

Bob Watkins' Sports In Kentucky

Legacy for 38-1 Wildcats? Find this one on shelf for Ended-In-Heartbreak



Bob Watkins

Since it won't be nine (titles) at University of Kentucky, a number this week is 157. Calendar days since the Wildcats weren't playing *somewhere*. Dollars lost to UK and local 40-0 tee-shirt profit hopefuls, millions.

2. 38-1 team legacy? See the **Ended-in-Heartbreak** shelf alongside Unforgettables (1992), Rupp's Runts (1966) and Hagan-Ramsey-Tsioropoulos unbeaten (1954). Special, but find game result in bold-face (UK media guide).

✓ The Unforgettables helped make Christian Laettner famous, rich, then famous and rich again.

✓ The Runts helped media twist perception-into-reality, gave Texas Western College a place in social history.

✓ The '54 team was denied a title chance because Cliff Hagan, Frank Ramsey and Lou Tsioropoulos (ready for this? had college degrees.

3. One-and-done rebuff. Seasoned, well prepared, Wisconsin played smarter and together longer than any team UK faced in 2014-15.

4. How could Kentucky have three more baskets, 26-23 and lose? Because, they had four in the last 10 minutes while Calipari jiggled, whined, gestured and over-coached.

5. \$\$\$\$. Losing the NCAA title and 40-0 perfect may cost University of Kentucky \$1.5 million, and retailers as much as \$15 million in title memorabilia unsold, according to ESPN.com. "We would have produced 115,000 T-shirts over the next month," Lexington entrepreneur Matt Hoetker told the sports network.

6. Willie Cauley-Stein said he has probably played his last game at Kentucky. Two points and zero offensive rebounds in 33 minutes against Wisconsin, I thought he left a day early.

7. Andrew Harrison. Muttering one profane and racially-charged remark into a microphone put in doubt good kid image, two years in the making. But target Frank Kaminsky handled the insult like a man, "Over it."

8. Karl Anthony Townes, Trey Lyles and Andrew Harrison ... see ya.

9. Ready-Set-Go! Dept. Devin Booker. Kid is ready, right? To return to college, refine Shootist reputation learn how to get more than six shots in a Final Four game.

10. Kentucky Mr. Basketball(s) Derek Willis and Dominique Hawkins are getting a solid education in the L (sitting position). As UK coaches recruit over both, and Kentucky-rooted Chris Harrison-Docks, for instance, *plays* at Western Kentucky U., Bluegrass fans who love home-grown, must feel cheated.

11. Two Kentucky fan e-mails John Calipari will shrug off, ignore, care less about are these...

• "You will never know how I feel. Losing last night was like death to me. A dream that had many facets to it was quickly snuffed out. My spirit is broken ... as I go into a mourning period. I will never see anything like this team again

in my remaining years. We got so close ... so close." And...

• "Outcoached, at every turn down the stretch, Calipari," barked another. "For every (predictable) thing he tried, Bo Ryan had an answer."

12. Nate Silver, a professional statistician is to sports and politics, what Joe Lunardi is to bracketology, expert at what he does. Of the Wisconsin-Kentucky game Silver issued this stinging headline - **Coach Cal Blew It**. Then backed it up.

Silver's calculus was based on 100,000 simulations of game's last six minutes. Ahead four points (60-56 with the ball) and 12 possessions left for each team, UK's chances to win were 83.3%.

Instead, as he did in the 2012 championship game, Calipari slowed the pace, went to half court sets and shot attempts at end of game clock, and almost blew it then, did blow it this time. Both strategies played into Bo Ryan's hands. Critical among the last possessions: Three shot clock violations.

13. National title game day irony: On day Calipari's name was headed to hall of fame, Ryan's team played for an NCAA championship.

14. Will UK director of athletics Mitch Barnhart reward his coach of the year with something more original than a bump up to a \$6.4 million-a-year bank account? A purchase voucher for Keeneland's fall sale? A round the world vacation (including side trip to Wisconsin)? Or, season tickets to Pittsburgh Pirates 2015 home games.

15. To introduce Calipari at Hall of Fame induction ceremony? Maybe the man ultimately responsible for getting him to Kentucky, Rick Pitino.

16. Proven. Best two college hoops coaches in America: Mike Krzyzewski and Bo Ryan.

17. Green Envy Dept. As SEC undergoes ball coach upgrade (Alabama, Mississippi State and Tennessee), one pipe dream to upstage all that, would be Old School Bo Ryan at Kentucky.

18. UK consolation prizes: Longest win streak in school history, 38. Consecutive games made-a-3-pointer, 939.

19. Frank Kaminsky. Black Hole Dept. Good news is Kaminsky's going to be rich. Bad news is he will disappear into the Black Hole, the NBA.

