

THE BLUEPRINT

The Official Newsletter of the University of Kentucky Athletics Department

vol 6

Spring 2005

BACK



TO THE FUTURE

By Oscar Combs

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• Straight from the Coach: Q&A With Kentucky Softball Coach Eileen Schmidt

and much more!

Starting in 2007, UK's new 10-year contract with Clear Channel radio stations in Louisville, Lexington and Cincinnati will provide uninterrupted coverage of UK sports across the nation—just like “the good old days.”

“By gawd, it's about time!” Those could well have been the words of the late Adolph Rupp upon learning of the renewed marriage vows between the University of Kentucky and radio station WHAS of Louisville.

After a sometimes-bitter 25-year lovers' triangle that involved UK accepting a secondary status to University of Louisville football and basketball, all is rosy once again in Big Blue Nation.

UK and WHAS have “remarried,” effective the fall of 2007. And UK will once again have top billing on WHAS Radio.

On the morning after UK and Clear Channel Communications announced their 10-year, multi-million dollar deal, one had to sense Rupp was somewhere up there in basketball heaven, “high-fiving” with the likes of Harry Lancaster,

Paul “Bear” Bryant, Cawood Ledford, Claude Sullivan, Jerry Claiborne and Dr. Otis Singletary, among thousands of other UK faithful.

To the millions of UK fans all across the eastern half of the USA and as far west as the Rocky Mountains, it will be the sound of sweet music come 2007 when they once again can tune to 840 on the radio dial for each and every UK football and basketball game.

Whether it's a farmer in Mississippi, a mother and father huddled with the kids around the radio on a cold winter night in rural Illinois, a businessman in Philadelphia,

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transplanted grandparents in Michigan or a truck driver making a long haul somewhere on Route 66, enjoying UK sports will once again be



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Catch the Catspys



The third annual CATSPY Awards, presented by Fifth Third Bank, will be held April 26, 2005 in Rupp Arena. The show starts at 8:30 p.m.

Tickets go on sale March 28, and can purchased by calling the UK athletic ticket office at (859) 257-1818 or by logging on to ukathletics.com. All tickets are \$10.

The CATSPY Awards, an ESPY-style awards show, recognizes UK student-athletes, coaches and teams for their excellence on and off the fields of play. More than 60 nominees, representing over 400 student-athletes from 22 varsity sports, will be honored.

Big Blue Thoughts

With Mitch Barnhart



I hope you'll enjoy reading this issue of The Blueprint as much as we enjoyed putting it together for you. It's amazing how many positive things have occurred in the last few months. As you can read on the cover of this issue, one of the biggest pieces of good news is that, beginning in 2007, the Wildcats return to the preeminent position on WHAS Radio in Louisville while maintaining strong radio affiliates in Lexington and Cincinnati. Our good friends at Host Communications and Gray Television deserve an awful lot of credit for this wonderful news. Oscar Combs and former UK football player Jeff Zurcher both give some historical perspective on this development in this issue.

Just one week after the deal with Clear Channel was announced, we all looked on as Patrick Sparks stepped to the foul line at Freedom Hall and sealed a 60-58 Wildcat victory over Louisville. We've heard from quite a few of you recounting where you were when Patrick hit those three free throws, and we've included some of those stories on the next page.

Another bit of news that you need to be aware of came from the league office in February, when the SEC's Fall Academic Honor Roll was announced and UK led all schools with 48 student-athletes on the list. We hope to have similar numbers when the Spring Honor Roll is announced this summer.

Thanks for all you do to make the Big Blue Nation special.

Mitch Barnhart

A Home for Home Games Kentucky Gameday Center is coming to Lexington

Wildcat fans are all about basketball, and Kentucky Gameday Center luxury sports condominiums are all about convenience and location on game days! Located across the street from the Rupp Arena complex, we are THE place to park, celebrate and live!

Kentucky Gameday Center offers studios, one, two and three bedroom residential units and penthouses, ranging from \$145,000 to \$850,000.



Conceptual Rendering of Kentucky Gameday Center



Kentucky Gameday Center CEO Gary Spillars and Kentucky Gameday Center Sales Associate Bill Shreder with the Wildcat

Suites are fully furnished with everything from bath towels to barware, appliances, washer and dryer, kitchen ware and so much more! Each suite is uniquely decorated for year-round living or to reflect Wildcat fans' team spirit!

Other features of this multi-use community include retail space, an upscale restaurant, a sporty club room, professional meeting facilities and an optional on-site rental management company.

IT'S A WIN WIN!

A percentage of sales and rental proceeds are contributed to UK's Athletic Association!



