

Estill Elementary Basketball Opens

The Estill County Elementary Basketball League kicked off their season Monday night, March 10th, at West Irvine Elementary after the many snow day delays.

The format for the league has changed again since there

is now only one school in the county with all 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades attending there.

The girls have their own league with three teams, and there are eight boys teams with four in each division.

Coaching the girls is Shaun

Hale -- Blue Team, Gary Beeler -- Black Team, and Ronnie Riddell -- Gold Team.

Coaching in the Third and Fourth grade division is Caleb Click -- Blue Team, James Woolery -- White Team, Steve Brewer -- Red Team, and Bee

Williams -- Green Team.

In the 4th and 5th grade division Dickie Arthur is coaching the Gold Team, Rodney Napier -- Purple Team, Jeremy Niece -- Yellow Team, and Gary Beeler -- Black Team.

2014 Estill Elementary Basketball League

Monday, March 10th
Black (25) -- Gold (23)
Yellow (27) -- Purple (26)
Blue (12) -- White (10)
Blue (Girls) (10) -- Black (9)

Tuesday, March 11th
5:00 Blue vs Gold (Girls)
6:00 Red vs Green
7:00 Black vs Yellow
8:00 Purple vs Gold

Thursday, March 13th
5:00 White vs Green
6:00 Black vs Gold (Girls)
7:00 Blue vs Red
8:00 Black vs Gold

Friday, March 14th
5:00 Black vs Purple
6:00 Gold vs Yellow
7:00 Black vs Blue (Girls)
8:00 White vs Red

All Games Played At West Irvine Elementary

Monday, March 17th
5:00 Blue vs Green
6:00 Purple vs Yellow
7:00 Blue vs Gold (Girls)

Tuesday, March 18th
5:00 Black vs Gold (Girls)
6:00 White vs Blue
7:00 Red vs Green
8:00 Black vs Yellow

Thursday, March 20th
5:00 Purple vs Gold
6:00 Black vs Blue (Girls)
7:00 White vs Green
8:00 Blue vs Red

Monday, March 24th
5:00 Black vs Purple
6:00 Gold vs Yellow
7:00 Blue vs Gold (Girls)

Tuesday, March 25th
5:00 White vs Red
6:00 Blue vs Green
7:00 Black vs Gold (Girls)

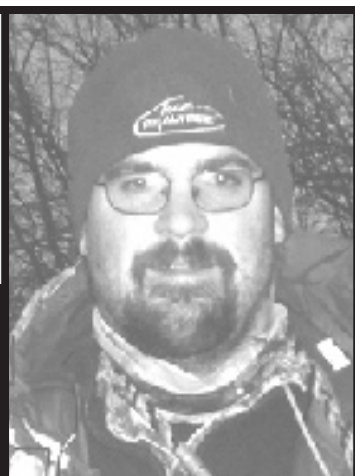


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Pine Warblers
 A pair of pine warblers is coming to my yard. Cornell Lab describes them as "yellowish birds with olive backs, whitish bellies and two prominent white wingbars on gray wings." They hang around all day eating from a peanut seed cake I have hanging in my yard.
 E-mail: birdingbits@cflrr.com
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Wanderings from the Woods & Water by Jay Bicknell
 WetStoneKennels@yahoo.com



Wounded Warriors Will Soon Be Coming To Town

Before I get started I would like to thank Kathy for the letter of kind words of encouragement.

The 2014 Kenton Bray Wounded Warrior Turkey Hunt soon will be here. America's finest will be coming to Estill, April 16-19, to do some turkey hunt. This year we will have Warriors from Ft. Campbell and Ft. Knox. We also might have a Marine hunting with us who is a double amputee and blind. There will be around 15 Wounded Warriors that will be hunting with us.

There are several ways to get involved with this year's hunt. If you're interested in being a guide then give Kelly Browning a call at 859-582-8599. If you have land that we can take Wounded Warriors turkey hunting or want to donate some time or money then give me a call at 859-619-3420. The thing I ask everybody reading this to do is PRAY. Pray for pretty weather and that the soldiers have a great time. Always be in prayer for all the soldiers protecting us from evil.

