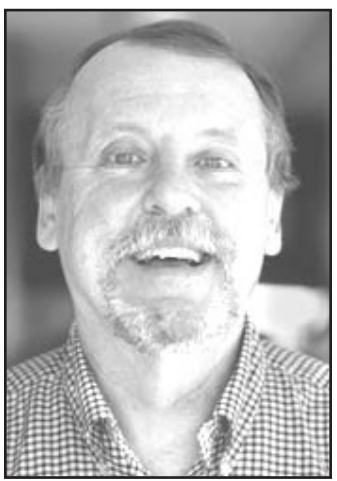


Calipari's Roster's Overall Talent



Larry Vaught

What do you think of the overall talent on coach John Calipari's Kentucky roster this year?

That's a question I posed recently to several media members who I believe have a good feel not only for UK basketball, but college basketball in general. And remember they have know idea about exactly what Skal Labissiere's eligibility status is with the NCAA.

Start with Mike Courcy, columnist for The Sporting News.

"I thought it was interesting as the spring rolled on and UK was eliminated by a number of top-line recruits, I kept telling people that the one player they needed to get to have a shot at the title was Jamal Murray," DeCourcy said. "His Hoop Summit performance made it clear he was much better than his ratings indicated; you score 30 in that game, you're special. Go back and look at the history of that game and see who's dominated it.

"They needed Murray because they needed another perimeter player, and they needed one who could play on the wing. He can shoot, attack, run the offense. And he's big enough to guard opposing wings.

"It's not as talented a team as last year's Wildcats — or last year's Wisconsin, Duke or Arizona. But there aren't any teams in college basketball as good as any of those four were a year ago. UK has enough size, athleticism and playmaking ability to contend for the title."

ESPN analyst Jay Bilas says the Wildcats have as "much talent as any team" this year in agreement with DeCourcy.

"There is not the size and frontcourt depth of last season's incredible roster, but that level of talent is unlikely to be seen again for quite a while, if at all," Bilas said.

Another ESPN analyst, Dick Vitale, likes the multi-talented team UK will have but already is anxious to see the guard play.

"The Wildcats have a perimeter trio in Isaiah Briscoe, Jamal Murray and leader Tyler Ulis that will be as good as anyone in America, maybe better," Vitale said.

Blue Ribbon College Basketball Yearbook editor Chris Dortch has Kentucky No. 1 in his preseason rankings despite the loss of seven players off last year's 38-1 team.

"Maybe not as strong top to bottom as last year, but nevertheless a team capable of winning the national championship. From all I've heard about Jamal Murray, his addition late in the recruiting process was the deal maker. He's a player who can transform his teammates and elevate the level of their play, a trait all the great ones seem to possess," Dortch said.

Finally, let's go Mike Pratt, analyst for the UK Radio Network and a former UK All-American and successful college coach.

"They are going to be very good overall. Long and athletic," Pratt said. "Look to be deeper in the backcourt than up front, but that also depends on the definition of your wing position. On paper, it has the potential to be a high scoring team fans should really like."

Everyone had to be surprised when Kentucky rushed for only 55 yards on 36 carries against Eastern Kentucky. The Colonels physically dominated UK's offensive line most of the game before Kentucky came from two touchdowns behind to win in overtime.

So why could a Southeastern Conference team not run the ball on Eastern

Kentucky?

Dawson was honest enough to admit a big part of the problem was Eastern's defense. Then he also did something not every coach would do, especially after almost losing to a lower division team.

"Part of it is probably my fault. I might've abandoned it (the run) at times when we weren't getting success out of it," Dawson said. "So we've got to stick with running the ball at times, but when you're not getting the success you want, it's hard to. We had some things in the pass game we liked, too, so it goes back and forth every game.

"I will give them a lot of credit because the bottom line is this: they played harder than we did. That's it. We ended up coming through at the end and showing some character and showing some toughness, but the bottom line is they played harder than we did. Anybody that watched the game can tell you they coached better and they played harder. There's enough blame all around to go around, so you learn from it and you move on."

Again, kudos to an honest coach for giving Eastern its proper credit and then blaming himself, not his players.

IRVINE COUNCIL MEETS

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Powell also clarified that documents that were brought forth during a council meeting last month showing \$12,796.42 in penalties were not accurate. She said that \$11,574.30 had been refunded back to the city. Powell asked that the locks to the file room be changed and that she be the only key holder to prevent anything like this from happening in the future.

Former mayor Leon Roberts addressed the council and had several questions such as why the police department has so many vehicles that they pay insurance on. Police Chief Brad Smith reported that there are currently six police cruisers that the department has plus a Hummer. He said that several older cruisers had recently been sold during a surplus auction.

