

Women's Basketball Timeline



Kentucky women's basketball has been recognized as having a spirited and winning tradition. It was in the early 1900s that women began playing the new game on "Miss Nettie's Lawn" in Lexington ... and so the tradition continues.

1902—The very first University of Kentucky basketball team was organized. Women's basketball begins on the UK campus with its first game on Feb. 21, 1903.

1924—The 1924 team, coached by Bart Peak, swept its 10-game schedule and claimed not only the championship of Kentucky, but the championship of the South.

1924—The University Senate passed a bill to abolish women's

basketball in part because according to state politicians basketball had proven to be a strenuous sport for boys and therefore was too strenuous for girls.

(Left:) The 1906 UK women's basketball team, then known as Kentucky State College. The team, coached by Thomson Bryant, played only one game vs. Georgetown and fell, 15-14.

(Below:) The 1924 team claimed the Championship of the South after defeating Peabody and



The 1903 UK women's basketball team was coached by Jane Todd Watson, finishing 1-0 by defeating KU (now Transylvania), 16-10.

C.P. St. John coached the 1904 team, leading it to a 2-0 record with victories vs. Georgetown (14-10) and Jessamine Female Institute (28-1).



UK Hoops



After a 50-year absence, at the turn of the 70s, women teams at UK once again began playing intercollegiate games.

1974—Women's basketball finally reached varsity status. Sue Feamster was named the first coach. She guided that first squad to a 16-9

record. The team is given the nickname "Lady Kats."

1976—Feamster handed over the coaching reins to Debbie Yow, who compiled a 79-40 record in four seasons from 1976-1980. In 1979,



Yow recruited Valerie Still, Lea Wise and Patty Jo Hedges, one of the best recruiting classes in UK women's basketball history.

Sue Feamster coached UK from 1971-74 before it gained varsity status.

Three of the most recognizable names in UK women's basketball history, Valerie Still, Patty Jo Hedges and Lea Wise.

Debbie Yow and UK men's basketball coach Joe B. Hall.



1977—Lady Kat starting center Pam Browning became an All-American and compiled 1,598 points in her collegiate career. She ranks as the third-leading scorer at UK to this day.

1979—The Lady Kats upset second-ranked Tennessee, 66-64, before 4,500 fans in Memorial Coliseum. The attendance got a big boost when the much-anticipated game between the school's men's teams later that evening was canceled because of snow.



Terry Hall arrived at UK in 1980 and was named the Kentucky Women's Intercollegiate Conference Coach of the Year in her first season at UK.



Memorial Coliseum hosted the largest crowd ever to attend a women's college basketball game in 1983.

1980—Terry Hall became the third head coach of the Lady Kats.

1982—Lea Wise hit 15-of-16 outside shots against Illinois in an NCAA playoff game, helping the Cats win 88-80. Wise, a Lexington product, also led the team in autograph and photo requests because of her flashy and productive court play and her resemblance to actress Farrah Fawcett.

1982—The Cats captured the SEC Tournament title for the first time in school history with an 80-74 victory over Tennessee. Following the game, the huge home crowd stormed the court in a celebration that lasted nearly 30 minutes.

1983—With the talented trio of Hedges, Still and Wise, Kentucky was ranked fourth twice during the '82-83 season and broke the national record for attendance at a women's collegiate game when 10,622 fans saw the Cats defeat Old Dominion, 80-66, in Memorial Coliseum on Feb. 5, 1983.

Lea Wise was selected to the All-SEC team in 1982. Wise and Patty Jo Hedges were regarded as the best guard combination in the country.

Three-time All-American Valerie Still ripped past Dan Issel's UK career scoring mark of 2,138 points just three games into her senior season.

1982

1983



In her third year, Sharon Fanning led UK to an impressive 23-8 record, into the top-25 poll and won three tournament titles ('90).

1983—Valerie Still became the all-time leading scorer (among men and women) in Kentucky basketball history with 2,763 points in 119 games, a record that still stands.

1986—Kentucky served as the host to the NCAA women's Final Four in Rupp Arena.

1987—Sharon Fanning is named the fourth head coach of the Lady Kats.

1987—The three-point goal is introduced to the women's game, proving to be an integral part of Kentucky basketball history for years to come.

