



Kentucky Football Retires Two Jerseys

The UK Athletics Association officially retired two jerseys of former Wildcat standouts in a special ceremony during the 1997 UK Kickoff Luncheon and then introduced the honorees at the UK-U of L football game.

Two former All-Southeastern Conference performers, halfback Calvin Bird and running back Mark Higgs, were selected this year.

The ceremony marks the eighth consecutive year that UK has retired jerseys in honor of former Wildcats football players. UK Athletics Director C.M. Newton directed a committee which selected the honorees based on their contributions to the University of Kentucky and the sport of football.

This is always a special day for the UK athletics family," Newton said. "We are proud to recognize our honorees for their outstanding achievements and contributions, both on and off the field.

Each of the players recognized played a significant role in the history of Kentucky football and in their honor, we retire their jerseys."

Newton said it is the policy of the UK Athletics Association to recognize former Wildcats by retiring a jersey in the player's honor instead of a number. This policy is used for all UK varsity sports programs.

Including the 1997 honorees, UK has retired 43 jerseys of former Wildcats players and coaches. Previous players and coaches who have been honored include George Adams, Ermal Allen, Sam Ball,

Rodger Bird, George Blanda, Paul "Bear" Bryant, Warren Bryant, Jerry Claiborne, Blanton Collier, Sonny Collins, Ray Correll, Bob Davis, Joe Federspiel, Bob Gain, Irv Goode, Tom Hutchinson, Clyde Johnson, Wallace "Wah Wah" Jones, John "Shipwreck" Kelly, Ralph Kerchevall, Rick Kestner, Jim Kovach, Dicky Lyons, Charlie McClendon, Steve Meilinger, Lou Michaels, Doug Moseley, Rick Norton, Rick Nazum, Babe Parilli, Derrick

Ramsey, Jay Rhodemyre, Dave Roller, Howard Schnellenberger, Larry Seiple, Washington "Wash" Serini, Bernie Shively, Art Still, Herschel Turner, Harry Ulinski, and Jeff Van Note.

Bird excelled as a running back, pass receiver, defensive back, kickoff returner, and punt returner under Coach Blanton Collier from 1958-60. He continues to hold five school records.

His brother, Rodger, is a UK football retired jersey honoree and another brother, Jerry, is a

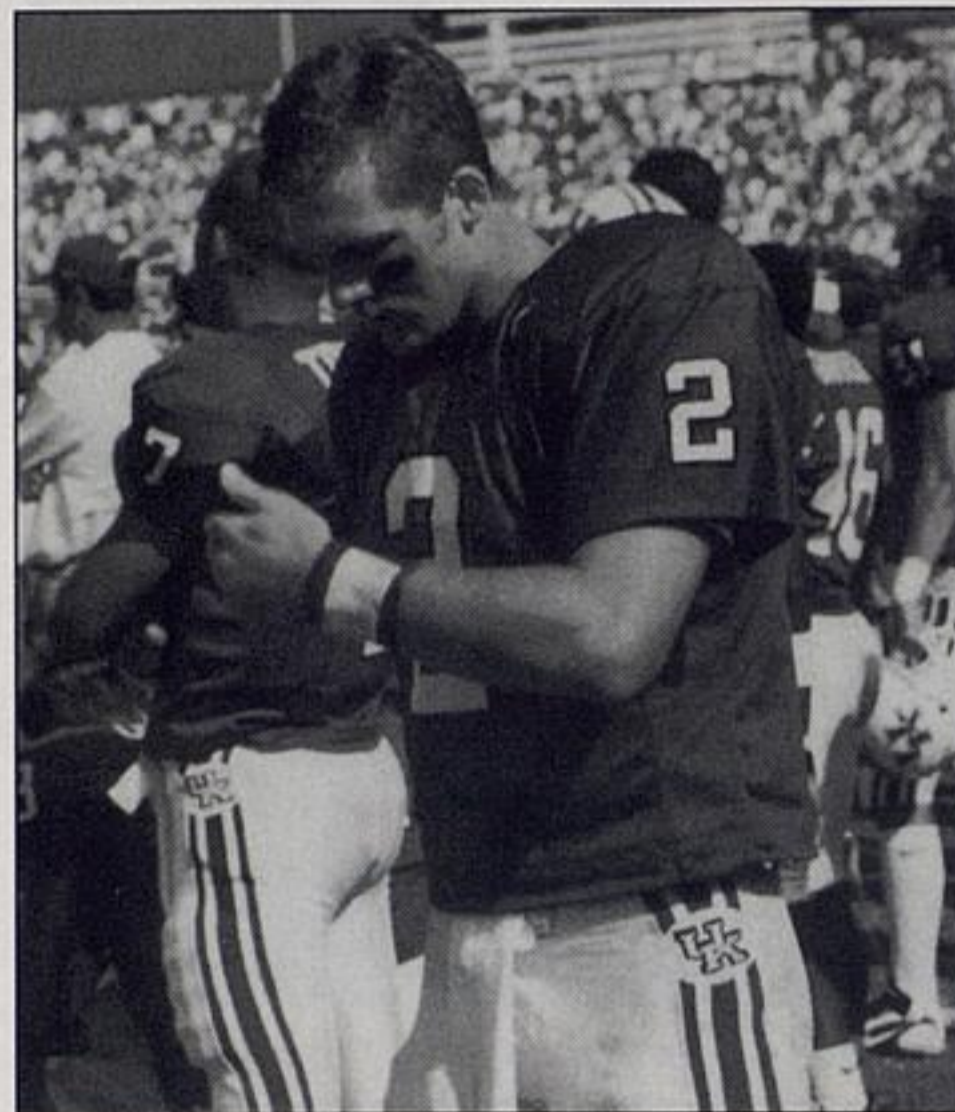
UK basketball retired jersey honoree.

