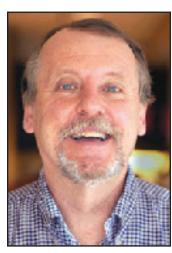
Wandale Robinson's Speed Leads To Alabama Scholarship Offer



by Larry Vaught

It's not a trip for everyone, but for Western Hills standout Wandale Robinson it was a long trip that was worth every mile he spent on the road.

official visit to Ohio State to visit with the coaches. He then headed to Florida State for another unofficial visit and worked out there. He came back home to Frankfort through Alabama and made a stop there to see coach Nick Saban and his staff. His performance there was impressive enough to get him a scholarship offer from Alabama.

Robinson now has 19 major scholarship offers, including Ohio State and Kentucky. But the one from Alabama is a head-turner for a lot of reasons and shows what running the 40-yard dash in 4.22 seconds as Robinson did at a combine in February can do.

"That offer is really a huge thing for any player," Western Hills coach Don Miller said. "Alabama is the top program across the United States when it comes to college football. It was just another really special offer for him to put with to adidas and a chance to get coach said. "Physically, he'll the other offers he has."

Justin Rowland, publisher of CatsIllustrated.com for Rivals, admits he didn't think a five-star player and knows a to 6-foot-9 shooters, [being] Robinson would end up with such lofty offers when his recruitment started. But few did since he was not even the top-rated recruit in Ken-

guys who people have known 85 touchdowns. about for years," Rowland said. "Robinson's offers from comes to making things happen with the ball, size aside, and that counts for a lot these next. days."

Robinson originally choice before his senior season started. That's probably going to change now since both Alabama and Ohio State want him to make an official He recently made an un-visit during the season. Prewould make official visits to Kentucky and Duke, his top two schools before the Ohio State and Alabama offers came, along with Purdue and ning back Damien Harris and Virginia.

"He's going to have a tough decision and with the Alabama and Ohio State offers, it's going to push back the decision date," the Western Hills five recruit in Kentucky, this coach said.

Robinson made an official visit to Michigan (which has a verbal commitment from Trinity defensive end Stephen Herron, the state's topranked player) last weekend and this week had a three-day Rivals 100 Five-Star Challenge in Atlanta where the nation's top 200 players get a chance to play at Mercedes-Benz Stadium, the home of the Atlanta Falcons, and run drills conducted by former NFL players and coaches. It's an all-expense paid trip thanks college coaches.

could do that for him," Miller tions, and he can do that."

The 5-9, 175-pound Robinson rushed for 2,330 yards Tatum, a former Duke star. and 33 touchdowns last

You just figure Alabama passes for 314 yards and six and Ohio State are going to touchdowns. In his threemostly focus on national year career, he has amassed

Robinson will get a twoweek break when Western those schools are a sign that Hills begins the KHSAA-manthe sport is about speed dated two-week dead period more than ever. He's in the Friday. After that, Miller said most elite company when it Robinson will have to talk with those closest to him about what he wants to do

"He has to see what is the best fit for him. I've told him planned to make his college it's important to have a good relationship not only with the head coach, but also with his position coach," Miller said. "Then he has to figure out the philosophy of what each team wants to do offensively viously he had indicated he and see what is the best fit for

Alabama has come into Kentucky in recent years to sign Madison Southern run-Lafavette offensive lineman Jedrick Wills. The Crimson Tide has a verbal commitment from Glasgow offensive lineman Tanner Bowles, a top year.

Knox in the Big Apple

While some may wonder why the New York Knicks took Kentucky freshman Kevin Knox with the ninth pick in the NBA draft, John Calipari thinks the Knicks got a steal.

"It's a futures league. He's 18 years old. You're trying to project who of these guys can be special, and when you look at what they were having at that pick, if that kid is a year or three pick," the Kentucky the attention of even more come into his own quicker than everybody thinks he "He would really like to be will, and the league is moving big performance at the camp able to play multiple posi- what they do."

Calipari compared him to Boston Celtics rookie Jayson Knox has a 7-foot wing span and could become the breakout star next season that Tatum did in Calipari's opinion.

"A big 6-foot-9 [forward] with the ability to score, block shots and do the the things that he does, there's similarities," Calipari said about Tatum and Knox.

Some players can be overwhelmed with the media and fans in New York. Calipari doesn't see that being a problem for Knox.

"He was at Kentucky," Calipari said. "Every game the anticipation is to win and so I don't think that will faze him."

Kentucky Freshmen

Kentucky freshmen Keldon Johnson, E.J. Montgomery, Immanuel Quickley, Tyler Herro and Ashton Hagans are all expected to play key roles for coach John Calipari next season and UK's four returning players know how talented they are.

"I've known some of them since AAU. I've known (Quickley), I've played with him. He's really good," Kentucky sophomore P.J. Washington said. "All the guys are really good.

"They play a lot of basketball. They get in here, they focus on their game, they work on their stuff. So, if they keep that same mentality they'll be all right this season. I feel like they've just got to be mentally



Recent scholarship offers from Ohio State and Alabama have made Western Hills' star Wandale Robinson push back a decision date about his college **choice.** (Twitter Photo)

tough."