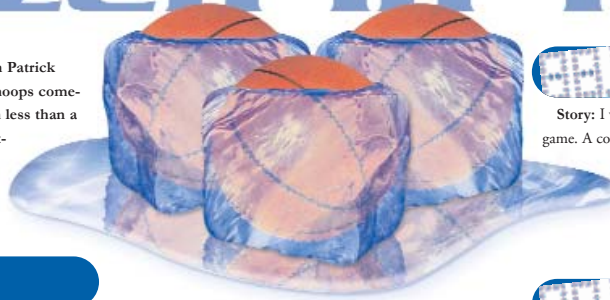
CALL NOW FOR PRE-CONSTRUCTION PRICING AND AVAILABILITY!

1.800.693.8204 www.gamedaycenters.com 1.800.693.8204

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Three Foul Shots... Frozen in Time

Where were you last December, when Patrick Sparks sealed Kentucky's historic hoops comeback over Louisville from the foul line with less than a second left to play? From Lexington to Katmandu, Wildcat fans from around the globe remember the exact time and place.



John Austin
New Albany, Ind.

Story: I was at work, in a meeting, during the whole game. A co-worker, who was sitting close to a TV, was giving me hand signals to keep me updated on the score. The U of L fans in the office were rowdy the whole game, but got deathly quiet at the end. It couldn't have ended better.

Beth Leasor
Louisville, Ky.

Story: Usually I go to a UK-UL party, but this year I decided to stay home and watch the game with my mom. It was very hard to watch the first half, so at halftime I got up and put on my UK clothes. We started to play better in the second half. When it was right at four minutes (left in the game), my mom was in the laundry room folding laundry. When we started coming back, I made her stay in the laundry room. She stayed in the laundry room until after Sparks hit his free throws. My family and I are willing to do whatever it takes to see the Cats win.

could listen to the game together. He is just as big of a UK nut as I am. When we finished with Santa, there were about two minutes left in the game. I offered to find a TV to watch the ending, but Alex didn't want to jinx the team by moving, so he, Santa and I stood in a parking lot and listened to an unbelievable finish. That Saturday was a great day. We got to bring smiles to hundreds of kids' faces, I got to spend the afternoon with my son, and our beloved Cats beat the Cardinals. What more could one man ask for?

Anthony Combs
Melbourne, Fla.

Story: My family moved to Florida from Louisville in 1986. My brother James lives two hours north of my wife and me. James, the No. 1 Cat fan in the U.S., could not bear to watch the game without another Big Blue fan, so he came down to watch the game with me. When Patrick Sparks hit all three free throws at the end, James got so excited that he went to hug me or give me a high five (I have not figured out which yet) and jabbed me in my left ear, drawing blood. I took one for the team.... Go Big Blue.

Story: As an officer in the U.S. Navy, who is deployed thou-

Marcus Shanks
Katmandu, Nepal

Story: The 16-hour time difference meant that I was at my computer in the wee hours of the morning, listening to the game one slow refreshed page at a time. I have a very slow dial-up connection, because it is all that is available to me.... The longest loading page of my life was the refreshed page after Sparks got fouled. The great part is UK won. The downside is nobody here has ever heard of UK or Louisville. Either way, I was going bananas. I yelled into the street when the free throws went down.

Derek Conley
Alexandria, Ky.

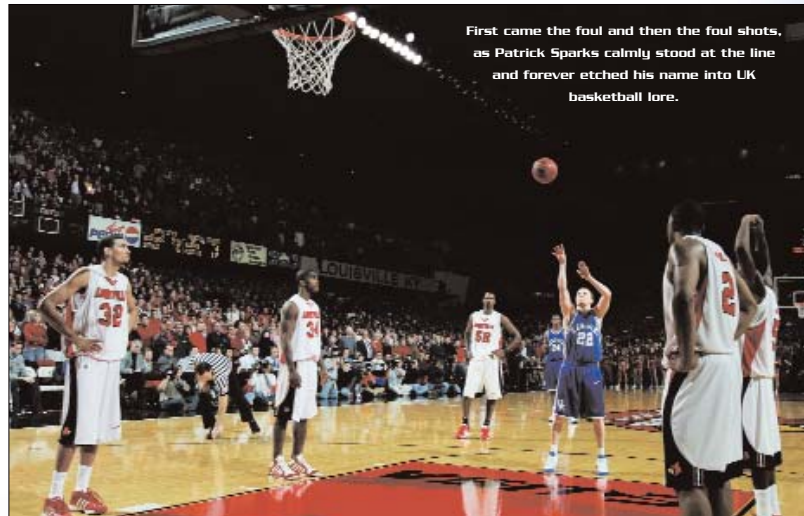
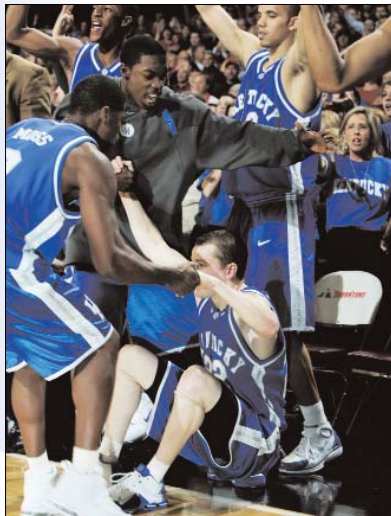
Story: I was actually at my best friend's wedding. I was the best man and the wedding was supposed to start 2:30. The majority of the wedding party was gathered around an SUV in the parking lot, listening to the game on the radio. We kept telling the groom they would have to delay the wedding a few minutes if the game went into overtime. Luckily, it ended with the Cats on top, and we were able to make it back inside for the wedding. I told the rest of the wedding party that Kentucky would be the only place where you'd see a dozen people in tuxedos and dresses, standing in the cold and listening to a ball game minutes before a wedding. I watched the game that night on tape and was still nervous, even though I knew the outcome. Go Cats!

