine and sat them down, inserted two walk-ons who fired the Commodores to their 16th win.

√ At Durham, North Carolina, Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim waited 39 minutes and 40 seconds of game action before showing his Lou Piniella side.

In front of Cameron's crazies and a national tee-vee audience, Boeheim tore at his jacket, ran onto the floor to protest a call with 20 seconds left in a two-point game. Two technicals and one ejection later his No. 1 ranked team was, well, not number one. Replays showed referee Tony Green got the call right.

Was a rev-up weekend for stretch run games, conference tournaments and Joe Lunardi's Big Pairings Show.

NOTABLES

Kentucky's overtime win against LSU told us ...

- Before March Madness and packed in zone defenses arrive, the Wildcats had better find a Russ Smith-like jump shot range.

- If LSU coach Johnny Jones can persuade his players to believe every opponent ahead is Kentucky, then his 11-loss Tigers belong in the NCAA Tournament. If not, NIT.

Kentucky?

- Good thing: Another 20-win season. John Calipari low balls all games that don't have word tournament in front, but by their presence for games in Rupp Arena, fans value every W, even the marshmallows.

- Not good: Favored by 12, UK needed an overtime to beat LSU by one at home. Five assists isn't good either.

- Best coach thing: Calipari behaved less like Bozo the Clown than usual.

- Best coach thing II: Although well behind the curve, Calipari said something of substance. "We're still coach-driven instead player-driven. We've got to get to where I'm doing less, and they're doing more."

Amen to the last part. To the first: Calipari's remark would have fit six weeks ago.

INSIDE UK AT AUBURN

By way of Bleacher Report writer Jason King's access to Kentucky's basketball team on trip to Auburn Feb. 12, UK fans got a telling look at their Wildcats. Fans around the Bluegrass state won't see observations from uh, mainstream media.

√ Leaving the hotel at Auburn, "the Wildcats hardly notice two young boys waiting in the lobby with a basketball and a Sharpie. Instead they stare straight forward walking like zombies past the autograph seekers."

√ (At lunch) King writes, "the Wildcats resemble a group of 40-somethings on a business trip—not a band of teenagers in town to play basketball."

√ During a scouting report briefing on Auburn, King writes: "Assistant coach John Robic is annoyed with the vibe and tells the players, 'You've gotta snap out of this haze you're in. You should be excited to play tonight. We have eight regular-season games left and then the SEC and the NCAA tournaments. After that, this team will never be together again.'"

After Kentucky's sleep-walk win over Auburn, Calipari tells his players "I know what I'm asking you to do is hard. I know it's tough worrying about everyone else, especially when your whole life you've only worried about yourself. But I'm ask-

ing you: 'Do you want to be special?' If you do, you've got to change."

Then, according to King, Calipari said, "When are we going to get it?"

JUST WONDERING DEPT.

- He isn't Larry, but isn't Creighton's Doug McDermott is the most entertaining player in college hoops since Larry Bird?

- Coaches. Raise your hand if you love watching Mick Cronin coach Cincinnati's Bearcats.

- Intrigue Dept. Labeled too short and not physical enough, where will they be in five years: Johnny Manziel and Russ Smith?

- Ideas Dept. University of Kentucky's cheerleaders won their 20th national championship recently. Maybe an enterprising filmmaker could put together a documentary, present it to KET, then we could all see what the big deal is.

KENTUCKY'S MT. RUSHMORE?

If our state had one, who would the four faces be on a Kentucky Mt. Rushmore? A question posed two columns ago. Adolph Rupp and Ed Diddle seem naturals. A curious array of others have been offered. Among them: Kelly Coleman, Rick Pitino, Joe Dan Gold, Tim Couch, Denny Crum and S.T. Roach.

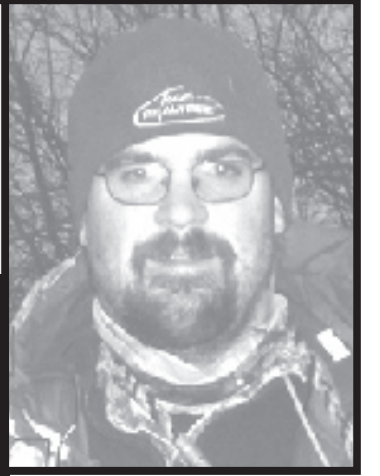
TRIPLE-DOUBLE KING Union County High School won its seventh state wrestling championship for small schools this month. Senior Brock Ervin made himself Kentucky's first ever five-time state champion winning at 132 pounds. As an eight grader, Ervin won the 103 pounds class, 112 pounds as a freshman, and doubled up 126 pounds in 2012 and 2013.

Best part? With trophies on the mantle, Ervin will wrestle at University of Illinois.

And so it goes.

Wanderings from the Woods & Water

by Jay Bicknell
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Lifetime Tree Plots Can Produce Long Term Dividends

Recently, besides doing a lot of landscaping and patio work, I have gotten interested in wildlife trees. I soon will be getting a delivery of 1300 wildlife sapling trees with the plan of growing them out to sale. My interest in wildlife trees was sparked after looking at the cost benefit.

What is a lifetime wildlife tree plot?

