

Wanderings from the Woods & Water
by Jay Bicknell
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Happy birthday, Gavin Tipton!



Happy birthday, Jake Bicknell!

Laws! Laws! Laws! And More Laws!

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same."

"We must reject the idea that every time a law's broken, society is guilty rather than the lawbreaker. It is time to restore the American precept that each individual is accountable for his actions."

"Government's first duty is to protect the people, not ruin their lives."

"All great change in America begins at the dinner table."

"Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it."

"If we ever forget that we are One Nation Under God, then we will be a nation gone under."

The quotes above in my opinion come from the best President of my life time Ronald Reagan. If you will indulge me for a few paragraphs I will make this column about the outdoors.

When there is a school shooting the media is quick to blame all gun owners and not the individual. Some of our officials elected to protect the Constitution are quick to try to inhibit our 2nd Amendment Rights. These elected officials want to pass umpteen laws that go against the law abiding gun owner.

I am in the process of building a new business. I have learned with this endeavor

that you have to jump through government hoops just to stay legal. You need to have this license and that permit. Don't forget that multimillion dollar insurance policy you have to have to do business. Heck, apparently government regulations makes it illegal to even bake a cake in your house to sell these days.

Do you own property with a stream or wetland on it? Are you breaking the law? Did you know that you need a permit to do work on a stream or wetland? If you don't have the right permit for some activities, it can cost you 25,000 dollars a day.

Don't get me wrong, laws are good to protect. Some laws are needed to keep the public safe. We are seeing an overabundance of laws that make a law abiding citizen a criminal. So what happens if they make all of us criminals?

The government can destroy your business. Operation Choke Point is a great example of government practicing this. There is no need for gun laws when the government makes you a criminal other ways. The government takes guns from criminals.

What do we the People do? We vote! We call our elected officials and tell them where we stand. We make a stand as we the People. We never forget that we are One Nation Under God!

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

Happy Birthday to my son Jake and nephew Gavin Tipton!

Bob Watkins' Sports In Kentucky
Kentucky and Western Kentucky season openers ... *Pretty Work*



Bob Watkins

With college football for context, curious thing the rant of studio talking-head experts, so logical at front end of a weekend, but hard to recognize by Armchair Quarterback meeting on Monday.

South Carolina was a two touchdown favorite against visiting Texas A&M and the Aggies gave the Spurriers a good whuppin'. Closer to home, MAC champion Bowling Green would spank Western Kentucky, they said.

Hmmm. Here, in Kentucky ... appropriate way to describe what Western Kentucky did to Bowling Green on Friday, and Kentucky to Tennessee-Martin a day later, two words might do. *Pretty Work.*

In Lexington roughly 8,000 no-shows skipped the turkey shoot, but missed a Show while 50,000-plus Big Blues and Kentucky coach Mark Stoops were aglow after the 59-14 shelling in what we will call the Schedule-Maker Bowl.

Asked to assess his quarterback Patrick Towles's debut, Stoops kept to his credo, keep it simple. "I liked his poise and decision-making."

Indeed. No sign of the shakes Towles was crisp

and in charge as he should be against a lightweight foe, start to finish - 20 passes complete on 29 throws, 377 yards, no interceptions.

Most striking items about Kentucky's debut?

1. All new people. "Who are these guys?" someone said.

2. Speed.

3. And a nice little OVC middle-of-the-pack team to break in the training wheels. (They come off for Game 3).

4. Did I mention, speed?

"They were really fast," UT-Martin QB Jarod Neal understated. "They were faster than our guys and when they needed to make a play, they made the play. They played sound."

√ The words played sound and they were no exaggeration. Two dozen newcomers got onto the Commonwealth turf. Try and digest for a moment: A Kentucky football team with (SEC) speed and depth.

• Efficiency? This side of grey beards like me, who can recall a season opening show by Kentucky that projected as much promise than this one?

• Offense? Five touchdowns from half dozen new Wildcats. Returnee JoJo Kemp had another.

• Braylon Heard's two carries, two dazzling touchdown runs of 73 and 43 yards to remind us of Alfred 'Sonny' Collins (1972-75).

• Defense. Secondary newcomers E.J. Stamps and Kendall Randolph showed flashes of SEC level speed, savvy and aggression glaringly absent in Lexington for more than half a decade.

NEXT. Kentucky is a 10-points-plus favorite this week against visiting Ohio

University (1-0). A win, whatever the spread, is relevant only if it becomes a game tape to add to efficiency, reduce six penalties and repeat zero turnovers.

Big Blue faithful know the real story here. As calendar turns to September, Kentucky's real season opener comes next week in Gainesville.

September 13 in The Swamp is far enough off to repeat and refine the *Pretty Work.*

WESTERN KENTUCKY

Arguably the most impressive items come from Jeff Brohm's first edition Hilltoppers were preparation, poise, (really fast!) pace and production. 59-31.

Western was to Bowling Green what classic Muhammad Ali was to Sonny Liston 50 years ago. Addle him early and be relentless until he surrenders. The Hilltoppers scored 14-or-more points in each quarter.

Quarterback Brandon Doughty was more stand-and-delivery Peyton Manning than a Johnny Football. Of Western's 97 offensive snaps Doughty threw 56 times, completed 46 for a school record 569 yards. No interceptions. By any measure, incredible.

And so, a (strategic) near flawless gem for Hilltoppers fans and new coach Jeff Brohm to munch on this week. New flawless because the defense surrendered 31 points.

Strategic because the flag momentum has run up the WKU pole this week. Next comes a brag rights and recruiting game signature win chance at Illinois. And a chance at redemption for Doughty. A year ago, on heels of a smartly executed

win over Kentucky, WKU went to Knoxville and Doughty had a veritable nervous breakdown against an ordinary Tennessee. The Vols intercepted Doughty five times, scored 24 points in first quarter and won 52-20.

In Champaigne-Urbana this Saturday, he will remember.

Meanwhile, the Hilltoppers' defense has *Pretty Work* to do.

COLLEGE HOOPS

In a bit of industrious thinking an internet writer posed a list last week called 10 reasons We Can't wait for the College Basketball season to Begin.

The idea was better than the reasons. Two with merit:

√ First look at how scary the ACC will be. "Now that Louisville has arrived to complete the league's roster, it's time for the action on the floor to retake center stage from the action on the map."

√ See if Duke can beat Kentucky at its own game (one-and-dones).

Mike Krzyzewski could start and title compete with four freshmen - Jahliil Okafor, Tyus Jones, Justise Winslow and Grayson Allen.

For local consumption, I would add these ...

√ Will Diddle Arena have back-to-back-to back sellouts with Hilltoppers in a new league? What impact will Ray Harper's Western Kentucky team have in Conference USA?

√ Bellarmine. Will Scott Davenport have pieces to put together for another national title run?

√ Auburn.

And so it goes.

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Birding BITS BY Cindy Brook

Seed Tips

1. Freeze seed for a full 24 hours to kill bugs, moths and other creepy-crawly things and their eggs.
2. Try safflower seed if you don't want nuisance birds like grackles.
3. Use hulled sunflower hearts or chips to avoid messy hulls under your feeders.

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Butterfly Bath

Bring more butterflies into your yard by filling a shallow dish with water and placing large stones on the bottom for butterflies to perch on. Put the dish directly on the ground, and soon you will have more things with wings to gaze upon. Isn't nature grand?

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NOTE: If you can identify any or all of the individuals in this Hoys Fork school picture from 1929, please contact Mike Tuttle at the Estill County Farm Bureau at 723-2417.

