

Coach's Profile

The Busiest Man in Lexington

The election primaries are coming soon, and if Lexingtonians could cast their ballots for "Busiest Person in Lexington," new UK football coach Rich Brooks would be a major contender.

Since his appointment as head coach on Dec. 30, Brooks has worked tirelessly to get his program in place in time for spring practice, which begins March 31 at the Nutter Training Facility. He wouldn't have it any other way.

"It's been very fast with a lot of things to accomplish and I feel pretty good about where we are right now," Brooks said. "We have the staff here, we picked up the recruiting, we addressed the team coming back for the spring semester, we've watched the players in off-season conditioning, and we're putting the playbooks together. After that we'll be fairly intense in the offensive, defensive and special teams areas, getting everything down that we're going to do. I think it's gone pretty well and we've accomplished quite a bit in a short period of time."

After being hired, Brooks had two urgent orders of business - hiring a coaching

staff and working on a recruiting class. If those results are any indication, the Rich Brooks era at Kentucky is going to be a happy one.

For example, look at Brooks' new Wildcat coordinators. While at Kansas State, new UK offensive coordinator Ron Hudson directed an attack that was second in the nation in scoring in 2002 with 45.8 points per game. In 1998, K-State led the country with 48 points per contest. Hudson will mold an offense around UK's returning talent. With the return of quarterback Jared Lorenzen, receivers Derek Abney and Tommy Cook, and four starters in the line, the outlook for the Wildcats offense is exciting indeed.

UK's defensive coordinator is a familiar face. Mike Archer returns to Lexington after an impressive seven-year stint on the staff of the Pittsburgh Steelers. The special teams coordinator is Steve Ortmyer, who has 17 years of NFL experience in that role and has two Super Bowl championship rings from his term with the Oakland/Los Angeles Raiders. Former Wildcat player and coach Joker Phillips is a natural for the role of recruiting coordinator.

The rest of the staff is also quite accomplished.

The UK coaches have a combined 243 seasons

as professional coaches, players, or administrators, and as college coaches.

"I'm extremely pleased with the staff we've assembled here. Frankly, it even surpassed the expectations I had when I began," Brooks said. "I mentioned before that this staff would cover a lot of areas in age, region and race. I think this staff certainly typifies that. We have some younger coaches and some older coaches. We've got some coaches from this conference, from the Midwest and from the West. The most important thing to me is that we have coaches that are not only outstanding teachers, but they're good people and they care about the young men they're going to coach. That was the primary concern I had in hiring a staff."

Once hired, the coaches immediately put the finishing touches on the recruiting class of 21 players, although three of the signees will defer enrollment until later.

"I think we addressed some areas of need with this recruiting class, tight end being one of them," Brooks said. "We added speed at receiver, defensive back and running back, and we picked up an outstanding young quarterback."

Five of the newcomers already are on campus and will be able to participate in spring practice. The Wildcats need to be fast learners as they adjust to a new offensive system and a new 3-4-4 defensive alignment.



Still, Brooks has the wisdom to know that he can't try to do too much too soon.

"We can't work too fast because we have only 15 practices and only a few of them in full gear," Brooks said. "The one thing the NCAA

makes sure of is that you can't overwork them (the players), you have a limited amount of time that you can spend with them. The allotted time we have to spend with them has to be quality time. The teaching has to be good and precise

and the players have to learn."

One thing is sure: if the players work as diligently as Rich Brooks has the past two months, a lot will be accomplished by the time that the Blue/White Spring Game arrives on Apr. 26.

2003 Football Schedule

Aug. 31	Louisville	Oct. 4	open	Nov. 8	open
Sept. 6	Murray State	Oct. 11	at South Carolina	Nov. 15	at Vanderbilt
Sept. 13	at Alabama	Oct. 18	Ohio University	Nov. 22	at Georgia
Sept. 20	at Indiana	Oct. 25	Mississippi State	Nov. 29	Tennessee
Sept. 27	Florida	Nov. 1	Arkansas		

2002 Football Honors

Derek Abney, Kick Returner

First-team All-America by The Associated Press, Football Writers Association of America, Walter Camp Football Foundation, The Sporting News, ESPN.com, CBSSportsLine.com, CNNSI.com, CollegeFootballNews.com

SEC Special Teams Player of the Year by The Southeastern Post, Birmingham Monday Morning Quarterback Club, Atlanta Touchdown Club

First-team All-SEC by SEC Coaches, The Associated Press, The Sporting News, Birmingham News, Mobile Register, CollegeFootballNews.com

SEC Special Teams Player of the Week by the SEC Office three times, at Florida, at Arkansas, at Mississippi State

Coleman Barnes, Long Snapper

Verizon Academic All-District IV by the College Sports Information Directors of America; advanced to national ballot for Academic All-America

Taylor Begley, Kicker

SEC All-Freshman by SEC Coaches, Knoxville News-Sentinel, The Sporting News
SEC Special Teams Player of the Week by the league office, vs. Louisville

Aaron Boone, Wide Receiver

Played in the Paradise Bowl All-Star Game

Vincent "Sweet Pea" Burns, Defensive End

Second-team All-SEC by The Associated Press

Otis Grigsby, Defensive End

Played in the Paradise Bowl All-Star Game

Antonio Hall, Offensive Tackle

Honorable mention All-America by CNNSI.com
First-team All-SEC by SEC Coaches, Birmingham News
Second-team All-SEC by The Associated Press
National Good Works Team by the American Football Coaches Association
Southeastern Conference Good Works Team by the league office

Chase Harp, Tight End

Played in the Paradise Bowl All-Star Game

Justin Haydock, Linebacker

Earned nomination for Verizon Academic All America

Deion Holts, Defensive End

SEC All-Freshman by SEC Coaches

Jared Lorenzen, Quarterback

Semifinalist for the Davey O'Brien Award
Second-team All-SEC by SEC Coaches, The Associated Press
SEC Offensive Player of the Week by the league office and collegefootballnews.com, vs. Texas-El Paso

