

Engineers fall twice straight after being 15-5

The Estill County Engineers' fans' dreams of a second state tournament trip were clouded just a little bit this past week after Estill fell two straight games after having one of the best records ever at 15-5.

The Engineers avenged an earlier loss to the Wolfe County Wolves by winning 69-56 at home last Tuesday night.

Sophomore Landon Napier and Joe

Benton led them to a win to the delight of the home crowd with 25 and 20 points respectively. Benton continues to rebound as well as score and pulled down 11.

Estill then traveled to Buckhorn for the Scott Blank Classic where they were upset 71-59 despite 22 and 20 performances by Napier and Benton. Benton also hauled down 11 rebounds.

The Engineers then took on Fleming County from the 10th Region and lost again even though by just one point, 47-46. Benton and Napier again led Estill with 16 and 15 points, and Dyllon Long pulled down nine rebounds.

The two losses dropped Estill to 15-7 overall but the Engineers have already won the regular season in the 56th District with a 4-0 record with two games

to go, both against Lee County's Bobcats. Owsley is now 3-3 while Powell is 2-3 and Lee is 0-3 in the district.

The Engineers were at home on Tuesday night, playing Breathitt County's Bobcats, and travel to Beattyville to face Lee County on Friday before a home game on Monday night with Western Hills.

Good luck, Engineers!

Estill Lady Engineer Mia Hale sets another career record

The Estill County Lady Engineers continue to struggle in the win column despite having a lot of talent, but the team's top player, sophomore Mia Hale continues to set personal career records.

On Monday night, before the match up with the Berea Lady Pirates, Mia was honored with a basketball for having surpassed 1,000 points at ECHS. She reached the milestone in an earlier game away at Garrard County in the first quarter.

Just weeks ago, Mia was honored for reaching 500 rebounds in her high school career.

At Monday night's game, announcer Donald Rich-

ardson read to the audience, "This puts Mia in rare company, there is only one other person in Estill County girls basketball to record 1,000 points and grab 500 rebounds."

The Lady Engineers picked up a 70-53 win over Breathitt County's Lady Bobcats last Tuesday night at home with Hale putting in 24 points. Freshman Hayley Angel and seventh-grader Jayci Long each put in 11.

Estill fell 91-51 to Whitley County but Hale still managed to get 25 points. Angel had 12.

The Lady Engineers played tough on Monday night

against Berea but fell 70-55 at home. Berea is also a very young team, but with a loaded bench, and played hard against Estill.

The Lady Engineers are in third place in the 56th District with a 1-3 record. Owsley County's Lady Owls will be the top seed in the tournament with a 6-0 record. Powell is 2-3 and Lee is winless at 0-3.

The Ladies have four straight road games this week, starting with a trip to take on Madison Central's Lady Indians on Thursday, followed by a double-header with the boys at Lee County on Friday, Lexington Christian on Saturday, and Jackson City next Tuesday.

Three Engineers football players to sign next Wednesday

Estill County Engineers football head coach has announced that "we will be having a college football signing day at the high school for three of our seniors.

Micah Swim (University of the Cumberlands) Calaab Jones (Defiance College) and Dylan Officer (TBD, probably will be ECU as a preferred walk on)"

