



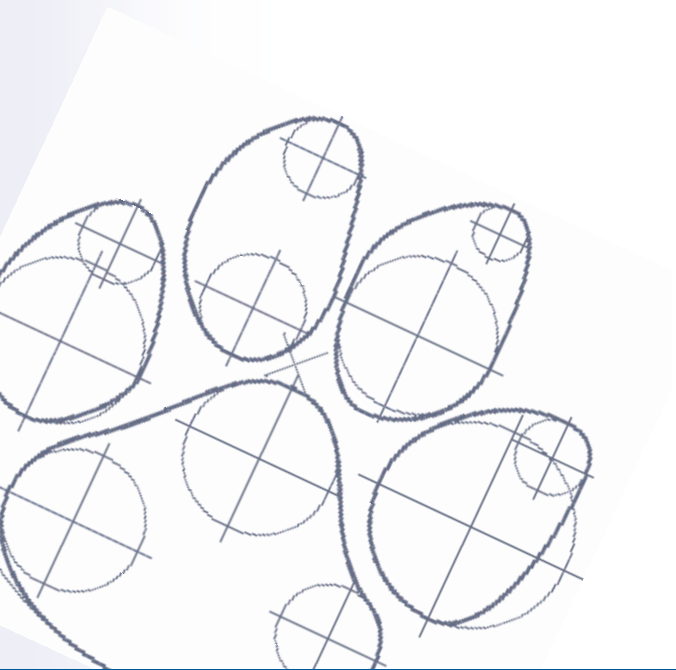
THE BLUEPRINT

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LEXINGTON, KY

The Official Newsletter of the University of Kentucky Athletics Department

vol 2

June '03



The Wildcats on the Airwaves

The Southeastern Conference - Television overview!

CBS (National Network Package)



The current agreement between the SEC and CBS carries through the 2008-2009 season. Annually, CBS carries 12-15 SEC football games, the SEC Football Championship game, a minimum of 6 regular season SEC men's basketball games, 6 non-conference appearances as well as the SEC men's basketball championship game. Women's basketball averages 3 appearances per season during the term of the agreement.

ESPN/ESPN2 -

National Cable package for the SEC



Also contracted through the 2008 season, ESPN must carry 8 of the scheduled 15 football appearances of SEC games on ESPN. The remainder can be on ESPN2. ESPN can carry up to 9 SEC men's basketball games as well as up to 9 non-conference games (one SEC mem-

ber vs. a non-conference member). ESPN can purchase additional men's basketball games on an annual basis. ESPN televises a minimum of 8 women's basketball games per season - including the SEC women's tournament championship game. Three Olympic sports telecasts per year are required by ESPN.

ESPN reaches approximately 88 million households; ESPN2 reaches an ever-growing 82 million households.



Jefferson Pilot (Syndication Package), also contracted through the 2008-

2009 season, includes 12-13 SEC football games annually; a minimum of 8 men's basketball games and 4 women's basketball tournament games (4 championship).

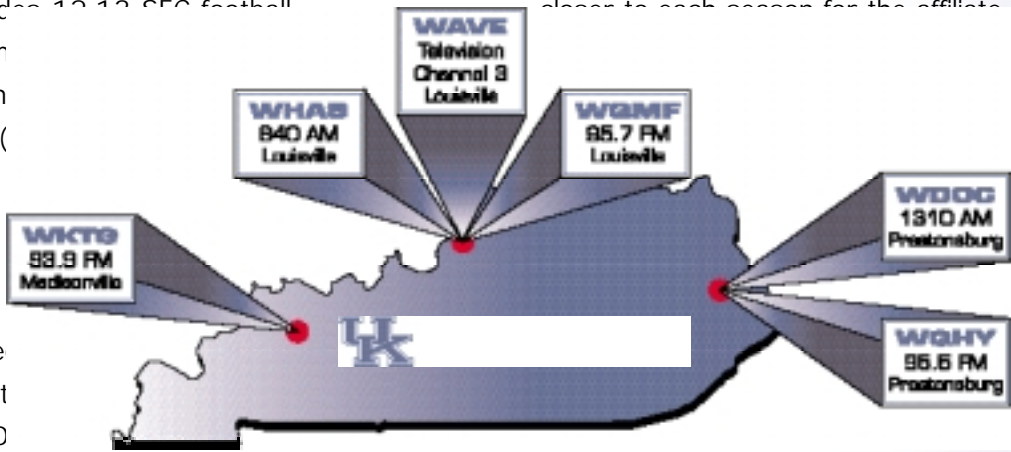
FOX Sports Net South -



The agreement runs through the 2004-20

season and includes partnerships with FOX Sports Net Southwest and the Sunshine Network. The FOX and SEC agreement includes women's basketball, football, men's basketball, baseball women's soccer, volleyball, gymnastics, softball and recaps all SEC championship events.

For a complete listing of radio stations on the UK Network, log-on to www.ukathletics.com - then click on "audio/visual" - then select radio affiliates. There are over 80 radio stations carrying the Wildcats (football and men's basketball) throughout the Commonwealth. Stations do change from time-to-time, so please check closer to each season for the affiliates.



Just some of the radio & TV stations carrying the Wildcats!

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Written and compiled by: University of Kentucky Athletics
Contributing Writer: John McGill
Editor: Rena Vicini
Creative Director: Jamie Barker
Photography: David Coyle and Team Coyle Photography
Printing: Welch Printing

Let us know what you think:
If you have any questions, suggestions or simply want to express your views about The Blueprint, please write to Rena Vicini, Assistant Athletics Director, at the address to the left, or email her at rvicini@uky.edu. Please include your address, phone number and email address.



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Giving Back to the Community

The youth of America are our future. With that in mind, the University of Kentucky established the CATS Community and Outreach program. In the past academic year alone, Wildcats gave more than 2,400 hours of volunteer time to the Lexington community and its schools. The department provides support for community agencies and develops programs to meet specific needs of children.

Athletes in Service to America is a program the uses post-eligibility student-athletes to address academic success and violence prevention issues in schools. CATS That Care is a current-student-athlete outreach program that involves visits to schools, hospitals, homeless shelters and other community agencies.

The Buddy Program, in conjunction with the College of Education, is a mentoring program for elementary school children. The Kentucky Excel Program is a cooperative effort of the Office of Minority Affairs, the College of Education and the Athletics Department that provides scholarships to needy students. The program was established with an endowment from former UK basketball player Jamal Mashburn.

Realizing that communities need mentally and emotionally healthy young people, that schools need programs, and that young children need role models, UK's student-athletes and staff will continue to contribute as volunteers in the community and as mentors in the schools.

Misty Conrad, a staff support associate for Athletic Training, and Martina Martin, Career & Personal Development Coordinator for the CATS Academic Center, planted flowers on April 11 as UK athletics staff members did volunteer work for the Ronald McDonald House next to Commonwealth Stadium.

Pictured are soccer players Lucas Grayson (left) and Steve McLay.