Glenn Pakulak, Punter

Winner of the Mosi Tatupu Award as the National Special Teams Player of the Year
Finalist for the Ray Guy Award
First-team All-America by CBSSportsLine.com
Second-team All-America by CollegeFootballNews.com, Walter Camp Football Foundation

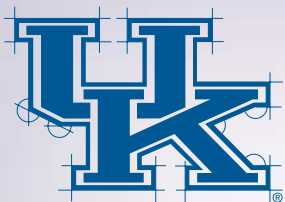
Third-team All-America by The Associated Press
Fourth-team All-America by The Sporting News
Honorable mention All-America by CNNSI.com
First-team All-SEC by SEC Coaches, The Associated Press, The Sporting News, CollegeFootballNews.com, Birmingham News, Mobile Register
Played in the Hula Bowl Maui All-Star Game

Artose Pinner, Running Back

Semifinalist for the Doak Walker Award
Honorable mention All-America by CNNSI.com
SEC Player of the Year by the Mobile Register
SEC Offensive Player of the Year by CollegeFootballNews.com, The Associated Press
SEC Most Improved Player of the Year by The Southeastern Post
First-team All-SEC by SEC Coaches, The Associated Press, The Sporting News, CollegeFootballNews.com, Birmingham News, Mobile Register
Southeastern Conference Player of the Week by The Southeastern Post two times, vs. Indiana and Vanderbilt
Played in the Senior Bowl All-Star Game

Dewayne Robertson, D. Tackle

First-team All-SEC by the Mobile Register
Second-team All-SEC by SEC Coaches, The Associated Press



Sport Spotlight - Baseball

Wildcats Planning On Quick Turnaround

The 2003 UK baseball team opened its season in mid-February with the goal of improving on a disappointing 17-36 season in 2002. Coach Keith Madison is in his 25th year at the helm of the program and has added several new faces to his roster in hopes of a quick turnaround.

After defeating East Tennessee State 3-0 in their home opener, the Cats' record stood at 5-5. UK is led by its tri-captains, catcher Caleb Brock, pitcher Scott Wade and outfielder Gordon Tyler. All three are preseason All-Southeastern Conference candidates. Several new faces join the Wildcats' program this season, including junior college transfers Mike Breyman and Joe Naill in the infield, as well as Heath Castle and Seth Stanley on the mound.

"I think we're going to be a solid defensive club," Madison said. "And based on the performances of intrasquad games in the fall, our pitchers threw strikes and that's always a plus. To be successful in baseball, you need to be strong up the middle and I think we will be just that this spring with Brock at catcher, Naill

at short, Spencer Graeter or Brad Pickrell at second and Casey Gilvin in center."

The Wildcats faced a testy schedule early, which included a season-opening trip to DeLand, Fla., where they battled host Stetson, which has been ranked as high as 18th in the country. The February slate also included a trip to Charleston, S.C., to play in the Charleston Crab House Challenge, featuring another top-25 team, the Richmond Spiders.

"There's no question that it's a challenging schedule," Madison said. "Then we open at home in March we have teams like Purdue, a very good Big Ten team, and Indiana State, which was one of the top teams in their conference. Hopefully our challenging early schedule will prepare us for conference play."

It is a conference that has placed four teams in the Sports Weekly/ESPN Top 25, including No. 20 Auburn, which is the Cats' first SEC home series (March 21-23) and No. 8 South Carolina, which the Cats will visit in early May.



Big Blue Caravan

TIME TO PAINT THE COMMONWEALTH BLUE!

UK Athletics hopes you will join us as we kick off the Big Blue Caravan, the inaugural event in what will be an annual Kentucky tradition. It is our intention and expectation to reach every region of the Bluegrass and meet as many fans as possible as the Caravan visits new cities each year.

This year, during May and June, Athletics Director Mitch Barnhart, Coach Tubby Smith, Coach Rich Brooks and various other coaches and staff will be traveling across the Commonwealth. We will be visiting local charitable organizations, hosting golf tournaments and sitting down with you for catered BBQ dinners.

Our schedule includes the following steps:

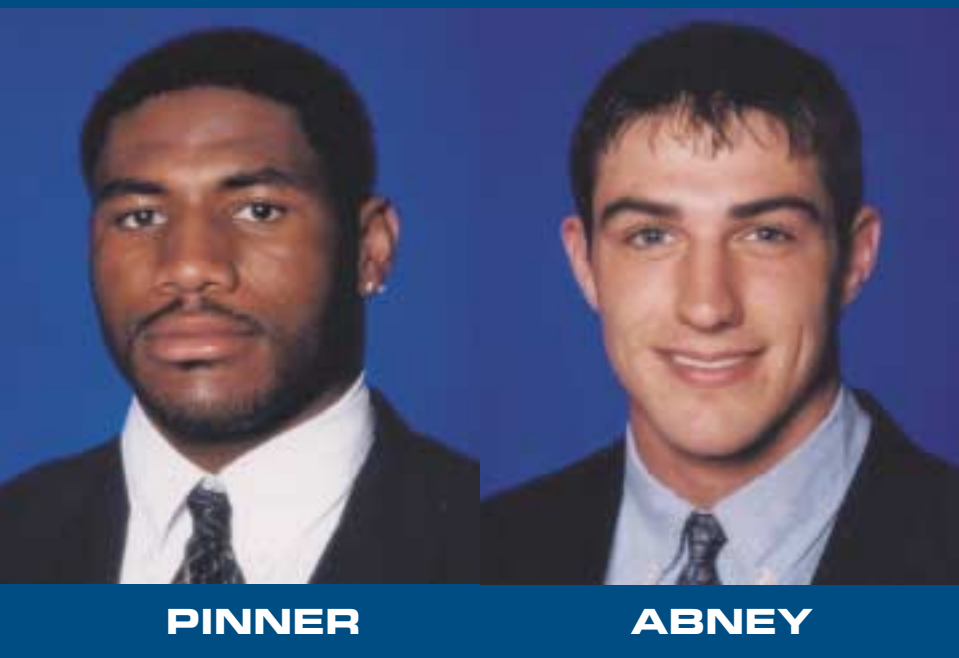
May 12	Louisville	June 16	Madisonville
May 13	Cincinnati	June 17	Bowling Green
May 19	Nashville	June 18	Hazard
May 20	Somerset	June 19	Ashland

Information will be available through your local media outlets in April, or log on to ukathletics.com. We are looking forward to meeting the great people of Kentucky – the best fans in the world.



