1948 1949 1951 1958 1978 1996 1998 2012

KENTUCKY®

UK®

NCAA FINAL FOUR HOUSTON 2016

2016

NCAA POSTSEASON GUIDE

HALL OF FAME COACH
JOHN CALIPARI

6 FINAL FOURS, 4 AT UK

25 FIRST-ROUND DRAFT PICKS, INCLUDING 19 AT KENTUCKY

NCAA RECORD 38 WINS (2012 & 2015)

2012 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

22 CONSECUTIVE 20-WIN SEASONS

BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME — SPRINGFIELD · MASS.
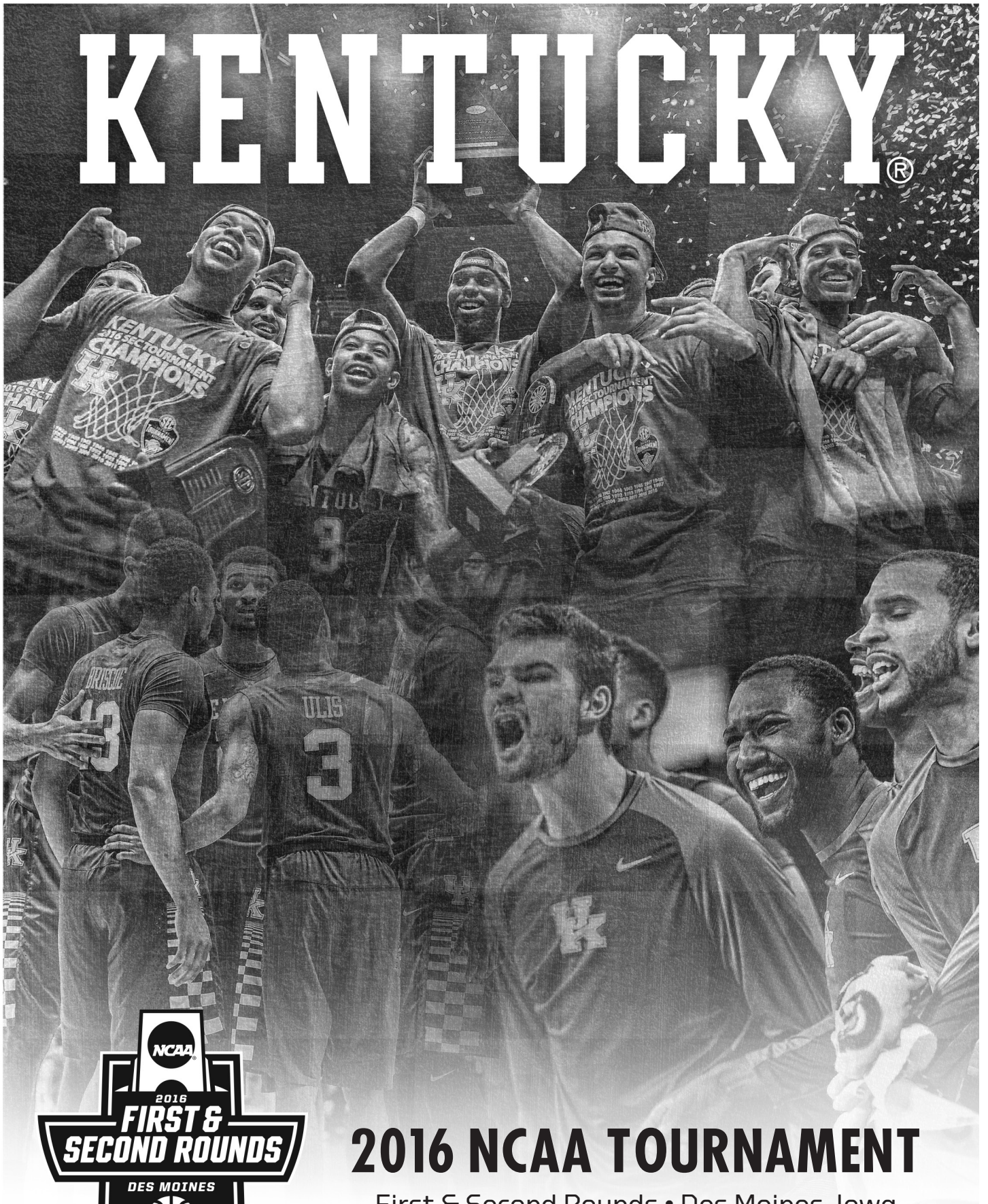
LEADING A PLAYERS-FIRST PROGRAM

COACH CAL

1948 1949 1951 1958 1978 1996 1998 2012

KENTUCKY

2016 NCAA TOURNAMENT

First & Second Rounds • Des Moines, Iowa
March 17-20, 2016

2016 NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP BRACKET

First Round
MARCH 17-18

Second Round
MARCH 19-20

Regional
Semifinals
MARCH 24-25

Regional
Finals
MARCH 26-27

National
Semifinals
APRIL 2

National
Semifinals
APRIL 2

Regional
Finals
MARCH 26-27

Regional
Semifinals
MARCH 24-25

Second Round
MARCH 19-20

First Round
MARCH 17-18

FIRST FOUR

DAYTON
MARCH 15-16
Watch On truTV

16 Holy Cross (14-19) 16
16 Southern (22-12) 16
Mar 16 — **W**

11 Michigan (22-12) 11
11 Tulsa (20-11) 11
Mar 16 — **E**

16 Fla. Gulf Coast (20-13)
16 Fair. Dickinson (18-14)
Mar 15 — **E**

11 Vanderbilt (19-13)
11 Wichita St. (24-8)
Mar 15 — **S**

EAST
PHILADELPHIA
March 27

1 North Carolina (28-6) 1
16 FGCU/Fair. Dickinson 16 — Mar 17
8 USC (21-12) 8
9 Providence (23-10) 9 — Mar 17
Raleigh Mar 19

5 Indiana (25-7) 5
12 Chattanooga (29-5) 12 — Mar 17
4 Kentucky (26-8) 4
13 Stony Brook (26-6) 13 — Mar 17
Des Moines Mar 19

6 Notre Dame (21-11) 6
11 Michigan/Tulsa 11 — Mar 18
3 West Virginia (26-8) 3
14 S.F. Austin (27-5) 14 — Mar 18
Brooklyn Mar 20

7 Wisconsin (20-12) 7
10 Pittsburgh (21-11) 10 — Mar 18
2 Xavier (27-5) 2
15 Weber St. (26-8) 15 — Mar 18
St. Louis Mar 20

MIDWEST
CHICAGO
March 27

1 Virginia (26-7) 1
16 Hampton (21-10) 16 — Mar 17
8 Texas Tech (19-12) 8
9 Butler (21-10) 9 — Mar 17
Raleigh Mar 19

5 Purdue (26-8) 5
12 Little Rock (29-4) 12 — Mar 17
4 Iowa St. (21-11) 4
13 Iona (22-10) 13 — Mar 17
Denver Mar 19

6 Seton Hall (25-8) 6
11 Gonzaga (26-7) 11 — Mar 17
3 Utah (26-8) 3
14 Fresno St. (25-9) 14 — Mar 17
Denver Mar 19

7 Dayton (25-7) 7
10 Syracuse (19-13) 10 — Mar 18
2 Michigan St. (29-5) 2
15 Middle Tenn. (24-9) 15 — Mar 18
St. Louis Mar 20

SOUTH
LOUISVILLE
March 26

1 Kansas (30-4)
16 Austin Peay (18-17) — Mar 17
8 Colorado (22-11)
9 Connecticut (24-10) — Mar 17
Des Moines Mar 19

5 Maryland (25-8)
12 S. Dakota St. (26-7) — Mar 18
4 California (23-10)
13 Hawai'i (27-5) — Mar 18
Spokane Mar 20

6 Arizona (25-8)
11 Vanderbilt/Wichita St. — Mar 17
3 Miami (Fla.) (25-7)
14 Buffalo (20-14) — Mar 17
Providence Mar 19

7 Iowa (21-10)
10 Temple (21-11) — Mar 18
2 Villanova (29-5)
15 UNC Asheville (22-11) — Mar 18
Brooklyn Mar 20

WEST
ANAHEIM
March 26

1 Oregon (28-6)
16 Holy Cross/Southern — Mar 18
8 Saint Joseph's (27-7)
9 Cincinnati (22-10) — Mar 18
Spokane Mar 20

5 Baylor (22-11)
12 Yale (22-6) — Mar 17
4 Duke (23-10)
13 UNC Wilmington (25-7) — Mar 17
Providence Mar 19

6 Texas (20-12)
11 Northern Iowa (22-12) — Mar 18
3 Texas A&M (26-8)
14 Green Bay (23-12) — Mar 18
Oklahoma City Mar 20

7 Oregon St. (19-12)
10 VCU (24-10) — Mar 17
2 Oklahoma (25-7)
15 CSU Bakersfield (24-8) — Mar 18
Oklahoma City Mar 20

FINAL FOUR
HOUSTON
APRIL 2 AND 4

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
APRIL 4

April 2

April 2

SCHEDULE/RESULTS
(26-8, 13-5 SEC)

Date	Opponent	Time/Result
N. 2	^OTTAWA	W, 117-58
N. 6	^KENTUCKY STATE	W, 111-58
N.13	1ALBANY	W, 78-65
N.14	1NJIT	W, 87-57
N. 17	2vs. No. 5/4 Duke	W, 74-63
N. 20	WRIGHT STATE	W, 78-63
N. 24	1BOSTON UNIVERSITY	W, 82-62
N. 27	3vs. South Florida	W, 84-63
N. 30	ILLINOIS STATE	W, 75-63
D. 3	at UCLA	L, 87-77
D. 9	EASTERN KENTUCKY	W, 88-67
D. 12	ARIZONA STATE	W, 72-58
D. 19	4Ohio State	L, 74-67
D. 26	No. 16/15 LOUISVILLE	W, 75-73
J. 2	*OLE MISS	W, 83-61
J. 5	*at LSU	L, 85-67
J. 9	*at Alabama	W, 77-61
J. 12	*MISSISSIPPI STATE	W, 80-74
J. 16	*at Auburn	L, 75-70
J. 21	*at Arkansas	W, 80-66
J. 23	*VANDERBILT	W, 76-57
J. 27	*MISSOURI	W, 88-54
J. 30	5at No. 4/3 Kansas	L, 90-84 (OT)
F. 2	*at Tennessee	L, 84-77
F. 6	*FLORIDA	W, 80-61
F. 9	*GEORGIA	W, 82-48
F. 13	*at No. RV/20 S. Carolina	W, 89-62
F. 18	*TENNESSEE	W, 80-70
F. 20	*at No. RV/24 Texas A&M	L, 79-77 (OT)
F. 23	*ALABAMA	W, 78-53
F. 27	*at Vanderbilt	L, 74-62
M.	*at Florida	W, 88-79
M. 5	*LSU	W, 94-77
M. 11	6vs. Alabama	W, 85-59
M. 12	6vs. Georgia	W, 93-80
M. 13	6vs. No. 17/17 Texas A&M	W, 82-77 OT
M. 17	7vs. Stony Brook	9:40 p.m. ET

All Times Eastern; HOME GAMES in BOLD CAPS
All dates and times are subject to change
^–Exhibition Games; *–Conference Games;
1–Hoophall Miami Invitational (Rupp Arena, Lexington, Ky.);
2–Champions Classic (United Center, Chicago);
3–Hoophall Miami Invitational (American Airlines Arena, Miami);
4–CBS Sports Classic (Barclays Center, Brooklyn, N.Y.);
5–Big 12/SEC Challenge (Allen Fieldhouse, Lawrence, Kan.);
6–SEC Tournament (Bridgestone Arena, Nashville, Tenn.)
7–NCAA Tournament (Wells Fargo Arena, Des Moines, Iowa)

No. 13 STONY BROOK Seawolves (26-6) vs.
No. 4 KENTUCKY Wildcats (26-8)
Thursday, March 17 • 9:40 p.m. ET • Wells Fargo Arena (16,869) • Des Moines, Iowa

THE MATCHUP | #SBvsUK

About the Series
All-Time Record: UK leads 1-0
Last Meeting: UK won 62-52 (11/27/2007)
Streak: UK has won one

Head Coach: John Calipari
Overall On-Court Record: 661-186 (.780)
Record at Kentucky: 216-46 (.824)
Calipari's Record vs. Stony Brook: First meeting

Head Coach: Steve Pikiell
Overall On-Court Record: 192-155 (.553)
Record at Stony Brook: 192-155 (.553)
Pikiell's Record vs. Kentucky: 0-1

UK PROBABLE LINEUP (BASED OFF LAST OUTING)

1 Skal Labissiere
Fr. / F / 6-11 / 225
Port-au-Prince, Haiti
- SEC Freshman of the Week
- 14.5 pts., 8.5 rebs., 3.5 blocks vs. UF/LSU
- Had career highs in rebs. (9), blks. (6) vs. LSU

3 Tyler Ulis
So. / G / 5-9 / 160
Chicago
- Named All-America First Team by Sporting News
- Fifth nationally in assist-to-turnover ratio (3.8)
- SEC Player & Defensive POY, SEC Tourney MVP

13 Isaiah Briscoe
Fr. / G / 6-3 / 202
Newark, N.J.
- Scored in double figures in 18 games
- Averaging 9.6 points and 5.2 rebs. per game
- Dished out 3+ assists in 12 of the last 16 games

22 Alex Poythress
Sr. / F / 6-8 / 230
Clarksville, Tenn.
- Averaging 10.3 pts and 6.1 rebs per game
- Four double-doubles this season
- CoSIDA Academic All-America Second Team

23 Jamal Murray
Fr. / G / 6-4 / 207
Kitchener, Ontario
- Averaging team-high 20.1 points per game
- UK frosh. single-season record 18 20-pt. games
- UK & SEC frosh. single-season record 110 3's

TV AND RADIO INFO

TV: CBS
Jim Nantz (PxP)
Bill Rafferty (Analyst)
Grant Hill (Analyst)
Tracy Wolfson (Sideline)

Radio: UK Radio Network
Tom Leach (PxP)
Mike Pratt (Analyst)

Satellite Radio:
Sirius Channel | XM Channel 93|203

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW
- Kentucky claimed a share of its 47th regular-season Southeastern Conference championship and 29th SEC Tournament title in 2015-16
- Tyler Ulis has dished out four or more assists in 27 consecutive games
- Jamal Murray has hit a 3-pointer in every game this season, breaking Tony Delk's school record for most consecutive 3-pointers in school history at 34 games
- Ulis was named SEC Player of the Year and SEC Defensive Player of the Year, and SEC Tournament MVP
- Murray was also on the SEC All-Tournament Team
- Kentucky is making its NCAA-leading 55th NCAA Tournament. UK is 44-10 all-time in NCAA openers

BY THE NUMBERS

2,204
National all-time wins leader

55
National all-time leader in NCAA appearances

47
Regular-season SEC titles

29
SEC Tournament titles

2015-16 ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown (Previous School)
00	Marcus Lee	F	6-9	224	Jr.	Antioch, Calif. (Deer Valley)
1	Skal Labissiere	F	6-11	225	Fr.	Port-au-Prince, Haiti (Lausanne Collegiate)
3	Tyler Ulis	G	5-9	160	So.	Chicago (Marian Catholic)
4	Charles Matthews	G	6-6	189	Fr.	Chicago (Saint Rita)
10	Jonny David	G	6-2	175	Fr.	Pittsburgh (Mt. Lebanon)
11	Mychal Mulder	G	6-4	185	Jr.	Windsor, Ontario (Vincennes University)
13	Isaiah Briscoe	G	6-3	202	Fr.	Newark, N.J. (Roselle Catholic)
14	Tai Wynyard	F	6-10	255	Fr.	Auckland, New Zealand (Rangitoto College)
15	Isaac Humphries	F	7-0	260	Fr.	Sydney, Australia (La Lumiere School)
22	Alex Poythress	F	6-8	230	Sr.	Clarksville, Tenn. (Northeast)
23	Jamal Murray	G	6-4	207	Fr.	Kitchener, Ontario (Athlete Institute)
24	EJ Floreal	G	6-4	203	Jr.	Palo Alto, Calif. (Dunbar)
25	Dominique Hawkins	G	6-0	190	Jr.	Richmond, Ky. (Madison Central)
32	Dillon Pulliam	G	6-3	180	So.	Cynthiana, Ky. (Transylvania University)
35	Derek Willis	F	6-9	220	Jr.	Mt. Washington, Ky. (Bullitt East)

COACHING STAFF

Head Coach: John Calipari (Clarion, 1982)
Associate Head Coach: Kenny Payne (Louisville, 2003)
Assistant Coach: Tony Barbee (UMass, 1993)
Assistant Coach: John Robic (Denison, 1986)
Special Asst. to the Head Coach:
Joel Justus (UNC Wilmington, 2004)
Associate AD/Basketball Operations:
Chris Woolard (UCLA, 1997)
Asst. Strength Coach:
Robert Harris (Kentucky State, 2009)
Athletic Trainer: Chris Simmons (Memphis, 2002)

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

EJ **FLOREAL**	(FLO-RE-AL)
DOMINIQUE Hawkins	(DOM-A-NEEK)
SKAL LABISSIERE	(S-CAL) (LAH-BISS-E-AIR)
MYCHAL Mulder	(like michael)
Alex **POYTHRESS**	(POY-THRESS)
Tyler **ULIS**	(YOU-LIS)
Tai Wynyard	(TIE) (WIN-YARD)
John **CALIPARI**	(CAL-A-PEAR-EE)

2015-16 TV CHART

00 Marcus Lee
Jr. / F / 6-9 / 224
Antioch, Calif.

1 Skal Labissiere
Fr. / F / 6-11 / 225
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

3 Tyler Ulis
So. / G / 5-9 / 160
Chicago

4 Charles Matthews
Fr. / G / 6-6 / 189
Chicago

10 Jonny David
Fr. / G / 6-2 / 175
Pittsburgh
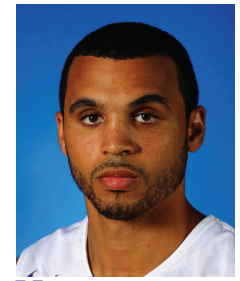
11 Mychal Mulder
Jr. / G / 6-4 / 185
Windsor, Ontario

13 Isaiah Briscoe
Fr. / G / 6-3 / 202
Newark, N.J.

14 Tai Wynyard
Fr. / F / 6-10 / 255
Auckland, New Zealand
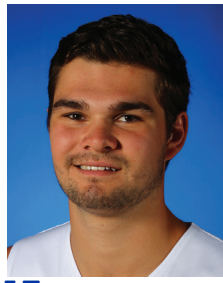
15 Isaac Humphries
Fr. / F / 7-0 / 260
Sydney, Austrailia

22 Alex Poythress
Sr. / F / 6-8 / 230
Clarksville, Tenn.

23 Jamal Murray
Fr. / G / 6-4 / 207
Kitchener, Ontario
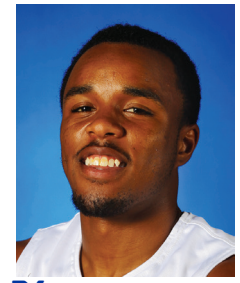
24 EJ Floreal
Jr. / G / 6-4 / 203
Palo Alto, Calif.

25 Dominique Hawkins
Jr. / G / 6-0 / 190
Richmond, Ky.

32 Dillon Pulliam
So. / G / 6-3 / 180
Cynthiana, Ky.

35 Derek Willis
Jr. / F / 6-9 / 220
Mt. Washington, Ky.

John Calipari
Head Coach
Seventh Season

Kenny Payne
Associate Head
Coach
Sixth Season

Tony Barbee
Assistant Coach
First Season

John Robic
Assistant Coach
Seventh Season

Monday - 7	Tuesday - 8	Wednesday - 9	Thursday - 10	Friday - 11	Saturday - 12	Sunday - 13
SEC teleconference Calipari Radio Show		Depart for SEC Tournament Media availability at the Craft Center	Calipari media availability at TBD	Beat Alabama 85-59	Beat Georgia 93-80	Beat Texas A&M 82-77 OT
Monday - 14	Tuesday - 15	Wednesday - 16	Thursday - 17	Friday - 18	Saturday - 19	Sunday - 20
SEC teleconference Calipari Radio Show	Depart for Des Moines, Iowa	NCAA Tournament media availability in Des Moines, Iowa	vs. Stony Brook CBS | 9:40 p.m. ET	NCAA Tournament media availability	vs. Indiana or Chattanooga CBS |TBA	

*****schedule is tentative and subject to change*

MEDIA INFO

Quick Facts
Location: Lexington, Ky.
Founded: 1865
Enrollment: 30,000
Nickname: Wildcats
Colors: Blue (PMS 286) and White
Conference: Southeastern
Arena: Rupp Arena
Capacity: 23,000
President: Dr. Eli Capilouto
Athletics Director: Mitch Barnhart
Faculty Representative: Joseph L. Fink III

Media Relations
MBB Contact: Eric Lindsey
Email: eric.lindsey@uky.edu
Phone: 859.619.0944
*Calipari interviews, MBB contact

Secondary Contact: Deb Moore
Email: deb.moore@uky.edu
Phone: 859.559.5781
*Player interviews, game-day contact, credentials

Asst. Contact: Jake Most
Email: jake.most@uky.edu
Phone: 516.996.3229

Assistant AD for Media Relations: Tony Neely

Office Coordinator: Stephanie Guy
Email: stephanie.guy@uky.edu
Phone: 859.257.3838
Media will call, credentials

The UK Media Relations office is located in the Joe Craft Center. Office hours are 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. (M-F).

338 Lexington Ave.
Lexington, KY 40506

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

CREDENTIAL REQUESTS
Requests for single-game credentials should be made as far in advance as possible and no later than five days prior to game day online at sportssystems.com/Kentucky.

CREDENTIAL CRITERIA
The University of Kentucky's decision to issue credentials to a media outlet for the purposes of covering a UK basketball home or away event is determined by a variety of factors. They include the following:

- Amount of coverage given to Kentucky throughout the season
- Intention/ability to cover all 22 sports at Kentucky
- Distribution/size of publication: free, subscription, sale on newsstands, website traffic, etc.
- Radio or TV station program format and size of audience
- Length of existence of the publication, amount of original copy generated, number of full-time employees of the publication and the journalistic experience of the reporter(s)
- Attendance at Kentucky media sessions, including Olympic sport opportunities
- Space availability
- Professionalism, which includes but is not limited to conduct at games, press conferences, practices, on social media, etc.

The University of Kentucky has the right to revoke credentials under its own discretion.

INTERVIEW POLICIES-GENERAL
All interviews with University of Kentucky basketball players or staff members must be arranged through the Media Relations office. Media should never contact a player or coach directly.

The Wildcat Coal Lodge, dormitories, team locker rooms and other team quarters are private team areas. Media members are not permitted in these areas unless accompanied by appropriate university personnel.

PRACTICE/PRESS CONFERENCES
Other than announced exceptions, UK basketball practices are closed to the media. UK will accept requests to attend practice. All requests must be made by 10 a.m. on the day of the practice. In cases in which practices are open to the media, no cell phones are allowed in the practice facility.

Player interviews are conducted prior to practices the day before a game and will be available to all UK media in the Joe Craft Center lower-level lobby. UK will accept requests for player interviews, but they must be submitted 24 hours prior to the scheduled availability.

Coach John Calipari or an assistant coach will meet with members of the media immediately following player interviews in the lower level lobby of the Joe Craft Center.

Gameday shoot-arounds are closed to the media.

TELEPHONE PLAYER INTERVIEWS
Telephone interviews are available to the media on a call-back basis. Individual player and coach telephone numbers will not be given to members of the media.

Players are instructed not to conduct interviews when contacted directly by telephone. The UK Media Relations Office will arrange for telephone interviews at a time most convenient for the student-athlete.

Other special requests are handled on a case-by-case basis.

POSTGAME INTERVIEWS
Following each game, there is a 20-minute cooling-off period, during which time the players shower and dress. Approximately 10 minutes after the game ends, Coach Calipari conducts his postgame press conference while a player is taken to the UK Sports Network.

Following Coach Calipari's press conference and the cooling-off period, selected UK players are brought to the media interview room.

SOCIAL MEDIA CENTER

Official Team News and Connections

Twitter:	@KentuckyMBB
Facebook:	/KentuckyMBB
Instagram:	@KentuckyMBB
Periscope:	@KentuckyMBB

Official UK Athletics: @UKAthletics
CoachCal.com: @CoachCalDotCom

John Calipari: @UKCoachCalipari

Player	Twitter	Instagram
Isaiah Briscoe	@ZayBriscoe	@zaaay_
Jonny David	@jdavid010	@jdavid010
EJ Floreal	@Eddie_Bounce24	@eddie_bounce24
Dominique Hawkins	@Dhawk_25	@dhawk_25
Isaac Humphries	@IsaacHumphries7	@isaachumphries7
Skal Labissiere	@OneBigHaitian	@skallywally
Marcus Lee	@JustMarcusLee	@justmarcuslee
Charles Matthews	@_JustCharles_	@just.charles
Mychal Mulder	@MychalMulder	@mikemulder11
Jamal Murray	@BeMore27	@jmglitxh27
Alex Poythress	@AlextheGreat22	@alexthegreat22
Dillon Pulliam	@DPull32	@dpull32
Tyler Ulis	@tulis3	@tulis3
Derek Willis	@derek_willis33	@dxw_33
Tai Wynyard	@WynyardTai	@taiwynyard

AP Top 25
March 14

Rk.	Team (First-Place Votes)
1.	Kansas (63)
2.	Michigan State (2)
3.	North Carolina
4.	Virginia
5.	Oregon
6.	Villanova
7.	Oklahoma
8.	West Virginia
9.	Xavier
T10.	Miami (Fla.)
T10.	Kentucky
12.	Purdue
13.	Utah
14.	Indiana
15.	Texas A&M
16.	Louisville
17.	Arizona
18.	Maryland
19.	Duke
20.	Seton Hall
21.	Baylor
22.	Iowa State
23.	California
24.	SMU
25.	Iowa

Others Receiving Votes: Texas, Notre Dame, Saint Joseph's, Connecticut, Stephen F. Austin, Dayton, Wichita State, Wisconsin, Gonzaga, Little Rock, Providence, St. Mary's, Butler, Valparaiso, Monmouth, Yale, Cincinnati, Michigan, Stony Brook, Akron, Northern Iowa

USA Today Coaches
March 13

Rk.	Team (First-Place Votes)
1.	Kansas (31)
2.	Michigan State (1)
3.	North Carolina
4.	Oregon
5.	Virginia
6.	Villanova
7.	Oklahoma
8.	West Virginia
9.	Xavier
10.	Purdue
11.	Miami (Fla.)
12.	Indiana
13.	**Kentucky**
14.	Utah
15.	Texas A&M
16.	Arizona
17.	Maryland
18.	Baylor
19.	Iowa State
20.	Duke
21.	Seton Hall
22.	Texas
23.	California
24.	Iowa
25.	St. Joseph's

Others Receiving Votes: Notre Dame, Connecticut, Providence, Wichita State, Saint Mary's, Gonzaga, Wisconsin, Stephen F. Austin, Northern Iowa, Dayton, VCU, Butler, Little Rock, Cincinnati, Fresno State

UK'S WEEKLY RANKINGS

DATE	AP	Coaches	RPI
Preseason	2	1	–
Nov. 16	2	2	–
Nov. 23	1	1	–
Nov. 30	1	1	19
Dec. 7	5	4	26
Dec. 14	4	4	12
Dec. 21	12	11	29
Dec. 28	10	11	12
Jan. 4	9	8	7
Jan. 11	14	13	9
Jan. 18	23	19	20
Jan. 25	20	19	16
Feb. 1	20	19	18
Feb. 8	22	21	19
Feb. 15	14	14	13
Feb. 22	16	14	12
Feb. 29	22	19	15
March 7	16	16	13
March 14	T10	13	12

SEC Standings
(Through March 13)

Team	SEC (Pct.)	GB	Overall (Pct.)
Kentucky^&	13-5 (.722)	0.0	26-8 (.765)
Texas A&M^	13-5 (.722)	0.0	26-8 (.765)
S. Carolina	11-7 (.611)	2.0	24-8 (.750)
LSU	11-7 (.611)	2.0	19-14 (.576)
Vanderbilt	11-7 (.611)	2.0	19-13 (.594)
Georgia	10-8 (.556)	3.0	19-13 (.594)
Ole Miss	10-8 (.556)	3.0	20-12 (.625)
Florida	9-9 (.500)	4.0	19-14 (.576)
Arkansas	9-9 (.500)	4.0	16-16 (.500)
Alabama	8-10 (.444)	5.0	18-14 (.563)
Mississippi St.	7-11 (.389)	6.0	14-17 (.452)
Tennessee	6-12 (.333)	7.0	15-19 (.441)
Auburn	5-13 (.278)	8.0	11-20 (.355)
Missouri	3-15 (.167)	10.0	10-21 (.323)

^SEC co-champions; & SEC Tourney champs

SEC in the Postseason

NCAA Tournament

Tuesday, March 15 - Dayton, Ohio
Vanderbilt vs. Wichita St.   truTV (9:10 p.m.)

Thursday, March 17 - Des Moines, Iowa
UK vs. Stony Brook   CBS (9:40 p.m.)

Friday, March 18 - Oklahoma City
Texas A&M vs. Green Bay   TBS (7:20 p.m.)

NIT Tournament

Tuesday, March 15 - Columbia, S.C.
High Point at South Carolina   7 p.m.

Tuesday, March 15 - Omaha, Neb.
Alabama at Creighton   9 p.m.

Tuesday, March 15 - Gainesville, Fla.
North Florida at Florida   9 p.m.

Wednesday, March 16 - Athens, Ala.
Belmont at Georgia   7 p.m.

*All times Eastern

Kentucky in the SEC and NCAA Stats
(Through March 13)
TEAM

CATEGORY	SEC [NCAA] (STAT)
Scoring	1st [29th] (79.7)
Scoring Defense	4th [87th] (68.3)
Scoring Margin	1st [18th] (+11.4)
Free Throw %	8th [230th] (.683)
Field Goal %	1st [25th] (.479)
Field Goal % Def.	4th [31st] (.400)
3-Pt. Field Goal %	3rd [62dn] (.370)
3-Pt. FG % Def.	5th [95th] (.330)
Rebounding Offense	5th [59th] (38.8)
Rebounding Defense	1st (33.3)
Rebounding Margin	2nd [36th] (+5.4)
Blocked Shots Per Game	1st [7th] (5.6)
Assists Per Game	5th [99th] (14.4)
Steals Per Game	9th [227th] (5.6)
Turnover Margin	6th [100th] (+1.3)
Assist/TO Rato	3rd [50th] (1.3)
Offensive Rebs Per Game	4th [36th] (13.0)
Defensive Rebs Per Game	8th [137th] (25.8)
Defensive Rebound Pct.	10th (.683)
Offensive Rebound Pct.	2nd (.378)
3-Point FG Made Per Game	8th [175th] (6.9)

INDIVIDUAL

PLAYER	SEC [NCAA] (STAT)
3-Point Field Goals Per Game	
Jamal Murray	2nd [14th] (3.2)
3-Point Field-Goal Percentage	
Jamal Murray	4th [37th] (.421)
Assists Per Game	
Tyler Ulis	1st [6th] (7.2)
Assist-to-Turnover Ratio	
Tyler Ulis	1st [5th] (3.8)
Isaiah Briscoe	10th [197th] (1.8)
Blocked Shots Per Game	
Marcus Lee	6th [85th] (1.7)
Skal Labissiere	10th [102nd] (1.6)
Double-Doubles	
Tyler Ulis	8th [103rd] (8)
Field-Goal Percentage	
Jamal Murray	9th [175th] (.456)
Tyler Ulis	10th [239th] (.432)
Free-Throw Percentage	
Tyler Ulis	2nd [44th] (.856)
Jamal Murray	10th [219th] (.788)
Minutes Per Game	
Tyler Ulis	1st [25th] (36.6)
Jamal Murray	2nd [77th] (35.1)
Isaiah Briscoe	9th (32.3)
Offensive Rebounds Per Game	
Marcus Lee	9th [141st] (2.5)
Points Per Game	
Jamal Murray	3rd [32nd] (20.1)
Tyler Ulis	6th [118th] (17.2)
Rebounds Per Game	
Marcus Lee	15th (6.1)
Alex Poythress	17th (6.1)
Steals Per Game	
Tyler Ulis	7th [157th] (1.5)

TYLER
ULIS
SOPHOMORE GUARD

3

24.0
Points per game vs. ranked opponents

3.8
Assist-to-turnover ratio ranks fifth nationally

14
20-point, five-assist games, a school record

7.2
Assists per game, sixth nationally

JAMAL
MURRAY
FRESHMAN GUARD

ALL-AMERICA CANDIDATE
☆ ☆ ☆

23

20.1
Scoring average, second among all freshmen

32
Straight games in double figures

35
Points vs. Florida, tied for the most by a freshman in UK history

110
3-pointers, SEC single-season freshman record

HONORING THE CATS

Isaiah Briscoe
- SEC Freshman of the Week (12/7/15)
- Wayman Tisdale Preseason Watch List

Skal Labissiere
- SEC Co-Freshman of the Week (3/7/16)
- SEC Co-Freshman of the Week (11/16/15)
- Preseason All-SEC First Team (Media)
- Preseason All-SEC First Team (Coaches)
- CBSSports.com Preseason All-America First Team
- Sporting News Preseason All-America Second Team
- John R. Wooden Award Preseason Watch List
- Wayman Tisdale Preseason Watch List
- Oscar Robertson Preseason Watch List
- Naismith Trophy Preseason Watch List
- Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Award Preseason Watch List

Marcus Lee
- SEC Community Service Team
- Allstate Good Works Nominee
- SEC Representative at 2016 NCAA Leadership Forum

Jamal Murray
- SEC All-Tournament Team
- Sporting News Freshman All-America Team
- Scout All-America Second Team
- All-SEC First Team (AP/Coaches)
- All-SEC Freshman Team (Coaches)
- USA Today All-America Second Team
- USBWA All-District IV Team
- SEC Player of the Week (3/7/16)
- SEC Co-Freshman of the Week (2/29/16)
- Wayman Tisdale Award Finalist
- SEC Freshman of the Week (2/15/16)
- Naismith Trophy Midseason List
- SEC Freshman of the Week (1/25/16)
- Wayman Tisdale Award Midseason Watch List
- John R. Wooden Award Midseason Watch List
- SEC Freshman of the Week (12/14/15)
- Miami Hoophall Invite Most Valuable Player
- Sporting News Preseason All-America Third Team
- CBSSports.com Preseason All-America Second Team
- Preseason All-SEC Second Team (Coaches)
- John R. Wooden Award Preseason Watch List
- Wayman Tisdale Preseason Watch List
- Oscar Robertson Preseason Watch List
- Naismith Trophy Preseason Watch List

Alex Poythress
- CoSIDA Academic All-America Second Team
- Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar Semifinalist
- Senior CLASS Award Candidate
- Preseason All-SEC Second Team (Media)
- Preseason All-SEC Second Team (Coaches)
- Julius Erving Award Preseason Watch List

Tyler Ulis
- USBWA All-America Second Team
- SEC All-Tournament Team
- SEC Tournament MVP
- SEC All-Tournament Team
- Sporting News All-American First Team
- Sports Illustrated All-American First Team
- Scout All-America Third Team
- SEC Player of the Year (AP/Coaches)
- SEC Defensive Player of the Year (Coaches)
- All-SEC First Team (AP/Coaches)
- All-SEC Defensive Team (Coaches)
- USBWA District IV Player of the Year
- USBWA All-District IV Team
- USA Today First-Team All-America
- Bob Cousy Award Finalist
- John R. Wooden Award Finalist
- Oscar Robertson Finalist
- Eddie Sutton "Tustenugee" Award Semifinalist
- Capital One Cup Performance of the Week (2/17/16)
- ESPN National Player of the Week (2/15/16)
- SEC Player of the Week (2/15/16)
- Naismith Trophy Midseason List
- John R. Wooden Award Late Season Top 20 List
- Bob Cousy Award Finalist
- Oscar Robertson Trophy Midseason Watch List
- John R. Wooden Award Midseason Watch List
- SEC Player of the Week (12/28/15)
- College Basketball Talk (NBC Sports) National Player of the Week (12/28/15)
- SEC Co-Player of the Week (11/23/15)
- Preseason All-SEC First Team (Media)
- Preseason All-SEC First Team (Coaches)
- John R. Wooden Award Preseason Watch List
- Oscar Robertson Preseason Watch List
- Naismith Trophy Preseason Watch List
- Lute Olson Award Preseason Watch List
- Bob Cousy Award Preseason Watch List

2015-16 SEASON NOTES

Kentucky in the NCAA Tournament

Kentucky will make its nation-leading 55th all-time appearance in the NCAA Tournament in 2016. The Wildcats are 120-48 (.714) all-time in NCAA Tournament games and have advanced to 17 Final Fours. Kentucky will take a No. 4 seed into the East Region beginning on Thursday vs. Stony Brook.

