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WILDCATS

Rupp's Voice Alone Chills The Crowd

The greatest Kentuckian of all was buried Tuesday afternoon at the Lexington Cemetery. It is unimportant that Adolph F. Rupp was an adopted son rather than a native son. Only in this situation, the son picked his parents and not vice versa.

Tributes continue to pour in to Coach Rupp's family. Friends, associates, and fans paying their last respects to the winningest collegiate coach of all time looked like a line of Who's Who Monday evening at a local funeral home.

They came from near and far. His long-time close friends Dr. V.A. Jackson and Steve Rardin, who made so many road basketball trips with the Wildcats over the year, were there.

There were the great players, Frank Ramsey, Ralph Beard, Cotton Nash, Terry Mobley, Mike Casey, Jerry Calvert, John Crigler and so many others. There was former Governor and close friend Happy Chandler, U.S. Senator Dee Huddleston, UK president Dr. Otis Singletary, South Carolina coach Frank McGuire. And then there were people like "Tombstone" Johnny Owens, a devoted Kentucky fan who lives almost 1,000 miles from Kentucky.

Johnny has followed Kentucky basketball for decades, never misses a game when its within 500 miles and usually finds his way to Lexington for four or five contests a year.

Saturday night, he was in Lawrence, Kansas, after a long drive. Two days later, even at his age and distance from Lexington, he was sitting in the heart of Der Baron Country to pay his last respects to a great coach.

The chilling effect of Coach Rupp's mighty voice during the brief tribute to him at Rupp Arena Monday night is a memory which will last in the hearts of all 23,472 forever, and it should.

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In addition to the special coverage today of Coach Rupp's passing, The Cats' Pause will publish a special tribute to the former great coach in next week's edition. There will be stories and photos highlighting his career and a special art feature by nationally known sports artist Ted Watts.

Several special media tributes have been published and are in the offing around Kentucky. The Lexington Herald-Leader's coverage of the Rupp Legend has been super, second to none. Highlighting the Herald-Leader's coverage was a special 12-page tribute on Tuesday.

The Louisville Courier-Journal has

published numerous stories and a fine 8-page special Monday. All three Lexington television stations have carried special programs and WKYT-TV, Channel 27, has a one-hour special on Coach Rupp scheduled for 8 p.m. Friday night just before the live television coverage of the UKIT.

Sports director Denny Trease says the one-hour program will be televised a second time later this month to allow those at the game the opportunity to see the film.

Two national networks have picked up Rupp stories from the Lexington affiliates during the past week. ABC-TV used the story compiled by WTVQ-TV's sports department of Mike McNamara and John Henderson and CBS-TV picked up Denny Trease's report on its Sunday evening news.

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Kentucky signed some 12 high school football stars on the first day of the SEC letter of intent last Saturday but head coach Fran Curci only revealed his Kentucky signees.

They are:

†Billy Prewitt, a six-foot, 170-pound All-State wide receiver from Lexington Lafayette.

†Chris Jones, a 6-3, 190-pound running back who was All-State as a defensive end at Danville.

†Kevin Kearns, a 6-3, 235-pound second team All-State defensive end from Lexington Bates Creek.

†Frank McDaniels, a 6-3, 230-pound

second team All-State end from Cawood High in Harlan.

†Avid Lyons, a 6-3, 215-pound linebacker from Johns Creek High.

†Mickey Cochran, a 6-4, 250-pound interior lineman from Owen County.

Todd Shadowen, a 6-4, 220-pound defensive end from North Hopkins High.

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Due to the special coverage of Coach Rupp's passing, our usual coverage of the football signees and a special feature on the UK football awards banquet will be published next week.

Reports from the football office are that Curci and his staff were quite satisfied with their first day signings, but many of the big battles are just beginning.

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Courier-Journal staff photographer Bill Luster made an interesting comment Monday after the coincidence of Coach Rupp's passing and the last three NCAA national championships.

"You know, two of the last three NCAA championships have come on a very emotional note," said Luster. "Think about it, there was UCLA with Wooden retiring and Marquette with McGuire retiring." And, in between, was Bobby Knight's unbeaten Hoosiers.