GO BIG BLUE!





Pinner, Abney Honored at Birmingham Quarterback Club Banquet

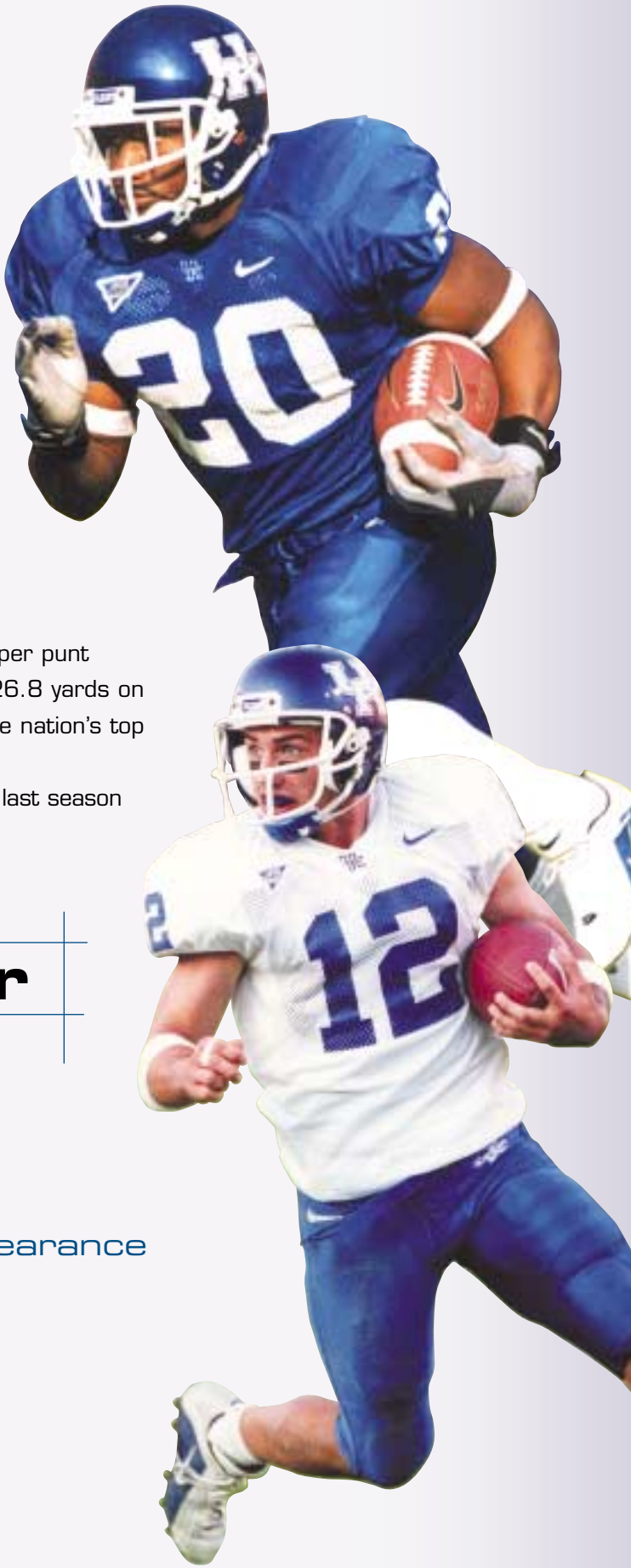
Senior running back Artose Pinner and junior wide receiver/kick returner Derek Abney were honored February 11 by the Birmingham Quarterback Club. Pinner was the Southeastern Conference Back of the Year and Abney was the SEC Special Teams Player of the Year.

Pinner led the Southeastern Conference in rushing with 1,414 yards and 13 touchdowns. He also caught 37 passes for 264 yards and two TDs. He topped the 100-yard mark a school-record eight times during the season. Pinner was a semifinalist for the Doak Walker Award for the nation's best running back and was the SEC Offensive Player of the Year by CollegeFootball-News.com and The Associated Press. He was a consensus first-team All-SEC pick.

Abney is enjoying a busy post-season calendar. In December, he was introduced as part of the Walter Camp All-America team at the ESPN/Home Depot College Football Awards Show in Orlando, Fla. In January, he returned to Orlando and was honored as part of the Football Writers Association of America All-America Team. In early February, Abney traveled to New Haven, Connecticut, to take part in the Walter Camp All-America Weekend. On March 1, Abney was honored by the Atlanta Touchdown Club.

Abney returned six kicks for touchdowns in 2002 and broke or tied five NCAA records, nine Southeastern Conference records and 10 school records for kick returns. He averaged 15.1 yards per punt return, including four touchdowns (at Florida, at Arkansas, two at Mississippi State). He averaged 26.8 yards on kickoff returns with touchdowns at Florida and vs. Vanderbilt. He is the only player who ranked in the nation's top 11 in punt returns, kickoff returns, and all-purpose yardage.

Abney also is a quality wide receiver. He caught 40 passes for 569 yards and four touchdowns last season and ranks third in school history in pass receptions and pass receiving yardage.



