



Times Remembered

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Vacation

We took a much needed vacation last week. Since Colton plays All-Star baseball all summer we take our vacation on Fall Break. Colton, Tara, Steve, Bob and myself went to Alabama and on to Destin Florida.

Tara decided a few months ago that we should get tickets for the Kentucky/Alabama football game since we were traveling to Destin, Florida for a beach vacation.

When she ordered tickets she didn't know exactly where we would be sitting; general admission was all that was available. But guess what..... we were nearly in the top row of the stadium. Two rows from the very top; in the clouds. The stadium is huge and seats approximately 110,000.

We were parked about two miles from the stadium and walked and walked.

After we got the stadium we had eight flight of stairs, then traveled upward thirty rows to nearly the top of the stadium.

I have asthma; granted I'm not exactly in the best physical condition, therefore, I had a hard time climbing all those steps in the 90 degrees temperature. It was very difficult and it took me a while to recuperate. I logged 20,243 steps on my Fit Bit watch that day. It was definitely a workout. I was tired; but I survived.

It didn't help much that Kentucky lost 34-6. I think I heard, "Roll Tide Roll," and "Sweet Home Alabama," in my sleep. Alabama is as serious about their football as Kentucky is about basketball. One thing I noticed was that Alabama fans were very nice and welcomed us to Tuscaloosa.

We spent the night in Birmingham and headed for Destin the next morning. We arrived in Destin about 4:00 on Sunday afternoon. We had reservations for a condo at the Emerald Grande Resort. The condo was very nice and the pool was just outside our room. Colton was happy about the pool being nearby; since he loves to swim.

One thing I didn't like was, having to take a boat to the resort's private beach every day. I prefer the beach just outside my room so I can come and go as I please. Actually, the beach looked man-made since the sand was so deep you could barely walk. The beach was on an inlet, not the ocean. I didn't like that either, but

you don't know till you stay whether you like the place or not.

The adjoining Harbor Village was nice with various kinds of shops. We also ate at some nice restaurants in the area. My favorite was the Amberjack fish at the Back Porch. The Cheeseburger in Paradise at Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville Restaurant was very good. The crab legs at Brutula's weren't that great.

I was having a wonderful time until the Weather Channel announced Hurricane Matthew was going to hit Florida. We were on the other side of Florida from where the storm was to hit, but never mind that, I was still worried. It could turn toward the west if it wanted to. I was ready to head home, but no one else was..... Tara thought I was being a little ridiculous but I'm a cautious person.

It did affect our deep sea fishing trip on Thursday. We went out; but it was wild, the winds and waves were terrible. We caught a few fish; enough for a fish fry when we go camping this month. We enjoyed fishing though; Colton was a trooper on the boat; never complained but he didn't get to fish due to the high winds. He couldn't even stand up. Steve didn't fair so well; he got sick several times and didn't feel like fishing. Bob and Tara caught all the fish.

All in all, we had a great time through it all. It's just good to get away and spend time with your family, whether it's fishing, shopping, eating different plac-



Photos by Betty A. Young

Calipari's son to play for Wildcats



by Larry Vaught

Having his son on the team could guarantee that Kentucky coach John Calipari will be at Kentucky the next four or five years. Or at least that is what Calipari recently told ESPN.

Brad Calipari is a freshman walk-on at UK and is excited about the opportunity to be part of the program he has become so enamored with since his father left Memphis for Lexington in 2009.

However, he has no idea what this year will be like basketball-wise.

"Dad has never coached me. I don't know how it will be," said Brad Calipari. "I don't think it will be too different. We will have an opportunity to be together in team settings. I'm glad I will get to experience that."

After playing at MacDuffie School, a Massachusetts prep school, to improve his skills after starting his high school career at Lexington Christian Academy, he had choices of where to play his college basketball. He knew the pressure and scrutiny he would face playing for his father, but he also understood what the program was all about.

"It came down to couple of schools but at the end of the day it came down to my relationship with the players and coaches here. I will be going against NBA guys every day," Brad Calipari said.

He seemed to always be with DeMarcus Cousins

during his father's first year at UK. Sometimes the coach indicated the two had about the same mindsets off the court to motivate the playful Cousins.

But it is Karl-Anthony Towns that Brad Calipari says he is closest to among his father's former UK players.

"We met about my eighth-grade year. From the first day me and him just kind of clicked," Brad Calipari said. "We just always had that brotherly bond to where we can talk about a lot of things. He is great. Very funny, very down to earth."

The Kentucky coach likes the way his son worked out on his own during the summer. He can shoot and John Calipari says if he does not turn the ball over, he can possibly play when the Cats are up by substantial margins like other walk-on players often do.

The UK coach jokes that his wife, Ellen, thinks her son is going to play more than that and says she "is out of her mind" when it comes to her son.

"Mom and Dad have both had a big influence on me. She obviously knows a lot less about basketball. But I am a mama's boy. She has helped me a lot," Brad Calipari said.

The coach's son also has one other reason for being at UK -- he hopes to one day be a coach himself. His father is now a Hall of Fame coach -- "I could not be more proud of him and that's part of what makes this such a great opportunity to play for him," Brad Calipari said -- and has agreed to help him pursue his goal just like he would any other player.