It is trees planted as a food source or cover for wildlife. These plots once established have the possibility to last a life time. Tree plots will attract multiple species of wildlife.

The cost benefit of tree plots vs a traditional food plot.

The cost of a multiple species tree plot is cheaper than an acre of a traditional food plot. The money for seed and fertilizer, not to mention the equipment needed, in the ground. All the equipment needed to plant trees is a good shovel and a strong back. In a day's time a lot of trees can be put in the

ground. A food plot will pay out in 1 to 4 years depending on what you plant. A tree plot takes 3 to 5 years to produce, but once established it can last a lifetime.

The Perfect Tree Plot

In my opinion the perfect tree plot would consist of a plum thicket for cover and thermal breaks. Then I would stagger trees so they produce food year round. I would have early apple and late apple trees. I would have persimmon and chestnut trees for the fall and winter. Then throw in pears and hazelnuts. This tree plot would attract deer, turkey, and other non-game wildlife.

For The Deer

Once again just my opinion! The way I would strategically plant for deer hunting is using cover, food, and wind to my advantage. I would have my plum thicket in the no hunting sanctuary area. Then around the sanctuary area I would stage my trees with food production times with predominant winds. By doing this I would always have a food source with the right wind for a stand.

I have interjected a lot of opinion into this column. I have been doing a lot of research on tree plots and am a firm believer in trees for wildlife. Tree plots are easier and cheaper to establish than the traditional food plot. There are a couple of ways to get your trees. There are the bare root trees and potted trees; both have pros and cons. If you are thinking of doing a tree plot I suggest coming up with a plan first. Map out where and what you want to plant. Then put the plan in action. As the saying goes, when you fail to plan then you plan to fail!

Until next week get out and enjoy God's creation!



Winter Help

Fab Five High-Fat Foods:

1. Unsalted peanuts, in or out of shell.
2. Suet cakes or nuggets -- any flavor.
3. Hulled sunflower heart chips. (Every bird loves these.)
4. Black oil sunflower seed.
5. Natural peanut butter spread on bread and tossed on the ground.

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Estill Co. Church League 2014 Basketball Action

Saturday, February 22nd
Old Time Bap. (58) -- Mt. Carmel (47)
Ravenna CG (51) -- Green Pastures (60)
Stacy Lane (62) -- Rice Station (40)
Gum Springs (59) -- Calvary Bap. (88)

Saturday, March 1st
9:00 Green Pastures vs. Mt. Carmel
10:15 Calvary Bap. vs. Stacy Lane
11:30 Rice Station vs. Old Time Bap.
12:45 Ravenna CG vs. Gum Springs

Saturday, March 8th
9:00 Ravenna CG vs. Rice Station
10:15 Old Time Bap. vs. Green Pastures
11:30 Gum Springs vs. Stacy Lane
12:45 Mt. Carmel vs. Calvary Bap.

Saturday, March 15th
9:00 Stacy Lane vs. Old Time Bap.
10:15 Rice Station vs. Gum Springs
11:30 Mt. Carmel vs. Ravenna CG
12:45 Calvary Bap. vs. Green Pastures

Saturday, March 22nd
9:00 Old Time Bap. vs. Ravenna CG
10:15 Gum Springs vs. Mt. Carmel
11:30 Calvary Bap. vs. Rice Station
12:45 Green Pastures vs. Stacy Lane

Saturday, March 29th
9:00 Green Pastures vs. Gum Springs
10:15 Stacy Lane vs. Ravenna CG
11:30 Rice Station vs. Mt. Carmel
12:45 Old Time Bap. vs. Calvary Bap.

Saturday, April 5th
9:00 Gum Springs vs. Old Time Bap.
10:15 Green Pastures vs. Rice Station
11:30 Mt. Carmel vs. Stacy Lane
12:45 Calvary Bap. vs. Ravenna CG
All Games At Central Office Gym

Visit Our Web Page At
[<EstillTribune.Com>](http://EstillTribune.Com)

2014 Kiwanis Park Baseball/Softball Sign-ups

Sign-Up Dates

Saturday, March 1 9:00am- 1:00pm
Tuesday, March 4 6:00pm- 8:00pm
Friday, March 7 6:00pm- 8:00pm
Saturday, March 8 9:00am- 1:00pm

Baseball & Softball Leagues

Boys/ Girls	Tee-Ball	Ages 4-6
Girls	Coach Pitch	Ages 6-8
Girls	Machine/ Player Pitch	Ages 9-10
Girls	Player Pitch	Ages 11-14
Boys	Coach Pitch	Ages 6-8
Boys	Player Pitch	Ages 9-10
Boys	Player Pitch	Ages 11-12

*****ANYONE interested in COACHING*****
Needs to come to one of the Sign-ups!
Boys age is determined by what age he will be on or before April 30, 2014
Girls age is determined by what age she was on December 31, 2013

LOCATION: Estill County High School Gym



COST \$55.00 per child

(\$5.00 less for each brother or sister)
Payment is due when you come to sign up.
Everyone must sign up at one of the designated times.
We will not take sign-ups over the phone!
Parents must come and sign their child's form.

Please remember *March 8th*** is the last day to sign up**