

Bob Watkins' Sports In Kentucky

Wildcats arrive at place where fan expectations live, full summit.



Bob Watkins

March. Kentucky's basketball team has laid claim to a peak where Big Blue fan expectations live. Full summit.

A high place where 46 SEC titles brings more yawn than yea!

Whatever happens from here, smothering quick-and-cocky Arkansas, surgical ways it was done, moved the blue team to a place that transcends RPIs, wins and polls.

Perfect rhythm and harmony among men and perfect place. The top.

Yes, we know what pollsters have said all winter, but more convincing and far more entertaining, 5-man-mesh, synchronized, well-oiled, yours-mine-ours approach. And, gone to scrape heap a weak little contradiction to team game, *go-to-guy*.

UK's summit moment? Four minutes in against the Razorbacks Karl Anthony Towns sat down with two fouls. Normally, an NBA lottery projectee put in neutral with 16 minutes to go, is big trouble.

Instead, the Wildcats doubled the score. Hogs coach Mike Anderson's encouragements were lost in the cacophony from a zillion throats. He stood agog as his bunch surrendered to dry-mouth and scared-to-death (see Bobby Portis). The Hogs played that way until half-time.

Postscript: Hunch is these two will meet again in Nashville.

For that, Big Blue Nation hopes its team gets the first-half-in-Lexington Razorbacks who couldn't throw a three into the Mississippi (oh-for-nine), instead of second-half-Hogs outscored, 42-41.

Meanwhile, there is much to maintain suspense.

√ Media herd writer trying to be clever, declared: "Might as well engrave the NCAA trophy now. Put Kentucky's name on it."

√ Kiss of death? The bandwagon is officially loaded. ESPN's Dick Vitale picked UK to win NCAA title.

√ Next, the righteous will weigh in.

Much as some Kentucky fans will never lighten up on Duke, Forbes Magazine, Rolling Stone and other national heavyweights will single out, assail and satirize the Basketball Culture at Kentucky. While I support the tail-wags-dog premise, it's March, time to put aside elephant-in-the-room Calipari-ism and enjoy a kind of ballet. Case and point: The Harisons. And, Trey Lyles' styling as a Kentucky-bred - get-out-on-break, medium-range shootist, ball fake-and-go, reverse lay-up off spin move. Ballet.

Epilogue: Anthony Davis. Leader of the 2012 NCAA title team took a question in February: How would his UK team in 2012 fare against this one? "... we would destroy them. No question." Maybe. But, welcome to delicious arguments in March.

OBSERVATIONS

√ Alex Poythress a model for Calipari system? Scenario: Encouraged to return for 2015-16

would improve his draft spot 48th, let UK athletics trumpet academic progress, muffle one-and-done critics, help team graduation rate, and inflate team GPA next season.

√ Andrew Harrison is 50th on one NBA draft board and brother Aaron's name is nowhere. Four reasons why neither will return: Tyler Ulis, Devin Booker, newest one-and-doner, 6-3, 200-pound Isaiah Briscoe, and a shrug to stay from the coach.

√ Pouty, at times sullen kid wearing No. 41 has bloomed into Trey Lyles, man-child with a moniker: X Factor.

√ Favorite headline last week: UK Athletics to Deepen Investment in Center for Academic and Tutorial Services.

√ Phil Jackson. When a CBS camera leered into the face of New York Knicks' boss at Rupp Arena last Saturday, we wondered if the Zen master might be re-thinking his franchise's first pick in the June Draft.

Jackson is expected to draft Duke's Jahliel Okafor. Better investment: Willie Cauley-Stein.

√ NBC Sports World's end-of-February NBA mock draft projections affecting Kentucky and Louisville?

Fourth overall pick by Los Angeles Lakers, Karl Anthony-Towns; Tenth pick by Indiana Pacers, Willie Cauley-Stein. Trey Lyles 14th to Houston Rockets; Dakari Johnson 37th to Sacramento; Alex Poythress 48th to Oklahoma City; Andrew Harrison 50th to San Antonio. Louisville's Montrezl Harrell projects 13th to the Phoenix Suns and Terry Rozier 16th to Philadelphia 76ers.

CONGRATS DEPARTMENT

Gratifying when good

work, dedication and loyalty bring public commendation.

Two of the best-what-they-do figures in Kentucky sports are headed to a Hall of Fame - Sports Information directors Paul Just at Western Kentucky University and Kenny Klein, University of Louisville.

Just's unwavering loyalty at projecting best interests of WKU athletics over half a century is well known. Ideally, benefitting his future and ours, a book.

Klein has witnessed and played in integral role in UofL athletics' rise through four conferences - Missouri Valley, C-USA, Big East to the pinnacle, ACC.

Just and Klein join a CoSIDA Hall of Fame that already includes Roy Pickerill at Kentucky Wesleyan, Doug Vance at Murray State (now the executive director of CoSIDA), and Ed Given (WKU and Middle Tennessee).

Footnote: Paul Just's mentor at WKU was Ed Given. Klein's first boss at Murray State was Doug Vance.

WORTH REPEATING DEPT.

Florida will be in Rupp Arena for Kentucky's (hollow) Senior Day Saturday. Last weekend the Gators gave Billy Donovan his 500th coaching win. From GatorZone.com: "... it was at that moment when the Rowdy Reptiles began serenading something even rarer.

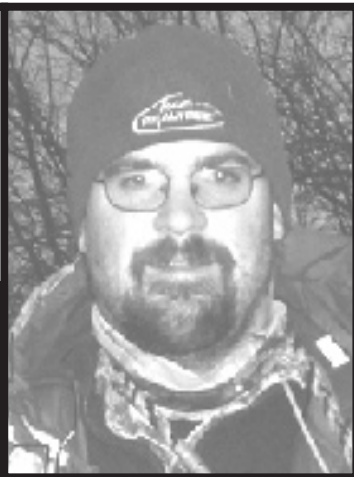
"BIL-LY D! BIL-LY D! BIL-LY D!"

"A true college basketball treasure," wrote Chris Harry.

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

Wanderings from the Woods & Water

by Jay Bicknell
WetStoneKennels@Yahoo.Com



Executive Order & Cheif

You might have missed the new executive order that is being floated around. With all that is going on, it could be easily overlooked. Making deals with terrorists, also known as Iran. Isis gaining strength. Dissing Israel our greatest ally in the Middle East. With all this, little mention has been made about the back door gun control.

What is an executive order? A rule or order issued by the president to an executive branch of the government and having the force of law.

"Democrat or Republican, the power of executive order is dangerous to Freedom! The abuse of executive orders is a threat to the liberty that our Founding Fathers fought for. Even with all of the safeguards that were built into the Constitution, these abuses have still come about. The problem isn't with the system; rather, it's with the elected individuals who have chosen to ignore basic Constitutional principles. Also, if the voting members of the general populace had a better understanding of the Constitution, and of how our government is supposed to work, then perhaps better people would be elected to office. "Stroke of the pen, law of the land. Kind of cool."

--former Presidential aide Paul Begala

The newest executive order being proposed by this administration is the banning of AR ammunition. The President couldn't get an AR weapon ban in place and now it's back door gun control. An executive order ban would make ammunition sky rocket. If an executive order of this magnitude goes into effect where does it end?

Our guns are under attack! The 2nd amendment is under attack! Law abiding gun owning citizens

are under attack! It is evident the 2nd amendment is under siege, just look at the crazy ridiculous gun control laws around the country. Just recently a 72 year old New Jersey man was arrested for having an antique 300-year-old unloaded pistol in his glove compartment. If convicted, he would face 10 years in prison. The Constitution is being trampled.

If this administration can't get our guns out right; then, it's the back door method. The back door method is probably the most effective. If you can't afford ammo, or the round you shoot is banned, well that makes the guns you own worthless. The gun control war is won without ever taking a gun away.

The times we are living! The FBI is reporting terror cell investigations in 49 of 50 states. The Director of Intelligence is saying 2014 is the deadliest year ever due to terrorism. So it would make sense to me not to ban any bullets to law abiding citizens, but rather have them ammo up!

Don't be naive and say it could never happen here!

Until next week, get out and enjoy God's creation!



Twilight Feeders

After I bring in my feeders for the night, I like to toss white millet and safflower seed on the ground in my little bird area. That way the twilight feeders like cardinals, doves and catbirds have something extra to get them through the night.

E-mail: birdingbits@cflrr.com
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"I don't mind doing the dishes — after all, I do most of the _____ in this house!"

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Limber	<input type="text"/>
GAILE	<input type="text"/>
Sharp	<input type="text"/>
TRALE	<input type="text"/>
Glance	<input type="text"/>
DANGER	<input type="text"/>
Polite	<input type="text"/>
RADICOL	<input type="text"/>

TODAY'S WORD

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.

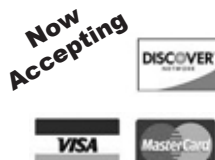
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Estill Church League Volleyball

Estill County Church League Volleyball starts on May 16th. There will be a girls league and a boys league. Each team will set their own age limit. Deadline for new team entry is April 16th. Contact Ricky Harris at 606-723-6682.

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