

Former Walk-On David Bouvier Repays Parents With Starting Role This Season



by Larry Vaught

One of the best moments of Kentucky's season will have to be when senior receiver David Bouvier caught the go-ahead touchdown pass in the opening win over Central Michigan. Or maybe it will be his touchdown catch against Florida last week when the Wildcats ended that 31-year losing streak to the Gators.

He came to UK as a walk-on from Lexington Catholic where he led the team in career receptions (215) and career yards (3,156). Before this season, he had played in just six games with one catch.

However, he started at both receiver and punt returner in game one and did so again against Florida.

Bouvier said he was happy for his parents when he became a starter this year.

"I was a walk-on. They made sacrifices for me. It's a good deal to repay that with a scholarship and bring them joy on Saturdays," he said.

He admitted there was a little bit of "disbelief" when he saw his family after the first game.

"I think we were all still kind of shocked that I started and then also had a touch-

down catch," Bouvier said. "We knew we had come a long way. It was really cool and a special moment with all of them after the game."

"I have got such a great group of people that support me and being from Lexington, I already knew a lot of people here. I want to play the best for my family and friends."

His mother, Jeanne, admits as time went on, she wondered if he would get to play regularly at UK. Now he's caught a touchdown pass in two straight games and been part of ending the streak against Florida.

"I had seen him play and knew what he could do but I know the coaches know more than I do. I know who the other players are and wonder when my son can be the best of that category he's in," she said. "You have to trust the coaches. He did. But I won't lie. We are delighted to see him playing. It was a dramatic change from not playing much except in the spring games. Then to be starting at two positions was a little surreal."

His mom, a semi-retired nurse at UK, knows returning punts is not an easy task and can result in the returner taking big hits from tacklers. She says she watches and believes he can survive whatever is thrown at him.

"I have seen him do it in high school. Pound for pound he is kind of a rock. He just has a way of taking a hit," she said. "He says it does not really hurt that much. I do not know if he is just saying that so I do not worry or not. He would take a hit in high school and pop right

up. I don't know if he was doing that for me or not but I appreciate it. I do realize in high school he was not playing against SEC athletes. This is a little different. I watch, but I try not to think about what could happen to him."

Bouvier doesn't want his mother to worry, especially when he's returning punts. However, he did lie to her about the hits he sometimes takes.

"It is kind of a mental thing to get back up quick and not let those guy think they can hurt you. I can't lie. I have had hits that hurt in previous years but as long as I get back up I feel fine and the adrenaline gets going again," he said.

Does his mom know that? "Don't tell her because I'm not. If she knew it hurt, she would worry," he said.