Kentucky Football Calendar

March 31	Spring practice begins
April 21	Coach Brooks on WLAP Spring Football Call-in Show, 7 p.m.
April 26	Blue/White Spring Football Game
July 29-31	SEC Football Media Days; Kentucky appearance is July 29
August 4	Newcomers report
August 7	Veterans report
August 8	Kentucky Football Media Day
August 30	Louisville at Kentucky

Kentucky Football Staff Visits Veterans Hospital

Coach Rich Brooks and the University of Kentucky football coaching staff visited patients in the Lexington Veterans Administration Medical Center on February 11. The visit was

part of the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week, which was observed Feb. 9-15.



Fall Sports Review

2002 Men's Soccer

The 2002 season started off with a bang for the University of Kentucky men's soccer team, which placed second at the Virginia Soccer Classic after defeating the No. 10 team in the nation, Maryland. But the year ended quietly as the Wildcats dropped a 2-1 decision to Bowling Green in the semifinals of the Mid-American Conference Tournament. Kentucky missed reaching the NCAA Tournament for the first time in four years.

The momentum of Kentucky's success in recent years was ebbed by a number of injuries and distractions, but the accolades that highlighted the 2002 season helped solidify the season in Kentucky soccer history. It was the eighth winning season in the past nine years for the Cats and Coach Ian Collins earned his



100th win at Kentucky by defeating Cleveland State in the UK Invitational.

Senior goalkeeper Greg Raber finished his career as the Wildcats' all-time leader in goals-against average. The Raleigh, N.C., native allowed only 21 goals in 2,200 minutes between the pipes for Kentucky. Unfortunately for the Cats, Raber's career was ended in the middle of October with seven games remaining on the schedule.

Redshirt-freshman Andy Gruenebaum was thrown into the fire, playing his first seven collegiate matches against stiff MAC competition.

Kentucky's goalkeeper of the future, Gruenebaum played solidly in the final third of the season and gained valuable experience at the collegiate level.

Another senior, J.D. Stephenson, finished as the second-most consistent player in Kentucky history, starting a

total of 79 games. The Tulsa, Okla., product was on pace to surpass the seven-year-old record in the MAC Tournament, but was sidelined for three games due to injury.

Kentucky's other standout, junior Nathan Fleetwood, was also not 100% during much of the season. Missing three games and playing hurt in a number of other contests, Fleetwood still led the Cats with seven assists and was named first-team All-Great Lakes by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. The Adelaide, Australia, native has since moved on from Kentucky to play in the prestigious English First Division.

Missing its full complement of players, Kentucky saw a number of new faces reach for the status of superstar. Sophomore Jamal Shteivi led the Cats in goals and points, tallying three game-winning goals while playing in all 19 matches. He earned third-team All-Region honors from the NSCAA.

The Wildcats will have nine months to think about the events of last fall. But by the time Louisville visits the UK Soccer Complex on Sept. 2, 2003, last season will be neatly filed away and the Cats will be prepared to deliver another successful season of soccer to the Bluegrass.

2002 Women's Soccer

A league-high 10th appearance in Southeastern Conference postseason play and a berth in the NCAA Tournament highlighted the 2002 University of Kentucky women's soccer season as the club finished at 11-9-0 to provide Coach Warren Lipka with his fifth consecutive non-losing season and ninth in the program's 11 years in the Bluegrass.

The Cats' roster was comprised of 11 incoming freshman and 13 total newcomers that complemented the 20 returning veterans. Soccer Buzz recognized UK's recruiting class as No. 23 nationally and third in the Great Lakes Region in its preseason rankings.

"What was so special about this class is that the student-athletes came from all over North America, six states and Canada, each displaying their own unique style of soccer," Lipka said. "It's exciting to bring all the different styles together and blend them into one cohesive unit."

Kentucky kicked off its season by claiming the Nike Tiger Invitational title in Columbia, Mo. Liz Butler, Amber Wilson, Danielle Slupski and Elizabeth Ramsey earned all-tournament accolades as the Cats downed Indiana, 3-1, and No. 23 Illinois, 1-0, for their first of five shutouts on the season.

Three-straight losses to SEC foes midway through the regular season put the Cats in jeopardy of making the league tournament. But the Wildcats chalked up wins over Mississippi State (Oct. 20), Arkansas (Oct. 25) and No. 17 Michigan (Nov. 1). Before the Cats blanked the Wolverines, 1-0, in the season finale, Jami Fritter, Mattingly, Boyce and Courtney Pollock were honored on Senior Night at the UK Soccer Complex.

The Cats' 4-4-0 league mark secured the sixth seed in the SEC Tournament, where UK downed host and No. 3 seed Ole Miss, 2-1, in first-round action.

The upset sent the Cats to the semifinal round and a rematch with the Tennessee Lady Vols, which won the regular season meeting in Knoxville 2-0. The Wildcats once again could not find the offensive spark needed to defeat UT and fell in overtime, 1-0. UK's Butler and Ramsey were voted to the All-Tournament Team.

When the NCAA pairings were announced, UK found itself against No. 22 Cincinnati in Knoxville. Though UK had made appearances in 1995, 1996, 1998, 1999 and 2001, it was still in pursuit of an elusive first win in NCAA play. Kentucky outshot the nationally-ranked Bearcats but still lost 1-0, in

cold, rainy conditions.

Ramsey finished the season as the Cats' offensive leader in goals (6), assists (8), points (20), shots (49), and match-winning goals (3). She was selected first-team All-Great Lakes Region by the NSCAA and the Wildcat tri-captain became UK's 11th player to be named first-team All-SEC.



2002 Cross Country

Kentucky seemed to find the perfect mix of distance runners as it put together a highly successful women's cross country season. The team enjoyed its best finish in 13 seasons by taking second-place honors at the Southeastern Conference Championship in Gainesville, Fla., in November. UK was led by All-SEC performers Caitlin Phillips, Brooke Patterson and Allison Grace.

The Wildcats' success seemed to shock those around the league, but not UK coach Don Weber.

