

Bob Watkins' Sports In Kentucky

Tiger missed another cut and news cycle, but Kentucky's Sonny Corleone didn't



Bob Watkins

Fade of August. American Pharoah won the Haskell Invitational in front of the largest television audience for horse racing in 13 years.

Tiger Woods missed another cut. ... Major League Baseball races are starting to heat up. ... OVC favorite Eastern Kentucky opens college football season September 3.

And, John Calipari got his name into news cycles three days running last week.

I gotta tell ya, when Worth Repeating Department gears up for Year-In-Review, my vote is in the bank. The following classic belongs on one of those dazzling propaganda walls at Craft Center.

Exchange between ESPN's Tony Kornheiser and Jason Whitlock last week.

Kornheiser: "I loved Calipari until today. I love him 10 times more now because he's established that he is a gangster. He thrives in it. He wants to be in it. He's at the alpha dog school in Kentucky. He's the alpha dog coach and he's, he's Sonny Corleone." (The Godfather)

Whitlock: "You're giving (Calipari) credit for what he's supposed to do. He's at Kentucky. He's got

the best program. He's been doing this for years and now you want to give him extra credit because he's bragging about what he's supposed to do when you're at Kentucky?"

Kornheiser "loves Calipari 10 times more now" because Pardon The Interruption keeps Kentucky's coach on its future guests list.

Whitlock's assessment? Spot on.

What's this hubbub about? A radio report from columnist Gary Parrish said that three years ago Calipari accosted Iowa coach Fran McCaffery who allegedly had told coaching pals that UK's coach is a cheat.

Confrontation in Las Vegas, Calipari didn't only scold or threaten to assault McCaffery, he told Iowa's coach any time he believed he had locked up a recruit, "... if I decide I want him at Kentucky, I'm getting him." (paraphrased)

Hunch here is, Kornheiser's Sonny Corleone characterization for Calipari will be received as highest compliment for any recruiting season for the man who coached No. 1 UK to a number three finish last season.

'THREE-AND-DONE'

Trae Young is a high school hoops prodigy at Norman North High School in Oklahoma. The father Rayford and son have been advised he should transfer to a prep school, play better competition. Advised by whom? John Calipari.

A local sports editor wrote: "Isn't it nice to know that the king of one-and-done at the collegiate level seeks to be the impetus behind a prep kid going three-and-done at his hometown high school.

"Isn't it nice to know that in an age of college athletics as a billion-dollar business, Calipari and his pin-striped suit are unaffected by all of it, that for all of his kiss-the-ring self-importance in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, all the Wildcat coach really wants to do is give a rising high school junior some sound advice."

EKU STOCK SPIKE?

Eastern Kentucky's stock as favorite to win the Ohio Valley Conference may have sky-rocketed this week. Running back Adam Lane's transfer from Florida became official and the 5-7 224-pounder who was MVP in last year's Birmingham Bowl joins a Colonels' team that finished 9-4 a season ago thanks in part to OVC player of the year, running back Dy'Shawn Mobley, a transfer from Kentucky.

JIM INGLE

Another mostly uncelebrated (under appreciated?) contributors to greatness of University of Kentucky basketball and football passed on last week. Jim Ingle was 83.

Public address announcer at basketball and football games for 20 seasons beginning in 1968, Ingle was the best.

He was to in-house audiences what Cawood Ledford was to radio listeners. Solid, dependable with emphasis on fairness to players on both teams.

Ingle's base-toned player introductions - some called it the-voice-of-god - heightened the experience in Memorial Coliseum, then Rupp Arena. When a visiting player made a basket, Ingle's report gave it equal importance. Good journalism.

"That was very intentional," son Jay Ingle told the Lexington Herald-Leader. "He wanted to make sure he was very neutral. He didn't want to be a cheerleader."

By 1988 neutral was out of style. UK's marketing and profit-making strategy surrendered to NBA glitz. Ingle was let go in favor of Era of the Screamer.

Ingle epitaph? Because he was best at what he did, his name belongs on a UK registry for a Golden Era, alongside Bill Keightly, Russell Rice, Claude Sullivan, Cawood Ledford and more.

NUMBER 24

Jamal Mashburn. Most recognizable player from Kentucky's Unforgettables team in 1992. Leading scorer and twice All-American, sophomore and junior. The kid they called Monster Mash remains iconic to Wildcat fans.

Ah but, Mashburn threw up an air ball last week.

On subject of NCAA D-I affiliates cashing in on video games featuring player images and sale of jersey with name and numbers, Mashburn told the Lexington Herald-Leader, "even if it doesn't have my name on the back it's still 24. It implies it's your jersey."

Not so fast. Mashburn was not first at UK to bring distinction to number 24, and likely won't be last. For some 24 brings to mind All-American Johnny Cox, leading scorer on the NCAA title winning Fiddlin' Five in 1958. His 24 was retired. By 1962 guard Larry Pursiful made the number popular and he wore it to All-SEC honors.

And so it goes. You can reach me at <bob.Watkins24@aol.com

Wanderings from the Woods & Water

by Jay Bicknell
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What's First And Who Moved

I want to give a shout to Ben, a loyal reader of my column and new friend. I appreciate all who read my column. Thanks for all the kind words and encouragement from my readers.

The hunting seasons are upon us. I catch myself day-dreaming about big bucks and the whistling wings of mallards. The couple of cool mornings of recent days has me looking forward to sitting in a tree stand. It won't be long until I get to laugh and cut up with my buddies waiting on the first flight of ducks.

In the past I have been guilty of putting hunting first. When the rut starts, I can easily be consumed on trying to kill a monster buck. I can easily be distracted by figuring out where the geese are going to be. I can easily get lost in chasing critters.

It's easy to put a ground blind over a pew. It's easy to be in a duck blind over being in Sunday morning service. It's easy to put a tree stand over a man who died on an old rugged tree. What do you put first?

The day to day can be busy at best. There are so many things we can put over God. Jesus put us above all. We owe a debt we cannot pay. Jesus paid a debt he didn't owe for us. He gives us six days; surely we can give him one day.

This hunting season, have fun, but keep your eyes on the true prize. On Sunday morning when the tree stand is screaming your name just don't listen. I guarantee you

will get so much more out of spending time with the creator of all we love.

So, if you are not feeling close to God, guess who moved! I love everything about hunting. Hunting and being in the woods is a big part of who I am. The most important thing in my life these days is man by the name of Jesus. It's a constant battle with the things of this world. I plan on fighting until the end.

Squirrel season is in. Now is the time to get the youngins' in the woods and teach them how to hunt. If you've got some good squirrel hunting pics, send them in. If you've got a favorite tree rat recipe to share, send it in and I will put in my column.

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

EDITOR'S NOTE: See Number 5 Bicknell, Beth, on her birthday on Page 15.



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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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

Little Mountains
10TH ANNUAL
COIN & KNIFE SHOW
Buy, Sell or Trade
SATURDAY, SEPT 12TH
8:00AM to 5:00PM
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)

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

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
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