It is the fourth time in program history the Wildcats have been a No. 4 seed, where UK is 7-3 all-time. The Wildcats were last a No. 4 seed during the 2011 run to John Calipari's first Final Four as head coach of the Wildcats. UK is 44-10 in tournament openers and has won 22 of its last 23 first-round tournament games. Kentucky has never played in Des Moines, Iowa in the NCAA Tournament.

Kentucky is 22-4 (.846) in NCAA Tournament games under the direction of Calipari. Calipari is 47-15 (.758) as a head coach in NCAA Tournament games, the second-highest winning percentage among active coaches.

Calipari-coached teams have appeared in four of the last five Final Fours and is the first such school to achieve that feat since Duke went to five straight (1988-92). Calipari joins Duke's Mike Krzyzewski and UCLA's John Wooden to lead teams to four Final Fours in a five-year span.

Nation's Leaders

UK leads the nation in all-time NCAA Tournament victories with 120. It also leads the country in wins in the tournament since 2010, when John Calipari first led the Wildcats into the Big Dance:

22 - Kentucky
17 - Duke
15 - Louisville, Michigan State
14 - Wisconsin
13 - Florida, Kansas

Calipari in the NCAA Tournament

Head coach John Calipari will coach in his 17th NCAA tournament in 2016. Kentucky is 22-4 (.846) in tournament games under the direction of Calipari. He is 47-15 (.758) as a head coach in NCAA Tournament games, the highest winning percentage among active coaches.

Calipari-coached teams have appeared in four of the last five Final Fours and is the first such school to achieve that feat since Duke went to five straight Final Fours (1988, 89, 90, 91, 92). Calipari has led UK to four Final Fours in five years and leads the country with five Final Four appearances since 2008. He has advanced teams to six Final Fours in his on-court career, which is tied for the fifth most by a coach all-time. Only three coaches all-time have appeared in four of five Final Fours (Calipari, Mike Krzyzewski and John Wooden).

Of Calipari's 15 eliminations in the NCAA Tournament, he has only lost twice to double-digit seeds. He's never lost to a team seeded lower than 10th. Other than the 2014 title game, in nine of his last 10 NCAA Tournaments, he had not lost to a seed lower than No. 3.

SEC Champs! SEC Tournament Champs!

Kentucky clinched a share of the regular-season Southeastern Conference championship with a victory over LSU in the regular-season finale and a 13-5 record overall. The Wildcats tied with Texas A&M for the league crown.

It marked UK's league-leading 47th SEC championship, 37 more than anyone else in the league. It was also the fourth time UK has won at least a share of the SEC championship in head coach John Calipari's seven seasons at Kentucky.

For Calipari, it was his 14th league crown, spanning three different conferences.

UK also claimed its 29th SEC Tournament title with an overtime victory over Texas A&M. The rest of the league has a combined 27 SEC Tournament championships. Kentucky has won four league tournament crowns under Calipari.

Murray-Ulis the Top Scoring Duo in the Country in League Play

Jamal Murray and Tyler Ulis are two of the best scoring guards in the country. Combined in league play, they were *the* best this season.

In conference-only games, Murray and Ulis averaged 40.8 points per game in conference play, more than any other duo in the major conferences, which includes the Power 5 conferences and the American and the Big East.

Rank	Duo	Team	Conference	Combined PPG
1.	Jamal Murray & Tyler Ulis	Kentucky	SEC	40.8
2.	Grayson Allen & Brandon Ingram	Duke	ACC	39.3
3.	Kris Dunn & Ben Bentil	Providence	Big East	39.1
4.	Andrew Andrews & Dejounte Murray	Washington	Pac 12	38.8
5.	Anthony Barber & Abdul Malik Abu	NC State	ACC	37.8

ULIS SEC PLAYER OF THE YEAR HIGHLIGHTS POSTSEASON AWARDS

In clinching a share of the regular-season Southeastern Conference championship, the Kentucky Wildcats have had a number of outstanding individual performances that have led to a number of honors for individuals. As the team has benefitted from individuals, so too have the individuals from the team's success.

"Awards season" kicked off after the regular season with Tyler Ulis (First Team) and Jamal Murray (Freshman Team) earning All-America honors from the Sporting News to begin the NCAA recognized All-America squads.

Ulis and Murray dominated the annual Southeastern Conference awards with Ulis winning SEC Player of the Year and SEC Defensive Player of the Year while Murray made the All-SEC First Team and the SEC All-Freshman Team. It's the third time a player has won SEC Player of the Year and the fourth time they've won SEC Player of the Year in the John Calipari era. It's the second time in league history a player has won both SEC Player of the Year and SEC Defensive Player of the Year in the same season.

Alex Poythress was also named to the College Sports Information Directors of America Academic All-America Second Team, becoming the first Wildcat to achieve the distinction since Mark Pope was selected to the third team in 1995. The CoSIDA Academic All-America teams recognize the nation's top student-athletes for their combined performances athletically and in the classroom.

Tyler Ulis - SEC Player of the Year (AP/Coaches), SEC Defensive Player of the Year, (Coaches) All-SEC First Team (AP/Coaches), SEC All-Defensive Team (Coaches), USA Today All-America First Team, CBS Sports SEC Player of the Year, USBWA District IV Player of the Year, USBWA All-District IV Team, Sporting News All-America First Team, Sports Illustrated All-America First Team, Scout All-America Third Team
Jamal Murray - All-SEC First Team (AP/Coaches), SEC All-Freshman Team (Coaches), USA Today All-America First Team, USBWA All-District IV Team, USA Today Freshman All-America Team, Scout All-America Second Team
Alex Poythress - CoSIDA Academic All-America Second Team
John Calipari - CBS Sports SEC Coach of the Year

2015-16 LEAD-DEFICIT COMPARISON

Opponent	Biggest Lead	Biggest Deficit	Biggest Run	Changes	Ties	Led	Trailed	Result
OTTAWA	*59* (2nd)	*N/A*	*16-0*	*0*	*0*	*39:47*	*0:00*	*UK won 117-58*
KENTUCKY STATE	*53* (2nd)	*N/A*	*22-0*	*0*	*0*	*39:12*	*0:00*	*UK won 111-58*
ALBANY	21 (2nd)	N/A	12-2	0	0	38:35	0:00	UK won 78-65
NJIT	34 (2nd)	6 (1st)	15-2	1	2	30:05	6:59	UK won 87-57
vs. Duke	16 (2nd)	2 (1st)	8-0	2	6	33:20	0:05	UK won 74-63
WRIGHT STATE	20 (2nd)	N/A	10-3	0	0	39:08	0:00	UK won 78-63
BOSTON	24 (2nd)	1 (1st)	18-2	2	0	39:17	0:26	UK won 82-62
vs. South Florida	31 (2nd)	2 (1st)	17-0	1	2	37:09	0:39	UK won 84-63
ILLINOIS STATE	16 (2nd)	6 (1st)	10-0	3	6	25:27	9:41	UK won 75-63
at UCLA	2 (1st)	15 (2nd)	5-0	1	1	0:30	38:10	UCLA won 87-77
EKU	21 (2nd)	N/A	12-0	0	0	39:42	0:00	UK won 88-67
ARIZONA STATE	23 (2nd)	1 (1st)	10-0	2	3	37:55	0:44	UK won 88-67
vs. Ohio State	3 (1st)	16 (2nd)	7-0	3	1	2:37	35:31	OSU won 74-67
LOUISVILLE	16 (2nd)	5 (1st)	22-2	3	5	30:22	6:53	UK won 75-73
OLE MISS	29 (2nd)	2 (1st)	21-3	2	2	36:59	0:22	UK won 83-61
at LSU	2 (1st)	18 (2nd)	6-0	1	1	0:21	37:15	LSU won 85-67
at Alabama	19 (2nd)	N/A	12-2	0	0	39:43	0:00	UK won 77-61
MISSISSIPPI ST.	20 (2nd)	5 (1st)	13-0	1	2	36:59	1:55	UK won 80-74
at Auburn	12 (2nd)	7 (2nd)	10-0	11	11	23:32	10:58	Auburn won 75-70
at Arkansas	18 (2nd)	1 (1st)	10-3	1	1	38:45	0:28	UK won 80-66
VANDERBILT	23 (2nd)	N/A	12-2	0	0	39:46	0:00	UK won 76-57
MISSOURI	41 (2nd)	2 (1st)	20-0	1	0	39:02	0:37	UK won 88-54
at Kansas	8 (2nd)	9 (OT)	10-2	18	12	25:46	13:37	Kansas won 90-84
at Tennessee	21 (1st)	7 (2nd)	12-2	3	3	26:29	9:32	UT won 84-77
FLORIDA	26 (2nd)	N/A	22-3	0	1	39:11	0:00	UK won 80-61
GEORGIA	37 (2nd)	2 (1st)	24-2	1	2	37:40	0:34	UK won 82-48
at South Carolina	34 (2nd)	1 (1st)	18-2	4	1	37:33	2:03	UK won 89-62
TENNESSEE	22 (2nd)	5 (1st)	15-1	2	1	30:45	7:30	UK won 80-70
at Texas A&M	3 (2nd)	8 (1st)	6-0	29	12	9:46	28:51	TAMU won 79-77
ALABAMA	25 (2nd)	2 (1st)	12-1	2	3	36:50	0:16	UK won 78-53
at Vanderbilt	8 (1st)	12 (2nd)	10-0	4	1	20:00	19:15	VU won 74-62
at Florida	17 (2nd)	2 (1st)	9-0	4	4	36:24	1:28	UK won 88-79
LSU	26 (2nd)	6 (1st)	10-0	2	6	31:52	7:12	UK won 94-77
vs. Alabama	27 (2nd)	2 (1st)	11-0	4	2	35:40	1:10	UK won 85-59
vs. Georgia	15 (2nd)	10 (1st)	13-3	5	1	8:43	30:27	UK won 90-80
vs. Texas A&M	7 (2nd)	6 (1st)	6-0	8	10	22:16	16:55	UK won 82-77

CATS ON THE CAREER CHARTS

Career Points
1. Dan Issel — 2,138
---
66. Kelenna Azubuike — 970
67. Travis Ford — 951
68. Alex Poythress — **948**

Career Rebounds
1. Dan Issel — 1,078

T32. James Lee/Jerry Bird — 589
34. Alex Poythress — **587**

Career Steals
1. Wayne Turner — 238

T41. Jodie Meeks/Aaron Harrison — 86
T43. Tyler Ulis — **85**

Career Assists
1. Dirk Minniefield — 646
---
6. Kyle Macy — 470
7. Cliff Hawkins — 468
8. Ed Davender — 436
9. Travis Ford — 428
10. Tyler Ulis — **371**

Career Blocked Shots
1. Jamaal Magloire — 268
---
18. Walter McCarty — 108
19. Nerlens Noel — 105
20. Darius Miller — 99
21. Marcus Lee — **96**
25. Mark Pope — 82
26. Alex Poythress — **74**

NOTES CONTINUED

Tireless Ulis Leads UK to 29th SEC Tournament Title

John Calipari's first priority in coming to Nashville, Tenn., wasn't winning a championship, but the Wildcats -- for the fourth time in Coach Cal's seven seasons and 29th time overall -- won the thing anyway.

UK and Texas A&M waged an overtime battle worthy of the SEC Tournament championship game, going back and forth throughout. Steadied by SEC Player of the Year and now SEC Tournament Most Valuable Player Tyler Ulis, the Wildcats added a tournament crown to the regular-season co-championship they shared with the Aggies with an 82-77 victory.

Ulis – who was on the floor for all 45 minutes – made big play after big play in a game that featured 10 ties and eight lead changes. He poured in a career-high 30 points on 10-of-17 shooting and added five assists, three rebounds and three steals for good measure.

In a surprise to no one, he was named SEC Tournament MVP after leading UK to its second comeback from a halftime deficit in as many days and their first two of the season.

Jamal Murray – Ulis' fellow All-American and SEC All-Tournament team honoree – was blanketed by A&M and having an uncharacteristically quiet game most of the way, but he broke out his signature bow and arrow at the most opportune moment. He hit his third 3 of the afternoon in 10 attempts with 15 seconds remaining in overtime to give UK a six-point lead.

With four minutes left in regulation, it appeared Murray had delivered another dagger. He buried a 3 with 4:01 remaining that gave UK a seven-point lead that most opponents would have found insurmountable. Not A&M, which bested UK in College Station, Texas in February.

Behind the brilliant Danuel House – who scored seven points in the final four minutes, including the game-tying jumper with 19 seconds left – the Aggies closed on an 11-4 run to force the extra period. House had 32 points on the day.

In the end, Ulis would not be denied. Though he missed the potential game winner at the end of regulation, Ulis buried a 3 for the first points of overtime and found Derek Willis for the go-ahead 3 with 1:01 to go.

Other noteables:
- Kentucky improved to 127-25 (.836) all-time in the SEC Tournament, including 30-10 (.750) in championship games
- UK is 20-2 (.909) in SEC Tournament games played in Nashville, including 17-2 (.895) in Bridgestone Arena
- It marked Murray's 32nd consecutive double-figure scoring game, the most since Jodie Meeks had a 32-game double-figure stretch in 2008-09
- Senior Alex Poythress scored 10 points and has scored double figures in six of seven games since returning from injury
- Four of UK's last five meetings with Texas A&M have needed an extra period to decide including both this season
- Kentucky improved to 1-2 this season in overtime games
- Ulis averaged 24 points and five assists per game in the tournament
- Freshman Isaiah Briscoe totaled 10 points, a team-high six assists, five rebounds and two steals
- Junior Derek Willis totaled 10 points, four rebounds, one assist, two blocked shots and one steal. He has 11 double-figure scoring games this season
- Kentucky hit 10 3-pointers vs. the Aggies and made 32 throughout the SEC Tournament
- Five Wildcats reached double-digits for the first time in an SEC title game for the first time in program history

S-E-C! S-E-C! S-E-C!

Kentucky has the unquestionable reputation as the league's gold standard. Since the SEC's inception in 1932-33, the Wildcats have been the most dominant team in the league, recording a 956-268 mark (.781) in confernce play. Only two other teams have won more than 700 regular-season SEC games (Alabama, Tennessee) and no other team has a better winning percentage.

- UK has averaged 11.5 wins and only 3.2 losses per season in 83 seasons in the SEC
- Kentucky has won 47 SEC titles and 29 SEC Tournament championships
- The Wildcats have won 14 of the last 24 SEC Tournament titles
- UK has won at least a share of four of the last seven SEC regular-season championships under head coach John Calipari
- Kentucky has played in the championship game of the SEC Tournament in six of Calipari's seven seasons following its 2016 title

Ulis Tabbed Bob Cousy Finalist

Sophomore point guard Tyler Ulis has been named one of five finalists for the 2016 Bob Cousy Point Guard of the Year Award by the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. Named after Hall of Fame guard Bob Cousy, the annual honor recognizes the top point guard in Division I men's basketball.

Ulis' competition includes Yogi Ferrell of Indiana, Monte Morris from Iowa State, Oakland's Kahlil Felder and Kris Dunn of Providence.

Wins vs. Losses

In most all of sports it's easy to pinpoint areas of improvement in losses versus a team's wins. The 2015-16 edition of the Kentucky Wildcats is no different. Here's a look at some of the key stats in wins compared with those same stats in losses.

Result	FG%	Opp. FG%	3-Pt. FG%	Opp 3-Pt. FG%	FT%	RPG	APG	TOPG	BPG	SPG	Pts in Pt.	PPG
Wins	.496	.389	.380	.295	.693	39.3	14.8	11.2	5.9	5.8	35.0	81.8
Losses	.423	.434	.343	.434	.648	37.1	13.0	10.8	4.9	4.9	29.8	72.6

A national committee comprised of top college basketball personnel determined the initial watch list of 20 candidates in October, trimmed it down to 10 in February and now named the final five finalists in March. The annual honor, which is now in its 13th season, will be presented to the winner at the ESPN College Basketball Awards Show in Los Angeles on April 8.

The winner of the Cousy Award will be determined by a combination of fan votes and input from the Basketball Hall of Fame's selection committee. Fans are encouraged to visit HoophalAwards.com to cast their votes March 11-25.

Ulis is looking to become the first Kentucky guard to win the award.

Ulis Also a Wooden Award Finalist

Tyler Ulis is one of 15 players on the John R. Wooden Award national ballot. The Wooden Award is presented annually by the Los Angeles Athletic Club to the top player in college basketball.

The finalists are candidates for the Wooden All-American Team, out of which the Wooden Award winner will be selected. All 15 players on the ballot have proven to their universities that they are making progress towards graduation and are maintaining at least a cumulative 2.0 grade-point average.

Voting will take place from March 14 to March 21. Nearly 1,000 members of the national college basketball media make up the majority of the voting body. They take into consideration a player's entire season of play, as well as opening rounds of the NCAA Tournament.

Fans may vote through the fan voting site at woodenawardvote.com. The Wooden Award All-American Team, consisting of the nation's top 10 players, and the five finalists for the Wooden Award, will be announced the week of the Elite Eight round of the NCAA Tournament and will be the focus of a 30-minute show March 28 on ESPNU at 8 p.m.

Ulis, Murray Named USBWA Awards Finalists

The two leaders of arguably the nation's best backcourt, Tyler Ulis and Jamal Murray, are finalists for the U.S. Writers Basketball Association's two major awards, the Oscar Robertson Trophy and the Wayman Tisdale Award.

Ulis has been tabbed one of 11 finalists for the Oscar Robertson Trophy, awarded annually to the USBWA's pick for the national player of the year. Murray is one of five finalists for the Wayman Tisdale Award, presented to the nation's freshman of the year.

Both awards will be presented at the College Basketball Awards gala in Oklahoma City on April 11 at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. Access Sports, a non-profit organization committed to supporting various charitable causes, will serve as host for the gala. Funds from the gala are used to support youth basketball programs in Oklahoma that allow disadvantaged youth the opportunity to participate in leagues and training.

The USBWA, comprised of nearly 1,000 sports journalists covering college basketball for newspapers, magazines and websites, will select the recipients of the awards. This will be the first time the women's college player of the year will be featured at the gala.

Home-Court Advantage

Kentucky ended the 2015-16 season on a 37-game win streak when playing in the friendly confines of Rupp Arena, the second-longest winning streak in the venue's history.

UK's last home loss came on Feb. 27, 2014 in an overtime loss to Arkansas. With an all-time record of 545-64 (.895) in Rupp Arena, Kentucky's current run includes the following streaks:

- Under John Calipari, UK is 119-4 (.967) in Rupp Arena, including 62-1 (.984) against non-conference opponents
- Calipari is tied with Tubby Smith for the second-most victories for any UK head coach in the arena
- Calipari will open the 2016-17 season needing just three more victories to tie all-time wins leader Joe B. Hall
- Prior to the close victory over Louisville, UK had won 13 straight home games by at least 11 points, the longest such streak since a 27-game stretch from 1995-97
- Mississippi State shot 52.9 percent from the field. Prior to that, UK had held the last 54 home opponents and the last 81 nonconference home opponents to less than 50 percent from the field
- Kentucky has won its last 75 games in Rupp Arena when ranked in the top five of the Associated Press Top 25, dating back to the 2003-04 season
- With a victory over LSU in the regular-season finale, UK captured its 13th undefeated season in Rupp Arena and the fifth in seven seasons under Calipari

Fab-Ulis

John Calipari has called sophomore point guard Tyler Ulis possibly the best floor general he's ever coached. Even amid lofty company (i.e. past Calipari point guards like Derrick Rose, Tyreke Evans, John Wall and Brandon Knight), the numbers back it up.

The Southeastern Conference Player of the Year is averaging 17.2 points and an SEC-best 7.2 assists. He entered the NCAA Tournament ranking sixth nationally in assists and fifth nationally with a 3.8 assist-to-turnover ratio. He's dished out 10 or more assists in six of his last 12 games and scored 20 or more points in 13 of his last 23 games.

Entering the NCAA Tournament, the Chicago native was the only player in the SEC averaging at least 17.2 points and 7.2 assists or better. He was one of just three players nationally to achieve that feat (Kahil Felder, Oakland; Denzel Valentine, Michigan State) and the lone underclassman.

He has the single-season school record for most 20-point, five-assist games with 14, and according to the SEC Network, his three 20-point, 10-assist games this season are the most of any SEC player in the last 20 seasons.

In league play, Ulis averaged 8.4 assists with a 4.5 assist-to-turnover ratio. He played 672 of a possible 725 minutes in SEC games, committing a turnover every 19.8 minutes per game.

Ulis' value is probably best represented by his performances in Kentucky's biggest games. He's averaging a team-best 24.0 points and a team-high 8.3 assists in UK's six games vs. ranked opponents in either the Associated Press Top 25 or the USA Today Coaches' Poll. He shot 55.2 percent with a 5.0 assist-to-turnover ratio in those games. Those numbers are even more impressive when you consider he played 252 of the possible 255 minutes of those games including the entire 45 minutes of all three overtime contests.

Some of his other notable milestones thus far:

- He is only the third player in school history with 200 assists in a season
- Already second on the school's single-season assists list with 236 dimes, he needs just six more assists to break John Wall's single season record of 241 assists (2009-10)
- Ulis is the only player with 27 consecutive games with four or more assists since at least

Stony Brook Seawolves (26-7)

Head Coach: Steve Pikiell (10th season)
Conference: America East
Series vs. UK: UK leads 1-0

Key Players:

Jameel Warney, Sr., F
Carson Puriefoy, Sr., G

Ahmad Walker, Jr., G

Notes:

Leads team in ppg (19.8) and rpg (10.7)
Averages 15.1 ppg and team-high 40 steals

10.4 ppg, 6.7 rpg and team-high 135 assists

How the Teams Match Up

	FG%	OPP FG%	3FG%	FT%	PPG	RPG	BPG	APG	SPG
UK	.479	.400	.370	.683	79.7	38.3	5.6	14.4	5.6
Stony Brook	.476	.404	.372	.672	76.8	39.6	4.6	16.6	6.2

1972-73. Roger Harden (1985-86) held the record with 17 games
• He's the first UK player since 1972-73 with at least eight assists in six straight games
• He's the first player in school history to post at least 20 points, at least 10 assists and at least six steals in a single game (vs. Ole Miss). It was also the first 20-point, 10-assist game since Wall did it vs. Rider on Nov. 21, 2009
• Ulis is the first UK player with 26 points and eight assists (at Kansas) in a game since Jack Givens against Auburn on Feb. 23, 1976
• His 11-assist game vs. Florida was the first since John Wall dished out 11 vs. East Tennessee State on March 18, 2010
• He's the only Wildcat since 1972-73 with consecutive games of at least 20 points and at least eight assists (vs. Louisville and Ole Miss)
• With a then career-high 23 points at LSU, he became the first UK guard to score at least 20 points in three consecutive games since Jodie Meeks on Feb. 10, 14 and 17, 2009
• He is the first UK player to have at least 20 points and at least six assists (vs. Ole Miss and at LSU) in consecutive SEC games since Ed Davender on Feb. 24 and March 2, 1988
• He was the first Wildcat with at least 15 points and at least five assists in three consecutive games (Duke, Wright State and Boston U.) since Wall in 2009-10
• His nine assists vs. UCLA was the most by a Wildcat in a nonconference road game since Saul Smith dished out 10 vs. Michigan State on Dec. 16, 2000
• He is currently averaging 7.2 assists. No player in school history has averaged that much in a single season with a minimum of 100 assists
• In only his second season at UK, Ulis has become the 16th player in school history with at least 300 assists. At 371 in his career, he moved past Saul Smith for 10th all-time
• He has set a single-season program record with seven games of 10 or more assists in a single season
• His career-high 14 assists vs. LSU in the regular-season finale is a school high vs. an SEC opponent. He is only the fifth player in school history to record 14 assists in a game
• With a 30-point, five-assist effort en route to MVP honors of the SEC Tournament, he became the first UK player with at least 30 points and at least five assists in a game since Tayshaun Prince vs. Iowa on Mar. 17, 2001
• Ulis in UK's three overtime games this season: 26.0 points, 8.0 assists per game, 3.1 assist-to-turnover ratio, 83.3 percent free-throw percentage, played all 135 minutes
• He became one of only three UK players with at least 30 points scored in an SEC Tournament championship game: Alex Groza (1949), Bill Spivey (1950), Tyler Ulis (2016)
• He joined Cliff Hagan (1952) as one of only two players to average at least 24 points per game in a single SEC Tournament

Murray One of Calipari's Best All-Time Scorers

Through 34 games of the season, it's clear freshman guard Jamal Murray is not only one of the best pure scorers UK has had during the John Calipari era, he's one of the best Calipari has ever coached.

Murray currently leads the Wildcats in scoring at 20.1 points per game. If the season ended today, he would have the highest scoring average at Kentucky in the Calipari era. Brandon Knight, in 2010-11, finished at 17.3 points per game. Against Georgia in the Southeastern Conference Tournament, he passed Knight for the most points by a freshman in school history.

Murray's current average is the most for any player under Calipari since Dajuan Wagner averaged 21.2 points during the 2001-02 season at Memphis. Murray is getting to his average more efficiently than Wagner did, averaging 14.8 shots per game while shooting 45.6 percent. Wagner finished the season averaging 18.0 shots per game while shooting 41.0 percent.

And that only tells just a small part of the story:

SCORING
• With 685 points this season, he has the most points by a freshman in school history. He is 13 points shy of moving into 10th place in the program's all-time single-season leaders
• His 35 points vs. Florida tied Terrence Jones (Jan. 11, 2011 vs. Auburn) for the school record single-game scoring mark by a freshman. It also tied Jones for the most points in a single game in the Calipari era
• With 35 points vs. Florida, 33 points vs. Ohio State and 33 at Vanderbilt, he is the only player under Calipari with three 30-point games in a season or in a career. He's also the only freshman to ever record three 30-point games in a single season
• His 27 second-half points vs. Ohio State are the most of any Wildcat under Calipari
• His 21 first-half points at Vanderbilt are the most of any Wildcat under Calipari. His 20 points vs. Florida are also the second most of any UK player in the Calipari era in the first half
• He has scored in double figures in all but one game this season and 15 or more in 29 of the 34 contests
• He is the first Wildcat to reach double figures in 32 straight games since Jodie Meeks did it 32 times in 2008-09
• A 21-point scoring effort at Tennessee on Feb. 2, ignited a run of 12 consecutive games where Murray scored 20 or more points before the streak was snapped with a 17-point outing in the SEC Championship game. It was the longest such streak for any UK player since Kevin Grevey topped 20 or more points in 12 straight games in 1974-75. The only other Wildcat to do it in more games is Dan Issell, who did it 18 straight times in 1969-70
• He was the first UK player to score at least 18 points in each of the first seven SEC games of a season since Meeks in 2008-09. He is the first freshman in school history to achieve the feat
• He reached 600 points in his 31st career game, the fastest in the John Calipari era
• He owns the program record of 20 point-game efforts by a freshman at 18 games
• He was the third player in school history to score at least 12 points in at least 18 of his first 19 games played at UK. Cotton Nash (1961-62) scored at least 12 points in 35 of his first 36 games played at Kentucky and Bill Spivey (1949-50) scored at least 12 points in 24 of his first 25 games played at UK
• He averaged 26.4 points per game in February, the highest scoring month for a Wildcat since Meeks averaged 28.0 points per game in January 2009
• Murray averaged 22.6 points per game in SEC road contests this season
• According to ESPN, Murray is the nation's leading scorer at 25.8 points per game from Feb. 1 to March 3

3-POINT SHOOTING
• Owns the UK freshman record for most 3-point field goals in a single season with 110, surpassing Knight's previous record of 87. It's also an SEC freshman record
• His 110 made 3-pointers is already second on the UK single-season 3-point field goal list. Davidson's Stephen Curry (2006-07) owns the single-season freshman record with 122 3-pointers. He nees seven to tie Meeks for UK's single-season record
• He has made a 3-pointer in all 34 games this season, the only player in program history to hit at least one trey in his first 34

UK BY POSSESSION

Game	Offense PPP	Defense PPP
Albany	1.11	0.93
NJIT	1.21	0.79
vs. Duke	1.10	0.94
Wright State	1.11	0.90
Boston	1.15	0.87
vs. South Florida	1.25	0.94
Illinois State	0.99	0.83
at UCLA	1.10	1.24
Eastern Kentucky	1.21	0.92
Arizona State	1.01	0.82
vs. Ohio State	0.97	1.07
Louisville	1.10	1.07
Ole Miss	1.22	0.90
at LSU	0.96	1.21
at Alabama	1.22	0.97
Mississippi State	1.10	1.01
at Auburn	0.93	1.00
at Arkansas	1.21	1.00
Vanderbilt	1.19	0.89
Missouri	1.26	0.77
at Kansas	1.04	1.11
at Tennessee	1.15	1.25
Florida	1.25	0.95
Georgia	1.30	0.76
at South Carolina	1.25	0.87
Tennessee	1.19	1.04
at Texas A&M	1.13	1.16
Alabama	1.26	0.85
at Vanderbilt	0.97	1.16
at Florida	1.19	1.07
LSU	1.27	1.04
vs. Alabama	1.47	1.02
vs. Georgia	1.43	1.23
vs. Texas A&M	1.14	1.07

Overall
Kentucky offensive high - 1.47 vs. Alabama
Kentucky offensive low - 0.93 at Auburn

Opponent offensive high - 1.25 at Tennessee
Opponent offensive low - 0.76 vs. Georgia

SEC Play
Kentucky offensive high - 1.30 vs. Georgia
Kentucky offensive low - 0.93 at Auburn

Opponent offensive high - 1.25 at Tennessee
Opponent offensive low - 0.76 vs. Georgia

Postseason
Kentucky offensive high - 1.47 vs. Alabama
Kentucky offensive low - 1.14 vs. Texas A&M

Opponent offensive high - 1.23 vs. Georgia
Opponent offensive low - 1.02 vs. Alabama

CATS IN THE NBA

At the beginning of the 2015-16 season, 21 former Wildcats were on an opening-day roster, more than any other school in the country. The following listing is as of opening day.

Name	Team
Eric Bledsoe	Phoenix Suns
Devin Booker	Phoenix Suns
Willie Cauley-Stein	Sacramento Kings
DeMarcus Cousins	Sacramento Kings
Anthony Davis	New Orleans Pelicans
Archie Goodwin	Phoenix Suns
Aaron Harrison	Charlotte Hornets
Terrence Jones	Houston Rockets
Enes Kanter	Oklahoma City Thunder
Brandon Knight	Phoenix Suns
Michael Kidd-Gilchrist	Charlotte Hornets
Trey Lyles	Utah Jazz
Jodie Meeks	Detroit Pistons
Nerlens Noel	Philadelphia 76ers
Patrick Patterson	Toronto Raptors
Tayshaun Prince	Minnesota Timberwolves
Julius Randle	Los Angeles Lakers
Rajon Rondo	Sacramento Kings
Karl-Anthony Towns	Minnesota Timberwolves
John Wall	Washington Wizards
James Young	Boston Celtics

Several former Wildcats are among the NBA league leaders in the major statistical categories. Stats are through March 14. Former UK players are in **BOLD.**

Points Per Game
1. Stephen Curry (Warriors) - 30.5
4. DeMarcus Cousins (Kings) - 27.4
7. Anthony Davis (Pelicans) - 24.4

Rebounds Per Game
1. Andre Drummond (Pistons) - 15.0
5. DeMarcus Cousins (Kings) - 11.5
T7. Anthony Davis (Pelicans) - 10.3
T7. Karl-Anthony Towns (Timberwolves) - 10.3
10. Julius Randle (Lakers) - 10.1

Assists Per Game
1. Rajon Rondo (Kings) - 11.9
3. John Wall (Wizards) - 9.9

Blocks Per Game
1. Hassan Whiteside (Heat) - 3.89
4. Anthony Davis (Pelicans) - 2.09
9. Karl-Anthony Towns (Timberwolves) - 1.77
14. Nerlens Noel (76ers) - 1.54

Field-Goal Percentage
1. DeAndre Jordan (Clippers) - .695
4. Enes Kanter (Thunder) - .569
8. Karl-Anthony Towns (Timberwolves) - .545
9. Nerlens Noel (76ers) - .532

Steals Per Game
1. Kyle Lowry (Raptors) - 2.16
7. John Wall (Wizards) - 1.94
8. Rajon Rondo (Kings) - 1.93
15. Nerlens Noel (76ers) - 1.68

Double-Doubles
1. Andre Drummond (Pistons) - 55
T3. DeMarcus Cousins (Kings) - 39
T5. John Wall (Wizards) - 38
7. Karl-Anthony Towns (Timberwolves) - 37
8. Anthony Davis (Pelicans) - 34
T10. Rajon Rondo (Kings) - 32
15. Julius Randle (Lakers) - 28

collegiate games
• Having made a 3 in 34 straight, he moved past tied Tony Delk (1993-94 season), who had 32, for the most consecutive games with a made 3-pointer in school history
• His eight 3-pointers vs. Florida tied Eric Bledsoe (March 18, 2010 vs. East Tennessee State) for the most in the Calipari era
• He's one of only two players (Kyle Wiltjer) with two games of seven or more 3-point field goals in a game under Calipari
• His .800 percentage from behind the arc vs. Florida is the best 3-point percentage in a single game in school history with a minimum of 10 attempts
• Murray is the first freshman in school history to make at least five 3-point field goals in consecutive games
• Murray is the fifth player in UK history -- and first since Meeks in 2008-09 -- with six or more made 3-point field goals in consecutive games
• He's the first player since Meeks in 2008-09 to make two or more 3-pointers in 15 straight games. Meeks had a streak of 16 consecutive games
• Murray has the most games at 20 with three or more made 3-pointers in a season in the Calipari era

Workhorse(s)

Tyler Ulis' value can perhaps best be represented by the number of minutes he's playing this season. Simply put, the Wildcats need him on the floor as often as he can play.