I have been so blessed the past few years to become great friends with several Wounded Warriors. I have a hard time wrapping my mind around all the things these soldiers have and are going through. They have fought the enemy. They have bled on the field of battle. They have watched their buddies die. One of my close Wounded Warrior friends said he has held soldiers in his arms and talked to them as they died.

The Iraq war has ended and the Afghanistan war is

winding down. The news media and a lot of people have pretty much forgotten that soldiers are still fighting and dying every day. Just a couple of weeks ago a Marine from Paducah, Kentucky, was killed in Afghanistan. I don't know that it even made the local news.

The Wounds these soldiers have will go on a long time after the wars have ended. They have the physical wounds and those unseen wounds that will haunt them for years to come. My wife's grandfather, Joel Stevenson, served with the 101st Airborne in WWII. He is now 90 years old and just stopped having nightmares about the war a few years ago. The soldier's war sometimes doesn't just end when the war ends.

I am always asked every year, will there be a Wounded Warrior Hunt. My answer is, as long as I am living we will have a Wounded Warrior Turkey Hunt. The way I see it, I am eternally indebted to all of the American soldiers for my Freedom past, present, and future.

I just like to thank all who help in making the Wounded Warrior Hunts a success. I look forward to having another great hunt this year. If you want to get involved just give a call.

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

Tonight, before you close your eyes thank you for the American Soldier and say a prayer for all those in uniform and their families.

Land of the FREE because of the Brave!

Bob Watkins' Sports In Kentucky

March 'indoors' is Dance time; ECU (thanks to VCU) is first to say, "we're in!"



Bob Watkins

March, I love it, don't you?

Bone chill mornings, big winds, mud and potholes, daffodils and chapped lips.

But indoors: Dance time with verbs, *going* somewhere.

Goin' to Diddle ... Goin' to Rupp ... Goin' to Atlanta ... Goin' to the Dance. ... Bracketology's "we're in!" -belongs to Eastern Kentucky U. first (never mind Harvard).

All the way to basketball's least fanatical, this week and three to follow, tis a delicious time of year. And, Maysville to Mayfield, Whitesburg to Whitesville, in our state *everybody's* an expert.

High school tournaments are community revivals with a familiar trailer: "Last one out of town, turn off the lights."

College level? Conference tournaments ... upsets ... buzzer beating shocker ... net cutting celebrations ... team photos to be priceless 20 pounds and 20 years from now. Also, "if only's" ... tears ... broken hearts ... and more Bracketology. Automatic bids, at large bids, no bid.

This week the Commonwealth has three men's teams going to the Big Dance and Western Kentucky could make it six. Women's teams at Louisville and Kentucky are Final Four contenders.

Some teams will get no invite creating that facial shocked expression, "#@!\$! we wuz robbed!"

CBS Sports loves March too. The network wraps more commercial breaks around Road to Final Four (in Dallas) than Anderson Cooper can break before

introducing his next guest at CNN.

In March, Joe Lunardi has his own television network. ESPN's talking heads try to create more suspense than National Geo with as many outrageous talking points as time allows. We can click a remote 24/7 and find a Seth, a Jay, Digger or (egad!) Vitale, doing a studio shift "breakin' down the bracket."

Irony is, here in Kentucky, kids aged six to 76 ... everybody's an expert. Ask 'em.

Having set this table, permit me this grasp of the obvious: The 2014 tournaments - at Diddle Arena and Rupp Arena, on to the Road to Dallas - this month has enough Cinderella storyline possibilities, shock drama stunners to make it best March Madness in history of the game.

By tweet, twitter, land line or Facebook, just ask anybody in Kentucky.

For one windy and muddy month again, we're all expert analysts. Enjoy.

EASTERN KENTUCKY
 Momentum and "we're in!" Harvard aside, Eastern Kentucky was first Cinderella to earn an invite to the Big Dance.

Tribute to a team that didn't only win the OVC Tournament last weekend, the Colonels (24-9) ride a seven-game win streak to The Dance where they project as a 14 or 15 seed.

I would make a case, Eastern is NCAA Tournament-bound thanks to Virginia Commonwealth.

On December 5, Jeff Neubauer's Colonels traveled to VCU both were 6-2. ECU played a superb 37 minutes, fending off Shaka Smart's team admirably. Last three minutes ECU missed shots, made turnovers, played itself into an overtime (made one of five shots), and lost 71-68.

