

Kentucky on Frederick Douglass' receiver Dane Key's top 10 college list



by Larry Vaught

He has a lot of potential college choices and likely will get more scholarship offers but Frederick Douglass junior receiver Dane Key has cut his list of potential schools to 10.

He did that Sunday on his mother's birthday and has Kentucky, Virginia, Arkansas, Michigan State, Oregon, South Carolina, Purdue, Wisconsin, Virginia Tech and Mississippi

State left on his list. Other offers included Texas and Tennessee while both Notre Dame and Ohio State have shown interest.

"These 10 really stood out to me," said Key. "They showed the most love to me and showed they want and need me to play and help them compete for a national championship."

Key had 37 catches for 625 yards and 11 touchdowns in 2020 — teammate Dekel Crowder, a UK signee, had 31 catches for 397 yards and 10 scores. As a sophomore, Key had 33 catches for 545 yards and eight scores.

Key obviously is looking for a team that has a passing attack to utilize his skills. He's done numerous Zoom calls with coaches who have told him "how much they respect my game and how

I play" while showing him how he would fit into their offense.

"They have all just basically told me how they need me," Key said. "They are all great schools. I knew eventually football will end and there will be life after football and they all can help get me ready for that."

Several weeks ago speculation surfaced that Kentucky was not high on his list because UK did not recruit his brother, Western Kentucky standout Devon Key who is now preparing for the NFL draft. Dane Key's father, Donte, played linebacker at UK from 1992-95 and is on the Douglass coaching staff.

"Kentucky is definitely on the list and I am just going to keep going with my decision making process," the Frederick Dou-

glass junior said. "I don't really pay attention to what too many other people say. I keep things in my family and my circle. What outsiders might say is not what my decision will be."

The 6-2, 175-pound Key is a four star recruit and ranked among the nation's top 200 players by some recruiting services. He is the top rated player in Kentucky in his class.

He's hoping to be able to make some campus visits in June and then be able to narrow his list to five schools for his official visits. He has no timeline for picking a school.

"I want to make my decision in the middle of my senior season or after my senior season," Key said. "I want to take my time and make sure I am making the best decision for me."

He feels blessed to have a father and brother who have both been through the recruiting process. He says that helps him know more about what to look for with coaches and schools.

Dane Key said his family, including his mother Nicole, had input into his final 10 list he released Sunday.

"We talked about the offers we had and who wants me and who me and the family feel fit me the best," Key said. "All the coaches I have talked to are great coaches. They tell me different things but it is a lot of the same about how much of a difference maker I can be in college."

No matter which school he picks or when he makes his decision, Key will not be an early enrollee because he wants to play his

senior baseball season. He did not get a 2020 season because of COVID. A "couple" of schools in his final 10 have told him he could play baseball and football in college.

"I really have not thought 100 percent about baseball in college. Developing as a player and getting on the field early (in football) is my goal and I do not know if playing baseball would be best for that," Key said.

"I have actually been playing baseball a little longer than football. It was the first sport I played. Getting to go out there now and play and swing the bat helps clear my mind about recruiting. It allows me to play the game I love and just have fun. Playing baseball with my friends takes the stress away (over football) when I am out there."

Senior setter helps Kentucky go 19-1 against SEC schools

Senior setter Madison Lilley has helped Kentucky go 19-1 against a SEC-only conference schedule and UK likely will be a No. 1 seed in the upcoming NCAA Tournament.

Her season has been so impressive that she should be the leading candidate for SEC Player of the Year honors along with All-American honors again. She not only has 791 assists this season but also leads the team with 24 service aces, is third with 153 digs and second with 47 blocks. She also has 47 kills.

"She is playing with a lot of confidence and she should be playing with a lot of con-

fidence," Kentucky coach Craig Skinner said. "She does a great job of feeling who and when to set. In transition and rallies, you have to have a feel for it. We have a game plan and she does a good job with that. She can set in all areas of the net. The feel and ability to set a lot of different people is what separates her

"And speed. She's got great foot speed to track down balls that aren't perfect."

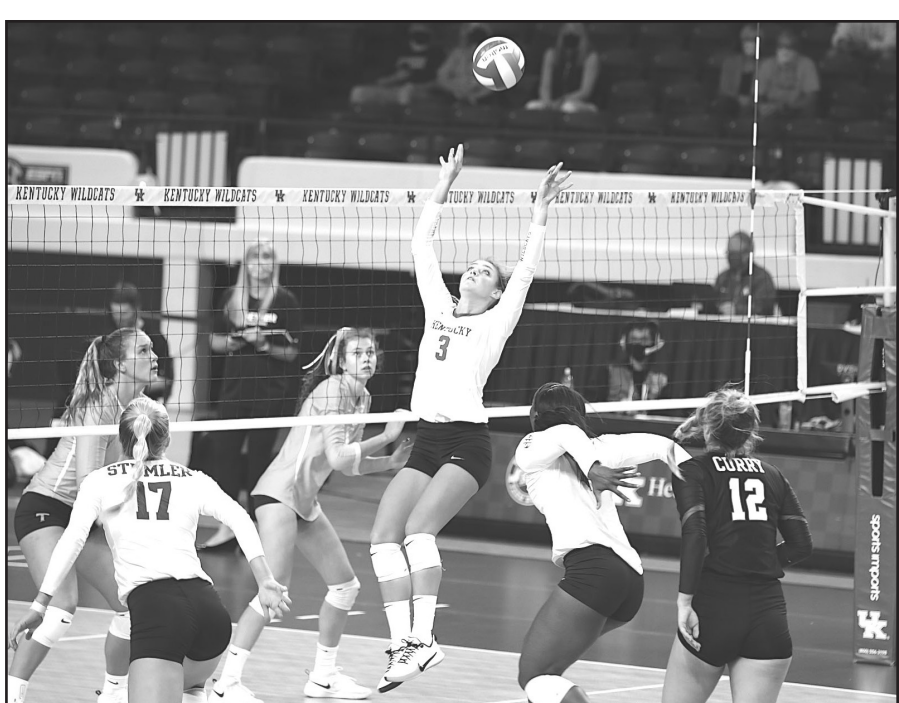
Junior Alli Stumler has benefitted from Lilley's play the last three seasons. She says the best part of Lilley's game is everything.