The result is Ulis is averaging 36.9 minutes per game, most in the Southeastern Conference and 25th nationally, as of March 13. The 36.9 minutes per game are the most at UK since Tom Parker averaged 37.9 minutes during the 1971-72 season. Only Brandon Knight (35.9 mpg) has averaged more than 35 minutes in the John Calipari era.

Seven times this season Ulis has played 40 or more minutes, including all 45 minutes in overtime games at Kansas, at Texas A&M and in the SEC championship game vs. the Aggies.

Freshman Jamal Murray ranks second in the SEC at 35.2 minutes per game. Freshman Isaiah Briscoe is in ninth at 32.3 minutes per contest.

Wall vs. Ulis

John Wall, the former No. 1 overall pick and first point guard during the John Calipari era, put up remarkable numbers in his one season at UK. Current UK floor general, Tyler Ulis, is keeping pace with Wall statistically through 34 games of the season.

Ulis has 30 games with five or more assists while Wall had 25 through the same point in the season. Ulis protects the ball better than Wall did with just 62 turnovers compared with 133 for Wall. Each player missed one game during the team's 34 contests, although Ulis missed an additional half against South Florida. Also, they are the only two players in the Calipari era to both have a double-double by way of points and rebounds and points and assists in the same season.

Player	PPG (Total)	RPG (T)	APG (T)	TO (T)	A/TO	SPG(T)
Wall	16.9 (558)	4.2 (139)	6.4 (210)	4.0 (133)	1.6	1.8 (60)
Ulis	17.2 (569)	3.2 (104)	7.2 (236)	1.9 (62)	3.8	1.5 (48)

No Surrender Here

Surrendering a 21-point lead at Tennessee wasn't just unusual for Kentucky in the John Calipari era, it was downright rare.

UK is 187-3 (.984) in the Calipari era when leading by at least 10 points at any time in the contest. Two of those three losses (a 21-point lead at Tennessee and a 12-point lead at Auburn) have come during the 2015-16 campaign. The only other loss in the Cal era came during the 2012-13 season when UK gave up an 11-point first-half lead and lost 59-55 at Alabama. All three losses have come to Southeastern Conference foes on the road.

Perhaps most impressive of all is that 72.8 percent of games Calipari has coached in at Kentucky have produced 10-point leads at some point during the game for UK. The Wildcats have led by 10 points or more in a whopping 86.6 percent of Calipari's 216 career wins at Kentucky.

Foul Trouble

A common denominator in Kentucky's losses at Kansas and at Tennessee: foul trouble.

UK committed 33 fouls at Kansas, the most ever in the John Calipari era, and followed that with 26 fouls at Tennessee, which is tied for the ninth most in the Calipari era (the eighth most, 27 fouls, just recently happened at Florida). In both the Kansas and Tennessee games, the two teams made 30 free throws apiece, the highest marks of the season. Furthermore, four players fouled out at Kansas, the first time that's happened since Dec. 4, 2010 at North Carolina, and another two were disqualified from the Tennessee game with five fouls apiece.

The glaring foul problems have shed light on a problem UK has had for much of the season of letting the other team be the aggressor. Kentucky (696) has committed more fouls than its opponents (677) and committed 51 more of them in Southeastern Conference regular-season play.

The result: UK's opponents have shot more free throws (808) than Kentucky (777) and shot 89 more free throws in conference play. The last time the Wildcats ended a season with fewer free-throw attempts than its opponents was 2007-08.

• UK is averaging 20.5 fouls per game, which is on pace for the highest average since the 1994-95 team committed 22.2 fouls per game
• UK has attempted fewer free throws than its opponent in 15 of the last 18 games. Prior to a 28-18 advantage against Alabama on Feb. 23, the last time the Wildcats shot more than the opponent was Jan. 12 vs. Mississippi State
• Kentucky's opponents are scoring 24.3 percent of their points against UK at the foul line. That's the 22nd most in the country. The Wildcats are scoring 19.6 percent of their points at the charity stripe, which is 225th nationally
• In SEC play, Kentucky's opponents scored 26.9 percent of their points against the Wildcats at the foul line, the highest rate in the league. On the flipside, UK scored just 18.2 percent of its points at the line, the second-lowest mark in the conference

Whatcha Talkin Bout, Willis?

Kentucky has received a spark from junior Derek Willis thanks in large part to a postgame speech at Auburn. That's when John Calipari asked the team, "Do we need to make some changes?" One of those changes was Willis, who had just posted a career outing during the loss to the Tigers. Willis registered his first career double-double with 12 points and a team-high 12 rebounds.

Following that game, Willis was inserted into the starting lineup. Over the next 11 games, which included the Auburn performance, Willis averaged 11.2 points and a team-high 6.6 rebounds per game, including a career-high 25-point outing with a career-high seven 3-pointers vs. Tennessee. He led the Cats in rebounding in six of those 11 games.

Willis helped stretch the floor for guards Tyler Ulis, Isaiah Briscoe and Jamal Murray to convernt drives off of pick-and-rolls. All the while, Willis was reliable from the permiter with 28 made 3-pointers during the stretch. Another way of looking at Willis' recent production: He scored 123 points in those 11 games played; he had scored 122 in his first 48 games played at Kentucky.

2015-16 SEASON NOTES

Willis returned to the lineup in the regular-season finale vs. LSU after missing the previous three games with a right ankle injury. He looked like his pre-injury form in the Southeastern Conference Tournament. He averaged 9.7 points, 4.0 rebounds, 2.0 blocks and 2.0 made 3-pointers per game.

Bow and Arrow: Cats on Target from Behind the Arc

There was a point in the season when it seemed like Kentucky's ineffectiveness behind the 3-point line could be the Wildcats downfall this season. After the recent record-setting stretch from behind the arc, those days seem like a long, long time ago.

With 10 3-pointers at Texas A&M, the Wildcats made at least 10 3-point field goals in five straight games, a new school record. And it's not as if UK has been hoisting a ton of shots to make that many treys. As a matter of fact, during the five-game stretch, UK shot 44.0 percent or better from 3.

At one point this season the Wildcats were in the bottom third nationally in both 3-point field goal percentage and 3-point field goals made per game. In league play, the Wildcats finished second in the Southeastern Conference in 3-point field goal percentage (.392) while making 7.4 3-point field goals a game against SEC foes.

Freshman guard Jamal Murray topped Brandon Knight's single-season freshman record for 3-point field goals in a season and has led the way for the Wildcats from deep, averaging an SEC-best 3.3 3-point field goals during the regular season. He's just 12 3-pointers behind Davidson's Stephen Curry (2006-07) for the NCAA record for 3-pointers in a season. Junior forward Derek Willis hit a conference-best 50.0 percent of his attempts from behind the arc in league play.

In the Southeastern Conference Tournament, the Wildcats combined for 32 3-pointers on a 47.8-percent clip. The Wildcats made a season-best 13 3-pointers in the quarterfinals matchup vs. Alabama.

Briscoe is Ulis' Bledsoe

In keeping with comparisons, through 34 games it has become statstically eerie at the similarities Isaiah Briscoe is for Tyler Ulis, as Eric Bledsoe was for John Wall in 2009-10.

Bledsoe was a heralded point guard, just as Briscoe entered the 2015-16 season as the No. 1 point guard in most recruiting services. Both players began their careers with a magnificant opening game. Bledsoe had 24 points, seven rebounds and four assists in his debut. Briscoe posted 11 points, 12 rebounds and a pair of assists.

Through 34 games in the season, Briscoe had notched double-figure scoring in 18 games while Bledsoe had recorded 17 double-digit games. Briscoe has garnered 20 games with three or more assists, while Bledsoe had notched it in 18 such contests. Briscoe has been more aggressive on the boards, averaging 5.2 per game, while Bledsoe held the better shooting numbers at this point at 44.6 percent. It is important to note that Briscoe has only played in 32 of UK's 34 games, while Bledsoe appeared in 33 of the 34.

Player	PPG (Total)	RPG (T)	APG (T)	TO (T)	A/TO	SPG(T)
Bledsoe	10.8 (358)	3.1 (101)	2.9 (96)	3.2 (105)	0.9	1.4 (45)
Briscoe	9.6 (306)	5.2 (167)	3.3 (105)	1.8 (59)	1.8	1.0 (33)

Poythress Returns to Form

Senior Alex Poythress quickly returned to the elite athlete that John Calipari expects him to be after returning from a torn ACL in December of 2014.

Poythress posted double-doubles in back-to-back games vs. Wright State and Boston University (the third and fourth of his career), the first Kentucky senior to post consecutive double-doubles since Josh Harrellson in 2010-11.

He then broke out for a 21-point, 13-rebound effort in leading UK past Eastern Kentucky. The 21 points were the most since his career-high of 22 set during his freshman season, and the 13 rebounds marked a new career-best mark. It was the first 20-point, 10-rebound game of his career, and the 21 points were the most for a UK senior since his former teammate Julius Mays scored 24 points against Missouri in the 2012-13 season.

The senior forward just became the 52nd player in program history with 500 career boards after the vicory over Ole Miss. He's the third player in the Calipari era (Terrence Jones and Willie Cauley-Stein) to achieve the feat.

He enjoyed the best offensive performance of his career with a 25-point outing in a bounce-back win for the Wildcats at Alabama on Jan. 9. Poythress was 8 of 10 (.800) from the field and 9 of 11 (.818) from the charity stripe.

Poythress reached 900 career points on Senior Day, becoming just the 12th player in school history with 900 points, 500 rebounds and 70 blocks in a career.

Since a recent injury to his other knee, Poythress has scored in double digits in six of the last seven games. He is 52 points shy of becoming the school's 61st 1,000-point scorer.

Calipari Reaches 200 UK Wins in Record Time

With a thrilling 75-73 victory over rival Louisville, John Calipari captured his 200th career win at Kentucky faster than any coach in UK history -- and nearly faster than anyone has ever done it at any other school.

Calipari reached the 200-win plateau in his 240th career game at Kentucky. Rick Pitino, previously the fastest to 200 wins at UK prior to Calipari, didn't capture his 200th Wildcat win until his 249th game. The legendary Adolph Rupp reached 200 during his 250th game.

Not only did Calipari reach the 200-win mark in record pace at Kentucky, he also nearly set the all-time Division I mark. With the win over U of L, he became the second-fastest Division I men's basketball coach to reach 200 victories at a single school, behind only LIU-Brooklyn's Clair Bee, who achieved the feat in 231 games.

Calipari is one of just 11 head coaches in Division I men's basketball history with at least 200 victories at two different schools and just the fifth coach at Kentucky to reach the 200-win plateau.

He's currently the only coach in NCAA history with at least 189 victories at three different schools.

Kentucky Elite Under Cal

Since John Calipari took over the program in 2009-10, no one in the country has had more wins than Kentucky, and only Kansas has a better winning percentage. UK is 216-46 (.824) during that time span.

1. Kansas: 213-42 (.8353)
2. Kentucky: 216-46 (.8244)
3. Gonzaga: 200-44 (.8197)
4. Duke: 208-46 (.8189)
5. Wichita State: 200-47 (.8097)

numbers through March 13

Overall	Won 5
Unranked AP teams anywhere	Won 4
Ranked AP teams anywhere	Won 1
Home	Won 37
Home SEC	Won 19
Home nonconference	Won 32
Home AP unranked nonconference	Won 29
Home AP ranked teams	Won 4
Home AP unranked teams	Won 33
Road	Won 1
Road SEC	Won 1
Road AP ranked teams	Lost 1
Road AP unranked teams	Won 1
Neutral	Won 3
Neutral AP ranked teams	Won 2
Neutral AP unranked teams	Won 2

Active Consecutive Made Starts

Jamal Murray	34
Tyler Ulis	27
Isaiah Briscoe	22
Alex Poythress	6
Skal Labissiere	5

Active Consecutive Made Free Throws

Dominique Hawkins	6
Jamal Murray	4
Jonny David	2
Isaac Humphries	2
Mychal Mulder	2
Skal Labissiere	1
Derek Willis	1

Active Consecutive Games with a 3-Pointer

Jamal Murray	34
Derek Willis	16
Tyler Ulis	5
Alex Poythress	1

Bounce Back

The Wildcats don't lose very often during the John Calipari era, but when they do, they almost always bounce back.

UK is 34-7 under Calipari following a loss. Kentucky's back-to-back losses at Kansas and at Tennessee were its first conecsutive losses since since losing a pair to Arkansas and South Carolina on Feb. 27, 2014 and March 1, 2014, respectively.

The Wildcats have only lost back-to-back games seven times during the Calipari era and they've never lost three in a row with Calipari on the sidelines. The last time UK lost three games in a row was in February 2009 when the Wildcats dropped four straight games to end the regular season.

Next Man Up

When starting freshman guard Isaiah Briscoe turned his ankle in warmups prior to the Louisville game, all it meant was an opportunity for another player. That man vs. the Cardinals was junior guard Dominique Hawkins.

The Kentucky native cemented his legacy in the rivalry's storied history with the best game of his career. Hawkins posted career highs in points (13), 3-pointers made (three) and minutes (26) to lead the Wildcats over the Cardinals.

But Hawkins is far from the only Wildcat who has embraced the "next man up" mentality and stepped up for the Wildcats this season. Isaac Humphries filled in admirably with four points and a career-high six rebounds in the win over Florida when Alex Poythress was ruled out of the game with a right knee injury just minutes before tip. He did the same at Texas A&M when Derek Willis went down with a right ankle injury.

In 22 of UK's 34 games, a scholarship player has either not played or left the game with an injury or illness. Kentucky has played with its full roster in just six games since Jan. 1, but has had its full roster during the postseason. It hasn't slowed the Wildcats down too much -- as evidenced by Kentucky's 26-8 record and regular-season and conference tournament Southeastern Conference championhips. With a full arsenal in the SEC Tournament, UK has looked as strong as it has all year.

Always Efficient

According to Ken Pomeroy's calculations on kenpom.com, UK's teams under John Calipari have consistently ranked among the most efficient teams in the country per possession.

Year	Off (Rank)	Def (Rank)	Overall
2016	122.3 (1)	98.9 (70)	8th
2015	119.3 (5)	86.5 (2)	1st
2014	117.6 (10)	96.9 (41)	11th
2013	108.8 (42)	99.1 (129)	42nd
2012	122.9 (2)	88.2 (9)	1st
2011	118.1 (7)	90.4 (15)	6th
2010	116.1 (15)	86.2 (6)	3rd

2015-16 rankings through March 13

Taking Care of Business

Kentucky's 44-16 record vs. opponents ranked in the Associated Press Top 25 is impressive, but the Wildcats' ability to beat all-comers can't be overlooked. Under John Calipari, UK is 172-30 vs. unranked competition, a .851 winning percentage.

The Wildcats' loss to UCLA was its first loss to an unranked opponent since March 1, 2014.

Poythress Named Candidate for Senior CLASS Award

Senior Alex Poythress was named one of 30 candidates for the prestigious Senior CLASS Award. An acronym for Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School, the Senior CLASS award focuses on the total student-athlete and encourages students to use their platform in athletics to make positive impact as leaders in their communities.

Poythress was the first Wildcat to earn recognition for the award since Darius Miller in 2012. He was also the only player from the Southeastern Conference among the 30 candidates.

Since his arrival on campus, Poythress has been a steady presence within the community. He's contributed to various activities such as the God's Pantry Food Drive and Samaritan's Feet. He is often a volunteer for stops at local children's hospitals as well as appearances at local elementary schools. Poythress has played kickball with elementary students, read to them at various times and has even made guest appearances at camps in his hometown.

Along with his teammates, he has been involved in a Hurricane Sandy telethon, a clothing drive for the needy, various meet-and-greets during the holidays, as well as a presence at the annual pizza delivery during Big Blue Madness campouts. Furthermore, Poythress is a mainstay within the UK Basketball camps throughout the summer serving as a camp counselor for kids of all ages as well as for the John Calipari Fantasy Camp.

Poythress graduated in just three years with a degree in business marketing. He earned a 3.517 undergraduate grade point average and is now pursuing a master's of science in kinesiology and health promotion with an emphasis on sport leadership. He finished his first semester of grad school with a 4.0 GPA.

Still Big, Still Dominant on the Glass

Though Kentucky isn't quite as big and as long as it was last season, the Wildcats are still one of the tallest teams in the country and one of the best on the boards. The Wildcats rank first in the Southeastern Conference in rebounds allowed per game (33.3) and second in rebound margin (plus-5.4) and offensive rebound percentage (.378).

Against NJIT, Kentucky grabbed 31 more rebounds than the Highlanders, the best mark of the John Calipari era. The 54 total rebounds ranked as the fourth most of the Coach Cal era, and the 22 offensive rebounds tied for the fourth most in Calipari's seven seasons.

The battle of the boards has proven to be an important factor for the Wildcats, as they are 19-2 when they outrebound their opponent.

Consistently Good

When you're everyone's Super Bowl, it's hard to stay at the top, but the Wildcats are doing exaclty that under John Calipari. Before falling out of the top five on Dec. 21, UK had been ranked in the top five of the Associated Press Top 25 for 24 consecutive weeks, the longest such streak since going 30 straight weeks in the top five from 1953-55.

Three is Better Than Two

UK has the nation's second-longest active streak of consecutive games with a made 3-pointer, knocking down at least one from long range in 973 consecutive games. The Cats' last game without a made 3-pointer came against Seton Hall on Nov. 26, 1988 a "three-point" loss in the Great Alaska Shootout.

Through games on March 13, UNLV holds the nation's longest streak with 974 consecutive games with a made 3-pointer.

Lee Makes SEC Community Service Team

Junior Marcus Lee was tabbed to the Allstate Good Works Team by the National Association of Basketball Coaches and just recently the Southesstern Conference Community Service Team. It's the second straight season he's made the SEC Community Service Team.

- Lee has contributed more than 100 hours of community service while at UK
- He is a 2015 SEC Community Service Team member
- UK's SAAC treasurer
- Worked with various organizations such as God's Pantry, Salvation Army and Samaritan's Feet
- Lee was recently chosen as the male student-athlete to represent the Southeastern Conference at the 2016 NCAA Leadership Forum April 7-10 in Phoenix. Only two athletes from one of the 14 schools comprising the league can be selected. Lee will be joined by women's soccer player Michele Christy from Tennessee

From Wildcats to NBA All-Stars

Further proving the notion that the Kentucky men's basketball program helps prepare its players for the NBA better than any other school, three former Wildcats – DeMarcus Cousins, Anthony Davis, and John Wall – were selected for the 2016 NBA All-Star Game as reserves. No college had more than two representatives in the NBA All-Star Game.

Davis led the West All-Stars to a 196-173 win with 24 points on 12-of-13 shooting and six rebounds. Wall added 22 points on 10-of-14 shooting with three assiss, while Cousins posted 11 points on a perfect 5-of-5 night from the floor.

It was the third All-Star appearances for Davis and Wall, while Cousins will made his second straight appearance.

Rookie Karl-Anthony Towns won the Skills Challenge in thrilling fashion, defeating fellow Wildcats Davis and Cousins. Towns became the first frontcourt player to win the challenge. Meanwhile Devin Booker finished in third place in the Three-Point Contest behind arguably the NBA's two best 3-point shooters in Steph Curry and Klay Thompson.

Booker was one of the stars of the Rising Stars Challenge, which pits 10 of the best first- and second-year NBA players from the United States against 10 first- and second-year NBA players

COMPARING THE CALIPARI ERA

A look at UK's statistics through 34 games throughout the John Calipari era ...

Year	FG%	Opp. FG%	3-Pt. FG%	FT%	RPG	Assists	TOs.	Blocks	Steals	Points	PPG	Record
2015-16	.479	.400	.370	.683	38.8	490	376	192	191	2,709	79.7	26-8
2014-15	.469	.355	.350	.722	38.2	500	361	234	223	2,547	74.9	34-0
2013-14	.451	.403	.325	.682	41.1	391	415	212	162	2,581	75.9	24-10
2012-13*	.475	.392	.346	.642	37.8	441	430	217	185	2,396	72.6	21-12
2011-12	.483	.368	.371	.720	39.1	450	386	299	215	2,607	76.7	32-2
2010-11	.462	.393	.398	.715	37.7	431	361	214	186	2,581	75.9	26-8
2009-10	.479	.381	.341	.679	41.4	500	493	246	247	2,694	79.2	32-2

season ended at 33 games

from around the world. Booker scored 23 points behind five 3-pointers. Towns posted 18 points, seven rebounds and four assists, and Trey Lyles added two points and two rebounds. Nerlens Noel was chosen for the game but could not play due to injury.

Wynyard Joins Wildcats

With the 2015 fall semester complete, 2016 fall signee Tai Wynyard has enrolled at Kentucky a semester early and joined the Wildcats. He was eligible for UK's game against Ohio State.

Wynard, a 6-foot-10, 255-pound forward, graduated from his hometown school in Auckland, New Zealand. He was the youngest player to make the New Zealand National Team when he made the club at 16 years old.

The burly forward was named the most valuable player of the FIBA 3-on-3 World Championships after leading New Zealand to the gold medal. He was also a part of the World Select Team that edged the USA Junior National Select Team at the 2015 Nike Hoop Summit.

It has not been decided if Wynard will redshirt for th spring semester or if he will suit up for the Wildcats this season.

National Attention

Kentucky basketball always garners the eyes of the country as UK routinely draws some of the highest national rating numbers on TV for college basketball games. Of course, this season is no different.

UK's game against Duke in the Champions Classic was WatchESPN's most-watched college basketball game ever. Additionally, the game averaged 3,120,000 viewers, the second-most watched Champions Classic game during the event's history. The Wildcats' game vs. Kansas on Jan. 30 was the largest in the history of the Big/SEC 12 Challenge. The game drew 2,984,000 total viewers.

Five Double-Doubles

Five different Wildcats have tallied a double-double this season. It's the first time five different players have logged a double-double in the same season since since 2000-01, when Keith Bogans, Marquis Estill, Gerald Fitch, Jason Parker and Tayshaun Prince turned the trick.

Guards Isaiah Briscoe and Tyler Ulis have both earned double-doubles via points and rebounds. Ulis has also notched double-doubles with points and assists. He's the first player since John Wall to have two variations of a double-double in the same season.

Marcus Lee and Derek Willis have both logged their first career double-doubles this season, while Alex Poythress has notched four during his senior season after entering the year with two career double-doubles.

Forever Young

Kentucky began the 2015-16 season with two veterans in the starting lineup in junior Marcus Lee and sophomore Tyler Ulis. However, Kentucky once again checks in as one of the youngest teams in terms of experience, according to kenpom.com. UK ranks No. 340 out of 351 in terms of experience per minute and the third youngest among Power Five schools.

From the Hunted to the Hunter

As the winningest program in Division I college basketball and eight-time national champions, Kentucky is used to having a target on its back. However, the Wildcats are pretty good at playing the role of the hunted as well.

UK's victory over Duke marked the 11th NCAA defending national champion the Wildcats have defeated in school history.
- Holy Cross (3/20/1948)
- La Salle (12/22/1954)
- Indiana (12/6/1976)
- Indiana (12/8/1981)
- Louisville (12/27/1986)
- Indiana (12/5/1987)
- Arkansas (3/12/1995)
- Florida (3/9/2008)
- North Carolina (12/5/2009)
- Louisville (12/28/2013, 3/28/2014)
- Duke (11/17/2015)

Best in the Bluegrass

Kentucky has been dominant against teams in the state under John Calipari. UK is 14-1 against in-state foes with Calipari at the helm, including 8-1 vs. Louisville. Two of the victories over the Cardinals came in postseason play. UK has won four straight in the series and all four meetings in Rupp Arena.

Here's a list of the meetings between the state's two premier programs since Coach Cal took over at Kentucky:
- Jan. 2, 2010 - UK won 71-62 at Rupp Arena
- Dec. 31, 2010 - UK won 78-63 at KFC YUM! Center
- Dec. 31, 2011 - UK won 69-62 at Rupp Arena
- March 31, 2012 - UK won 69-61 at the Superdome (NCAA Final Four in New Orleans)
- Dec. 29, 2012 - Louisville won 80-77 at KFC YUM! Center
- Dec. 28, 2013 - UK won 73-66 at Rupp Arena
- March 28, 2014 - UK won 74-69 at Lucas Oil Stadium (NCAA Sweet 16 in Indianapolis)
- Dec. 27, 2014 - UK won 58-50 at KFC YUM! Center
- Dec. 26, 2015 - UK won 75-73 at Rupp Arena

Wildcats Faced Tough Nonconference Slate

Conference play, of course, signals the end of nonconfernece play. UK's 14-game nonconference schedule featured 10 games against teams who advanced to the postseason in 2014-15. That list included national champion Duke in the third game of the season at the Champions Classic in the United Center in Chicago, which UK won.

In addition to Duke and Kansas, the Wildcats took on powerhouses such as UCLA, Ohio State and the annual rivalry game with Louisville. Following UK's game with Kansas, at which point most teams have completed their nonconference schedule, the Wildcats' nonconfernece schedule ranked 25th in the country.

Kentucky Signs Super Six in 2016 Class

The Kentucky men's basketball program has put together one of the strongest recruiting classes of all time, signing six of the nation's top players during the early fall signing period. Highly rated prospects Edrice "Bam" Adebayo, De'Aaron Fox, Wenyen Gabriel, Sacha Killeya-Jones, Malik Monk and Tai Wynyard have all signed with UK.

All six players are consensus four- or five-star prospects, and four are ranked in the top 10 by the major national recruiting services. In a class stocked full of highly regarded players, national analysts are already calling this the nation's top signing haul for 2016.

In every season in the Calipari era, the Wildcats have signed either the nation's No. 1 or No. 2 recruiting class. UK looks to continue that streak with the latest additions of Adebayo, Fox, Gabriel, Killeya-Jones, Monk and Wynyard.

Adebayo, Fox and Monk have all been selected to the McDonald's All-America and Jordan Brand Classic Games. Killeya-Jones will join the trio at the McDonald's All-America game.
- Edrice "Bam" Adebayo, F, 6-9, 230 - ranked as high as No. 6 overall by Rivals and ESPN
- De'Aaron Fox, G, 6-3, 170 - ranked as high as No. 2 overall by 247Sports
- Wenyen Gabriel, F, 6-9, 200 - ranked as high as No. 10 overall by Scout
- Sacha Killeya-Jones, F, 6-10, 207 - ranked as high as No. 16 by 247Sports
- Malik Monk, G, 6-3, 185 - ranked as high as No. 5 overall by 247Sports and ESPN
- Tai Wynyard, F, 6-9, 230

Decorated Kentucky Signees

Kentucky's 2016 signees are more than living up to their national rankings as their 2016 high school seasons come to a close. Among the awards and honors the class has already collected:
- Edrice "Bam" Adebayo - McDonald's All-American Games Morgan Wooten Player of the Year finalist, Naismith All-America Second Team
- De'Aaron Fox - Naismith High School Player of the Year finalist, Naismith All-America First Team
- Wenyen Gabriel - Naismith All-America Third Team
- Malik Monk - McDonald's All-American Games Morgan Wooten Player of the Year finalist, Naismith All-America Second Team

Future Wildcats Selected for McDonald's, Jordan Games

Kentucky's top-ranked recruiting class will be well represented during the 2016 McDonald's All-American Game in March with the selections of Edrice "Bam" Adebayo, De'Aaron Fox, Sacha Killeya-Jones and Malik Monk.

Adebayo, Fox and Killeya-Jones will suit up for the East team while Fox will play for the West. Kentucky's two other signees in the 2016 class, Wenyen Gabriel (fifth-year senior) and Tai Wynard (already enrolled at Kentucky), were not eligible for the game, which will take place March 30 at 9

RECORD CHASERS SINGLE-SEASON CHARTS

Single-Season 3-Pointers Made

Player	Total 3s	Avg. Per Game	Total Games
Jodie Meeks (2008-09)	117	3.25	36
Jamal Murray (2015-16)	*110*	*3.24*	*34*
Travis Ford (1992-93)	101	2.97	34
Derrick Miller (1989-90)	99	3.54	28
Tony Delk (1993-94)	95	2.79	34
Tony Delk (1995-96)	93	2.58	36
Brandon Knight (2010-11)	87	2.29	38
Patrick Sparks (2004-15)	82	2.41	34

Single-Season Assists

Player	Total Assts.	Avg. Per Game	Total Games
John Wall (2009-10)	241	6.51	37
Tyler Ulis (2015-16)	*236*	*7.15*	*33*
Roger Harden (1985-86)	232	6.44	36
Travis Ford (1993-94)	193	5.85	33
Anthony Epps (1996-97)	193	4.83	40
Marquis Teague (2011-12)	191	4.78	40
Dirk Minniefield (1981-82)	188	6.27	30
Dirk Minniefield (1982-83)	181	5.84	31

p.m. ET at the United Center in Chicago. It will be televised on ESPN.

With the selections of Adebayo, Fox, Killeya-Jones and Monk, UK has signed 25 players during the John Calipari era who have been named to the prestigious high school event, more than any other school in the country during that time period. Four players or more from each signing class have been tabbed McDonald's All-Americans during the Calipari era, including five in the 2013 class.

Kentucky has signed 57 McDonald's All-Americans since the team began in 1977, including current Wildcats Isaiah Briscoe (2015), Marcus Lee (2013), Alex Poythress (2012) and Tyler Ulis (2014).

Also, Adebayo, Fox and Monk were selected for the Jordan Brand Classic, which will be held April 15 at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, N.Y. A total of 29 UK signees have been chosen for the Jordan Brand Classic during the Calipari era.

Another Historic NBA Draft for UK

A record six Wildcats were selected in the 2015 NBA Draft in June, tying Kentucky's NBA record set in 2012. Also tying an NBA record, four Wildcats were selected in the NBA lottery (the opening 14 picks). Karl-Anthony Towns was selected No. 1 overall, the program's third No. 1 overall selection since 2010.

John Calipari has had 25 players selected in the NBA Draft since becoming UK's head coach. Nineteen players have gone in the first round, and he's had three players taken No. 1 overall.

Calipari has had two or more players selected in the NBA Draft in eight consecutive seasons dating back to his time as the head coach at Memphis. He has had at least one player selected in the top 10 of the draft in each of the last eight seasons. No other school has even a first rounder in eight straight seasons.

Though Aaron Harrison went undrafted, he was signed by the Charlotte Hornets in the summer and made the Hornets' opening-day roster.
- 1st - Karl-Anthony Towns (Minnesota Timberwolves)
- 6th - Willie Cauley-Stein (Sacramento Kings)
- 12th - Trey Lyles (Utah Jazz)
- 13th - Devin Booker (Phoenix Suns)
- 44th - Andrew Harrison (Memphis Grizzlies)
- 48th - Dakari Johnson (Oklahoma City Thunder)

Three Former Cats Among Finalists for 2016 U.S. Olympic Team

Former Kentucky men's basketball stars DeMarcus Cousins, Anthony Davis and John Wall have been named finalists for the 2016 U.S. Olympic Men's Basketball Team by USA Basketball. The trio, all of whom played under current UK head coach John Calipari, are among 30 players vying for a spot on the final 12-man roster that will compete in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in August.

The official 12-member team will be announced later this year. Also, the USA National Team's complete training schedule will be announced at a later date as well.

All three former Wildcats have prior USA Basketball experience.

Conley Named 2016 SEC Legend

Larry Conley was honored at the Southeastern Conference Tournament in Nashville as a member of the 2016 Legends during halftime of UK's win over Alabama.

Conley was a key member of the 1965-66 "Rupp's Runts," one of the most beloved teams in Kentucky basketball history, Larry Conley helped lead the Wildcats to a 1966 national runner-up finish, a 27-2 record and an SEC championship. On a starting five that featured no player taller than 6-foot-5, Conley dished out a team-best 100 assists while averaging 11.5 points per game. Conley was named to the All-SEC First Team by the league's coaches in 1966 for his efforts and the All-SEC Third Team by the Associated Press.

Conley was also an All-SEC Third Team selection in 1964 and 1965, a two-time Academic All-SEC selection, and an Academic All-American during the 1963-64 season. A member of the University of Kentucky Athletics Hall of Fame, Conley went on to play a season in the American Basketball Association for the Kentucky Colonels before diving into a longtime and ongoing broadcasting career. He's called games for ESPN, NBC, CBS, ABC, Fox Sports and Raycom Sports.

Kentucky's NBA Footprint Continues to Grow

The nation's most prolific NBA player-producing program once again leads the country with 21 players on an opening-day NBA roster. Of the 446 players in the NBA to start the 2015-16 season, approximately 4.7 percent played college basketball at Kentucky. The Wildcats bettered any other college program by two players as the NBA season opened.

Kentucky's NBA dominance was best represented in Phoenix and Sacramento, where a combined seven Wildcats started the 2015-16 season on the respective rosters. Eric Bledsoe, Devin Booker, Archie Goodwin and Brandon Knight were all part of the Phoenix Suns' opening-day roster, while former UK stars Willie Cauley-Stein, DeMarcus Cousins and Rajon Rondo started the year in Sacramento.

Two other franchises – the Charlotte Hornets (Aaron Harrison, Michael Kidd-Gilchrist) and the Minnesota Timberwolves (Tayshaun Prince, Karl-Anthony Towns) – opened the season with two Wildcats apiece.

Success Rate Continues at 2015 Graduation

Four Wildcats -- Alex Poythress, Tod Lanter, Brian Long and Sam Malone -- all received their undergraduate degrees during the university's May 2015 commencement ceremonies, continuing the remarkable Success Rate under Calipari.

All 14 players who have been eligible to graduate by the end of their senior years in the Calipari era have received their degrees, including three players (Poythress, Patrick Patterson and Jarrod Polson) who completed their undergraduate degrees in three years.

Additionally, the team received an academic award in May for its Academic Progress Rate score. The Wildcats placed in the top 10 percent of Division I men's basketball schools. The APR provides a real-time look at a team's academic success by the progress of each student-athlete on scholarship.

