

Bob Watkins' Sports In Kentucky

Kentucky (steam) rolls on, Murray State too; Rick Pitino defines Knucklehead



Bob Watkins

Just when the caterpillar thought the world was ending, he turned into a butterfly.

Twenty-seven wins in, Kentucky's basketball team is less a caterpillar, if it ever was, but, as the world turns to March, the Willie Cauley-Stein-led Wildcats are looking butterfly-ish.

Here's to watching Kentucky's team grow up. Against Auburn: 25 assists.

Trey Lyles came around a low post pick by Karl Anthony Towns with energy and expectation instead of nonchalance ... turned into the lane, impeccably timed pass delivered - score and one.

Tyler Ulis' mid-floor no-look assist to Willie Cauley-Stein against Auburn was freshman-of-the-year-worthy.

Devin Booker's shot motion.

Marcus Lee hurdles down the lane ... put-back slam against Auburn ... growing up.

With February wins at Florida, LSU and Tennessee in the books, John Calipari is less hysterical these days, has spent more time inside the coach's box, and looks more worthy of national coach of the year candidacy.

For MVP fans - kids in Big Blue Nation - reasons for optimism that Ulis, Booker and Lee re-

turn next season.

Postscript Just wondering: How would Kentucky be different if Kyle Wiltjer was in Lexington instead of Spokane?

PEARL PEARLS ON WILDCATS

Who is more quotable in college hoops than ex-ESPN analyst Bruce Pearl?

"What (Kentucky does) offensively ... pounding it inside, there's nobody in the league who's even close to that.

"They're better shooting the ball from the perimeter. They hunt shots. They want them. If anybody goes zone now, their eyes get big, you know?"

Kentucky go unbeaten? "... because of the character and chemistry, I think they certainly can. ... The one thing I would be a little concerned about, if (officials) let (UK) play, which I hope they would in a big game, they should have a real good chance. I would just hate if (officials) suddenly started calling it really different in the tournament."

UofL's KNUCKLEHEAD

Amazing how Rick Pitino (American Sniper with words?), can explain so much with a single shot. Knucklehead.

That two-year starter senior Chris Jones - 3.7-a-game assist leader and 13.6 points on a 12th ranked team that is NCAA tournament-bound team (and NBA draft chance on the line), would risk confrontation with a hall of fame ball coach, defines Knucklehead.

Is Jones a major loss for Louisville team? Maybe. Better spin and story line: Opportunity falls into lap of freshman Quentin Snider. Kentucky Mr. Basketball a year ago who withdrew his commit to UofL

because he didn't feel enough love from Pitino, gets a promotion.

BRACKETOLOGY

Longest win streaks in college hoops (at this writing) are Kentucky (27) and Murray State (22). When pairings for the NCAA Tournament are posted next month, if Steve Prohm's Racers win the OVC Tournament, history suggests Kentucky and Murray could be first round foes.

CRANK UP CAROUSEL

College basketball's other season is on the horizon. The Coach's Carousel for 2015 is already cranking up and promises promises to be entertaining.

Prime candidates for moving on-up jobs will be UK assistant Kenny Payne and Murray State's Steve Prohm.

Payne's resume built sitting next to John Calipari at Kentucky since 2010 will make his cell phone ring. Won't be an easy hire however, Payne's pay grade at UK is already a comfy seven figures.

Prohm's record at Murray is beyond exemplary. Stability and consistency, four 21-plus wins, three OVC titles in a row. At 40-years-old, he is prime time to be next Murray State coach to job jump.

Only a coincidence, this intriguing link: Anthony Grant at Alabama may be among first coach let go this spring. Prohm is a 1997 Alabama graduate.

FRESHMEN INELIGIBLE?

In classic Back-to-the-Future, officials at Big Ten and Big 12 officials have put forth the (old) idea of making freshmen not eligible for varsity play as it was before 1972.

The idea moved one media type to be first

launching into righteous yowl, freshman ineligibility, "... is going back to the dinosaur concept of making kids sit in service to academics..."

Dinosaur concept seems clever, but "making kids sit in service to academics," is somewhere on the Dumb Scale between Stupid and Ridiculous. Accepting a free scholarship education is hardly servitude.

Any rule change that prods college administrators in the direction of its original intent, education, is noble and right. And, strikes a blow at the money changers before college sports are totally consumed by no-going-back profiteers.

DAMIEN HARRIS

Since Madison Southern High football star Damien Harris signed with Alabama, Crimson Tide running backs Tyren Jones was suspended, Altee Tenpenny transferred and senior-to-be T.J. Yeldon filed for the NFL draft.

Barring a red-shirt, Harris can compete with leading rusher Derrick Henry, back-up Kenyan Drake and newcomers Bo Scarbrough and DeSherris Flowers, both of whom enrolled early.