"The women ran very well at SECs, obviously," Weber said. "After the way they've been racing and competing all season, it wasn't unexpected. I was very pleased with their approach to competing all year and it paid off for them at the conference championships."

Kentucky's top three runners all finished in the top-10 and the team advanced to the NCAA South Regional, where the group finished eighth overall, just missing a spot in the NCAA Championships. Phillips, a two-time All-SEC cross country runner, advanced to the NCAA Championships for the first time in her career.

The Wildcats first appeared on the radar at Florida's Gator Invitational, taking

second place and edging out the host team led by Phillips in second place. Patterson and Grace both finished in the top-10, while freshman Leah Kerstetter and newcomer Roseline Addo also had top-15 finishes.

The team went on to finish fourth at the Auburn Invitational, with Phillips again leading the team in fifth place. At the SEC meet, Kentucky knew it had a shot at finishing in the top-three, but exceeded that by edging

Tennessee and taking second place to Arkansas's title after edging out Tennessee. For the men's team,

David Freeman was a powerful leader in 2002, recording four top-10 finishes throughout the season. His 10th-place finish at the SEC Championship earned him All-SEC honors. Freeman opened the season with back-to-back second-place nods at the Woodford County Trials and the Western Kentucky Old Timers Classic before he led his team to the Florida Gator Invitational.

The men took eighth place in the season's first team-scoring event. Freeman finished 20th overall, just behind senior Kevin O'Connor. The team then traveled to Auburn, again taking eighth-place as a team. Freeman was back on top for his team, finishing eighth in his final preparation for the SEC Championships. After taking 10th at the league title run, Freeman competed at the NCAA South Regional in Greenville, N.C. Freeman closed his successful season with a 31st-place showing at the event, his first 10k race of the year.

With the 2002 season in the books, the team has already begun preparations for 2003. The women's squad returns all performers from the 2002 successful squad, including its three top-10 finishers from the SEC Championships. The men will continue to grow with the return of All-SEC performers from two seasons ago, Thomas Morgan and Hunter Spencer.



2002 Women's Volleyball

The University of Kentucky volleyball team closed out the 2002 season with a 3-0 loss to the Houston Cougars on Saturday, Nov. 30 in the Central Florida Thanksgiving Tournament in Orlando, Fla. Sissy Canfield led the Wildcats with 12 kills on .345 hitting. Kentucky ends the season with a 13-18 overall record and a 6-10 mark in Southeastern Conference play.

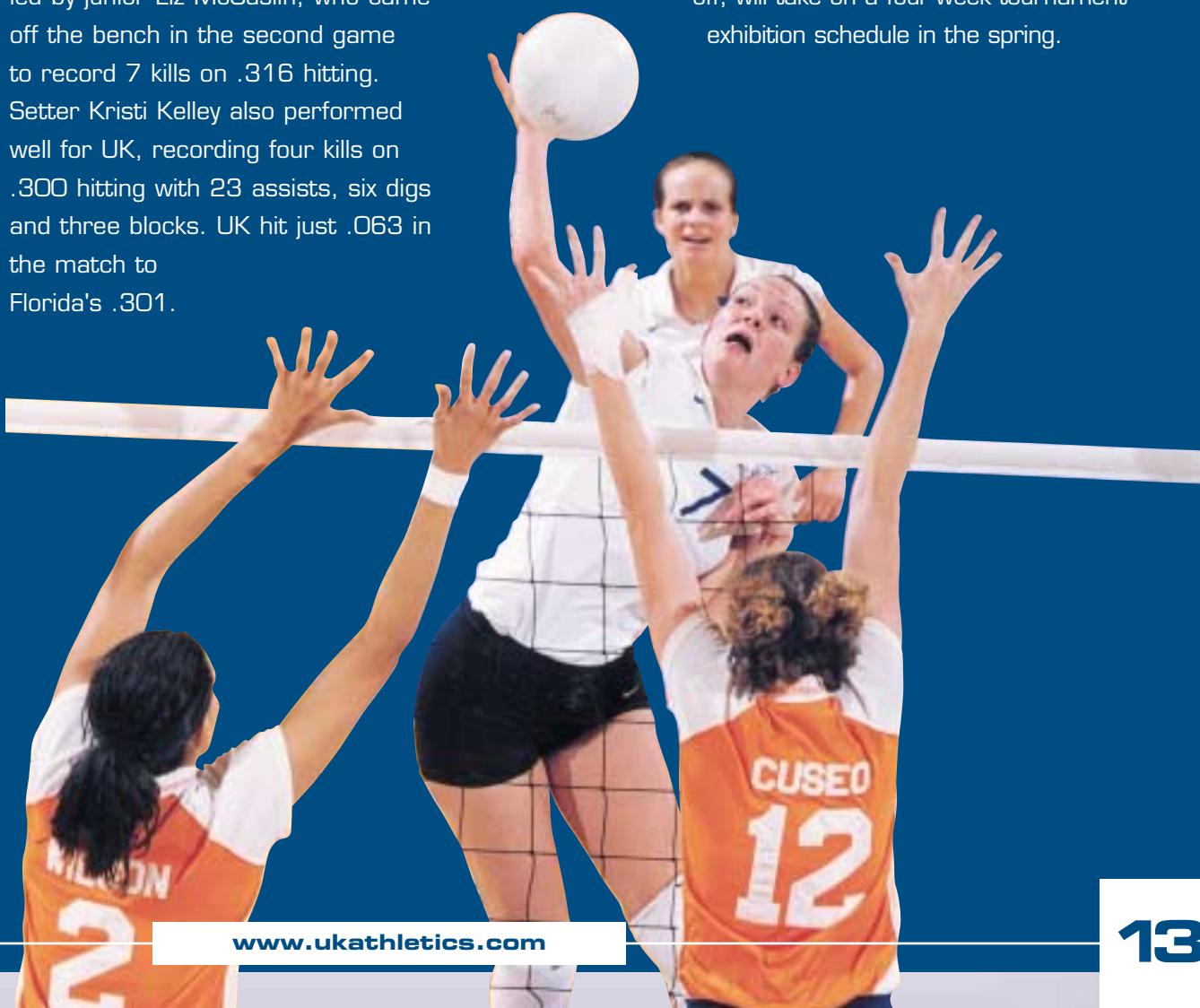
The match was the final appearance for four Wildcat seniors as Kristen Batt, Aleisha Craven, Anne Koester and Toni Lee played in their last match at UK. Batt closes her career with 1,387 kills, which ranks only two shy of third on UK's career list. She also finishes third on UK's career digs list with 1,087. Craven finishes her four-year stay with 985 career digs, tying her for sixth on the all-time list while playing in 432 games, which ranks eighth at Kentucky.

