

# Willis' Girlfriend Says He Is A Good Dancer



Larry Vaught

Ask Derek Willis a question during a media interview session and he'll give you a straight forward answer. He does not dodge questions. He just doesn't go overboard with answers.

For his girlfriend, Keely Potts, that's frustrating because she doesn't think Kentucky fans have had a chance to see his real personality.

"We are always telling him to open up and smile. He does care. I am also very open. He is open but you have to catch him at the right time. But I freak out in front of a camera, too," she said. "He is goofy. He has a personality. It will come out. He is going to be dancing next year at Big Blue Madness. Maybe everybody will see the real Derek then."

A dancing Derek Willis? That would make attending Big Blue Madness a memorable outing by itself.

"He dances. He thinks he can dance. He is just a completely different person than he is on public side," she said.

So he can really dance? "He can dance. He can move," Potts, who was on the UK dance team as a freshman, said. "Not as good as me. I have taught him the best I could."

We got a chance to see a bit of Willis' humor when he announced on Twitter that him and Potts were becoming parents. What he didn't say until about 30 minutes later on Twitter was that they had purchased a pet baby rabbit.

"We went to the pet store like five different times. We kept leaving and coming back. He was like we are going to be parents. I said, 'What?' He said we were going to get this rabbit and that was fine. He just thought it would be really funny, so he posted it on Twitter and then

Facebook," Potts said. "His dad was freaking out. He was a little upset thinking we were becoming parents because he said, 'I thought you would tell me before you posted it on social media.' Our phone was blowing up. I probably had over 100 texts and calls and our social media was blowing up. Derek just thought it was funny. That's how he is."

So why not show more of that in media interviews?

"When he is doing an interview, he doesn't really talk. He has a personality but you don't really see it. Behind closed doors he won't shut up."

## Whitaker Resigns

When Camryn Whitaker got a job as an assistant basketball coach at Kentucky, I thought she would be at UK a long, long time. She grew up a Kentucky fan in Harrison County and was thrilled to be back working so close to home. However, as part of the turmoil in the UK women's basketball program, she resigned last week.

However, never doubt that she was true blue.

"Back when Walter McCarty was playing I can remember coming to a game and I met him and he was so nice. We had come to a women's game and I met him up in the concourse. I was just a kid at the time," she said. "I remember him. I remember Anthony Epps, Jamal Mashburn, Scott Padgett. All these guys, Travis Ford. Those were the ones I grew up watching and remember."

Epps was the starting point guard on UK's 1996 national championship team. Last season she helped coach his daughter, Makayla.

"One game I looked behind the bench and he was sitting right there. It was kind of surreal to be able to coach Makayla. She is such a fun person to be around and has a good personality. I loved coaching her. It was a fun group and they treated me very well and I know that is hard when you have coaching changes and players get close to a coach and build relationships and then you have somebody new come in," Whitaker said. "They really respected that and I appreciate that from them."

She also knew freshman Maci Morris of Bell County well before both got to UK. "I recruited Maci before I got to Kentucky. I have known her for several years. I watched her play since she was in the eighth grade. She was already like family to me and I know her parents really well," Whitaker said. "Maci is awesome."

"We share that county girl thing between Makayla, Maci and myself. It was fun to have those connections and fun to be back in Kentucky. I had always recruited Kentucky heavily because it is my home state. I take pride in that. Maci has been a tremendous asset to team. She is a tough player, hard worker and really can shoot the ball. I think she will just get better, too, in the years ahead."

## Wiltzer's Draft Hopes

Former Wildcat Kyle Wiltjer recently completed his Masters of Business Administration at Gonzaga. He's hoping to hear his name called in the NBA draft or if not to find a way to make a team as a free agent. But he's also got some business interests in mind whenever basketball does end for him.

"Sports agency, sports marketing or even opening up some kind of business are all possibilities," Wiltjer said. "I think Fazoli's should come to the west coast. It would be cool to open something new to an area. I have a bunch of ideas like that."

"There are a lot of things I have seen in Kentucky that I have not seen out there (in the west) and I know people would eat it up. I know my mom would not want to hear it, but you know how they have drive-thru liquor stores in Lexington. That could be a huge business opportunity out west. No one does that."

"It is sad but people are getting lazier and lazier. They want stuff accessible. If you just go to the drive-thru and want a bottle of wine and show an ID, they can throw it in a paper bag and be on your way. People like that."

## Early Departures

Kyvin Goodin-Rogers, Makayla Epps' teammate at Marion County High School, left the Kentucky basketball program early in the season and is now at

Western Kentucky. That followed the surprising transfer of starting guard Linnae Harper, a McDonald's All-American, before the season had even started. Once the season ended, more turmoil obviously occurred.

Goodin-Rogers had said nothing about her departure — until sharing with me last week.

"My teammates were amazing. They were my sisters. We were each other's backbones through anything ... through the good and the bad. Everyone knows me and Makayla are best friends and I'm sure heads turned when people found out I was transferring without Makayla," Goodin-Rogers said.