Isaac VanHoose
Somerset, Ky.

sands of miles from home, I haven't had too many opportunities to watch my beloved Wildcats. When I learned that the UK-Louisville game would be broadcast on the Armed Forces Network, I was obviously ecstatic! After one of my daily watches, I changed into my favorite Kentucky sweatshirt and watched the game from tip-off. In the first half, I was disheartened and shocked. I couldn't believe it and, though I was tempted to end my misery and go to bed, I hung in there. I wasn't disappointed! As my roommates slept, I jumped and yelled with every basket. I knew, when Sparks got fouled, the game was over and he would ice the free throws. I'll never forget watching one of the best UK games I've ever seen ... on a ship in the middle of the Indian Ocean.

Ron Wilson
Taylor Mill, Ky.

Story: I am a police officer in the city of Taylor Mill. During the game, I had to escort Santa Claus throughout our city (this is a yearly treat we provide for the children in the city). My 10-year-old son Alex decided he would go with me, so we



First came the foul and then the foul shots, as Patrick Sparks calmly stood at the line and forever etched his name into UK basketball lore.

To read more letters, log on to ukathletics.com



Meet the Cats

John Holmes

CLASS: Senior SPORT: Men's Golf



The impact that senior John Holmes has had on UK's golf program is astounding. Among his accomplishments, Holmes earned first-team All-America honors as a junior in 2004, while capturing medalist honors at the U.S. Amateurs and qualifying for the U.S. Open at Olympia Fields in 2003. In 2002, he won the Kentucky Open and was named 2002 Kentucky Golf Association Player of the Year.

Holmes had an astounding junior season, finishing it off by competing around the world last summer to improve his game. He captured eight top-five finishes, two tournament individual titles, a season average of 71.29 and the first-ever UK first-team All-America award (the best individual record in school history).

He tied for sixth place at the NCAA

Championships, competed in Japan for Team USA, leading the team to a win over Japan,

played Ireland's world renowned courses with his UK teammates, was inducted to Kentucky's Society of Character, won the Kentucky Open two-years running, and qualified for the U.S. Amateur.

After competing in the U.S. Amateur tournament, Holmes headed straight to campus for the beginning of classes and what has made him famous in Lexington and beyond, golf. During the first week of campus life, Holmes received a visit from one of the golfing community's most prestigious magazine, Golf World. John was pictured and featured in an article about a small-town kid who makes it big. One could call it chance, one could call it luck and one could call it drive and determination that a small-town kid from Campbellsville, Ky., would be putting Kentucky golf on the map. Adorning the two-page spread is an individual third-place national ranking and a sixth-place national team ranking by Golf World.

Holmes has made UK history the past three years and there is no doubt he has given the Kentucky golf team national credibility. He enters his senior season as an outstanding golfer and a true Wildcat student-athlete.

The Holmes File

Favorite place to vacation: Japan

Who would you most like to meet? Jack Nicklaus

Favorite TV show: Everybody Loves Raymond

Most memorable sports moment: Playing in the U.S. Open

One-word description of UK: Fun

Sarah Foster

CLASS: Senior SPORT: Tennis

Sarah Foster's commitment to the Kentucky tennis program during the spring of 2004 drew little fanfare across the Southeastern Conference. After all, UK Coach Mark Guilbeau was the only SEC coach to offer her a scholarship. Guilbeau knew he had something special, however, in the former state champion from Lexington Christian Academy.

