

**Wanderings
from the
Woods
& Water
by Jay
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Land of the Free ... Because of the Brave

I was invited to hunt Pendleton County this past Saturday. Pendleton is a Zone I county which means unlimited doe. I figured this would be great time to put meat in the freezer. I ended shooting two does. I got some of that "good thinking time" in on Saturday morning.

I was sitting in the stand watching the sun come up. What a beautiful cold crisp morning it was. I was utilizing my freedom to hunt deer with a rifle. I was in that deep thought mode. I was thinking about the little Freedoms I take for granted. The Freedom to go deer hunting, the Freedom to go to church on Sunday, the Freedom to start a business if I want. What an awesome country we live in.

Why do we have Freedom? It comes from the American Soldier. The men and women who make the United States Military. The sacrifice of a soldier is why we have Freedom and live in such great country. The deployments all over the world. The long times away from family. Paying the ultimate price. A soldier's life is made up of sacrifices for our Freedom.

I have been honored and blessed to know some great veterans. I know, for several of them, the war they have fought might be over but they still fight the war in their mind. I have gotten to know a lot of soldiers really well. They might be retired but the scars stay with them. They live with pain from injuries received on the battlefield. They suffer so we can

live Free.

The military do so much for us and ask for nothing in return. Veterans Day might be on November 11, but I say every day should be Veterans Day. When you're out and about, shake that elderly gentleman's hand with his World War II veteran hat on, shake his hand and say thanks. When you see that Vietnam Vet tell him thanks and welcome home. Buy dinner for the veteran wearing his uniform at a restaurant. Whenever you see a veteran tell them thanks.

I have been honored and blessed to know some great veterans.

I want to say thanks to all my readers, whoever served. I love Freedom and I have it because of you. I am thanking God for all of you who signed the dotted line to become a soldier. I live in the Land of the Free because of the Brave! May God bless all of our soldiers past present and future.

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



BIRD Gratitude
B is for the unique Beauty every bird has.
I is for the Interesting calls and the songs they sing.
R is for Red birds that faithfully come to our yards.
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Ohio Deer Restrictions

Hunters will no longer be able to bring the whole carcass of a deer killed in Ohio into Kentucky.

Researchers recently confirmed that a deer held in a northeastern Ohio captive hunting reserve tested positive for chronic wasting disease (CWD).

CWD is a contagious and fatal neurological disease that affects deer, elk and other cervids native to North America. Currently, there is no evidence that CWD can be transmitted to humans.

Chronic wasting disease has been previously detected in other neighboring states including Missouri, Illinois, West Virginia and Virginia. Ohio joins 19 other states and two Canadian provinces where this disease has been found. Kentucky, which does not have the disease in its animals, prohibits the importation of whole carcasses or high-risk cervid parts such as the brain, spinal cord, eyes, lymphoid tissue from deer or elk killed in CWD-infected states and provinces.

Hunters may bring back deboned meat, hindquarters, antlers attached to a clean skull plate, a clean skull, clean teeth, hides and finished taxidermy products. To help prevent the entry of CWD into the state, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources discourages

hunters from bringing back high-risk parts of deer or elk taken in any state, regardless of CWD status.

Several proactive steps have been taken by Kentucky Fish and Wildlife, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and captive cervid owners to prevent the introduction of the disease into the state.

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife monitors wild deer and elk herds while the Kentucky Department of Agriculture monitors the captive herds. Since 2002, Kentucky has tested more than 23,000 deer and elk for the presence of the disease. All results have been negative.

Regulations enacted to reduce the likelihood of CWD in Kentucky have included a ban on importation of live cervids from CWD-positive states, mandatory CWD monitoring of captive herds and prohibiting the importation of high-risk carcass parts from CWD-positive states into Kentucky.

This disease can persist in the environment and may be contracted from contaminated soil or vegetation or through contact with infected cervid parts. The movement of live animals, either through the captive deer trade or natural migration, is one of the greatest risk factors in spreading the disease to new areas



Jessica Bevins with nice buck



Kelby Browning with a great buck!

Bob Watkins' Sports In Kentucky

A Sunday to remember for Bopper, Hobo and (MVP) Patrick McSweeney



Bob Watkins

Space this week is dedicated to Bopper, Hobo and Tom Sawyer-like Patrick McSweeney.

Kentucky 121, Georgetown 52. To conclude Georgetown College coach Chris Briggs is impressed with Kentucky after Sunday's flogging is like believing Mitch McConnell is impressed with being elected kingmaker of Congress. Yes, but.

"How to defend Kentucky?" Briggs was asked.

