

THE BLUEPRINT

The Official Newsletter of the University of Kentucky Athletics Department

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Summer 2005

It's Football Time



in the Bluegrass!

By Jeff Zurcher

Kentucky's loud and loyal fan base is one of the big reasons why Wildcat Football remains so special, year after year.

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UK Fans Share
Their Love for
Wildcat Football



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the Coach: Q&A
With Kentucky
Volleyball Coach
Craig Skinner

and much more!

Former UK Athletics Director C.M. Newton said one time (over lunch) that Kentucky was once more of a football state than a basketball state.

Confused? (You, not C.M.)

Good. Then read on.

First, consider the speaker. On the topic of athletics, especially on the topic of Kentucky athletics, C.M. Newton certainly knows of what he speaks. Next, consider the historical context; C.M.'s "onee" was a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away—or, the years prior to A.D. 1953.

A.D. stands for anno domini, as in "year of our Lord." But, in Kentucky football reckoning at least, the year that followed A.D. 1953 was A.B. 1954 as in "After Bear."

Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant stood at the helm of UK football from 1946 through the 1953 season, after which he left Lexington for Texas A&M. During Bear's tenure, the Cats were 60-23-5, never having a losing season and never losing more than four games a year. The crescendo of Bear's Kentucky career came in 1950: 11 wins, an SEC title, and a share of the national championship—earned by ending Oklahoma's 31-game winning streak in the 1951 Sugar Bowl.

Even before the Bear, Kentucky football had built a considerable reputation, boasting a .610 winning percentage. UK's best stretch during that era

(or any other) was 14 straight winning seasons from 1903-1916, during which the team won an incredible 77 percent of its games.

All told, from 1881-1953, Kentucky competed in 63 football seasons, winning 63 percent of its games. However, in the 51 seasons since, the Cats have scratched out wins 42 percent of the time.

Indeed, many things have changed—in addition to the frequency of victories—beginning in A.B. 1954. But one thing established by Bear and his predecessors definitely has remained. And that is tradition.

The carriers of the torch of this tradition are UK football's faithful fans. True, while athletes, coaches, administrators, and even stadiums do contribute to tradition, all of these change periodically—sometimes too fast and sometimes not fast enough. But the fan base is special. The fan base has never failed, has never faltered. The fan base has never turned its back and run. Instead, it has celebrated the ups, weathered the downs; has cherished the ins, overcome the outs.

The fuel and flame of the torch of this tradition are resolution and optimism. Kentucky supporters' belief in and commitment to the



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Big Blue Thoughts

With Mitch Barnhart

What is the value of a championship in a sport like men's golf, women's tennis, or men's soccer? What good does it do to be successful in those sports if you aren't winning in football?

This spring, as UK has celebrated an athletic year that featured four conference titles, I've heard those questions asked. And they are valid questions, because they allow us to share a dream for Wildcat Athletics.

The student-athletes who wear Kentucky blue—whether they play basketball or baseball; tackle or long jump—deserve championship-caliber support from this University. In return, the school expects a level of commitment from them that serves to honor this proud state.

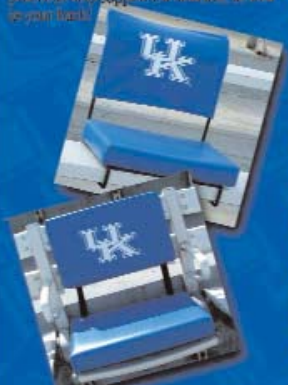
The players on UK's four conference championship squads from this past year all share something in common: the ability to dream big dreams. That's a great attribute. So let's continue celebrating conference-clinching basketball wins in Tuscaloosa, great rounds of golf at Sea Island, and forehand winners at the Boone Tennis Complex, but let's also dream of seeing UK's baseball team in a dogpile at Omaha's Rosenblatt Stadium, or softball holding up a national title trophy in Oklahoma City. Let's work toward the day when the Wildcat football team turns the Georgia Dome into Cat-lanta in early December.

Let's continue to dream big. For all of Kentucky.