"We knew coming in that she played with a lot of heart and desire," Guilbeau said. "For her to step up right away and have the belief that she could improve her game and play at this level so quickly was incredible to see."

Foster compiled a



10-6 singles record during her first semester as a Wildcat and scored a victory over Vanderbilt's Audra Falk, who later made the semifinals of the NCAA Singles Championships.

Though Foster had a strong fall showing to her credit, no one could have predicted what happened in conference play.

The Southeastern Conference is widely regarded as the toughest tennis conference in America.

The league features recent NCAA champions Florida and Georgia and is noted for its balance from top to bottom.

Seemingly unfazed by it all, Foster scored victories in her first three conference matches and made her debut in the ITA rankings at No. 96. She dropped her fourth match to a ranked opponent from Florida but closed the season with seven consecutive wins, including a victory over another highly-regarded freshman, 13th-ranked Shadisha Robinson of Georgia, and 40th-ranked Kelly Schmandt of Vanderbilt.

The same coaches who took such little notice of Foster as a high school player had a change of heart last spring when they named Foster the SEC Freshman of the Year. She later earned the ITA Southeast Region Rookie of the Year Award and earned a bid to the NCAA Singles Championships.

The Foster File

Who would you most like to meet? The Coventry family (teammate Kim Coventry's family in Australia)

Most memorable sports moment: Clinching the long and

hard-fought win against Georgia at the 2004 SEC Championships

One lesson my parents taught me is: To not limit myself and what I can accomplish, despite any circumstances...to work extremely hard, but also to enjoy the process.

If you won the lottery, what is the first thing you would buy? A tennis court for my backyard

One-word description of UK: Friendly

Meghan Cooper

CLASS: Senior SPORT: Softball

Meghan Cooper will be counted on as a leader on this year's team after starting all 57 games for the Wildcats in 2004. Cooper ranked third on the team with a .290 batting average and tied for second with 20 runs scored. She also made 10 starts on the mound for UK, posting a 5-4 record and tossing two complete games.

The Golden, Colo., native is a flexible player who has had success both at the plate and on the mound. She will likely see time at third base, but may also see action as the team's designated hitter. A power hitter who can stroke the long ball, Cooper was third on the team with four home runs last season. She was a home run away from hitting for the cycle against Mississippi State last season, going 3-for-4 with two runs and an RBI. She was later awarded the Catspy for Female Performance of the Year in 2004 for her performance in that game.

The Cooper File

Favorite place to vacation: Anywhere in the mountains of Colorado

Most memorable sports moment: Beating Alabama for the first time in school history last season. I hit two home runs and my dad was there watching.

If you won the lottery, what is the first thing you would buy?

A Condo in Aspen

Favorite TV shows: Desperate Housewives, ESPN Sports Center

One-word description of UK: Comfortable



Jesse Witten

CLASS: Senior SPORT: Men's Tennis



This spring marks the last chance to catch a glimpse of the All-America Wildcat career of senior Jesse Witten. The Naples, Fla., native has earned three All-SEC selections and as many All-America selections.

"Jesse is probably the best player we've had in the history of the program," UK Coach Dennis Emery said. "He likely will be our first four-time All-American, and he only missed a doubles All-America selection by one spot last year. He's a leader on and off the court, and we look for him to have another solid year at the No. 1 singles position."

Witten has remained in the upper echelon of collegiate tennis since he first stepped on the Kentucky campus. A former Florida

state champion, Witten immediately took to the college game, registering wins over highly-ranked opponents in his first semester. He ended his freshman campaign with a 36-14 singles record and picked up SEC Freshman of the Year and ITA National Rookie of the Year honors, though that was only the beginning. Witten made a memorable five-match run through the NCAA Singles Championships and landed in the national title match, where he was defeated by defending champion Matias Boeker of Georgia.

As a senior, Witten again appears poised to make a serious run at a national singles title. Last summer, he won a USTA futures event and finished as the runner-up in another before thrilling Lexington tennis fans with a strong performance in the Fifth Third Tennis Championships at UK's Boone Tennis Complex. Last fall, Witten finished as the runner-up at the ITA National Indoor Championships to record his second career national runner-up finish.

The Witten File

Who would you most like to meet? Eminem

Favorite place to vacation: Naples, Fla. (home) or somewhere in the Caribbean

Most memorable sports moment: Freshman year, when we reached the NCAA elite eight

If a movie were to be made about you, who would you like to portray? Will Ferrell

One lesson my parents taught me is: Winning isn't everything...it's how you play the game.

Laura Clemmons

CLASS: Junior SPORT: Women's Golf

For golfer Laura Clemmons, having shoulder surgery last season didn't lessen her commitment to the Kentucky golf team. In fact, Clemmons saw the time away from the golf course as an opportunity to represent the team in a number of other ways.