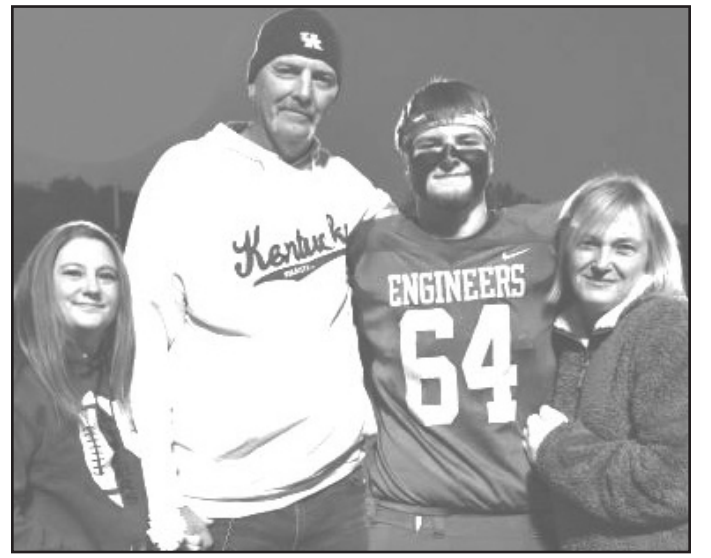
Marcum says, "We would like to invite you to the signings of these three young men on Wednesday, February 12th at 1:00 p.m. in the auditorium."



#14 Micah Swim



#78 Calaab Jones



#64 Dylan Officer

Memphis Junior Point Guard Kennedy Chandler's Speed Has John Calipari's Attention



by Larry Vaught

If there is one thing that stands out about Kentucky point guard recruiting target Kennedy Chandler it would be his speed with the ball.

"Whether he is in transition or getting a head of steam up in the half court off a ball screen, he can fly," said Briarcrest Christian (Memphis) coach John Harrington about his 6-1 point guard. "He can really pass the ball, especially to 7-footers or 6-10 kids who like lobs that lead to dunks. He's very gifted at that but he's also gifted scoring baskets around the rim with his body. He uses angles and English with the ball very well."

That sounds similar to how former Wildcat Shai Gilgeous-Alexander managed to score inside against bigger players in high school and college and has continued to do in the NBA.

"Kennedy works on all types of moves whether it is with his left hand, right hand, floaters. He practices all kind of shots," Harrington said. "He's very competitive, too. During open gym before the season started I would always put him on the worst team with four knuckleheads for pickup games. Then he would make sure you knew his team had

won three or four games in a row any way.

"Kennedy has grown a lot physically in the last year. When he was a sophomore he was not really dunking the ball a lot. Now he's driving and making some spectacular dunks. I think he'll just keep getting bigger and stronger, too."

The five-star point guard recently narrowed his list of potential college choices to 10 — Duke, Florida State, Kansas, Kentucky, Memphis, Michigan, North Carolina, Mississippi, Tennessee and USC. He's considering a visit to Kentucky later this month.

"I think every kid enjoys recruiting at first but when you are a high profile player with social media being the way it is, everything you do is scrutinized and watched. When he got down to 10 schools, school 11 was not happy," Harrington said. "There has been some criticism and comparing him to other point guards and saying he's not as good. I just told him when you are really good, you are just on an island by yourself with everything aiming for you."

Despite facing a lot of gimmick defenses, Chandler has still averaged about 23 points, four assists and four rebounds per game. His team has four Division I football commits, so Chandler also plays a lot of minutes because he's the team most skilled basketball player.

Harrington admits that Chandler doesn't fit the size mold of the prototypical point guard that John Calipari has had at Kentucky where most have been in the 6-4 range.

"But the one thing Kennedy has is the unique ability to get away from people

because he is so fast," Harrington said. "The team I would actually see him fitting in best with would be North Carolina because they get the ball out of the net, throw it to the point guard and take off. That's when he's at his best."

Harrington, who is the school's vice principal along with the basketball coach, does see one favorable trend for Kentucky.

"I think Cal coaches more like I coach Kennedy, getting on to him and holding him accountable," Harrington said. "If the team messes up usually Cal will get very animated with the point guard. He and are I lot alike."

Harrington watched a lot of Calipari's practices when Calipari was head coach at Memphis — Calipari's daughter, Megan, was a student worker in Harrington's office and Calipari's son, Brad, attended middle school there.

"I have told Kennedy that he (Calipari) knows how to get him prepared for the next level (NBA)," Harrington said. "I also told him that Cal or any coach will be patting him on the back now but after he graduates they will have you on scholarship and will wear you out coaching you."