Mitch Barnhart

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True Blue FANS



They wear their pride for UK football "on their sleeves"—as well as on their faces, on their cars, in their hair and sometimes, even on their capes. They are all ages and come from all parts of the country and from all walks of life, but they all have one thing in common: rain or shine, win or lose, they love their Cats! Here are just a few of UK's "true blue" fans.

Carolyn Wiggins

Winchester, Ky.
Section 111; Row 30; Seats 3 & 4



"To me, Kentucky football means tradition," says Carolyn Wiggins, a life-long UK fan.

Her father, Howard Williams, played football with the legendary Wildcat, John "Shipwreck" Kelly in 1929. While attending UK, her father also met the woman that would eventually become his wife. A few years later, Howard and Dorothy Williams welcomed their daughter, Carolyn, into the world.

Although her parents are deceased, Wiggins honors their memory by wearing the same blue letterman's style-sweater—with a large "K" embroidered on the front—to nearly every UK home football game.

"My father had this sweater made for my mother when they were dating in the 1920s," says Wiggins. "My mother passed it on to me."

Throughout the 1980s and 90s, Wiggins wore her mother's sweater to every game. She has since resisted the temptation to wear the sweater when the thermometer reaches over 90 degrees. "I would wear this sweater to every game except for the possibility of heat stroke," she says.

Tony "Hacksaw" Fink

Louisville, Ky.
Section 108; Row 36; Seats 19-22

Tony Fink earned the nickname "Hacksaw," following Kentucky's overtime win against Alabama in 1997. He wanted a piece of the goal posts that were torn down following that victory, but could think of no way to get one. Much like his beloved Wildcats, however, when times got tough, he found a way to achieve his goal. When he arrived home, after several hours of celebration on the 50-yard line at Commonwealth Stadium, Fink



promptly marched to his workbench, grabbed an old hacksaw, painted it blue, and placed it in the trunk of his car. He vowed that, "Next time, when those posts come down, I'll be ready to take a piece of them home." In addition to being ingenious, "Hacksaw" hardly ever misses a UK football game. To be exact, "I've missed four games in 22 years," he says. "I missed the Auburn game, in 1989, when my son was born. My wife was in labor for 22 hours. If the labor would have been shorter, I'd have made that game." Now, he enjoys UK football games with his two boys. The three of them never miss a game, eagerly waiting for their next opportunity to get a piece of the goal posts.

Joe Maggard

Middleton, Ohio
Section 140; Row 14; Seats 9 & 10

It's a bird! It's a plane!

No, it's Joe "Cat Man" Maggard, dressed in his homemade UK "super hero" costume and ready to cheer on the UK football team.

Maggard didn't grow up in Kentucky. He didn't go to college at UK. He has never even lived in the Commonwealth. None of this



prevents him from being one of Kentucky's most rabid fans, however.

Call his cell phone and the greeting on his voicemail blares, "On, On U of K!" Talk to his college roommates from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and they don't

hesitate to tell you that Joe's love for his Wildcats is unlike anything they've witnessed. Better yet, just take a look at Joe on game day. That masked man in Section 140 is crazy about Kentucky Football.

In his entire life, Maggard has never worn apparel supporting any college besides UK, including his alma mater. At one point, he wore UK gear for 277 straight days.

"I bleed blue," Maggard says. "Kentucky football is my life. It's about passion and excitement. I want to see everyone at Commonwealth Stadium this fall."

Jim Brown

Lexington, Ky.
Section 129; Row 41; Seat 22

The last time 86-year-old

Jim Brown missed a UK football game, Franklin D. Roosevelt was president, bread cost a few cents a loaf, and Bear Bryant was just a cub.

Brown's perfect attendance streak began in 1938, when he enrolled at UK and attended every game as a UK student.

It eventually took a world war to separate Brown from Kentucky football.

"I was in a race with Uncle Sam to graduate before I got inducted into the service," Brown says. "I graduated in 1942 and was sent to Wright Field in Dayton. You couldn't get gasoline and



I didn't have a car anyway, so I caught the train from Dayton to Cincinnati to Lexington to see the games that season. I didn't miss any games in 1943 because, like a lot of schools, UK didn't field a team that year."