1990—Under third-year coach Sharon Fanning, UK compiled a 23-8 record, edged into the top 25, and won three tournament titles, including an 85-76 come-from-behind victory over Toledo in the NWIT Championship.

1991—One year after winning the NWIT, UK made its first NCAA appearance since 1985-86.

1991—UK scores one of the biggest upsets in the program's history with a 67-66 victory over intrastate rival and eventual NCAA runner-up Western Kentucky in Bowling Green.

Fanning arrived at courtside of the NWIT finals in Amarillo, Texas in a blue Texas-style leather jacket, white leather pants and Kentucky blue boots, surprising the crowd and her own team.



After winning the 1982 Southeastern Conference title, a crowd stormed the floor at Memorial Coliseum in a celebration that lasted nearly 30 minutes.

Kentucky upset intrastate rival Western Kentucky in 1991 in Bowling Green. The Lady Toppers advanced to the NCAA title game later that season.



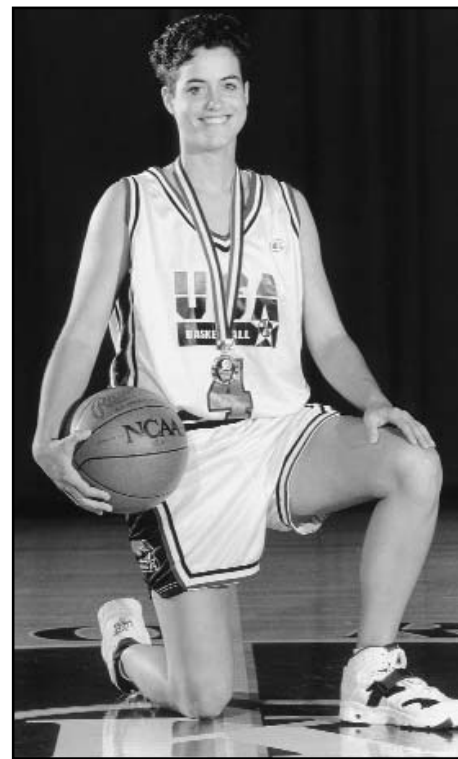


Together, they proved to be a successful formula in 1991 as UK posted a 20-9 record and made its first appearance in the NCAA Tournament since 1985-86.

1992—Kentucky lands Becky McKinley, the first “Miss Kentucky Basketball” signee for Sharon

Fanning, and UK also signed Kentucky native Christina Jansen, who was named Kentucky’s Gatorade and *USA Today* Player of the Year.

1993—UK re-enters the AP Poll at No. 24 after claiming the Lady Kat Invitational title.



UK’s Stacey Reed helped USA Basketball’s Jones Cup

Kentucky native Christina Jansen was a four-year letter winner at UK.

Kristi Cushenberry became a member of UK’s 1,000-point club in 1991 and ranks 10th on the all-time scoring list.

Kim Denkins was an All-SEC selection as a sophomore and now ranks No. 21 on the all-time scoring list.



1995—Stacey Reed and Chrissy Roberts are members of Gold Medal squads during the summer; Reed with USA Basketball's Jones Cup team and Roberts with the U.S. Olympic Festival South squad.

1995—Bernadette Locke-Mattox is chosen as the fifth head coach of the Cats.

1995—Stacey Reed graduates after four successful seasons at UK, leading the Cats in scoring both her junior and senior seasons, and assists and steals during all four years at Kentucky. Reed also broke UK's all-time career steals record with 309, which still stands.

1998—Mattox is chosen to be an assistant coach for the USA Basketball World Championship team.

1999—The Cats turned heads by charting more than 20 wins for the first time in nine years and defeating three ranked opponents. After reaching the semifinals of the SEC Tournament, the Cats beat Nebraska in the first round of the NCAA Tournament before falling to UCLA in the second round.

1999—Erica Jackson hit a jumper to upset South Carolina 78-76 in Columbia, the first

time in five years UK had won a game there. The shot earned Compaq's "Play of the Week" and "Play of the Year" awards.

The Cats shucked the Nebraska Cornhuskers, 98-92, in the first round of the 1999 NCAA Tournament West Region in Los Angeles, Calif. UK scored a record-breaking 64 second-half points.



Bernadette Mattox became the first female Division I assistant "bench" coach for a men's team, serving on former UK coach Rick Pitino's staff from 1990-94.