"I cannot name something she is not good at. Leading,

on and off the floor," Stumler said. "Her life is not all about volleyball so off the floor she's someone you want to be around. In moments when we need somebody, we're always looking for her to fire us up, to give us that extra push. She really brings it all for us."

Lilley believes communication is her best attribute.

"Just the longer that I'm playing, the more that I'm realizing how vital that is. Even if that's just talking after rallies. Keeping it really candid," Lilley said. "You're never too good to over communicate, so I think that's definitely something I bring to the table."



Madison Lilley (3) is having another All-American season and has led UK to a 19-1 record and SEC championship. (Vicky Graff Photo)

GRIN and BEAR IT © Waipara

"One of your personalities has stolen the identity of one of your other personalities."

LAFF - A - DAY

"That's yours over there—the troublemaker!"

Estill Lady Engineers

2021 Girls Fastpitch Softball

Mar 29	East Jessamine	(W)	8-1
Mar 30	Garrard County	A	6:15
Mar 31	Rockcastle County	H	6:00
Apr 2	Rowan County	A	6:00
Apr 3	Clay County		2:00
Apr 3	Perry County Central	A	12:00
Apr 5	Rockcastle County	A	6:00
Apr 6	Somerset	H	6:30
Apr 8	Frederick Douglass	A	6:00
Apr 9	Madison Southern	A	6:00
Apr 10	Wolfe County	A	12:00
Apr 12	Powell County	H	5:30
Apr 15	Southwestern	H	6:30
Apr 16	Bourbon County	A	6:00
Apr 19	Wolfe County	H	6:00
Apr 20	Owsley County	A	6:00
Apr 22	George Rogers Clark	A	6:00
Apr 23	South Laurel	A	6:30
Apr 26	Montgomery County	A	6:00
Apr 27	Breathitt County	A	6:00
Apr 28	Frederick Douglass	H	6:00
Apr 29	Powell County	A	5:30
May 3	Garrard County	H	6:15
May 4	Lincoln County	A	6:30
May 6	East Jessamine	A	6:30
May 7	Mercer County		8:00
May 8	Male		2:30
May 10	Bryan Station	H	6:00
May 11	Breathitt County	H	6:00
May 13	Lee County	H	6:00
May 14	Tates Creek	H	6:30
May 17	Scott County	H	6:00
May 18	Bourbon County	H	6:00
May 19	Model	H	5:30
May 21	Hazard	H	6:30
May 24	Morgan County	A	6:15
May 25	Owsley County	H	6:00
May 27	Lee County	A	6:00
May 28	Fleming County	A	6:15

Lynn West, Coach

Estill County Engineers

2021 Boys Baseball

Mar 29	Madison Central	(L)	1-16
Mar 30	Sayre	A	6:00
Apr 1	Owsley County	A	5:30
Apr 2	Jackson County	H	
Apr 3	Hazard		1:00
Apr 3	Perry County Central	A	11:00
Apr 5	Breathitt County	A	6:00
Apr 8	Powell County	H	5:30
Apr 9	Bryan Station	A	
Apr 10	Lincoln County	A	12:00
Apr 12	George Rogers Clark	A	6:00
Apr 13	Bourbon County	A	5:30
Apr 15	Fleming County	A	6:00
Apr 17	Montgomery County	H	1:00
Apr 19	Rockcastle County	H	6:00
Apr 21	George Rogers Clark	H	5:30
Apr 22	Owsley County	H	5:30
Apr 23	Bourbon County	H	6:00
Apr 26	Lee County	H	5:30
Apr 28	Hazard	H	6:30
Apr 29	Madison Southern	A	6:00
May 3	Bryan Station	H	6:00
May 4	Garrard County	H	6:00
May 6	Powell County	A	5:30
May 7	Lawrence County		6:00
May 8	Rowan County		3:00
May 11	Madison Southern	H	6:00
May 13	Rockcastle County	A	6:00
May 14	Knott County Central	H	6:30
May 15	Harrison County		3:00
May 17	Breathitt County	H	6:00
May 18	Jackson County	A	
May 20	Lexington Christian	A	6:00
May 21	Lee County	A	5:30
May 22	Clay County		
May 22	Letcher County Central		
May 24	Garrard County	A	6:00
May 25	Lexington Christian	H	6:00
May 26	Henry Clay	H	6:00
May 28	Fleming County	H	5:30

Blake K. Crowe, Coach