On April 12, the men's soccer team and coaching staff helped out at the Special Olympics Swim Meet at UK's Lancaster Aquatic Center.

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Athletics Administration
Area Code 859

Mitch Barnhart, Athletics Director
mbarn@uky.edu (257-8015)

Rob Mullens, Executive Associate AD
Rmull3@uky.edu (257-8000)

Associate Athletics Directors
Robert Bradley, Student Services
rbrad@email.uky.edu (257-1897)

Greg Byrne, Fund Raising and Development
Gbyrne2@uky.edu (257-8000)

John Cropp, Administration
Jwcrop1@uky.edu (257-5572)

Russ Pear, Operations
Rmpear1@uky.edu (257-8000)

Rick Thompson,
Marketing, Licensing and Media Relations
rickt@uky.edu (257-8022)
(see page 4)

Assistant Athletics Directors
Sandy Bell, Compliance
sbell@uky.edu (257-8604)

Alvis Johnson, Administration
ajohns@uky.edu (257-9264)

Micki King, Senior Women's Administrator
mking@uky.edu (257-6848)

Lisa Peterson, Business
lpete@uky.edu (257-8607)

Joe Sharpe, Tickets
Jshar3@uky.edu (257-1818)

Rodney Stiles, Event Management
Rwstil1@uky.edu (257-4995)

Rena Vicini, Publications
rvicini@uky.edu (257-3838)





Wildcat Profiles

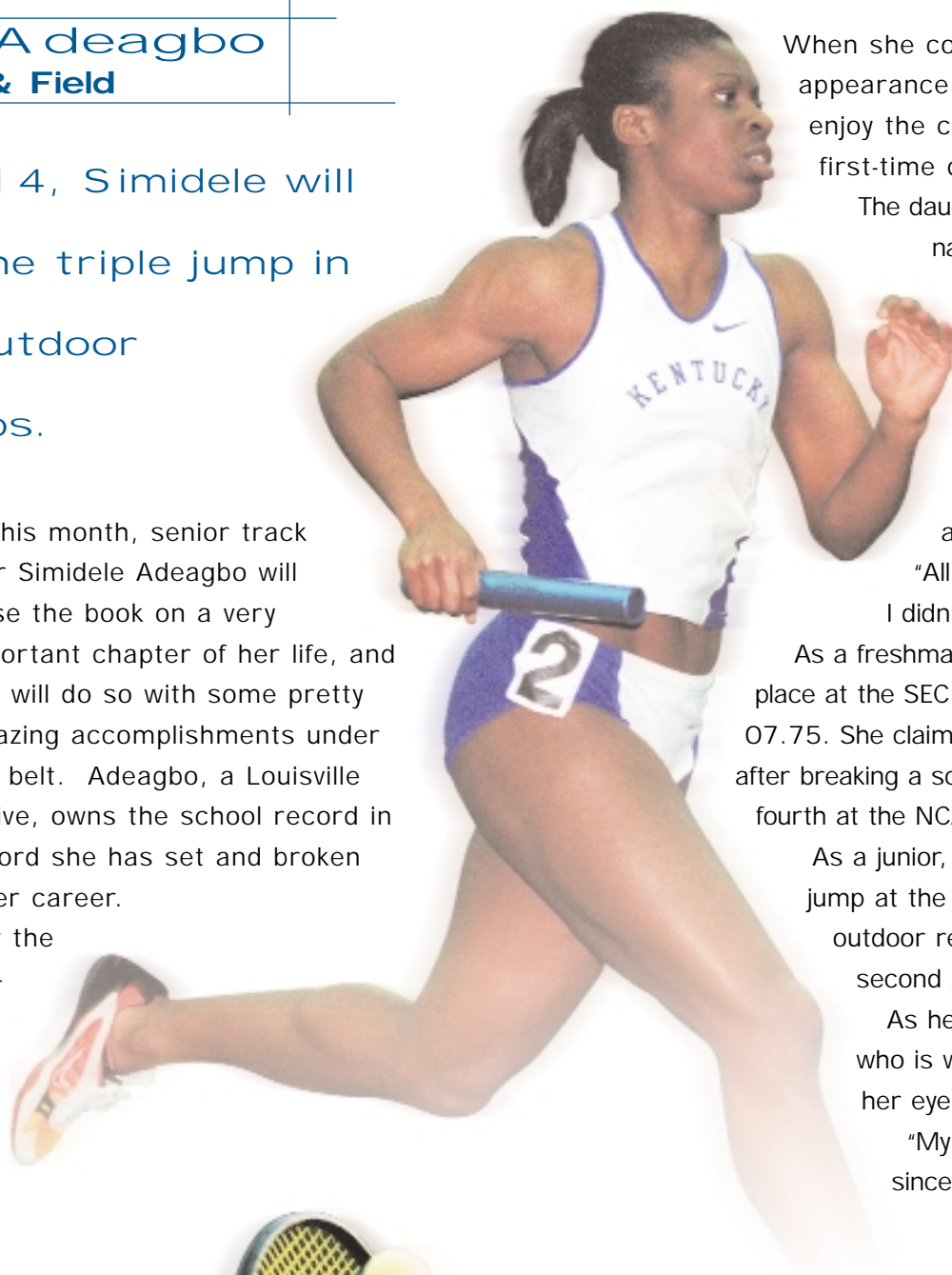
Simidele Adeagbo Senior, Track & Field

On June 11-14, Simidele will compete in the triple jump in the NCAA Outdoor Championships.



This month, senior track star Simidele Adeagbo will close the book on a very important chapter of her life, and she will do so with some pretty amazing accomplishments under her belt. Adeagbo, a Louisville native, owns the school record in the triple jump -- a record she has set and broken several times during her career.

Simidele qualified for the NCAA Outdoor Championships in the triple jump after finishing fifth in the Mideast Regional May 30 in Columbus, Ohio.



When she competes in her last NCAA Championship appearance June 11-14 in Sacramento, Calif., she'll enjoy the company of family as sister Olubusola is a first-time qualifier in the 400-meter hurdles.

The daughter of Ayotunde and Richmond, Adeagbo's name may be difficult to some, but is very familiar around the Kentucky campus. She's one of three members of her family to run track at UK, including sisters Temitayo, who graduated last spring, and Olubusola, who runs sprints and hurdles as a junior on the UK squad. "When I came to UK, I didn't know anything about becoming an All-American," Adeagbo said. "All of this has just been a blessing to me. I guess I didn't really grasp it; it just happened for me."

As a freshman, she got off to a quick start, claiming eighth place at the SEC Outdoor Championships with a leap of 40-07.75. She claimed her first All-America honor as a sophomore after breaking a school record with a jump of 43-04.50 to finish fourth at the NCAA Outdoor Championships.

As a junior, Adeagbo's eighth-place showing in the triple jump at the national outdoor meet established a school outdoor record performance of 42-11.00, earning her a second All-America award.

