

Bob Watkins' Sports In Kentucky

High school coach posts appeal on bullying; Hottest team in baseball, the Pirates



Bob Watkins

Treatise on bullying. Kevin Siple, head football coach at Grant County High School in Williamstown, shared a "something on my heart for many years" point-of-view the other day via the internet.

An edited excerpt.

"... (if) football players trained to be compassionate and empathetic, targeted students would be protected. I feel very strongly that students are the only ones who can change this epidemic problem in our schools. It must become cool to be kind to all kids and defend kids who can't protect themselves. ... with the right leadership, our football programs can promote this initiative in all school communities. We have all seen far too many suicides, acts of violence, etc. in our schools due to how kids are being treated."

Siple has "... a vision of forming a committee of coaches, securing a corporate sponsor to help with resources, and setting up a program of leadership to teach our players how to protect and serve in our schools. We as coaches in Kentucky could really leave a legacy of advocating and promoting kindness in our schools. If this is something you have a passion for, I'd love to see where something like this could go. Please let

me know your thoughts." Signed Kevin Siple, Grant County High School.

This is educational gold bullion. Siple received a ringing endorsement from coaches, parents and fans. Postscript: To underscore Siple's appeal, this quotation: "You take away all the other luxuries in life, if you can make someone smile and laugh, you have given the most special gift: happiness." — Brad Garrett

To advance Siple's appeal, see this internet article — 9 Ways Coaches Can Prevent and Stop Bullying in Sport, can be found at: <http://truesport.org/articles/coaches/9-ways-coaches-can-prevent-stop-bullying-sport/>

MID-SUMMER POVS

2. Major League Baseball's hottest team at the all-star break is in Pittsburgh. The Pirates rolled up the NL Central-leading St. Louis Cardinals three of four last weekend including back-to-back extra inning walk-off wins.

3. Most anticipated event in MLB in July? End of July trade deadline — who's buying, who's selling.

4. College football. Most anticipated opener: Louisville and Auburn at the Georgia Dome, seven Saturdays away. September 5.

5. V.J. King's MVP performance at the Peach Jam summer ball last week had to excite Louisville fans. While summer basketball is mostly a look-at-me, free-for-all, and King needs to add 20-plus pounds of muscle, the 6-6, 189-pounder is a dandy prospect for the Cardinals.

6. With Jayson Tatum committed to Duke, and maybe 7-footer Harry Giles too, Kentucky's recruiting emphasis turned to ...

√ Miles Bridges, small forward at Huntington Prep.

Top competition, Michigan State.

√ And, 6-5, 170 guard Kobi Simmons at North Gwinnett High School near Atlanta. Rated sixth in class of 2016. Simmons said of UK, "I'm their guy." His current college list: Georgia, North Carolina, Ohio State, Xavier, Kentucky and Arizona.

7. Given the growing number of prospects choosing other schools more frequently, I wonder if Kentucky's one-and-done tattoo and label Yankees of college hoops, and images everywhere of publicity hound and self promoting ball coach Calipari, has started to hurt The Product?

8. An internet basketball web site offered a list of incoming freshmen it says will stay more than one season in college. Kentucky's Isaiah Briscoe made the cut, although the reasons were not convincing. Bleacher Report says Briscoe will stay because Tyler Ulis is established at point guard. Uk fans will remember Alex Poythress was established too.

9. North Carolina basketball coach Roy Williams is assuring prospects the NCAA will not put Tar Heel hoops on probation.

Prospect Sacha Killeya-Jones told the Charlotte Observer that Williams does not think there will be penalties.

"Coach Williams said he is 100 percent positive (the NCAA) is not going to crack down on the men's basketball team," he said. How can UNC's coach be certain? Track record of process and time lines. He knows the NCAA is not anxious to punish one of its signature programs, particularly with the Tar Heels projected to be ranked number one.

An NCAA ruling, when it is issued, UNC will do the press release thing: "We're shocked and disappointed. And we will appeal." The process will drag on despite evidence found (by a former federal investigator) that UNC covered up, employees lied, resigned, retired and/or were fired. Instances of academic fraud went on for years at UNC. This should mean swift justice even from the turtle-paced NCAA. Reminds me of Kentucky in 1988.

10. The NCAA has 351 D-I schools playing men's basketball in 32 conferences. Three programs averaged more than 20,000 fans a game at home 2014-15 — Syracuse, 23,854, Kentucky, 23,572 and Louisville, 21,386.

11. Intriguing statistic: Along with college fans, Kentuckians set and reset records for high school State Tournaments. And still, attendance for the Indiana-Kentucky summer series continues to show barely a pulse. Virtually no interest.

