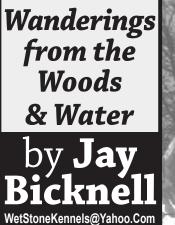
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#### Running Empty

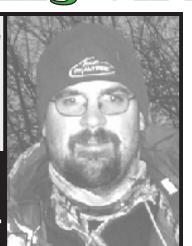


Cold feet, frozen fingers, is waterfowl. blurry eyes, early mornings, frustration, breaking ice, even giving a look.

That pretty much sums up water fowling, and I together.

the decoys.

My wonderful, beautiful wife let me know the other day that I was spending more money than usual on



The past few weeks I have been driving, looking wading frigid water, ducks for ducks and geese. I have stopping short, geese not even driven by spots that I can't hunt, to see if it's holding ducks and geese.

Waterfowl hunting is a love every second of it; es- serious addiction that has no pecially when it all comes cure! I decided before duck season started, I would not When everything works hunt as much. I decided, I just right, the ducks are would not get so worked up committed and the geese over chasing these things. drop from the sky to get in All it took to change my decision was one duck cupped and committed into the decoys, and I was back more than before.

Duck season lasts for 60 fuel. I played dumb to her days and at the end of Janucomment, but in reality the ary it over. I am not sure why reason the tank is running I love waterfowl hunting so on empty more than normal much. I just can't give it up.



It runs the truck on empty and by the end of the season the old body is running on empty. When opening day rolls around next season I will be ready to do it all over again.

**Dates to Remember** Last day of February;

time to buy new hunting/ fishing license

2014 Elk Season permit drawing is open to apply. Time to clean out wood

duck boxes

Woodcock starts spring migration; great time to work bird dogs.

Time to get the boat ready for spring fishing.

Until next week, get out

and enjoy God's creation!



Kentucky hunters harvested 20 bears during the 2013 bear season that concluded this past December. The Kentucky bear hunting zone expanded from four counties to 16 for the 2013 season and a new archery and crossbow bear season was implemented.



### Winter Hints

Dear readers, do you have any special hints, tips, ideas or things that work to keep birds wellfed during the winter that you'd like to share? Please email me at birdingbits@cfl.rr.com, and I will print them. Thank you! Let's keep birds happy this winter.

E-mail: birdingbits@cfl.rr.com © 2013 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

# Bob Watkins' **Sports In Kentucky** 'Omaha' to media opportunity, has sports journalism gone soft to Process?



#### **Bob Watkins**

*Never, never be afraid to* do what's right, especially *if well-being of a person or* animal is at stake. Society's punishments are small compared to wounds we inflict on our soul when we look the other way.

Doctor King's words resonate still. And, all the way to my profession.

casters today have become fans, competing with bloggers and Eye Candy holding forth at ESPN. Dance tune? Money. Who has it, who's a Biblical spin – prodigal- 48 when he leaves prison. demanding more, who's the son-come-home, accorded Prime of life to make a new next kid who's going to get Petrino. His contrition was one. I wish him well. Maybe rison-Docks is another "who it and now soon. Education redemptive enough to look be damned and ball coaches the other way. shop for bigger jobs. Short of a now-and-then Who's Your Daddy from Sports Illustrated in 1999 and an occasional 30 for 30 on ESPN, talking heads are cool and imitation-worthy for local markets. Omaha became the rage. on Strong's penalty pay, Peyton Manning used the word in line-of-scrimmage cadence 31 times against the happens to the money. And Patriots. Everyone was impressed. Word out of Manning's mouth raised \$24,800 for his foundation. Noble Likelihood of this ball coach undertaking, but a Pandora's Box precedent.

in Kentucky... Coaches. Believed-to-be

tracts, then bolt for more no longer attend, but from dia stand admiring the ballet do you feel about Julius's which is Process – guesses, clandestine meetings, rumors, flirtations, then blanket denials, then presto: A ball coach introductory press conference. The speed of Process is a fascination.