As her amazing college career closes, Adeagbo, who is working on a master's in communication, has her eyes set firmly on the future.

"My goal is to go to the Olympics -- it's been my goal since I was really young," she says with conviction.

Nathalie Roels Freshman, Tennis

This Wildcat freshman had an amazing rookie season and is poised to become UK's No. 1 singles player in 2003-04.



UK freshman Nathalie Roels had fought through tough matches before. Playing at No. 2 singles the entire season, Roels had seen her share of tough competition. But there was so much more at stake in this match. Going into the third set of her match against Miami's Melissa Applebaum in the NCAA Regional Final, Roels was

faced with two options; win the match to send her team to Gainesville, Fla. for the NCAA round of 16 or lose the match and prepare for NCAA singles competition. A loss meant the end of the line for UK's five seniors.

Trailing 3-2, the Wildcats turned to a pair of freshman heroines for guidance. Shannon Stough tied the match at No. 6 with a two-set victory, setting the stage for Roels. She took the first set 6-4, and put herself in prime position for the win by jumping out to a 5-1 lead in the second set. But Applebaum stormed back, seizing four consecutive games to tie the set at five. Roels won the next game for a 6-5 lead,



but surrendered the next game and ensuing tiebreaker, forcing the match to what proved to be a memorable third set.

Roels and Applebaum matched each other stroke for stroke. Roels used her powerful serve to her advantage while Applebaum countered with clever returns. All told, Roels found herself on the short end of a 5-4 deficit. The stubborn freshman rejected three Miami championship points, tying the set at five. Roels fell behind once again, 6-5, but rebounded immediately to force the match to a tiebreaker. Roels seized early control of the tiebreaker and swatted a winner beyond Applebaum's reach to give Kentucky the improbable victory.

There may be no one in the annals of UK women's tennis who has made as immediate an impact than Roels. The native Belgian totaled over 30 wins in her first season as a Wildcat, becoming the first freshman to accomplish the feat under Coach Mark Guilbeau. Roels earned a selection to the NCAA Singles Championships, where she lost in a tough three-set match. Roels also teamed up with Shannon Stafford to form a solid tandem at No. 3 doubles.

With the departure of senior Sarah Witten, Roels is poised to assume the No. 1 singles position for the 2003-04 Wildcats. And third-set tiebreakers notwithstanding, her freshman year experiences will help her become one of the best Kentucky women's tennis has ever had to offer.

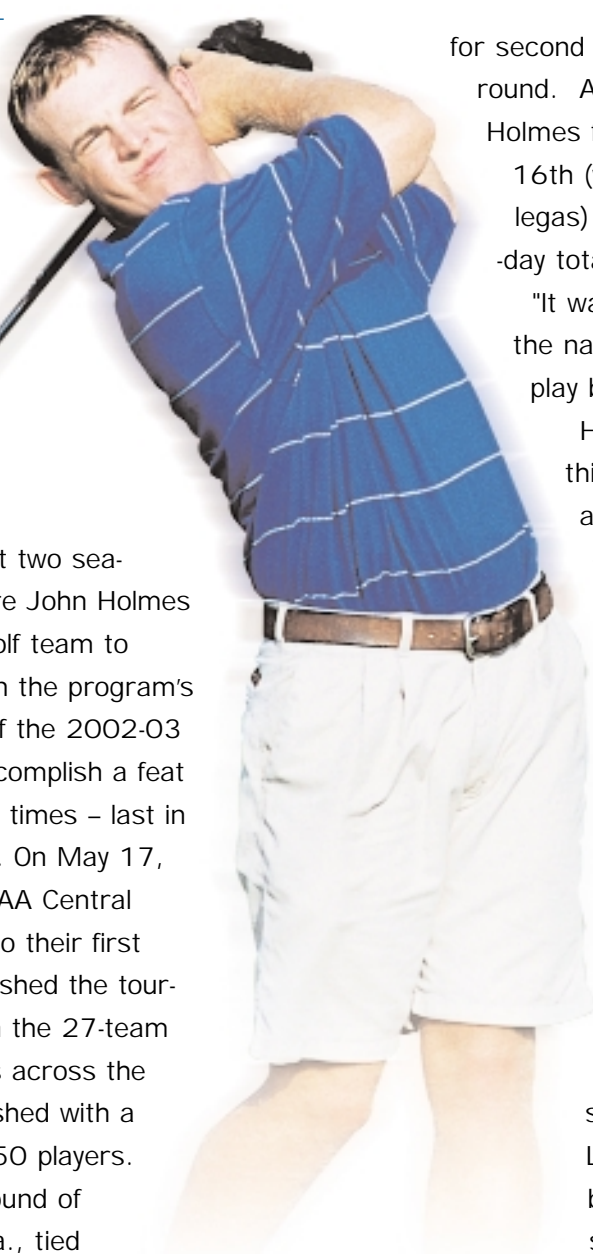
John Holmes Sophomore, Golf

John Holmes tied for 16th among individuals in the NCAA Championships in Stillwater, Oklahoma.



In just two seasons, sophomore John Holmes has led the UK men's golf team to national prominence – a rarity in the program's history. In the final two weeks of the 2002-03 season, he helped the team accomplish a feat it had only achieved three other times – last in 1988 -- in Kentucky golf history. On May 17, Holmes fired four birdies on the back nine at the NCAA Central Regional in Manhattan, Kan., to guide the Wildcats to their first NCAA Championship berth in 15 years. Kentucky finished the tournament with a five-over 869 for a sixth-place finish in the 27-team field. The top 10 teams from each of three regionals across the country advanced to the championships. Holmes finished with a 2-under, cracking the top 20 in the field of almost 150 players.

Then, on May 27-30, Holmes entered the final round of play at the National Championships in Stillwater, Okla., tied



for second place after firing a three-under 69 in the second round. After shooting an eight-over in the final round, Holmes finished his outstanding sophomore season tied for 16th (with UCLA's John Merrick and Florida's Camilo Villegas) in the National Individual Championship. His three-day total was a nine-over-par 297.

"It was great just to have an opportunity to compete for the national," Holmes said. "I am disappointed I did not play better, but overall it was a great experience."

Holmes played in all 13 of Kentucky's tournaments this year, leading the team with a 73.38 stroke average. He fired a season-low 67 in the second round of the Fall Beach Classic. Not only did he finish second individually in that tournament, he led the Cats to second-year head coach Brian Craig's first tournament win of his career.

Holmes was named to the All-SEC second team, his second straight all-conference selection. He is only the third golfer in Kentucky history, joining Carter Mathies and Russ Cochran, to be named to an All-SEC team two years in a row. Last season, besides being honored with an All-SEC first team selection, the Campbellsville, Ky., native was named to the PING All-America third team and to the Softspikes Division I All-Freshman Team. At the University Club in Lexington for the Johnny Owens Invitational, Holmes became the third Wildcat to win the home tourney since its beginning in 1987.