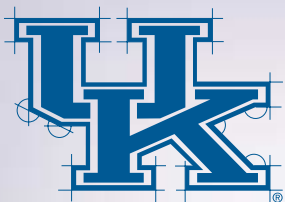
A week prior to the loss to Houston,

Kentucky had been eliminated from the 2002 Southeastern Conference Tournament when it fell 3-0 to the No. 3 Florida Gators in Fayetteville, Ark.

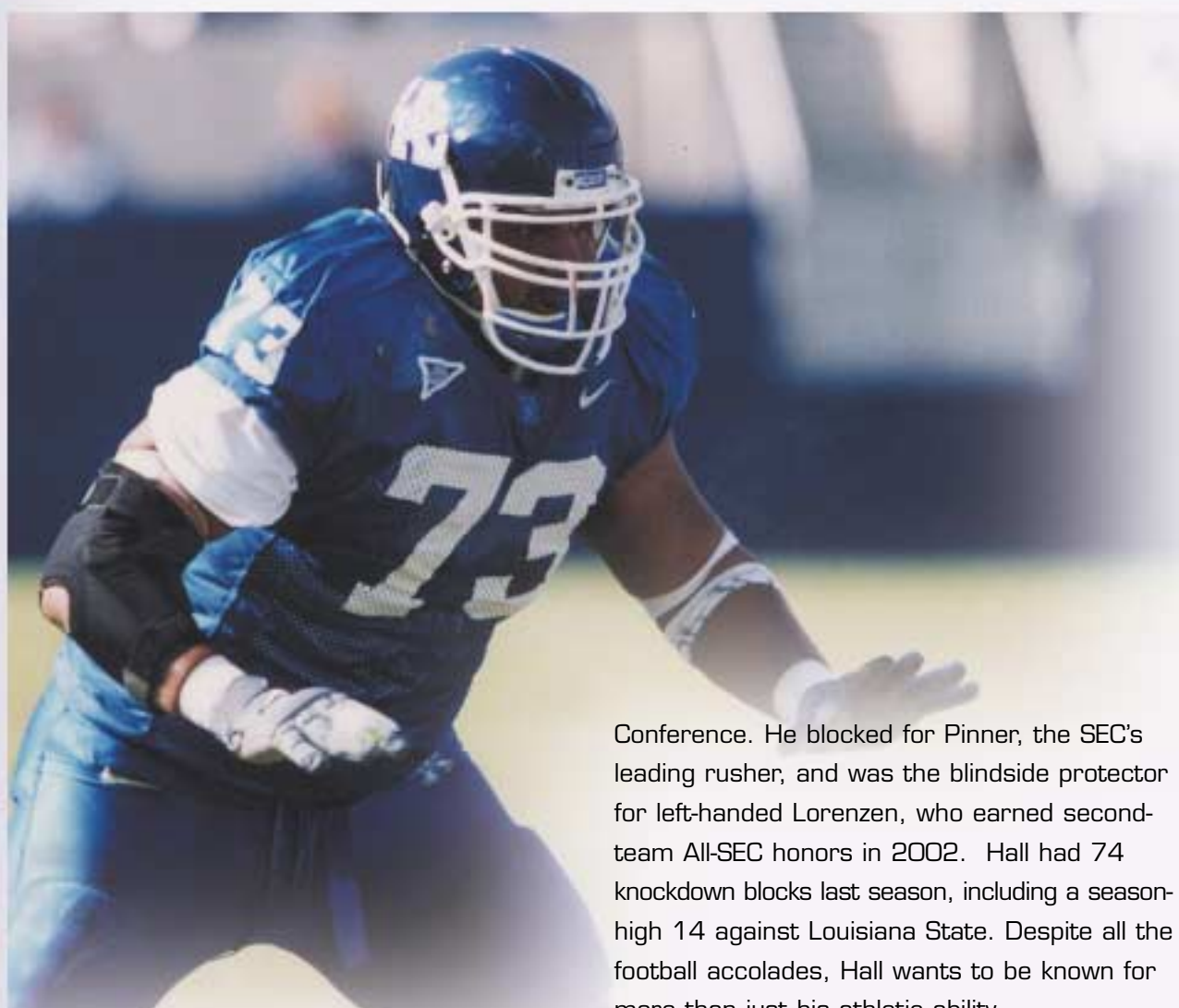
Against the gators, Kentucky was led by junior Liz McCaslin, who came off the bench in the second game to record 7 kills on .316 hitting. Setter Kristi Kelley also performed well for UK, recording four kills on .300 hitting with 23 assists, six digs and three blocks. UK hit just .063 in the match to Florida's .301.

The Wildcats, who had most of the winter off, will take on a four-week tournament exhibition schedule in the spring.





