

Bob Watkins' Sports In Kentucky

Baseball playoff races: Give me time with Lilliputians from Bowling Green



Bob Watkins

Watching a baseball game at a Major League big yard via television then, clicking the remote to a game in Williamsport, Pennsylvania brings to mind another of those "only in America" moments.

First, the big people recognizable mostly by whiskers of various fullness and lots of spitting and hitting glove adjustment. Click! Presto, the Lilliputians from Gulliver's Travels. In a moment, never mind the pennant race in the NL Central, put down the remote.

From Williamsport, Rick Kelley, manager of Bowling Green East's All-Stars: "To come here, be here, and then get a win is just huge," he told the Bowling Green Daily News.

Click: Big Leaguers play a kids game for money and fame. Yawn.

Click: Little Leaguers (starry-eyed) play for pals in the dugout, Mom and Dad, friends at school, and a some-day-dream-maybe.

Kids decked out in fancy baseball duds playin' ball at a Never-Forget-Place at a special time of life.

√ For the kids, bonding (on national television too).

√ For us, children revel

in success and learn how to handle the other kind (on national television too).

√ For kids, in our instant digital age, Bowling Green East's Little Leaguers, opportunity to show the best-of-who they are.

√ For us, when games are done, tournament finished, and star-struck kids are back on the school bus, there are the delicious residuals – photographs, videos, newspaper clips and memories brought home from Williamsport.

For Bowling Green's baseball best, for all their lives, Priceless.

America, I love this place!

KENTUCKY FOOTBALL

Things we can say with certainty about the Kentucky Wildcats?

√ Large. Across its front, offense and defense, UK is. Can they run and be SEC quick enough?

√ Quarterback is Patrick Towles whose mouth came open last week and out came bravado everybody wanted to hear, but few have nerve to say. Goal is being in Atlanta in November.

√ Polls. In August are locker room bulletin board fodder.

USA Today rankings D-I teams in Kentucky are kinda perfect.

• At No. 26, Louisville opens with No. 3 Auburn in Atlanta.

• At 37th, Western Kentucky opens at Vanderbilt.

• At 77th, Kentucky opens at home with La. Lafayette. Ragin' Cajuns are ranked 61st.

Finally ...

√ If the coach ain't happy, ain't nobody happy. Last week Mark Stoops wasn't.

LOUISVILLE-IU PERESTROIKA

Universities of Louisville and Indiana will play football and basketball three times each beginning next year.

Perestroika – restructure made fashionable in 1980s – UofL and IU officials found the reset button in the no-go-zone made by University of Kentucky CEO John Calipari who said "nyet" to an IU reset three years ago.

Bully for Cards and Hoosier fans and forward-looking school officials. After all, River City-to-Bloomington is as geographically natural for any fan-passionate rivalry, isn't it?

FOOTBALL. As ridiculous it is, this series will begin during second term of the next U.S. president, September 2023 at Indianapolis.

Game II is set for Papa John's Cardinal Stadium a year later, September 7, 2024. Game III will be at Memorial Stadium in Bloomington on Sept. 6, 2025.

Perestroika ...

• Game sites: Indianapolis, Louisville and Bloomington, fan attractive.

• IU football prime ambition: an upgrade. Series with UofL is opportunity knocking, climb to where Louisville is.

• UofL stands at a reputation level where its program can afford a non-ACC inter-sectional marquee series.

• Ticket sales will be 50-30.

BASKETBALL. First game is New Year's Eve, 2016. At neutral site Bankers Life Arena in Indianapolis. Game II, December 9, 2017, at KFC Yum! Center

in Louisville. Game III December 8, at Assembly Hall in Bloomington.

Bottom lines?

Officials arranging the Louisville-Indiana series are more profit-driven than noble. We get that. But a fan-interest-first is refreshing, a kind of Perestroika.

By contrast, UK decision-makers, by rejecting Indiana overtures, demonstrates no vision and ignores fans.

√ Kentucky and Indiana football need each other.

√ In basketball's heartland, no rivalry has higher interest nationally.