As the team's community outreach representative, she has been active in the community working with elementary school children, the Hope Center and Southland Christian Church.

"I enjoy getting out in the community," Clemmons said. "It makes my day to see how excited the kids are, and what a difference we are making in their lives."

"Laura is an exceptional person and truly talented," head coach Stephanie Barker said. "Laura is a leader with her actions as well as with her words. It is nice to see our student-athletes be successful in the classroom and on the course, but yet be so involved with the community."

A native of Mayfield, Ky., Clemmons has grown from her experiences outside of the golf course, and is ready to make an impact with the team this season.

The Clemmons File

Favorite place to vacation: I love Destin, Fla., but anywhere warm and on the beach really. I went to Curacao on a cruise once and I would love to go back. It was beautiful.

If a movie was made about you, who would you want to portray you? Gwyneth Paltrow, maybe? She seems very intelligent and down to earth. I would want someone respectable to play me.

Most memorable sports moment: I know it was a long time ago, but my junior year in high school my golf team won the regional tournament. We were all such good friends and were so excited because we were the underdogs. It was one of my first real accomplishments in golf. My advice to youngsters is: You have to be passionate about whatever you are doing in order to excel in that area. Learn as much as you can and focus on what you love.

One word description of UK: Exciting



Daniel Cruz

CLASS: Senior SPORT: Men's Swimming & Diving

When most Kentucky fans associate SEC and NCAA championships with UK athletics, men's basketball immediately comes to mind. But fans need to take note of another successful sport as championship season approaches.

That sport is swimming, and one student-athlete to keep an eye on is senior swimmer Daniel Cruz. A breakout junior season saw Cruz miss an SEC title by a mere .03 seconds, while missing out on an NCAA crown by .18 seconds. The senior All-American from Palm Coast, Fla., made amends last month, becoming Kentucky's first SEC men's swimming champion in 48 years when he captured the men's 200 butterfly at the SEC Championships in Gainesville, Fla. His time of 1:42.86 rewrote his own school record and set a new pool record at Florida's O'Connell Center Natatorium.

Cruz's story is one of triumph through adversity. He was involved in a serious auto accident nearly 16 years ago, when he spent a portion of his childhood in New York. Doctors pondered how well he would be able to walk or if he would even be able to walk again. After spending several hours in a swimming pool each week to rehabilitate and strengthen his leg, Daniel not only began walking again but also turned into quite a swimmer. As a result, Cruz earned an athletic scholarship, and the rest is history. He owns school



records in the 100 and 200-butterfly events and co-owns school marks in the 400 and 800-freestyle relays and the 200 and 400-medley relays. In 2004, he nearly won conference and national titles, and in July, Cruz found himself in the finals of the U.S. Olympic Trials in Long Beach, Calif.

Cruz has automatically qualified for several events at this month's NCAA Championships at Minnesota and is one of the favorites to capture the 200 butterfly.

So, Wildcat fans, keep one eye on the basketball court, but keep another eye on another Cat "Cruz-ing" for a national title.

The Cruz File

Who would you most like to meet?

Michael Jordan

Favorite place to vacation: Cozumel, Mexico

Most memorable sports moment: Making the finals of the 2004 U.S. Olympic Trials in the 200 butterfly

My advice to youngsters is: If you put your mind to it, you can accomplish anything.

Favorite TV show: Nip/Tuck



Meet the Cats

Michelle Gales

CLASS: Senior SPORT: Gymnastics

The floor is her stage and 9.9 is her number. Senior Michelle Gales has been entertaining UK gymnastics fans with her powerful floor exercises since her freshman year. Performing with near flawless precision to her choice of eclectic music, Gales' routines typically move the crowd to stand up, clap its hands and tap its feet. She is an inspiration to young gymnasts who flock to Memorial Coliseum to watch her fly through the air on passes and land with amazing grace.

Gales is in her fourth and final season as a UK gymnast after an impressive junior campaign. As a junior she recorded the team's top score against Ball State on floor with a 9.95 and was UK's leader in the all-around with a 39.400 average. Gales' signature floor routine earned her six consecutive 9.9-plus marks and guided her to the NCAA Regional, where she earned a 39.025 all-around score.

"The floor is my favorite event, so I go out there hardest to keep up my reputation," said Gales. "It feels really good to entertain the crowd. I pick music that will guarantee crowd interaction."

As co-captain of this year's squad, Gales has been an inspiration to the team on and off the floor. She recorded her first 9.9 of the season against Arkansas on floor, marking the 19th time she has earned a score of 9.9 or higher. Gales is an inspiration to not only her teammates, but to aspiring young gymnasts that dream of flying as high as she has in her years as a Kentucky gymnast.