Calipari, Dampier Enshrined in Naismith HOF

Kentucky Wildcats John Calipari and Louie Dampier were enshrined in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in September. The fraternity of basketball legends is considered to be one of the ultimate honors in the sport.

Calipari and Dampier were two of 11 basketball legends in the Class of 2015 and the ninth and 10th UK representatives, respectively, to join basketball's fraternity of legends.

A Winning Institution

Both the UK men's and women's basketball teams have posted a seventh straight 20-win season in 2015-16. Kentucky is currently one of just three institutions (UK, BYU and Duke) in the NCAA that have seen both their men's and women's basketball programs tally 20 or more wins in seven consecutive seasons. UK's men's team has 26 total wins, while the women have won 23 (through March 13).

2015-16 LINEUP COMPARISON

A breakdown of Kentucky's most used linupes, including a breakdown of each lineup's +/- statistics:

Most Frequent Lineups	Total Minutes	Points For	Points Against	+/-	+/- per 40 min.
Lee, Ulis, Murray, Poythress, Briscoe	156:51	308	236	+72	+18.36
Lee, Ulis, Murray, Willis, Briscoe	123:09	285	221	+73	+23.71
Labissiere, Ulis, Murray, Poythress, Briscoe	107:29	217	184	+33	+12.28
Lee, Labissiere, Ulis, Murray, Briscoe	98:22	203	155	+48	+19.52
Ulis, Murray, Poythress, Willis, Briscoe	93:44	215	175	+40	+17.07
Labissiere, Ulis, Murray, Willis, Briscoe	59:02	110	99	+11	+7.45
Lee, Ulis, Murray, Humphries, Briscoe	45:28	87	77	+10	+8.80
Lee, Ulis, Matthews, Murray, Poythress	29:21	52	34	+18	+24.53

UK'S RECORD WHEN

KENTUCKY RECORD	ALL	SEC
Leading at halftime:	23-5	13-4
Tied at the half:	1-0	0-0
Trailing at halftime:	2-3	0-1
Shoot 50% or higher:	16-2	9-1
Shoot less than 50%:	10-6	4-4
Shoot higher % than opp.:	25-3	12-2
Shoot lower % than opp.:	1-5	1-3
Opp. shoot worse than 50%:	25-7	12-5
Opp. shoot 50% or higher:	1-1	1-0
Score less than 60 points:	0-0	0-0
Score 60-69 points:	0-3	0-2
Score 70-79 points:	9-4	3-3
Score 80-89 points:	15-1	9-0
Score 90-99 points:	2-0	1-0
Score 100+ points:	0-0	0-0
Opp. score less than 60 pts.:	7-0	4-0
Opp. score 60-69 pts.:	12-0	5-0
Opp. score 70-79 pts.:	6-4	4-3
Opp. score 80-89 points:	1-3	0-2
Opp. score 90-99 points:	0-1	0-0
Opp. score 100+ points:	0-0	0-0
Outrebounded opponent:	19-2	10-1
Outrebounded by opponent:	4-6	2-4
Equal number of rebounds:	3-0	1-0
Fewer turnovers than opp.:	16-3	9-2
Same turnovers as opp.:	5-1	1-1
More turnovers than opp.:	5-4	3-2
Make 8 or more 3-pointers:	10-3	6-1
Make 7 or fewer 3-pointers:	16-5	7-4
Games decided by 5 or fewer:	2-2	0-2
Overtime games:	1-2	0-1
On CBS:	3-2	2-1
On ESPN/ESPN2/ESPNU:	15-6	8-4
On Fox Sports1:	0-0	0-0
On SEC Network/(+):	8-0	3-0
On ABC:	0-0	0-0
On FSN:	0-0	0-0
On CSS:	0-0	0-0
vs. SEC at Home:	9-0	9-0
vs. SEC on Road:	4-5	4-5
Games vs. AP ranked opp.:	3-1	0-0
Games following a loss:	7-1	5-1
Games following a win:	18-7	8-4
More points in the paint:	17-3	7-2
Fewer/Same points in the paint:	9-5	6-3
More bench points than opp.:	17-2	6-1
Fewer or same bench pts.:	9-6	7-4
More 2nd-chance points:	18-2	11-2
Fewer or same 2nd chance pts.:	8-6	2-3
More or same points off TOs:	23-2	11-1
Fewer points off TOs:	3-6	2-4
On Monday:	1-0	0-0
On Tuesday:	6-2	4-2
On Wednesday:	2-0	1-0
On Thursday:	2-1	2-0
On Friday:	4-0	0-0
On Saturday:	10-5	6-3
On Sunday:	1-0	0-0
In November	7-0	0-0
In December	3-2	0-0
In January	6-3	6-2
In February	5-3	5-3
In March	5-0	2-0
In April	0-0	0-0

WIN/LOSS MARGIN

MARGIN	W	L
1		
2	1	1
3		
4		
5	1	1
6	1	1
7		2
8		
9	1	
10	1	1
11-15	7	1
16-20	5	1
21+	9	

MISCELLANEOUS STATS

Player	Pts.	Rebs.	Assts.	Stls.	Blks.	10+ Pts	20+ Pts	10+ Rebs	3+Assts	3+Blks	3+Stls	3+ 3's	Dunks	Dbl-Dbls(Career)
00-Lee	-	13	-	3	17	10	-	8	1	8	-	-	49	4 (4)
1-Labissiere	2	1	-	3	11	9	1	-	-	8	-	-	27	-
3-Ulis	12	-	28	19	1	28	14	1	31	-	6	5	-	8 (8)
4-Matthews	-	-	-	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
10-David	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11-Mulder	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13-Briscoe	2	6	7	9	1	18	1	2	20	-	2	-	1	1 (1)
14-Wynyard	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-Humphries	-	2	-	2	4	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
22-Poythress	2	8	-	1	5	15	3	4	-	2	-	1	32	4 (6)
23-Murray	16	3	2	11	2	33	18	-	11	-	4	20	9	-
24-Floreal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-Hawkins	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
35-Willis	-	8	-	3	4	10	1	2	1	2	1	6	10	2 (2)

Times Led columns: Pts. Rebs. Assts. Stls. Blks.; Games With: 10+ Pts through Dbl-Dbls

STARTING LINEUPS

Record	Guard	Guard	Guard	Forward	Forward
7-1	Ulis	Murray	Briscoe	Poythress	Labissiere
4-1	Ulis	Murray	Briscoe	Willis	Lee
4-1	Ulis	Murray	Briscoe	Lee	Labissiere
3-3	Ulis	Murray	Briscoe	Poythress	Lee
3-2	Ulis	Murray	Briscoe	Willis	Poythress
1-0	Ulis	Murray	Briscoe	Lee	Humphries
1-0	Ulis	Murray	Matthews	Lee	Labissiere
1-0	Ulis	Murray	Willis	Lee	Labissiere
1-0	Brisoe	Murray	Matthews	Poythress	Labissiere
1-0	Ulis	Murray	Matthews	Poythress	Lee

TRACKING THE CATS

Player	Charges Drawn	UK's First Sub	Traditional 3-Point Plays	Clutch FT-FTA (Last 5:00/OT)*
00-Lee	4	14	4	0-1 (.000)
1-Labissiere	-	9	1	1-2 (.500)
3-Ulis	4	-	7	9-11 (.818)
4-Matthews	-	6	1	0-2 (.000)
10-David	-	-	-	0-0 (.000)
11-Mulder	-	-	-	0-0 (.000)
13-Briscoe	3	2	3	2-7 (.286)
14-Wynyard	-	-	-	0-0 (.000)
15-Humphries	-	3	1	2-2 (1.000)
22-Poythress	1	5	6	7-10 (.700)
23-Murray	2	-	11	12-17 (.706)
24-Floreal	-	-	-	0-0 (.000)
25-Hawkins	1	1	1	6-6 (1.000)
35-Willis	1	3	-	7-8 (.875)

Games With columns: Charges Drawn, UK's First Sub, Traditional 3-Point Plays

single-digit game with 5:00 to play

HOW THE CATS ARE SCORING

Percentage of Point Distribution

	Total Points	Percentage
Jumpers	548 total points	20.86%
3-Pointers	708 total points	25.81%
Free Throws	531 total points	19.60%
Dunks/Layups	916 total points	33.73%

■ Percentage of Point Distribution
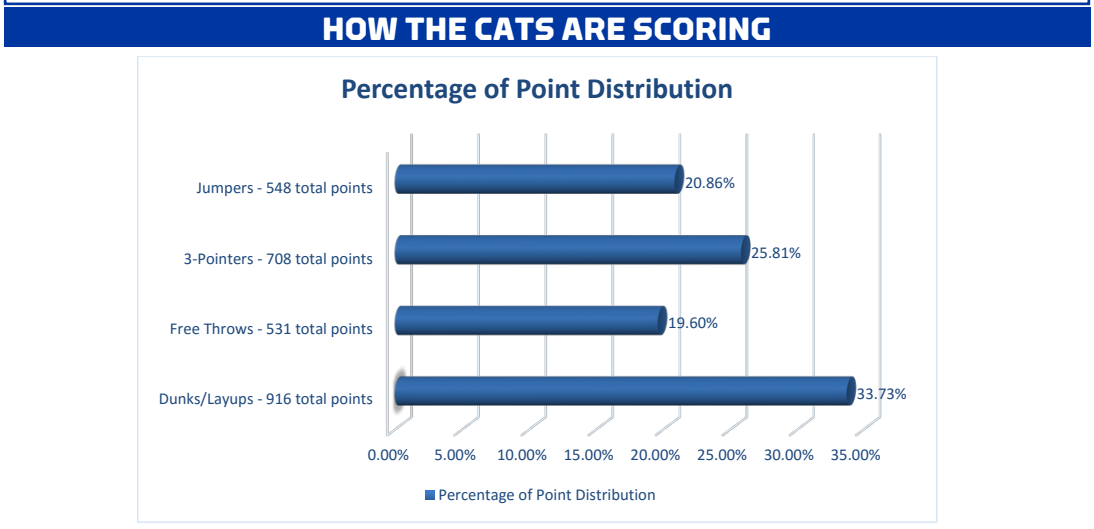
TEAM'S FAST FACTS

Shooting Percentage: .478
Avg. Assists Per Game: 14.5
Points off Turnovers Avg.: 14.5
Second-Chance Points Avg.: 14.5
Points in the Paint Avg.: 33.5
Fast Break Points Avg.: 7.8
Bench Points Avg.: 15.0
Points Per Possession Avg.: 1.162
Avg. Time of Possession: 17.8

HOW UK SCORED ITS FIRST POINTS

PLAYER	DUNK/LAYUP	JUMPER	3PT	FT
00-Lee	2	1		
1-Labissiere	1			
3-Ulis		4		2
4-Matthews	1			
10-David				
11-Mulder				
13-Briscoe	1	2		1
14-Wynyard				
15-Humphries				
22-Poythress	4	1		2
23-Murray	5	2	3	
24-Floreal				
25-Hawkins				
35-Willis			2	

Date	Opponent	Result	Points	Rebounds	Blocks	Steals	Assists
11/2	Ottawa #	W, 117-58	Murray - 22^	Murray - 12^	Three with 2^	Murray - 3^	Ulis - 10^
11/6	Kentucky State #	W, 111-58	Labissiere - 22^	Lee - 11^	Poythress - 4^	Two with 3^	Willis - 5^
11/13	Albany	W, 78-65	Murray - 19^	Lee - 8^	Labissiere - 4^	Murray - 3	Murray - 8^
11/14	NJIT	W, 87-57	Labissiere - 26^	Briscoe - 12^	Lee - 3^	Briscoe - 2	Ulis - 5^
11/17	vs. #5/4 Duke[1]	W, 74-63	Ulis - 18^	Lee - 10	Two with 2	Murray - 4^	Ulis - 6^
11/20	Wright State	W, 78-63	Ulis - 21^	Poythress - 10^	Labissiere - 1^	Ulis - 2^	Ulis - 5^
11/24	Boston	W, 82-52	Labissiere - 16^	Poythress - 10^	Labissiere - 3^	Two with 3^	Ulis - 6^
11/27	vs. South Florida[2]	W, 84-63	Murray - 21^	Two with 6	Labissiere - 3^	Two with 2^	Briscoe - 7^
11/30	Illinois State	W, 75-63	Briscoe - 18	Lee - 12^	Two with 2^	Matthews - 2^	Briscoe - 3^
12/3	at UCLA	L, 87-77	Briscoe - 20	Two with 6	Labissiere - 2 ^	Two with 2^	Ulis - 9^
12/9	Eastern Kentucky	W, 88-67	Poythress - 21^	Poythress - 13^	Lee - 5^	Briscoe - 2^	Ulis - 8^
12/12	Arizona State	W, 72-58	Murray - 17^	Lee - 7^	Lee - 5^	Briscoe - 2^	Ulis - 5^
12/19	vs. Ohio State[3]	L, 74-67	Murray - 33^	Lee - 9	Two with 2	Lee - 2	Briscoe - 7^
12/26	Louisville	W, 75-73	Ulis - 21	Lee - 7	Poythress - 3^	Four with 1	Ulis - 8^
1/2	Ole Miss	W, 83-61	Ulis - 20	Poythress - 9^	Lee - 2^	Ulis - 6^	Ulis - 10^
1/5	at LSU	L, 85-67	Ulis - 23^	Mulder - 8	Briscoe - 1	Three with 1	Ulis - 6
1/9	at Alabama	W, 77-61	Poythress - 25^	Lee - 11^	Four with 1	Two with 1	Ulis - 8^
1/12	Mississippi State	W, 80-74	Murray - 22^	Lee - 9^	Lee - 2^	Ulis - 2^	Two with 5^
1/16	at Auburn	L, 75-70	Murray - 20	Willis - 12^	Poythress - 3	Murray - 3^	Ulis - 8^
1/21	at Arkansas	W, 80-66	Ulis - 24^	Three with 7^	Willis - 4^	Five with 1^	Ulis - 5^
1/23	Vanderbilt	W, 76-57	Ulis - 21^	Willis - 9^	Three with 1	Murray - 3^	Ulis - 5^
1/27	Missouri	W, 88-54	Ulis - 20^	Willis - 12^	Labissiere - 5^	Two with 2^	Ulis - 8^
1/30	at Kansas	L, 90-84 (OT)	Ulis - 26	Poythress - 8	Lee - 2^	Two with 3^	Ulis - 8^
2/2	at Tennessee	L, 84-77	Murray - 21	Two with 8	Labissiere - 3^	Ulis - 2^	Two with 5^
2/6	Florida	W, 80-61	Murray - 35^	Three with 6	Two with 2^	Ulis - 2^	Ulis - 11^
2/9	Georgia	W, 82-48	Murray - 24^	Labissiere - 7	Humphries - 4^	Ulis - 3^	Ulis - 8^
2/13	at South Carolina	W, 89-62	Ulis - 27^	Lee - 13^	Lee - 2	Ulis - 12^	Ulis - 12^
2/18	Tennessee	W, 80-70	Murray - 28^	Briscoe - 10	Humphries - 2^	Two with 1^	Ulis - 9^
2/20	at Texas A&M	L, 79-77 (OT)	Ulis - 22	Humphries - 12^	Lee - 3^	Three with 1	Ulis - 11^
2/23	Alabama	W, 78-53	Murray - 23	Lee - 12^	Murray - 2^	Ulis - 3^	Ulis - 10^
2/27	at Vanderbilt	L, 74-62	Murray - 33^	Murray - 9	Lee - 3^	Two with 1^	Ulis - 6^
3/1	at Florida	W, 88-79	Murray - 21	Poythress - 10^	Lee - 4^	Three with 1	Ulis - 11^
3/5	LSU	W, 94-77	Murray - 22	Lee - 10	Labissiere - 6^	Briscoe - 2	Ulis - 14^
3/11	vs. Alabama*	W, 85-69	Murray - 23^	Poythress - 7^	Poythress - 1^	Two with 1^	Briscoe - 6^
3/12	vs. Georgia*	W, 93-80	Murray - 26^	Two with 7	Willis - 4^	Two with 2^	Ulis - 5^
3/13	vs. Texas A&M*	W, 82-77	Ulis - 30	Poythress - 6	Three with 2^	Ulis - 3^	Briscoe - 6^

^ - Game Leader

1 - Chicago (Champions Classic)
2 - Miami (Hoophall Miami Invitational)

Times Led Points	Times Led Rebounds	Times Led Blocks	Times Led Steals	Times Led Assists
Murray - 16	Lee - 13	Lee - 17	Ulis - 19	Ulis - 28
Ulis - 12	Poythress - 8	Labissiere - 11	Murray - 11	Briscoe - 7
Briscoe - 2	Willis - 8	Poythress - 5	Briscoe - 9	Murray - 1
Labissiere - 2	Briscoe - 6	Humphries - 4	Matthews - 4	
Poythress - 2	Murray - 3	Willis - 4	Labissiere - 3	
	Humphries - 2	Murray - 2	Lee - 3	
	Labissiere - 1	Briscoe - 1	Willis - 3	
	Mulder - 1	Ulis - 1	Hawkins - 2	
			Humphries - 2	
			Poythress - 1	

INDIVIDUALS

Scored 25 Points: Tyler Ulis (30) vs. Texas A&M, 3/13/16

Scored 30 Points: Tyler Ulis (30) vs. Texas A&M, 3/13/16

Scored 35 Points: Jamal Murray (35) vs. Florida, 2/6/16

Scored 40 Points: Jodie Meeks (45) at Arkansas, 2/14/09

Scored 45 Points: Jodie Meeks (45) at Arkansas, 2/14/09

Scored 50 Points: Jodie Meeks (54) at Tennessee, 1/13/09

Two Players Had 20 Points: Jamal Murray (26), Tyler Ulis (25) vs. Georgia, 3/12/16

Three Players Had 20 Points: DeMarcus Cousins (27)/John Wall (21)/Patrick Patterson (20) vs. Sam Houston State, 11/19/09

Two Players Had 30 Points: Patrick Patterson (33) and Jodie Meeks (32) vs. Tennessee State, 12/22/08

Scored 20 Points in Two Straight Games: Tyler Ulis (2) 3/12/16 - 3/13/16

Scored 20 Points in Three Straight Games: Jamal Murray (12) 2/2/16 - 3/12/16

Scored 20 Points in Four Straight Games: Jamal Murray (12) 2/2/16 - 3/12/16

Scored 20 Points in Five Straight Games: Jamal Murray (12) 2/2/16 - 3/12/16

Scored 20 points in Six Straight games: Jamal Jamal Murray (12) 2/2/16 - 3/12/16

Scored 20 points in Seven Straight games: Jamal Murray (12) 2/2/16 - 3/12/16

Scored 20 points in Eight Straight games: Jamal Murray (12) 2/2/16 - 3/12/16

Scored 20 points in Nine Straight games: Jamal Murray (12) 2/2/16 - 3/12/16

Scored 20 points in 10 Straight games: Jamal Jamal Murray (12) 2/2/16 - 3/12/16

Scored 20 points in 11 Straight games: Jamal Jamal Murray (12) 2/2/16 - 3/12/16

Scored 20 points in 12 Straight games: Jamal Murray (12) 2/2/16 - 3/12/16

Scored 20 points in 15 Straight games: Dan Issel (18) 12/1/69 - 2/7/70

Scored 25 Points in Three Straight Games: Tayshaun Prince (3) 3/11/ - 01-3/1701

Scored 30 Points in Two Straight Games: Jodie Meeks vs. Appalachian State (46) 12/20/08; vs. Tennessee State (32) 12/22/08

Scored 30 Points in Three Straight Games: Dan Issel (6) 2/14/70 - 3/2/70

Scored in double figures in 10 straight Games: Jamal Murray (32) 11/17/15 - 3/13/16, Tyler Ulis (19) 1/12/16 - 3/13/16

Scored in double figures in 15 straight Games: Jamal Murray (32) 11/17/15 - 3/13/16, Tyler Ulis (19) 1/12/16 - 3/13/16

Scored in double figures in 20 straight Games: Jamal Murray (32) 11/17/15 - 3/13/16

Scored in double figures in 25 straight Games: Jamal Murray (32) 11/17/15 - 3/13/16

Scored in double figures in 30 straight Games: Jamal Murray (32) 11/17/15 - 3/13/16

Scored in double figures in 32 straight Games: Jamal Murray (32) 11/17/15 - 3/13/16

Five Players Scored in Double Figures: Tyler Ulis (30), Jamal Murray (17), Isaiah Briscoe (10), Alex Poythress (10), Derek Willis (10) vs. Texas A&M, 3/13/16

Six Players Scored in Double Figures: Karl-Anthony Towns (19), Aaron Harrison (18), Dakari Johnson (13), Andrew Harrison (12), Devin Booker (11), Tyler Ulis (10) vs. Auburn, 2/21/15

Seven Players Scored in Double Figures: Randolph Morris (17), Kelenna Azubuike (15), Patrick Sparks (14), Chuck Hayes (12), Rajon Rondo (11), Ravi Moss (10) and Ramel Bradley (10) vs. Mississippi State 2/19/05

Four Players with 15 or more points: Julius Mays (24), Alex Poythress (21), Archie Goodwin (18), Ryan Harrow (15) vs. Missouri, 2/23/13

Double-Double: Tyler Ulis (14 points, 14 assists), Marcus Lee (12 points, 10 rebounds) vs. LSU, 3/5/16

Triple-Double: Chris Mills (19 points, 10 rebounds, 10 assists) vs. Austin Peay, 12/27/88

20-10 (Rebs) Game: Alex Poythress (21 points, 13 rebounds) vs. Eastern Kentucky, 12/9/15

20-10 (Assts) Game: Tyler Ulis (22 points, 11 assists) at Texas A&M, 2/20/16

20-15 Game: Julius Randle (23 points, 15 rebounds) vs. UNC Asheville, 11/8/13

30-10 Game: Tayshaun Prince (33 points, 11 rebounds) vs. Tennessee State, 12/22/98

Back-to-Back 20-10 Games: Julius Randle (3) 11/8/13 - 11/10/13

Three Straight 20-10 Games: Julius Randle (3) 11/8/13 - 11/12/13

Double-Double in Points and Rebs.: Marcus Lee (12 points, 10 rebounds) vs. LSU, 3/5/16

Double-Double in Points and Assists: Tyler Ulis (14 points, 14 assists) vs. LSU, 3/5/16

Double-Double in Points and Blocks: Never

Double-Double in Points and Steals: Never

Double-double in two consecutive games: Tyler Ulis (19 pts, 11 assts) at Florida, (3/5/16), (14 pts, 14 assts) vs. LSU, 3/5/16

Double-double in three consecutive games: - Julius Randle (19p, 15r) vs. Kansas State, 3/21/14; (13 p, 10 r), vs. Wichita State, 3/23/14; (15 p, 12 r), vs. Louisville, 3/28/14; (16 p, 11 r), vs. Michigan, 3/30/14

Double-double in four consecutive game: Julius Randle (19p, 15r) vs. Kansas State, 3/21/14; (13 p, 10 r), vs. Wichita State, 3/23/14; (15 p, 12 r), vs. Louisville, 3/28/14; (16 p, 11 r), vs. Michigan, 3/30/14

Double-double in five consecutive game: Julius Randle (14p, 10r) at Arkansas, (2/27/14); (10p, 15r) at South Carolina (3/1/14); (12 p, 11 r) vs. Alabama, (3/4/14); (16 p, 10 r) at Florida, (3/8/14); (17 p, 16 r) vs. LSU, (3/14/14); (12 p, 11 r) vs. Georgia, (3/15/14)

Double-double in six consecutive games: Julius Randle (14p, 10r) at Arkansas, (2/27/14); (10p, 15r) at South Carolina (3/1/14); (12 p, 11 r) vs. Alabama, (3/4/14); (16 p, 10 r) at Florida, (3/8/14); (17 p, 16 r) vs. LSU, (3/14/14); (12 p, 11 r) vs. Georgia, (3/15/14)

Double-double in seven consecutive games: Julius Randle (7) 11/18/13-11/27/13

Double-double in 10 consecutive games: Jim Andrews, 1972-73 season

Two players record double-doubles: Tyler Ulis (14 points, 14 assists), Marcus Lee (12 points, 10 rebounds) vs. LSU, 3/5/16

Three players record double-doubles: DeMarcus Cousins (19 pts, 14 rebs)/Patrick Patterson (19 pts, 10 rebs)/John Wall (18 pts, 10 rebs) at Mississippi State, 2/16/10

Four players record double-doubles: Jack Givens (30 pts, 13 rebs)/Kyle Macy (16 pts, 10 assts)/Mike Phillips (22 pts, 18 rebs)/Rick Robey (23 pts, 13 rebs) vs. Southern Methodist, 11/26/77

Five players record double-doubles: Never

Made 12 FG in a game: Jamal Murray (12) at Vanderbilt, 2/27/16

Made 15 FG in a game: Jodie Meeks (17) at Arkansas, 2/14/09

Made 16 FG in a game: Jodie Meeks (17) at Arkansas, 2/14/09

Made 17 FG in a game: Jodie Meeks (17) at Arkansas, 2/14/09

Made 18 FG in a game: Melvin Turpin (18) vs. Georgia, 3/8/84

Made 19 FG in a game: Dan Issel (19) vs. Alabama, 2/23/70

Made 20 FG in a game: Dan Issel (23) vs. Ole Miss, 2/7/70

Made 21 FG in a game: Dan Issel (23) vs. Ole Miss, 2/7/70

Made 22 FG in a game: Dan Issel (23) vs. Ole Miss, 2/7/70

Made 23 FG in a game: Dan Issel (23) vs. Ole Miss, 2/7/70

Attempted 17 FG in a game: Tyler Ulis (17) vs. Texas A&M, 3/13/16

Attempted 18 FG in a game: Jamal Murray (20) at Vanderbilt, 2/27/16

Attempted 19 FG in a game: Jamal Murray (20) at Vanderbilt, 2/27/16

Attempted 20 FG in a game: Jamal Murray (20) at Vanderbilt, 2/27/16

Attempted 25 FG in a game: Jodie Meeks (27) vs. VMI, 11/14/08

Made 5 3-pointers in a game: Jamal Murray (5) vs. Alabama (3/11/16)

Made 6 3-pointers in a game: Jamal Murray (6) at Vanderbilt (2/27/16)

Made 7 3-pointers in a game: Derek Willis (7) vs. Tennessee (2/18/16)

Made 8 3-pointers in a game: Jamal Murray (8) vs. Florida (2/6/16)

Made 9 3-pointers in a game: Jodie Meeks (10) at Tennessee, 1/13/09

Made 10 3-pointers in a game: Jodie Meeks (10) at Tennessee, 1/13/09

Made 11 3-pointers in a game: Never

Attempted 10 3-pointers in a game: Jamal Murray (10) vs. Texas A&M, 3/13/16

Attempted 15 3-pointers in a game: Jodie Meeks (15) at Tennessee, 1/13/09

Attempted 16 3-pointers in a game: Derrick Miller (16) vs. LSU 2/15/90

Attempted 17 3-pointers in a game: Derrick Miller (19) vs. Kansas 12/6/89

Attempted 18 3-pointers in a game: Derrick Miller (19) vs. Kansas 12/6/89

Attempted 19 3-pointers in a game: Derrick Miller (19) vs. Kansas 12/6/89

Made a 3-pointer in 10 straight games: Jamal Murray (34), 11/13/15 - 3/13/16, Derek Willis (16), 1/12/16 - 3/13/16

Made a 3-pointer in 15 straight games: Jamal Murray (34), 11/13/15 - 3/13/16, Derek Willis (16), 1/12/16 - 3/13/16

Made a 3-pointer in 20 straight games: Jamal Murray (34), 11/13/15 - 3/13/16

Made a 3-pointer in 30 straight games: Jamal Murray (34), 11/13/15 - 3/13/16

Made two 3-pointers in 10 straight games: Jamal Murray (16), 1/23/16 - 3/13/16

Made three 3-pointers in 10 straight games: Gerald Fitch (20) 1/14/03 - 3/23/03

Made three 3-pointers in 15 straight games: Gerald Fitch (20) 1/14/03 - 3/23/03

Made three 3-pointers in 20 straight games: Gerald Fitch (20) 1/14/03 - 3/23/03

Made three 3-pointers in 25 straight games: Keith Bogans (29) 3/14/02 - 2/26/03

Made 8 FT in a game: Derek Willis (8) vs. Georgia, 3/12/16

Made 9 FT in a game: Tyler Ulis (9) vs. Alabama, 2/23/16

Made 10 FT in a game: Tyler Ulis (12) at Tennessee, 2/2/16

Made 11 FT in a game: Tyler Ulis (12) at Tennessee, 2/2/16

Made 12 FT in a game: Tyler Ulis (12) at Tennessee, 2/2/16

Made 13 FT in a game: Tyler Ulis (14) at Arkansas, 1/21/16

Made 14 FT in a game: Tyler Ulis (14) at Arkansas, 1/21/16

Made 15 FT in a game: Rodrick Rhodes (16) vs. Ole Miss 1/18/95

Made 16 FT in a game: Rodrick Rhodes (16) vs. Ole Miss 1/18/95

Made 17 FT in a game: Dwight Anderson (18) vs. Mississippi State 2/12/79

Made 18 FT in a game: Dwight Anderson (18) vs. Mississippi State 2/12/79

Attempted 10 FT in a game: Jamal Murray (10) at Florida, 3/1/16

Attempted 15 FT in a game: Tyler Ulis (15) at Arkansas, 1/21/16

Attempted 20 FT in a game: Heshimu Evans (20) vs. Ole Miss 3/5/99

15 Rebs: Julius Randle (15) vs. Kanas State, 3/21/14

16 Rebs: Julius Randle (16) vs. LSU, 3/14/14

20 Rebs: Jared Prickett (20) vs. Arkansas 2/9/94

25 Rebs: Mike Phillips (28) vs. Tennessee 1/10/76

30 Rebs: Cotton Nash (30) vs. Ole Miss 2/8/64

34 Rebs: Bob Burrow (34) vs. Temple 12/10/55

10+ Rebs in three consecutive games: Julius Randle (4) 3/21/14 - 3/30/14

10+ Rebs in four consecutive games: Julius Randle (4) 3/21/14 - 3/30/14

10+ Rebs in five consecutive games: Julius Randle (10) 2/12/14 - 3/15/14

10+ Rebs in six consecutive games: Julius Randle (10) 2/12/14 - 3/15/14

10+ Rebs in seven consecutive games: Julius Randle (10) 2/12/14 - 3/15/14

10+ Rebs in eight consecutive games: Julius Randle (10) 2/12/14 - 3/15/14

10+ Rebs in nine consecutive games: Julius Randle (10) 2/12/14 - 3/15/14

10+ Rebs in 10 consecutive games: Julius Randle (10) 2/12/14 - 3/15/14

Two players had 10 rebounds: Derek Willis (12) and Tyler Ulis (10) at Auburn, 1/16/16

Three players had 10 rebounds: Michael Kidd-Gilchrist (19), Terrence Jones (11), Anthony Davis (10) vs. Louisville, 12/31/11

6 Assists: Isaiah Briscoe (6) vs. Texas A&M, 3/13/16

7 Assists: Tyler Ulis (14) vs. LSU, 3/5/16

8 Assists: Tyler Ulis (14) vs. LSU, 3/5/16

9 Assists: Tyler Ulis (14) vs. LSU, 3/5/16

10 Assists: Tyler Ulis (14) vs. LSU, 3/5/16

11 Assists: Tyler Ulis (14) vs. LSU, 3/5/16

12 Assists: Tyler Ulis (14) vs. LSU, 3/5/16

13 Assists: Tyler Ulis (14) vs. LSU, 3/5/16

14 Assists: Tyler Ulis (14) vs. LSU, 3/5/16

15 Assists: John Wall (16) vs. Hartford, 12/29/09

16 Assists: John Wall (16) vs. Hartford, 12/29/09

5+ Assists in Four Consecutive Games: Tyler Ulis (23) 12/26/15 - 3/13/16

8+ Assists in Two Consecutive Games: Tyler Ulis (2) 3/1/16 - 3/5/16

4 Blocks: Derek Willis (4) vs. Georgia, 3/12/16

5 Blocks: Skal Labissiere (6) vs. LSU, 3/5/16

6 Blocks: Skal Labissiere (6) vs. LSU, 3/5/16

7 Blocks: Karl-Anthony Towns (7) vs. Vanderbilt, 1/20/15

8 Blocks: Willie Cauley-Stein (9) vs. Boise State, 12/10/13

9 Blocks: Willie Cauley-Stein (9) vs. Boise State, 12/10/13

10 Blocks: Nerlens Noel (12) at Ole Miss, 1/29/13

11 Blocks: Nerlens Noel (12) at Ole Miss, 1/29/13

12 Blocks: Nerlens Noel (12) at Ole Miss, 1/29/13

4 Steals: Isaiah Briscoe (4)/Tyler Ulis (6) vs. Ole Miss, 1/2/16

5 Steals: Tyler Ulis (6) vs. Ole Miss, 1/2/16

6 Steals: Tyler Ulis (6) vs. Ole Miss, 1/2/16

7 Steals: Rajon Rondo (8) vs. Mississippi State, 2/19/05

8 Steals: Rajon Rondo (8) vs. Mississippi State, 2/19/05

Played every minute: Tyler Ulis (45) vs. Texas A&M, 3/13/16

Played 40+ minutes: Tyler Ulis (45) vs. Texas A&M, 3/13/16

Played more than 50 minutes: Patrick Patterson (50) vs. Vanderbilt, 1/12/08

Technical Foul: Isaac Humphries at Texas A&M, 2/20/16

Fouled Out: Alex Poythress, vs. Texas A&M, 3/13/16

Two Players Fouled Out: Isaiah Briscoe and Alex Poythress, at Florida, 3/1/16

Three Players Fouled Out: Skal Labissiere, Marcus Lee, Alex Poythress, Derek Willis, at Kansas, 1/30/16

Four Players Fouled Out: Skal Labissiere, Marcus Lee, Alex Poythress, Derek Willis, at Kansas, 1/30/16

TEAM

Started four freshmen: Isaiah Briscoe, Jamal Murray, Charles Matthews, Skal Labissiere vs. Illinois State, 11/30/15

Started five freshmen: Aaron Harrison, Andrew Harrison, Dakari Johnson, Julius Randle, James Young vs. Connecticut, 4/7/14

Scored 90 or More Points: 93 vs. Georgia, 3/12/16 (W, 92-80)
Scored 90 or More Points (SEC Game): 94 vs. LSU, 3/5/16 (W, 94-77)
Scored 100 or More Points: 110 vs. Auburn, 2/21/15 (W, 110-75)
Scored 100 or More Points (SEC Game): 110 vs. Auburn, 2/21/15 (W, 110-75)
Scored 110 or More Points: 110 vs. Auburn, 2/21/15 (W, 110-75)
Scored 110 or More Points (SEC Game): 110 vs. Auburn, 2/21/15 (W, 110-75)
Scored 120 or More Points: 120 vs. Vanderbilt, 2/7/96 (W, 120-81)
Scored 120 or More Points (SEC Game): 120 vs. Vanderbilt, 2/7/96 (W, 120-81)
Scored 130 or More Points: 143 vs. Georgia, 2/27/56 (W, 143-66)
Scored 140 or More Points: 143 vs. Georgia, 2/27/56 (W, 143-66)
Scored 150 or More Points: Never

