

Tshwiebe will be a midseason steal for Calipari and Kentucky



by Larry Vaught

West Virginia transfer Oscar Tshwiebe won't be able to play this season but Kentucky coach John Calipari is hoping he will be the same type valuable practice player that current NBA player Enes Kanter was his year at UK when he was ineligible.

"I told him, 'Your job will be, how do I help these guys?'" Calipari said. "And again, maybe with him, I take five guys and those five are playing the top seven or eight guys and we start scrimmaging that way, even

though it's late in the season. It's something that I've thought about when we get him."

One NBA source believes Tshwiebe will be a midseason steal for Calipari and Kentucky.

"That kid is a top 10 draft pick if he plays the way he can," the NBA source said. "Calipari is in good shape there. Kentucky has not had a player exactly like him recently. He's big, tough, physical and more skilled than most realize. He's also still learning how to play the game and is only going to get better and better."

Tshiebwe moved to the United States from the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2015 — about a year after he started playing basketball — before his freshman year of high school at Mountain Mission School in Virginia. He played his final two high school seasons at Kennedy Catholic

in Pennsylvania where he averaged 23.4 points, 18 rebounds and 5.2 blocks per game. His team won Pennsylvania state titles both years.

Rivals and 247Sports both had him as a five-star recruit and he was named a McDonald's All-American. He was former UK guard Tyrese Maxey's teammate at the McDonald's All-American Game and had 12 points on 5-for-7 shooting 10 rebounds and one steal in 18 minutes. He also played in the Nike Hoop Summit.

Louisville native Anna Maria Tarullo, sports director at WOWK 13 News in Charleston, W.Va., likes what Tshiebwe is going to bring to Kentucky.

"Tshiebwe is such a grab for Kentucky's front court. Brings some much needed size and strength and overall physical presence in the post," Tarullo, a life-time UK fan, said. "He had an immediate

impact with WVU — and was Mr. Double-Double — almost averaged a double-double.

"I was pretty surprised at his sudden departure but I think it's a big testament to his character that it doesn't seem to be on bad terms — seems to still have the respect and well-wishes of (West Virginia coach Bob) Huggins and his teammates who seem like they will genuinely miss him."

Tarullo says Tshiebwe gives UK a definite "presence down low" but notes that his "levity off the court" is something West Virginia will miss as much as his on-court presence.

"One of the more memorable moments I have of him in Mountaineer gear was in 2019 when the team visited a children's hospital and Tshiebwe played Santa," she said. "Tshiebwe is fun to watch and listen to — his accent is great."



Oscar Tshwiebe will bring a low post presence on the court but also is fun off the court and even played Santa Claus for patients at a West Virginia children's hospital. (West Virginia Athletics Photo)

Big Blue Wall will be just fine next season without Young and Jackson



Landon Young believes Kentucky's Big Blue Wall will still be in good shape next year even without him and Drake Jackson. (SEC Photo)

Kentucky offensive tackle Landon Young spent five productive years playing for the hometown Wildcats and is now in Arizona training for what he hopes will soon be a professional football career.

The Cats have to find a replacement for Young and center Drake Jackson, another fifth-year Kentuckian, on next year's offensive line but got a boost with the return of All-American Darin Kinnard at the other tackle.

Young is optimistic the Big Blue Wall will be just fine next season without him and Jackson.

"I feel there will be a lot of depth and a lot of guys that want to come out and play. I don't think that we're going to be shy next year with guys that can fill spots and stay at a good level of play," Young said. "I don't think there's going to be a huge drop off."

"I think that there's guys that need reps to be able to fine hone their skills. Of course, we have a lot of start reps and a lot of experience on our starting line, but I see these guys that are willing to

work and willing to be coached that are excited to have coaches come in and teach them. They want to get out there and play ball."

Young says the perception of being an offensive lineman has totally changed in the last five years thanks in large part to the work of former line coach John Schlarman.

"We've sort of made it a thing over the last couple years that it's fun to be an offensive lineman at the University of Kentucky and we want to continue that," Young said. "We want to continue these new guys coming in and really good guys coming in and thinking UK makes it fun to be an offensive lineman."

One of those new linemen that will be coming in this week is Frederick Douglass standout Jager Burton. He was the top-ranked recruit in the state and wanted to enroll early to get a jump start on the 2021 season.