Cats in the Community



Singing is True Passion for Antonio Hall

Luciano Pavarotti, Vincenzo Bellini, Bryn Terfel, Antonio Hall. One of these names is not routinely mentioned with the others. But it definitely belongs. The name Antonio Hall may not flow off the tongue of opera aficionados just

Conference. He blocked for Pinner, the SEC's leading rusher, and was the blindside protector for left-handed Lorenzen, who earned second-team All-SEC honors in 2002. Hall had 74 knockdown blocks last season, including a season-high 14 against Louisiana State. Despite all the football accolades, Hall wants to be known for more than just his athletic ability.

"I love football, and because of my athletic abilities I am able to receive a great education at Kentucky and play in the best football conference in America," Hall said. "But singing is my passion. I know I won't be able to play football forever. Singing is my life after football."

Hall began singing at age three and now as a gifted opera singer, with a bass-baritone voice, he is majoring in music education at UK. He plans to teach music to children following his playing career. His mission to teach was the foundation for creating the inaugural Complete College Experience last year. CCE is a

"When I was in the eighth grade, I was a knucklehead sometimes," Hall said. "But a teacher took interest in me and took me to a University of Pittsburgh football game. I knew after watching those guys that I wanted to be a student-athlete and I didn't want to do anything in high school to mess that up."

Because of his passion for music and education, Hall is involved with UK's "Cats That Care" service program. He participates in UK's Excel Mentor Program, meeting with a high school student each week to encourage academic success and personal growth, and is a guest speaker at schools and churches around Kentucky. He also has been a frequent visitor to UK Children's Hospital. The American Football Coaches Association awarded him for his off-the-field dedication by naming him to the AFCA Good Works Team for 2002, one of only 11 Division I football players to receive the honor. He also was named to the SEC Good Works Team, which honors those student-athletes who show exceptional dedication to community service and to the betterment of the communities in which they live.

"If it hadn't have been for my experience as an eighth-grader, I'm not sure I would have been serious enough about high school to even make it to college," Hall said. "When you have a goal to work toward it helps you stay focused. My goal was to become a college football player and study music and now I'm doing both. I just want to give back to others what I have been given. I'm extremely blessed." Those that have been touched by Hall's influences are the blessed ones. Perhaps Luciano Pavarotti, Vincenzo Bellini and Bryn Terfel would be proud to have his name mentioned among theirs.

"When you have a goal to work toward, it helps you to stay focused. My goal was to become a college football player and study music, and now I'm doing both. I just want to give back to others what I have been given."

- Antonio Hall

yet, but Hall hopes that will someday change.

For right now, Hall is better known across the "Big Blue Nation" as one of the reasons Kentucky quarterback Jared Lorenzen and running back Artose Pinner saw such great success on the gridiron last season. Hall is a 6-6, 300-pound offensive tackle who was the cornerstone of the offensive line that helped the Wildcats score 32.1 points per game, which ranked second in the Southeastern

program, developed by Hall, which allows middle-school-age students a chance to experience the benefits of college before undergoing the peer pressures and rigorous demands of high school. The mentoring program promotes the importance of continuing education and athletics, providing a glimpse of the real college experience.



Where Are They Now?

ROB LOCK AND VALERIE STILL FORM A WINNING TEAM

As she was headed out of Lexington, he was headed in. They met briefly, but didn't really know each other. Their paths had crossed, and they were both stars. But would they become star-crossed?

The answer, thankfully, is no.

Valerie Still grew up in Camden, N.J. Her brother Art was a standout football player for the University of Kentucky. So when she was recruited by every college in the nation to play basketball, she chose UK. As a 6-1 center for the women's basketball team from 1979-83, she was a two-time All-American and still holds the UK career records among both men's and women's players in scoring (2,763) and rebounding (1,525). When her college career ended, she packed up and headed for Italy to begin a new adventure.

Rob Lock grew up in Fresno, California, dreaming of becoming a pilot someday, just like his father Bob. But as he grew, he became taller and taller and his dream was sidelined for another high-flying profession. Rob, a 6-11 center, was a high school basketball All-American

who was recruited by every top program in the country. He chose Kentucky and became a two-year starter and team captain. He was

drafted by the Los Angeles Clippers in the third round and played briefly in the NBA. Then he packed up and headed for Italy to begin a new adventure.

That the two would meet again in Italy is not surprising considering they were both professional basketball players in that country with a very similar background. That they would fall in love, marry and have a beautiful child is storybook. That they would continue to enjoy breathtaking success both as a couple and as individuals, well, who would have expected anything else?

Rob and Valerie now have their own team, and it is a championship squad. Son Aaron is 6-years-old and already is four inches taller than Shaquille O'Neal was at the same age. On January 11, 2003, Aaron stood at midcourt next to his mom and dad as the three formed the "Y" with UK cheerleaders during a timeout of the men's game vs. South Carolina at Rupp Arena, the site of many of his father's glories. The next day, Aaron stood at midcourt next to his mom and dad as Valerie's jersey was retired during halftime of the women's game vs. Alabama in Memorial Coliseum, the site of many of his mother's glories.

When Rob and Valerie left Italy, their plan was to live as retired athletes for at least five years – the fruits of their labors having given them that option. Rob had flown an airplane for the first time when he was 14, and he now had his pilot's license. Soon enough, he thought, he would realize his dream of becoming a professional pilot. While in Italy, Val had modeled, had hosted her own TV show, had called basketball games for Italian radio, had cut a couple of disco albums, and had honed her skills as a professional-caliber pianist. She had even lined up a gig as a part-time TV reporter in Lexington.

But five months after Aaron was born, retirement officially ended for both mom and dad. Two new professional U.S. women's basketball leagues had been formed and Val was in demand. The offers and the lure of the game became too much to resist. Rob and Valerie decided together that she should re-lace her sneakers. Mom, Dad and Aaron moved from Lexington to a hotel room in Columbus, Ohio, where Val once again became a star player, earning two-time MVP honors in the American Basketball League Championship series for the Columbus Quest. She later played for and was assistant coach for the Washington Mystics of the WNBA and an assistant coach for the Orlando Miracle. She also served for one year as an assistant coach for the Worthington (Ohio) Christian High School girl's basketball squad. Rob, meanwhile, continued to develop his plans of starting an aviation tour business while he assumed an unconventional role of father.