"I like to think of a cruiser as a horse, the less you use it the longer it will last," added Smith.

Roberts also voiced his concern about the assistant city clerk being dismissed from her job at the last council meeting.

"I think she blew the whistle on something and that's why she was let go," stated Roberts.

Councilman Billy Arthur replied by saying that nothing was hidden. He said that Riddell was on probation and could not perform the required duties of the job, therefore, the council let her go.

Mayor Noland reported that the city was still looking for someone to rent the old dry cleaner building on Main Street. He said that he had someone interested in the building and he thought it was a 'done deal' but the interested party backed out.

The next council meeting will be held on October 26th at 7 p.m. The meeting is open to the public.

Annual Stone Reunion Is Held in Clay City

The annual Stone Reunion was held in Clay City on Sunday, September 27, 2015 with the following people in attendance:

Glen Richardson, Franklin, IN; Doretta Sexton, Brooksville, OH; Helen B. McDonald, Dayton, OH; Bob & Betty Ruth and Lois Spring, Indianapolis; James & Rose Marie Stone, Florida.

Attend from Kentucky were: Jerry, Cynthia Townsend, Cale & Carson Wilson, Raymond & Shurla Cooper, Wanda Stone, Hannah Patrick, Earl Stone, Kathy Puckett, Gene & Christine Cooper, Earl Blackwel, Debra Stone, Ann Tipton, Brennan Rogers, Caleb Rogers, Bill Jones, Larry & Pauline Cooper, Bonnie Stone, all from Irvine.

Jim Stone, Lexington;

Alissa Taylor, Berea; Gene & Betty Allen, Mike & Kandy Allen, Mary M. Poole, all of Winchester; Kay Brandenburg, Clay City; Lori Brandenburg, Stanton; Kim Martin, Snowden Banks, Amelia Collier, Stanton; Michael Stone, Lexington, Jame & Sue Rogers, Clay City; Allen & Calvetta Stamper, Cynthia; Kristie & Matt Turner, Richmond; Judy, Marwell, Lexington; Wiley Flynn, Winchester.

Great food and wonderful fellowship were enjoyed by all.

We missed those that were not in attendance, Everyone is encouraged to invited friends and relatives to attend next year at the same place and time, the last Sunday of September. Remember to mark your calendar and have a blessed year.

RAVENNA COUNCIL

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Tipton said that the city doesn't contribute any money to the picnic and that all they provide is the park. She said that Beverly Thompson and David Harvey organized the event and were in charge of collecting donations and purchasing food for the picnic. At a meeting several months ago the council agreed for David Harvey to have a bank card to the picnic fund account in order to purchase items needed for the day. Tipton said that the account would be closed and next year a new one would be opened for the picnic and the organizers of the event could pay the city to rent the park.

"The city did not put out one nickel and I didn't know this would open up a can of worms. This is just to show them that we appreciate all of their hard work," stated Tipton.

Tipton concluded by saying that she had spoken with the city attorney and was advised to compile a list of those who donated to the picnic and to include what each one had donated. She said that Beverly Thompson had that information and would provide it to the council.

Man killed in Georgia Wreck

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Two vehicles were reported stolen from Ran Richardson's lot on River Drive on Saturday, Oct. 3. One of the vehicles became disabled after striking a parked vehicle on Turner Avenue in Irvine. A couple was seen leaving the wrecked vehicle, but police have not said it was Slawson and Hatton.

Slawson's mother, Bonnie Winkler, said on WLEX-TV Monday that her son had moved to Georgia for a new start in life. She said up a GoFundMe account on

Facebook to receive donations for his burial. She plans to bring his body back to Estill County and bury him beside his infant son, Ethan, on Barnes Mountain.

Slawson has a daughter and a son living in Estill County.

Winkler asked for \$10,000 in donations originally. She is planning to use Heritage Funeral Home in Richmond which will cost her \$4,000. However, there are expenses for transporting the body back to Kentucky.

Bob Watkins' Sports In Kentucky

Time to break out the company-is-coming best silverware, gra'ma'



Bob Watkins

For Big Blue Nation Thursday-Friday October 15-16 is time to break out the good stuff.

The company-is-coming best silverware, gra'ma'

- Auburn and Kentucky on Thursday at 7 (ESPN).

- 24 hours later Big Blue Madness in basketball's Mecca, Rupp Arena (ESPN).

Rival ball coaches tempted to go grumbling to the NCAA citing unfair recruiting advantage, excess of national exposure for Kentucky, would have a case.

