

Draft produces three more lotter picks for Calipari



by Larry Vaught

This year's NBA draft produced three more lottery picks for Kentucky and coach John Calipari. In eight years at UK, he's had three No. 1 overall picks, 24 first-round picks and 31 players drafted overall. No other school can match those numbers in the same time period.

So who deserves the credit for that? Is it Calipari for what he does for the players once he gets them to Kentucky? Is it parents, high school coaches, AAU coaches or trainers who spent years helping those players hone their skills and lay the foundation for the draft success? Is it both?

I reached out to various media friends — some local, some national — for their thoughts.

"All coaches get too much credit regarding the notion of 'producing or developing' pros. They recruit them. Calipari is a great coach, one of the best ever. But, Cal nor Coach K (Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski) nor (former UCLA coach John) Wooden produced pros," said ESPN analyst Jay Bilas.

"Wooden did not produce Kareem (Abdul-Jabbar), Krzyzewski did not produce Kyrie (Irving) and Cal did not produce KAT (Karl-Anthony Towns). They recruited them. Did they assist? Did they help them? Yes, of course. But, they were all top picks no matter where they attended school, or if they attended school."

Bilas says think about

which NBA, NFL or Major League Baseball coach "develops" the most all-stars.

"Sounds a bit silly, doesn't it?" Bilas said noting that professional all-star players already had talent.

WKYT-TV senior marketing consultant Dave Baker, who is on both on the UK and SEC TV Networks, credits Calipari for the draft success.

"Can you name for me one player who's played for Cal at Kentucky that was not better when he left here than he was when he got her? I'd say no," Baker said. "He knows the players want to go to the NBA. He knows what the NBA guys want and he embraces the process. In the end that means more of his guys succeed at the infamous 'next level' and that's not because he's just a great recruiter."

Sporting News basketball columnist Mike DeCourcy, like Bilas, knows most of college basketball's top coaches and players. He sees teams from coast to coast play every year.

"I don't think there is any question that the choice of school for a basketball prospect -- and how that player is handled while in the program he chooses -- plays an enormous part in his development," DeCourcy said. "No coach is going to connect with every prospect he signs. And so much of the player's development comes down to his desire to become special."

"But to suggest that the choice of college and coach plays little or no part in the process is disingenuous. There are coaches who are great at their jobs, and there are coaches who are bad at their jobs. Just like everything else."

Tom Leach of the UK Radio Network believes every Calipari draft pick has improved while at UK. He also says playing at Kentucky gives players another unique advantage.

"Factor in the way Kentucky plays and practices, the access that NBA scouts and team officials have to those practices — plus their relationships with Cal — and the daily test those players get because of the talent Cal gathers and I would argue against the notion that the college coach — at least the one here at Kentucky — gets too much credit," Leach said.

"Karl Anthony-Towns is perhaps the best example, as he certainly was not being discussed as the number one overall pick when he arrived. Coaches these players had earlier in their career certainly deserve credit, too, and you can never underestimate the value of the guidance of parents, so it is a team effort for those draft picks. But the college coach, at least here at Kentucky, is a major player in that process."

Krysten Peek, a Rivals.com national recruiting writer, doesn't think college coaches should take credit for the success of high draft picks, especially one-and-done players.

"Markelle Fultz was going to be the number one overall pick whether he went to Washington or Kentucky. He's that good of a player," Peek said. "Same can be said for Lonzo Ball. When you get further into the draft and look at a player like Frank Mason of Kansas, I think it's fair to give credit to Bill Self for molding him into the type of player he is."

Peek believes most high draft picks would have been selected high no matter where they played.

"Fultz only won nine games at Washington, he didn't play in the post-season tournament and he played in the Pac-12 where games start late so most college basketball fans didn't get a chance to see him play often. Ben Simmons and LSU were similar (a year earlier). Ben was an elite player on a horrible team and he was still picked number one overall," Peek said.

