

# Hero keeps proving his doubters wrong



by Larry Vaught

Former Kentucky player Tyler Herro was not a McDonald's All-American coming out of high school. He was not projected as a first-round draft pick before his freshman season at UK.

Yet Miami did make Herro a first-round pick after one year at Kentucky and he recently made the NBA all-rookie second team and was spectacular for the Heat once NBA play resumed.

Herro loves the underdog role that has always been put on him, including in the NBA.

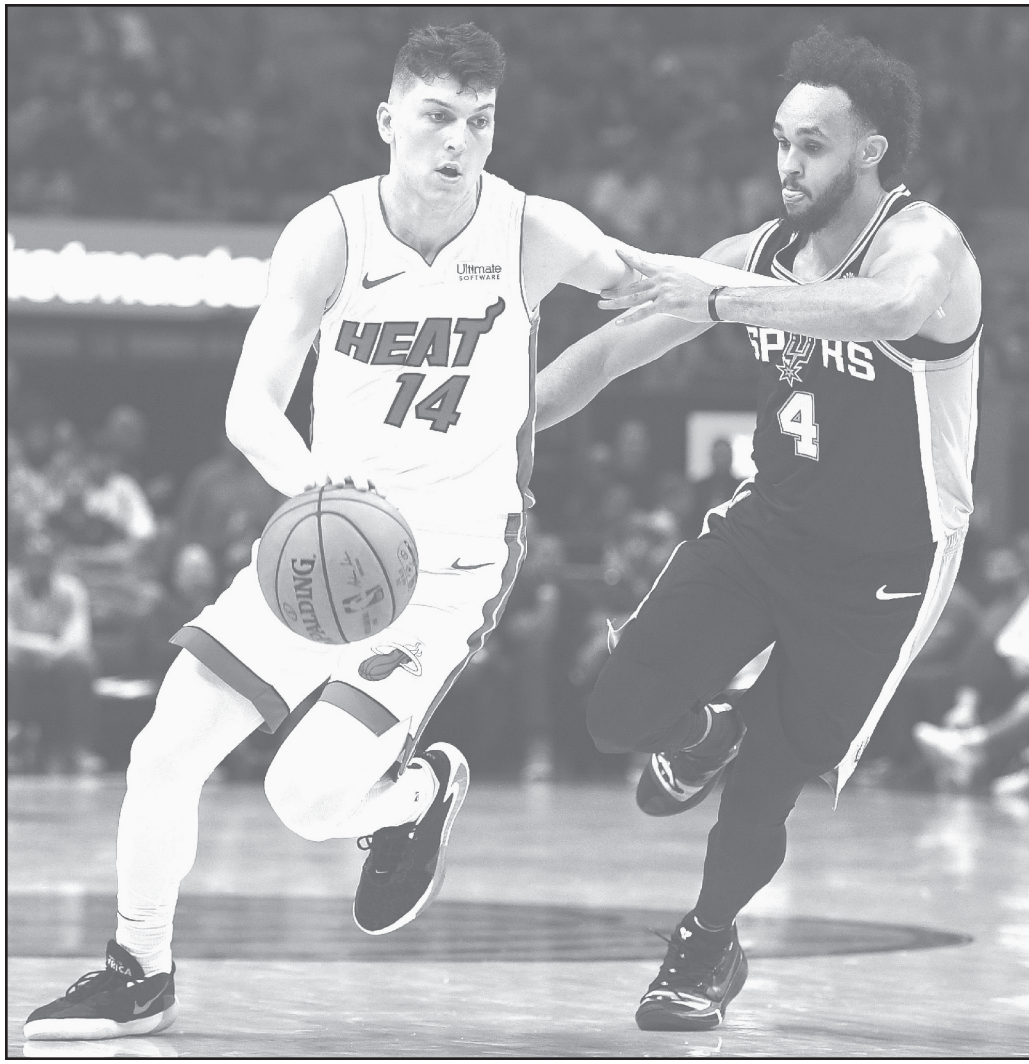
"I think I'm not the only guy on the team who has been doubted. There's a lot of undrafted guys, guys who have been in the second round, and I think that's why we have a chip on our shoulder as a team," Herro said during his team's playoff battle with Boston in the Eastern Conference final.

"We all have been doubted at some point through our career and now we are all together in one locker room and feel like we can put it together and win games."

Herro has enjoyed his rookie success.

"It's just a blessing to be here. I never thought I would be playing in the Eastern Conference Finals with a chance to go to the Finals. I'm just taking every part of it with me and enjoying it. Taking advantage of my opportunity," he said.

"We just got a great locker room. A lot of guys who



Tyler Herro has continued to keep proving his doubters wrong during his rookie season with Miami. (Miami Heat Photo)

want to win and our grit. Just championship DNA in our locker room."