Bird lives in Lexington.

Higgs was an outstanding running back from 1984-87 for Coach Jerry Claiborne. He ranks third in UK history with 2,892 rushing yards and hold school records for highest rushing average in a season (6.6 yards per attempt in 1987) and career (5.43 yards per attempt).

Higgs was drafted by the Dallas Cowboys and enjoyed an eight-year career in the National Football League with Dallas, Philadelphia, Miami, and Arizona.

He lives in Davie, Fla.



Quarterback Tim Couch checks his wrist band as he prepares for the next offensive series. Photo by Chuck Perry

Couch Reaps Honors In First Game of 1997

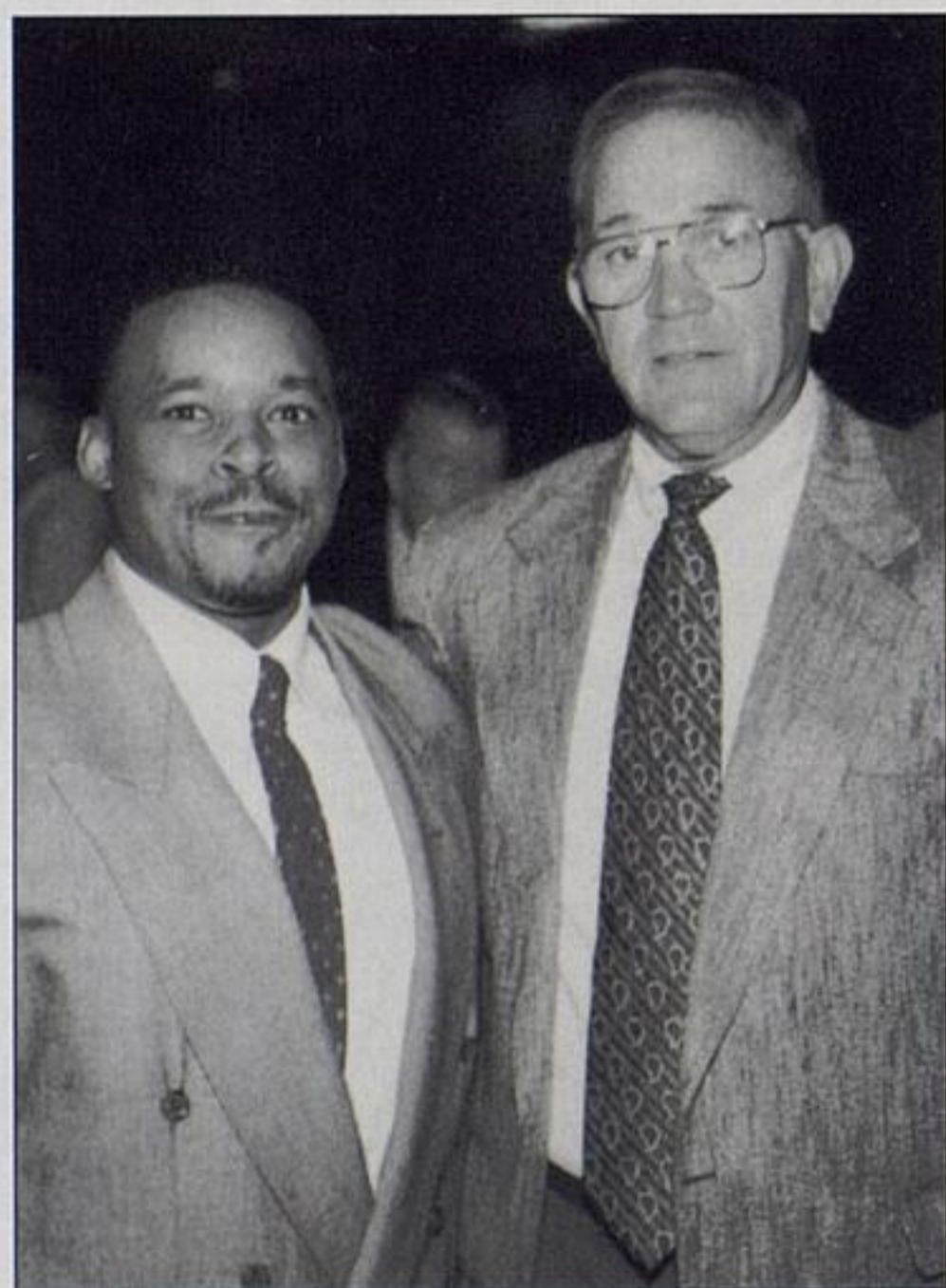
Mumme Ball got off to a high flying start as head coach Hal Mumme secured UK's 500th pigskin victory with a win over the University of Louisville, 38 to 24, in his first team's first contest.

UK quarterback Tim Couch garnered CNN/Sports Illustrated College Football Player of the Week and SEC Player of the Week for his performance.

Couch completed 36 of 50 passes for 398 yards and four touchdowns in the Wildcats' victory. Couch's 36 completions broke the school record of 30 completions set by Bill Ransdell vs. Vanderbilt on Nov. 9, 1985. The 398 passing yards erased the school mark of 373 yards by Rick Norton vs. Houston on Nov. 13, 1965.

Couch and Kio Sanford's 80-yard touchdown pass play in that game also won the AT&T Long Distance Award for longest pass play of the week in Division I-A football.

In honor of Couch and Sanford, AT&T made a \$400 donation to the NCAA's Degree Completion Scholarship Fund. Now in its seventh year, the AT&T Long Distance Award program has donated more than \$350,000 to the scholarship fund.



Mark Higgs and Calvin Bird