12. Worth Repeating Dept. When South Carolina politicians voted to take down the Rebel battle flag someone peened this peculiar assessment: "College bowl season is a subtle metaphor for the Civil War. Every December and January the national narrative is: SEC vs. the Rest of the Country."

REMEMBER DEPT.

A meaningful life is not being rich, popular, highly educated or being perfect. It's about being real, being humble, being able to share ourselves and touch the lives of others." — unknown

And so it goes.

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Wanderings from the Woods & Water by Jay Bicknell
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Salmon Run

NOTE: This is a classic column from Jay originally printed on July 17, 2013. Enjoy!

One of the things on my bucket list to do before I die is go watch a salmon run! I think the salmon's lifecycle shows the awesome creation of God!

While I was in college working on a biology degree, a lot of the professors denounced God! They told how evolution was the only way to think! These college professors wanted everybody to think inside the box! I have worked in the biology field for several years now and I will conclude the professors are doing a great job of keeping most biologists inside the box! As for me, all I had to do was look at the lifecycle of the salmon to know God is real and AWESOME!

Salmon spawn and lay eggs in upper reaches of rivers and streams. The eggs hatch into alevin; then, they grow into fry around 10 weeks. Then, at several months old, they are called Parr and then grow into the smolt stage at 1-3 years old. The smolts head out to sea. The smolts go through an adaptation from freshwater to saltwater. As an adult, salmon spend 1-8 years at sea until they head back up river to spawn.

The trip back up river is the neatest part of the lifecycle to me! The salmon heads up river going against the flow! They overcome obstacles and rapids to get back to the place they were hatched and spawn to start the process over. The salmon run is met by bears that rely on salmon for food to live! The bears know exactly when the salmon will be making their run to spawn. Once the adult spawns, it dies! Their death is important to the water system because it adds

much-needed nutrients back to the system.

Is this all by chance? Is this a bunch of cells acting and reacting on each other to create the salmon lifecycle that works in perfect harmony? I think not! The salmon lifecycle is the handy work of our Great Creator!

A Christian can learn a lot from the Salmon Run. We should never just go with the flow! We need to fight to overcome all the obstacles we are faced with. We need to bring everlasting life to those that need to hear about it, and to our youth! **Job 12:8-9** tells us to "Speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee: and the fishes of the sea shall declare unto thee. Who knoweth not in all these that the hand of the Lord hath wrought this?"

To all the young people entering college, don't allow the professors to trap you inside the box! Think outside of the box! Keep in mind, most of the professors have never worked in the real world when it comes to what they are teaching about! They only know the academia world!

Until next week, get out and enjoy God's creation!



Fruit Lovers

If you want to attract non-seed-eating birds into your yard, fruits such as grapes, raisins, cherries, apples and orange halves will attract mockingbirds, gray catbirds, orioles, towhees, cedar waxwings, blue birds, tanagers and many more. Use a tray feeder or place on the ground near brush cover.

E-mail: birdingbits@cfl.rr.com
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You're Invited!

Back to School Night

Outwit, Outscore, Outstanding

West Irvine Intermediate

Monday, August 3

4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

The new school year is right around the corner and we can't wait to see all of our student's smiling faces! You and your family are invited to Back to School Night at West Irvine Intermediate. Students and families will have the opportunity to meet their new teacher, tour the school, visit the Resource Fair, pick-up their student's new drive-thru car tags and enjoy a FREE dinner.

Parents and guardians will also have the opportunity to review West Irvine Intermediate's Title 1 Parent Compact and Policy. We value your feedback and input. Your comments will play an active role in your child's education at West Irvine Intermediate.

School Supplies

Don't forget the Family Resource Center can help with Back to School supplies. Please call 606-723-7733 for assistance.



Estill High School Soccer

The Estill County High School Soccer Boosters meeting will be held on Monday, July 27th at 6:30 p.m. at the soccer practice fields at Wiseman Crossing. If you have a son or daughter playing high school soccer please make plans to attend this important meeting.

Kruzers Newz

TWIN CITY CRUZERS - schedule of events

- Aug 3 - 7pm - meeting
- Aug 8 - 5-9pm - Hospice Cruise In (downtown Irvine)
- Sept 7 - noon - Cookout Cruise - leave from Pizza Hut, return to Darrell & Dorothy Hall's for cookout and pot luck dinner at 4pm
- Sept 8 - 7pm - meeting
- Sept 12 - 5-9pm - Cruise In (downtown Irvine)
- Sept 19 - 5-8pm - Railroad Festival Car Show in Ravenna
- Oct 5 - 7pm - meeting
- Oct 10 - 5-9pm - Toys for Tots Cruise In (downtown Irvine)
- Oct 12 - 9am - leaving from Main St. to Natural Bridge for cookout and pot luck dinner

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