Erica Jackson led the Cats in both assists and steals in her two seasons as a Wildcat.

Jaye Barnes led the Cats in scoring in 1998.





1999—UK celebrates 25 years of varsity women's basketball.

2000—Shantia Owens becomes the first player from UK to be taken in the WNBA draft, selected 53rd by the Phoenix Mercury.

2000—Tiffany Wait broke a school record for most games played with 122, also surpassing Jodie Whitaker on the Cats' all-time scoring list with 1,445 points.

2001—The Wildcats took a summer tour of France and Switzerland and returned home with an unblemished 5-0 record.

2003—Valerie Still's jersey is retired at half-time of the UK-Alabama game at Memorial Coliseum, marking the first time in school history that a woman's jersey was retired.

2003—After 18 seasons as an assistant coach at Tennessee, Mickie DeMoss is named the sixth head coach of the UK women's basketball team.

Tiffany Wait is UK's eighth all-time leading scorer with 1,445 points. She holds the school record for most games played in a career with 122.

Valerie Still is the leader among all Wildcats for career scoring (2,763) and rebounding (1,525). Her jersey was the first to be retired for a female at UK.



A winning combination: Tubby Smith and Mickie DeMoss.

After 18 seasons as the top assistant at Tennessee, DeMoss was hired as the sixth head coach of the UK women's basketball program on March 18, 2003.



2003—Within months of her hire, Mickie DeMoss and her staff hit the recruiting trail and signed one of the most highly touted recruiting classes in school history. Many dubbed the 6th-ranked class as the “Fab Five”.

2003—Coach Mickie DeMoss earned her first win as the head coach at Kentucky as the Wildcats downed IPFW, 79-59, on Nov. 21, 2003.

2004—Kentucky celebrates 30 years of varsity women’s basketball.

2004—Junior Sara Potts broke the school record for most three-pointers made in a career (190) and single game (7).

2004—Senior and Kentucky native Selia “SeSe” Helm ended her UK career etched in the record book in three different categories: scoring (5th), rebounding (8th) and field goals (3rd).

2004—Enthusiasm generated by the hiring of the wildly popular Mickie DeMoss, combined with a brilliant and well-funded marketing plan, resulted in a staggering fan craze. Kentucky fans bought tickets at an unprecedented rate. UK ranked No. 1 nationally in increased attendance



(3,488 more than the 2002-03 average), ranked No. 2 (behind perennial power Tennessee) in Southeastern Conference attendance, and was 16th nationally (5,182) in attendance average.

2004—The Cats moved into second place in the all-time single-season attendance total when

8,429 fans witnessed UK vs. No. 1 Tennessee on January 29, 2004. UK drew 41,000 fans in 19 home games during the 1981-82 season when the Cats won the SEC title and attendance was at an all-time high. The 2003-04 Cats brought in a school-record 72,553 fans in just 14 home games.

Junior Sara Potts made a school-record seven three-pointers vs. High Point on Jan. 6, 2004.

UK set new season attendance records in 2003-04, averaging 5,182 fans per game.

Senior Selia “SeSe” Helm finished her career as one of the top scorers and rebounders in UK history.



UK Hoops



Sara Potts concluded her illustrious career as the only player in UK women's basketball history to hit 200 or more three-pointers in a career.

2004—Sara Potts' 27 points help UK rally from a 17-point deficit to defeat Oregon State, 73-70, in the opening game of the Paradise Jam in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

2005—Freshman center Sarah Elliott scored a team-high 15 points to lead UK to a 71-63 win over 18th-ranked Georgia in Rupp Arena. It was UK Hoops' first win over a ranked opponent in five seasons and the first under second-year coach Mickie DeMoss. Elliott was named SEC Freshman of the Week after that performance, the first freshman to receive the honor in Wildcat history.

2005—UK Coach Mickie DeMoss makes her first return to Thompson-Boling Arena in Knoxville, Tenn., where she first made a name for herself as a coach. DeMoss is presented with a glass vase by UT Coach Pat Summitt before a standing ovation.

2005—UK made its first postseason appearance since the 1998-99 season with a berth in the Sportsview.tv Women's National Invitation Tournament. The Wildcats were rewarded for their spectacular attendance with a host site throughout the tournament. The Cats made their longest postseason run in school history, advancing to the semifinals of the WNIT before falling to West Virginia in double overtime.

