

Bob Watkins' Sports In Kentucky

'They don't settle! They don't settle for anything' - Kelly Wells says of UK Wildcats



Bob Watkins

When the calendar turns to February, Pikeville's Bears will own another 20-win season and be in the hunt for another NAIA championship. Nice club, UPike.

Coach Kelly Wells, an eastern Kentuckian down to his socks, skips sugary platitudes and cute circle talk after games even when it puts \$20,000 (according to a UK spokesman) into UPike's bank account. He gets to the point. After his Bears took its whipping from best team this side of the Cleveland Cavaliers, Wells was candid.

√ "... they're throwing lobs and we look like middle school kids out there at times because they're just so big."

√ "They take away the basket from you, they take away easy baskets, but I think the biggest key is they don't settle for anything."

√ "They don't ever settle. They don't settle. I've never been a part of a team where we gave up 80 percent field goals in the first half. They don't settle for anything, but dunks and layups."

Comment. Commit "They don't settle" to memory for recall December 28, day after UK's three-game stretch against North Carolina, UCLA and Louisville.

Going forward, Wells offered a vital insight ...

√ "They have to be hun-

gry all the time and all night. There will be nights throughout a college basketball season when you just don't have it; somebody gets hurt, injuries and rotations." Comment: Vying for playing time, staying hungry should be no problem for all stars playing on national television for NBA scouts.

LOUISVILLE FOOTBALL

Remarkable the parallel - like its down-I-64 rival, Louisville frittered away opportunity last week. The Cardinals' surrender at home to Florida State, with road dates to come at Boston College and Notre Dame, looms as a season killer.

When the Seminoles struck for three touchdowns in the fourth quarter all the superlatives spent on Bobby Petrino's genius evaporated. Short of a home finale win over Kentucky, the wand may have been passed on to Rick Pitino's Cardinals.

PS: Louisville's uniform choice for national television last week was double U? Ultra ugly.

UK FOOTBALL

Three sentences, analysis enough for Kentucky's 20-10 thumping at Missouri.

√ Mizzou linebacker Kentrell Brothers: "We knew exactly what they were going to do. They tried to catch us off guard a little bit with the motioning and stuff like that, but we knew exactly what they were going to run based off of Coach Stec's game plan sheets."

√ UK coach Mark Stoops: "Very disappointed in our effort. We really got beat from the start of the game to the end."

CORDIA COMMON SENSE

From the Common Sense Department - Cordia High School gets final word No-

vember 12 from KHSAA commissioner Julian Tackett, on the school's appeal to lift sanctions on its boys basketball program.

Found guilty of major rules violations earlier this year, Cordia's basketball program is shut down for the coming season.

"It absolutely killed me inside to take kids out of play," Tackett told the Lexington Herald-Leader last month. "But nobody was minding the shop in the basketball program."

Tackett's remark show clearly where sanctions belong. Coaches and/or administrators ignored KHSAA regulations, not student-athletes.

Common sense says student-athletes, cheerleaders and fans should not be deprived of the joys of participation. A wiser course by Tackett and KHSAA board of control, would be a variation of the following:

√ Suspend those responsible for a year, plus a year probation.

√ Recommend Cordia's Board of Education choose a faculty member and/or volunteer in the community/county to coach varsity and junior varsity teams so that children can participate this year, represent their school and community.

√ The \$25,980 fine assessed Cordia by KHSAA be used to compensate the volunteer coaches.

√ And, the entire episode be made a classroom assignment, learning experience for youngsters: Being held responsible and price of unethical decision-making by adults.

√ Finally, adults responsible for KHSAA rules violations be required to attend home games and pay for their tickets.

KENTUCKY MR. FOOTBALL

Odds-on favorite to be

Kentucky's 27th Mr. Football is Damien Harris at Madison Southern. His recruiting profile as second best running back prospect in America, makes it so.

Yet, Mr. Football voters will do good research - balance on-field achievement with academic progress, service to school and community - and find the name Elijah Sindelar come up on their computer screens.

Quarterback at Caldwell County, Sindelar has had a Tim Couch-like record setting experience in high school (2012-2014).

Sindelar has re-set the record (133) for touchdown passes, thrown for almost two miles in yards and will re-set the state record for most touchdown passes, 133.

The 6-4, 200-pound All-Stater is headed to the Big Ten, will study and play at Purdue.

PALMER'S MAN CRUSH

Kentucky's football team was not alone coming away from Missouri, red-faced last week. SEC Network analyst Jessie Palmer's gushing praise for UK quarterback Patrick Towles went beyond reasonable all the way to Man Crush.

"Better than Tim Couch," Palmer said, "better than any quarterback at Kentucky ever."

Ever? Broadcast partner Brent Musburger reminded Palmer how young he is (36) by offering up names of two Hall of Fame quarterbacks at UK, George Blanda (1945-48) and Vito 'Babe' Parilli (1949-51). Combined, Blanda and Parilli went on from UK to play in the NFL for 41 seasons.

Palmer retreated a bit. "I mean in the modern era."

And so it goes. You can reach me at bob. Watkins24@aol.com

Wanderings from the Woods & Water by Jay Bicknell
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You Decide The Title

Ok, sometimes I might write some crazy stuff. This might be the craziest thing I have ever written. I will let you decide. It made sense to me when I wrote it. I guess this column came about from a combination of deer season, football season, and election season.

I hear that around the country youth sports teams are not keeping score and giving out participation trophies. This got me thinking about deer hunting and how just participating doesn't get you a trophy.

There have been years that I didn't harvest a deer. I played the game; it just wasn't in the cards for me to kill a deer. You know I probably learned more on the years I didn't kill deer than the years I did. I didn't get mad because I didn't kill a deer. Instead I asked myself what I could do to make myself a better deer hunter. What could I do to make sure I harvest deer next season? I didn't get a participation trophy but I learned what I could do to make me better.

The election season and all the campaign promises, mudslinging, and polarization has me thinking about, what if deer hunting was like the times we are living in. There are some campaigners who want to redistribute wealth. Some want to give something for nothing. Some want to demonize the wealthy. Some want to make their constituents think exceptionalism is a bad thing. Let us think about this in deer hunting terms.

Deer hunting is a lot of work most years. It's up at dark 30 usually to freeze in the stand for hours. The hope is a pay day of venison in the freezer and a monster

buck for the wall. All the work that goes into a deer hunting is worth it when you finally harvest an animal.

So what if you put all this work into deer hunting and harvesting a deer. Then you are told you have to give a portion of the meat to someone who just didn't feel like working to harvest a deer. What if you killed a big monster buck and you have to give the mount to someone who wants a buck on the wall; but not willing to work for it? I don't mind giving away a deer I harvested to someone that is down on their luck. I think it's our duty to give a helping hand.

I have known some hunters who have a wealth of knowledge. I learned from these hunters on what made them successful. The knowledge I learned from these hunter has made me a more successful hunter. I never stop learning from successful hunters. I trapped my first bobcat last year because a great trapper passed down his wealth of knowledge to me.

When my buddies kill a monster buck I'm as happy as if I killed it. I got some buddies who are exceptional at constantly killing big bucks. I don't get mad and hate on them. I think it awesome they are that good at killing a wood wise buck. Instead of hating on them I want to learn why they are exceptional at killing big deer so I can become exceptional at it.

I hope this made some sense to you on how crazy our world is becoming. I hope you made your vote count on Tuesday.

Good Luck to all gun hunters!

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

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8. Baker Hughes
9. GE
10. Corning

Source: 24/7 Wall St.
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Birding BITS BY Cindy Brook

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