"It has been a fun experience being a UK athlete," said the merchandising major from Atlanta, Ga. "It has helped me get involved and has been a great opportunity."

The Gales File

Favorite place to vacation: Anywhere there are amusement parks, but not just any amusement parks: the top 10 amusement parks.

Favorite TV show: ER

If a movie was made about you, who would you want to portray you? Gabrielle Union for

the middle years and Angela Bassett for the older me.

Most memorable sports moment: When I tied Jenny Hansen's all-time all-around [score] and won the all-around competition against LSU my sophomore year.

One lesson my parents taught me is: Never let anyone put me down or take advantage of me. They also taught me that if I treat others with the utmost respect, I will be treated with the same respect in return.



Andy Fryman

CLASS: Sophomore SPORT: Track and Field



A 12-pound ball, a flying disc and a 35-pound weight are a field-event man's best friends, particularly for sophomore Andy Fryman. The Maysville, Ky., native ended his high school career as one of Sports Illustrated's "Faces in the Crowd," the Kentucky state champion in both the shot put and discus and a Track and Field News All-American in both events.

Fryman left high school and entered a program with an excellent reputation and one of the nation's best field event performers—Jeff Chakouian. While Chakouian's size and accomplishments would be intimidating to many, Fryman saw that as opportunity.

"[Coming to Kentucky] was both intimidating and inspirational," said Fryman. "Intimidating because I was not as big as Jeff, but the fact that I

could possibly get that big and have everything come together like he did was inspirational."

Fryman has since emerged as an outstanding collegiate athlete in his own right. In a very short period of time, he has won numerous titles and set the UK freshman school record with a toss of 175-1 in the discus. At Florida State, in 2004, he landed fifth on the Kentucky top throws list in the hammer throw with a heave of 169-04. Fryman also finished third in the shot put at the US Junior National Championship. This season, after two meets, Fryman had recorded a toss of 58-08 1/2 in the shot put and was ranked 15th in the nation.

The Fryman File

Who would you most like to meet? Pastor Joel Osteen of Lakewood Church in Houston, Texas

Most memorable sports moment: Seeing Jeff Chakouian throw 66' 3" at Regionals last year

One lesson my parents taught me is: To believe that you can do anything that you put your mind to

My advice to youngsters is: To strive for your goals, for God is your strength

One-word description of UK: Wonderful

Beth Heimann

CLASS: Senior SPORT: Track and Field



To say that UK senior Beth Heimann has left her mark on the University of Kentucky track and field program is an understatement. A three-time All-American, Heimann is a native of Germantown, Ill., who has consistently improved in every meet of her collegiate career.

"Coming to Kentucky, I had no idea I would enjoy the success that I have had," Heimann said. "Being an All-American, one of the top runners in the country, is such an honor. It is shocking and hard to grasp."

Heimann also owns the school record in both the 800 meters and the 4x1,500 meter relay, proof that the senior will leave the Wildcats with her name engraved in the school's record books.

"Breaking records was something that I did not expect," said Heimann. "I want to keep

improving and accomplish more with the little time I have left as a college athlete."

While Heimann has achieved a number of individual accomplishments, she has also proven herself as a leader on the UK squad willing to help her teammates.

"At Kentucky, we are given opportunities that other collegiate athletes are not. I am honored to have had the opportunity to be an athlete under a great coaching staff. Looking back, it has gone so fast. It feels like just yesterday that I was a sophomore, but the reality is that it's slowly coming to an end."

Though her college days are numbered, Heimann plans to carry over her desire to help others into the future. She is an elementary education major who wants her life's work to focus on helping young children.

The Heimann File

Who would you most like to meet? Roald Dahl. As a child, he was my favorite author and I still enjoy reading his books.

Favorite place to vacation: Anywhere I can lay on the beach and relax

Most memorable sports moment: Placing sixth at indoor nationals last year

If I won the lottery, the first thing I would buy is: A new, expensive wardrobe!

One-word description of UK: Excellence

The Next Big Thing

Just two years into his tenure, John Cohen has transformed the Kentucky baseball program into one that excels both on and off the field. Following his vision, the Wildcats landed one of the nation's top 25 recruiting classes this year and those players are primed to make a difference in 2005. In the classroom, a school-record nine UK players were named to the SEC Academic Honor Roll a year ago and more than half of the team recorded a 3.0 grade-point average or better this past fall. All this combined with the major facilities improvements underway make this an exciting time to be a part of Kentucky baseball.