World War II finally got bigger than Kentucky football for Jim Brown in 1944. Brown was a navigator/bombardier on a B-25 in Asia, part of a squadron called the "Burma Bridge Busters." Among others in his unit was Stephen Spielberg's father.

Brown plans to continue going to Kentucky games as long as possible.

"I've always had a tendency to be loyal," he said.



A Very Special Evening

2005 CATSPY's

The 2005 CATSPY Awards honored the best and brightest in UK Athletics over the past year, gathering more than 2,000 people at Rupp Arena for the third annual event. Nearly 500 student-athletes were on hand for the evening, which began with a reception on the floor of Rupp Arena before the group moved to the auditorium side of the arena for the awards portion of the evening.

A total of 26 awards were presented in 16 different categories. The awards ceremony began with the presentation of the Male and Female Rookie of the Year awards, which went to diver Taryn Ignacio and men's basketball guard Rajon Rondo, respectively, and concluded with the Teams of the Year awards. Women's tennis was honored as the Female Team of the Year, while men's golf and men's basketball shared the award for Male Team of the Year. All three squads claimed the SEC title in their sport in 2005. The volleyball team was named the Academic

Team of the Year.

The 2005 Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Bill Keightley, UK's men's basketball equipment manager, who recently completed his 42nd season at the school.

As this year's show focused on leadership, football coach Rich Brooks introduced former quarterback and newly signed Tennessee Titan Shane Boyd, who gave his thoughts on the importance of being a leader.

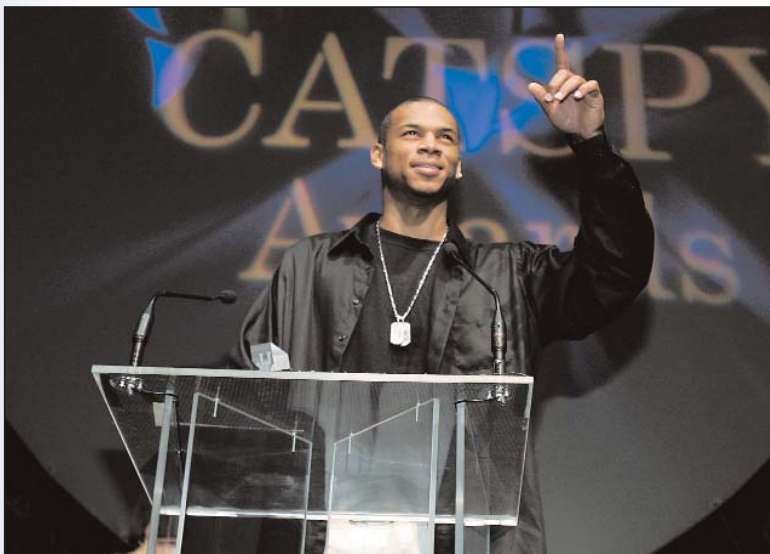
The evening closed with a video tribute to Kentucky's senior student-athletes and "The Rising" a montage of clips from the year set to the song by Bruce Springsteen.



Athletics Director Mitch Barnhart addressed a crowd of more than 2,000 people at this year's CATSPY's.



Among the 2005 CATSPY award winners was longtime men's basketball manager Bill Keightley (right inset, facing page), who received the Lifetime Achievement Award from UK President Dr. Lee and Mrs. Patsy Todd. A trio of All-Americans—golfer John Holmes (left inset, facing page), women's tennis standout Aibika Kalsariva (top left) and men's tennis player Jesse Witten (top right)—earned Athlete of the Year recognition.



Senior basketball players Chuck Hayes (center) and Sara Potts (bottom right), were selected Mr. and Miss Wildcat, respectively, while SEC champion diver Taryn Ignacio (bottom left) was the only individual two-time winner (Rookie of the Year and Performance of the Year).



