

Back Thru The Wildcat Years

Five Years Ago

As expected the Kentucky Wildcats had little trouble with visiting Baylor, routing the winless Bears 80-46. Kentucky was in front 40-17 at the half and Joe B. Hall substituted frequently in the second stanza.

Ten Wildcats played more than 10 minutes and none more than 30.

Baylor coach Jim Haller said UK "has the makings of one of the greatest teams America has ever had." Kyle Macy led the Wildcats with 17 points while Derrick Hord added 11 and Jay Shidler 10. Seven-footer Sam Bowie grabbed 12 boards on the night.

The University of Kentucky basketball team put it all together with a record-breaking 126-81 bombing of South Carolina, the worst defeat ever handed to retiring Gamecock coach Frank McGuire.

"I'm not sure we can improve on our game," Joe Hall said afterward. The Wildcats connected on 49 of 80 attempts from the field. They owned an insurmountable 61-39 lead at the intermission break. Playmaker Kyle Macy was one of six Wildcats in double figures with 24 points. Sam Bowie scored 23, Dwight Anderson 19, Derrick Hord 18 and Jay Shidler 10. Dirk Minniefield turned on the 23,000-plus at Rupp Arena with an eight-assist performance in only 15 minutes of playing time.

Wildcat football coach Fran Curci announced the signing of seven in-state football players to a conference letter-of-intent. Curci did not announce his out-of-state signees.

The seven in-state signees were Jeff Smith (Springfield), William Burse (Hopkinsville), James Hasty (Louisville), Ron Knott (Louisville), Lawrence "Choo Choo" Lee

(Paducah), Robert Mullins (Paintsville) and Eddie Simmons (Richmond).

It's also been learned that Cameron Jacobs, brother of former Wildcat Chris Jacobs (1978, '79, '80) of Florida has signed with Curci's program. Cameron Jacobs earned Honorable Mention All-State and was the "Defensive Player of the Year" on his senior team which recorded an impressive 9-1 slate

Eight Years Ago

After leading by only three points at the half, Kentucky came out smoking in the second stanza and built a 20-point cushion in defeating visiting Kansas 87-73. In the pivotal second half, UK outrebounded the Jayhawks 24-16 after the both teams fought an even battle on the boards in the first half.

Center Sam Bowie led the 'Cats with 29 points and 16 rebounds. Bowie got 11 of his points at the foul line. Forward Fred Cowan also had an outstanding game—19 points and seven rebounds. Playmaker Dirk Minniefield scored 14 points, handed out five assists and limited Kansas All-American Darnell Valentine to five of 12 attempts from the field.

Thirteen Years Ago

Kentucky's inability to connect from the perimeter against North Carolina's zone defense enabled the Tar Heels to increase a 42-40 halftime lead to 59-50, eventually winning 90-77. The win improves Carolina's record to 4-0 while UK is 0-2 on the season.

Jack Givens led Kentucky with 24 points while Larry Johnson scored 18 and Rick Robey added 14. Mitch Kupchek and Walter Davis led North Carolina with 24 and 19 points, respectively.

Kentucky center Danny Hall, a 6-foot-11 center from Betsy Layne, will move into the Wildcat starting lineup this week against Miami (Ohio), replacing Mike Phillips. Phillips, a sophomore, has been in a slump in the 'Cats' first two games.

Sophomores Rick Robey and Jack Givens retain their starting positions at forward while Truman Claytor and Larry Johnson will continue to start in the Wildcat backcourt.

With the Goose, Jack Givens, cooking and Rick Robey rolling, UK mauled Miami (Ohio) 91-69 before a packed house at Memorial Coliseum. The win allows the Big Blue, 1-2, to snap its two-game losing string.

Givens drilled 12 of 16 attempts from the field and poured in 31 points while Robey was almost perfect in the field goal department (11 of 12). His 91.7 percent shooting from the floor broke center/forward Bob Guyette's school-record of 90.4 percent. Robey finished the night with 30 points.

Guard Truman Claytor added 12 points.

Fourteen Years Ago

Led by sensational David Thompson, North Carolina State heads the *Associated Press* basketball poll. UCLA is second and UK is ranked 15th.

Sonny Collins and Warren Bryant of the Kentucky football team both were named to the first-team All-SEC offensive squad. On the second-team offense were center Rick Nuzum and quarterback Mike Fanuzzi. Punter John Tatterson also was a second-team member.

Honorable mention went to tight ends Elmore Stephens, fullback Steve Compassi, placekicker John Pierce, defensive end Art Still, tackle Pat Donley, linebackers Tom Ranieri and Tom Ehlers and defensive back Ben Thomas.

Kentucky center Rick Nuzum was named to the *Enterprise Associations'* first-team All-American squad.

Eighteen Years Ago

Kentucky rose from fifth to third in the *Associated Press* basketball poll but fell one place to fourth in the *United Press International* Top Twenty. UCLA is No. 1 in both polls.

