

Bob Watkins' Sports In Kentucky

Kentucky football and Chicago Cubs Inc. ... will parallels continue?



Bob Watkins

Cubs Inc. and Kentucky Wildcats.

No-hitter by a Chicago Cub happened last Sunday. 43 Septembers since Milt Pappas did it September 2, 1972.

The Cubs. A franchise in America's midland made intriguing by its lovable ways to keep loyalists, draw capacity crowds, lose most of the time and still put a smile on fans' faces while saying "we'll get 'em next year!"

Football at University of Kentucky has been the Chicago Cubs.

Underdog lovers, (and media) have watched a UK and Cubs Inc. comedy for more than six decades. Each has given new meaning to Walt Kelly's profoundly correct "we have met the enemy and he is us!"

Cubs Inc. and UK have bumbled through general managers, coaches/managers, players, competed with rivals (Chicago Bulls and UK basketball), and thrown money. Both have done facility upgrades, stadium expansions, endless promotions ... tried virtually everything to earn a place among premier winners.

So, last Sunday, a Cubs pitcher threw a no-hitter. It's September 2015, the Cubs are 19 games over .500 at this writing, and *this close* to qualifying for postseason play.

Kentucky football? Stadium upgrades, more and better players, and now, plausibly higher expectations. This Saturday, September 5, 2015, Wildcat football could be ... might be ... we hope will be, on its way to Cubs in "kind of" postseason too.

AUTUMN COME TO KENTUCKY

Hear it?

Few things are more fascinating in Kentucky than autumn's first melody - Katyids and Quiet.

Fall isn't official until the 23rd, but a string of serene moments lets us anticipate another academic year at college ... campus ... class time ... cool breezes, then some football!

Time before tailgate parties crank up ... moments before bass and snare drums signal marching bands come over the hill ... rise of collective fan voice approval ... finely dressed players appear for warm-up, sounds of fall echo off stadium walls.

Your team is 0-0 and so is his.

Eastern Kentucky may get its maroon uniforms grass stained against Valparaiso on Thursday in Richmond. A full-on workout will create a game film before the Colonels' road to Raleigh, North Carolina next week for a show-us-what-ya-got against NC State.

Guess: Colonels win while trying to limit the look-see by Wolfpack scouts.

Louisville and Auburn. Saturday headliner: 3:30 kickoff. Sold out.

UofL's opportunity knocks is more a bang on the door. The Cardinals get the No. 6 War Eagles on neutral ground. Louisville can catapult itself up the rankings, set talking heads aflutter over Bobby Petrino and get the Cards into early major bowl conversation.

Worth mentioning: Petri-

no teams are 10-0 in season openers.

Guess: Season's first surprise, Louisville wins by a touchdown.

Kentucky. At 7 o'clock, the Wildcats take center stage. On paper, and in a word, Louisiana-Lafayette is dangerous. For UK: new Stadium ... new talent level ... new confidence, Mark Stoops' team plays a Statement Game.

Guess: Wildcats by three touchdowns-plus.

Western Kentucky, eight o'clock eastern time, in Nashville Saturday to try and extend its win streak to 3-0 against an SEC team not named Kentucky.

Hilltoppers can show off the finest quarterback in college talking heads will be talking more about.

Guess: Unless Brandon Doughty has a nervous breakdown performance like one in Knoxville two seasons ago, the Hilltoppers 'outscore' the Commodores by 14.

WALK-ONS at UK and WKU

Getting a shot. Among my favorite things - a kid, particularly a native son, getting a chance to extend his/her education. Basketball programs at Kentucky and Western Kentucky added two walk-ons each to rosters last week.

Kentucky adds Dillon Pulliam and Jonny David.

David, a freshman and Pulliam, a sophomore who transfers from Transylvania University and will sit out the coming season.

Western walk-ons are Keifer Dalton (Clinton County) and Dylan Sanford (Owensboro)

Dalton averaged 17.8 points, five assists and three steals at Clinton County last season, and finished as his school's all-time leading scorer with 2,158 career

points. Sanford averaged nine points at Owensboro High and scored 21 points in the Red Devils' state championship win.

If one or more rises to earn a scholarship it's a story. Higher reward will be education each will gain being part of a major college basketball program.

And, UK and WKU teams will benefit from grade point averages from all four.

BALL COACH DEPT.

Good news: Bo Ryan's return as ball coach at Wisconsin will be fun to watch not only because he develops and keeps players in college, but because his rebuilding process is entertaining.

Minnesota has given two-year ball coach Richard Pitino a \$400,000 raise to \$1.6 million. Fine print: If Pitino leaves before April 16, next year, the university will be owed \$1.5 million. Peanuts. The school young Pitino job-jumps to (probably next spring) will pay it.

