

Former All-American Has To Get Better Feel For His Game

By **LARRY VAUGHT**

Hamidou Diallo almost left Kentucky after one semester for the NBA before deciding to stay at UK. Now he's being counted on as UK's most explosive — and one of its most experienced players even though he's yet to play in a regular-season game — this season.

No one doubts his athleticism. He had the best numbers of any Wildcat at the preseason combine for NBA scouts.

But his outside shooting and playmaking were suspect in high school. He struggled to make outside shots playing for coach John Calipari on Team USA during the summer.

Former UK All-American Mike Pratt is now the analyst for the UK Radio Network. He watched Diallo practice and work out with the team a lot the second semester last season because even though he was being redshirted, Diallo still traveled with the team.

"The kid is a freak of an athlete. He can run and dunk. But what I am looking to see develop from watching practice all of last year, I question whether he can hit a jumper," Pratt said. "But he can take it in transition, get putback baskets and score that way playing to his strengths."

"The other night (in an exhibition game) he tried to do too much. Made some crazy passes. He's got to figure that out and stay within himself. I think you will hear that from Calipari early this year. Some of these guys try to do too much."

Pratt said Diallo's athleticism makes him unique, something that should ben-

efit UK this season. But there are still areas he has to address to improve the way NBA personnel will be looking for.

"You are not going to find a lot better NBA guys at his size athletically but he has to develop the ability to read situations. When to take it to the rim. When to shoot it. When to pass," Pratt said. "There is so much in learning how to play the game and utilize your athletic balance."

"Why he is still doing that he has to develop a feel for the game while still using his athletic skills. It sounds easy, but it's not."

Pratt still "likes" Kentucky to win the SEC but also thinks the league is "trending upward" with experienced players at many schools along with talented freshmen. He values the experience both Florida and Texas A&M have compared to Kentucky and notes that both teams have players that sat out last season that should help both teams.

"I think Auburn, Alabama and Arkansas will all be much better, too. Some like Vanderbilt, but I don't know about that," Pratt said. "I think the league could get five to seven teams in the NCAA. That means Kentucky could lose games on the road in league play and people will react by saying they can't believe UK lost to that team. But Kentucky has a good chance to lose some of those games just like other teams do."

He views UK as a top 10 preseason team but has Michigan State and Arizona 1-2 in his own poll. Duke, Villanova, Kansas and Louisville are 3-6 with UK 7th.



Estill County Marching Engineers' runner-up performance in the State. (Photo courtesy of Sarah Watkins)



Members of RCP and EDA met with representatives from state and federal environmental agencies along with our Tetra Tech consultant to view progress at the Mack and to hear advice on our Brownfields grant. Left to right are: Sherry Weedman, Joe Crawford, Derek Street, Jim Kirby, Paula White, Susan Hawkins.

Twin City Chilly Chili Day

Saturday, November 4
at the American Legion in Ravenna

Chili Tasting 5pm-8pm
Live Music 8pm-10pm
featuring Ryan Witt & Clay Case

\$5 for tasting, \$10 for tasting and music

*We hope to see you there!
EstillActionGroup.com
for more details
or to register
your team!*

Specials
Each Wednesday

Breakfast or Dinner Anytime

New Menu Items

Homemade Desserts

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Friday & Saturday, 7 am-10 pm
Sunday, 8 am-9 pm

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2017 PRIMARY

Basketball & Cheerleading Signups

DATES

Sunday	November 5th	2-4 pm
Tuesday	November 7th	6-8 pm
Thursday	November 9th	6-8 pm
Sunday	November 12th	2-4 pm

LOCATION: Estill High School Gym Lobby

BASKETBALL LEAGUES

Boys/Girls	Preschool to 1st Grade
Boys/Girls	2nd & 3rd Grade
Boys/Girls	4th & 5th Grade
Boys/Girls	6th thru 8th Grade

CHEERLEADING

Girls	Preschool to 5th Grade
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COST: \$40.00 per kid for basketball
\$30.00 per kid for cheerleading

Everyone must sign up at one of the designated times.
We will not take sign-ups over the phone.

Anyone interested in **Coaching** needs to come to one of the sign-ups
We will have **ALL GIRL TEAMS** if we have enough kids to sign up!

SUNDAY, November 12th
is **Last Day** to sign up!