

Bob Watkins' Sports In Kentucky

Absent coach, man-up time at Kentucky is left to Aaron Harrison



Bob Watkins

Kentucky Wildcats . . . future?

Projections came last week not from a coach, but from a kid who did the Man-Up thing and offered Big Blue fans hope.

Aaron Harrison. Rookie, who solos too much on-court faced the music off it with a sunny if fanciful forecast.

"It's going to be a great story," the kid told reporters following his team's second and most stunning loss in a row, at South Carolina.

Bless Harrison's heart for optimism of an 18-year-old who knows his next game can erase memory that, of his team-high 16 shots (mostly awful), only four went in. And, he had zero assists.

• Kudos to UK assistant coach John Robic, a sane traffic cop at South Carolina. With 10 minutes left, his players brightened, even smiled and rallied within a point.

• Reality check I. Aaron Harrison's optimism aside, this irony: Most defining part of UK's season could be when its history - who declares for the NBA Draft.

• Reality check II. The skidding metal-on-metal

sounds we hear could be Willie Cauley-Stein and Alex Poythress skidding toward the D-League. The former won't mind as much as the latter who's going to need his college degree

• Reality check III. In my decades watching UK basketball, I can't recall a collection of soloists become less a team in March than they were in November.

TV & BALL COACHES

An ESPN audience watched last Saturday, along with Gamecocks' coach Frank Martin, himself a smoldering volcano, as Calipari morphed into Captain Queeg raving about his frozen strawberries.

The coach lost it. His players lost. And Calipari's unrelenting showtime rant (to show fans he's coaching) may cost him credibility with a bunch of kids wearing the same clothes and still forced to share one ball.

And we lost too - respect for television directors and on-air apologists (shameless Jimmy Dykes). Too many ball coaches have grown a bloated sense of importance above the game, concluding the Coach is The Show.

CONNECTING DOTS

On a Saturday when Rick Pitino made a fool of himself in Memphis, Mick Cronin did likewise on Cincinnati's sideline, all on the heels of Jim Boeheim blown fuse at Duke, and Calipari went ballistic too, I was reminded . . .

• Pitino has always behaved like a lunatic.

• Pitino worked for Boeheim.

• Cronin worked for Pitino.

• Calipari at UMass was said to be Rick Pitino on training wheels.

QUESTIONS THIS WEEK

Most frequently asked questions this week?

✓ Will Rick Pitino shave off his beard?

✓ Will John Calipari try to grow one?

✓ Who's going to be Kentucky's next ball coach?

✓ Has Adolph Rupp turned over in his grave?

✓ NCAA Tournament. Has Kentucky played itself

down in the seedings, open the tournament against ... Indiana?

✓ Tubby Smith was fried when his teams had back-to-back double digit losing seasons. What about this one?

✓ Who the heck is Joe Dan Gold?

LOUISVILLE LOSS AT MEMPHIS

This question . . .

✓ Will Louisville's loss at Memphis be a good thing?

Answer: Yes. These reasons: 1. College athletes ought be clean shaven; 2. Humble pie on March 1 tastes better than it does two weeks on; 3. More game clips to show Russ Smith what happens when the "get outa my way and lemme shoot" Russ Smith shows up.

JUST WONDERING DEPT.

At UMass and Memphis U., Calipari was a competent ball coach. Sort of. Discounting that both schools were forced to take down Final Four banners, won during his tenure, both programs won games, made lots of money.

Just wondering ... about the Peter Principle.

According to Dr. Laurence J. Peter, theory: An employee within an organization advances to his highest level of competence. His next promotion is to arrive

at a level his own incompetence.

Calipari?

CAROLINA FIASCO

SEC man in charge of game officials Jake Bell will shrug and deny it, but officiating for the Kentucky-South Carolina was weak, too reactionary, inconsistent, lop-sided. Yet, fair-minded Kentucky fans have to wonder: "If I had a grown man violating the coach's box, screaming at players and screaming in my ear every trip down court, how would I call this game?"

FREE PASS OVER?

That state media coziered up and kissed up to man they call Cal the last four months might be at an end. Last week, two reporters noticed apparently for the first time this season:

✓ Calipari "screamed and stamped his feet."

✓ Calipari "yelled at the top of his lungs, leaped in the air."

NBA FRANCHISE TO LOUISVILLE?

A sampling of what area fans would be paying for outrageous tickets for an NBA game if a franchise moved to Louisville ...

Toronto general manager Bryan Colangelo admitted what many of us suspected already. Some teams play to lose to improve their positions in the draft.

Had the Raptors lost a certain game last season "they could have been in a coin flip for the number six pick," according to an internet report last week. Colangelo wanted the number one pick, but Toronto coach Dwane Casey interfered. "He did too good of a job in motivating his players," Colangelo said.

And so it goes.

Wanderings from the Woods & Water

by Jay Bicknell

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Little Fish Big Fun At Papaw Mike's Pond

Due to some recurring computer issues this is a re-run. I thought it was fitting, because all this winter weather has me daydreaming about fishing! I am looking forward to warm days, green grass and fishing with my kids.