Auburn at Kentucky is a catapult game for the only team one spot back of Florida in SEC East. It's the most promising opportunity for Wildcat football since 2007 when Kentucky took a 6-1 record, (2-1 in SEC), into a home date with Florida. Rich Brooks' team was this close, but lost 45-37. From there UK won one of its last four, then beat a depleted Florida State team in the Music City Bowl to finish 8-5.

A win over Auburn could launch Mark Stoops team and BBN onto a competitive plain with Tennessee at home and Georgia in Athens without Nick Chubb. Still on the card, Vanderbilt and Charlotte.

What about Auburn? Tigers (3-2) after a bye week, according to Bleach-

er Report, emerges from ...

- ✓ Sloppy homecoming victory over San Jose State.

- ✓ Far from impressive on both sides of the ball.

- ✓ Fumble-itis. Four against San Jose.

- ✓ Putting emphasis for UK on creating explosive plays on offense.

BLUE MADNESS

Seems only a month-or-so ago since Rupp Arena was a full house. Probably because Kentucky's coach makes sure his mug or voice or both are on television or radio somewhere somehow at least 15 days a month.

Friday evening fans get a look at latest batch of the seven-month turnstilers. A crew, from most accounts will endear itself to fans by way of pass-pass-pass then shoot style to stir the hearts of true Big Blue fans. Hopes here include ...

- Fans ignore the coach-speak, lowering expectations. After all, Big Blue Nation is ever a tribe of savvy assistant coaches.

- Cool the accolade heat on Tyler Ulis. Kid is a sophomore.

- The coach says "this is Tyler's team." The roster's old man Alex Poythress may not agree.

- Skal Labissiere gets to play.

- Isaiah Briscoe makes himself a fan favorite.

COLLEGE HOOPS A COMIN'

Don't have a copy of Street&Smith magazine yet, but 2015-16 draws near with promise to be as entertaining and interesting as ever.

- Billy Donovan is gone, but Bruce Pearl is back.

- Travis Ford is back, John Pelphrey isn't.

- Kyle Wiltjer is back, Bob Knight won't be.

- Jay Bilas is back, but so is court jester Vitale.

- One prime list of new-

comers to watch includes Jamal Murray at Kentucky and Damion Lee at Louisville.

- Tai Wynyard is a 2.06m, 115kg (that's 6-9, 240-pounds to us) New Zealander who arrives at UK in December. He told a local reporter he committed "pretty much as soon as they came to me. It's the best school in the country so how was I not going to say yes. It's going to be a lot of fun. I'm ready to go over there and smash it out, and do the best I can to compete."

Wynyard is a Kiwi chip-off-the-old-block. His father is a world class axemen and his mother competes too."

EROSION DEPT. (NCAA)

NCAA's credibility continues to slide. Swimming in an ocean of money that means:

- ✓ No incentive to solve one-and-done-ism.

- ✓ More incentive for programs to forsake amateurism altogether and follow the Kentucky and Duke 'business model' down the tube to NBA Developmental League franchise.

- ✓ Tortoise slow and tip-toe tepid, judgements against rules offenders based not on guilt or innocence, but on size, influence and push-back (North Carolina for example).

- ✓ As new season nears, standing in the dock at some level of accusation, investigation, indictment or appeal are ...

- UCLA assistant coach Duane Broussard denying allegations this week that he tried to have a Bruin player's grade changed to keep him eligible.

- Academic fraud wait list: North Carolina and Roy Williams, SMU and Larry Brown. Sex and scandal: Louisville and Rick Pitino. Aside from being multi-mil-

lionaires, Hall of Fame, and having a job in common, all rely on same defense: I did not know therefore I am not responsible.

Never mind, the NCAA has plenty of money.

STATE OF FOOTBALL?

As so many have wondered for so long, is Kentucky really a basketball state?

Tom Kring in Lexington posed this question last week: "If a survey were taken asking fans all over the state which sport, basketball or football, is more important what would it show?"

Kring guessed football would poll higher than hoops in part because of (UK tie) to the Southeastern Conference.

Is Kentucky a Football State?

WORTH REPEATING DEPT.

Clemson is 5-0, ranked fourth in the country and after beating Georgia Tech, coach Dabo Swinney was asked arguably the dumbest most ill-timed question of any season. Clemsoning is defined as blowing a lead game after game and losing.

"Is Clemsoning behind us now?"

Swinney: "I can't believe I have to come in here with a 5-0 football team that just had a great win and have to talk about 'Clemsoning'. It shouldn't be in the conversation."

PARTING SHOT

"If the NBA was on channel five and a bunch of frogs making love were on channel four, I'd watch the frogs, even if they were coming in fuzzy." — Bob Knight

And so it goes.

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You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442, or email at program.intake@usda.gov.