Scored Less than 50 Points: 48 vs. Vanderbilt, 3/15/13 (L, 64-48)

Allowed 90 or More Points: 90 at Kansas, 1/30/16 (L, 90-84)
Allowed 90 or More Points (SEC Game): 90 by Georgia, 3/4/09 (L, 90-85)
Allowed 100 or More Points: 111 by VMI, 11/14/08 (L, 111-103)
Allowed 100 or More Points (SEC Game): 101 by Arkansas, 2/10/93 (L, 101-94)
Allowed Less Than 50 Points: 48 vs. Georgia, 2/9/16 (W, 82-48)
Allowed Less Than 50 Points (SEC): 48 vs. Georgia, 2/9/16 (W, 82-48)

Shot 70% from the field: .722 vs. Mississippi St., 2/15/86
Shot 65% from the field: .677 vs. LIU Brooklyn, 11/23/12
Shot 30% or less from the field: .281 at Texas A&M (1/10/15)

Allowed 50% shooting: .529 vs. Mississippi State, 1/12/16
Allowed 60% shooting: .640 by Florida, 3/4/07
Allowed 20% or less shooting: .197 by Montana State, 11/23/14 (12-61)
Allowed 30% or less shooting: .222 by Georgia, 2/9/16 (11-50)
Held opponent to zero 3-pointers: at Auburn, 1/19/13 (0-15)

Shot 90% or Better from Free Throw Line: 90.0 (9-10) vs. Wisconsin (4/4/15)
Shot 100% from Free Throw Line: 11-11 vs. Florida, 2/7/12

Shot 50% or Less from Free Throw Line: .435 (10-23) at Vanderbilt, 2/27/16
Attempted 40 FT: vs. Illinois State (46), 11/30/15
Attempted five or less FT: vs. South Carolina (4) 1/21/06

Made 30 FT: 30 vs. Auburn, 3/14/15 (30-35)

Hit 10 3-pointers: 10 vs. Texas A&M, 3/12/16 (10-24)
Hit 11 3-pointers: 13 vs. Alabama, 3/11/16 (13-22)
Hit 12 3-pointers: 13 vs. Alabama, 3/11/16 (13-22)
Hit 13 3-pointers: 13 vs. Alabama, 3/11/16 (13-22)
Hit 14 3-pointers: 15 vs. Georgia, 3/1/12 (15-27)
Hit 15 3-pointers: 15 vs. Georgia, 3/1/12 (15-27)
Hit 16 3-pointers: 16 vs. UNC-Asheville, 12/23/96 (16-33)
Hit 17 3-pointers: 20 vs. LSU, 3/4/95 (20-35)
Hit 18 3-pointers: 20 vs. LSU, 3/4/95 (20-35)
Hit 19 3-pointers: 20 vs. LSU, 3/4/95 (20-35)
Hit 20 3-pointers: 20 vs. LSU, 3/4/95 (20-35)
Hit 21 3-pointers: 21 vs. North Carolina, 12/27/89 (21-48
Hit 22 3-pointers: Never

Scored 100 Points in Two Consecutive Games: 3/25/93-3/27/93
Scored 100 Points in Three Consecutive Games: 12/16/77-12/23/77
Scored 100 Points in Consecutive SEC Games: 2/27/56-3/3/56

Won game by 50 points or more: 58 vs. Montana State (W, 86-28) 11/23/14
Won game by 60 points or more: 62 vs. Vanderbilt (W, 106-44) 3/5/03
Won game by 70 points or more: 74 vs. Tennessee-Martin (W, 124-50) 11/26/94

Lost game by 30 points or more: 30 at Tennessee (L, 88-58) 2/16/13
Lost game by 40 points or more: 41 at Vanderbilt (L, 93-52) 2/12/08
Lost game by 50 points or more: 55 at Kansas (L, 150-95) 12/9/89
Lost game by 60 points or more: 70 vs. Central (L, 87-17) 1/28/1910
Lost game by 70 points or more: 70 vs. Central (L, 87-17) 1/28/1910

Game decided by one point: vs. Wisconsin, 4/5/14 (W, 74-73)
Game decided by two points: at Texas A&M, 2/20/16 (L, 79-77)
Game decided by three points: vs. Ole Miss, 1/6/15 (W, 89-86)

Two consecutive games decided by one point: vs. North Carolina (W, 73-72) 12/3/11 and at Indiana (L, 73-72) 12/10/11
Three consecutive games decided by one point: Never

Two consecutive games decided by two points: at Ole Miss (L, 71-69) 2/1/11 and Florida (L, 70-68) 2/5/11

Came back from 18-point deficit for win: W, 72-70 vs. Miami Univ. (11/16/09); Trailed 36-18 (7:04 in 1st)
Came back from 19-point deficit for win: W, 80-77 vs. Florida (3/2/94); Trailed 33-14 (7:00 in 1st)
Came back from 20-point deficit for win: W, 99-95 at LSU (2/15/94); Trailed 68-37 (15:34 in 2nd)
Came back from 30-point deficit for win: W, 99-95 at LSU (2/15/94); Trailed 68-37 (15:34 in 2nd)
Came back from 31-point deficit for win: W, 99-95 at LSU (2/15/94); Trailed 68-37 (15:34 in 2nd)

Pulled down 50 rebounds: 50 (18-32) vs. Eastern Kentucky, 12/9/15
Pulled down 55 rebounds: 56 (17-39) vs. Robert Morris, 11/17/13
Pulled down 60 rebounds: 62 (19-43) vs. Morehead State, 12/16/96

Played an Overtime Game: vs. Texas A&M, 3/13/16 (W, 82-77 OT)
Won an Overtime Game: vs. Texas A&M, 3/13/16 (W, 82-77 OT)
Played an SEC Overtime Game: at Texas A&M, 2/20/16 (L, 79-77 OT)
Won an SEC Overtime Game: at Texas A&M, 1/10/15 (W, 70-64 2OT)
Lost an Overtime Game: at Texas A&M, 2/20/16 (L, 79-77 OT)
Lost an SEC Overtime Game: at Texas A&M, 2/20/16 (L, 79-77 OT)
Played an Overtime Game in SEC Tournament: vs. Texas A&M, 3/13/16 (W, 82-77 OT)
Won an Overtime Game in SEC Tournament: vs. Texas A&M, 3/13/16 (W, 82-77 OT)

Played Two Overtimes: at Texas A&M, 1/10/15 (W, 70-64 2ot)
Played Three Overtimes: vs. Temple 12/7/57 (W, 85-83)
Played Four Overtimes: Never played four overtime game
Played consecutive games that went to overtime: 1/6/15 vs. Ole Miss (W, 89-86) and 1/10/15 at Texas A&M (70-64)

Rupp Arena
Year-by-Year Records

Season	W-L	Pct.	Start
2015-16	17-0	1.000	17-0
2014-15	19-0	1.000	19-0
2013-14	16-2	.889	14-0
2012-13	16-2	.889	3-0
2011-12	18-0	1.000	18-0
2010-11	15-0	1.000	15-0
2009-10	18-0	1.000	18-0
2008-09	12-6	.667	3-0
2007-08	14-4	.778	1-0
2006-07	14-2	.875	10-0
2005-06	10-5	.667	4-0
2004-05	14-1	.933	7-0
2003-04	11-2	.846	3-0
2002-03	12-1	.923	1-0
2001-02	12-3	.800	0-1
2000-01	11-1	.917	0-1
1999-2000	14-0	1.000	14-0
1998-99	12-1	.923	6-0
1997-98	9-3	.750	4-0
1996-97	12-1	.923	12-0
1995-96	13-0	1.000	13-0
1994-95	12-1	.923	2-0
1993-94	13-1	.929	11-0
1992-93	16-0	1.000	16-0
1991-92	15-2	.882	1-0
1990-91	13-0	1.000	13-0
1989-90	13-2	.867	5-0
1988-89	8-6	.571	0-1
1987-88	14-2	.875	8-0
1986-87	13-2	.867	5-0
1985-86	18-0	1.000	18-0
1984-85	11-3	.786	1-0
1983-84	16-0	1.000	16-0
1982-83	14-1	.933	8-0
1981-82	15-1	.938	15-0
1980-81	15-0	1.000	15-0
1979-80	12-3	.800	6-0
1978-79	11-4	.733	3-0
1977-78	16-0	1.000	16-0
1976-77	12-2	.857	4-0
Total	**546-64**	**.895**	

Where the Coaches Rank by Wins

Coach	Years	Total	Record
Joe B. Hall	1976-85	9	122-14
John Calipari	*2009-Pres.*	*7th*	*119-4*
Tubby Smith	1997-2007	10	119-19
Rick Pitino	1989-97	8	107-7
Eddie Sutton	1985-89	4	53-10
Billy Gillispie	2007-09	2	26-10

Cats Rock at Rupp

UK has won 202 of its last 229 home games, including a 54-game winning streak in the venerable arena to begin the John Calipari era. All-time, the Wildcats are 546-64 (.895) in Rupp Arena.

Among the most notable marks of dominance in the nation's toughest venue to play include:
• The Wildcats are 293-40 (.880) in regular-season SEC games in the building
• Kentucky set a new program home record of 19 wins in 2014-15
• UK is currently on a 37-game winning streak at Rupp Arena, dating back to 2013-14
• The Wildcats have gone undefeated at home in five of John Calipari's seven seasons, including the last two
• Overall, UK has posted a perfect mark in 13 of Rupp Arena's 40 seasons

Calipari Owns Record in Rupp

With UK's 2011-12 season-opening victory over Marist, UK head coach John Calipari recorded his 34th consecutive win in Rupp Arena as UK's head coach. It broke former UK head coach Rick Pitino's longest streak of 33 games in the venue.

The winning streak reached as long as 54 games. Calipari didn't suffer his first loss in Rupp Arena until losing to Baylor in his fourth season. The 54-game run, however, was his longest career winning streak. He currently also owns the second-longest streak in the arena as the Cats have won 37 straight dating back to the 2013-14 season.

Pack the House

Kentucky has led the nation in average home attendance in 17 of the last 20 seasons, including a Rupp Arena record of 24,110 in John Calipari's first season (2009-10) as head coach.
• Kentucky averaged 23,362 fans during the 2015-16 season
• UK has averaged 23,000 or more fans in six of Calipari's seven seasons

The Top-Ranked Team at Home

Kentucky has lost just twice at home as the Associated Press top-ranked team in the history of the program and just once in Rupp Arena. Both losses came by just one point.

The Wildcats are 51-1 all-time as the AP No. 1 team in Rupp Arena since its opening in 1976. The lone loss was to Auburn, 53-52, on Jan. 9, 1988.

Coach Cal in Rupp Arena

It's been downright difficult to beat the Wildcats at Rupp Arena during the John Calipari era. UK is 119-4 (.967) at Rupp Arena under Calipari.
• UK is 16-1 vs. ranked opponents in Rupp in the Calipari era
• The Wildcats are 103-3 (.972) vs. unranked teams in Rupp under Calipari
• UK is 62-1 (.984) at home vs. nonconference foes under Calipari. The only loss was against Baylor on Dec. 1, 2012
• Calipari notched his 100th career win at Rupp Arena as UK's coach with the Wildcats' 110-75 rout of Auburn on Feb. 21, 2014. It took Calipari just 104 games to reach the century mark at home, the fastest of any UK coach
• With 119 wins in Rupp Arena, Calipari trails only Joe B. Hall for most victories in the arena. Hall won 122 games

All-Time Attendance Records in Rupp

No.	Att.	Opponent	Date	Result
1	24,479	Louisville	1/20/10	W, 71-62
2	24,468	N. Carolina	12/5/09	W, 68-66
3	24,465	Florida	2/10/07	L, 64-61
4	24,459	Florida	2/4/03	W, 70-55
5	24,432	Louisville	12/17/05	W, 73-61
6	24,428	Florida	3/7/15	W, 67-50
7	24,425	Florida	2/15/14	L, 69-59
8	24,416	Arkansas	2/28/15	W, 84-67
9	**24,414**	**LSU**	**3/5/16**	**W, 94-77**
10	**24,412**	**Louisville**	**12/26/15**	**W, 75-73**

Attendance Records in Rupp 2015-16

No.	Att.	Opponent	Date	Result
1	24,414	LSU	3/5/16	W, 94-77
2	24,412	Louisville	12/26/15	W, 75-73
3	24,406	Florida	2/6/16	W, 80-61
4	24,399	Ole Miss	1/2/16	W, 83-61
5	24,274	Tennessee	2/18/16	W, 80-70

Records vs. Most Faced Opponents in Rupp Arena Era (1976-Pres.)

Opponent	Times Played	Record	Cal Era
Tennessee	40	36-4	6-0
Florida	40	33-7	6-1
Vanderbilt	38	36-2	6-0
Georgia	38	34-4	6-0
Ole Miss	31	30-1	6-0
Alabama	30	25-5	5-0
LSU	30	25-5	4-0
Auburn	28	26-2	3-0
Miss. St.	28	26-2	4-0
S. Carolina	25	23-2	5-0
Louisville	18	14-4	4-0
Arkansas	14	11-3	3-1
E. Kentucky	10	10-0	2-0
Indiana	9	8-1	1-0
Morehead St.	8	8-0	2-0
N. Carolina	7	5-2	3-0
N. Dame	5	5-0	-
Tenn. Tech	5	5-0	-
Kansas	5	4-1	-

First-Ballot Hall of Famer

Kentucky men's basketball coach John Calipari joined basketball's fraternity of legends in September after being elected to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame on the first ballot.

Calipari joined an elite group of basketball players and coaches in the Naismith Hall of Fame, considered to be one of the ultimate honors in the sport.

Calipari and the Class of 2015, which included Dick Bevetta, Wildcat Louie Dampier, Lindsay Gaze, Tom Heinsohn, John Isaacs, Spencer Haywood, Lisa Leslie, Dikembe Mutombo, George Raveling and JoJo White, were enshrined during Hall of Fame festivities in Springfield, Mass., Sept. 10-11.

Calipari in the NCAA Tournament

Head coach John Calipari will coach in his 17th NCAA tournament in 2016. Kentucky is 22-4 (.846) in tournament games under the direction of Calipari. He is 47-15 (.758) as a head coach in NCAA Tournament games, the highest winning percentage among active coaches.

Calipari-coached teams have appeared in four of the last five Final Fours and is the first such school to achieve that feat since Duke went to five straight Final Fours (1988, 89, 90, 91, 92). Calipari has led UK to four Final Fours in five years and leads the country with five Final Four appearances since 2008. He has advanced teams to six Final Fours in his on-court career, which is tied for the fifth most by a coach all-time. Only three coaches all-time have appeared in four of five Final Fours (Calipari, Mike Krzyzewski and John Wooden).

Of Calipari's 15 eliminations in the NCAA Tournament, he has only lost twice to double-digit seeds. He's never lost to a team seeded lower than 10th. Other than the 2014 title game, in nine of his last 10 NCAA Tournaments, he had not lost to a seed lower than No. 3.

Calipari Wins 200th Career Game at UK in Record Time

With a thrilling 75-73 victory over rival Louisville, John Calipari captured his 200th career win at Kentucky faster than any coach in UK history -- and nearly faster than anyone has ever done it at any other school.

Calipari reached the 200-win plateau in his 240th career game at Kentucky. Rick Pitino, previously the fastest to 200 wins at UK prior to Calipari, didn't capture his 200th Wildcat win until his 249th game. The legendary Adolph Rupp reached 200 during his 250th game.

Not only did Calipari reach the 200-win mark in record pace at Kentucky, he also nearly set the all-time Dvision I mark. With the win over U of L, he became the second-fastest Division I men's basketball coach to reach 200 victories at a single school, behind only LIU-Brooklyn's Clair Bee, who achieved the feat in 231 games.

Calipari is one of just 11 head coaches in Division I men's basketball history with at least 200 victories at two different schools and just the fifth coach at Kentucky to reach the 200-win plateau.

He's currently the only coach in NCAA history with at least 189 victories at three different schools.

Here's a look at some of the more impressive numbers in Calipari's journey to 200 wins:
• UK beat Florida more than anyone else during the first 200 wins, defeating the Gators 11 times
• Likewise, Kentucky beat Louisville (eight times) more than any other nonconference opponent
• Calipari defeated 89 different Division I schools (25.4 percent) of current Division I schools) during the run
• A total of 176 wins came with UK ranked in the AP Top 25, and 66 of them were while UK was No. 1

UMass Raises Banner in Calipari's Honor

As part of a 20th anniversary celebration of the UMass men's basketball 1995-96 Final Four team, the UMass Department of Athletics honored John Calipari on Dec. 16 prior to its game against New Orleans by raising a banner into the rafters at the Mullins Center.

Calipari's banner joined the retired jerseys of five all-time Minutemen: George "Trigger" Burkey, Marcus Camby, Julius "Dr. J" Erving, Lou Roe and Al Skinner.
• Calipari began his head coaching career at UMass where he turned the Minutemen into a national powerhouse from 1988-96
• In addition to the 1995-96's team's 35-2 record and the Final Four appearance, Calipari led the Minutemen to the 1991-92 NCAA Sweet 16, the 1992-93 and 1993-94 NCAA second round, and the 1994-95 NCAA Elite Eight. UMass won five straight Atlantic 10 titles during that span as well

Calipari Named CBS Coach of the Year

After leading the Wildcats to at least a share of their fourth Southeastern Conference regular-season title in seven seasons at Kentucky, head coach John Calipari was named the SEC Coach of the Year by CBS Sports.

AHEAD OF THE BARON OF THE BLUEGRASS

• Legendary coach Adolph Rupp won 876 career games while he was the coach of UK. He also led Kentucky to five NCAA titles during his 41-year tenure.
• John Calipari is ahead of the pace with the legend as far as victories to begin his career at UK. Also, Calipari (.824) is ahead of Rupp (.822) in total UK career winning percentage.

Coach	Games	Record	Next Game (263rd Game)
John Calipari	262	216-46	Stony Brook (March 17, 2016)
Rick Pitino	262	212-50	lost to Clemson 79-71 (Nov. 5, 1996)
Adolph Rupp	262	209-53	lost to Alabama 41-32 (Jan. 30, 1943)
Tubby Smith	262	208-54	def. Georgia 60-51 (Feb. 12, 2005)
Joe B. Hall	262	199-63	lost to Tennessee 87-71 (Feb. 7, 1981)

UK VS. AP RANKED FOES

In John Calipari Era (2009-Present)

44-16, 13-5 SEC

vs. No. 17 Texas A&M	March 13, 2016	W, 82-77
at No. 4 Kansas	Jan. 30, 2016	L, 90-84
vs. No. 16 Louisville	Dec. 27, 2015	W, 75-73
vs. No. 5 Duke (Chicago)	Nov. 17, 2015	W, 74-63
vs. No. 3 Wisconsin (NCAA)	April 4, 2015	L, 71-64
vs. No. 8 Notre Dame (NCAA)	March 28, 2015	W, 68-66
vs. No. 20 W. Virginia (NCAA)	March 26, 2015	W, 78-39
vs. No. 18 Arkansas (SECT)	March 15, 2015	W, 78-63
vs. No. 18 Arkansas	Feb. 28, 2015	W, 84-67
at No. 4 Louisville	Dec. 27, 2014	W, 58-50
vs. No. 21 North Carolina	Dec. 13, 2014	W, 84-70
vs. No. 6 Texas	Dec. 5, 2014	W, 63-51
vs. No. 5 Kansas (Indianapolis)	Nov. 18, 2014	W, 72-40
vs. No. 18 UConn (NCAA)	April 7, 2014	L, 60-54
vs. No. 12 Wisconsin (NCAA)	April 5, 2014	W, 74-73
vs. No. 7 Michigan (NCAA)	March 30, 3014	W, 75-72
vs. No. 5 Louisville (NCAA)	March 28, 2014	W, 74-69
vs. No. 2 Wichita St. (NCAA)	March 23, 2014	W, 78-76
vs. No. 1 Florida (Atlanta)	March 16, 2014	L, 61-60
at No. 1 Florida	March 8, 2014	L, 84-65
vs. No. 3 Florida	Feb. 15, 2014	L, 69-59
vs. No. 4 Louisville	Dec. 28, 2013	W, 73-66
at No. 18 North Carolina	Dec. 14, 2013	L, 82-77
vs. No. 20 Baylor (Dallas)	Dec. 6, 2013	L, 67-62
vs. No. 2 Michigan St. (Chicago)	Nov. 12, 2013	L, 78-74
vs. No. 11 Florida	March 9, 2013	W, 61-57
at No. 7 Florida	Feb. 12, 2013	L, 69-52
at No. 16 Ole Miss	Jan. 29, 2013	W, 87-74
at No. 4 Louisville	Dec. 29, 2012	L, 80-77
vs. No. 9 Duke (Atlanta)	Nov. 13, 2012	L, 75-68
vs. No. 6 Kansas (NCAA)	April 2, 2012	W, 67-59
vs. No. 17 Louisville (NCAA)	March 31, 2012	W, 69-61
vs. No. 9 Baylor (NCAA)	March 25, 2012	W, 82-70
vs. No. 16 Indiana (NCAA)	March 23, 2012	W, 87-71
vs. No. 22 Florida	March 10, 2012	W, 74-71
at No. 16 Florida	March 4, 2012	W, 74-59
vs. No. 8 Florida	Feb. 7, 2012	W, 78-58
vs. No. 4 Louisville	Dec. 31, 2011	W, 69-62
vs. No. 5 North Carolina	Dec. 3, 2011	W, 73-72
vs. No. 12 Kansas (New York)	Nov. 15, 2011	W, 75-65
vs. No. 9 UConn (NCAA)	April 2, 2011	L, 56-55
vs. No. 7 N. Carolina (NCAA)	March 27, 2011	W, 76-69
vs. No. 1 Ohio State (NCAA)	March 25, 2011	W, 62-60
vs. No. 22 W. Virginia (NCAA)	March 19, 2011	W, 71-63
vs. No. 12 Florida (Atlanta)	March 13, 2011	W, 70-54
vs. No. 21 Vanderbilt	March 1, 2011	W, 68-66
vs. No. 13 Florida	Feb. 26, 2011	W, 76-68
at No. 21 Vanderbilt	Feb. 12, 2011	L, 81-77
at No. 22 Louisville	Dec. 31, 2010	W, 78-63
vs. No. 23 N. Dame (Louisville)	Dec. 8, 2010	W, 72-58
vs. No. 13 Washington (Maui)	Nov. 23, 2010	W, 74-67
vs. No. 6 W. Virginia (NCAA)	March 27, 2010	L, 73-66
vs. No. 15 Tennessee (Nashville)	March 13, 2010	W, 74-45
at No. 19 Tennessee	Feb. 27, 2010	L, 74-65
at No. 17 Vanderbilt	Feb. 20, 2010	W, 58-56
vs. No. 12 Tennessee	Feb. 13, 2010	W, 73-62
vs. No. 25 Ole Miss	Feb. 2, 2010	W, 85-75
vs. No. 21 Vanderbilt	Jan. 30, 2010	W, 85-72
vs. No. 14 UConn (New York)	Dec. 9, 2009	W, 64-61
vs. No. 10 North Carolina	Dec. 5, 2009	W, 68-66

Calipari's Record at UK vs:

vs. No. 1	1-2
vs. Top 3	2-5
vs. Top 5	9-7
vs. Top 10	17-11
vs. Top 15	26-11
vs. Top 20	34-15
vs. Top 25	43-16
Home	16-1
Away	5-7
Neutral	22-8
SEC Tourney	3-1
NCAA Tourney	13-4

TRACKING UK HEAD COACHES

Coach	First 50 Games	Pct.
Calipari	45-5	.900
Smith	45-5	.900
Rupp	43-7	.860
Sutton	41-9	.820
Hall	32-18	.640
Pitino	31-19	.620

Coach	First 100 Games	Pct.
Rupp	89-11	.890
Calipari	87-13	.870
Smith	80-20	.800
Sutton	77-23	.770
Pitino	73-27	.730
Hall	67-33	.670

Coach	First 150 Games	Pct.
Rupp	129-21	.860
Calipari	124-26	.827
Smith	116-34	.773
Pitino	114-36	.760
Hall	110-40	.733

Coach	First 200 Games	Pct.
Rupp	163-37	.815
Calipari	163-37	.815
Pitino	156-44	.780
Smith	156-44	.780
Hall	149-51	.745

Coach	First 250 Games	Pct.
Calipari	206-44	.824
Pitino	201-49	.804
Rupp	200-50	.800
Smith	197-53	.788
Hall	189-61	.756

CALIPARI AT NO. 1

Record as Associated Press Top-Ranked Coach Since 2009-10

Coach	Schools	Records
1. John Calipari	Kentucky	66-6
2. Bill Self	Kansas	33-5
3. Mike Krzyzewski	Duke	24-4
4. Jim Boeheim	Syracuse	15-4
5. Tom Crean	Indiana	14-3
6. Thad Matta	Ohio State	13-2
7. Sean Miller	Arizona	12-1
8. Billy Donovan	Florida	11-1
9. Tom Izzo	Michigan State	9-2
10. Roy Williams	North Carolina	8-2

Record as Associated Press Top-Ranked Coach (Active)

Coach	Schools	Records
1. Mike Krzyzewski	Duke	189-28
2. John Calipari	UK, Memphis, UMass	107-11
3. Roy Williams	UNC, Kansas	95-18
4. Bill Self	Kansas	35-6
5. Bruce Weber	Illinois	30-2
6. Jim Boeheim	Syracuse	24-5
7. Thad Matta	Ohio State	22-3
8. Bob Huggins	Cincinnati	20-4
9. Tom Crean	Indiana	14-3
10. Sean Miller	Arizona	12-1

totals through March 12

Tasked with replacing seven players who went to the NBA, Calipari once again worked his magic during the 2015-16 season, guiding UK to a 23-8 record in the regular season with marquee wins over defending national champion Duke, Louisville and South Carolina.

Calipari has been named a conference coach of the year nine times by either the league office or the Associated Press, most recently winning both in 2015.

Big-Game Cal

John Calipari's teams aren't just good against the best teams in the country, they're great. Not only does Kentucky have a 44-16 record vs. Associated Press Top 25 teams, UK is 5-2 when both teams are ranked in the AP top five under Calipari.

All-time, Calipari is 11-6 in AP top-five matchups. According to the SEC Network, only four coaches have won more such games.

When both teams are ranked in the AP Top 25, Calipari's all-time record is 67-41, including a 37-13 mark at Kentucky. In AP top-10 matchups he's got a 22-11 mark, including 11-4 at UK.

Nearly Unanimous

John Calipari collected nearly every major national coach of the year award after guiding the historic 2014-15 Wildcats to a perfect regular season and eventually a fourth Final Four appearance in five seasons. Among the awards Calipari won in 2014-15:
- Associated Press National Coach of the Year
- Naismith National Coach of the Year
- NABC National Coach of the Year
- The Sporting News National Coach of the Year
- Adolph Rupp National Coach of the Year
- SEC Coach of the Year
- 2015 USBWA District IV Coach of the Year

600 On-Court Victories

With a win over No. 5 Kansas on Nov. 18, 2014, John Calipari claimed his 600th on-court victory as a Division I head coach. He became the 13th active Division I coach to achieve the feat.

Calipari at No. 1

John Calipari is one of just two coaches (Frank McGuire) to lead three programs to a No. 1 ranking. With UK's No. 1 ranking this season, Calipari has guided five of his last seven and six of his last nine teams to the No. 1 ranking (and the eighth time he's done it overall).

When Coach Cal's teams have been at the top, they're been difficult to knock off:
- Calipari is 107-11 (.907) as the top-ranked Associated Press coach in the country
- He's 66-6 (.917) when his team is at the top of the AP Top 25 as UK's head coach
- Calipari tallied a 32-4 mark at UMass when the Minutemen were No. 1 and he was 9-1 at Memphis when he had the Tigers at the pinnacle of the rankings
- Calipari (107) trails only Duke's Mike Krzyzewski (189) in active coaches with victories as the No. 1 head coach

There's No Place Like Home

Since the 2000 season, John Calipari-coached teams have posted a 272-22 (.925) record at home through March 5. At UK, Coach Cal is 119-4 (.967) in Rupp Arena.

In five of Calipari's seven full seasons at Kentucky, the Wildcats have posted an undefeated record at home, including a school-record 19-0 mark during the 2014-15 season.

Calipari owns both of UK's longest winning streaks in the arena. He began his career at UK with a 54-game winning streak at Rupp Arena. It was the longest winning streak since the arena opening in 1976. With a win over Georgia on Feb. 9, 2016, he secured the second-longest streak in the storied building at 34 games.

	Coach	Streak (Yrs)
1.	*John Calipari*	*54 (2010-13)*
2.	*John Calipari*	*37 (2014-16)*
3.	Rick Pitino	33 (1992-94)
4.	Joe B. Hall	30 (1981-82)
5.	Rick Pitino	27 (1995-97)

Life on the Road Isn't So Bad Either

As good as John Calipari's team's have been at home, they're nearly as good in hostile environments on the road. Dating back to the 2005-06 season, Calipari has recorded a 80-34 (.702) record on the road.

Calipari Unrivaled in Conference

John Calipari has won 14 league championships (including the 2010, 2012, 2015 and 2016 SEC championships) seven more than the next-closest coach in the SEC (Ben Howland has seven conference titles). With a 2016 SEC Tournament championship, Calipari now owns 13 conference tournament titles, eight more than his closest competitor (Howland).

He's tallied a 303-91 (.769) all-time record within conference play as a head coach and owns a 96-24 (.800) record since joining the SEC.

HEAD COACH JOHN CALIPARI

Calipari's Undefeated Conference Teams

John Calipari is believed to be one of three coaches, along with Frank McGuire and Jerry Tarkanian, to lead multiple teams to an unblemished mark in multiple Division I conferences. Calipari did so at Memphis in Conference USA and Kentucky in the SEC.

- McGuire led St. John's in the Metro New York ('51, '52), North Carolina in the ACC ('57) and South Carolina in the ACC ('70) to undefeated marks
- Jerry Tarkanian guided Long Beach State in the Pacific Coast Athletics Association ('70, '71) and UNLV in the Big West ('87, '91, '92) to perfect conference seasons

30 is the new 20

With a home win vs. Tennessee on Feb. 18, John Calipari notched his 22nd consecutive season of 20 or more on-court wins as a collegiate head coach. He leads all active coaches with that streak, ahead of Mike Krzyzewski of Duke (20), Bill Self (18) and Jim Boeheim (17).

More impressive, Calipari has nine seasons with 30 or more on-court wins. Only Mike Krzyzewski (13) and Roy Williams (10) have more.

Calipari is the first coach in NCAA Division I history to record five straight on-court 30-win seasons, notching 30 straight in consecutive seasons from 2005-06 to 2009-10.

The Success Rate

John Calipari has graduated 100 percent of the players (14 of 14) who have been eligilbie to receive their dipoma by the end of their senior years and exhausted their athletic eligibility. Of that group, Patrick Patterson, Jarrod Polson and Alex Poythress completed their degrees in three years.

In the NCAA's APR, which measures eligibility, retention and graduation, UK has posted a single-year Academic Progress Rate of 979 or higher in every season under Calipari, including a perfect 1,000 in the last two reports. Kentucky's four-year composite score in the most recent report, which was released in May, was a 995, earning the team an NCAA academic award for finishing in the top 10 percent of Division I men's basketball programs.

Under Calipari, the team has also posted a 3.0 grade-point average or better in seven of the last 10 semesters.

Double-Digit Win Streaks

Kentucky's 38-game winning streak in 2014-15 was historic, but it wasn't completely out of the norm for John Calipari. It was the 17th streak of Calipari's career where his teams have won 10 or more consecutive games during the season, the sixth where they have won 20 or more, the fifth where they have won 25 or more, the first where they have won 30 or more, and the first with 35 or more. Here's a list of all of them:

1. 38 Kentucky, 2014-15
2. 27 Memphis, 2008-09
3. 26 Memphis, 2007-08
   26 UMass, 1995-96
5. 25 Memphis, 2006-07
6. 24 Kentucky, 2011-12
7. 19 Kentucky, 2009-10
8. 16 UMass, 1994-95
9. 15 Memphis, 2005-06
10. 14 UMass, 1991-92

CALIPARI KNOWS DEFENSE

John Calipari's 2014-15 Kentucky Wildcat team was heralded as one of the best defensive teams ever. However, defense has always been a staple of Calipari-coached teams. Dating back to complete NCAA records beginning in 2001-02, Calipari's teams have been among national leaders in several critical defensive categories (rankings through March 13).

Year	FG % Def.	Rebound Margin	Scoring Margin	Blocks
2001-02 (UM)	13th (39.5)	11th (+6.6)	15th (+11.2)	54th (4.4)
2002-03 (UM)	28th (40.6)	44th (+4.1)	32nd (+8.0)	26th (5.1)
2003-04 (UM)	34th (40.5)	58th (+3.4)	48th (+7.1)	20th (5.0)
2004-05 (UM)	*4th (38.4)*	75th (+2.9)	62nd (+5.9)	13th (5.4)
2005-06 (UM)	*2nd (38.0)*	*9th (+6.7)*	*5th (+14.6)*	*8th (6.4)*
2006-07 (UM)	12th (39.0)	28th (+5.3)	*5th (+5.8)*	12th (5.9)
2007-08 (UM)	12th (39.1)	16th (+6.2)	*2nd (+18.0)*	*8th (6.1)*
2008-09 (UM)	*1st (37.1)*	19th (+6.1)	*2nd (+16.3)*	*7th (6.0)*
2009-10 (UK)	*3rd (37.8)*	*4th (+8.1)*	*6th (+14.3)*	*4th (7.2)*
2010-11 (UK)	15th (39.4)	60th (+3.6)	13th (+11.4)	*3rd (6.3)*
2011-12 (UK)	*1st (37.4)*	12th (+6.8)	*1st (+16.8)*	*1st (8.6)*
2012-13 (UK)	30th (39.2)	48th (+4.3)	48th (+8.2)	*3rd (6.6)*
2013-14 (UK)	59th (41.1)	*2nd (+9.4)*	43rd (+8.2)	13th (5.9)
2014-15 (UK)	*1st (35.4)*	15th (+6.8)	*1st (+20.1)*	*2nd (6.9)*
2015-16 (UK)	31st (40.0)	36th (+5.4)	18th (+11.4)	*7th (5.6)*

RECRUITING TRAIL

The Wildcats have signed more top-25 players over the past seven seasons than any other school under John Calipari's leadership. A quarter of all Rivals' top-10 prospects nationally over the past eight classes have signed with Coach Cal and the Cats.