"But what people don't know is Linnae was our lock that held us together. Once she left, yes it was sad but I know you have to do what you have to do. Every day things continued on and times kept getting harder and I just couldn't understand. I still continued to have knee pain after coming back from knee surgery (the previous season) which also didn't help what else was going on."

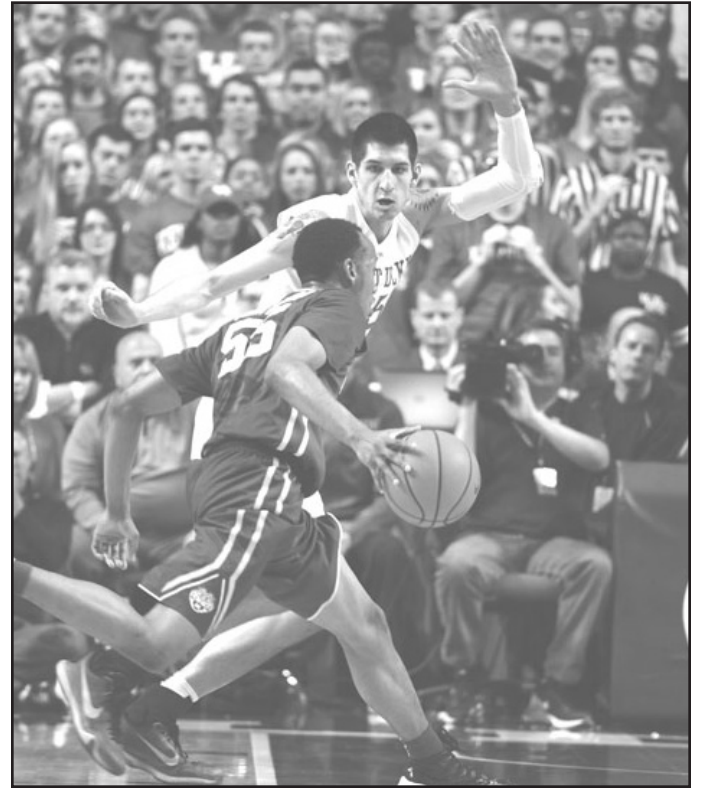
"I honestly asked God to give me a sign after the last game I played and right after playing my last game at UK, I walked up to my mother and said, 'It's time to go.' She asked me why and I just told her I'm not happy here. We had just won and I had a decent game and I still felt like we lost."

"Everyone has their own reasons for leaving. I'm actually happy with my decision. I love my teammates and coaches. I'm actually coming back right now from having knee surgery again back in January."

She remains friends with Harper, who is now at Ohio State, and Epps, who originally committed to Louisville along with Goodin-Rogers before both signed with UK.

"I wish I could play with them one more time," Goodin-Rogers said. "But overall, I just wasn't happy there. I felt like I didn't have the connection with some people that I needed in order to continue my journey at UK."

Obviously, other players



While John Calipari might want better defense from Derek Willis, his girlfriend, Keely Potts wants him to show more of his personality she says most UK fans have yet to see. Potts said Willis could show off some new dance moves at Big Blue Madness in October. (Vicky Graff Photo)

and assistant coaches felt the same way.

## Super 7th Grader

Remember Jordan Steele, the seventh-grade football player from Harlan County who got to play in the Football University Youth All-American Bowl in San Antonio due to the generosity of so many Kentuckians who helped donate over \$4,000 in less than 24 hours to fund his trip.

His father was a former National Guard member who served in Iraq and suffered from PTSD and substance abuse when he returned home. He died in 2007 when his son was only 5 years old.

Steele played both ways for his team and had four tackles in the game that brought together the nation's best middle school football players.

Well, recently he got invited to the MVP Camp in Georgia for middle school players.

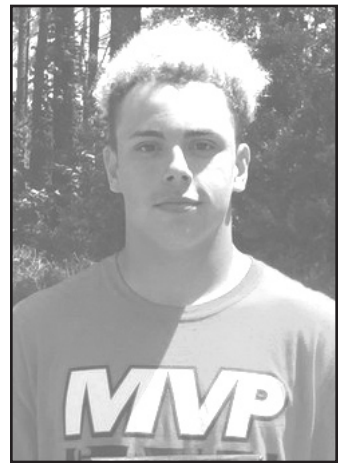
"There was so much talent there in middle school. They gave out four awards and Jordan got MVP as the top 7th grader there," his mother, Astria Howard, said. "I just want to keep you updated on everything he is doing and thank you

again for your support and help."

Actually, it's pretty cool to see a young Kentuckian doing so well and here's hoping that success continues.

## Contact Larry

Remember you can reach me on Twitter @vaughtsviews or via e-mail at larryvau@gmail.com. I enjoy hearing from so many of you weekly and also certainly am open to any or all story ideas or tips.