Former Kentucky linebacker Donte Key, an assistant coach at Douglas, believes Burton has a

chance to be a contributor as a true freshman much like former Douglas four-star recruit Walker Parks did last season.

"I would not be surprised if Jager puts on 15 pounds and has a chance to start at guard," Key said. "Walker played a lot this year and made some type of freshman All-American team. Coach (Nathan) McPeck can coach offensive linemen. He knows how to get them ready for the next level."

Quote of the Week: "To beat Kentucky is historic. You're judged by how you do against the best teams on your schedule and certainly Kentucky's going to always be as good as anybody on our schedule," Auburn coach Bruce Pearl after beating UK again.

Quote of the Week 2: "At the end of the day, basketball should be a fun game. I'm proud of him. That's a huge milestone at any point in anybody's career. I just told him I'm proud of him and to have fun," Dontaie Allen on his younger brother, Tredyn, reaching the 1,000-point mark at Pendleton County High School.

Grow with Google. Use YouTube to Grow Your Business w/ Dave Delaney

On behalf of your friends at the Estill County Public Library, Humboldt Chamber of Commerce, Tennessee Small Business Development Center (SBDC), and the Jackson/Hinds Library System, get best practices for creating a YouTube Channel and compelling video content that promotes your products and services and drives engagement with your brand on Thursday, January 28, 2021, 1-2 p.m.

In this session, Dave will discuss best practices for:

- Understanding different video formats
- How to setup a YouTube channel
- Making good creative, and how to target and measure the results.

For more information, contact Lesa Ledford, Adult Services, Estill County Public Library.

Americanisms



"If we got one-tenth of what was promised to us in these acceptance speeches, there wouldn't be any inducement to go to heaven."
— Will Rogers

Estill Lady Engineers 2020-21 Girls Basketball

Jan 7	Model	(W)	57-49
Jan 9	Rockcastle County	(L)	37-52
Jan 12	Owsley County	(L)	42-68
Jan 16	Casey County	(L)	38-50
Jan 2	Powell County	A	8:00
Jan 23	Buckhorn	A	4:30
Jan 26	Lee County	A	7:30
Jan 29	Jackson City	A	6:00
Jan 30	Leslie County	A	3:30
Feb 5	Lee County	H	7:30
Feb 8	Wolfe County	A	7:30
Feb 9	Bluegrass United	H	6:00
	(Lexington home school)		
Feb 11	Montgomery County	A	7:30
Feb 15	Madison Central	H	7:30
Feb 19	Owsley County	H	7:30
Feb 20	Hazard	H	7:30
Feb 25	Menifee County	H	7:30
Feb 26	Nicholas County	A	7:30
Mar 1	Jackson City	H	6:00
Mar 3	Bath County	A	7:30
Mar 6	Powell County	H	7:30
Mar 9	Berea	A	7:30
Mar 10	Frederick Douglass	H	7:30
Mar 12	Breathitt County	A	7:30

Coach Ruth Hughes

Estill County Engineers 2020-21 Boys Basketball

Jan 8	Menifee County	(W)	56-33
Jan 12	Owsley County	(W)	45-34
Jan 14	Wolfe County	(L) (OT)	54-56
Jan 16	North Laurel	(L)	59-89
Jan 19	Trinity Christian		0-0
Jan 22	Powell County	A	6:00
Jan 25	Wellspring Guardians	H	7:30
	(Richmond home school)		
Jan 26	Lee County	A	6:00
Jan 28	Buckhorn	H	7:30
Feb 2	Breathitt County	A	7:30
Feb 5	Lee County	H	6:00
Feb 9	Bluegrass United	H	7:30
	(Lexington home school)		
Feb 12	Hazard	H	7:30
Feb 13	Bath County	A	2:30
Feb 16	Elliott County	H	7:30
Feb 19	Owsley County	H	7:30
Feb 22	Berea	H	7:30
Feb 23	Madison Southern	H	7:30
Feb 25	Jackson County	A	7:30
Mar 2	Wolfe County	A	7:00
Mar 5	Powell County	H	7:30
Mar 8	Nicholas County	H	7:30
Mar 9	Menifee County	A	7:30
Mar 12	Model	H	7:30

Coach Jon B. Bentley