SeSe Helm Senior, Women's Basketball

One of six seniors on the women's basketball squad, SeSe Helm is ready to take her game to another level.



If you haven't heard the name "SeSe" Helm, don't worry. You will. The 6-4 center and Bowling Green native is one of six seniors on the UK women's basketball team. The 2003-04 season will be her fourth and final year as a Wildcat and she wants to end her collegiate career with her name ringing in fans' ears.

"Last year I didn't achieve all that I wanted," Helm said. "I have a new and improved attitude. I am getting in shape. I'm going to lose weight and I want to leave Kentucky knowing that I did all I could for this team. I know I can be a key factor in our team being successful. Now, I just have to prove it."

New women's coach Mickie DeMoss echoes those remarks.

"It's time for action to back up those words" DeMoss said. "SeSe is poten-



tially one of the best players in the SEC but she has yet to prove herself on a consistent basis. She has totally dedicated her summer to getting her body in shape so she can compete at this level. We are going to be riding her shoulders heavy this season."

Helm became the 23rd member of UK's 1,000-point club last season and moved to No. 16 on the all-time scoring list with 1,095 career points.

In her junior year, Helm averaged a team-best 6.5 rebounds per game, ranking her 11th in the Southeastern Conference. She also was the team's third leading scorer with 11.4 points per game. Helm was named to the freshman All-SEC team in 2001 and was named second team All-SEC in 2002.

"With this new coaching staff, we are working extremely hard to get in better shape and prepare for next season," Helm said. "We just finished finals and we are already running the track at 6 a.m. workouts. It's hard right now, but I know it will all be worth it in the end."

The other seniors who also concur with Helm are Shambrica Jones, Danyelle Payne, Racquel Ellis, Kristen Grassi and Jenerrie Everette. The group is supporting each other as well as lending an extra hand to the six underclassmen.

"We are trying to lead not only by words but by example," Helm said. "If we are going to talk the talk, we must first walk the walk. Our work ethic now will set the tone for the ones coming in after us. I know Coach DeMoss will get us back on track if we get sidetracked."

Get ready Wildcat fans. Helm and her senior corps have a goal and are ready to make a name for themselves.



Athletics Department Profile



Rick Thompson

Associate Director of Athletics of Marketing, Licensing and Media Relations

Four years ago Rick Thompson and his wife Kathy were beginning their life together. Rick, then in sports administration at Marshall University in Huntington, W.Va., had recently accepted a job with ESPN in Dallas. Kathy had been working in sports marketing in Detroit. So they pulled out their maps, checked where their Interstate routes might converge on the way to Big D, and noticed that I-75 from the north and I-64 from the east met in Lexington.

"So we met at this McDonald's and when we started driving down the Blue Grass Parkway, we began to realize how beautiful Lexington is," Rick says. "We talked about it and said, 'We should try and end up here one day.'"

Four years after their chance encounter with Lexington, the Thompsons are smack in the middle of the Bluegrass, not to mention University of Kentucky sports.

Rick was hired by athletics director Mitch Barnhart in September of 2002 as Associate Athletics Director in charge of marketing, licensing and media relations.

"It was a really easy decision," Rick says of accepting the position. "Everyone in this business works toward an opportunity to work at a Kentucky. It's the top of the line, the Mercedes of college athletics. There's just such tremendous fan support and history. I got here right in the middle of the celebration of 100 years of Kentucky basketball. While you realize the tradition here from a distance, you can't fully grasp its impact until you experience it first-hand."

What equally impresses Thompson is the passion that UK fans also have for football.

"The UK football fan is very unique. I mean, we have two consecutive 2-9 seasons and sell 43,000 season tickets. That shows a lot of commitment by fans," he says. "I know Kentucky is known as a basketball state, but everybody calls me all the time and says it's really not, it's a Wildcat state. It's Go Big Blue. C-A-T-S. They love to support the program."

Meanwhile, Kathy says that their initial impression of Lexington's aesthetic beauty has been matched by its friendliness.

"This place has been so good to us," she says. "We have incredible neighbors who welcomed us with open arms. I'm in love with the city of Lexington."

Kathy, who did marketing for both the Detroit Pistons of the NBA and the Detroit Shock of the WNBA, now sells pharmaceuticals. She and Rick have a 16 month old son, Jack.

Rick oversees a department that annually ranks among the top 10 schools nationally in merchandise sales. His duties go far beyond merchandising, of course. They include establishing corporate partners, overseeing licensing, handling radio and TV (multi-media) contracts, managing a promotional staff for all 22 of UK's sports programs, improving UK's pre-game football festivities, special events and handling numerous other items found under the marketing-licensing-media umbrella.

But he is quick to add that, apart from the business and organizational aspect, his mission is to improve the connection between the UK athletics department and the UK fan. This newsletter, for instance, is a part of that effort.

"It's all about being more accessible and listening to people," Rick says. "It's why we have a fan forum online for feedback. We need feedback. If somebody in Maysville, for instance, isn't getting UK games on cable, we want to know about it."

Of late, Rick has been talking with Fox Sports South to have SEC access to UK fans in Ohio and southern Indiana—and even some UK fans in Northern Kentucky who missed out on some coverage last year. "If cable stations get enough calls requesting it, they will make sure it is available down the road," he says.

And he's working on enhancing the atmosphere at Commonwealth Stadium. "We're working on a fanfare area this year that includes inflatable, interactive games for kids," he says. "We're always looking to improve the game-day atmosphere. Football is so unique because it's a weekend commitment by the fan. We have people coming in from everywhere, and we want to make it a memorable experience."

A native of Buena Vista, Va., Rick has been around athletics promotion since he was 19. In 1990 he did an internship with the St. Louis Cardinals. His first day on the job, his boss told him to escort Stan Musial around at an Old Timers game.

As he waited for the legendary player to show up, Rick began to wonder if his boss was putting him on. "He'd asked Sue, one of the other interns, if she could go into the dugout and get the key to the batters box," Rick says with a rueful grin. "So as I was waiting in the lobby for Stan Musial, I began to wonder if I'd be waiting

up there until the ninth inning or something.”

But no, the assignment was for real. Musial showed up and Rick escorted him around the park. “It was an amazing experience,” Rick says. “I took him to the dugout and we just were hanging out. All these great players—Joe Torre, Lou Brock, Bob Gibson—came by and they’re shaking his hand and then they’re shaking my hand like I was part of this. It was a pretty awesome moment for a young guy.”

Rick tells the story because it reminds him of what the celebration for 100 years of UK basketball was like and what it meant to the folks of Kentucky. “To see the 1978 championship team come back and meet players like Jack Givens and Rick Robey, and to see more than 100 players come back, some from 20 years ago, some from 40 years ago... it was pretty phenomenal to be part of all that,” he says. “It reminded me of that day with Stan Musial, and meeting Jack Buck who I’d listened to on KMOX for years. To see the reaction of the Rupp Arena crowd when over 100 former Wildcats stood on the court at halftime! That was very rewarding.”