Harlan County eventh-grader Jordan Steele continued his impressive showing against national competition by being named the top player in his age group at the Georgia MVP Camp. (Astria Howard Photo)



Kyvin Goodin-Rogers had fun with teammates Makayla Epps, left, and Linnae Harper at UK's Media Day. A few weeks later Harper transferred and then Goodin-Rogers left for Western Kentucky. After Harper left, Goodin-Rogers said she did not have the "connection" with some people at UK she needed. (Vicky Graff Photo)

## Congratulations Seniors And Parents of Seniors

We will be doing The Estill County Tribune's Senior Salute on Wednesday, May 18th and need your picture with full name by Friday, May 13th. Although you may have sent a photo to other sources, you must send a picture to <news@estilltribune.com> to ensure that your photo will be in The Tribune.

## GOVERNMENT FORECLOSURE SALE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2016 2:00 P.M.  
AT 493 WALL ST., IRVINE, KY 40336  
OF HOUSE AND LOT  
493 WALL ST., IRVINE, KY 40336



This is a nice three bedroom home on city water and city sewer. It is well located in a quiet neighborhood. It consists of a living room, kitchen, three bedrooms, and one bath. This property is considered suitable for the Rural Development Housing Program. This would be an excellent buy for an investor interested in rental property or for resale after minor repairs.

An open house will be held on June 08, 2016 from 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm.

The minimum acceptable bid for this property is \$30,150.00.

Payments of the current year's property taxes are the responsibility of the purchaser.

Clear title to this property is not warranted. The U.S. Marshal's Deed is not a general warranty deed. Buyers are advised to have the property's title examined. Written notification regarding encumbrances on the property must be made to the Nicholasville Rural Development Office within 30 days.

## LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on June 08, 2016, at 2:00 PM, at 493 Wall St., Irvine, Kentucky, in order to raise the principal sum of \$39,928.06, with accrued interest of \$2,209.23 through May 21, 2013, with total subsidy granted of \$46,948.88, with fees assessed of \$919.37, for a total unpaid balance due of \$90,005.54. Interest is accruing on the unpaid principal balance at the rate of \$8.1039 per day after May 21, 2013, until the date of entry of the Judgment, plus interest on the Judgement amount, (principal plus interest to the date of Judgment plus the interest credit subsidy granted) at the rate of 0.10%, computed daily and compounded annually, until paid in full and for the costs of this action, pursuant to Judgment and Order of Sale, being Civil Action No. 5:13-cv-00417-JMH on the Lexington Division of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky, entered on May 07, 2014, in the case of United States of America vs. ADAM HARRISON, et al. following described property will be sold to the highest and best bidder:

A certain tract or parcel of land lying and being in Estill County, Kentucky, on the south side of Wall Street, more particularly described as follows: Beginning at an iron pin set on the south side of Wall Street and located 15 feet south of the centerline of Wall Street, said iron pin south 74-42-50 west, 677.60 feet from the northeast corner of the James B. Harrison property (a set stone, found); thence dividing the property of James B. Harrison three (3) calls in all: south 6-45-19 west, 22.50 feet to an iron pin (set), south 87-49-46 west, 200.00 feet to an iron pin (set), north 4-42-01 east, 220.65 feet to an iron pin set on the south side of Wall Street, 15 feet south of the centerline of same; thence with the south line of Wall Street 15 feet from the centerline of the same, two (2) calls in all: south 86-54-21 east, 120.47 feet to an iron pin (set), north 80-12-47 east, 88.95 feet to the beginning containing 1.00 acres, more or less, by survey of Michael Oliver; Registered Land Surveyor #2505, Astec Engineering, Inc., dated May 19, 1993. Being the same property conveyed to Adam Harrison and Alicia Harrison, husband and wife, from James B. Harrison and Linda Harrison, husband and wife, by deed dated May 29, 1993, and recorded in Deed Book 203, Page 312, Estill County Court Clerk's Office, Irvine, Kentucky.

TERMS OF SALE: Ten percent (10%) of the bid price (in the form of a Cashier's Check made payable to the U.S. Marshal) on the day of the sale with good and sufficient bond for the balance, bearing interest at the rate of 0.10% per annum until paid, due and payable in 60 days and said bond having the effect of a Judgment. Upon a default by the Purchaser, the deposit shall be forfeited and retained by the U.S. Marshal as a part of the Proceeds of the sale, and the property shall again be offered for sale subject to confirmation by the Court.

This sale shall be in bar and foreclosure of all right, title, interest, estate claim, demand or equity of redemption of the defendant(s) and of all persons claiming by, through, under or against them, provided the purchase price is equal to two-thirds of the appraised value. If the purchase price is not equal to two-thirds of the appraised value, the Deed shall contain in a lien in favor of the defendant (s) reflecting the right of the defendant(s) to redeem during the period provided by law (KRS 426.530). Under law, the purchaser is deemed to be on notice of all matters affecting the property of record in the local County Clerk's Office.

Inquiries should be directed to:  
John Johnson,  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT AREA OFFICE  
Shelbyville, Kentucky  
Telephone: 859-881-4469 Ext. 4