

1988-89 Lady Kats Basketball KENTUCKY

KENTUCKY (2-0) VS. OHIO STATE (0-1)

Tuesday, November 29, 1988
Memorial Coliseum, Lexington, Ky., 7:30 p.m.

Ohio State brings a No. 12 national ranking into tonight's clash, which is just another battle in what has the makings of a classic series. In fact, outside the powerful Southeastern Conference, the Lady Buckeyes could already be considered Kentucky's chief rival. The two squads have clashed in nine of the last 10 seasons, with the only break occurring last year.

And the "break" was undisputably in Kentucky's favor, as OSU carved out a 25-5 mark in '87-88, advanced to the second round of the NCAA tournament, and finished the season with a No. 6 national



Coach Sharon Fanning

ranking. Kentucky, meanwhile, stumbled to a 14-15 record in Coach Sharon Fanning's first year at the helm, a year that was expected to be a tough "rebuilding" campaign.

Overall, Kentucky leads the series 7-5 and has won six of the last nine. OSU won the last battle, however, dumping UK 76-71 here in the Coliseum two years ago.

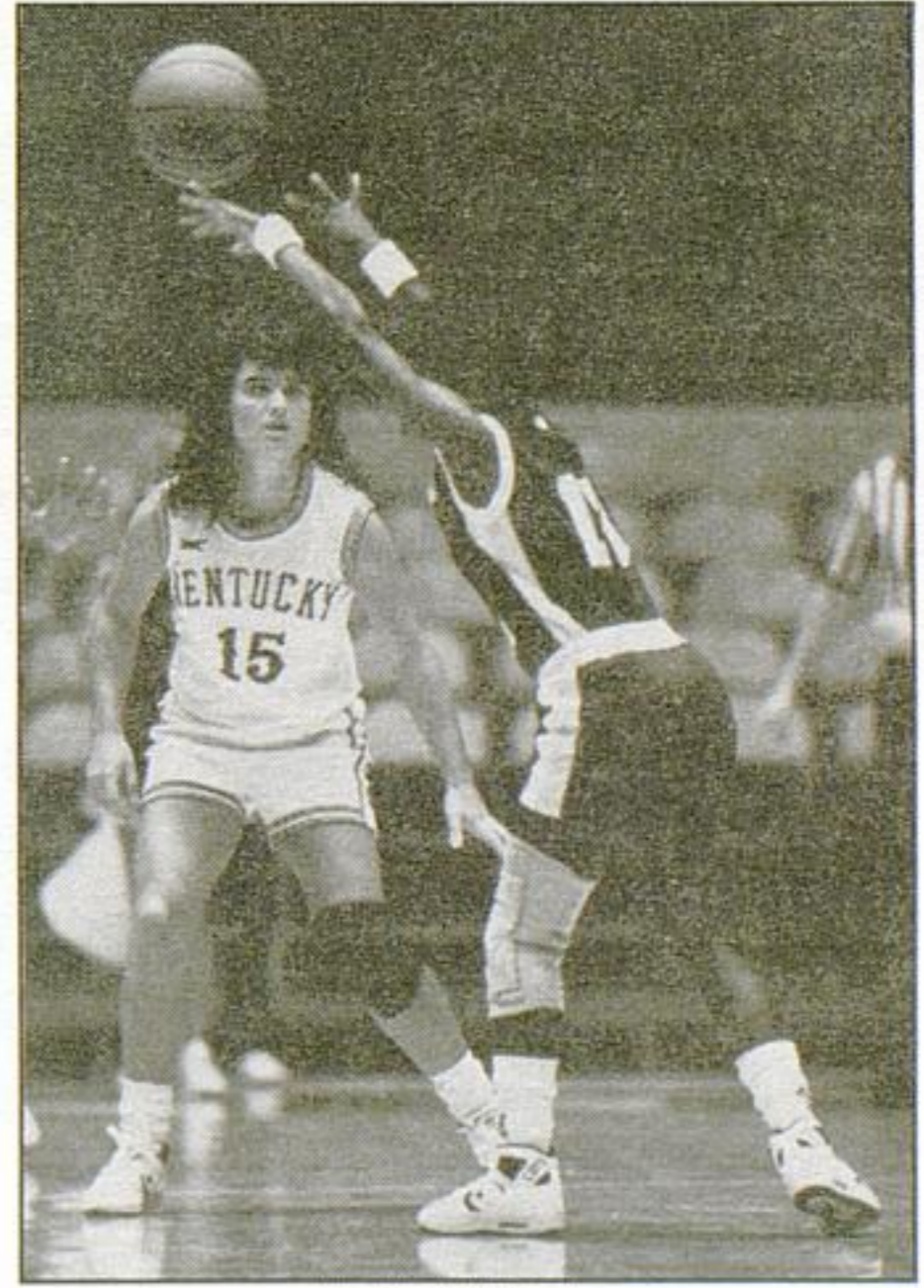
...But to the present. Ohio State was ranked as high as fourth nationally (Sports Illustrated) in preseason polls this year, but stood 12th in the AP poll going into its season opener at No. 15 Rutgers last Saturday. Rutgers extended its homecourt victory streak to 50 with an 88-68 win over OSU, but the Lady Buckeyes were playing without preseason All-American Nikita Lowry, a 6-foot senior forward who twisted a previously injured knee during a Friday workout. It is not known whether she'll see action against Kentucky.

Kentucky, meanwhile, was answering a few of Fanning's preseason questions by drilling American University 84-46 and Radford University 89-83 en route to its 10th straight Lady Kat Invitational title. Senior guard Jodie Whitaker, who had 31 points, eight rebounds and seven assists in the championship game, was named MVP. UK freshman guard Kristi Cushenberry continued to be a pleasant surprise for Fanning, adding 19 points, four rebounds, three assists and no turnovers in the title game. She joined Whitaker on the all-tournament team.

Another standout for UK was Vanessa Foster-Sutton, a junior college transfer who averaged 13.5 points and 11 rebounds in the two games.

OSU was led by 6-1 forward Nicole Sanchez, who had 18 points and eight rebounds, and by 6-0 center Vicki Pullie's career-high 18 points.

Kentucky's next game is Saturday at 3:30 at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. The Lady Kats return home Tuesday, Dec. 6, to take on the University of Dayton.



Jodie Whitaker