It’s that tangible touching of tradition that reminds Rick of just how special it is to be around Kentucky athletics.

“I was speaking to an group of fans the other day and the topic was on facilities and season ticket prices and one gentlemen said, ‘Well, winning is expensive and you have to keep up with the Joneses if you want to compete.’ Another person said, ‘Well, we ARE the Joneses.’ It’s an interesting concept because UK is IT in a lot of ways,” Thompson says. “I’ve been to Cameron Indoor Stadium and Pauley Pavilion, but I’ll tell you, that Florida game in Rupp Arena last season? There were 24,000 people pretty fired up as I stood on the floor straight across from our pep band - and I couldn’t hear them, and they were going full steam.”



Adds Kathy: “You couldn’t even hear Dick Vitale – it was so loud in Rupp that night – and that is loud.”

Kathy, whose father coached for years at the collegiate level, notes that UK fans bring as much knowledge as they do passion to their devotion.

“You know when I knew this was a huge basketball town?” she says. “I was in a doctor’s office and there were two elderly women and they’re arguing about the basketball team’s defensive schemes. And they were into an argument and one of them started drawing x’s and o’s and I’m like ‘Wow!’, are you kidding me! UK fans across the Commonwealth know their basketball.”

From the passion for UK hoops to the commitment to UK football, Rick sees a foundation for building a strong overall sports program at Kentucky. “I know that’s what Mitch and all of our coaches want to create,” Rick says, “and

Rick Thompson and his 16-month-old son Jack enjoy a break from basketball action during the NCAA Tournament in Nashville.

we want to make sure the UK fan gets maximum enjoyment out of the experience.”

Rick Thompson has worked in the intercollegiate athletics field for over 15 years – in roles ranging from Associate A.D. to Associate VP for Development to G.M. of two separate multimedia rights holders. He has worked for ESPN Plus, the nation’s largest syndicated television producer of college football and basketball games – and spent several years at Learfield Communications – before coming to the Bluegrass. A 1991 graduate of Western Illinois University’s sport management program, he received his undergraduate degree in Public Relations and Communications from Radford (Va.) University in

Corporate Partner Highlight



The Official Telecommunication Partner for UK Athletics

“

UK athletics has a legacy and tradition of greatness. Even though ALLTEL is new to Kentucky, we’ve been a telecommunications company for over 60 years dedicated to delivering great products and services so it’s a natural association between the two.

— Terry Beeler, President, Kentucky ALLTEL

”



The Wildcat Mascot, ALLTEL’s Terry Beeler and UK Associate AD Rick Thompson at Cliff Hagan Stadium.



Coach's Profile

It was late May, almost six weeks into her position as the new women's basketball coach at Kentucky, and Mickie DeMoss had yet to take a full day off.

"I know it sounds weird, but it's been kind of a fun whirlwind," she said. "I've really enjoyed it."

After serving 18 years as an assistant coach in Pat Summitt's prestigious hoops program at Tennessee, DeMoss is venturing into head coaching waters that she shunned in the past. Offers came, but DeMoss never acted on them. But now that she's taken the plunge at Kentucky, she's finding the water invigorating.

"So many times I turned away from it," she said. "I'd see all of what Pat was going through. But when this offer came, I thought I was ready—professionally and emotionally. I think I was ready for a new challenge, to see what I could do in this kind of position."

A 5-foot-3 whirlwind herself, who might be short in stature but is long on candor, wit and determination, DeMoss doesn't hesitate in raising the bar for UK's women's basketball. She aims to build a national contender.

"I believe it can be done at Kentucky," she said. "It's a basketball state rich in tradition. As an outsider over the years, I always thought, 'Why not Kentucky? Why not Kentucky?' I couldn't understand why the women's team wasn't strong. I always thought there was no reason Kentucky couldn't be. Obviously UK was strong in the early '80s (under Terry Hall). Nobody wanted to come up here and play then. So it can be done."

DeMoss says that UK President Dr. Lee T. Todd Jr. and athletics director Mitch Barnhart impressed her with their commitment.

"Mitch made a huge difference in my decision," she said. "In meeting with him it was

clear that he genuinely wants a strong women's basketball program. And Dr. Todd wants the program to compete on the national level."

Competing, and succeeding, on the national level is nothing new for DeMoss. In her 18 years at Tennessee, the Lady Volunteers captured six national championships and appeared in 13 Final Fours. She played a major role in recruiting All-American after All-American. She already had taken the UK job when Tennessee reached the Final Four yet again in April. Making the transition with Summitt's blessing, she wore a blue suit in the national semifinals. The tournament ended on April 8 and she was in her UK office on April 9. She's been behind the desk, on the phone, on the court or on the road recruiting ever since.