The Kentucky football staff announced the signing of its first gridiron recruit. Louisville DeSales tackle Dave Swift has signed with the Wildcats.

Kentucky defensive line coach Dennis Fitzgerald has resigned from his position to take a similar post at Kent State.

The UK Kittens got 23 points from forward Rick Drewitz and guard Ray Edelman to help down the Dental School 100-81. Drewitz also hauled in 16 rebounds while 5-10 Ronnie Lyons of Maysville chipped in with 22 points.

Kentucky will be the favorite in this year's University of Kentucky Invitational as unranked DePaul, Purdue and Kansas State come to Lexington. DePaul coach Ray Meyer, whose team is paced by his son, Joey, says his team will have some surprises in store for the 'Cats in their first-round matchup.

Nineteen Years Ago

It was expected to be a battle of power when Kansas visited Memorial Coliseum but the Wildcats romped 118-85 behind center Dan Issel's 29-point and 12-rebound performance.

University of Kentucky linebacker Joe Federspiel was named to the *Associated Press* All-Southeastern Sophomore team.

In its first road trip of the year, Kentucky held off a late rally by seventh-ranked North Carolina to down the Tar Heels 94-87. Before 11,000 frantic fans, the host team had sliced the Wildcats' 17-point advantage to three with two minutes left. Dan Issel scored 41 points and grabbed 15 rebounds for UK. Mike Pratt added 27 points and 16 rebounds. Charlie Scott paced North Carolina with 29 points.

Pratt and Issel are just tremendous, said Tar Heel coach Dean Smith. "This is the best defensive team I've seen at UK."

Thirty Three Years Ago

For the first time since Adolph Rupp took over the UK helm in 1930, Kentucky lost its home opener—a stunning 73-61 loss to Temple. The Owls pulled the upset, witnessed by 11,000 fans at Memorial Coliseum.

The Owls led from start to finish for their third straight win. Kentucky junior Ray Mills led the hosts with 14 points. Phil "Cookie" Grawemeyer scored 11 and sophomore Vern Hatton added 10. Rodgers was the game's leading scorer—24 points.

After UK's loss to Temple, San Francisco has the top rating all to itself. UK dropped to 12th in the *AP*, sixth in *UPI*.

Jerry Bird swept under the basket with 19 seconds left to hit a crisp shot and give UK a 71-69 win over a classy DePaul team before 11,000 fans at Memorial Coliseum. The score was tied 10 times. Bird led UK with 16 points. Bob Burrow and Gerry Calvert scored 12 and Phil Grawemeyer 11. Ron Sobieszcyk paced Ray Meyer's DePaul team with a 24-point effort.

Bob O'Brien missed a tying foul shot in the closing seconds and UK held on to down undefeated Maryland 62-61 at College Park. UK trailed 60-57 with five seconds left after leading by 12 in the first half.

Gerry Calvert led UK with 19 points, sophomore Vern Hatton scored 15, Jerry Bird 12. Bob Kessler scored 25 points for Maryland.

WILDCAT QUIZ

'88 SEC Hoop Stats

- Who led the Southeastern Conference in scoring last season?
 - Rex Chapman
 - Vernon Maxwell
 - Dyron Nix
 - Will Perdue
- Which player was the league's top rebounder?
 - Chris Morris
 - Will Perdue
 - Rob Lock
 - Dyron Nix
- True or False? The SEC did not have a team in the final eight in the '88 NCAA Tournament.
- Who was the SEC's leader in free throw percentage?
 - Alec Kessler
 - Willie Anderson
 - Ed Davender
 - Barry Goheen
- Which player led the league in assists?
 - Ronnie Montgomery
 - Ed Davender
 - Vernon Maxwell
 - Roderick Barnes
- True or False? The SEC had an overall winning record versus ACC teams last season.
- Which team was the conference leader in scoring?
 - Kentucky
 - Georgia
 - Vanderbilt
 - Auburn
- Which player was the SEC's No. 1 shot-blocker?
 - Will Perdue
 - Dwayne Schintzius
 - Doug Roth
 - Melvin Cheatum
- What school was the conference leader in turnover differential?
 - Georgia
 - Kentucky
 - Mississippi
 - Auburn
- Which SEC player led the conference in steals?
 - Willie Anderson
 - Patrick Hamilton
 - Darryl Joe
 - Greg Lockhart

Answers

- 1) Dyron Nix (22.2 ppg.)
- 2) Will Perdue (10.1 rpg.)
- 3) True
- 4) Ed Davender (87.1 pct.)
- 5) Ronnie Montgomery (189 assists—5.6 average a game)
- 6) False (4-0)
- 7) Vanderbilt (78.7 average)
- 8) Dwayne Schintzius (84 blocked shots)
- 9) Kentucky (3.5)
- 10) Patrick Hamilton (2.8 average)