

**Wanderings  
from the  
Woods  
& Water**

**by Jay  
Bicknell**

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I never planned on being a writer, especially a weekly column writer. It was like writing found me instead of me finding writing. When it comes to weekly columns, sometimes it can be difficult to find a story. I'd much rather have a story find me versus me finding a story. The ones that find you are the funniest to write about. This week, the story found me.

My dad called me early last week to ask if I could be the Master of Ceremony (MC) of the fishing tournament that he was hosting for his church (Lower Red Lick Holiness Church) on Saturday. The MC job was to have been done by Doug Brock. Doug couldn't make it because he was at the Hospice Compassionate Care Center battling cancer. (Please keep Doug in your prayers.) To be honest, I wasn't real thrilled to take on the job due to being so busy. I accepted the job even though I thought it would really cut into my busy schedule.

I found out on Friday night that a patio we were planning to work on Saturday had been put on hold until Monday. So I got up Saturday morning and got for the most part caught up with the honey dos by 12. The fishing tournament started at 1 and I needed to be there at 1230. My busy schedule just seemed to get freed up!

The tournament got kicked off with some great guitar and banjo picking. There was also some great singing. I was really enjoying the tournament and it hadn't even got started yet! Everybody was laughing and having a good time.

So the little fishing tournament got started. Now I call it a little fishing tournament because all that's in my dad's pond is little bluegill that will bite as soon as the bait hits the water. The way this worked, whoever caught a fish had to blow a whistle. When the whistle blew, then dad, Wild Bill Isaacs or myself were to unhook fish and re-bait for

the person fishing. It didn't take long for the whistles to start going off! My hands still hurt from unhooking fish. I guess you had to just be there to see how much fun catching little fish can be.

My son Jake is ultra-competitive. So when the ladies of the church started keeping count of the fish Jake caught and the fish his older sister Bailey caught, it was on. I think Bailey edged him out 11 to 10. Jake said he lost because I wasn't unhooking and re-baiting fast enough. I was having a blast watching my two oldest trying to win at catching little fish. Who knew little fish could be so much fun.

I wish Doug could have made it to the Little Fish Tournament. By me getting to fill in for Doug, I sure was blessed! Looking back on it, I am sure God cleared my schedule so I could get the blessing. This Little Fishing Tournament got me to thinking about how many blessings we miss out on because we get so busy. Don't get too busy to miss out on God's blessings.

I got a blessing and a miracle one year ago August 13th and five years ago August 19th. Bethany and Joshua are two of five miracles I have received. Happy Birthday, Beth and Josh. Love Dad!

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



**Ground Food Mix**  
I've started mixing safflower seed and unsalted peanuts with white proso millet to toss on the ground. Sure, squirrels do get some peanuts, but so do brown thrashers, blue jays, tufted titmice and cardinals. Ground feeding is a wonderful way to bring birds into your backyard. Happy birding!

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# The Little Fishing Tournament



**Lower Red Lick Holiness Church Little Fishing Tournament**



**ABOVE: Bethany Bicknell after birthday cake. AT LEFT: Josh Bicknell holding His sister Bethany one year ago.**

## Bob Watkins' Sports In Kentucky

**Smoots latest to show 'timing is everything' is never lost on a ball coach**



**Bob Watkins**

Calm before the (football) storm.

Timing. Army field officers, director at the local funeral parlor, sundry real estate and insurance agents aside, few careerists understand the precise value of timing better than a ball coach.

In Lexington last week, Mark Stoops waited for warm breezes off the Bahamas to turn; fan buzz for Kentucky's basketball team to downgrade to a dull roar, and media to move round-ball mania to rightful place in August - below-the-fold or back on page three.

Stoops checked his watch, grabbed a news cycle from the merry-go-round and announced Kentucky's starting quarterback. Patrick Towles.

When high noon comes for Tennessee Martin August 30 at Commonwealth Stadium, a big ole Kentucky - 6-feet-5, 238-pounder - will succeed Alabaman Jalen Whitlow and Californian Max Smith.

May UK fans presume "A Kentuckian at quarter-

back, we'll be better.?"