Player (Year)	ESPN	Rivals	Scout	MCD	JB
Edrice Adebayo ('16)	6	6	15	Y	Y
De'Aaron Fox ('16)	7	5	4	Y	Y
Wenyen Gabriel ('16)	23	17	10		
Sacha Killeya-Jones ('16)	31	26	29	Y	
Malik Monk ('16)	5	6	6	Y	Y
Tai Wynyard ('16)	NR	NR	NR		
Isaiah Briscoe ('15)	13	9	15	Y	Y
Isaac Humphries ('15)	49*	35*	50		
Skal Labissiere ('15)	11	4	3		Y
Charles Matthews ('15)	47	57	62		Y
Jamal Murray ('15)	NA^	9	12		
Devin Booker ('14)	18	30	31	Y	Y
Trey Lyles ('14)	7	8	8	Y	Y
Karl Towns ('14)	6	11	11	Y	Y
Tyler Ulis ('14)	33	33	29	Y	Y
Aaron Harrison ('13)	9	7	6	Y	Y
Andrew Harrison ('13)	5	5	5	Y	Y
Dominique Hawkins ('13)	NR	NR	NR		
Dakari Johnson ('13)	7	9	17	Y	Y
Marcus Lee ('13)	25	19	24	Y	Y
Julius Randle ('13)	3	2	2	Y	Y
James Young ('13)	8	11	11	Y	Y
Derek Willis ('13)	NR	115	NR		
Archie Goodwin ('12)	15	14	14	Y	Y
Willie Cauley-Stein ('12)	40	40	48		
Julius Mays ('12)	NA#	NA#	NA#		
Nerlens Noel ('12)	1	2	1		Y
Alex Poythress ('12)	13	8	7	Y	Y
Twany Beckham ('11)	NA#	NA#	NA#		
Anthony Davis ('11)	1	2	1	Y	Y
Ryan Harrow ('11)	NA#	NA#	NA#		
M. Kidd-Gilchrist ('11)	4	3	6	Y	Y
Marquis Teague ('11)	8	5	8	Y	Y
Kyle Wiltjer ('11)	19	22	24	Y	Y
Terrence Jones ('10)	9	13	8	Y	Y
Enes Kanter ('10)	25	3	3		
Brandon Knight ('10)	4	6	6	Y	Y
Doron Lamb ('10)	29	21	28	Y	Y
Jarrod Polson ('10)	NA@	NA@	NA@		
Stacey Poole, Jr. ('10)	51	33	67		
Eloy Vargas ('10)	NA	NA	NA		
Eric Bledsoe ('09)	NR	23	37		
DeMarcus Cousins ('09)	4	2	3	Y	Y
Darnell Dodson ('09)	NA#	NA#	NA#		
Jon Hood ('09)	92	40	46		
Daniel Orton ('09)	13	22	17		Y
John Wall ('09)	5	1	2		Y
Top-10 Players	**18**	**20**	**17**		
Top-15 Players	**21**	**24**	**24**		
Top-25 Players	**28**	**30**	**28**		
Top-50 Players	**34**	**37**	**35**		
McDonald's All-American		**25**			
Jordan Brand Classic Particpants		**29**			

* - ranking according to the 2016 class
^ - reclassified after final rankings were released
# - transfer
@ - joined team as walk-on

UK HONORS UNDER CALIPARI

National Player of the Year
John Wall (2010) Adolph Rupp
Anthony Davis (2012) Adolph Rupp, AP,
BasketballTimes,
Naismith, USBWA,
Wooden Award

National Freshman of the Year
John Wall (2010) USBWA
Anthony Davis (2012) USBWA

All-America Honors
D. Cousins (2010) AP - 1st,
NABC - 2nd,
USBWA - 2nd,
SN - 2nd
John Wall (2010) AP - 1st,
NABC - 1st,
USBWA - 1st,
SN - 1st
Anthony Davis (2012) AP - 1st,
USBWA - 1st,
NABC - 1st,
SN - 1st
M. Kidd-Gilchrist (2012) AP - 3rd,
USBWA - 2nd,
NABC - 3rd,
SN - 2nd
Julius Randle (2014) NABC - 3rd
W. Cauley-Stein (2015) NABC - 1st,
USBWA - 1st,
SN - 1st
K. Towns (2015) SN - 3rd
Tyler Ulis (2016) SN - 1st
USBWA - 2nd

SEC Player of the Year
John Wall 2010 (Coaches/AP)
Anthony Davis 2012 (Coaches/AP)
Tyler Ulis 2016 (Coaches/AP)

SEC Defensive Player of the Year
Anthony Davis 2012 (Coaches)
Nerlens Noel 2013 (Coaches)
Willie Cauley-Stein 2015 (Coaches)
Tyler Ulis 2016 (Coaches)

SEC Freshman of the Year
DeMarcus Cousins 2010 (Coaches)
John Wall 2010 (AP)
Terrence Jones 2011 (Coaches/AP)
Anthony Davis 2012 (Coaches/AP)
Nerlens Noel 2013 (Coaches/AP)
Julius Randle 2014 (Coaches/AP)
Karl-Anthony Towns 2015 (Coaches/AP)

SEC Sixth Man of the Year
Darius Miller 2012 (Coaches)
Kyle Wiltjer 2013 (Coaches)
Devin Booker 2015 (Coaches)

CoSIDA Academic All-America
Alex Poythress (2nd) 2016

All-SEC
D. Cousins (2010) 1st (Coaches/AP)
P. Patterson (2010) 1st (Coaches)/2nd (AP)
John Wall (2010) 1st (Coaches/AP)
Terrence Jones (2011) 1st (Coaches/AP)
Brandon Knight (2011) 1st (Coaches)/2nd (AP)
Anthony Davis (2012) 1st (Coaches/AP)
M. Kidd-Gilchrist (2012) 1st (Coaches/AP)
Terrence Jones (2012) 2nd (Coaches/AP)
Doron Lamb (2012) 2nd (Coaches)
Nerlens Noel (2013) 1st (Coaches/AP)
Julius Randle (2014) 1st (Coaches/AP)
James Young (2014) 2nd (Coaches)
Devin Booker (2015) 2nd (Coaches)
W. Cauley-Stein (2015) 1st (Coaches/AP)
Aaron Harrison (2015) 2nd (Coaches/AP)
K. Towns (2015) 1st (Coaches/AP)
Tyler Ulis (2016) 1st (Coaches/AP)
Jamal Murray (2016) 1st (Coaches/AP)

All-SEC Defensive Team
Patrick Patterson 2010
DeAndre Liggins 2011
Anthony Davis 2012
Michael Kidd-Gilchrist 2012
Nerlens Noel 2013

Willie Cauley-Stein 2013
Willie Cauley-Stein 2015
Tyler Ulis 2016

Coaches' All-SEC Freshman Team
Eric Bledsoe 2010
DeMarcus Cousins 2010
John Wall 2010
Brandon Knight 2011
Terrence Jones 2011
Doron Lamb 2011
Anthony Davis 2012
Michael Kidd-Gilchrist 2012
Willie Cauley-Stein 2013
Archie Goodwin 2013
Nerlens Noel 2013
Alex Poythress 2013
Julius Randle 2014
James Young 2014
Devin Booker 2015
Trey Lyles 2015
Karl-Anthony Towns 2015
Tyler Ulis 2015
Jamal Murray 2016

NCAA Final Four Team
Anthony Davis (MVP) 2012
Michael Kidd-Gilchrist 2012
Doron Lamb 2012
Julius Randle 2014
James Young 2014

NCAA Regional Tournament
DeMarcus Cousins 2010
John Wall 2010
Josh Harrellson 2011
Brandon Knight (MVP) 2011
DeAndre Liggins 2011
M. Kidd Gilchrist (MVP) 2012
Anthony Davis 2012
Doron Lamb 2012
Aaron Harrison 2014
Marcus Lee 2014
Julius Randle (MVP) 2014
Willie Cauley-Stein 2015
Andrew Harrison 2015
K. Towns (MVP) 2015

SEC All-Tournament Team
John Wall 2010
Eric Bledsoe 2010
DeMarcus Cousins 2010
Darius Miller 2011
Brandon Knight 2011
Josh Harrellson 2011
Anthony Davis 2012
Terrence Jones 2012
Aaron Harrison 2014
Julius Randle 2014
Willie Cauley-Stein 2015
Aaron Harrison 2015
Andrew Harrison 2015
Jamal Murray 2016
Tyler Ulis 2016

SEC Tournament MVP
John Wall 2010
Darius Miller 2011
Willie Cauley-Stein 2015
Tyler Ulis 2016

11. 12 Memphis, 2007-08
  12 Memphis, 2002-03
  12 UMass, 1992-93
14. 11 Memphis, 2003-04
15. 10 Memphis, 2001-02
  10 UMass, 1993-94
  10 Kentucky, 2010-11

Developing Talent

John Calipari hasn't just signed the best talent in the country while he's been at Kentucky; he's been the best at developing that talent and getting it ready for the next level.

Of the 23 top-25 players Kentucky has signed prior to this season (according to Rivals), 19 were drafted and 16 were selected in the first round. Those draft numbers don't include Marcus Lee, Alex Poythress and Kyle Wiltjer, who are currently in college.

But that's only half the story. Calipari's players don't just make it to the pros; they're better prepared than anyone else. The proof is in the numbers.

Over the course of his career, Calipari's nearly 40 NBA pros have made approximately $1.25 billion in NBA contracts alone, which doesn't include endoresement deals and overseas contracts.

Calipari's Draft Picks

In 23 seasons as a head coach, John Calipari has coached 36 NBA Draft picks, including 25 first-round selections, with 14 of those going in the top 10. He's had four players draft No. 1 overall, twice as many as any other coach, and two or more players selected in eight consecutive NBA drafts, dating back to 2008 with Memphis.

Player (School)	Round	Overall	Year
Eric Bledsoe (UK)	First	18th	2010
Devin Booker (UK)	First	13th	2015
Antonio Burks (MEM)	Second	36th	2004
Marcus Camby (UMASS)	First	2nd	1996
Rodney Carney (MEM)	First	16th	2006
DeMarcus Cousins (UK)	First	5th	2010
Willie Cauley-Stein (UK)	First	6th	2015
Anthony Davis (UK)	First	1st	2012
Joey Dorsey (MEM)	Second	33rd	2008
Chris Douglas-Roberts (MEM)	Second	40th	2008
Robert Dozier (MEM)	Second	60th	2009
Tyreke Evans (MEM)	First	4th	2009
Archie Goodwin (UK)	First	29th	2013
Josh Harrellson (UK)	Second	45th	2011
Andrew Harrison (UK)	Second	44th	2015
Dakari Johnson (UK)	Second	48th	2015
Terrence Jones (UK)	First	18th	2012
Enes Kanter (UK)	First	3rd	2011
Michael Kidd-Gilchrist (UK)	First	2nd	2012
Brandon Knight (UK)	First	8th	2011
Doron Lamb (UK)	Second	42nd	2012
DeAndre Liggins (UK)	Second	53rd	2011
Trey Lyles (UK)	First	12th	2015
Darius Miller (UK)	Second	46th	2012
Nerlens Noel (UK)	First	6th	2013
Daniel Orton (UK)	First	29th	2010
Patrick Patterson (UK)	First	14th	2010
Julius Randle (UK)	First	7th	2014
Lou Roe (UMASS)	Second	30th	1995
Derrick Rose (MEM)	First	1st	2008
Marquis Teague (UK)	First	29th	2012
Karl-Anthony Towns (UK)	First	1st	2015
Dajuan Wagner (MEM)	First	6th	2002
John Wall (UK)	First	1st	2010
Shawne Williams (MEM)	First	17th	2006
James Young (UK)	First	17th	2014

A "players-first" coach with a penchant for helping people reach their dreams, John Calipari, a Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Famer, has guided six teams to the Final Four, led one to a national championship and helped 38 players make it to the NBA during his 23-year college coaching career.

Calipari guided Kentucky to its eighth national championship and his first national title in 2012. In becoming only the second coach in NCAA history to lead three different schools to the Final Four, he has racked up over 600 victories, 16 NCAA Tournament appearances, six Final Fours and numerous national coach of the year honors.

In 2015, Coach Cal led college basketball's first ever 38-0 team, and became one of just three coaches to make four Final Fours in a five-year span. At the end of the season, Calipari became the 96th coach to join the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

While building a program out of obscurity at Massachusetts, laying the foundation at Memphis and restoring luster at the sport's greatest program at Kentucky, he has totaled the second-most wins in NCAA history in the first 20 years of a college coaching career.

Quite honestly, though, Calipari's on-court success overshadows a much more significant picture.

In his goal to lead a players-first program, he has helped 38 players realize their dreams and guide them to the NBA, including a record five first-round draft picks in 2010. Two years later, six Wildcats heard their names called at the 2012 draft, the most in the two-round draft era. UK, with Calipari's help, would tie those six picks again in 2015, including a record-tying four lottery selections. His four No. 1 overall picks are twice as many as any other coach, and he's had 25 players drafted during his six years at Kentucky, including 19 first-round picks.

Much like he did at UMass, where his players graduated at nearly 80 percent, Calipari has stressed academics. Fifteen of his last 18 seniors at Memphis earned their bachelor's degrees, and all 14 players at UK who were eligible to graduate by the end of their senior years walked away with a diploma in hand, including three players who earned their degree in just three years. The Wildcats posted a 3.11 grade-point average for the 2014 fall semester, the seventh time in the last eight semesters they earned a 3.0 GPA or better.

His foundation, The Calipari Foundation, has raised millions of dollars to help the lives of those in need in the Commonwealth and across the country. In 2010, he used a telethon to raise more than $1 million for victims of the devastating earthquake in Haiti, and he organized another one in 2012 for victims of Superstorm Sandy. A year after helping raise $350,000 for charity during the inaugural UK alumni weekend, Calipari was the driving force behind the more than $1 million that was donated to local and national organizations during the second annual alumni weekend, and then $1.5 million in 2015.

Author of the New York Times Best Seller "Players First: Coaching from the Inside Out" and "Bounce Back: Overcoming Setbacks to Succeed in Business and in Life," Calipari is a master of communication and maximizing talent. He lives by the motto that "it's never a matter of how far you have fallen, but instead it's about how high you bounce back."

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Date of Birth: Feb. 10, 1959 | **Wife:** Ellen
Children: Erin Sue, Megan Rae, Bradley Vincent

Education
Clarion State (1982)

Head Coaching Experience
University of Massachusetts (1989-96)
New Jersey Nets (NBA) (1997-99)
University of Memphis (2001-09)
University of Kentucky (2010-present)

COACHING AWARDS

• 2015 Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame Inductee
• 2015 AP National Coach of the Year
• 2015 Naismith National Coach of the Year
• 2015 NABC National Coach of the Year
• 2015 The Sporting News National Coach of the Year
• 2015 Adolph Rupp National Coach of the Year
• 2015 SEC Coach of the Year (AP/Coaches)
• 2015 USBWA District IV Coach of the Year
• 2012 Nell & John Wooden Coach of the Year Leadership Award
• 2012 Naismith National Coach of the Year Finalist
• 2012 SEC Coach of the Year (AP/Coaches)
• 2010 Adolph Rupp National Coach of the Year
• 2010 Naismith National Coach of the Year Finalist
• 2010 SEC Coach of the Year (AP)
• 2010 *Sporting News* SEC Coach of the Year
• 2010 Yahoo! Sports SEC Coach of the Year
• 2010 USBWA District IV Coach of the Year
• 2009 NABC National Co-Coach of the Year
• 2009 *Sports Illustrated* National Coach of the Year
• 2009 Phelan National Coach of the Year
• 2009 Iba National Coach of the Year Finalist
• 2009 C-USA Coach of the Year
• 2008 Naismith National Coach of the Year
• 2008 C-USA Coach of the Year
• 2008 Iba National Coach of the Year Finalist
• 2008 Phelan National Coach of the Year Finalist
• 2007 Phelan National Coach of the Year Finalist
• 2007 USBWA District IV Coach of the Year
• 2007 *Basketball Times* South Region Coach of the Year
• 2006 C-USA Coach of the Year
• 2004 NABC District 7 Coach of the Year
• 1996 Naismith National Coach of the Year
• 1996 NABC National Coach of the Year
• 1996 *The Sporting News* National Coach of the Year
• 1996 Atlantic 10 Coach of the Year
• 1995 Naismith National Coach of the Year Finalist
• 1994 Naismith National Coach of the Year Finalist
• 1994 Atlantic 10 Coach of the Year
• 1993 USBWA District I Coach of the Year
• 1993 Atlantic 10 Coach of the Year
• 1992 Eastern Basketball Coach of the Year

NCAA DIVISION I ACTIVE WINNINGEST COACHES

(On-Court By Percentage - Min. 10 yrs. at Division I level)

NO.	COACH/TEAM	YRS.	PCT.
1.	Mark Few/Gonzaga	16	.810
2.	Roy Williams/UNC	27	.788
3.	**John Calipari/Kentucky**	**23**	**.781**
4.	Mike Krzyzewski/Duke	40	.767
5.	Bo Ryan/Wisconsin	31	.764

*numbers going into the 2015-16 season

SINCE 2005-06 ...

Since the 2005-06 season, John Calipari's on-court record ranks him as the winningest coach. Totals through March 13.

	COACH	RECORD
1.	**John Calipari**	**353-60**
2.	Bill Self	335-66
3.	Mike Krzyzewski	320-74
4.	Roy Williams	308-92
5.	Mark Few	305-73

MISCELLANEOUS ON-COURT RECORDS

Overall Record:	661-186 (.780)
March/April Record:	144-40 (.783)
NCAA Record:	47-15 (.771)
Record in Conference Games:	303-91 (.769)
Record in Conference Tournament:	50-12 (.806)

- Calipari owns the most single-season wins with 38, tying his own record (Memphis in '08 and UK in '12) in 2016 with 38 wins
- Calipari is one of two coaches (Roy Williams) in NCAA Division I history to have 400 or more wins in the first 16 years as a head coach. Calipari had 416 wins in his first 16 years
- Calipari is the winningest coach in NCAA Division I history for a five-year span with 173 victories (2008-12)
- Calipari is the first coach in NCAA Division I history to record five straight on-court 30-win seasons. Memphis hit the 30-win plateau from 2006-09
- Calipari is one of only two coaches (Rick Pitino) to lead three different schools to a Final Four
- Calipari is one of only three coaches (John Wooden, Mike Krzyzewski) to go to four Final Fours in five seasons
- Calipari started with a 54-0 record in Rupp Arena as head coach of the Wildcats
- Calipari has 25 players that have been chosen in the NBA Draft (19 first-round picks) over the last six seasons
- Calipari has more wins (327) in a 10-year period (2006-15) than any other coach in college basketball history

CAL IN CONFERENCE

SEC Coaches	CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS	Tournament Championships	Conference Coach of the Year
Avery Johnson, Alabama	0	0	0
Mike Anderson, Arkansas	1	1	1
Bruce Pearl, Auburn	7	2	7
Michael White, Florida	3	0	2
Mark Fox, Georgia	4	0	3
John Calipari, Kentucky	**14**	**13**	**9**
Johnny Jones, LSU	1	2	0
Kim Anderson, Missouri	6	4	2
Andy Kennedy, Ole Miss	0	1	2
Ben Howland, Mississippi State	7	5	3
Frank Martin, South Carolina	0	0	1
Rick Barnes, Tennessee	3	1	5
Billy Kennedy, Texas A&M	5	2	4
Kevin Stallings, Vanderbilt	2	3	3
TOTALS	**53**	**33**	**42**

CALIPARI VS. ALL OPPONENTS

Alabama 11-3	George Mason 1-0	Missouri...................... 6-2	Southern Cal 3-0
Albany........................... 1-0	Georgetown.................. 2-1	Montana State............. 1-0	Southern Miss 15-4
Arizona 1-1	George Washington...... 8-9	Morehead State........... 2-0	Southwest Texas St. 1-0
Arizona State 0-1	Georgia 11-2	Murray State................ 1-0	St. Bonaventure.......... 17-1
Arkansas 8-6	Georgia Tech................ 1-1	Nevada 1-0	St. John's...................... 1-0
Arkansas-Little Rock 3-0	Gonzaga....................... 4-0	New Hampshire 5-0	St. Joseph's 15-5
Arkansas-Pine Bluff....... 1-0	Grand Canyon 1-0	NJIT............................. 1-0	St. Mary's..................... 1-0
Arkansas State 4-0	Hampton....................... 1-0	New Mexico 1-0	St. Peter's 1-0
Auburn......................... 8-1	Hartford....................... 2-0	New Orleans 1-0	Stanford....................... 3-2
Austin Peay 6-1	Harvard........................ 1-0	North Carolina 5-2	Syracuse....................... 3-2
Baylor 1-2	Holy Cross.................... 4-1	North Carolina State..... 1-0	TCU 5-1
Belmont........................ 2-0	Houston 17-3	North Texas 1-0	Temple 13-11
Boise State................... 1-0	Howard......................... 1-0	Northeastern 2-1	Tennessee................. 13-6
Boston University 7-1	Illinois 1-1	Nothern Kentucky 1-0	Tennessee Martin 4-0
Boston College.............. 2-0	Illinois State 1-0	Northwestern State 2-0	Tennessee Tech............ 1-0
Bradley 1-0	Indiana......................... 3-1	Notre Dame 2-1	Texas 2-2
Bucknell 1-0	Iowa............................. 0-1	Oakland 1-0	Texas A&M................... 5-2
Buffalo 2-0	Iowa State.................... 2-0	Ohio State.................... 1-2	Texas Arlington 3-0
BYU 1-0	Jackson State 2-0	Oklahoma 4-1	Towson State 1-0
Cal State Northridge 1-0	Kansas......................... 3-4	Oklahoma State............ 0-2	Tulane 15-0
Central Conn. St............ 2-0	Kansas State 2-0	Old Dominion 2-0	Tulsa 11-1
Charlotte...................... 2-3	Keene State 1-0	Oral Roberts 1-0	UAB........................... 14-3
Chattanooga 2-0	Kentucky 2-4	Oregon State................ 1-0	UCF 6-0
Christian Brothers......... 2-0	Lafayette (Pa.).............. 1-0	Pennsylvania................ 3-0	UCLA 3-2
Cincinnati..................... 6-7	Lamar.......................... 4-0	Penn State 4-4	UNC Asheville 2-0
Cleveland State............. 3-0	LaSalle 3-0	Pepperdine 1-0	UNC Greensboro 1-0
Coastal Carolina............ 1-0	LIU-Brooklyn 1-0	Pittsburgh 2-1	UNC Wilmington........... 1-0
Colorado 1-1	Lipscomb 1-0	Portland........................ 3-0	USF 9-1
Colorado State 1-1	Long Beach State 2-0	Princeton 2-0	Utah 1-1
Columbia 1-0	Louisiana-Lafayette....... 2-0	Providence 3-1	UTEP 6-0
Connecticut 2-5	Louisiana Tech 1-1	Purdue 2-1	Vanderbilt.................... 11-4
Coppin State 1-0	Louisville.................... 14-6	Radford......................... 1-0	Vermont....................... 2-0
Cornell 1-0	LSU............................... 9-2	Rhode Island.............. 16-2	Villanova 2-0
Dartmouth 1-0	Loyola 1-2	Rice 4-0	Virginia 0-1
Dayton 1-0	Lowell 2-1	Richmond 1-0	Virginia Tech 2-0
DePaul 4-2	Manhattan.................... 2-0	Rider 1-0	Wake Forest................. 2-1
Detroit 1-0	Marist 2-0	Robert Morris 1-0	Washington 1-0
Drexel 2-0	Marshall....................... 6-0	Rutgers 11-4	Western Kentucky 2-0
Duke 1-2	Marquette 3-1	Saint Louis 4-3	West Virginia 12-7
Duquesne 11-4	Maryland 5-3	Sam Houston State 1-0	Wichita State 1-0
East Carolina 7-0	Massachusetts............. 1-0	Samford 3-0	Winthrop 2-0
East Tennessee State 3-0	Memphis....................... 1-0	Santa Clara 1-0	Wisconsin..................... 1-1
Eastern Kentucky 3-0	Miami (Fla.) 0-1	Savannah State 1-0	Wisconsin-Milwaukee. . 1-0
Eastern Michigan 2-0	Miami (Ohio) 2-0	Seton Hall 1-0	Wofford 1-0
Fairfield........................ 1-0	Michigan...................... 1-0	Siena 4-0	Wright State................. 1-0
Florida 14-5	Michigan State............. 1-1	SMU........................... 8-0	Xavier........................... 2-2
Florida State 1-1	Middle Tennessee........ 3-0	South Carolina 11-2	Yale 1-0
Florida Tech 0-1	Mississippi 12-4	South Connecticut 1-0	
Fordham 5-0	Mississippi State 9-0	South Florida 1-0	
Furman 1-0	Mississippi Valley St...... 1-0	S. Louisiana.................. 1-0	

CALIPARI ERA SINGLE-GAME INDIVIDUAL RECORDS

MOST POINTS

Pts.	Player vs. Opponent	Date
35	Terrence Jones vs. Auburn	1-11-11
35	*Jamal Murray vs. Florida*	*2-6-16*
33	*Jamal Murray vs. Ohio St.*	*12-19-15*
33	*Jamal Murray at Vanderbilt*	*2-27-16*
32	Doron Lamb vs. Winthrop	12-22-10
30	Brandon Knight vs. W. Va.	3-19-11
30	*Tyler Ulis vs. Texas A&M*	*3-13-16*
29	Eric Bledsoe vs. ETSU	3-18-10
29	Terrence Jones vs. Oklahoma	11-22-10
29	Julius Randle vs. Belmont	12-21-13
28	Anthony Davis vs. Vanderbilt	2-25-12
28	Archie Goodwin vs. Morehead St.	11-21-12
28	Aaron Harrison vs. Robert Morris	11-17-13
28	*Jamal Murray vs. Tennessee*	*2-18-16*
27	DeMarcus Cousins at S. Carolina	1-26-10
27	DeMarcus Cousins vs. S. Houston	11-19-09
27	Anthony Davis vs. Arkansas	1-17-12
27	Terrence Jones at LSU	1-28-12
27	Terrence Jones vs. Notre Dame	12-8-10
27	Julius Randle vs. Michigan St.	11-12-13
27	*Tyler Ulis at South Carolina*	*2-13-16*
26	Aaron Harrison vs. Ole Miss	1-6-15
26	Andrew Harrison vs. Tennessee	1-18-14
26	Brandon Knight at Arkansas	2-23-11
26	Doron Lamb vs. Samford	12-20-11
26	Doron Lamb vs. Penn State	11-19-11
26	Kyle Wiltjer at Ole Miss	1-29-13
26	James Young vs. UT Arlington	11-19-13
26	James Young vs. Miss. St.	1-8-14
26	*Skal Labissiere vs. Albany*	*11-14-15*
26	*Tyler Ulis at Kansas*	*1-30-16*
26	*Jamal Murray at South Carolina*	*2-13-16*
26	*Jamal Murray vs. Georgia*	*3-12-16*

Active:	35, Jamal Murray vs. Florida (2-6-16)
SEC:	35, Jamal Murray vs. Florida (2-6-16)
Postseason:	30, Tyler Ulis vs. Texas A&M (3-13-16)
SEC Tourney:	30, Tyler Ulis vs. Texas A&M (3-13-16)
NCAA Tourney:	30, Brandon Knight vs. WVU (3-19-11)
Rupp Arena:	35, Jamal Murray vs. Florida (2-6-16)
On the Road:	33, Jamal Murray at Vanderbilt (2-27-16)
SEC Road:	33, Jamal Murray at Vanderbilt (2-27-16)
Ranked Opp.:	30, Tyler Ulis vs. Texas A&M (3-13-16)
Freshman:	35, Jamal Murray vs. Florida (2-6-16)
Sophomore:	30, Tyler Ulis vs. Texas A&M (3-13-16)
Junior:	24, Darius Miller vs. Florida (2-26-11)
Senior:	25, Alex Poythress at Alabama (1-9-16)
Opener:	25, Terrence Jones vs. ETSU (11-12-10)
SEC Opener:	26, Aaron Harrison vs. Ole Miss (1-6-15)

**In some cases, the most recent occurrence is listed

MOST POINTS IN AN SEC GAME

Pts.	Player vs. Opponent	Date
35	Terrence Jones vs. Auburn	1-11-11
35	*Jamal Murray vs. Florida*	*2-6-16*
28	Anthony Davis vs. Vanderbilt	2-25-12
28	*Jamal Murray vs. Tennessee*	*2-18-16*
27	DeMarcus Cousins at S. Carolina	1-26-10
27	Anthony Davis vs. Arkansas	1-17-12
27	Terrence Jones at LSU	1-28-12
27	*Tyler Ulis at South Carolina*	*2-13-16*
26	Aaron Harrison vs. Ole Miss	1-6-15
26	Andrew Harrison vs. Tennessee	1-18-14
26	Brandon Knight at Arkansas	2-23-11
26	Kyle Wiltjer at Ole Miss	1-29-13
26	James Young vs. Miss. State	1-8-14
26	*Jamal Murray at South Carolina*	*2-13-16*
25	*Alex Poythress at Alabama*	*1-9-16*
25	*Derek Willis vs. Tennessee*	*2-18-16*
25	Eric Bledsoe at Florida	1-12-10
25	Terrence Jones at Vanderbilt	2-12-11
25	Julius Randle at Ole Miss	2-18-14
25	Eric Bledsoe at Florida	1-12-10
25	Terrence Jones at Vanderbilt	2-12-11
25	Julius Randle at Ole Miss	2-18-14

MOST POINTS IN A HALF

Pts.	Player vs. Opponent	Date
27	*Jamal Murray[2] vs. Ohio State*	*12-19-15*
23	Julius Randle[2] vs. Mich. State	11-12-13
22	Eric Bledsoe[2] vs. Morehead St.	11-13-09
22	Terrence Jones[2] vs. Auburn	1-11-11
21	*Jamal Murray[1] at Vanderbilt*	*2-27-17*
20	DeMarcus Cousins[2] vs. Asheville	11-30-09
20	Terrence Jones[2] at Georgia	1-8-11
20	*Jamal Murray[1] vs. Florida*	*2-6-16*
19	Archie Goodwin[2] at Louisville	12-29-12
19	Aaron Harrison[1] vs. R. Morris	11-17-13

19	John Wall[2] vs. UConn	12-9-09
19	*Jamal Murray[1] vs. Georgia*	*3-12-16*

[1] - First Half; [2] - Second Half

MOST POINTS OFF THE BENCH

Pts.	Player vs. Opponent	Date
35	Terrence Jones vs. Auburn	1-11-11
32	Doron Lamb vs. Winthrop	12-22-10
26	Kyle Wiltjer at Ole Miss	1-29-13
24	Doron Lamb at North Carolina	12-4-10
24	Kyle Wiltjer vs. Loyola	12-22-11
23	Kyle Wiltjer vs. Lipscomb	12-15-12

MOST 3-POINTERS MADE

3's	Player vs. Opponent	Date
8	Eric Bledsoe vs. ETSU	3-18-10
8	*Jamal Murray vs. Florida*	*2-6-16*
7	*Jamal Murray vs. Ohio St.*	*12-19-15*
7	*Derek Willis vs. Tennessee*	*2-18-16*
7	Doron Lamb vs. Winthrop	12-22-10
7	Kyle Wiltjer vs. Lipscomb	12-15-12
7	Kyle Wiltjer vs. Lafayette	11-16-12

MOST FREE THROWS

FTs	Player vs. Opponent	Date
14	*Tyler Ulis at Arkansas*	*1-21-16*
13	Julius Randle vs. Belmont	12-21-13
13	Julius Randle at Ole Miss	2-18-14
12	Anthony Davis vs. Louisville	12-31-11
12	Archie Goodwin vs. Morehead St.	11-21-12
12	Archie Goodwin at Ole Miss	1-29-13
12	Dakari Johnson vs. UT Arlington	11-25-14
12	*Tyler Ulis at Tennessee*	*2-2-16*

MOST REBOUNDS

Rebs	Player vs. Opponent	Date
19	Michael Kidd-Gilchrist vs. Louisville	12-31-11
18	DeMarcus Cousins vs. S. Houston	11-19-09
18	DeMarcus Cousins vs. Louisville	1-2-10
18	Anthony Davis vs. Chattanooga	12-17-11
18	Patrick Patterson vs. Rider	11-21-09
17	Terrence Jones at Washington	11-23-10
17	Terrence Jones vs. N. Dame	12-8-10
16	Anthony Davis vs. Kansas	4-2-12
16	Anthony Davis vs. UALR	1-3-12
16	Nerlens Noel vs. Baylor	12-1-12
16	Julius Randle vs. UNC Asheville	11-8-13
16	Julius Randle vs. LSU	3-14-14
15	DeMarcus Cousins vs. Tennessee	3-13-10
15	Anthony Davis vs. St. John's	12-1-11
15	Terrence Jones vs. UConn	4-2-11
15	Julius Randle vs. R. Morris	11-17-13
15	Julius Randle vs. Cleveland St.	11-25-13
15	Julius Randle vs. LSU	2-22-14
15	Julius Randle at S. Carolina	3-1-14
15	Julius Randle vs. Kansas State	3-21-14

Active:	13, Alex Poythress vs. Eastern Kentucky, 12-9-15
SEC:	15, Julius Randle vs. LSU, 2-22-14
Postseason:	16, Julius Randle vs. LSU, 3-14-14
SEC Tourney:	16, Julius Randle vs. LSU, 3-14-14
NCAA Tourney:	16, Anthony Davis vs. Kanas, 4-2-12
Rupp Arena:	19, Michael Kidd-Gilchrist vs. Louisville, 12-31-11
On the Road:	17, Terrence Jones at Washington, 11-23-10
SEC Road:	15, Julius Randle at S. Carolina, 3-1-14
Ranked Opp.:	19, Michael Kidd-Gilchrist vs. Louisville, 12-31-11
Freshman:	19, Michael Kidd-Gilchrist vs. Louisville, 12-31-11
Sophomore:	13, Dakari Johnson vs. G. Canyon, 11-14-14
Junior:	18, Patrick Patterson vs. Rider, 11-21-09
Senior:	14, Josh Harrellson at Arkansas, 2-23-11
Opener:	16, Julius Randle vs. UNC Ash., 11-8-13
SEC Opener:	12, Willie Cauley-Stein vs. Ole Miss, 1-6-15

**In some cases, the most recent occurrence is listed

MOST OFFENSIVE REBOUNDS

Rebs	Player vs. Opponent	Date
9	Willie Cauley-Stein vs. Arkansas	2-27-14
9	DeMarcus Cousins vs. Ole Miss	2-2-10
9	Patrick Patterson vs. Rider	11-21-09
8	DeMarcus Cousins vs. S. Houston	11-19-09
8	DeMarcus Cousins vs. Vanderbilt	1-30-10
8	Dakari Johnson vs. G. Canyon	11-14-14
8	Patrick Patterson at Indiana	12-12-09