PARTING SHOT

Rick Pitino forgot to engage his brain before opening his mouth on the incident in Saturday's Miami game when Montrezl Harrell slammed a ball off Tonye Jekiri's face. UofL's coach asked why "that Miami doctor" would have allowed Jekiri to return if a concussion was suspected?

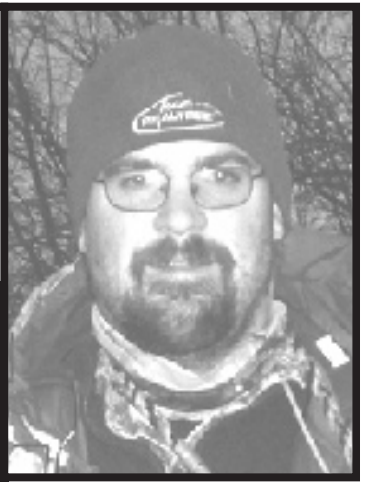
UofL's doctor cleared Jekiri to return. Oops.

And so it goes. You can reach me at bob.Watkins24@aol.com

Wanderings from the Woods & Water

by Jay Bicknell

WetStoneKennels@Yahoo.Com



Frost Seeding Plots

I don't about you but I am ready for warm days and green grass! While we are a few weeks out from green grass you can prepare your plots for green. You can even prepare your yard for green.

This is the time to frost seed your food plots. Frost seeding is an inexpensive way to seed spring plots. Seed your plots without any equipment and use all this snow to your advantage.

Frost seeding is sowing seed during late February to early March. The freeze thaw cycle of this time of year will work the seed into the ground. This will give the seed a good seed soil contact. You can frost seed cool-season perennials such as alfalfa, red and white clover, trefoil and chicory, and cool-season annuals like oats, wheat or rye. Do not frost seed warm-season annuals such as corn or soybeans.

Sowing on top of all this snow will work great for frost seeding. When the snow melts it will take the seed into the soil. The plus to sowing on snow is you can see where you have sowed. Frost seeding can also be done simultaneously with the application of dry fertilizer. A single application of seed and fertilizer will reduce costs.

The best sites for frost seeding are areas that have been mowed or been grazed down. This cuts down on competition. This allows the seed to get the critical seed to soil contact needed.

The thing that is so good about frost seeding is no

equipment is needed. All that is required is an area for a plot and a bag of seed. Start sowing and get green in the spring. These spring plots will be a great summer food source for deer. It is also a great place for turkeys and quail chicks to get the high protein bugs they need. No tractors or implements needed to make a honey hole for wildlife.

If you plan on frost seeding I recommend doing a google search on it. There is a lot of information on seeding rates. Also a lot of information on seed mixes that work well by frost seeding.

If you do get out and frost seed stay warm! As you are frost seeding keep in mind warm spring days are just around the corner. It won't be long until the gobblers will be looking for ladies. A new spring plot might be the perfect place to ambush a big spring longbeard!

Until next week get out and enjoy Gods creation!



Energy Boost
Give finches, sparrows, buntings and warblers a little boost this year by mixing equal portions of thistle seed, sunflower chips and white proso millet. Toss on the ground near a bush or brush pile. You'll be glad you did when you see one of these little beauties land in your yard.

E-mail: birdingbits@clrr.com
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Spay/Neuter Funding

We are happy to announce that spay/neuter funds are again made available to our great county via the KY Spay/Neuter license program. Citizens throughout KY have elected to purchase the spay/neuter license plate to help reduce our pet overpopulation. If you have a pet that needs to be fixed, please contact: the Humane Society's Angels of Estill County at <ellenfrederick@windstream.net> or Peaceful Paws at <peacefulpawsky@aol.com>. Please act now as funds, as always, are limited! Thanks for your support.

NOTICE: Please do not call the Estill County Animal Shelter as they are not connected to this spay/neuter funding nor the groups.

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GO FIGURE!

by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

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★★★ GO FIGURE!

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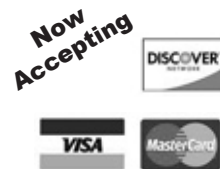
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Kruzers Newz

Twin City Kruzers' next monthly meeting is likely on Monday, March 2nd at 7:00 p.m. in Irvine City Hall. Anyone interested in joining Twin City Cruizers needs to come to the meetings.

We were busy at our January and February meetings, planning car shows, car cruises and cruise-ins. We are looking forward to 2015. All events are free and open to anyone. There will be music, raffles, corn hole and door prizes. Bring your family and enjoy the beautiful vehicles in downtown Irvine. Dates will be announced in March.

Anyone interested in joining, needs to come to our meeting or call president Kenneth Tipton at 723-7554 or vice-president Darrell Hall at 723-3612.