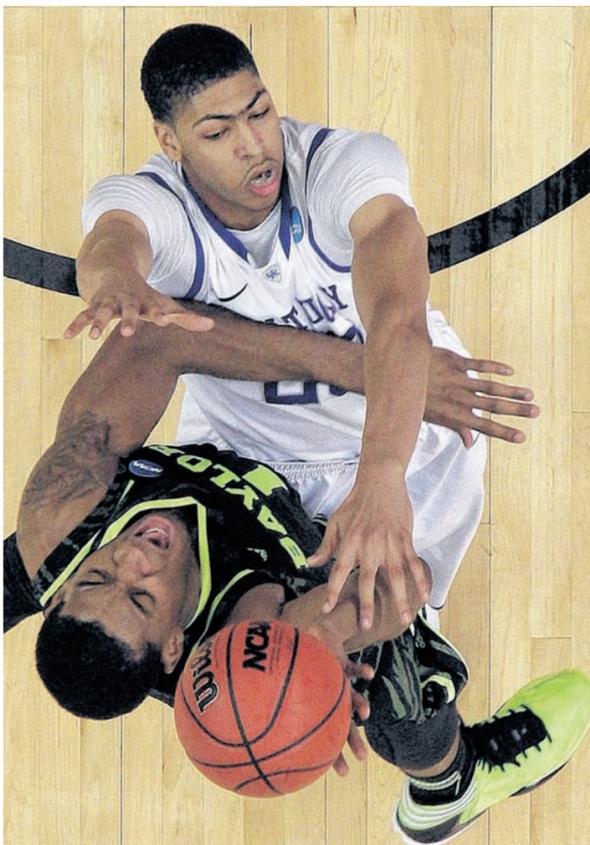




A STATE DIVIDED



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kentucky's Anthony Davis (23) and Baylor's Perry Jones III (1) work during the second half of the Wildcats' win in the South Regional finals on Sunday in Atlanta.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Dec. 31 file photo, Louisville's Russ Smith (2) shoots over Kentucky's Anthony Davis during the first half of the Wildcats' seven-point win.

STICKLEN INVITED TO TRY OUT FOR KENTUCKY-INDIANA ALL-STAR ROSTER

Bracken County senior Sara Sticklen is one of 39 statewide invitees to try out for the Kentucky girls' all-star team, the Kentucky Lions Eye Foundation announced Friday.

Sticklen is the only 10th Region invitee, but she is still undergoing therapy for the torn ACL she suffered in January and will likely be unable to participate, Lady Bears coach Patrick Kelsch and Sticklen's mother Janet each confirmed Friday.

Sticklen, an Asbury University signee, was the KABC region player of the year and coaches' first-team all-region. She scored 16.3 points per game for the 39th District champions.

Earlier this week, Mason County senior Tyler Black was invited to try out for the boys' team. Royals coach Chris O'Hearn will serve as an assistant.

The Kentucky girls' team will face the Indiana all-stars on June 8 at Freedom Hall in Louisville and June 9 at Bankers Life Fieldhouse in Indianapolis. — LI

REDS SCORE 5 IN THE 8TH TO EDGE INDIANS 6-5

GOODYEAR, Ariz. | Todd Frazier, Juan Francisco and Ryan LaMarre homered in a five-run eighth inning off reliever Dan Wheeler and the Cincinnati Reds rallied for a 6-5 win over the Cleveland Indians on Friday.

With one out, Frazier and Francisco homered. Willie Harris singled and scored on Ryan Ludwick's double. LaMarre's two-run homer capped the rally.

Carlos Santana and Asdrubal Cabrera homered off Reds opening day starter Johnny Cueto. Cueto went six innings, allowing two runs and four hits in his last start before opening day.

Jeanmar Gomez left the game with a mildly strained hip after 3 2/3 innings. — AP

FREE AGENT LB LAWSON STAYS WITH BENGALS

CINCINNATI | Linebacker Manny Lawson has decided to stay with the Cincinnati Bengals.

The unrestricted free agent agreed to a new contract Friday. Lawson started 16 games for Cincinnati last season, his first with the Bengals.

Lawson spent his first five seasons in the NFL with San Francisco, which made him a first-round pick in 2006. He has started 71 games during his career.