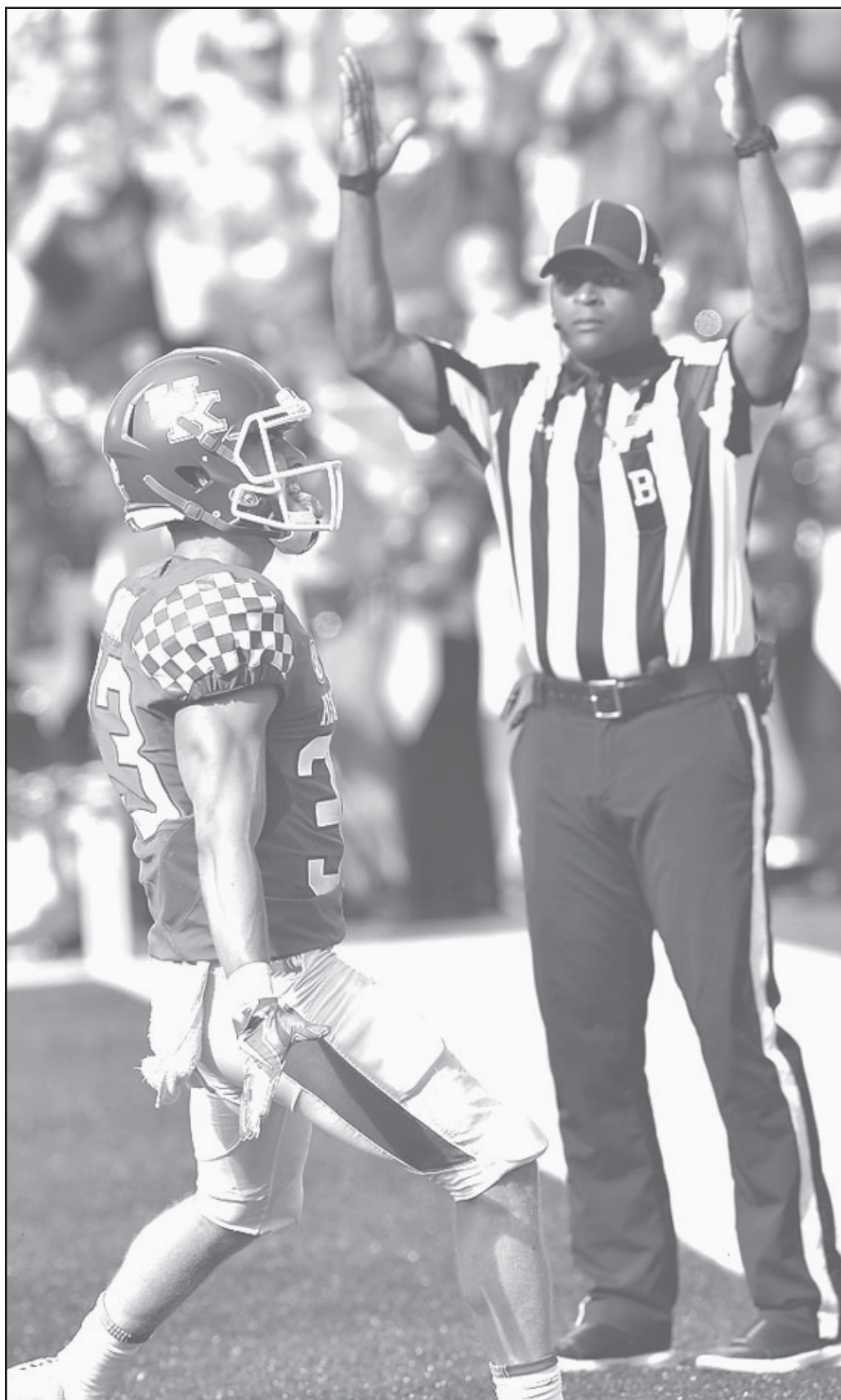
SEC Announcer

Spending a week in the Bahamas with coach John Calipari and his Kentucky players was an enjoyable experience for SEC Network play-by-play announcer Tom Hart. But spending time with Kentucky fans was even more fun for him.

"I ran into all kinds of UK fans from the CEO of a million dollar business to a Kentucky fan who had Super Bowl rings to just the average run of the mill fans, and I really appreciate those fans," Hart said.

He grew up a Missouri fan and still remembers his father taking him and his brother to a NCAA Tournament to watch Missouri play.

"We didn't have the money for anything extravagant, but I thought it was one of



Former Lexington Catholic standout David Bouvier not only is on scholarship now, but he's starting for UK and has scored a touchdown in both UK wins this season. (Wade Upchurch Photo)

the coolest things ever to see my team play an away game, especially in the NCAA Tournament," Hart said. "Maybe that's why I enjoyed being around the Kentucky fans, and there were so many of them there. I got to meet them, take pictures with them. It was really a fun trip."

"I think all of the Kentucky fans are going to have a team they are really going to be proud of this hoops season. Those guys have a chance to be phenomenal and that made being in the Bahamas with them and the fans even more fun."

Alan Cutler

WLEX-TV news anchor Nancy Cox still remembers the time former LEX18 sports anchor Alan Cutler literally ran down the hallway in Memorial Coliseum trying to get a comment from Billy Gillispie after he was fired as Kentucky's coach.

"Billy, you are not really going to run away from me are you," Cutler asked the coach after he had been fired as the two jogged down the hallway.

Gillispie was pretending to be talking on his cell phone to avoid Cutler and WHAS-TV reporter Mark Herbert. Cutler was having none of it.

"I can run all day with you. Your reaction Billy (to the firing)? Cutler said to the coach.

They finally got to Gillispie's office where the former UK coach told an office worker, "Get him out," referring to Cutler.

Cutler says that story will be part of his upcoming box.

"I can't wait to read it. I just wonder what all will be in there," Cox said. "When he gets on a tear, he can be fascinating like that day with Gillispie.