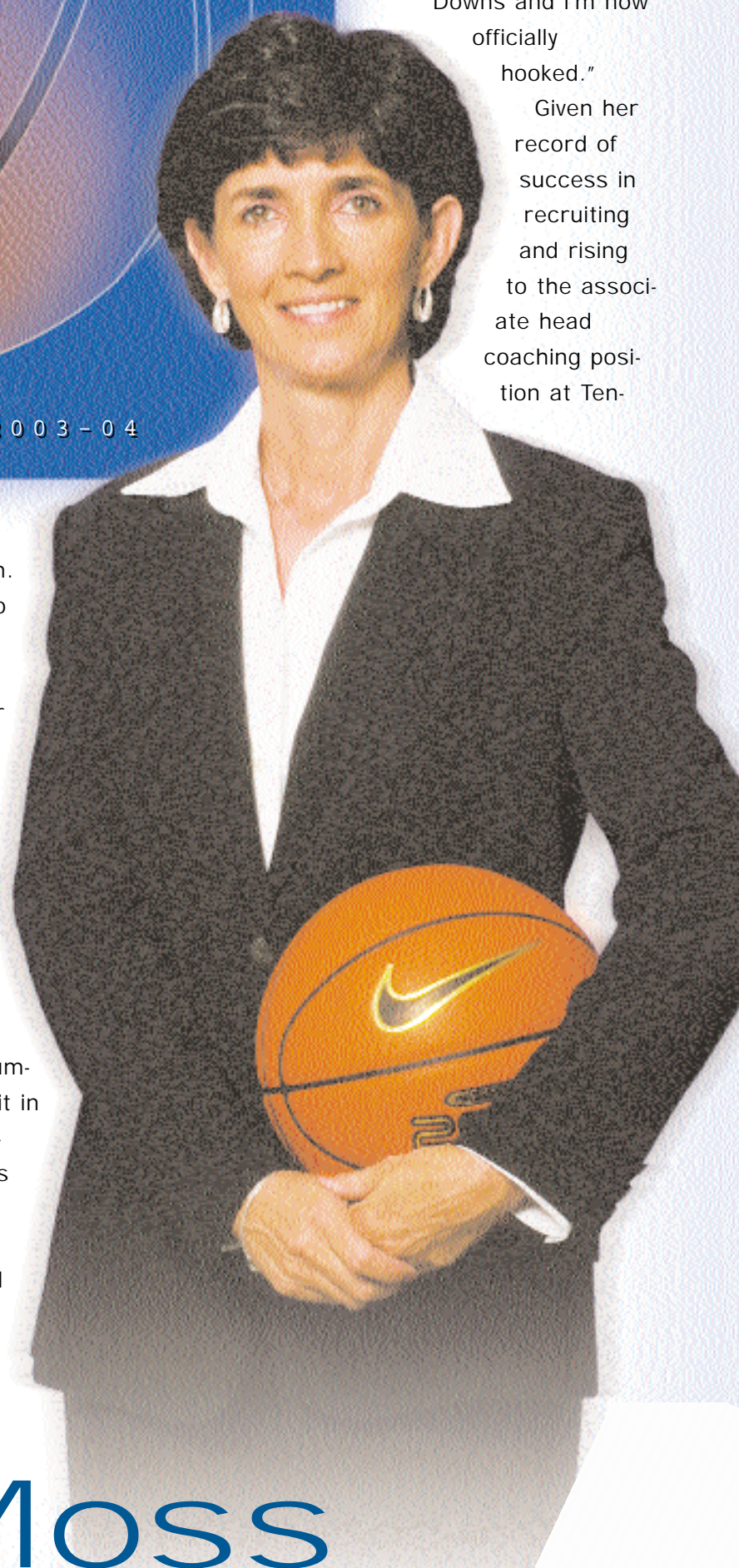
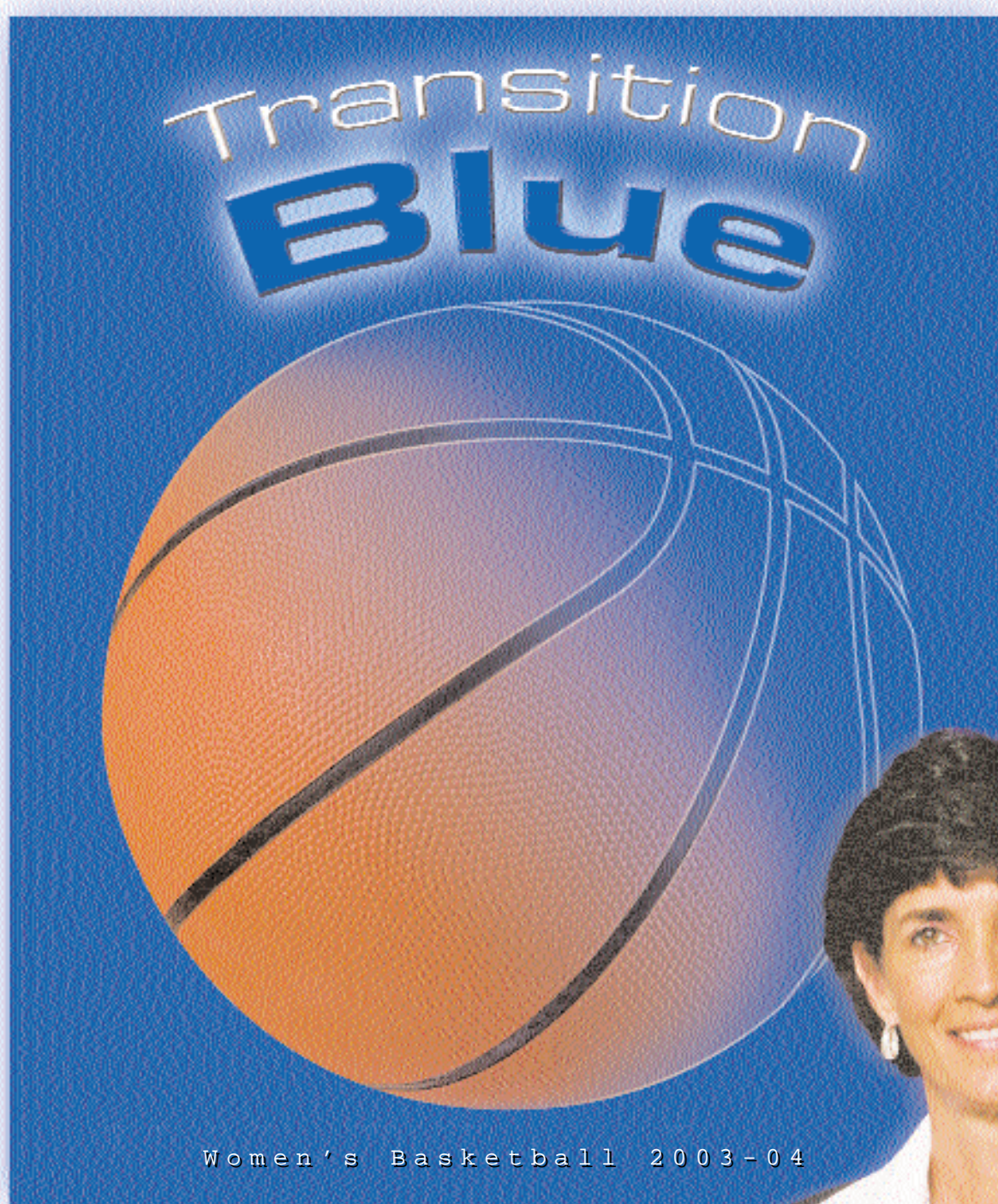
As for Lexington and UK, she

speaks almost sheepishly over how quickly she's come to love the place—given her long association with Summitt, UT and Knoxville.

"I love it here," DeMoss said. "Pat called me this morning and said, 'How do you like Lexington?' I just said, 'Oh, it's a lot like Knoxville. Same size.' But I think it's great. I love the people. Everyone's so friendly. And I came at the right time, with the horses running at Keeneland. I got to go to Oaks Day at Churchill

Downs and I'm now officially hooked."

Given her record of success in recruiting and rising to the associate head coaching position at Ten-



Women's Basketball Coach Mickie DeMoss

nessee, why did DeMoss shun a head job for so long? Part of it was her experience when she took the head job at Florida from 1979 to 1983. She had a 45-68 record but virtually everyone in the profession will tell you that was more of a reflection on Florida's lack of commitment to its women's program at the time than it was on DeMoss. Mickie won't point fingers, however, preferring instead to say, "It was so long ago. I was 23 years old and stupid."

Now she's 47 and ready for the challenge of her life. While she aims to build her program on its own merits, she doesn't hesitate in noting that the UK men's basketball is another reason she's optimistic.

"Certainly we can jump on the coattails of the men's program because it's so good here and so well respected," DeMoss said. "The name Kentucky gets us in the door with recruits. And that's another reason I thought we could succeed."

She's been given a budget that can provide first-rate facilities and travel conditions for her players. And she is working to get some home games moved to Rupp Arena with the goal of having all or most of them played there eventually.