MOST DEFENSIVE REBOUNDS

Rebs	Player vs. Opponent	Date
15	Terrence Jones vs. Notre Dame	12-8-10
14	DeMarcus Cousins vs. Louisville	1-2-10
13	Anthony Davis vs. Chattanooga	12-17-11
13	Anthony Davis vs. LSU	3-9-12

13	Michael Kidd-Gilchrist vs. Louisville	12-31-11
13	Terrence Jones vs. Washington	11-23-10
12	Anthony Davis vs. UALR	1-3-12
12	Anthony Davis vs. Louisville	3-31-12
12	Anthony Davis vs. Kansas	4-2-12
12	Julius Randle vs. Kansas State	3-21-14
12	Karl-Anthony Towns vs. Georgia	2-3-15

MOST ASSISTS

Assts.	Player vs. Opponent	Date
16	John Wall vs. Hartford	12-29-09
14	John Wall vs. UNC Asheville	11-30-09
14	*Tyler Ulis vs. LSU*	*3-5-16*
12	*Tyler Ulis at South Carolina*	*2-13-16*
11	John Wall vs. Rider	11-21-09
11	John Wall vs. E. Tennessee St.	3-18-10
11	*Tyler Ulis vs. Florida*	*2-6-16*
11	*Tyler Ulis at Texas A&M*	*2-20-16*
11	*Tyler Ulis at Vanderbilt*	*3-1-16*
10	Julius Mays vs. Lafayette	11-16-12
10	Marquis Teague vs. Florida	2-7-12
10	*Tyler Ulis vs. Ole Miss*	*1-2-16*
10	*Tyler Ulis vs. Alabama*	*2-23-16*

Active:	14, Tyler Ulis vs. LSU, 3-5-16
SEC:	14, Tyler Ulis vs. LSU, 3-5-16
Postseason:	11, John Wall vs. E. Tennessee St., 3-18-10
SEC Tourney:	9, Andrew Harrison vs. Georgia, 3-15-14
NCAA Tourney:	11, John Wall vs. E. Tenn. St., 3-18-10
Rupp Arena:	16, John Wall vs. Hartford, 12-29-09
On the Road:	12, Tyler Ulis at South Carolina, 2-13-16
SEC Road:	12, Tyler Ulis at South Carolina, 2-13-16
Ranked Opp.:	8, Tyler Ulis at Kansas, 1-30-16
Freshman:	16, John Wall vs. Hartford, 12-29-09
Sophomore:	14, Tyler Ulis vs. LSU, 3-5-16
Junior:	9, DeAndre Liggins vs. Winthrop, 12-22-10
Senior:	10, Julius Mays vs. Lafayette, 11-16-12
Opener:	8, Jamal Murray vs. Albany, 11-13-15
SEC Opener:	10, Tyler Ulis vs. Ole Miss, 1-2-16

*In some cases, the most recent occurrence is listed

MOST POINTS-REBOUNDS-ASSISTS

P-R-A	Player vs. Opponent	Date
47 (27-17-3)	Terrence Jones vs. Notre Dame	12-8-10
45 (27-18-0)	DeMarcus Cousins vs. Sam Houston	11-19-09
45 (29-13-3)	Terrence Jones vs. Oklahoma	11-22-10
44 (24-19-1)	Michael Kidd-Gilchrist vs. Louisville	12-31-11
42 (35-8-0)	Terrence Jones vs. Auburn	1-11-11
43 (33-9-1)	*Jamal Murray at Vanderbilt*	*2-27-16*
42 (35-6-1)	*Jamal Murray vs. Florida*	*2-6-16*
41 (27-14-0)	Anthony Davis vs. Arkansas	1-17-12
41 (27-13-1)	Julius Randle vs. Michigan State	11-12-13
41 (26-10-5)	James Young vs. Mississippi State	1-8-14
40 (22-9-9)	Archie Goodwin vs. LIU-Brooklyn	11-23-12
40 (23-16-1)	Julius Randle vs. UNC Asheville	11-8-13
39 (28-9-2)	*Jamal Murray vs. Tennessee*	*2-18-16*
39 (27-0-12)	*Tyler Ulis at South Carolina*	*2-13-16*
39 (27-12-0)	DeMarcus Cousins at South Carolina	1-26-10
39 (18-18-3)	DeMarcus Cousins vs. Louisville	1-2-10
39 (28-11-0)	Anthony Davis vs. Vanderbilt	2-25-12
39 (22-16-1)	Anthony Davis vs. UALR	1-3-12
39 (23-14-2)	Josh Harrellson at Louisville	12-31-10
39 (25-12-2)	Terrence Jones vs. ETSU	11-12-10
39 (26-8-5)	Brandon Knight at Arkansas	2-23-11
39 (29-10-0)	Julius Randle vs. Belmont	12-21-13
39 (22-14-3)	Julius Randle vs. Nortern Ky.	11-10-13
38 (28-6-4)	Archie Goodwin vs. Morehead St.	11-21-12
38 (19-18-1)	Patrick Patterson vs. Rider	11-21-09
38 (25-13-0)	Julius Randle at Ole Miss	2-18-14
38 (21-6-11)	John Wall vs. Rider	11-21-09
38 (30-5-3)	*Tyler Ulis vs. Texas A&M*	*3-13-16*

MOST MINUTES WITHOUT A TURNOVER

Mins.	Player vs. Opponent	Date
44	Darius Miller at Arkansas	2-23-11
41	Aaron Harrison vs. LSU	2-22-14
40	*Tyler Ulis vs. Duke*	*11-17-15*
40	Aaron Harrison vs. Ole Miss	1-6-15
40	Alex Poythress vs. Missouri	2-23-13
39	Anthony Davis vs. Alabama	1-21-12
39	Ryan Harrow at Louisville	12-29-12
39	Michael Kidd-Gilchrist vs. Louisville	12-31-11
39	Nerlens Noel vs. Texas A&M	1-12-13

MOST BLOCKED SHOTS

Blks.	Player vs. Opponent	Date
12	Nerlens Noel at Ole Miss	1-29-13
9	Willie Cauley-Stein vs. Boise State	12-10-13
9	Willie Cauley-Stein vs. Providence	12-1-13
8	Anthony Davis at S. Carolina	2-4-12

8	Anthony Davis vs. St. John's	12-1-11
8	Nerlens Noel at Alabama	1-22-13
7	Willie Cauley-Stein vs. E. Michigan	11-27-13
7	Willie Cauley-Stein vs. Missouri	2-23-13
7	Anthony Davis vs. WKU	3-15-12
7	Anthony Davis at Vanderbilt	2-11-12
7	Anthony Davis vs. Tennessee	1-31-12
7	Anthony Davis vs. Arkansas	1-17-12
7	Anthony Davis vs. S. Carolina	1-7-12
7	Anthony Davis vs. Kansas	11-15-11
7	Nerlens Noel at Auburn	1-19-13
7	Nerlens Noel vs. Texas A&M	1-12-13
7	Nerlens Noel vs. Lipscomb	12-15-12
7	Nerlens Noel vs. Portland	12-8-12
7	Karl-Anthony Towns vs. Vanderbilt	1-20-15

Active:	6, Skal Labissiere vs. LSU 3-5-16
SEC:	12, Nerlens Noel at Ole Miss, 1-29-13
Postseason:	7, Anthony Davis vs. WKU, 3-15-12
SEC Tourney:	6, Anthony Davis vs. LSU, 3-11-12
NCAA Tourney:	7, Anthony Davis vs. WKU, 3-15-12
Rupp Arena:	9, Willie Cauley-Stein vs. Boise St., 12-10-13
On the Road:	12, Nerlens Noel at Ole Miss, 1-29-13
SEC Road:	12, Nerlens Noel at Ole Miss, 1-29-13
Ranked Opp.:	12, Nerlens Noel at Ole Miss, 1-29-13
Freshman:	12, Nerlens Noel at Ole Miss, 1-29-13
Sophomore:	9, Willie Cauley-Stein vs. Boise St., 12-10-13
Junior:	5, Marcus Lee vs. Arizona State, 12-12-15
Senior:	6, Josh Harrellson vs. Penn, 1-3-11
Opener:	5, Anthony Davis vs. Marist, 11-11-11
SEC Opener:	7, Anthony Davis vs. S. Carolina, 1-7-12

*In some cases, the most recent occurrence is listed

MOST STEALS

Stls.	Player vs. Opponent	Date
6	Willie Cauley-Stein vs. Georgia	1-25-14
6	Nerlens Noel vs. Baylor	12-1-12
6	John Wall vs. UConn	12-9-09
6	John Wall vs. UNC Asheville	11-30-09
6	*Tyler Ulis vs. Ole Miss*	*1-2-16*
5	Willie Cauley-Stein vs. Texas	12-5-14
5	Aaron Harrison vs. Arkansas	2-28-15
5	DeAndre Liggins vs. Tennessee	2-8-11
5	Darius Miller at Portland	11-19-10

Active:	6, Tyler Ulis vs. Ole Miss, 1-2-16
SEC:	6, Tyler Ulis vs. Ole Miss, 1-2-16
Postseason:	5, John Wall vs. Miss. State, 3-14-10
SEC Tourney:	5, John Wall vs. Miss. State, 3-14-10
NCAA Tourney:	4, Andrew Harrison vs. W. Virginia, 3-26-15
Rupp Arena:	6, Tyler Ulis vs. Ole Miss, 1-2-16
On the Road:	5, Darius Miller at Portland, 11-19-10
SEC Road:	3, Jamal Murray, at Auburn, 1-16-16
Ranked Opp.:	5, Aaron Harrison vs. Arkansas, 2-28-15
Freshman:	6, Nerlens Noel vs. Baylor, 12-1-12
Sophomore:	6, Tyler Ulis vs. Ole Miss, 1-2-16
Junior:	5, Willie Cauley-Stein vs. Texas, 12-5-14
Senior:	4, Josh Harrellson vs. Princeton, 3-17-11
Opener:	4, Aaron Harrison vs. UNC Asheville, 11-8-13
SEC Opener:	6, Tyler Ulis vs. Ole Miss, 1-2-16

*In some cases, the most recent occurrence is listed

CALIPARI ERA SINGLE-GAME SCORING RECORDS

MOST POINTS

Pts.(Score)	Opp.	Date
110 (110-75)	Auburn	2/21/15
108 (108-58)	Marist	11/11/11
105 (105-76)	UT Arlington	11/19/13
104 (104-75)	LIU Brooklyn	11/23/12
104 (104-61)	Hartford	12/29/09
102 (102-90)	vs. Indiana	3/23/12
102 (102-92)	Sam Houston	11/19/09
101 (101-49)	Lafayette	11/16/12
101 (101-70)	Arkansas	1/23/10
100 (100-71)	vs. ETSU	3/18/10

MOST POINTS IN A LOSS

Pts.(Score)	Opp.	Date
85 (85-87)	at Arkansas	1/14/14
84 (90-84)	*at Kansas*	*1/30/16*
82 (82-87)	at LSU	1/28/14
77 (77-82)	at N. Carolina	12/14/13
77 (77-80)	at Louisville	12/19/12
77 (77-87)	at UCLA	12/3/15
77 (77-84)	*at Tennessee*	*2/2/16*
77 (77-79)	*at Texas A&M*	*2/20/16*
76 (76-77)	at Arkansas	2/23/11
74 (74-78)	vs. Michigan St.	11/12/13

MOST POINTS IN A WIN OVER RANKED TEAM

Pts.(Score)	Opp.	Date
102 (102-90)	vs. Indiana	3/23/12
87 (87-74)	at Ole Miss	1/29/13
85 (85-72)	Vanderbilt	1/30/10
85 (85-75)	Ole Miss	2/2/10
84 (84-70)	North Carolina	12/13/14
84 (84-67)	Arkansas	2/28/15
82 (82-70)	vs. Baylor	3/25/12
82 (82-77)	*vs. Texas A&M*	*3/13/16*
78 (78-63)	vs. Arkansas	3/15/15
78 (78-39)	vs. West Virginia	3/26/15
78 (78-76)	vs. Wichita St.	3/23/14
78 (78-58)	Florida	2/7/12
78 (78-63)	at Louisville	12/31/10

MOST PTS. AT NEUTRAL SITE

Pts.(Score)	Opp.	Date
102 (102-90)	vs. Indiana	3/23/12
100 (100-71)	vs. ETSU	3/18/10
94 (94-57)	vs. UNC Ash.	11/30/09
93 (93-80)	*vs. Georgia*	*3/12/16*
91 (91-67)	vs. Auburn	3/14/15
90 (90-60)	vs. Wake Forest	3/20/10
87 (87-71)	vs. Iowa State	3/17/12
85 (85-67)	vs. LSU	3/14/14
85 (85-47)	vs. Penn State	11/19/11
85 (85-59)	*vs. Alabama*	*3/11/16*

MOST PTS. IN NCAA TOURNEY

Pts.(Score)	Opp.	Date
102 (102-90)	vs. Indiana	3/23/12
100 (100-71)	vs. ETSU	3/18/10
90 (90-60)	vs. Wake Forest	3/20/10
87 (87-71)	vs. Iowa State	3/17/12
82 (82-70)	vs. Baylor	3/25/12
81 (81-66)	vs. WKU	3/15/12
79 (79-56)	vs. Hampton	3/19/15
78 (78-39)	vs. West Virginia	3/26/15
78 (78-76)	vs. Wichita St.	3/23/14
76 (76-69)	vs. N. Carolina	3/27/11

MOST PTS. IN SEC TOURNEY

Pts.(Score)	Opp.	Date
93 (93-80)	*vs. Georgia*	*3/12/16*
91 (91-67)	vs. Auburn	3/14/15
85 (85-67)	vs. LSU	3/14/14
85 (85-59)	*vs. Alabama*	*3/11/16*
82 (82-77)	*vs. Texas A&M*	*3/13/16*
78 (78-63)	vs. Arkansas	3/15/15
75 (75-66)	vs. Ole Miss	3/11/11
75 (75-74)	vs. Miss. State	3/14/10
74 (74-71)	vs. Florida	3/10/12
74 (74-45)	vs. Tennessee	3/13/10
73 (73-67)	vs. Alabama	3/12/10

MOST PTS. IN RUPP ARENA WIN

Pts.(Score)	Opp.	Date
110 (110-75)	Auburn	2/21/15
108 (108-58)	Marist	11/11/11
105 (105-76)	UT Arlington	11/19/13
104 (104-75)	LIU Brooklyn	11/23/12
104 (104-61)	Hartford	12/29/09
102 (102-92)	Sam Houston	11/19/09
101 (101-49)	Lafayette	11/16/12
101 (101-70)	Arkansas	1/23/10
94 (94-77)	*LSU*	*3/5/16*
93 (93-80)	Belmont	12/21/13
93 (93-63)	Northern Ky.	11/10/13

MOST PTS. IN ROAD GAME WIN

Pts.(Score)	Opp.	Date
90 (90-73)	at Indiana	12/12/09
89 (89-77)	at Florida	1/12/10
89 (89-62)	*at South Carolina*	*2/13/16*
88 (88-79)	*at Florida*	*3/1/16*
87 (87-74)	at Ole Miss	1/29/13
86 (86-52)	at S. Carolina	2/4/12
84 (84-79)	at Missouri	2/1/14
84 (84-70)	at Ole Miss	2/18/14
81 (81-55)	at LSU	2/6/10
81 (81-75)	at Miss. State	2/16/10
80 (80-69)	at Georgia	3/3/10
80 (80-66)	*at Arkansas*	*1/21/16*

MOST POINTS/HALF

Pts.	Opp.	Date
63[2]	Marist	11/11/11
63[2]	UT Arlington	11/19/13
58[2]	Auburn	2/21/15
57[1]	Arkansas	1/23/10
57[1]	Hartford	12/29/09
56[1]	Drexel	12/21/09
55[1]	LIU-Brooklyn	11/23/12
55[1]	UT Arlington	11/25/14

[1] - First Half; [2] - Second Half

FEWEST POINTS

Pts.(Score)	Opp.	Date
48 (48-64)	vs. Vanderbilt	3/15/13
50 (50-64)	at Notre Dame	11/29/12
52 (52-69)	at Florida	2/12/13
54 (54-60)	vs. UConn	4/7/14
55 (55-48)	Alabama	3/4/14
55 (55-64)	Baylor	12/1/12
55 (55-59)	at Alabama	1/22/13
55 (55-56)	vs. UConn	4/2/11
56 (56-46)	Columbia	12/10/14
56 (56-49)	vs. Kansas St.	3/21/14

FEWEST POINTS IN A WIN

Pts.(Score)	Opp.	Date
55 (55-48)	Alabama	3/4/14
56 (56-46)	Columbia	12/10/14
56 (56-49)	vs. Kansas St.	3/21/14
57 (57-44)	at Georgia	1/24/12
58 (58-38)	Providence	11/30/14
58 (58-50)	at Louisville	12/27/14
58 (58-43)	at S. Carolina	1/24/14
58 (58-56)	at Vanderbilt	2/20/10
59 (59-57)	vs. Princeton	3/17/11
60 (60-58)	at Vanderbilt	1/10/13
60 (60-51)	vs. LSU	3/9/12

FEWEST PTS. AT NEUTRAL SITE

Pts.(Score)	Opp.	Date
48 (48-64)	vs. Vanderbilt	3/15/13
54 (54-60)	vs. UConn	4/7/14
55 (55-56)	vs. UConn	4/2/11
56 (56-49)	vs. Kansas St.	3/21/14
59 (59-57)	vs. Princeton	3/17/11
60 (60-61)	vs. Florida	3/16/14
60 (60-51)	vs. LSU	3/9/12
62 (62-67)	vs. Baylor	12/6/13
62 (62-52)	vs. ODU	11/20/11
62 (62-60)	vs. Ohio State	3/25/11
62 (62-45)	vs. Cornell	3/25/10

FEWEST POINTS IN NCAA TOURNEY

Pts.(Score)	Opp.	Date
54 (54-60)	vs. UConn	4/7/14
55 (55-56)	vs. UConn	4/2/11
56 (56-49)	vs. Kansas St.	3/21/14
59 (59-57)	vs. Princeton	3/17/11
62 (62-60)	vs. Ohio State	3/25/11
62 (62-45)	vs. Cornell	3/25/10
64 (64-71)	vs. Wisconsin	4/4/15
64 (64-51)	vs. Cincinnati	3/21/15
66 (66-73)	vs. W. Virginia	3/27/10
67 (67-59)	vs. Kansas	4/2/12

FEWEST PTS. IN SEC TOURNEY

Pts.(Score)	Opp.	Date
48 (48-64)	vs. Vanderbilt	3/15/13
60 (60-61)	vs. Florida	3/16/14
60 (60-51)	vs. LSU	3/9/12
64 (64-49)	vs. Florida	3/13/15
64 (64-71)	vs. Vanderbilt	3/11/12
70 (70-58)	vs. Georgia	3/14/15
70 (70-54)	vs. Florida	3/13/11
72 (72-58)	vs. Alabama	3/12/11
73 (73-67)	vs. Alabama	3/12/10
74 (74-71)	vs. Florida	3/10/12
74 (74-45)	vs. Tennessee	3/13/10

FEWEST PTS. IN RUPP ARENA

Pts.(Score)	Opp.	Date
55 (55-64)	Baylor	12/1/12
56 (56-46)	Columbia	12/10/14
58 (58-38)	Providence	11/30/14
61 (61-57)	Florida	3/9/13

FEWEST PTS. IN ROAD GAME

Pts.(Score)	Opp.	Date
50 (50-64)	at Notre Dame	11/29/12
52 (52-69)	at Florida	2/12/13
55 (55-48)	at Alabama	3/4/14
55 (55-59)	at Alabama	1/22/13
57 (57-59)	at R. Morris	3/19/13
57 (57-44)	at Georgia	1/24/12
58 (58-50)	at Louisville	12/27/14
58 (58-43)	at S. Carolina	1/24/14
58 (58-88)	at Tennessee	2/16/13
58 (58-56)	at Vanderbilt	2/20/10

FEWEST POINTS/HALF

Pts.	Opp.	Date
19[2]	at Georgia	1/24/12
21[1]	vs. UConn	4/2/11
22[1]	at Tennessee	3/6/11
22[2]	at Alabama	1/22/13
22[1]	at Louisville	12/27/14
23[1]	vs. UConn	12/9/09
23[1]	vs. Vanderbilt	3/15/13
23[2]	vs. Maryland	11/9/12
23[2]	vs. UConn	4/7/14
23[1]	Columbia	12/10/14
23[2]	*at Vanderbilt*	*2/27/16*

[1] - First Half; [2] - Second Half

CALIPARI ERA LARGEST MARGINS

VICTORY MARGINS

Margin (Score)	Opponent	Date
+58 (86-28)	Montana State	11/13/14
+52 (101-49)	Lafayette	11/16/12
+50 (108-58)	Marist	11/11/11
+49 (86-37)	Missoui	1/13/15
+48 (92-44)	UT Arlington	11/25/14
+48 (88-40)	Radford	11/23/11
+44 (88-44)	Drexel	12/21/09
+43 (104-61)	Hartford	12/29/09
+40 (85-45)	Grand Canyon	11/14/14
+39 (83-44)	vs. UCLA	12/20/14
+39 (78-39)	vs. W. Virginia	3/26/15

IN RUPP ARENA

Margin (Score)	Opponent	Date
+58 (86-28)	Montana State	11/13/14
+52 (101-49)	Lafayette	11/16/12
+50 (108-58)	Marist	11/11/11
+49 (86-37)	Missoui	1/13/15
+48 (92-44)	UT Arlington	11/25/14
+48 (88-40)	Radford	11/23/11
+44 (88-44)	Drexel	12/21/09
+43 (104-61)	Hartford	12/29/09
+40 (85-45)	Grand Canyon	11/14/14
+38 (87-49)	Robert Morris	11/17/13
+38 (88-50)	Lipscomb	12/15/12
+38 (82-44)	LSU	1/15/11

IN SEC PLAY

Margin (Score)	Opponent	Date
+49 (86-37)	Missoui	1/13/15
+38 (82-44)	LSU	1/15/11
+35 (110-75)	Auburn	2/21/15
+34 (77-43)	South Carolina	2/14/15
+34 (86-52)	at South Carolina	2/4/12
+34 (88-54)	*Missouri*	*1/27/16*
+34 (82-48)	*Georgia*	*2/9/16*
+31 (90-59)	South Carolina	2/19/11
+31 (101-70)	Arkansas	1/23/10
+30 (43-36)	Mississippi State	2/27/13
+30 (79-49)	Georgia	3/1/12

ON THE ROAD

Margin (Score)	Opponent	Date
+34 (86-52)	at South Carolina	2/4/12
+31 (79-48)	at Portland	11/19/10
+27 (89-62)	*at South Carolina*	*2/13/16*
+26 (81-55)	at LSU	2/6/10
+24 (74-50)	at LSU	1/28/12
+22 (70-48)	at Alabama	1/17/15
+22 (75-53)	at Auburn	1/19/13
+18 (66-48)	at Tennessee	2/17/15
+18 (74-56)	at Mississippi State	2/25/15

NEUTRAL SITE

Margin (Score)	Opponent	Date
+39 (83-44)	vs. UCLA	12/20/14
+39 (78-39)	vs. W. Virginia	3/26/15
+38 (85-47)	vs. Penn State	11/19/11
+32 (72-40)	vs. Kansas	11/18/14
+30 (90-60)	vs. Wake Forest	3/20/10
+29 (74-45)	vs. Tennessee	3/13/10
+29 (100-71)	vs. ETSU	3/18/10
+26 (85-59)	*vs. Alabama*	*3/11/16*
+24 (91-67)	vs. Auburn	3/14/15
+23 (79-56)	vs. Hampton	3/19/15
+22 (73-52)	vs. Little Rock	1/3/12

ON THE ROAD IN THE SEC

Margin (Score)	Opponent	Date
+34 (86-52)	at South Carolina	2/4/12
+27 (89-62)	*at South Carolina*	*2/13/16*
+26 (81-55)	at LSU	2/6/10
+24 (74-50)	at LSU	1/28/12
+22 (75-53)	at Auburn	1/19/13
+22 (70-48)	at Alabama	1/17/15
+18 (66-48)	at Tennessee	2/17/15
+18 (74-56)	at Mississippi State	2/25/15
+16 (77-61)	*at Alabama*	*1/9/16*
+16 (69-53)	at Missouri	1/29/15
+15 (68-53)	at Auburn	1/11/12
+15 (74-59)	at Florida	3/4/12
+15 (58-43)	at South Carolina	1/24/15

SEC TOURNAMENT

Margin (Score)	Opponent	Date
+29 (74-45)	vs. Tennessee	3/13/10
+26 (85-59)	*vs. Alabama*	*3/11/16*
+24 (91-67)	vs. Auburn	3/14/15
+18 (85-67)	vs. LSU	3/14/14
+16 (70-54)	vs. Florida	3/13/11
+15 (64-49)	vs. Florida	3/13/15
+15 (78-63)	vs. Arkansas	3/15/15
+14 (72-58)	vs. Alabama	3/12/11
+13 (93-80)	*vs. Georgia*	*3/12/16*
+12 (70-58)	vs. Georgia	3/15/14

NCAA TOURNAMENT

Margin (Score)	Opponent	Date
+39 (78-39)	vs. W. Virginia	3/26/15
+30 (90-60)	vs. Wake Forest	3/20/10
+29 (100-71)	vs. ETSU	3/18/10
+23 (79-56)	vs. Hampton	3/19/15
+17 (62-45)	vs. Cornell	3/25/10
+16 (87-71)	vs. Iowa State	3/17/12
+15 (81-66)	vs. WKU	3/15/12
+13 (64-51)	vs. Cincinnati	3/21/15
+12 (102-90)	vs. Indiana	3/23/12
+12 (82-70)	vs. Baylor	3/25/12

KENTUCKY'S 100-POINT GAMES

Points (Score)	Opponent	Date
110 (110-75)	Auburn	2/21/15
108 (108-58)	Marist	11/11/11
105 (105-76)	UT Arlington	11/19/13
104 (104-61)	Hartford	12/29/09
104 (104-75)	LIU Brooklyn	11/23/12
102 (102-92)	Rider	11/21/09
102 (102-90)	Indiana	3/23/12
101 (101-70)	Arkansas	1/23/10
101 (101-49)	Lafayette	11/16/12
100 (100-71)	E. Tennessee St.	3/18/10

YEAR BY YEAR 100-POINT SCORING GAMES

Year	No.
2010	4
2011	0
2012	2
2013	2
2014	1
2015	1
2016	0

CALIPARI ERA SINGLE-GAME TEAM RECORDS

MOST FIELD GOALS

FGs.	Opp.	Date
46	Marist	11/11/11
44	Auburn	2/21/15
42	LIU-Brooklyn	11/23/12
41	Hartford	12/29/09
40	Lafayette	11/16/12
38	Wake Forest	3/20/10
38	*LSU*	*3/5/16*
37	Arkansas	1/23/10
36	Sam Houston	11/19/09
36	vs. UNC Ashe.	11/30/09
36	at Florida	1/12/10

FEWEST FIELD GOALS

FGs.	Opp.	Date
14	at S. Carolina	3/1/14
16	Alabama	3/4/14
17	Louisville	12/31/11
17	at Auburn	2/12/14
18	vs. LSU	3/9/12
18	vs. Vanderbilt	3/15/13
18	vs. Florida	3/16/14
18	vs. UConn	4/7/14
18	at Texas A&M	1/10/15
18	at S. Carolina	1/24/15

MOST FIELD-GOAL ATTEMPTS

FGs.	Opp.	Date
77	Arkansas	1/23/10
76	Arkansas	2/27/14
75	Marist	11/11/11
73	at LSU	1/28/14
72	*at Auburn*	*1/16/16*
72	*LSU*	*3/5/16*
71	at Georgia	1/8/11
71	at Arkansas	2/23/11
71	Baylor	12/1/12

FEWEST FIELD-GOAL ATTEMPTS

FGs.	Opp.	Date
39	at S. Carolina	1/24/15
40	at R. Morris	3/19/13
41	Tennessee	1/31/12
41	Alabama	1/31/15
42	vs. Cleveland St.	11/24/09
42	vs. LSU	3/9/12
42	vs. Providence	12/1/13
42	Florida	2/15/14
43	at Auburn	1/16/10
43	at Arkansas	3/2/13

MOST FREE THROWS

FTs.	Opp.	Date
35	vs. Indiana	3/23/12
33	at S. Carolina	3/1/14
32	Louisville	12/31/11
31	Indiana	12/11/10
31	Morehead St.	11/21/12
30	vs. Baylor	3/25/12
30	UNC Asheville	11/8/13
30	vs. Auburn	3/14/15
29	at N. Carolina	12/14/13
29	*Illinois State*	*11/30/15*

FEWEST FREE THROWS

FTs.	Opp.	Date
4	vs. UConn	4/2/11
4	*Vanderbilt*	*1/23/16*
6	vs. Princeton	3/17/11
6	at Alabama	1/22/13
6	at Florida	2/12/13
6	vs. Michigan	3/30/14
7	vs. Wake Forest	3/20/10
7	at Georgia	1/24/12
7	at Florida	3/4/12
7	vs. UCLA	12/20/14
7	at LSU	2/10/15

MOST FREE-THROW ATTEMPTS

FTs.	Opp.	Date
48	UNC Asheville	11/8/13
46	*Illinois State*	*11/30/15*
44	Indiana	12/11/10
44	vs. Baylor	3/25/12
43	Louisville	12/31/11
43	at N. Carolina	12/14/13
42	at S. Carolina	3/1/14
41	Morehead St.	11/21/12
41	vs. LSU	3/14/14
40	Alabama	1/21/12
40	E. Michigan	11/27/13
40	at Arkansas	1/14/14
40	at Auburn	2/12/14
40	Ole Miss	1/6/15

FEWEST FREE-THROW ATTEMPTS

FTs.	Opp.	Date
6	*Vanderbilt*	*1/23/16*
10	vs. Wisconsin	4/4/15
11	vs. Princeton	3/17/11
11	Georgia	3/1/12
11	Florida	2/7/12
11	at Florida	3/4/12
11	at Alabama	1/22/13
11	at Florida	2/12/13
11	Mississippi St.	2/27/13
11	vs. Michigan	3/30/14
11	at LSU	2/10/15

MOST 3-POINTERS

3s.	Opp.	Date
15	vs. ETSU	3/18/10
15	Georgia	3/1/12
14	Hartford	12/29/09
13	ETSU	11/12/10
13	*vs. Alabama*	*3/11/16*
12	Vanderbilt	1/30/10
12	Winthrop	12/22/10
12	vs. N. Carolina	3/27/11
12	Chattanooga	12/17/11
12	vs. UCLA	12/20/14
12	*Florida*	*2/6/16*

FEWEST 3-POINTERS

3s.	Opp.	Date
1	vs. Alabama	3/12/10
1	Tennessee	1/31/12
1	vs. LSU	3/9/12
1	LSU	2/22/14
1	Texas	12/5/14

MOST 3-POINT ATTEMPTS

3s.	Opp.	Date
33	Arkansas	1/23/10
33	vs. ETSU	3/18/10
33	Chattanooga	12/17/11
32	vs. W. Virginia	3/27/10
28	Hartford	12/29/09
28	vs. Vanderbilt	3/11/12
28	Alabama	3/4/14
28	at Texas A&M	1/10/15
27	vs. UConn	4/2/11
27	Georgia	3/1/12

FEWEST 3-POINT ATTEMPTS

3s.	Opp.	Date
5	at Tennessee	1/14/12
5	vs. Wisconsin	4/5/14
5	vs. Wisconsin	4/4/15
6	Vanderbilt	1/20/15
6	Florida	3/7/15
7	at Indiana	12/10/11
7	vs. Louisville	3/31/12
7	Providence	11/30/14
7	at Missouri	1/29/15

MOST REBOUNDS

Rebs.	Opp.	Date
59	Arkansas	1/23/10
57	Louisville	12/31/11
56	Robert Morris	11/17/13
54	*NJIT*	*11/14/15*
53	at LSU	2/6/10
53	at Miss. State	2/16/10
53	Montana St.	11/23/14
53	at Texas A&M	1/10/15
52	E. Michigan	1/2/13
52	E. Michigan	11/27/13

FEWEST REBOUNDS

Rebs.	Opp.	Date
21	at Tennessee	2/16/13
21	Alabama	1/31/15
22	vs. Wisconsin	4/4/15
24	Tennessee	1/18/14
24	North Carolina	12/13/14
24	Georgia	2/3/15
25	at R. Morris	3/19/13
25	vs. Baylor	12/6/13
26	Mississippi St.	2/15/11
26	vs. Princeton	3/17/11

MOST OFFENSIVE REBOUNDS

Rebs.	Opp.	Date
26	Arkansas	2/27/14
24	vs. W. Virginia	3/27/10
24	Grand Canyon	11/14/14
22	Arkansas	1/23/10
22	at Auburn	2/2/14
22	*NJIT*	*11/14/15*
21	at Indiana	12/12/09
21	Baylor	12/1/12
21	at S. Carolina	3/1/14
21	Columbia	12/10/14

FEWEST OFFENSIVE REBOUNDS

Rebs.	Opp.	Date
3	at S. Carolina	1/24/14
5	Georgia	1/29/11
5	Mississippi State	2/15/11
5	Alabama	1/31/15
5	Georgia	2/3/15
6	at Florida	2/5/11
6	vs. Princeton	3/17/11
6	Tennessee	1/31/12
6	vs. Louisville	3/31/12
6	at Florida	3/8/14
6	vs. Wisconsin	4/4/15
6	*Vanderbilt*	*1/23/16*
6	*at Kansas*	*1/30/16*
6	*at Texas A&M*	*2/20/16*

MOST DEFENSIVE REBOUNDS

Rebs.	Opp.	Date
39	E. Michigan	1/2/13
39	Robert Morris	11/17/13
38	vs. Cleveland St.	11/24/09
38	EKU	12/7/14
38	vs. Hampton	3/19/15
37	Arkansas	1/23/10
37	Louisville	12/31/11
37	at Texas A&M	1/10/15
36	Marist	11/11/11
36	Radford	11/23/11
36	*at Florida*	*3/1/16*

FEWEST DEFENSIVE REBOUNDS

Rebs.	Opp.	Date
9	at Tennessee	2/16/13
13	North Carolina	12/13/14
15	at Alabama	1/18/11
15	vs. Baylor	12/6/13
16	vs. UConn	11/24/10
16	at Auburn	1/11/12
16	Texas A&M	1/12/13
16	Alabama	1/31/15
16	vs. Wisconsin	4/4/15

CALIPARI ERA SINGLE-GAME TEAM RECORDS

MOST ASSISTS

Assts.	Opp.	Date
30	Hartford	12/29/09
28	vs. UNC Ash.	11/30/09
28	LIU-Brooklyn	11/23/12
26	*LSU*	*3/5/16*
25	vs. UCLA	12/20/14
25	Auburn	2/21/15
24	vs. ETSU	3/18/10
24	Marist	11/11/11
24	Boston	11/21/14

FEWEST ASSISTS

Assts.	Opp.	Date
5	LSU	2/22/14
6	Vanderbilt	3/1/11
7	vs. Washington	11/23/10
7	at Tennessee	1/14/12
7	Vanderbilt	2/20/13
7	vs. Vanderilt	3/15/13
7	Boise State	12/10/13
7	at Auburn	2/12/14
7	Arkansas	2/27/14
7	vs. Florida	3/13/15
7	vs. Wisconsin	4/4/15

MOST TURNOVERS

TOs.	Opp.	Date
24	Morehead St.	11/13/09
23	Sam Houston	11/19/09
21	North Carolina	12/5/09
21	vs. ODU	11/20/11
21	Louisville	12/31/11
20	vs. Cleveland St.	11/24/09
20	E. Michigan	11/27/13
20	*Albany*	*11/13/15*

FEWEST TURNOVERS

TOs.	Opp.	Date
3	at S. Carolina	2/4/12
3	at Georgia	3/3/15
4	Portland	11/26/14
4	vs. Wisconsin	4/5/14
4	Columbia	12/10/14
4	*Alabama*	*2/23/16*

MOST BLOCKS

Blks.	Opp.	Date
18	St. John's	12/1/11
14	at Georgia	3/3/10
13	Marist	11/11/11
13	vs. Kansas	11/15/11
13	Arkansas	1/17/12
13	at Ole Miss	1/29/13
13	vs. UCLA	12/20/14

FEWEST BLOCKS

Blks.	Opp.	Date
1	at Florida	3/8/14
1	vs. Wisconsin	4/5/14
1	at Missouri	1/29/15
1	Alabama	1/31/15
1	*Wright State*	*11/20/15*
1	*at LSU*	*1/5/16*
1	*vs. Alabama*	*3/11/16*
2	vs. Notre Dame	12/8/10
2	at Georgia	3/7/13
2	vs. Vanderbilt	3/15/13
2	at Vanderbilt	1/11/14
2	vs. Georgia	3/15/14
2	vs. Louisville	3/28/14
2	at Florida	2/7/15
2	*vs. Ole Miss*	*1/2/16*

MOST STEALS

Stls.	Opp.	Date
15	Lafayette	11/16/12
13	vs. UConn	12/9/09
13	*vs. Ole Miss*	*1/2/16*
12	vs. UNC Ash.	11/30/09
12	Georgia	1/9/10
12	vs. Cornell	3/25/10
12	Portland	11/26/11
12	Lipscomb	12/15/12
12	Providence	11/30/14
12	North Carolina	12/13/14
12	*Boston U.*	*11/24/15*

FEWEST STEALS

Stls.	Opp.	Date
0	vs. Baylor	12/6/13
1	Florida	2/26/11
1	vs. W. Virginia	3/19/11
1	at R. Morris	3/19/13
1	vs. Michigan St.	11/12/13
1	*vs. Alabama*	*3/11/16*

MOST PERSONAL FOULS

Fls.	Opp.	Date
33	*at Kansas*	*1/30/15*
31	at N. Carolina	12/14/13
31	at Arkansas	1/14/14
29	at S. Carolina	3/1/14
28	Vanderbilt	1/30/10
27	vs. W. Virginia	3/27/10
27	*at UCLA*	*12/3/15*
27	*at Florida*	*3/1/16*
26	at N. Carolina	12/4/10
26	at Georgia	3/7/13
26	Texas	12/5/14
26	at Texas A&M	1/10/15
26	vs. Auburn	3/14/15
26	*at Tennessee*	*2/2/16*

FEWEST PERSONAL FOULS

Fls.	Opp.	Date
7	Hartford	12/29/09
8	vs. UNC Ash.	11/30/09
8	Drexel	12/21/09
8	Winthrop	12/22/10
8	vs. Princeton	3/17/11
8	vs. Florida	3/10/12
8	Lafayette	11/16/12
8	Montana St.	11/23/14

HIGHEST FIELD-GOAL PCT.