The UK baseball team has 13 players that call the Commonwealth home on its roster, including seven from Lexington. Here is a look at the Wildcats from Kentucky:

Brock Baber	Sharpsburg, Ky.	Willie Mays	Lexington, Ky.
Michael Bertram	Lexington, Ky.	Adam Revelene	Lexington, Ky.
Collin Cowgill	Lexington, Ky.	JB Schmidt	Cynthiana, Ky.
Steve Deaton	Lexington, Ky.	John Shelby III	Lexington, Ky.
Matt Fritts	Louisville, Ky.	Craig Snipp	Louisville, Ky.
Kalen Gibson	Slaughtens, Ky.	Tommy Warner	Lexington, Ky.
Scott Green	Louisville, Ky.		

Getting to know head coach John Cohen



- Is an excellent recruiter. His 2004 recruiting class has been ranked one of the top 25 in the nation.

- Named an assistant coach on the 2005 USA Baseball National Team that will represent the United States this summer internationally.

- In his first year at UK, the Wildcats batted 15 points higher and scored nearly two more runs per game than the previous year.

- As hitting coach at the University of Florida, his offense in 2002 and 2003 led the SEC in batting average and runs scored.

- Two-time Southland Conference Coach of the Year at Northwestern (La.) State.

- Played his college ball at Mississippi State from 1987-90, where he led the Bulldogs to three SEC Championships.

- First-team All-SEC pick in 1990, the year he guided MSU to the College World Series.

- Selected in the 22nd round of the Major League Draft by the Minnesota Twins in 1990.

John Shelby

Aaron Tennyson

Michael Bertram

2005 Kentucky Baseball Schedule

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
			ETC	ETC	ETC	ETC
			Off	Off	Off	Off
			Off	Off	Off	Off
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Texas	Texas	Montana	Montana	North	North	Black
Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
R. Island	R. Island	Miami	Miami	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama
Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Alabama	Alabama	ETC	ETC	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia
Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off
27	28	29	30	31		
Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas		
Off	Off	Off	Off	Off		

May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Arkansas	Arkansas	Arkansas	Arkansas	Arkansas	Arkansas	Arkansas
Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Arkansas	Arkansas	Arkansas	Arkansas	Arkansas	Arkansas	Arkansas
Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Arkansas	Arkansas	Arkansas	Arkansas	Arkansas	Arkansas	Arkansas
Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Arkansas	Arkansas	Arkansas	Arkansas	Arkansas	Arkansas	Arkansas
Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off
29	30	31				
Arkansas	Arkansas	Arkansas				
Off	Off	Off				

April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas
Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas
Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas
Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas
Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off

Schedule Key

Denotes Home Games	Denotes Away Games	Denotes Games at Applebee's Park
* Denotes SEC Games	All times are Eastern and Subject to Change	



This is Wildcat Country



like turning back the clock to the glory-years of listening to Cawood calling the tip-off of yet another big basketball classic. "As we start the first half, it'll be the Cats going from left to right on your radio dial."

And as Rupp might say, "Why did it take so dagged gum long?"

Perhaps, only the names of Rupp and Bryant have become more synonymous with UK sports than the university's long-standing partnership with WHAS Radio of Louisville. The original marriage began in the late 1930s. It seemed it would last forever. That is until 1980, when UK gave up its No. 1 position on WHAS' airwaves because a new, greedy rights holder (American Radio Network) wanted to gouge more money from the Louisville radio market and struck a deal with WAVE Radio.

UL seized the opportunity and immediately took the No. 1 spot on WHAS.

By the time UK returned its radio rights to Host Communications six years later, the damage had been done. Not even longtime sports media guru Jim Host, a UK grad himself, could sanitize the mess left behind and UK was forced to continue its secondary status with WHAS.

As time passed, few had little hope UK would ever again regain its top position at WHAS, given Louisville's aggressive marketing projects over the past two decades along with UL's successful drive to build a new football stadium, admittance to the Big East Conference next fall and hiring of popular coaches such as John L. Smith and Rick Pitino.

Then, all of a sudden, out of the Kentucky blue, came the shocking news that vibrated throughout Kentucky and around the nation. Headlines flashed in Lexington and Louisville, not to mention all the major internet sites, ESPN and many major newspapers around the country.

News that Kentucky had reclaimed a part of Big Blue Nation lost 25 years ago to its archrival brought rejuvenated life to Wildcat Country.

The UK athletics department, along with Host Communications and Gray Communications, had engineered a comeback far greater than Tubby Smith and his Cats' record-setting 60-58 comeback victory over the Cardinals a week later in Freedom Hall.

The message was clear: "UK is Alive and Kicking."

UK will once again not only call WHAS home, but will become the prodigal son on the Big Blue Torch, so to speak. No. 1. First, last and always.