"To build this program, I can't keep getting knocked down by other schools telling recruits that Kentucky is the only school in the SEC that doesn't play in its regular home arena," DeMoss said. "And you can't tell a mom and dad that we'll be taking a bus to Starkville when other teams fly in and can get back home quickly so their players don't miss as much class."

DeMoss, who was a point guard at Louisiana Tech, still holds the school record for most shots taken in a single game. "Never saw a shot I didn't like," she said with a grin. "And I never took one I didn't think would go in."

What can UK fans expect of a DeMoss-coached team?

"They can look forward to knowing they'll have a team they enjoy watching," she said. "I think they'll appreciate the type of basketball, because we'll play hard and play with a passion for the game. We will lay it all out on the court."

DeMoss said that she prefers an up-tempo game with a lot of running, but has not yet seen enough of her players to know how much Kentucky can do that in her first season as coach.

"At this point I can't say whether or not we'll run up and down the court a lot," she said, "but we will have a hard-nosed, man-to-man defense. We will get after people. I can guarantee you that."

And now that "Transition Blue" has officially begun, she'll no longer need anyone's blessing to wear a blue suit.



Mickie DeMoss speaks to a group of reporters and fans at a press conference in Memorial Coliseum after she was named Kentucky's sixth head coach for women's basketball.



2003-2004 University of Kentucky
Women's Non-Conference Schedule
(Tentative)

Date	Opponent	Site
November		
Nov. 3 (Mon.)	ATHLETES IN ACTION (EXH)	HOME
Nov. 16 (Sun.)	PREMIER PLAYERS (EXH)	HOME
Nov. 21 (Fri.)	IUPUI-FORT WAYNE	HOME
Nov. 23 (Sun.)	NORTHWESTERN	HOME
Nov. 25 (Tues.)	NORTH CAROLINA	HOME
Nov. 28-29	@ San Francisco Tournament (N1) (San Francisco, Duquesne, Davidson)	
December		
Dec. 3 (Wed.)	LOUISVILLE	HOME
Dec. 6 (Sat.)	@ Miami (Ohio)	Oxford, Ohio
Dec. 10 (Wed.)	XAVIER	HOME
Dec. 13 (Sat.)	@ Temple	Philadelphia, Pa.
Dec. 20 (Sat.)	@ Western Kentucky	Bowling Green, Ky.
Dec. 30 (Tues.)	AUSTIN PEAY	HOME
January		
Jan. 3 (Sat.)	at Cincinnati	Cincinnati, Ohio
Jan. 6 (Tues.)	HIGH POINT	HOME
March		
March 4-7	SEC Tournament (N2) # %	Nashville, Tenn.

Look for times and SEC games to be announced at a later date

N1-San Francisco (War Memorial)
N2-Nashville (Gaylord Entertainment Center)
- SEC-TV (Fox Sport South)
% - ESPN2

Homes games will be played in Memorial Coliseum and Rupp Arena.

Check out all of the latest Wildcat information and statistics
on UK's official web site:
ukathletics.com



Hollywood Comes to UK

The CATSPY Awards 2003



Male Athlete
of the Year
Artose Pinner

A touch of Hollywood was in the air on the evening of April 28 as the University of Kentucky Athletics Department celebrated the inaugural CATSPY Awards Show, a gala event honoring UK's student-athletes. The Student Athletics Advisory Committee, made up of representatives from each varsity team, worked with the Athletics Department's administration to produce their vision of a department-wide celebration of the year's achievements. More than 500 Wildcats student-athletes -- most of whom were dressed in formal attire -- attended the CATSPY's, so-named as a nod to ESPN's popular ESPY's Awards television program.

The evening began with a catered dinner in Memorial Coliseum and continued with the awards presentations at the Singletary Center



2003 Catspy Award Winners

for the Arts. Attendees walked a blue-carpeted path across the Avenue of Champions from the Coliseum to the Singletary Center, where 24 awards were handed out by presenters that included student-athletes, coaches, administrators and University President Dr. Lee T. Todd Jr.

Master of Ceremonies Tom Leach, the UK Network's "Voice of the Wildcats", was introduced by athletics director Mitch Barnhart following an opening video that spoofed an ESPN commercial and had the crowd roaring with laughter.

The top awards -- Mr. And Miss Wildcat -- went to football's Antonio Hall and gymnastics' Mindy Smith. The Coach of the Year awards went

to men's basketball coach Tubby Smith and women's tennis coach Mark Guilbeau.

Following closing remarks by President Todd and Barnhart, the evening ended with an all-sports video highlight.

UK plans to make the CATSPY's an annual event that in the future will include Wildcats fans among the audience.



Volleyball's Liz McCaslin and Football's Russ Throckmorton



Golf's Kelly Anders and Bill Keightley



(l-r) Assistant Coach Carlos Drada, Manager Jonathan Thompson and Women's Tennis Coach Mark Guibeau



Patsy Todd and President Lee T. Todd Jr. present the Lifetime Achievement award to Director of Academic Advising Mike Haley



Female Athlete of the Year Sarah Witten





Hollywood Comes to UK



Rookie of the Year
Jesse Witten
and M.C. Tom Leach



Women's Basketball Head
Coach
Mickie DeMoss and Chuck
Hayes

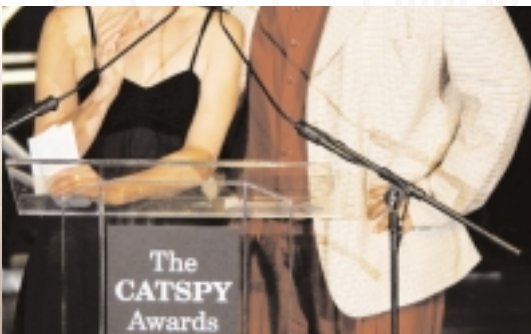


Scholar-Athlete of the Year
Simi Adeagbo



Miss Wildcat Mindy
Smith

Micki King and
Mr. Wildcat
Antonio Hall



2003 Award Winners

Rookies of the Year
Male - Jesse Witten - Tennis
Female - Vicki Goss - Rifle

Performances of the Year
Male - Clayton Moss - Diving
Female - Janet Crawford - Track

Athletes of the Year
Male -
Keith Bogans - Men's Basketball
and Artose Pinner - Football
Female - Sarah Witten - Tennis

Teams of the Year
Male - Basketball
Female - Tennis

Supporting Role
Danielle Petrisko - Tennis

Scratch Award
Deion Holts - Football

Mr. Wildcat
Antonio Hall - Football

Miss Wildcat
Mindy Smith - Gymnastics

Scholar Athletes of the Year
Male - Cody Nath - Swimming
Female - Simi Adeagbo

Community Service Award
Jed Bassett - Football

Character Award
Gordon Tyler - Baseball

Blue Heart Award
Ronnie Riley - Football

Lifetime Achievement Award
Mike Haley

Courage Award
Leah Kerstetter - Track

Team Coaches of the Year
Male - Tubby Smith - Basketball
Female - Mark Guilbeau - Tennis

Plays of the Year
Male - Artose Pinner - Football
Female - Kristen Jedlo - Soccer

Fall Sports Preview

VOLLEYBALL



There are certain athletes that are a coach's dream – eager to learn and grow, enthusiastic and a born leader. Middle blocker Amy Kaplan has helped to make that dream a reality for UK volleyball coach Jona Braden.