2005 CATSPY AWARD WINNERS

Rookie of the Year (Athletic Achievement by a First Year Student-Athlete)

Female—Taryn Ignacio (Diving)
Male—Rajon Rondo (Basketball)

Performance of the Year (Singular Performance Representative of Overall Careers)

Female—Taryn Ignacio (Diving)
Male—Daniel Cruz (Swimming)

Athlete of the Year Female—Aibika Kalsariva (Tennis) Male—Jesse Witten (Tennis) John Holmes (Golf)

Team of the Year Female—Women's Tennis Male—Men's Golf Men's Basketball

Supporting Role Stephanie Strumbo (Basketball)

Scratch Award (Non-Scholarship Contributor) Matt McCutchan (Football) Amy Sowash (Rifle)

Mr. Wildcat (Academics, Athletic Achievement, Community Service) Chuck Hayes (Basketball)

Miss Wildcat (Academics, Athletic Achievement, Community Service) Sara Potts (Basketball)

Scholar Athlete of the Year (Cumulative GPA of 3.5 or Higher) Female—Kara Prestigiacomo (Gymnastics) Male—Jarret Christie (Soccer)

Community Service Award Lindsay Cameron (Gymnastics)

Blue Heart Award (Comeback of the Year) Danielle Slupski (Soccer)

The Courage Award (Inspirational Player of the Year) Sevin Sucurovic (Football)

Coach of the Year Female—Mark Guilbeau (Tennis) Male—Brian Craig (Golf)

Play of the Year Female—Michelle Gales (Gymnastics) Male—Patrick Sparks (Basketball)

Lifetime Achievement Award Bill Keightley

Academic Team of the Year Volleyball

Celebrating a BREAKTHROUGH Year

Kentucky's athletic teams were on a roll in 2004-05, winning like never before and—in the process—establishing a new standard of success for future Wildcat teams to follow.

Contrary to the old adage, it isn't always lonely at the top. At least not in the UK Athletics Department, where a bevy of varsity teams joined men's basketball—the school's perennial marquee program—in challenging for regional, conference and national honors during the recently concluded 2004-05 athletic year.

In all, UK teams claimed three Southeastern Conference championships (in men's basketball, men's golf and women's tennis) and the Mid-America Conference title in men's soccer, accounting for a school-record four conference championships. Kentucky's three SEC titles tied Tennessee for the second-most in the league, while individuals or teams from 15 sports represented UK in 2004-05 postseason play. Kentucky ranked 35th among all Division I schools in the final 2004-05 NACDA Directors Cup standings, its highest finish since 1997-98.

And the accolades don't stop there. Infused with a renewed competitive spirit, the athletics department touted four individual SEC Champions, six conference players of the year, 16 conference players of the week, 17 All-Americans, and 29 All-Conference selections. It also finished in the top 30 in the nation in attendance in four sports, including a top 10 attendance ranking in two sports.

Contributing from the sidelines, head coaches Brian Craig of men's golf, Mark Guilbeau of women's tennis and Tubby Smith of men's basketball were each named SEC Coaches of the Year, while Mike Lyden was named SEC Diving Coach of the Year.

While UK's across-the-board athletic success may come as a surprise to some, it is precisely what Mitch Barnhart had in mind when he took over as the school's athletics director nearly four years ago.

"Our athletes, coaches and support staff deserve a tremendous amount of credit for making the 2004-05 athletic year an especially memorable one," said Barnhart. "They have distinguished themselves and the university by competing with class and integrity. As a department, we have come a long way in a relatively short period of time. I am pleased with our accomplishments and excited about the future of Kentucky athletics."

Shortly after arriving at UK, Barnhart made it clear that he supported all 22 varsity sports at the university, not just those that generated the bulk of the revenue. He also met with each team and outlined his goals for success. Along with things such as possessing integrity and helping student-athletes graduate, he wanted every team to be able to compete for championships in postseason play. At the same time, Barnhart has made good on his part of the deal by supporting the coaches and student-athletes in various ways in order for them to be successful.

Women's basketball coach Micki DeMoss, for one, is a firm believer in Barnhart's leadership style. "I believe in him and his philosophies," she said. "He made a commitment to all sports, because he genuinely cares about the student-athletes. He has changed the whole culture of UK athletics and the way people look at the sports."

DeMoss is one of six new head coaches hired at Kentucky during Barnhart's tenure as athletics director. In just her second season at UK, she led the Wildcats to the semifinals of the 2005 WNIT—the program's first postseason appearance since 1999. She has no doubts that Barnhart's hands-on approach gave her and the team the boost they needed to compete in the SEC.