2005—Sara Potts sank a jumper with 35 seconds remaining and fellow senior Danyelle Payne picked off Xavier sharpshooter Tara Boothe in the waning seconds as the Wildcats edged the Musketeers, 67-62, to advance to the tournament's semifinal round. Potts scored 29 of her 31 points in the final period to rally the Cats from a 14-point second-half deficit.

2005—For the second consecutive season, the Wildcats broke the school's attendance record. A total of 90,663 fans passed through the turnstiles during the 2004-05 season, smashing the school's previous single-season attendance total of 72,553 set during the 2003-04 campaign.

2005—Sara Potts finished her career as one of the most accomplished players in school history. She ranks fourth on the all-time scoring list (1,563 points) and the UK career scoring average list (13.4 ppg). The lefty was UK's leading scorer in both her junior (16.8 ppg) and senior (15.6) campaigns.

2005—Valerie Still was inducted into the charter class in the newly created UK Athletics Hall of Fame. She was the only female of the 88 inductees.

UK Hoops' average attendance (4,772) finished in the top 20 nationally for the second consecutive year.

UK completed the longest postseason run in school history by advancing to the 2005 WNIT final four. Potts, who averaged 27.8 points per game during the four-game run was named to the all-tournament team.





2005—Kentucky began the season 8-0 its best start since the 1980-81 campaign. During that stretch the Wildcats defeated Indiana State and Hofstra to win the 2005 Pepperdine Thanksgiving Classic. It was UK's first regular season tournament title since winning the Dartmouth Blue Sky Classic in 2000.

2006—DeMoss piloted a team that went from winning a combined 20 games in the two years prior to her arrival in 2003, to a record-breaking regular season that included the most wins (22) since 1989-90, the most conference wins in school history (nine), the highest conference finish (fourth) in 23 years, an appearance in the SEC Tournament semifinals for the first time in seven years, and UK's first bid in the NCAA Tournament in seven years with its highest seed (fifth) since 1983.

2006—DeMoss was named the SEC Coach of the Year by the SEC coaches and The Associated Press. It was the first Coach of the Year honor in UK Hoops history.

2006—Kentucky became just the fourth unranked team in the history of NCAA women's basketball to knock off a No. 1 team when the Cats defeated top-ranked Tennessee, 66-63, on Jan. 26,

2006. Junior Jenny Pfeiffer led the Cats in scoring with 16 points, including 7-of-7 free-throws. Pfeiffer nailed the game-winning free-throws with 14.8 seconds remaining and junior Nastassia Alcius added two charity shots in the waning seconds of the game to ice the victory. It was Kentucky's first win over the Lady Vols in 20 years.

2006—After defeating Ole Miss on the road and taking a 66-63 win over top-ranked Tennessee a game later, the Cats appeared in the top 25 national polls for the first time in 13 years. The Wildcats were ranked 21st in The Associated Press and 23rd in the *USA Today*/ESPN Coaches Poll for one week. UK's No. 21 ranking marked the highest ranking in the AP poll since receiving a No. 19 position on Feb. 10, 1985.

2006—Sophomore Samantha Mahoney and freshman Carly Ormerod were named to the All-Southeastern Conference team. Mahoney was named to the second team, while Ormerod was named to the all-freshman team.

2006—Kentucky's record-breaking season came to an end with a heartbreaking loss to No. 16/17 and fourth-seeded Michigan State, 67-63, in the NCAA second round. The Cats defeated UT-Chattanooga in the first round, 69-59.



Sophomore Samantha Mahoney was Kentucky's leading scorer in 2005-06, averaging 11.9 ppg. She ranked 16th in SEC scoring and is well on her way to becoming a member of UK's 1,000-point club with 732 career points.

2006—Kentucky once again set season ticket records as 4,803 season tickets were sold for the 2005-06 campaign. The Wildcats ranked 20th in the nation and third in the SEC in average attendance with 5,161 fans per game.

A school-record attendance of 13,689 fans witnessed Kentucky upset No. 1 Tennessee, 66-63, in Rupp Arena on Jan. 26, 2006.

Coach DeMoss, who was named the SEC Coach of the Year by the SEC coaches and The Associated Press, led the Wildcats to the NCAA Tournament for the first time in seven years.