It would be only fitting for this

Kentucky squad to win it all as a special tribute from the people Rupp loved most, his beloved Wildcats.

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Jack Perry, UK's assistant information director, had his own special little way of paying tribute to Adolph Rupp Monday. He was dressed in brown, Rupp's famous favorite color.

Was it by accident or design, the wearing of brown when Perry usually wears blue to all Kentucky basketball games?

"It was just something I wanted to do," admitted Perry, after being prodded for an answer. Rupp would probably have said, "That was very nice of him."

Coach Rupp was buried, yes, in his famous brown suit.

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SOME COMMENTS BY OTHERS .

... SEC Commissioner H. Boyd McWhorter said from his office in Birmingham, "the game of basketball has lost one of its pioneers and one of its greatest coaches." Alabama football coach and former UK coach Paul "Bear" Bryant reacted, "It's a deep and personal loss to me and sports has lost one of its most inspired and inspiring men. I'm awfully sad to hear that. The word legend is sometimes thrown around too loosely, but he is truly a legend." His successor, Joe B. Hall: "I was afraid of him as a player. You were constantly aware of the pressure to win. You felt the pressure to do everything right. You were afraid to fail him. I remember him as a man having great compassion. We'll all miss him. He and I had a very close relationship. I knew a Coach Rupp that most people never saw. I knew of his tenderness and thoughtfulness." Former Governor A.B. Chandler: "He had a rugged character. Whatever he undertook, he wanted desperately to succeed and he usually did. I think he would have been a success at anything he'd undertaken." UK president Dr. Otis Singletary: "Adolph Rupp was one of the most important figures in the history of the University of Kentucky and his fortunes and those of the university were inextricably interwoven." And the Rev. M. Glynn Burke, who officiated at Coach Rupp's funeral: "Our high school coach always would tell us to follow Coach Rupp's rules and victory would surely come."

To all of which, Coach Rupp probably would have answered, "That was very nice of them to say that."

SEASON RECORD — 1971-72

ALL GAMES: WON 21, LOST 7 — SEC ONLY: WON 14, LOST 4

Date	Opponent	Site	UK	Opp.	Crowd
Dec. 1	Northwestern	(H)	94	85	12,336
Dec. 4	Kansas	(A)	79	69	16,700
Dec. 6	Kansas State	(A)	71	64	11,250
Dec. 11	Indiana	(N)	89	90**	17,269
Dec. 13	Michigan State	(H)	85	91	10,459
Dec. 17	Missouri	(UKIT)	83	79	11,132
Dec. 18	Princeton	(UKIT)	96	82	11,205
Dec. 28	Notre Dame	(N)	83	67	17,269
Jan. 8	Mississippi	(H)	93	82	11,534
Jan. 10	Mississippi State	(H)	104	76	11,632
Jan. 15	Florida	(A)	70	72	7,020
Jan. 17	Georgia	(A)	73	85	8,345
Jan. 22	Tennessee	(H)	72	70	10,028
Jan. 24	Vanderbilt	(H)	106	80	12,632
Jan. 29	Louisiana State	(H)	89	71	11,644
Jan. 31	Alabama	(H)	77	74	11,647
Feb. 5	Vanderbilt	(A)	85	80*	15,581
Feb. 7	Auburn	(A)	78	72	6,788
Feb. 12	Mississippi	(A)	90	82	8,200
Feb. 14	Mississippi State	(A)	63	55	5,000
Feb. 19	Florida	(H)	95	68	11,960
Feb. 21	Georgia	(H)	87	63	11,853
Feb. 26	Louisiana State	(A)	71	88	7,225
Feb. 28	Alabama	(A)	70	73	15,043
Mar. 6	Auburn	(H)	102	67	12,229
Mar. 9	Tennessee	(A)	67	66	12,700
Mar. 16	Marquette	(NCAA)	85	69	13,458
Mar. 18	Florida State	(NCAA)	54	73	13,458

Home Attendance—150,291

N—Freedom Hall, Louisville

* One Overtime

325,597

** Two Overtimes