Herro learned one valuable lesson this season that has stood out to him.

"Just every possession matters. As a rookie, I think that's the one thing I've learned throughout the playoffs is every possession matters. Everything matters, whether it's in the first quarter, that can play a vital role in what's going on in the fourth quarter," Herro said. "Just really taking value of each possession and really taking care of the ball and making the right plays, taking the right shots and just being focused on the other end on defense."

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Justin Rogers was the highest rated recruit not only in Kentucky's 2020 football recruiting class but also the highest rated recruit that coach Mark Stoops has signed at UK.

While Stoops and defensive coordinator Brad White have not yet said exactly how much Rogers

will play when UK opens the season Saturday at Auburn, it seems obvious he's going to be part of the defensive line rotation.

"He's getting better. Like most of these freshmen, with each practice, he's getting better and better. He's got a great work ethic," Stoops said. "It's important to him."

"In scrimmage two, he reached out to the coaches, met with (UK defensive line coach) Anwar (Stewart) at 8 a.m. Sunday morning and wanted to watch film with him, go through things with him."

What's even better for UK is that Stoops is also really happy with two other freshmen defensive linemen, Octavious Oxendine and Josaih Hayes.

"They've got a great desire to be great," Stoops said. "The great part about us now is that you could play them, you could bring them along, but you don't have to rely on them."

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PGA Tour regular Jim Herman grew up in Cincinnati and even though he now lives in Florida, the 2019 Barbasol Championship winner still keeps a close eye on pro and college sports in his hometown.

"We are very loyal fans. We have not had the best run of things in baseball (Reds) and football (Ben-

gals) lately," said Herman. "I can still remember the late 1980s and early 1990s when the Reds won the World Series and the Bengals were in the Super Bowl."

"Right now are stuck in the middle. We are just waiting to see what (No. 1 draft pick) Joe Burrow can do (at quarterback) for the Bengals because being a loyal Bengals fan is not easy."

Herman certainly understood early just how loyal and passionate University of Kentucky fans were and continue to be.

"Those Wildcats have a pretty good following in basketball and take over the news in Cincinnati," Herman said. "Growing up I would think, 'Why show Wildcats highlights? Let's see some (Cincinnati) Bearcats and (Xavier) Musketeers."

"But they (Kentucky Wildcats) are so good and have been so good for so long. It's easy to see why the fan base is there and there have always been plenty of them in Cincinnati. I hope the Bearcats have a good year in football and basketball but no matter what, the Kentucky fans are going to always be there."



## Just Hunting

by Steve Brewer

I have been your new neighbor for a little over 8 years now. No committee to come by and say 'welcome to our little piece of the world', no "Welcome Wagon" to stop by and tell us, "It is a good thing to have people like you that pay their garbage, taxes; and carries full coverage insurance on your cars and house, in full on time, every time. But I have realized that the 150 miles from my old house to here has changed people, so we just live with it."

I have noticed something that makes me wonder; and so I am going to ask. Does anyone in this county camp? In my 8 years here, not once have I heard one story of someone camping. Not camping to hunt, fish, or just to get away. I know there is a place to camp, across the county line in Clark County. From what I understand, it is a good place to take your family. I want you to know, I am not speaking from first hand knowledge, just what I have been told.

Some of my most favorite memories growing up, are centered around Bee Rock, Little Lick, and of course Fish Pond. My brother wanted us to go camping a few years back. He wanted us to camp in the Daniel Boone National Forest, near Mount Victory; a place we had camped many times over the years. We camped next to the river, hunted during the day, fished at night.

The one thing you can count on with my brother is, you can't count on him. He lives in North Carolina, and that may be part of his problem, I really don't know. I do know my parents would be so disappointed in him. He has wasted millions of dollars over his life, by doing stupid things. He called and said he would be at my house in Whitesburg around noon. That would give us time to drive to our camp site and get set up. He had just bought a brand new pop-up camper.

He arrived at my house around 10 that night, ten hours late, him and his son. Setting up camp is hard enough in the daylight, almost impossible after dark. Him and his son unhitched from the truck and pushed the camper back into the spot we always used. I was getting some things from my truck when I heard screaming, and turned just in time to see the camper barrel by me at what seemed top speed. I thought, they are heading to the river, no way could I help. When the camper went by, I noticed the tongue was in the air; all of a sudden, the tongue went down, just short of the river. Seems they both had walked to the back of the camper when they unhitched it, on the inside, and off they went. They made it back to the front just in time. A memory for sure.

You can email Steve Brewer at <Steve@EstillTribune.com> and message is forwarded.

**Linda Kaye Hamm Sparks of Crooked Creek in Irvine wishes to state that she is not the same person as the one with a similar name that was listed in last week's Estill County Court indictments.**

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