20. Frank Kaminsky (Kevin McHale reincarnate?) should be a Boston Celtic.

21. UK eliminated Saturday! No Jay Bilas' spin for pal Calipari? Never mind, columnist Mike Lupica was succinct enough, "Say what you want, but Wisconsin's 71-64 win over Kentucky was not an upset!"

22. It's early, but best ball coach honeymoon to date must be Shaka Smart at Texas or Rick Barnes at Tennessee, right? My vote goes to Jim Harbaugh at Michigan. An estimated 50,000 fans showed up for the Wolverines' spring game.

23. Ranked number one wire-to-wire (almost), finished 38-1, so, where's the nickname?

24. John Calipari in a Hall of Fame. Congratulations. Since HOFs in all sports have cheats, rogues, rascals, addicts, gamblers and anything-to-win types, why not Kentucky's coach? After all, a man who qualifies for all the above and is still outside looking in. Pete Rose.

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

Estill County Engineers 2015 Boys Baseball

Apr 9	Knott County Central	A	6:00
Apr 10	Jackson City	A	5:30
Apr 11	Letcher County Central	H	5:00
Apr 16	Berea	A	5:30
Apr 17	Breathitt County	H	6:00

Black Cat Triangle (in Prestonsburg)

Apr 18	Prestonsburg	A	4:00
Apr 18	Sheldon Clark	A	2:00

Apr 21	Owsley County	H	5:00
Apr 23	Garrard County	H	5:30
Apr 24	Buckhorn	H	6:00
Apr 25	Bourbon County	A	11:00
Apr 27	Jackson County	A	5:30
Apr 29	Powell County	H	5:00
Apr 30	Lee County	A	5:00
May 4	Montgomery County	H	5:30
May 5	Powell County	A	5:00
May 6	Madison Central	A	5:30
May 8	Menifee County	A	5:30
May 11	Berea	H	5:30
May 12	Rockcastle County	A	6:00
May 14	Jackson City	H	5:30
May 15	Perry County Central	A	6:00

Estill Lady Engineers 2015 Girls FP Softball

Apr 14	Berea	A	5:30
Apr 16	Owsley County	A	5:30

Lady Rebel Triangle (at Boyle County)

Apr 18	Bullitt East	A	2:00
Apr 18	Boyle County	A	12:00

Apr 20	Powell County	H	5:30
Apr 21	Garrard County	H	6:00
Apr 23	Model	H	6:00
Apr 24	Lexington Catholic	A	6:00

Lady Engineer Triangle (in Irvine)

Apr 25	East Ridge	H	4:00
Apr 25	Jackson County	H	12:00

Apr 27	Lee County	A	5:30
Apr 28	East Jessamine	H	6:00
Apr 30	Madison Southern	H	5:30

Lady Rocket Triangle (at Rockcastle)

May 1	Rockcastle County	A	8:45
May 1	Mercer County	A	7:00

May 2	Montgomery County	A	
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May 4	Powell County	A	5:30
May 6	Lexington Catholic	H	6:00
May 7	Somerset	A	6:00
May 11	Garrard County	A	6:00
May 12	Model	A	6:00
May 14	Breathitt County	H	6:00
May 15	South Laurel	H	6:00

May 16	Johnson Central	A	2:00
May 16	Harrison County	A	12:00

Estill Lady Patriots 2015 Girls FP Softball

Apr 13	Rockcastle	A	6:00
Apr 14	Clark-Moores	H	5:30
Apr 15	Model	H	5:30
Apr 16	Farristown	H	5:00
Apr 17	Fleming	K	5:30
Apr 20	Berea	K	5:30
Apr 21	Clark-Moores	A	5:30
Apr 23	McNabb	K	5:30
Apr 24	Caudill	H	5:00
Apr 25	7th Tourn @ Madison	A	TBA
Apr 28	Foley	K	5:30
Apr 28	Madison Middle	A	5:00

Estill County Patriots 2015 Boys Baseball

Apr 9	Madison	H	5:30
Apr 10	Clark Moore at Caudill	A	5:30
Apr 13	Foley at Farristown	A	5:30
Apr 14	Madison at Caudill	A	5:30
Apr 17	Farristown	A	5:30
Apr 18	Clay	H	TBA
Apr 18	Breathitt	H	TBA
Apr 20	Berea	H	5:30
Apr 25	Patriot Classic (Fleming, Mason, Magoffin)	H	11:00
Apr 27	Model	H	5:30
Apr 30	Caudill	H	5:30
May 2	Lincoln	H	Noon

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Drip Rock Baptist Church will be having a revival, Friday-Sunday, April 17-19, 2015, starting at 7 p.m. each night. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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