By Lindsay Cameron and Craig Hornberger



In addition to providing higher salaries for DeMoss' assistant coaches and increasing funding for marketing the women's basketball program, Barnhart also gave up his spacious office on the concourse level of Memorial Coliseum so DeMoss could be closer to the men's basketball coaches. "With him, it's not just his words," says DeMoss. "His actions prove that he wants a total athletic program."

Other teams have also benefitted from Barnhart's commitment to help each sport succeed.

Among them is women's tennis, which won an SEC title for the first time this spring and advanced to the NCAA quarterfinals. The Wildcats reached the NCAA Round of 16 for the fourth consecutive season under Coach Guilbeau.

While the matches all had to be won or lost on the court, Guilbeau says the facilities, resources, and overall administrative support at UK are fundamental to his program's ability and desire to win championships. "Gradually it is becoming more normal for UK athletics as a whole to achieve things that men's basketball has achieved," said Guilbeau. (The men's basketball team captured their 43rd SEC championship this year.)

Guilbeau, who completed his ninth season at UK in 2004-05, also has high praise for university president Dr. Lee T. Todd, Jr.

"As a coach at UK, I am thrilled to have Dr. Todd as our university's president," said Guilbeau, who received a congratulatory phone call from Dr. Todd shortly after his team won the SEC championship. "He has been a tremendous supporter of our programs and is the driving force behind so many great efforts at UK. His personal support is greatly appreciated."

Coach Craig and his men's golf team have also bought into the department's philosophy of playing to win. Like women's tennis, the team captured its first SEC championship this year and qualified for the NCAA Championships, where it finished tied for seventh place. This year's success came on the heels of last year's first-ever top-10 national finish.

"More than anything, we had a nice gradual process of improvement over the past two or three years. We've gotten better each year, and this is what we were hoping would happen," said Craig. He noted that it was the success of other Olympic sport teams, such as women's tennis, that motivated his team to reach higher heights. The women's tennis team won its SEC title just a few weeks before the golf team competed, and Craig said he wanted to join them and show everyone that Kentucky can be competitive in the SEC in all sports.

Craig is confident his team would not have been as successful without consistent support from the department's senior leadership. "I have to give a lot of credit to Mitch Barnhart and his administration. They have shown an across-the-board interest in all sports and have shown great commitment to our program," said Craig. "They have given us the resources we need to

be successful."

Barnhart, in turn, has made a consistent effort to show the coaches and athletes that he appreciates them. "Respect and admiration go both ways," he says.

As a special way of showing his appreciation, Barnhart implemented an annual awards ceremony three years ago to recognize UK athletes and coaches from every sport. The CATSPY's, a spin-off of ESPN's ESPY Awards, is a time for those in the department as well as

the general public to come and celebrate the successes of every team at the university. It is a time for representation, reflection and celebration of all the hard work that the coaches and athletes put in to seeing their program reach new heights.

"It brings all the teams together to recognize all the year's accomplishments. It's so much fun to go and see everything that people have done throughout the year," said rifle All-American Jeff Hamburg, who helped lead the Wildcats to sixth place at the 2005 NCAA Championships as a senior.

This year's CATSPY's ceremony was full of reasons to celebrate, because so many teams enjoyed success. But Barnhart and others believe that UK is capable of accomplishing even more. "There is no doubt we are moving in a continuous positive direction," said Guilbeau.

Editor's Note: Lindsay Cameron lettered on the Kentucky gymnastics team from 2001-05. The native of Cookeville, Tenn., graduated from UK in May with a bachelor's degree in journalism and anticipates attending law school.

Kentucky's three SEC titles tied Tennessee for the second-most in the league, while individuals or teams from 15 sports represented the Wildcats in 2004-05 postseason play.

The SEC's new "Title Town"? Kentucky captured a school-record four conference championships during the 2004-05 athletic year. UK tied for second in the SEC with three league titles.





It's Football Time in the Bluegrass!