The agreement gives the Bengals stability at outside linebacker. Keith Rivers missed last season following surgery on his right wrist. Middle linebacker Rey Mauluga faces a possible suspension from the league following his arrest on a misdemeanor assault charge last month. A court hearing is scheduled for April 26.

Mauluga got a two-game suspension after pleading guilty to drunken driving in 2010. — AP

JOHNSON NOT LETTING LACK OF WINNING MESS WITH HEAD

MARTINSVILLE, Va. | Jimmie Johnson has gone from dominating NASCAR to watching others do it.

The winner of an unprecedented five consecutive Sprint Cup championships, the last in 2010, Johnson hasn't won in his last 11 races. He's visited Victory Lane just once in his last 39 starts.

He went winless last year at Martinsville Speedway, where came up with a plan for attacking the shortest track on the circuit in his second season and has six career victories.

Johnson says he doesn't let the dry spell get in his head. It's the ones that got away that bother him.

He says there are five or six of those, and he's made mistakes he wasn't making when he was having more success. — AP

CIVIL WAR: KENTUCKY VS. LOUISVILLE IN FINAL FOUR

NANCY ARMOUR  
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS | Kentucky coach John Calipari likes to say there are no rivalry games at this point in the season.

Try telling that to the Bluegrass State, where basketball's version of the civil war — Ken-

tucky vs. Louisville, winner plays for the NCAA title — has so divided the small state that senior citizens have actually come to fisticuffs.

"The fans take it as, whoever loses, it's their funeral, really," Louisville senior guard Chris Smith said. "It's really cut-throat, I would say."

The game Saturday is the fifth time top-seeded Kentucky (36-2) and fourth-seeded Louisville (30-9) have met in the NCAA tournament. They split the previous four meetings.

Basketball purists may argue Duke-North Carolina or Kansas-Missouri are the game's

biggest, most intense rivalries. But those are like quaint tea parties compared with the animosity between Kentucky and Louisville, which required government intervention to get them to schedule each other.

See WAR, C2

MASON COUNTY 18, BRACKEN COUNTY 7

Royals' pair of big innings leads to win

CHUCK HAMILTON  
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BROOKSVILLE | The Mason County Royals used a pair of six-run innings to out-slug Bracken County 18-7 on a windy Friday evening at the Polar Bears' ball park. Mason banged out 14 hits, including home runs from Trevor Taylor and Daulton Mason.

The Royals had their hitting shoes on right from the start, scoring six times in the first inning and after single runs in the second and third, tacked on six more in the fourth.

See ROYALS, C3



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kentucky guard Darius Miller (1) reacts with teammate Marquis Teague (25) in the second half of the Wildcats' 87-71 defeat of Iowa State in the NCAA tournament in Louisville on March 17.

Pair of tight all-star contests closes SHL basketball season

C-103 AWARDS EIGHT \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIPS

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WEST UNION, Ohio | The 2012 version of the C-103 Southern Hills League senior all-star games on Friday night at West Union featured two close games and eight SHL seniors going home with \$1,000 scholarships.

In the girls' contest, the Red team prevailed 59-53, led by 13 points from Lynchburg-Clay senior Karen Hilt and 11 apiece from the Lady Mustangs' Brooke Hertlein and North Adams' Alisan Sparks. West Union's Jaycee Cox and North Adams' Callee Downs each totaled 11 to pace the White squad.

See ALL-STAR, C4

UK's Miller one player who understands rivalry's passion

'NOTHING THAT YOU COULD SAY THAT WOULD REALLY SURPRISE ME'

JENNIFER SMITH  
Herald-Leader

NEW ORLEANS | Darius Miller flashes a knowing smile.

He bobs his head up and down and smiles again as a national reporter relays the well-worn story of the Louisville and Kentucky fans/patients slugging it out at a dialysis center.

As the reporter finishes the story,

Miller smiles and shakes his head again.

"That is pretty crazy," he says on Thursday before Kentucky gets set to take on Louisville in the Final Four.

But Miller knows the types.

He's been around them his entire life. He's grown up watching the Kentucky-Louisville rivalry firsthand, feeling its heat, its passion, its intensity.

"There's nothing that you could say that would really surprise me as far as Kentucky and Louisville fans," said Miller, a Kentucky Mr. Basketball from Mason County.

Darius Miller is in the unique position of being the only Kentucky native among either teams' top players.

See MILLER, C2