Last week, a game pattern remarkably similar to December 5. Belmont made a furious run in the last three minutes ...

1. Where the Colonels crumbled at VCU, they kept poise, took Belmont's best shot, made shots and free throws and prevailed 79-

73.

And this ...
 2. VCU's bench outscored Eastern 29-9; Against Belmont the Colonels bench outscored the Bruins 16-8.

Bottom line: Playing first rate foes on the road in December pays dividends in March.

KENTUCKY 'POWER RATING'

An internet site headline: Power Ranking the 50 States by College Basketball Strength.

You can browse the criteria at Bleacher Report.

Ranked 51st is Alaska. No. 15 is District of Columbia, Indiana is eighth, North Carolina and Kansas are third and second respectively. Number one? Kentucky.

A sampling of why: "Kentucky and Louisville have combined for 92 tournament appearances, with overall record of 183-87, 25 Final Fours and 11 national championships. That's just...insane.

"The Wildcats and Cardinals are among the seven best teams in the nation. And unlike North Carolina, the other schools in the Bluegrass State aren't a complete liability.

Western Kentucky has been to 23 tournaments and a 1971 Final Four. Eastern Kentucky, Morehead State and Murray State have 29 total tournament appearances.

"In the past three years, both Kentucky and Louisville have been to two Final Fours and have won a national championship. Each is a strong candidate to make the Final Four this year as well.

WOODEN AWARD FINALISTS

The John R. Wooden college player of the year candidates are 15. Somehow the part of college hoops most dear to the Wizard of Westwood has disappeared, academic achievement and team MVP.

I would wager if Wooden were voting he would eliminate all underclassmen.

Left for consideration would be Doug McDermott, Creighton; Russ Smith, Louisville; Sean Kilpatrick, Cincinnati; C.J. Fair, Syracuse; and Casey Prather,

Florida.

FEIX, COUCH & HOF
 Nominees for College Football Hall of Fame Class of 2014 for induction next year are four with Kentucky ties.

Jimmy Feix (Western Kentucky) ... Tim Couch and Art Still (Kentucky) ... and Markus Thomas (Eastern Kentucky).

The Class for 2014 will be announced in May with inductions at the 57th NFF Awards Dinner Dec. 9 in New York City.

Jim Feix-Western Kentucky (1968-83)-Named Kodak College Coach of the Year for Division IV in 1973 and 1975...Won or shared six conference titles...Three-time conference Coach of the Year (1973, 1978, 1980)...The winningest coach in school history. Charter member of WKU Athletic Hall of Fame.

Tim Couch, Kentucky, Quarterback. 1998 consensus First Team All-American; finished fourth in Heisman voting; 1998 SEC Player of the Year who led Wildcats to first win over Alabama in 75 years. Set seven NCAA, 14 SEC, and 26 school records.

Art Still, Kentucky defensive end. 1977 unanimous First Team All-American... Two-time First Team All-SEC, led Wildcats to 1976 SEC Championship; was 1977 SEC Defensive Player of the Year who set school record for 22 tackles for loss in 1977 (still stands).

Markus Thomas, Eastern Kentucky tailback. Finished career ranked third all-time in FCS history in rushing (5,145), 52 rushing touchdowns. Two-time Ohio Valley Conference Offensive Player of the Year; led Colonels to two conference titles.

Enshrinement in the new College Football Hall of Fame at a date to be determined in 2015.

PARTING SHOT

A UK fan wrote: "Kentucky basketball this year? Look at it on the bright side. It could've been worse. The Harrison twins could've been triplets.

And so it goes ...

Estill Co. Church League

Saturday, March 8th
Ravenna CG (51) -- Rice Station (31)
Green Pastures (69) -- Old Time Baptist (58)
Gum Springs (89) -- Stacy Lane (45)
Calvary Baptist (84) -- Mt. Carmel (80)

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

Stickeler's Puzzle

STICKELERS [sic].
 by Terry Stickels

In a 7-by-7-by-7 stack of cubes that are all the same size, how many of the individual cubes are completely hidden from view?

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Stickeler's Answer on Page 11

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March 21-22-23, 2014
 Friday, Mar. 21st - 2pm-9pm
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 Sunday, Mar. 23rd - 9am-4pm
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