At least for a 10-year period starting in 2007. What UK had been unable to accomplish in the past 25 years, a new UK athletics administrative team joined with Host and Gray to pull off the coup. And it was no accident.

AD Mitch Barnhart is quick to share credit. He points out the effort and teamwork provided by Host CEO Tom Stultz and Gray's Wayne Martin who played key roles in the negotiations leading up to the final agreement with Clear Channel.

The suddenly revitalized plan to reclaim WHAS, though, began with the hiring of Barnhart.

During the search for a new athletics director in 2002, UK



Kentucky's new contract with Clear Channel Communications will mean, among other things, expanded coverage of women's basketball as well as baseball, softball and other Olympic sports.

president Lee Todd often indicated he would seek a person who had capable business skills along with a commitment to academic achievement and rules compliance, as well as one who had experience at being successful at a major Division I institution.

In Dr. Todd's eyes, Barnhart met those qualifications, especially considering his success at improving the financial picture at Oregon State University. When Barnhart recruited Rob Mulens and Rick Thompson to UK's already solid staff to undertake the task of reestablishing the football program and reorganizing the department and many of its various sports, his top assistants began making a short list of immediate "must-do" projects.

One issue kept popping up when they approached longtime UK fans and supporters. They wanted UK to reclaim top priority on WHAS Radio. To the fans, it was as much a matter of "pride" and "ego" as it was to be able to listen to all the football and basketball games live on the same station instead of having to hear replays often.

To Barnhart and his team, being No. 1 would be just the tip of the iceberg for the landmark, record-breaking radio rights fee for such a deal. Barnhart's top marketing man, Rick Thompson, was brought on board to handle such challenges.

His childhood background provided him enough experience to understand the value of not just the business side of reclaiming WHAS, but also the emotional angle. He's a native of western Virginia,

went to college at Radford, worked at Marshall University in West Virginia, where he often caught the play-by-play voice of Cawood Ledford and versed himself well of Big Blue lore long before coming to Kentucky.

In other words, no one needed to sell him on the idea of reclaiming WHAS.

As far back as his first UK football contest, (UK's 22-17 win over UL in 2002), Thompson had WHAS Radio at the top of his "must do" list. His dedication to achieving this first hurdle was as obvious as the challenge. While Thompson was the point man, Barnhart was no less enthused and involved. You could tell that the moment Barnhart sported his first UK cap.

The day Barnhart accepted the job at UK, he wasted no time in declaring Louisville and Jefferson County as "Big Blue Country." His comments rankled more than a few feathers. Barnhart kept a low profile on the WHAS situation for the next 24 months, but monitored the communications on a regular basis. Then, on Dec. 11, just moments before Kentucky was to tip off its battle with Indiana at Freedom Hall, UK and Barnhart announced its deal with Clear Channel before a huge crowd of Jefferson County fans attending a pre-game rally.

The roar was as loud as any game-winning Wildcat three-pointer at Rupp Arena.

How did UK bag this "off-the-court" victory?

First, UK needed to develop a plan UL could not match. And it did.

Kentucky's huge fan base in the markets of Lexington, Louisville and Cincinnati, and the ability to sell a huge radio-advertising inventory (perhaps as much as six hours on a game day) through Host and Gray Communications gave UK a position of strength Louisville couldn't match. UL, on the other hand, would have a very difficult time selling such an inventory in either Lexington or Cincinnati, where its fan base is relatively small as compared to UK's.

Once UK suggested it wanted to negotiate a deal with Clear Channel for all three markets, collectively, Kentucky was in the driver's seat. Clear Channel would have a very lucrative deal for its major stations in all three markets with guaranteed revenue for a decade, something that Louisville either could not or did not want to commit to providing.

Adding a little pressure to the process was a competing Lexington radio station (WVLK) which was aggressively seeking to unseat WLAP as the Big Blue torch in UK's hometown. Clear Channel certainly did not want to lose its lead ratings program in Lexington to one of its prime competitors.

Thus, the renewed marriage vows made a lot of sense for both Clear Channel and UK to quickly say, "I do."

The new deal certainly satisfies Louisville and Jefferson

County alumni and fans, but it goes far beyond. While the contract will make millions for Clear Channel Communications, UK will make even more, thanks to its \$80.5 million deal with Host and Gray.

Also included in the package with Clear Channel is for UK football and basketball to have all their games packaged on Radio Station WSAI AM in Cincinnati, another 50,000-watt clear channel station and WLAP Radio in Lexington. Along with WHAS, UK's broadcasts will once again reach practically everyone east of the Mississippi River in the USA.

Unlike some times in the past, all three

Perhaps only the names of Rupp and Bryant have become more synonymous with UK sports than WHAS Radio of Louisville.