"You better recruit better first," he gushed. "It's going to take an extremely off night and an extremely great night out of somebody who has big-time NBA talent as well to get those guys."

"I knew they were good coming into this game, but sitting out there watching it ... honestly, I don't see how they're going to get beat this year. I don't like to say that, because I know people have off nights and things can happen and this-and-that, and injuries, but if they play like they did tonight, they're an NBA playoff team."

What do we know about the Wildcats so far?

We can be awestruck by portions of the UK-Georgetown box score. A plausible model for a workable two platoon experiment - double-digit minutes for 11

players, double-figure scoring for seven players, and 32 assists dealt by 14 players.

However, since Kansas won't be Georgetown College and breathing heavy five minutes into the second half, I think it's a mirage. Platoon works as a military formation, but when combat gets hot and winning is the only option, the best of the best are sent to the front while "you other boys ain't finishers, so take a seat."

Aaron Harrison's assessment may have revealed a bit too much: "... at the beginning you're questioning the new type of play. You just wonder about it, but I think we're starting to settle in and improve and it has worked so far."

Facial expressions along a bench of McDonalds All-Americans accustomed to 30-plus minutes a night, makes 'so far' sound not far enough.

Platoon at UK? Because it means the many get to play instead of the few, I hope the platoon idea is more than another golly-gosh gadget to impress Big Blue Nation by the man dedicated to ingratiating himself, Elmer Gantry.

WEEKEND WINNERS?

Pikeville ... Georgetown ... and Patrick McSweeney by way of Bellarmine coach Scotty Davenport.

McSweeney. Wonderful Irish name isn't it, for a curly haired, starry-eyed 15-year-old straight off a page of Adventures of Tom Sawyer? In this case, McSweeney is a cancer survivor Louisville native who, as Rick Pitino said once, "embrace the precious present." Kid rolled in a two-pointer against the Top 10 Cardinals. Priceless with a postscript - Player of the Game.

As for Pikeville ... Georgetown ... and Bellarmine

... fodder to-be-sure for Boardwalk titans Kentucky and Louisville, but all three are national champions at their own levels.

Entertaining then to watch earnest and feisty underdogs battle basketball's big boys last week.

In Lexington, the Wildcats toyed with UPike then Georgetown, but the entertainment was seeing Chris Briggs - grad assistant to Tubby Smith at UK - take a bow, wave to family and friends, then send out the likes of Bopper Stenzel (Winchester), Corey Washburn (Mt. Washington) and Tony Kimbro (Louisville) to compete against America's No. 1 on America's largest stage in front of 21,490 fans.

Only one to have it better than Bopper, Hobo McCoy (Pikeville) and the rest, was Patrick McSweeney at Yum Center Sunday.

UoFL WHO?

Its record is solid at 7-3, but Louisville's team is still finding out who it is (at quarterback and running back), as a big run to the finish line looms. Reward? A top tier bowl bid awaits.

This week Notre Dame hosts Northwestern while UoFL coaches watch them package a game film with good win at Boston College to rev up for the (overrated?) Irish on Saturday before Thanksgiving.

KENTUCKY 'FOLLIES'

Maybe it was an *Halloween Effect* to blame for Kentucky's football follies. A big start, during which some of his Wildcats nicknamed themselves Bad Boys, Mark Stoops' All-New-People Wildcats changed into one of their 86 uniform combos October 18, then played Old-News-Wildcats at LSU

and have done so every Saturday since.

One step forward, three steps back? Kentucky's one step forward was the season's first half (5-1). Clubbed by LSU, Missouri and Georgia - was three steps back, right? Sort of.

In those games Stoops' young players have shown themselves to be ill-prepared, intimidated. Thus, poor alignments, bad tackling, loss of confidence and rhythm between offensive linemen and quarterback, poor decision-making, dropped passes and special team collapse.

How far have the Kentucky's Wildcats regressed? **Two measures:**

√ The Commonwealth Stadium public address man who puts emphasis on "First down Kentucky!" as if the Marines have landed, is back in vogue. A first down is a positive again in Lexington.

√ Coach speak has dialed back also. Neal Brown: "If we coulda just ..." "We're definitely better than a year ago." ... "We do some positive things then shoot ourselves in the foot."

With a 5-5 record, six wins or not, this Kentucky is no bowl team.

PARTING SHOT

No surprise most pre-season college basketball polls put Kentucky atop is rankings, but an item to stir curiosity comes from a Sports Illustrated projection - UK will lose three games in Southeastern Conference play.

Given its unprecedented depth and skill quality, I wonder how Kentucky can lose three games period. And so it goes.

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