Charlie Strong, one year into an eight year contract, left. Story line? Louisville's Tom Jurich became media darling for his skill and daring to rob a serial job jumper from another school.

Contract? What contract? Strong and Bobby Petrino – Martin Luther King Jr. neither answered to his fans (in Louisville or Bowling Green).

The job jump at Louis-Sports writers and broad- ville was shamefully arrogant, but not exceptional. More shameful was that media marveled at \$trong's the Jurich's process; then term, Farmer will be near

sity of Kentucky is pep rally and dog-and-pony show honorable men affix their (UK officials call it Media names to five-six year con- Opportunity). Questions? I money and higher place on transcripts I see, they range the pole. Many sports me- from "Hey Cal, how good cramp issues?" to "Cal, is this team improving to your expectations?"

Maybe fans might like to know: "How was it Arkansas was able to make a team infinitely more talented play at (coach) Mike Anderson's tempo?" or "Isn't blocking out on perimeter shots a fundamental kids (in Kentucky) learn in junior high?"

With few exceptions, media around UK are openly fraternal with our pal Cal.

Fans? What about 'em? Business is business, man. Just look the other way.

#### **NEWS & VIEWS**

NEWS. Richie Farmer begins his 27 months in prison for "sense of entitlement" guilty plea in March. VIEW. If he serves full

address

NEWS. Northwestern did what in Bloomington last Saturday?

VIEW. Here come those Wildcats! Now, if we can just get Vanderbilt on a roll. NEWS. Eastern Ken-

tucky scored a signature win in OVC play last week beating Belmont 74-63 in front of an EKU record crowd.

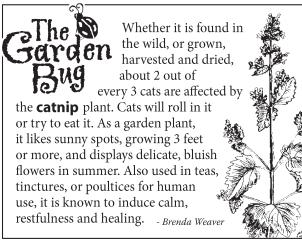
VIEW. Best part was reaction of EKU guard Corey Walden following the game: "That was the most fun I've had in a game in my life," he told reporters.

Comment: When's last time a player at Kentucky or Louisville said as much?

NEWS. More frequently these days Western Kentucky's Hilltoppers' point guard duties are going to newcomer Chris Harrison-Docks

VIEW. My candidate for college newcomer of year in Kentucky, Chris Harrison-Docks is a hard-nosed and gritty kid can't shoot like his dad did at Tollesboro, but he's got game and is an excellent fit. A freshman. Hara book contract to help pay knew" kid who should have place. NEWS.Last week, an internet site offered a list of college studs who project to be NBA duds, included: Tennessee junior Jarnell Stokes and North Carolina's James Michael McAdoo. An underclassman playing himself onto this list or another year in college? Willie Cauley-Stein at Kentucky.

Matt Plowman with a red fox he called in.



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What do fans think? Well, business is business, man. Just look the other way.

**Closer to home** 

On Strong's blatant defection and Petrino's rehabilitation, UofL president James Ramsey deferred to tail that wags this dog, Jurich. And why not, man's a maestro with spin.

Fans? Those who buy rules. Last week, the word tickets deserved a report how much and when UofL is compensated and what details on Petrino's deal, incentives to behave.

Petrino and Western? facing Hilltopper fans being were laughably remote.

Lexington area?

Talk shows on in, sports

debts. But more important signed at Western Kentucky, by a Cawood Ledford mile, instead of Butler, in the first reconciliation with his three children.

NEWS. Internet story headline said: NCAA's officials director says refs doing good job enforcing new

VIEW. In fact, the number of phantom calls have increased.

VIEW II. The Referee story was accompanied by a photo (USATSI) for the ages. Find it. From the Kentucky at Arkansas game, referee Roger Ayers is getting an in-your-face plea from accountable on principle John Calipari. Kentucky's coach should have this one hanging in his office.

Comment: If you would journalism around Univer- like a copy, send your e-mail

#### **WORTH REPEATING** DEPT.

Following Eastern Kentucky's win over Belmont last week, guard Corey Walden said: "That was the most fun I've had in a game in my life."

And so it goes.



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