Obviously hometown Memphis — and coach Penny Hardaway, a former NBA star — has recruited Chandler heavily. Chandler said at the Marshall County Hoopfest in December that he knew many were assuming he would go to Memphis but insisted then he was not close to a college decision and was "wide open" about where he would go.

"Memphis always has great talent but what Penny is doing is creating a na-

tional program where he can go and get some players across the country. He does not have to depend just on Memphis for players," Harrington said. "Cal did not have a lot of Memphis kids on his team and I know why. He did not recruit Memphis players unless they were special."

Harrington said he has know Chandler since "he was just a little knucklehead" playing with son in third grade at Briarcrest.

"I got to see him grow and develop into a special player," the coach said. "He has always played up a grade or two because he had so much potential. He and his mom and dad talked about him being a leader and the intangibles of how to be a good leader for teammates. They take it serious. It's a process they know for next year at Briarcrest and then however many years in college and Lord willing then he might make a future out of it."

Kentucky offensive tackle Landon Young doesn't think he does enough to help others and wishes he had time to do even more. Cambridge Place Nursing and Rehabilitation employees and residents feel differently.

That's why the Lexington facility dedicated its dining hall in his honor during its annual pre-Super Bowl party last week and named it the "Landon Young Dining Hall" because of all he's done at the facility.

"It is amazing that they did that," Young, who was named captain of the All-state AFCA Good Works Team for his community service, said. "I want to spend more time out there. It is a blessing they think enough

of me and did this for me. I really appreciate what they did and it means so much.

"My parents tried to raise me the way their parents raise them. Part of why I try to do so much is a fear of not wanting to disappoint my parents. I know they wouldn't want me to feel that way but I just want to give back. I am so blessed and there's no reason for me not to give back a lot."

Young just thought he was coming to Cambridge Place for the annual Super Bowl event.

"I had no clue what they were doing. They definitely surprised me," Young said. "(Cambridge therapist) Tim Biggs was trying to give me some hints about what might be happening and made me even more interested in trying to figure it out but I didn't get close. They really got me."

It was really nice to see former UK player Bam Adebayo of the Miami Heat named to the NBA All-Star Game as a reserve. However, it's perplexing how Phoenix guard Devin Booker, another former Cat, was left off the team.

He was averaging 27 points, 6.4 rebounds and 4.1 rebounds per game and shooting 51 percent overall from the field and 37 percent from 3-point range at the time of his All-Star snub.

Gerald Bourguet, editor/writer FanSideNBA, noted that the only other players in NBA history to average 27 points and six assists per game while shooting 50 percent from the field are LeBron James, Michael Jordan, Larry Bird, Steph Curry and Oscar Robertson — five of the best players ever to play in the NBA.

Several former UK teammates as well as UK coach John Calipari noted Booker's slight on social media. Booker took the slight in stride.

"The NBA is different than the game I fell in love with at the beginning... all the best players being in the All-Star Game. Now it's an entertainment, drama, political filled league," Booker said. Still, it's hard to see how Booker could be left on the All-Star roster especially when players with far lesser numbers were picked.

Kentucky signee John Young admits that UK offensive lineman Logan Stenberg is a player he has looked up to but he's not sure everyone appreciates him being described as a "nasty" player on the field similar to Stenberg.

"I am not sure my mom would describe me that way because I am different at home than I am on the field," Young, an all-state lineman at Christian Academy of Louisville, said. "Growing up I wanted to play basketball and she would get mad because I was pushing people down. She was happy when I started playing football and because it was legal to knock people down then."

Young is now enrolled at UK — he's rooming with quarterback Beau Allen — and ready to compete this spring in hopes of showing he could play next season.

"The redshirt thing will take care of itself. We are all here to compete. That's why you pick the SEC," Young said. "I am definitely going to compete. I am not opposed to a redshirt year. I could play four games and still redshirt, so that would be fine with me if that's how it turns out."