Green likes that all the newcomers are shooters and have a fearless attitude.

"They're not scared of or two older, he's the one, two nothing. When we play fiveon-five they go against us. They don't act like they're tucky yet. However, Rivals. recruit them. Nobody is makscared of nothing, so that's what I like about them,"

> Jemarl Baker redshirted last season so this year will be his first time to get on the court as well.

> "All of them can play whether it's Keldon getting to the rim and finishing, Tyler scoring, Quick scoring, EJ just playing basketball – he's a really good player. Everybody just is doing really well," Baker said.

> Richards says they all have "little different traits" that he likes and all are "pretty competitive dudes" daily.

"We got at each other every day in pickup. That's the trait that all of them have and that's going to make us better," Richards said.

ularly enamored with what reason was the NBA was tired Montgomery, a 6-9 interior of having high school players player, can add to the team

this season. can do a lot of things on the court. He can dribble, he can shoot, he can pass. Just having that with a big guy down there really helps us. He can off a screen and he picks-andpops and shoots a 3, I feel like a lot," Washington said. "A lot guys in a belt-and-suspendof guys can't really do that in this conference, so just having a guy like that is really going to be helpful."

One Name to Remember

for future Kentucky basket- and raise their recruiting Brakefield of Huntington their program.

(W.Va.) Prep. He has 15 schol-Sophomore guard Quade arship offers, including Alabama, Kansas, South Carolina that says there are messy and Mississippi.

> He's a consensus top 20 player in the 2020 recruiting class, but does not have a scholarship offer from Kencom recruiting writer Dan McDonald reported that Ken-Atlanta this spring. The fivestar forward has also been at UK several times for unofficial visits.

> Brakefield told McDonald that Kentucky tells him to "keep working and keep getting better." He also told McDonald that it was "pretty nice" at UK.

High School Players

ESPN college basketball Sophomore center Nick analyst Jay Bilas expects high school players to be able to go directly to the NBA if they are good enough sometime in the next few years.

> Bilas just hopes everyone remembers why the oneand-done rule came into existence.

"The one-and-done rule Washington seems partic- came in for a reason, and the their scouts and NBA pergyms. And college coaches were thrilled with the onehaving to recruit players that out of high school," Bilas said. ers approach.

were recruiting guys they knew were going to go pro just so they could have them in their recruiting class and One name to remember raise their recruiting profile

"So it was a mess. And I wouldn't argue with anybody parts to it now. But my stance has always been for any college team, if you don't want a one-and-done player, it's pretty easy; you don't have to ing you do it."

Bilas said doing away with Green said. "All of them stand tucky had an assistant coach the one-and-done won't fix out, all of them are good at watch him during an event in problems that college basketball might have.

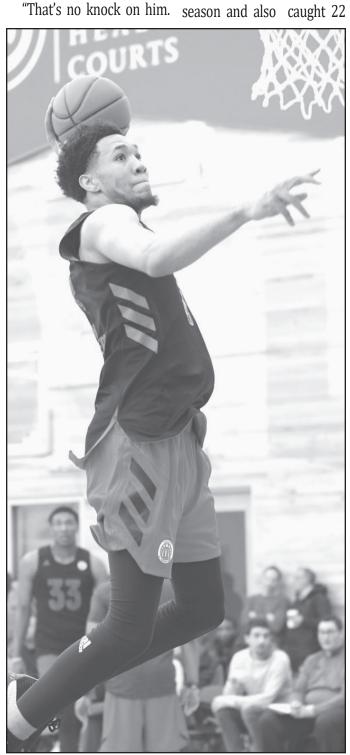
"We blamed all our problems in college basketball on the one-and-done rule, and the one-and-done rule is not responsible for all our problems," Bilas said. "We had those problems before oneand-done, and we're going to have them after, and we'll conveniently blame something else when we have the same problems after the oneand-done rule is gone."

Quotes of the Week

Quote of the Week: "He's going to bring a lot of energy. I'm excited to play with him. He's just bring that energy, he's a dog. He's hyped, he's aggressive. That's what we need," sophomore UK guard Quade Green on freshman guard Keldon Johnson.

Quote of the Week 2: "I and they were tired of having still don't think you can make a bad shooter into a great "He is very versatile. He sonnel sitting in high school shooter, but you can make an average shooter into a good one, just with the amount of and-done rule when it first time they put into it, the reps, came in because they were change in mechanics. The NBA has proven they can do pick-and-pop. If Quade comes ultimately, whether they pro- that over the years with guys jected them or not, went pro that are willing workers," ESPN college basketball anathat's going to be helping us "So they still had to recruit lyst Jay Bilas on developing shooters in the NBA.

Quote of the Week 3: "Then you had coaches that "He loves golf probably more than anybody I know and if you follow him on Twitter, you can tell he shoots (high) scores but still always wins money every time," Web.com Tour player Josh Teater of ball recruiting is 6-8 Jaemyn rankings so as to help sell Lexington on former UK football coach Rich Brooks.



P.J. Washington thinks E.J. Montgomery's versatility will add a lot for Kentucky.

(McDonald's All-American Photo)