"My viewpoint of what I was supposed to



do changed," Rob said. "I had to accept more responsibility. Val and I, we're like a team. I just decided to do my part to help."

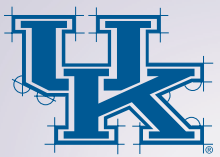
Says Gwendolyn Still, Valerie's mother: "He has been a blessing to my daughter. What bigger part can you play than getting him (Aaron) up in the morning? Bathing him? Cooking for him? I can't say enough good about Rob."

Now, in the spring of 2003, things are once again an adventure for Rob and Valerie. She is on the staff of the WNBA's Connecticut Sun and runs The Valerie Still Foundation (www.valeriestillfoundation.com), a not-for-profit



organization that encourages and instructs girls to develop all their natural talents.

Together Rob and Valerie own and operate the Waldo Wright Flying Service, LLC. Rob is the chief pilot and flies from Ohio to Florida in vintage bi-planes. During the winter months, the family is in Florida, where Rob gives scenic bi-plane tours. And as for Aaron, well, UK fans might make note that basketball is not likely over for this championship squad.



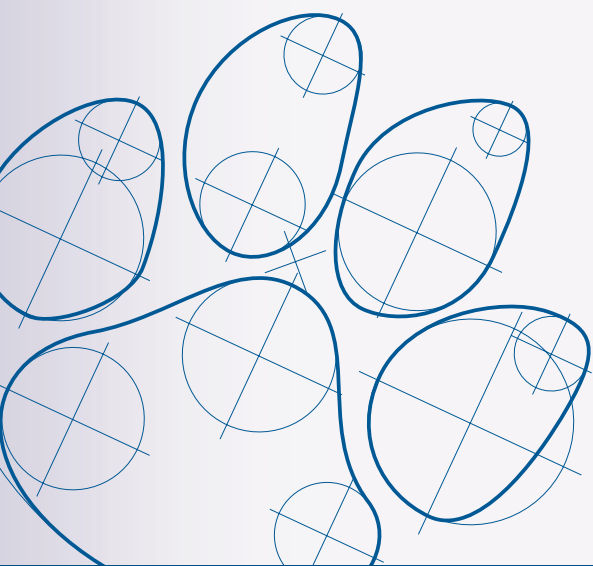
THE BLUEPRINT

The Official Newsletter of the University of Kentucky Athletics

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The Wildcats on the Airwaves

The Big Blue Nation has grown accustomed to watching the Wildcats on television. Although there are annual changes and additions to regional and national television agreements, one of the most often asked questions this past year dealt directly with what we refer to as "4th tier" television. After CBS, Jefferson Pilot and ESPN select football and basketball games, Fox Sports South (out of Atlanta) has partnered with the SEC to televise numerous SEC events - including baseball, women's basketball and gymnastics, as well as other SEC vs. SEC sporting events. For those of you in certain parts of Kentucky, your local cable operator might not carry Fox Sports Net South. Therefore, you missed a couple of games.

This did not go unnoticed.

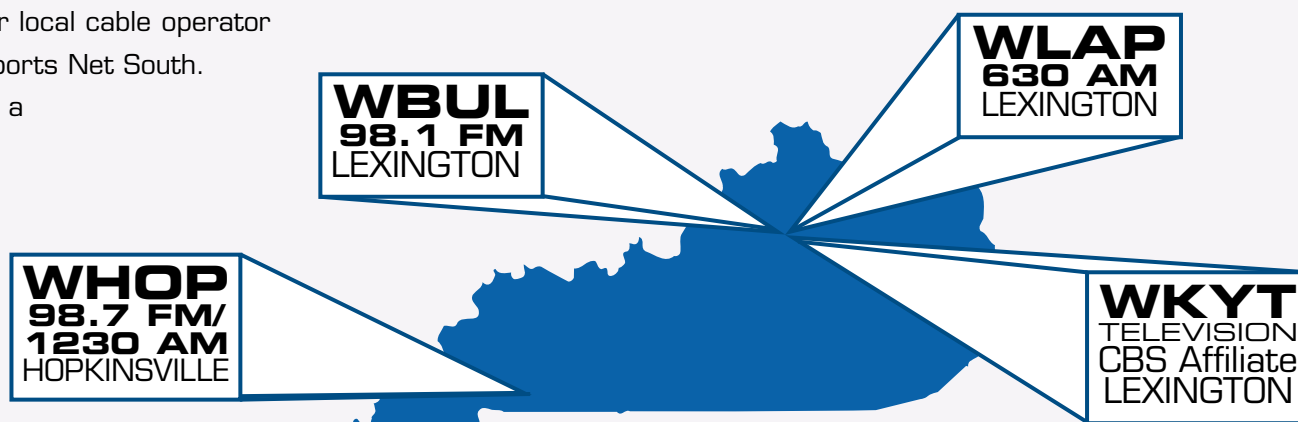
These games are not "pay-per-view" or restricted by any other television agreement. This is simply a new phenomenon as it relates to television today. If your local cable operator does not carry Fox Sports Net South, chances are they do carry Fox Sports Net Ohio - or one of the other 22 regional Fox Net channels.

In the future, you can simply contact your local cable operator and ask them to begin carrying Fox Sports Net South or ask about cable package options which might include multiple or all of the Fox regional

cable channels. For more information or to ask additional questions per radio or television, email Rick Thompson at rickt@uky.edu in the UKAA administrative offices.

For a complete listing of radio stations across the Bluegrass, log onto www.ukathletics.com, then click on "audio/visual," then select radio affiliates.

Thanks, and Go Big Blue!



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

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Written and compiled by: University of Kentucky Athletics and Cornett Advertising
Editor: Rena Vicini
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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.