Kaplan, who enters her sophomore season at Kentucky in August, competes with a fire and desire that seems to be contagious. Her leadership skills mirror those of some of her senior counterparts. And she puts all of that tenacity, desire and drive into one goal – to win.

Braden believes that Kaplan can be a driving force behind a successful season for the team next fall.

"We are truly looking forward to seeing what this team is capable of after a very solid spring season of learning and growth," the coach said. "With leadership and enthusiasm like that of Amy Kaplan, this team can only go up!"

"Personally, my goal is to work harder than my opponents," Kaplan says. "Being small for my position, it makes beating other people that much sweeter. My goal is to grow in all aspects and help my team as much as I can. But I don't think size or skill will help us win games as much as heart is going to."

Kaplan picked up her first ball in competitive sports at age five. The ball was round and orange and Kaplan was a member of her youth boys' basketball team. After being home schooled for most of her life, she attended Montessori school in sixth grade and her coaches put her on the 8th grade boys' team. It was not until she switched to public schooling in seventh grade that she began to play with other girls.

The amazing part about Kaplan is that she didn't take her first swing at volleyball until she began high school. Even then, she was forced to watch from the sidelines as a freshman. But the four-sport athlete (volleyball, basketball, softball and track) learned quickly, and it didn't take long for her to catch the eye of Kentucky.

The 2002 season proved to be an up-and-down affair for the Wildcats, with early season tournament wins and a great November start that pushed the team into the Southeastern Conference Tournament. There UK met Final Four-bound team Florida for the second time in five days and was knocked out early. The Cats ended the year with a 13-18 record and forced the team's attention toward the upcoming fall season.

"I think next year is going to show what this team truly is made of," Kaplan said. "I think we are all coming together and by fall, we will be ready to put everything on the court and have the ability to leave it all out there with no regrets."

WOMEN'S SOCCER



In only its 11th season as a varsity program, the University of Kentucky women's soccer team made a sixth trip to the NCAA Tournament in 2002. The Cats closed out the first decade of Southeastern Conference women's

soccer with a record-10th trip to the league championship tournament, where they proceeded to knock off third-seeded Ole Miss on the Rebels' home turf.

Coach Warren Lipka has averaged 12 wins per season since fielding the very first UK women's soccer team in 1992. With nine starters returning from last year's squad, Lipka expects even more good things from the 2003 team that will face nine NCAA Tournament teams, including multiple national champion North Carolina.

"We are fortunate this year to have six seniors returning," Lipka said. "We will be able to show off a very experienced team. These girls have all been dedicated to the success of our program and they are ready to lead this team."

In the attack, the Wildcats will welcome back a trio of seniors in Elizabeth Ramsey (Hilliard, Ohio), Lauren Russell (Cincinnati, Ohio) and Heather Saas (Dublin, Ohio).

"These three are battle-tested winners who have played especially well together this spring," Lipka said. "They have learned in their time at UK what it takes to compete at a high level."

Ramsey, a fifth-year senior, leads the charge up front. Returning from a 2001 injury, Ramsey led the Wildcats in goals and assists a season ago, earning All-SEC honors for the second time in her career.

The Cats will feature another group of experienced players in the middle, as starters Jen Wilkinson (Darien, Ill.), Danielle Slupski (Columbus, Ohio) and Jen Weakley (Columbus, Ohio) return. They will be complemented by the return of Alli Haeussler (Fairfield, Ohio), who missed the 2002 season due to injury.

Amber Wilson (West Chester, Ohio) and Erin Witchey (Columbus, Ohio) will patrol UK's central defense. Kara McCue (Hamilton, Ohio) will be the featured right back and could be flanked by either Jamie Hutchison (Crestwood, Ky.) or Tara Weatherford (LaGrange, Ky.), who are both returning from injuries in 2002.

Three goalkeepers will challenge each other for the right to play behind the UK defense. Liz Butler (Overland Park, Kan.), a Freshman All-Great Lakes selection in 2002, will compete for time with Kim McHugh (Louisville, Ky.) and Anne Ogundele (Mississauga, Ont.). Lipka, the goalkeeper coach for the U-19 U.S. national team, plans to give all three netminders a shot at making the lineup.

MEN'S SOCCER



The 2003 men's soccer team may have a new look, but it will play the same hard-nosed style that has become a trademark at UK. Coach Ian Collins, now in his 10th season, welcomes the return of only four starters from last year's

squad, but is excited about an outstanding combination of youth and experience that is preparing to take on the nation's elite and return to the NCAA Tournament for the fourth time in five years.

The Wildcats return their leading scorer from 2002 in junior Jamal Shteivi (Shātee-wee). The Cincinnati product scored seven goals last year, including three gamewinners, and added one assist. Senior Brook Pearse, a veteran of 56 matches for UK, joins Shteivi on the front line. Redshirt freshman Nikolas Moreno, impressive on the 2002 practice squad, should contribute offensively with his quickness and hard work.

The middle of the field will feature Kentucky's biggest off-season facelift. Aussie Nathan Fleetwood moved on to the professional ranks with Grimsby Town of the English First Division, and Finns Jani Modig and Dani Kamras returned home to play professionally in Scandinavia. Though the shoes to fill are large, sophomore Thomas Senecal should step in well. The 6-3 Bethesda, Md., native had an outstanding spring season and is a tremendous asset for the Cats in the air.

Junior Olli Lehtimäki is coming off an ankle injury that took him out of most of 2002 and the entire spring season. As a freshman, Lehtimäki started in 20 of 21 games for UK, and his presence will help stabilize the midfield. He is joined by senior Brian Carmany and junior Jonathan Brunet, transfers who saw action in a combined 10 games during the 2002 season for the Cats, as well as Joey Gaworecki, who returns to the pitch after a one-year hiatus.

The Kentucky defense boasts a combined 79 starts, as seniors Chris Austin and Craig Pykett return along with sophomore Brandon Stewart. The trio played in all but five games total a season ago and gives the Cats a measure of experience in the most important facet of the game.

Behind the defense, three goalkeepers will compete against one another for the starting position. Sophomore Andy Gruenebaum started the final seven games of 2002, posting a 1.67 goals-against average. Redshirt freshman Brannan Sapp and Canadian transfer Jarret Christie will push Gruenebaum to stay on top of his game or risk relegation.

The entire field will be covered with competition for starting positions as the Wildcats enter 2003. As the pieces fall into place, the Cats expect to rise to the occasion for another successful season of soccer in the Bluegrass.