This week, with Planet Football back in proper orbit, the August countdown and media exposure resumes.

√ First out of the box, Western Kentucky opens C-USA on a Friday night. For fire-em-up purposes and Big Mo, the home opening Hilltoppers are a touchdown-plus underdog to Bowling Green. Grrr.

√ Next day Kentucky's game will be "OK, Stoops, let's see what ya got."

followed by the proverbial "do we need to line up for Big Blue Madness tickets or wait?"

√ Rounding out Labor Day weekend, Louisville gets Miami in Cardinal Stadium for a Monday night prime timer. Second coming of fallen angel, images of contrite Bobby Petrino.

### TIMING II

Big Blue Bahamas. Kentucky brought home five wins and a (coaches) win at the end.

Just what the doctor ordered.

A two platoon to dazzle then run competition to exhaustion and submission. Included a comeuppance in game six, letting coaches bring home a prize too. A video titled perhaps, "See, you guys got work to do."

√ Alex Poythress's play reflected joy and maturity UK fans appreciate from three-year college guy.

Derek Willis, on any college team except one he's on, is a starter.

√ Rookies Karl Anthony

Towns and Tyler Ulis are special. Bluegrass State style players - savvy, unselfish, relentless, skip the showboat and feel the game.

Jersey numbers. If Power Five has its way, makes its pay-to-play rules, popularity of Towns number 12 and Ulis number 3 could boom into big walk-around-cash ... and three-and-done.

### Timing.

Meanwhile, all the world may be a stage, but only the cunning know how to seize it, bask in glow of The Solo. Produced by ESPN, written and directed by and starring John Calipari.

In Nassau, ESPN shamelessly handed Calipari a six day selfie. When Jay Bilas wasn't doing straight man for Cal-speak, Kentucky's coach was doing play-by-play and color, cheerleading (recruiting), working a camera or getting face time atop the bleachers alongside assistant Tony Barbee.

Real stars of this show? Kentucky's two-platoon Wildcats.

Teams on UK's schedule will quake. The tsunami is coming. None on the schedule, I can see, should beat Kentucky without help. Help?

√ Playing time unhappiness.

√ The Is. Injury or illness.

√ Too much media and fan attention.

√ Coach whine (on court) at game officials.

√ Paranoia. Calipari's lower-expectation-tweet warning last week? Sabotage. Sabotage?

√ Jay Bilas. ESPN's college hoops piper fell in love in Nassau. His swoon over Kentucky leaves one to wonder about Bilas' welcome when he shows up in Durham, Ann Arbor, Syracuse, Louisville and others?

√ Bilas' UK locker room talk to players was remarkable. A seminar in truth, possibility and reality. Maybe part II will deal with "... when the ball stops bouncing."

### KID TO WATCH DEPT.

Brent Bach was a skinny 6-1 shootist for Augusta High school's Panthers last winter. Averaged 31.2 points a game and named second team all-state.

Next, Bach will play at Bellarmine U. for Scotty Davenport. Kid's numbers beg a visit to attitude. In a press release, here is Bach's approach. "I want to improve ... I know I have a long way to go. I have to get bigger and work on my passing. There are several really good big guys on the team ... I want to be able work with them and make them happy, too."

Context. Thousands of Kentucky kids have taken the right and realistic attitude to college, one said this: "I could run, jump and hustle, put the ball on the floor. I got out on the break, filled the lanes."

Was 64 years ago. Kid's name was Cliff Hagan. Pure Kentucky.

And so it goes.

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## \*\*Foods Notice\*\*

Given the number of complaints that the Local Health Departments and the State Food Safety Branch are receiving in regards to home prepared and baked foods - Please be advised that anyone baking, cooking or preparing, and selling food items from their home without a permit are doing so illegally. Please contact the health department (723-5181) for information regarding regulations for cooking and selling food items.

\*The Estill County Health Department will be having an information meeting Tuesday, August 26th at 6:00 p.m. at the Estill County Extension Office. If you are interested in cooking or baking foods to sell from your home, please plan to attend this meeting.

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