Saturday afternoon I had to run by my dad's nursery to help him work on a fish finder. Of course my whole herd tagged along with me, even baby Beth came along. I think the only reason Jake and Josh wanted to go was so they could fish at papaw Mike's pond!

At the nursery my dad has a pond packed full of small bluegill! They are a nightmare for the pond, but for a little kid who likes to fish they are a dream come true! Just about every cast is a winner! As soon as the bait hits the water either fish on, or bait gone!

So after I got the fish finder for dad's boat going, the herd headed over the hill to the pond. Mom and baby Beth sat in the car and watched from the top of the hill. I can't remember who went first, but I do know one fishing pole is not enough for all four kids. I heard a lot of "it's my turn" and fussing. The fish were small, but just about every cast, a fish was

caught. I was surprised that Jake and Josh didn't end up in the water. They are super competitive and with that comes some arguments! They fussed a little, but both caught several fish. The oldest, Bailey, kinda kept them in line while I took fish off the hook!

I think a new fisher woman was born this past weekend by the name of Brinley Paige Bicknell or as we call her "B". She caught a couple of fish. She had a big smile on her face like she had just caught a world record! She was really enjoying the fishing thing! When we got home she said "can we go back to Papaw's and fish!"

I know papaw is not a big fan of the tiny bluegill, but it looks like we'll have to keep them for a few more years. He might want to invest in some more fishing poles as well!! Some small fish made for a great little time for me and the herd!

My suggestion is, introduce a kid fishing in a pond like this one. The action is non-stop and the kids love it, or at least mine did! I think 4 out of 5 of my kids are hooked on fishing now, I'm sure #5 will be soon too!!

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

IPD arrests four for public intoxication

Continued from Page 1

The female gave the officers permission to search her purse and coat, the citation states.

The officers said they found a needle, and three spoons with residue, and a cigarette pack with a marijuana roach, two marijuana scraps, and a marijuana grinder/shredder.

The officers said the woman's eyes were bloodshot, her speech was slurred, and her pupils were constricted.

Timera A. Neal, 20, of Flinchum Ridge, Ravenna was charged with public intoxication of a controlled substance, possession of marijuana, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

A bench warrant was also served on Neal by Captain McKinney. The bench warrant charged her with failing to appear in court on a 2013 charge of operating on a suspending or revoked operators license.

Indictments are returned

Continued from Page 1

A flat screen television, a box of tools, and ten cases of Mt. Dew were reported stolen by Rose.

David Joseph Turner, 40, of 707 Broadway, was indicted for theft by unlawful taking or disposition over \$500.

The indictment states that on November 9, 2013, Turner pawned an outboard motor at Dollar Deals which belonged to Michael Nicholson.

Amanda Vanderpool, also of 707 Broadway, was indicted for three counts of theft by unlawful taking or disposition over \$500 and third degree burglary.

The indictment says that on October 12, 2013, Van-

derpool pawned a desktop computer with accessories, a fireplace heater, and a roll-up computer desk at Irvine Flea Market. The items were reported stolen by Michael Nicholson.

The burglary allegedly occurred at a building owned by Nicholson.

Kelly Justice, 23, of Fitchburg Road, was indicted for two counts of theft by unlawful taking - firearms.

According to the indictment, Justice sold two firearms to Kendall Arthur on January 10, 2014, which had been reported stolen by Christine Bullock.

Lonnie James Neal, 32, of Coal Wash Road, and Jason Lawson, 36, of Beattyville were named as co-defendants in an indictment, charging them each with theft by failure to make required disposition of property.

The two allegedly gained property from Clarence Wallace on December 23, 2013. The indictment states they failed to make the required payment to Wallace.

Deputy Morris conducted the investigations involving Thompson, Flynn, Turner, Vanderpool, Justice, Neal, and Lawson.

David Stamper, 30, of Beattyville, was indicted for theft by unlawful taking over \$500 and third degree burglary.

The indictment states that Stamper unlawfully entered a building owned by Wallace Taylor on February 3, 2014. It adds that he pawned tools at Dollar Deals which had been reported stolen by Taylor.

Deputy Josh Rison was the investigating officer.

Fishing Tackle & Swap

A Fishing Tackle and Swap Meet is open to the public from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday, March 8 at B. Michael Caudill Middle School, located at 1428 Robert R. Martin Bypass in Richmond.

Buy, sell, trade or swap fishing related items. Absolutely no guns, ammo or knives. Proceeds will go toward the MCHS Bass Fishing Team.

Admission is \$3.00 for adults, and free for ages 16 and under. Tables are available for the public at no charge, but table reservations need to be made in advance.

Concessions will be on-site.

For more information, contact Troy Blankenship (859) 314-5936; Dwight Burchett (859) 358-1994; Brent Wilson (859) 358-1994; or Brian Allen (859) 353-5467.

Burglary investigation

A theft was reported at the home of Mike Mainous on Rice Station Road on February 13. Someone broke into Mainous' home while he was away through the basement door.

Items taken include three weapons, quarters, gold coins, and 15 case knives.

Deputy Josh Rison is investigating.

Deputy Randy Farthing is investigating damage to the mailbox of Amanda Bird on Winchester Road. On February 15, someone torn the mailbox post out of the ground, bent it, and threw it into a creek.

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