Continued from page 1

football program are contagious—and are assets important to success. Ask any player, any coach about the psychological shot-in-the-arm he gets when he emerges from the tunnel onto the turf at Commonwealth Stadium. He'll tell you that he loves the game of football, but loves it more when playing in front of-and winning for-Kentucky fans.

And the fans love back, unconditionally. A perfect example of such love is that last season, despite just two victories, UK ranked 28th nationally in home attendance, and filled Commonwealth Stadium to 92-percent capacity on average each game.

Nonetheless, nowadays, no one would dispute basketball is king of the Commonwealth. But once upon a time—even if only for a short spell-football ruled the Bluegrass...and birthed a tradition still very much alive and well in 2005.

Convinced?

Good. Then read on (again).

And you'll be happy to learn that the quartet of new UK assistant football coaches Jimmy Heggins (O-line), Rick Petri (D-line), Kurt Roper (quarterbacks), and Chuck Smith (linebackers) are equally convinced...and what's more, they are convincing others—namely, their players—that the A.B. 2005 season is going to be a positive one...a tradition enhancer.

Spend only a few minutes talking with them, and you'll easily realize that they are men on a mission. Not a personal mandate, mind you, but rather a solidarity movement.

For example, note how each responds to their expectations for this year:

Jimmy Heggins: "I'm expecting to help get things going, get things back on track."

Chuck Smith: "I have high expectations. This program can and should get better."

Rick Petri: "I'm here to take my experience and apply it to help win games."



The fan base has never failed, has never faltered. The fan base has never turned its back and run. Instead, it has celebrated the ups, weathered the downs; has cherished the ins and overcome the outs.

Kurt Roper: "We don't want to give up on any game; we want to go out and win every game."

Obviously, the emphasis is on building Kentucky football (back) into a contender. Sounds good, right? But wait, it gets better. For these four new Wildcats coaches not only know what they want to do, but also know how to get it done.

In college football, the proof is in the pudding, and the pudding comes in flavors like Peach and Orange...not to mention Sugar, Rose, and Fiesta. That's right, bowl games: the barometers by which programs—and the people that

comprise them—are measured.

And that's good news for Kentucky fans, because three of these men bring a bevy of bowl experience from their previous schools. Coming from Ole Miss (where they had both been since 1998), Petri and Roper coached the Rebels to five bowl games. And coming from Florida State, Heggins helped lead the Seminoles to a bowl game every season since joining the staff in 1986. You do the math.

And don't forget about Chuck Smith. From 1992-2004, he was the head man at Boyle County High School; and though Smith has yet coach in college, this guy, too, knows a little something about building a strong program. Strong as in winning five Kentucky state titles. In a row.

Yet despite all of their collective success—or maybe, because of it—the four men realize the collective challenge they face in moving this program to the next level. But then, staring down challenges is what football is all about.

Smith sums it up well:

"Your mindset makes the biggest difference. You have to be willing to pay any price. You have to believe and have self-confidence. Obviously you need talent, but even with talent, this game is very much mental. And this game is a great character builder because the intangibles of football correlate with the real world. You have tough times to go through—physically, mentally, and emotionally—and that's why I think it is the greatest sport ever invented to prepare you for life. And helping kids develop the character, attitude and work ethic to be successful players and persons is what really motivates me to work hard."

And that approach is certainly something else for fans of UK football—and life—to cheer about.

Where's Your Seat?

Home is ... where the "heart" of the schedule is in 2005, as Kentucky hosts four Top 20 teams from last season, beginning with Louisville on Sept. 4 and ending with Tennessee on Nov. 26.



GAME 1
SEC. ROW SEAT
KENTUCKY
VS.
LOUISVILLE
COMMONWEALTH STADIUM
SUN, SEPT 4, 2005

ESPN
3:30 Kickoff on ESPN (HD)
Governor's Cup
SOLD OUT

GAME 2
SEC. ROW SEAT
KENTUCKY
VS.
IDAHO STATE
COMMONWEALTH STADIUM
SAT, SEPT 10, 2005

Hall of Fame Weekend
Military Appreciation Day

GAME 4
SEC. ROW SEAT
KENTUCKY
VS.
FLORIDA
COMMONWEALTH STADIUM
SAT, SEPT 24, 2005

Gators vs. Cats!
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