Kentucky Sports Radio's Tyler Thompson knows elite players are likely to be drafted no matter what, but also believes a college coach plays a major impact on a player's work ethic, skills and character.

"Calipari's high success rate of getting five-star recruits to the NBA is due not only to the tremendous talent of those players, but also his knack for getting those players to forgo individual success (playing time/ego) for the betterment of the team,"



Louis King could soon have a UK scholarship offer after his play with Team USA. (USA Basketball Photo)



Autumn Tipton catches a pig at the Estill County Fair

Quotes of the Week

Quote of the Week: "I don't say much during a game unless we are on the field communicating about what is going on. Coming off the field, I don't talk. I like playing. Trash talking gets me off my game," linebacker Jordan Jones, UK's top tackler last year, on trash talking.

Quote of the Week 2: "He can be a great player for our offense. He is really fast, he has a great ability to break tackles, too," UK sophomore running back Benny Snell on redshirt freshman running back A.J. Rose.

Quote of the Week 3: "He's really special. He can play five positions. He went from a 6-3 freshman to having a four-inch growth spurt, so suddenly he could play every position. He's special," veteran sportswriter Dick "Hoops" Weiss on UK recruiting target Cam Reddish.

ESTILL LIBRARY BOOKMOBILE SCHEDULE

246 Main Street Irvine, KY – Call 723-3030

JULY 17 - JULY 21, 2017

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Richmond Rd. Northwood Crestview Ct. Wall Street	Race Track Rd. Harris Ferry Cressy Stacy Lane	Wisemantown Station Camp Red Lick Crooked Creek	Old Landing Doe Creek Barnes Mtn. South Irvine	Mt. Crest End of Summer Reading Party!

"Mommie & Me" and Storytime Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. & Fridays, 10:30 a.m.

UK COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

University of Kentucky – College of Agriculture



Estill County
4-H Youth Development
Isaac L. Hollon
Estill County Extension Office

by Mary Plowman – Estill 4-H Intern

Estill County 4-H members attended camp June 1st-4th at J.M. Feltner 4-H Camp in London, Kentucky. Estill 4-H took a total of 86 people to camp including 69 campers, 5 teens, and 12 adult leaders. Campers spent their mornings at camp attending four classes that they were able to choose. Each of the morning classes consisted of youth from each of the three counties at camp: Estill, Wolfe, and Laurel. The classes ranged from anything from archery and canoeing to cooking and swimming. Campers spent the week participating in events with either their cabin or

2017 Estill County 4-H Camp

their "team," which consisted of their cabin and one other cabin from another county.

A big part of camp is giving the campers the opportunity to meet and make friends with campers from the other counties at camp. While the teams and classes already consist of youth from each county, the campers are encouraged daily to reach out and make friends with those that they did not know before the start of camp. Campers are also required to make their beds and clean their cabins every morning before meeting at the flag pole to start their day. This gives the campers something to be accountable for, and ultimately rewarded for as the cleanest cabins would receive 4-H tokens to be used for things at camp. Camp activities teach the youth valuable skills like being a good teammate, making friends, and being responsible. However, while camp is certainly a valuable learning experience, our ultimate goal is that every camper has fun and is excited for next year's camp when they leave!

Estill County 4-H would like to send a huge thank you to

all of the sponsors who made the 2017 camping experience possible: Fauste Oil Services, Hardy Gas Company, Station Camp Christian Church, UAE Investco 2 (Lee) LLC, Estill County Homemakers, Carhartt of Irvine, Turf Professionals Training, New Beginning Fellowship Church, Joyce Marcum Realty, Animal Clinic of Estill County, Estill County Conservation District, Barnes Sanitation, Operation Round-Up, Davis Law, Becky Werner, Keith and Wanda Hollon, Irvine First Christian Church, Callie Rogers, and Kiwanis of Irvine-Ravenna.

Note: a photo of all Estill County 4-H members who attended camp is featured on Page 15.

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability.