

# Engineers Win Five Of Last 6 After Slow Start

The Estill County Engineers under new coach Brian Crowe had a rough start for the 2015 season, losing 6 of their first seven games played.

But the Engineers have rebounded despite rain delays and have won five of their last six games including the last three, over Jackson City, Lee County and Letcher County Central.

"After a slow start we are starting to put things together," said Crowe. "We had a tough schedule early on with no time on the field before the 1st game which made it even tougher on us."

After being idle over a week, Estill traveled to Knott County Central where they lost 13-3, but followed that up with three wins.

The Engineers returned to action on Friday night and picked up a good win over Jackson City, at home, 7-2.

Ryan Freeman went 3 for 3 with a double and Andrew Farmer was 1 for 3 with a double.

Boone Tucker pitched 5 innings, allowing 4 hits and 2 runs and struck out 5. Then Tanner Crowe pitched two innings allowing 0 hits 0 runs and struck out 4.

Estill played two games on Saturday, starting with district rival Lee County, followed by region rival Letcher County Central.

The Engineers played well both at bat and in the field and shut out Lee County, 16-0, Tanner Crowe pitched 5 innings allowing 3 hits, no runs and striking out 9.

Brandon McKinney was 3 for 4 with a double and Blake Harrison was 2 for 3.

Estill got several steals

against the Bobcats while catching them off base a few times.

The Engineers played Letcher County Central in the late afternoon and won 12-0. Farmer pitched 5 innings, allowing 5 hits and struck out 8.

Harrison was 3 for 3 and Zach Withers was 1 for 2 with a double. McKinney batted 1 for 2 with 3 RBI's.

"Senior Andrew Farmer and junior Zach Withers have done a good job on the mound for us so far this year" said Crowe, "And junior Boone Tucker has given us three quality starts including defeating Clark County 1 to 0.

"Sophomore Tanner Crowe has also been throwing better here lately and freshman Logan Beckler has been called on in some games and has done a good job also.

"Our defense has been pretty solid for the most part. Hitting started out slowly for us at the first of the year but now it seems we're starting to put the bat on the ball with a little more consistency.

"This past weekend we scored 35 runs and only allowed two. Austin Blackwell, Andrew Farmer, Ryan Freeman and Brandon McKinney, all of our seniors, are starting to swing the bat well with good contributions from juniors Kordel Day, Peyton Rose, Blake Harrison, Zach Withers and sophomore Tanner Crowe."

Coch Crowe added, "Hopefully, we'll continue to improve and we feel we have a shot at winning this region."

# Bob Watkins' Sports In Kentucky

## Kentucky's Last Supper was recruiting coup, but a blown opportunity



Bob Watkins

Fans across the Commonwealth are still incredulous, angry, blame-game mindset and (some) have gone hateful. Kentucky didn't win the NCAA championship and (arrrrgh!) the Dookies did.

This week, among e-mails received was this sobering one, followed by a perspective from the late Jim Valvano.

√ "I agree UK fans should be angry," wrote Gerald Bone in Elizabethtown, "but we aren't good losers either. Everyone (in Kentucky) is a coach. I've been disappointed before, only one team isn't (disappointed in the end). But I'll take 38-1 every year. As Adolph Rupp said after an NCAA heart-breaking lose, 'the sun will still come up over the Commonwealth tomorrow.' It did and so we have something to be thankful for."

√ Valvano: "Three things everyone should do every day - laugh, think (spend some time in thought), and have your emotions move you to tears. If you laugh, think and cry, that's a heck of a day."

### HOOPS GOLD STANDARD

Another college basketball season in rear view mirror. Let us pause a moment and genuflect to college hoops' real gold standard, at Storrs, Connecticut.

Gino Auriemma's one-loss women's basketball

program hauled its 10th NCAA title banner into the rafters this month, one behind UCLA's men's 11 titles.

UConn is a genuine gold standard: Recruiting, winning games, championships and graduation rate for four-year players who have labored for Auriemma, 100 per cent.

"I don't want just the best players, he says. "I want the best person to be in my program. I want my players to be well-rounded people when they leave, and it starts with getting a degree."

### UK LAST SUPPER?

Officially, the Kentucky Wildcats' last supper-like gathering in Joe Craft gym last week was less than it could have been.

Athletic department troops missed a chance to be creative, soften the specter of show-me-the-money defections for ESPN, put emphasis "thanks fellas," then celebrate those staying.

Two tables side by side, seven chairs for each.

**TABLE 1.** Seats for the *Goo-bye guys*. Seven underclassmen ambled in, sat down, stood up, then sat again, and took turns mumbling "... time for me to chase my dream" ... "what he said" ... what he said," and so on.

See ya.

Then, another gaffe by athletic department spin people. Nobody reminded the twins and pals to thank the "greatest fans in college basketball" for showing up 39 times, rain-snow-ice-expense, (plus Bahamas trip). A face-up thanks into ESPN cameras to Big Blue Nation for invested hearts and minds, and buying stuff - tee-shirts, (overpriced) jerseys, body paint, costumes and tattoos. Cha-ching!

**TABLE 2.** Seats for *Wait'll Next Year! returnees*. Celebrate Marcus Lee,

Tyler Ulis, Alex Poythress, Dominique Hawkins, Derek Willis, and EJ Floreal. And, a chair to represent the next number one recruiting class in America.

And, nobody mentioned the elephant in the room. Lee, Ulis, Poythress, Hawkins and Willis, have been, are being recruited over.

**Postscript.** The event was a mammoth recruiting advantage (NCAA rules violation?), free air time from ESPN.

### JOHN CALIPARI

Microphone in hand, here came disclaimer man. Letting himself off the show-me-the-money hook, the coach washed his hands (figuratively).

"I'm not convincing them to stay and I'm not pushing anybody out the door. This is their choice. It's about each individual up here making a decision not based on what's right for this university, not based on what's right for me and our staff, (but) what's right for them and their families."

Decisions not based on a university employee (ball coach) who blatantly offers not a hint of lip service to student-athlete, as the words retreat more and more a joke punch line.

In fact, this, all of it, is exactly about the tail (Calipari) that wags this dog (UK).

"I did tell a couple of the kids that it (NBA) is a man's league," he said. "It's not a child's league. If you're not ready for a man's league, you need to come back."

So, no new banner to hang in Rupp Arena commemorating a glistening 38-1 season, but Calipari wins a league title in 2015 that he cares most - best team in the NBA Developmental League.

### ONE AND DONE VIEWS

√ According to Washington Post statistician Neil

Greenberg, a one-and-done player drafted in the top five is almost twice as effective at the NBA level than those picked in the bottom half of the top 10 and beyond.

"... the drop-off from the first five picks to the next five is much more severe than their peers.

"The absolutely magical talents can find their way (Anthony Davis, Carl Anthony Towns), because they're given more (playing) time to get there," the Post article said. "The rest - Trey Lyles, Devin Booker, the Harrison twins and certainly Dakari Johnson."

NBA mock draft projections as of April 13: Towns (1) and Willie Cauley Stein (6). Lyles (13) and Booker (14), if they make a roster, face limited chances to establish themselves. Same for Louisville's Montrezl Harrell (24) and Murray State's Cameron Payne (29).

Nowhere in this mock draft's first round: Andrew and Aaron Harrison, Dakari Johnson and UofL's Terry Rozier.

What next? Unless they get opportunity to improve dramatically early on, come real world possibility - D-League ... playing in Europe, South America or Asia.

Or, looking for jobs with a resume' that says under Education, 'high school diploma.'

### PARTING SHOT

Bob Knight and Lou Holtz got the axe last week at ESPN. No contract renewal. Both were interesting and enjoyable to listen to ... for awhile. But time for both to move on had come. In colorful language a Sports In Kentucky reader made the same suggestion to me last week.

And so it goes.

You can reach me at *bob.Watkins24@aol.com*.

## ECHS Varsity Cheer Tryout Schedule

All at West Irvine Intermediate

### Practices:

- April 27 4-6pm with MANDATORY parent meeting at 6pm
- April 28 5-7pm
- April 29 5-7pm
- May 1 Tryouts @ 6:30

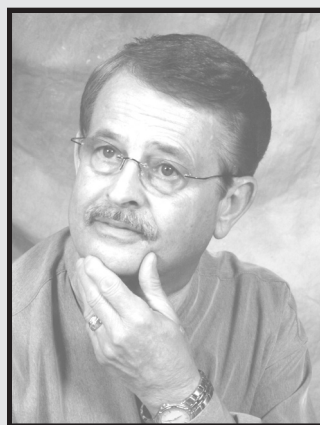
Open to students who will be entering 9th-12th grade next school year

Questions/concerns contact Tara Friend at 723-4800 or tara.friend@estill.kyschools.us

## Estill Lady Engineers 2015 Girls FP Softball

- Apr 14 Berea ..... A 5:30
- Apr 16 Owsley County ..... A 5:30

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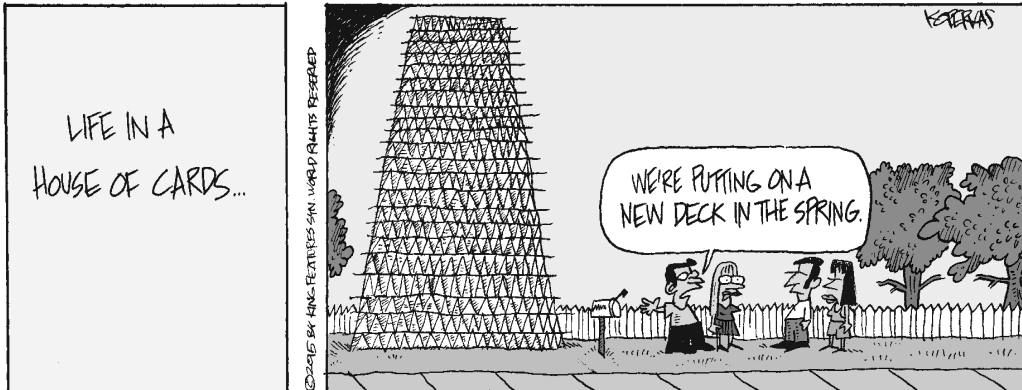
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