FARE THE WELL, DAN

A Glendale friend and a dear human being, left last week suddenly. Dan Tonietti was as good a man as there ever was. He died at home in his front yard. Heart attack. 60-something.

The personal shock of Dan's passing brought to mind "you never know!" and words from financier Warren Buffett. "... people talk about this being an uncertain time. You know, all time is uncertain. I mean, it was uncertain back in 2007, we just didn't know it was uncertain. It was uncertain on September 10th, 2001, we just didn't know it."

Fare the well, Dan Tonietti And so it goes.

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Wanderings from the Woods & Water

by Jay Bicknell

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Happy Birthday Party!



Gavin Tipton, and his cousins Jake and Josh Bicknell at their birthday party.

When this column goes out my oldest son Jake will be 8 years old. Happy Birthday Jake!

Josh turned 6 on August 19 and Jake turned 8 September 1. They both are hard core hunters. They have hit the age when they get some sweet birthday presents. The things that I can use.

We had the boys a laser tag party together this past Saturday. I was pleasantly surprised when they started opening up their presents. I was daydreaming about putting the gifts to use. I was thinking about shooting my bow. I was dreaming about cold mornings and circling ducks. I even was thinking about going fishing this close to deer season. I am not sure who enjoyed the party more, the boys or me!

My boys got a spinning wing mallard decoy. I have been wanting one of them for years. They got a new 3D deer target. I have been wanting to get me a new one of them for a while now. They got fishing poles that shoot like a gun. They got a Jr. Metal detector which is super handy when you have bow shooting boys.

So, I have already tested out the 3D target. I set it up in my front yard. The boys shoot from the deck steps. It's set up where I can shoot different distances and angles from the deck. I love the new target. I am pretty sure it will make me a better bow hunter.

The spinning wing mallard decoy will be in my decoy spread this season duck season. I have thought about getting a spinner decoy for years now. Jake got a duck call that he is getting pretty good at using. Jake plans on getting a dozen mallard decoys with some of his birthday money.

I am planning on using Jake's decoys and let him call while I shoot! I really liked this birthday party!!

The boys like watching the show where the guys use metal detectors to find neat stuff. The boys are hoping to find gold. I like the metal detector because my boys like to shoot MY arrows! When they shoot MY arrows they lose MY arrows. The new metal detector makes it easy to find MY arrows they lose.

The boys got a fishing pole that shoots like a gun. It's simple to use and means not as many crazy casts. So I spend less time getting line out of trees and wherever else a wild cast ends up at.

All in all it was a great party for them and me. I look forward to this fall hunting, with my boys and using their new gear! As the saying goes, take your kids hunting and you won't have to go hunt for your kids! The Lord has truly blessed me with 5 miracles and 6th on the way in less than a month.

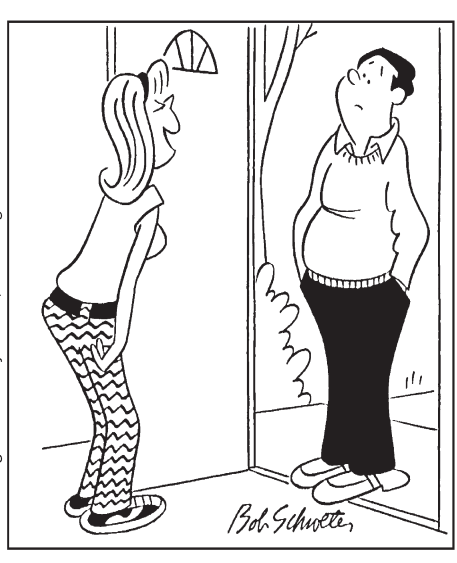
Until next week, get out and enjoy God's creation!



Water Cooler

It's hot out there! How are those birdbaths? Are they clean and filled with fresh water daily? I have five birdbaths that I maintain for the birds and all the other winged creatures that come by for a cool drink. They all will thank you!

E-mail: birdingbits@cfllr.com © 2015 King Features Syndicate, Inc.



"My father says you can stay, but your _____ has to go!"

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Gander	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
CANGLE	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Grudge	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
PESTI	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Lessen	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
CREDATT	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Esteem	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
SPECTRE	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

TODAY'S WORD

top ten

Fastest-Growing Restaurant Chains

1. Domino's Pizza
2. Shake Shack
3. Chipotle
4. Dave & Buster's
5. Jack in the Box
6. Good Times
7. Buffalo Wild Wings
8. Bojangles Source: Forbes
9. Popeyes
10. Sonic

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