JURICH ON KENTUCKY SERIES

The Governor's Cup would be more popular at the front of the schedule, Tom Jurich opined at a Louisville luncheon last week, but doesn't think it will happen. But, "... only concern I have is that we keep playing," because he thinks it's good for the state.

Noble idea, but could be Jurich whistling past the graveyard.

Says here, if, Louisville makes consistent its rise to national prominence, continues to beat UK, and wins recruiting battles for Jefferson County high school talent, when contract renewal comes up in 2020, we could see a new Plan A or Plan B from Lexington,

A. "Getting to the SEC title game, we don't need a non-league game like this at the end of regular season."

B. "... playing in the always-tough SEC, we need to go in another direction in our none-league games."

And so it goes.

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Wanderings from the Woods & Water by Jay Bicknell

WetStoneKennels@Yahoo. Com



Bicknell #2, #3 & #4 And A Birthday Squirrel Hunt

A big "Happy Birthday" shout out to #3 Bicknell Josh. He turned the big 06.

Josh wanted to go squirrel hunting for his birthday. So that's what we did. We had #2 and #4 Bicknell join us.

Josh had been asking me for a while to go squirrel hunting for his birthday. The plan started out as just Josh and dad going hunting. His brother Jake AKA #2 asked if he could go. Josh gave Jake the green light to go. The boys were ready to go after some tree rats. They only asked me around 8000 times "is it time to go dad!!!"

When we finally got ready to leave the house and hit the woods, we made it to the door when little sister #4 Brinley informed us she was going. I told her she needed to change. In the blink of an eye she had her camo and boots on. Out the door to the woods behind the house we went.

Something I knew that was reinforced on our hunt. Trying to keep a 4 year old, 6 year old, and a 7 year old quiet and still is impossible. We tried sitting for a few minutes and watch a patch of woods were the squirrels had been cutting.

While we were sitting Brinley said quietly while holding her cricket "come here little squirrel"! I think she was ready to shoot a squirrel. She



#4 Brinley Bicknell ready for some squirrel hunting

did have a hard time sitting still. Josh was getting a little upset because his sister was being a little fidgety.

We decided to make a move. We hadn't walked too far when a squirrel walked out on a limb at 20 yards. We tried getting Josh's gun loaded, but by the time we did the squirrel took off.

We sat a little longer before we decided to head home. Josh and I decided we would try a squirrel hunt by ourselves next time. He said Brinley moved too much.

I said all that to say this. It was great having 3 of 5 kids with me, enjoying God's creation. It won't be long until the kids are grown up. Kids are a blessing and I am going to savor every second I have with them. I am looking forward to when Josh and I get to go squirrel hunting. I am sure another great memory will be made.

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



Bumble Bees

I think it's important to keep bees happy. I have noticed that bumble bees love the red sage that I planted for hummers. It is truly a delight to watch the bumbles climb in and out of each tubular flower. It really keeps me in the moment. Them too, I'm sure!

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Picnic in The Park

Join the River City Players for a Picnic in The Park

Friday, Sept. 4 Begins at 5 p.m.

Bring Your Dinner and Decorations Table - \$60.00 (Seats 6)
Blanket Seating \$5.00 Each (Children 6 & Under Free)
Prizes Available for Best Table and Blanket Decorations

Live Entertainment 7 PM Proceeds to "Save the Mack Fund"

For more information, contact Bobby Carol Noland 723-2254 or Susan Hawkins 723-5755

Cruzers Newz

TWIN CITY CRUZERS - schedule of events

- 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

top ten

Causes of Skin Wrinkles

1. Sun exposure
2. Facial expressions
3. Smoking
4. Sleep position
5. Stress
6. Lack of sleep
7. Alcohol
8. Dry skin
9. Gravity
10. Genetics

Source: allwomenstalk.com

Little Mountains

10TH ANNUAL

COIN & KNIFE SHOW

Buy, Sell or Trade

SATURDAY, SEPT 12TH

8:00^{AM} to 5:00^{PM}

Estill Co. Fairgrounds Event Building
38 S. Irvine Road, Irvine, KY

Free Admission and Free Parking

Vendors please call (606) 723-6682 to reserve a slot
40-table show -- \$15.00 per booth
(There will be concessions sold)