"I never expected all the negative blowback, or even the amount of positive reaction, from that. I knew it was great video and we showed it on the news, not the sports. Cutler was panting and trying to avoid a heart attack from running."

Cox noted how that one story became the symbol of Cutler's career that started at WLEX in 1981 and ended with his retirement in May.

"Remember at (John) Calipari's first press conference when he asked Alan, 'Are you going to chase me?' Then Cal gave him a pair of tennis shoes for his retirement," Cox said. "But Alan was always willing to go the extra mile to get a story for our viewers. He went after it and got a story and had his own unique style of doing that."

Chasing Collins' Record

Benny Snell will be chasing Sonny Collins' rushing record at Kentucky all season. Collins rushed for 3,835 yards and 26 touchdowns before becoming a second-round draft pick of the Atlanta Falcons in the 1976 draft. He was a three-time all-SEC pick and SEC Player of the Year in 1973.

He now lives in Georgia and is retired from Delta Airlines.

However, what he's not doing now is tracking how Snell is doing in pursuit of becoming UK's all-time leading rusher. After Saturday night's game at Florida when he ran for 175 yards, Snell has 2,724 yards with 10 more regular season games this year and hopefully a bowl game. He needs 1,112 yards — or 111 per game in the regular season — to break the record. He's averaging 150 yards per game going into Saturday's game

against Murray.

"I personally do not keep up with the UK football program," Collins said. "UK basketball, I do keep up. I know that's very strange but I enjoy basketball and I always have."

"Once I retired from football, I did so mentally as well. I ride motorcycles. I don't even tell my grandkids that I played football. I was just done when I finished playing football, so I just don't keep up with UK football or any football that much."

Third World Shock

Kentucky softball catcher Jenny Schaper knew little about Ethiopia other than what she had seen on TV. She had no real expectations for what it might be like when she went on a mission trip with seven other UK female athletes, including teammate Katie Reed, this summer.

"It was even more shocking than anything I could have imagined," Schaper said. "The kind of poverty some of them lived in was unreal. They took us to the poorest people and to see how they lived compared to how we did was eye-opening."

"The children from the second we showed up they ran up to the van to see us. They just wanted to touch us, play with us. Most could not speak English. There was really no communication other than hugging and playing games. But they made us feel very welcome."

The UK athletes stayed in a guest house for Ordinary Hero — a charity that partners with ministries in impoverished communities to change the lives of children in need. Ordinary Hero was the group's tour guide that took them to orphanages and different communities.

Proper Ginseng Hunting Techniques



Kentucky Ginseng Program
 Harvest Date Start September 1
 Can sell green ginseng . September 1
 Can sell dry ginseng . . September 15

Ginseng Program Summary

- ⇒ Ginseng harvest season is from September 1 - December 1, each calendar year
- ⇒ Buying season for green ginseng starts September 1 each calendar year
- ⇒ Buying season for dry ginseng is from September 15 - March 31 each calendar year
- ⇒ Dealer licenses are valid annually from September 1 - August 31 and cost \$75.00 for Kentucky residents and \$150.00 for non-residents.
- ⇒ Harvesters can declare their ginseng as wild, wild simulated, woodsgrown or cultivated.
- ⇒ All fees collected are deposited specifically for the ginseng program.
- ⇒ The regulation outlines violations and penalties, which is available to download at <http://www.kyagr.com/marketing/ginseng>

Ginseng Age

The minimum age of harvest by law is 5 years and 3 prongs. However, the market for ginseng prefers roots 10 years old and older.

Underage Root

Not only is underage root illegal to harvest, it's really not worth anything. In this picture are 16 young roots harvested before maturity. These 16 roots shown below weigh less than ONE whole ginseng root of marketable age. If young plants come up when digging a larger root, plant them back into the same spot and leave them for your children and grandchildren to harvest.

GOOD STEWARDSHIP CHECKLIST

When harvesting American Ginseng, make sure you follow all of these good stewardship practices.

- Get permission to harvest.
- Only harvest plants that have 3 prongs or are at least 5 years of age.
- Only dig plants with red berries
- Plant berries within fifty feet of where you dug the root with your finger in ¾ to 1 inch of soil.
- Leave some mature plants for the future.
- If young plants come up when digging a larger root, plant them back into the same spot.



Courtesy of Thackers Root Buyers
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