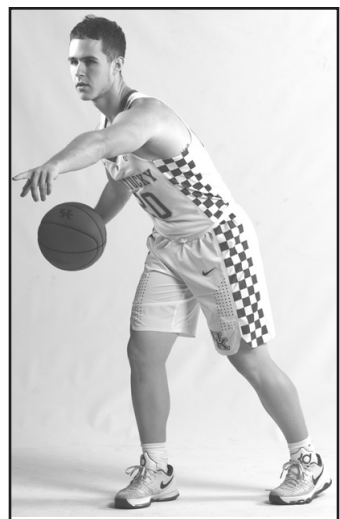
"I have always wanted to coach. Probably more college than the NBA," Brad Calipari said. "It runs in my blood. I'm not sure what kind of coach I would be. Probably like him (his father)."

John Calipari will encourage his son to study what the UK coaches do, pay attention to video work and get a full grasp of what is involved in coaching during his years at UK.

Brad Calipari wants no preferential treatment, and knows he won't get any. He also sees no potential problems with teammates because his father is the head coach.

"They don't look at me any differently. They treat me just as well as anybody," Brad Calipari said.

Why not? He says the biggest perk of being at UK is that he can get into the gym whenever he wants to shoot. "Instead of going to parties, I can go to the gym," Brad Calipari said.



Brad Calipari

New Western Kentucky coach Rick Stansbury says he's willing to consider any option to find a way to get Kentucky on a future schedule or schedules. Stansbury competed against UK annually as a head coach at Mississippi State and then recently as assistant coach at Texas A&M.

He is much like former LSU coach Dale Brown. He always compared his program to Kentucky and was always aiming to compete with UK even if he didn't recruit McDonald's All-Americans to Starkville, Miss., like UK coaches brought to Lexington.

"I have nothing but re-

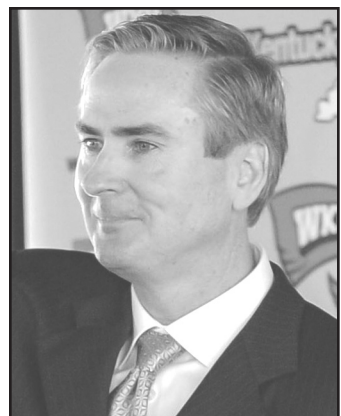
spect for Kentucky. When we were recruiting, I would always ask our coaches if we could beat Kentucky with this player," Stansbury said. "We want guys here (at Western) to compete with Kentucky. They don't have to be as good starting out, but we want them able to compete. I don't want a guy who can play for me. I want a guy who can win."

"I am in heaven in Bowling Green. We have everything it takes. Great town, beautiful campus, great facility. We have something even Kentucky does not have -- sky boxes. Sure, we only seat about 8,500 but how many places in the SEC other than Kentucky are full or have more than 8,500. Tell me why we can't sell out? We did it at Mississippi State for 11 straight years and we are going to make Western the same type place."

He knows Kentucky fans are among the most passionate in the nation. He wants Western basketball fans to be the same.

"We are going to get Western Kentucky back to where we are competing in this state. All you Western Kentucky folks start believing. We don't have to take a backseat to anybody. That's not arrogant. We are going to get this going," Stansbury said. "If you do not have tickets you better get them because there will come a time real soon that no tickets will be available."

Getting Kentucky on the schedule would only add to that enthusiasm.



Rick Stansbury

What Is That Sweet Smelling Flower Called?



America's Heartland

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An old fellow was telling a group of his friends at the senior citizens hall about a fantastic restaurant he and his wife had gone to the other night.

"What was it called?" one of the friends inquired.

After thinking for a bit, the old fellow, clearly struggling to recall, asked "what are those good smelling flowers called again?"

"Do you mean a rose?" the friend asked.

"Yes, that's it," he exclaimed. He then yelled to his wife: "Rose, what's that restaurant we went to the other night?"

We joke and tease a lot about aging, poking fun at our sometimes faulty memories, our bad hearing, our infirmities. And that's well and good as long as we understand what a blessing all those years and all those experiences have been in terms of making us knowledgeable and wise and useful.

"The gray head is a crown of glory" (Proverbs 16:31).

"With the elderly is wisdom; and, in length of days, understanding" (Job 12:12).

A lady was telling me the other day that she was

rather offended when she received an invitation to join AARP. It seems that a 50th birthday is the trigger for such mailers. But we've come to realize that to the 60-year-old, 50 is but a mere child. And to the 70-year-old, 60 is but a mere child. And to the 80-year-old, 70 is but a mere child. And to the 90-year-old, 80 is but a mere child.

So, it seems that old age is relative. And, that being so, all of us are but mere children in comparison to many of the Bible patriarchs who lived to be hundreds of years old.

Methuselah lived 969 years to become the oldest man on record. Compared to him, everyone reading this column is a mere child.

Noah was 500 years old when he had his three sons, and he was 600 when he climbed aboard the ark he built.

Moses was only 80 years old when he led the Israelites out of Egyptian slavery.

So imagine how strange it would seem to these patriarchs for any of us to say we're too old to serve in our homes, our churches and our communities. Nowadays, pastors often get age as an excuse from people in their 60s or 70s.

If you think you're old, consider Methuselah. Then, get out of that recliner and go and do. There's much to be done for our Lord, and we need to be about His business, regardless of age.

Our vision may have dimmed some. We may have to deal with aches and pains. And our memories may not be what they once were. But there's still much we can do.

Just ask Rose.
Roger Alford offers words of encouragement to America's heartland. Reach him at rogeralford1@gmail.com.