Pct.	Opp.	Date
.677	LIU-Brooklyn	11/23/12
.647	Auburn	2/21/15
.645	Lafayette	11/16/12
.643	vs. Providence	12/1/13
.614	South Carolina	2/5/13
.613	Marist	11/11/11
.603	Hartford	12/29/09
.603	vs. Wake Forest	3/20/10
.600	Sam Houston	11/19/09
.593	Boston	11/30/10

LOWEST FIELD-GOAL PCT.

Pct.	Opp.	Date
.269	at S. Carolina	3/1/14
.281	at Texas A&M	1/10/15
.296	Baylor	12/1/12
.298	Louisville	12/31/11
.309	at Auburn	2/12/14
.327	Alabama	3/4/14
.339	vs. UConn	4/2/11
.342	Arkansas	2/27/14
.343	vs. W. Virginia	3/27/10
.346	vs. Vanderbilt	3/15/13

HIGHEST FREE-THROW PCT.

Pct.	Opp.	Date
1.000	Austin Peay	12/19/09
1.000	Florida	2/7/12
.958	Tennessee	1/18/14
.955	at Florida	2/7/15
.946	vs. Indiana	3/23/12
.923	at Miss. State	2/25/15
.900	at Ole Miss	2/18/14
.900	vs. Wisconsin	4/4/15
.895	Drexel	12/21/09
min 10 attempts		

LOWEST FREE-THROW PCT.

Pct.	Opp.	Date
.333	vs. UConn	4/2/11
.391	ETSU	11/12/10
.412	vs. Wake Forest	3/20/10
.435	*at Vanderbilt*	*2/27/16*
.471	Providence	11/30/14
.478	at Louisville	12/29/12
.500	vs. Oklahoma	11/22/10
.500	vs. Vanderbilt	3/15/13
.500	vs. Georgia	3/15/14
.500	*vs. Ole Miss*	*1/2/16*
min 10 attempts		

HIGHEST 3-POINT PERCENTAGE

Pct.	Opp.	Date
.700	*at Florida*	*3/1/16*
.692	Drexel	12/21/09
.667	Austin Peay	12/19/09
.636	vs. Michigan	3/30/14
.625	Boston	11/30/10
.600	Florida	2/7/12
.600	*Florida*	*2/6/16*
.591	*vs. Alabama*	*3/11/16*
.583	at Florida	2/5/11
.583	vs. Arkansas	3/15/15
min 10 attempts		

LOWEST 3-POINT PERCENTAGE

Pct.	Opp.	Date
.077	vs. Alabama	3/12/10
.083	Texas	12/5/14
.091	at Tennessee	2/27/10
.100	Tennessee	1/31/12
.118	Columbia	12/10/14
.125	vs. Cornell	3/25/10
.125	vs. W. Virginia	3/27/10
.125	vs. LSU	3/9/12
.143	Louisville	1/2/10
.143	Georgia	1/9/10
min 10 attempts		

HIGHEST REBOUND MARGIN

Mg.	Opp.	Date
+31	*NJIT*	*11/14/15*
+30	Grand Canyon	11/14/14
+28	N. Kentucky	11/10/13
+27	vs. Little Rock	1/3/12
+26	Louisville	12/31/11
+25	*Eastern Kentucky*	*12/9/15*
+25	at Indiana	12/12/09
+25	E. Michigan	1/2/13
+24	South Carolina	2/14/15
+23	Drexel	12/21/09
+23	Robert Morris	11/17/13

LOWEST REBOUND MARGIN

Mg.	Opp.	Date
-18	at Tennessee	2/16/13
-16	vs. Maryland	11/9/12
-16	vs. Baylor	12/6/13
-15	Tennessee	1/18/14
-14	*at LSU*	*1/6/16*
-12	vs. Alabama	3/12/10
-12	at S. Carolina	1/24/14
-12	Georgia	2/3/15
-12	vs. Wisconsin	4/4/15
-11	Texas	12/5/14
-11	*at Kansas*	*1/30/16*
-10	at Georgia	3/3/10

KENTUCKY BASKETBALL

KENTUCKY'S NCAA TOURNAMENT HISTORY

Year	Site	Opponent	Score	Result
1942	New Orleans	Illinois (RS)	46-44	W
		Dartmouth (RF)	28-47	L
1945	New York	Ohio State (RS)	37-45	L
		Tufts (Cons.)	66-56	W
1948	New York	Columbia (RS)	76-53	W
		Holy Cross (RF)	60-52	W
		Baylor (NF)	58-42	W
1949	New York	Villanova (RS)	85-72	W
		Illinois (RF)	76-47	W
	Seattle	Oklahoma State (NF)	46-36	W
1951	Raleigh	Louisville (1st)	79-68	W
	New York	St. John's (RS)	59-43	W
		Illinois (RF)	76-74	W
	Minneapolis	Kansas State (NF)	68-58	W
1952	Raleigh	Penn State (RS)	82-54	W
		St. John's (RF)	57-64	L
1955	Evanston	Marquette (RS)	71-79	L
		Penn State (Cons.)	84-59	W
1956	Iowa City	Wayne State (RS)	84-64	W
		Iowa (RF)	77-89	L
1957	Lexington	Pittsburgh (RS)	98-92	W
		Michigan State (RF)	68-80	L
1958	Lexington	Miami, Ohio (RS)	94-70	W
		Notre Dame (RF)	89-56	W
	Louisville	Tempe (NS)	61-60	W
		Seattle (NF)	84-72	W
1959	Evanston	Louisville (RS)	61-76	L
		Marquette (Cons.)	98-69	W
1961	Louisville	Morehead State (RS)	71-64	W
		Ohio State (RF)	74-87	L
1962	Iowa City	Butler (RS)	81-60	W
		Ohio State (RF)	64-74	L
1964	Minneapolis	Ohio (RS)	69-85	L
		Loyola, Chi. (Cons.)	91-100	L
1966	Iowa City	Dayton (RS)	86-79	W
		Michigan (RF)	84-77	W
	College Park	Duke (NS)	83-79	W
		UTEP (NF)	65-72	L
1968	Lexington	Marquette (RS)	107-89	W
		Ohio State (RF)	81-82	L
1969	Madison	Marquette (RS)	74-81	L
		Miami, Ohio (Cons.)	72-71	W
1970	Columbus	Notre Dame (RS)	109-99	W
		Jacksonville (RF)	100-106	L
1971	Athens	Western Kentucky (RS)	83-107	L
		Marquette (Cons.)	74-91	L
1972	Dayton	Marquette (RS)	85-69	W
		Florida State (RF)	54-73	L
1973	Nashville	Austin Peay (RS) [OT]	106-100	W
		Indiana (RF)	65-72	L
1975	Tuscaloosa	Marquette (1st)	76-54	W
	Dayton	Central Michigan (RS)	90-73	W
		Indiana (RF)	92-90	W
	San Diego	Syracuse (NS)	95-79	W
		UCLA (NF)	85-92	L
1977	Philadelphia	Princeton (1st)	72-58	W
	College Park	VMI (RS)	93-78	W
		North Carolina (RF)	72-79	L
1978	Knoxville	Florida State (1st)	85-76	W
	Dayton	Miami, Ohio (RS)	91-69	W
		Michigan State (RF)	52-49	W
	St. Louis	Arkansas (NS)	64-59	W
		Duke (NF)	94-88	W
1980[1]	Bowling Green	Florida State[8] (2nd)	97-78	W
	Lexington	Duke[4] (RS)	54-55	L
1981[2]	Tuscaloosa	UAB[7] (2nd)	62-69	L
1982[6]	Nashville	Middle Tennessee[11] (1st)	44-50	L
1983[3]	Tampa	Ohio[11] (2nd)	57-40	W
	Knoxville	Indiana[2] (RS)	64-59	W
		Louisville[1] (RF) [OT]	68-80	L
1984[1]	Birmingham	BYU[8] (2nd)	93-68	W
	Lexington	Louisville[5] (RS)	72-67	W
		Illinois[2] (RF)	54-51	W
	Seattle	Georgetown[1] (NS)	40-53	L
1985[12]	Salt Lake City	Washington[5] (1st)	66-58	W
		UNLV[4] (2nd)	64-61	W
	Denver	St. John's[1] (RS)	70-86	L
1986[1]	Charlotte	Davidson[16] (1st)	75-55	W
		Western Ky.[8] (2nd)	71-64	W
	Atlanta	Alabama[5] (RS)	68-63	W
		LSU[11] (RF)	57-59	L
1987[8]	Atlanta	Ohio State[9] (1st)	77-91	L
1988[2]	Cincinnati	Southern[15] (1st)	99-84	W
		Maryland[7] (2nd)	90-81	W
	Birmingham	Villanova[6] (RS)	74-80	L
1992[2]	Worcester	Old Dominion[15] (1st)	88-69	W
		Iowa State[10] (2nd)	106-98	W
	Philadelphia	Massachusetts[3] (RS)	87-77	W
		Duke[1] (RF) [OT]	103-104	L
1993[1]	Nashville	Rider[16] (1st)	96-52	W
		Utah[8] (2nd)	83-62	W
	Charlotte	Wake Forest[5] (RS)	103-69	W
		Florida State[3] (RF)	106-81	W
	New Orleans	Michigan[1] (NS) [OT]	78-81	L
1994[3]	St. Petersburg	Tennessee State[14] (1st)	83-70	W
		Marquette[6] (2nd)	63-75	L
1995[1]	Memphis	Mt. St. Mary's[16] (1st)	113-67	W
		Tulane[9] (2nd)	82-60	W
	Birmingham	Arizona State[5] (RS)	97-73	W
		North Carolina[2] (RF)	61-74	L
1996[1]	Dallas	San Jose State[16] (1st)	110-72	W
		Virginia Tech[9] (2nd)	84-60	W
	Minneapolis	Utah[4] (RS)	101-70	W
		Wake Forest[2] (RF)	83-63	W
	E. Rutherford	Massachusetts[1] (NS)	81-74	W
		Syracuse[4] (NF)	76-67	W

KENTUCKY'S NCAA TOURNAMENT HISTORY

Year	Site	Opponent	Score	W/L
1997[1]	Salt Lake City	Montana[16] (1st)	92-54	W
		Iowa[8] (2nd)	75-69	W
	San Jose	St. Joseph's[4] (RS)	83-68	W
		Utah[2] (RF)	72-59	W
	Indianapolis	Minnesota[1] (NS)	78-69	W
		Arizona[4] (NF) [OT]	79-84	L
1998[2]	Atlanta	S.C. State[15] (1st)	82-67	W
		Saint Louis[10] (2nd)	88-61	W
	St. Petersburg	UCLA[6] (RS)	94-68	W
		Duke[1] (RF)	86-84	W
	San Antonio	Stanford[3] (NS) [OT]	86-85	W
		Utah[3] (NF)	78-69	W
1999[3]	New Orleans	New Mexico State[14] (1st)	82-60	W
		Kansas[6] (2nd) [OT]	92-88	W
	St. Louis	Miami, Ohio[10] (RS)	58-43	W
		Michigan State[1] (RF)	66-73	L
2000[5]	Cleveland	St. Bonaventure[12] (1st) [2OT]	85-80	W
		Syracuse[4]	50-52	L
2001[2]	Long Island	Holy Cross[15] (1st)	72-68	W
		Iowa[7] (2nd)	92-79	W
	Philadelphia	Southern Cal[6] (RS)	76-80	L
2002[4]	St. Louis	Valparaiso[13] (1st)	83-68	W
		Tulsa[12] (2nd)	87-82	W
	Syracuse	Maryland[1] (RS)	68-78	L
2003[1]	Nashville	IUPUI[16] (1st)	95-64	W
		Utah[9] (2nd)	74-54	W
	Minneapolis	Wisconsin[5] (RS)	63-57	W
		Marquette[3] (RF)	69-83	L
2004[1]	Columbus	Florida A&M[16] (1st)	96-76	W
		UAB[9] (2nd)	75-76	L
2005[2]	Indianapolis	Eastern Kentucky[15] (1st)	72-64	W
		Cincinnati[7] (2nd)	69-60	W
	Austin	Utah[6] (RS)	62-52	W
		Michigan State[5] (RF) [2ot]	88-94	L
2006[8]	Philadelphia	UAB[9] (1st)	69-64	W
		UConn[1] (2nd)	83-87	L
2007[8]	Chicago	Villanova[9] (1st)	67-58	W
		Kansas[1] (2nd)	76-88	L
2008[11]	Anaheim	Marquette[6] (1st)	66-74	L
2010[1]	New Orleans	East Tennessee St.[16] (1st)	100-71	W
		Wake Forest[9] (2nd)	90-60	W
	Syracuse	Cornell[12] (RS)	62-45	W
		West Virginia[2] (RF)	66-73	L
2011[4]	Tampa	Princeton[13] (2nd)	59-57	W
		Wake Forest[5] (3rd)	71-63	W
	Newark	Ohio State[1] (RS)	62-60	W
		North Carolina[2] (RF)	76-69	W
	Houston	Connecticut[3] (NS)	56-55	L
2012[1]	Louisville	Western Kentucky[16] (2nd)	81-66	W
		Iowa State[9] (3rd)	87-71	W
	Atlanta	Indiana[4] (RS)	102-90	W
		Baylor[3] (RF)	82-70	W
	New Orleans	Louisville[4] (NS)	69-61	W
		Kansas[2] (NF)	67-59	W
2014[8]	St. Louis	Kansas State[9] (2nd)	56-49	W
		Wichita State[1] (3rd)	78-76	W
	Indianapolis	Louisville[4] (RS)	74-69	W
		Michigan[2] (RF)	75-72	W
	Dallas	Wisconsin[2] (NS)	74-73	W
		UConn[7] (NF)	60-54	L
2015[1]	Louisville	Hampton[16] (2nd)	79-56	W
		Cincinnati[8] (3rd)	64-51	W
	Cleveland	West Virginia[5] (RS)	78-39	W
		Notre Dame[3] (RF)	68-66	W
	Indianapolis	Wisconsin[1] (NS)	71-64	L
2016[4]	Des Moines	Stony Brook[13] (1st)		

March Madness Numbers

As of March 13, the nation's winningest team, Kentucky, holds many distinctions in NCAA Tournament play, including:

Appearances
1. KENTUCKY — 55
2. North Carolina — 47
3. UCLA — 45
   Kansas — 45
5. Louisville — 41

NCAA Championships
1. UCLA — 11
2. KENTUCKY — 8
3. Duke — 5
   Indiana — 5
   North Carolina — 5

Tournament Games
1. KENTUCKY — 168
2. North Carolina — 156
3. Kansas — 140
4. Duke — 139
5. UCLA — 137

NCAA Final Fours
1. North Carolina — 18
2. KENTUCKY — 17
   UCLA — 17
4. Duke — 16
5. Kansas — 14

Tournament Wins
1. KENTUCKY — 120
2. North Carolina — 112
3. Duke — 105
4. UCLA — 99
5. Kansas — 97

NCAA Final Four Wins
1. UCLA — 25
2. KENTUCKY — 20
3. Duke — 17
4. North Carolina — 15
5. Kansas — 12
   Indiana — 12

What's what?

UK Seed | Site | Opp. Seed | Round

1998[2] Atlanta | S.C. State[15] (1st) | 82-67 | W

KENTUCKY BASKETBALL
KENTUCKY'S NCAA TOURNAMENT HISTORY

UK VS. THE 2016 NCAA TOURNAMENT FIELD

Opponent	UK in Series:	NCAA Tournament	Last Meeting
EAST REGION			
North Carolina	14-23	1-2	12-13-14 (UK 84, UNC 70)
Xavier	37-2	Never Met	11-30-68 (UK 115, XU 77)
West Virginia	15-5	2-1	03-29-15 (UK 78, WVU 39)
Indiana	32-24	3-1	03-23-12 (UK 102, IU 90)
Notre Dame	43-19	3-0	03-28-15 (UK 68, ND 66)
Wisconsin	4-2	2-1	04-4-15 (UW 71, UK 64)
Southern Cal	0-3	0-1	03-22-01 (USC 80, UK 76)
Providence	3-0	Never Met	11-30-14 (UK 58, PC 38)
Pittsburgh	4-2	1-0	11-27-98 (PITT 68, UK 56)
Michigan	5-2	2-1	03-30-14 (UK 75, UM 72)
Tulsa	5-0	1-0	03-16-02 (UK 87, UT 82)
Chattanooga	12-0	Never Met	12-17-11 (UK 87, UC 62)
Stony Brook	1-0	Never Met	11-27-07 (UK 62, SB 52)
Stephen F. Austin	Never Met		
Weber State	Never Met		
Florida Gulf Coast	Never Met		
Fairleigh Dickinson	Never Met		
MIDWEST REGION			
Virginia	6-3	Never Met	11-26-02 (UVA 75, UK 61)
Michigan State	12-11	1-3	11-12-13 (MSU 78, UK 74)
Utah	9-2	6-0	03-25-05 (UK 62, UU 52)
Iowa State	3-0	2-0	03-17-12 (UK 87, ISU 71)
Purdue	6-2	Never Met	12-3-97 (UK 89, PU 75)
Seton Hall	1-1	Never Met	11-26-88 (SHU 63, UK 60)
Dayton	3-2	Never Met	11-29-99 (UD 68, UK 66)
Texas Tech	4-0	Never Met	12-17-94 (UK 83, TT 68)
Butler	4-0	1-0	11-27-82 (UK 90, BU 53)
Syracuse	8-3	2-1	03-18-00 (SU 52, UK 50)
Gonzaga	1-0	Never Met	11-27-02 (UK 80, GU 72)
Little Rock	1-0	Never Met	01-03-12 (UK 73, UALR 51)
Iona	6-0	Never Met	12-23-05 (UK 73, IC 67)
Fresno State	Never Met		
Middle Tennessee	0-1	0-1	03-11-82 (MTSU 50, UK 44)
Hampton	1-0	1-0	03-19-15 (UK 79, HU 56)
SOUTH REGION			
Kansas	22-7	2-1	01-30-16 (KU 90, UK 84)
Villanova	6-0	2-0	03-16-07 (UK 67, VU 58)
Miami	3-1	Never Met	12-06-08 (UM 73, UK 67)
California	2-0	Never Met	11-28-88 (UK 89, UC 71)
Maryland	8-5	0-1	11-9-12 (UK 73, UM 69)
Arizona	2-3	0-1	11-26-99 (UA 63, UK 51)
Iowa	5-3	2-1	11-21-05 (UI 67, UK 63)
Colorado	1-0	Never Met	11-26-98 (UK 64, UC 52)
Connecticut	1-4	0-3	04-07-14 (UC 60, UK 52)
Temple	14-4	1-0	12-08-62 (UK 56, TU 52)
Vanderbilt	141-47	Never Met	02-27-16 (VU 74, UK 62)
Wichita State	1-0	1-0	03-23-14 (UK 78, WSU 76)
South Dakota State	Never Met		
Hawaii	2-0	Never Met	11-28-87 (UK 86, UH 59)
Buffalo	1-0	Never Met	11-16-14 (UK 71, UB 52)
UNC-Asheville	4-0	Never Met	11-08-13 (UK 89, UNCA 57)
Austin Peay	5-0	1-0	12-19-08 (UK 90, AP 69)
WEST REGION			
Oregon	1-0	Never Met	12-16-72 (UK 95, UO 68)
Oklahoma	3-0	Never Met	11-22-10 (UK 76, OU 64)
Texas A&M	6-3	Never Met	03-13-16 (UK 82, TAMU 77)
Duke	12-9	3-2	11-17-15 (UK 74, DU 63)
Baylor	7-2	2-0	12-6-13 (BU 67, UK 62)
Texas	2-0	Never Met	12-5-14 (UK 63, UT 51)
Oregon State	3-0	Never Met	12-20-75 (UK 82, OSU 74)
Saint Joseph's	2-0	1-0	03-20-97 (UK 102, SJU 72)
Cincinatti	28-10	2-0	03-21-15 (UK 64, UC 51)
VCU	Never Met		
UNI	Never Met		
Yale	1-0	Never Met	12-27-61 (UK 79, YU 58)
UNCW	Never Met		
Green Bay	1-0	Never Met	12-06-95 (U 74, GB 62)
CSU Bakersfield	Never Met		
Holy Cross	3-0	2-0	03-15-01 (UK 72, HC 68)
Southern	Never Met		

UK SEEDING HISTORY IN NCAA TOURNAMENT

UK NCAA TOURNAMENT SEED GRID

UK Seed	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	Total
1(12)	2-3	4-2	3-1	5-2	6-0	—	—	6-0	5-1	—	0-1	1-0	—	—	—	10-0	42-10
2(6)	1-1	—	3-0	—	0-2	3-2	4-1	—	—	2-0	—	—	—	—	6-0	—	19-6
3(3)	0-2	1-0	—	—	—	1-1	—	—	—	1-0	1-0	—	—	2-0	—	—	6-3
4(2)	1-1	1-0	0-1	—	1-0	—	—	—	—	—	—	1-0	2-0	—	—	—	6-2
5(1)	—	—	—	0-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1-0	—	—	—	—	1-1
6(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0-1
7(0)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0-0
8(3)	1-2	2-0	—	1-0	—	0-1	—	3-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7-4
9(0)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0-0
10(0)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0-0
11(1)	—	—	—	—	—	0-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0-1
12(1)	0-1	—	—	1-0	1-0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2-1
Total	5-10	8-2	6-2	7-3	8-2	4-4	4-2	6-0	8-2	3-0	1-2	3-0	2-0	2-0	6-0	9-0	77-28

*The NCAA began seeding at the 1979 NCAA Tournament.

MOST POINTS
113, Mount Saint Mary's (1995, 1st Round)
110, San Jose State (1996, 1st Round)
109, Notre Dame (1970, Sweet 16)
106, Florida State (1993, Elite 8)
106, Iowa State (1992, 2nd Round)
106, Austin Peay (1973, Sweet 16) [OT]
by Opponent
107 by Western Kentucky (1971, Sweet 16)
106 by Jacksonville (1970, Elite 8)
104 by Duke (1992, Elite 8) [OT]

FEWEST POINTS
28, Dartmouth (1942 (Elite 8)
37, Ohio State (1945, Sweet 16)
39, West Virginia (2015, Sweet 16)
40, Georgetown (1984, Final Four)
44, Middle Tennessee (1982, 1st Round)
by Opponent
36, Oklahoma State (1949, Championship)
40, Miami, Ohio (1999, Sweet 16)
42, Baylor (1948, Championship)

FIELD GOALS
50, Austin Peay (1973, Sweet 16)
43, Notre Dame (1970, Sweet 16)
43, Marquette (1968, Sweet 16)
43, Marquette (1959, Reg. Cons.)
42, San Jose State (1996, 1st Round)
by Opponent
46 by Austin Peay (1973, Sweet 16)
42 by Western Kentucky (1971, Sweet 16)

FIELD GOAL ATTEMPTS
99, Miami, Ohio (1958, Sweet 16)
97, Austin Peay (1973, Sweet 16)
89, Jacksonville (1970, Elite 8)
86, UCLA (1975, Championship)
84, Loyola (1964, Reg. Cons.)
by Opponent
99 by Austin Peay (1973, Sweet 16)
87 by Michigan State (1957, Elite 8)
85 by Michigan (1966, Elite 8)

HIGHEST FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE
.667, Southern (1988, 1st Round) [38-of-57]
.621, Miami, Ohio (1978, Sweet 16) [41-of-66]
.619, Wake Forest (1993, Sweet 16) [39-of-63]
.615, Utah (2005, Sweet 16) [24-of-39]
.615, IUPUI (2003, 1st Round) [40-of-65]
by Opponent
.660 by Ohio State (1987, 1st Round) [33-of-50]
.654 by Duke (1992, Elite 8) [34-of-52]
.605 by North Carolina (1977, Elite 8) [23-of-38]

LOWEST FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE
.245, Georgetown (1984, Final Four) [13-of-53]
.280, North Carolina (1995, Elite 8) [21-of-75]
.302, Temple (1958, Final Four) [19-of-63]
.311, UAB (2006, 1st Round) [19-of-61]
.316, Marquette (1994, 2nd Round) [24-of-76]
by Opponent
.241 by West Virginia (2015, Sweet 16) [13-of54]
.282 by Notre Dame (1958, Elite 8) [22-of-78]
.288 by Hampton (2015, 2nd Round) [17of-59]
.291 by UCLA (1998, Sweet 16) [23-of-79]

3-POINT FIELD GOALS
16, Wake Forest (1993, Sweet 16)
15, East Tennessee State (2010, 1st Round)
13, Iowa (2001, 2nd Round)
13, Mount Saint Mary's (1995, 1st Round)

12, North Carolina (2011, Elite 8)
12, Syracuse (1996, Championship)
by Opponent
13 by Arizona State (1995, Sweet 16)
12 by Kansas (1999, 2nd Round)

3-POINT FIELD GOAL ATTEMPTS
38, Marquette (1994, 2nd Round)
36, North Carolina (1995, Elite 8)
33, East Tennessee State (2010, 1st Round)
32, West Virginia (2010, Regional Final)
30, Arizona (1997, Championship)
by Opponent
32 by St. Bonaventure (2000, 1st Round)
31 by Kansas (1999, 2nd Round)
30 by Florida A&M (2004, 1st Round)
30 by New Mexico State (1999, 1st Round)

3-POINT FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE (MIN. 10 ATTEMPTS)
.667, Wake Forest (1993, Sweet 16) [16-of-24]
.636, Wake Forest (1996, Elite 8) [7-of-11]
.583, Cincinnati (2005, 2nd Round) [7-of-12]
.571, New Mexico State (1999, 1st Round) [8-of-14]
.545, North Carolina (2011, Elite 8) [12-of-22]
.545, Duke (1992, Elite 8) [12-of-22]
by Opponent
.625 by Kansas (2007, 2nd Round) [10-of-16]
.571 by USC (2001, Sweet 16) [8-of-14]
.556 by Holy Cross (2001, Sweet 16) [10-of-18]

FREE THROWS
35, Indiana (2012, Sweet 16)
33, Tennessee State (1994, 1st Round)
30, Washington (1985, 1st Round)
30, Ohio State (1961, Elite 8)
30, Pittsburgh (1957, Sweet 16)
by Opponent
38 by Loyola (1964, Reg. Cons.)
34 by Arizona (1997, Championship)
34 by Iowa State (1992, 2nd Round)

FREE THROWS ATTEMPTED
48, Tennessee State (1994, 1st Round)
41, Pittsburgh (1957, Sweet 16)
40, Washington (1985, 1st Round)
39, Ohio State (1961, Elite 8)
38, Syracuse (1975, Final Four)
by Opponent
44 by Loyola (1964, Reg. Cons.)
41 by Arizona (1997, Championship)
40 by UAB (1981, 2nd Round)

FREE THROW PERCENTAGE
(MIN. 10 ATTEMPTS)
1.000, Utah (2003, Sweet 16) [18-of-18]
.946, Indiana (2012, Sweet 16) [35-of-37]
.944, Connecticut (2006, 2nd Round) [17-of-18]
.900, Dayton (1966, Sweet 16) [18-of-20]
.900, Wisconsin (2015, Final Four) [9-of-10]
by Opponent
1.000 by Villanova (1988, Sweet 16) [17-of-17]
.950 by Wisconsin (2014, Final Four) [19-of-20]
.917 by Utah (1997, Elite 8) [11-of-12]
.917 by North Carolina (1977, Elite 8) [33-of-36]

REBOUND MARGIN
+26, Florida State (1993, Sweet 16)
+23, Florida State (1980, 2nd Round)
+20, Hampton (2105, 2nd Round)
+20, Davidson (1986, 1st Round)
+19, Miami, Ohio (1999, Sweet 16)
+19, Notre Dame (1958, Elite 8)

by Opponent
+25 by Marquette (1971, Reg. Cons.)
+24 by Ohio State (1961, Elite 8)
+15 by Utah (1998, Championship)

ASSISTS
35, San Jose State (1996, 1st Round)
33, Mount St. Mary's (1995, 1st Round)
27, East Tennessee State (2010, 1st Round)
27, Arizona State (1995, Sweet 16)
26, Iowa State (1992, 2nd Round)
by Opponent
23 by Duke (1992, Elite 8)
23 by UCLA (1975, Championship)
21 by Marquette (2003, Elite 8)

MOST TURNOVERS
25, Southern (1988, 1st Round)
23, Florida State (1978, 1st Round)
21, Syracuse (2000, 2nd Round)
20, Florida State (1993, Elite 8)
20, Louisville (1984, Sweet 16)
by Opponent
30 by Old Dominion (1992, 1st Round)
28 by Tennessee State (1994, 1st Round)
26 by Minnesota (1997, Final Four)
26 by San Jose State (1996, 1st Round)

FEWEST TURNOVERS
4, Wisconsin (2014, Final Four)
6, Wisconsin (2015, Final Four)
6, Indiana (2012, Sweet 16)
6, Stanford (1998, Final Four)
6, Utah (1996, Sweet 16)
by Opponent
4 by Florida State (1978, 1st Round)
5 by St. John's (1995, Sweet 16)
6 by Princeton (
6 by Duke (1998, Elite 8)

BLOCKS
14, UCLA (1998, Sweet 16)
11, Kansas (2012, National Championship)
11, Ohio State (2011, Sweet 16)
11, East Tennessee State (2010, 1st Round)
11, South Carolina State (1998, 1st Round)
11, Montana (1997, 1st Round)
by Opponent
9 by Florida State (1978, 1st Round)
8 by Massachusetts (1996, Final Four)
8 by Middle Tennessee (1982, 1st Round)

STEALS
17, San Jose State (1996, 1st Round)
17, Tennessee State (1994, 1st Round)
16, Marquette (1994, 2nd Round)
16, Old Dominion (1992, 1st Round)
14, Minnesota (1997, Final Four)
14, Montana (1997, 1st Round)
by Opponent
13 by Florida A&M (2004, 1st Round)
11 by East Tennessee State (2010, 1st Round)
11 by USC (2001, Sweet 16)
11 by Louisville (1983, Elite 8)

WINNING MARGIN
+46, Mount St. Mary's, 1995 (1st Round) [113-67]
+44, Rider, 1993 (1st Round) [96-52]
+39, West Virginia, 2015 (Sweet 16) [78-39]
+38, Montana, 1997 (1st Round) [92-54]
+38, San Jose State, 1996 (1st Round) [110-72]

POINTS

44, Dan Issel vs. Notre Dame (1970, Sweet 16)
41, Tayshaun Prince vs. Tulsa (2002, 2nd Round)
41, Jack Givens vs. Duke (1978, Finals)
36, Dan Issel vs. Miami, Ohio (1969, Reg. Cons.)
36, Dan Issel vs. Marquette (1968, Sweet 16)
by Opponent
52 by Austin Carr, Notre Dame (1970, Sweet 16)
36 by Henry Finkel, Dayton (1966, Sweet 16)
35 by Jim McDaniels, Western Kentucky (1971, Sweet 16)
34 by Carl Cain, Iowa (1956, Elite 8)
33 by Kent Benson, Indiana (1975, Elite 8)
33 by Jerry Lucas, Ohio State (1962, Elite 8)
33 by Jerry Lucas, Ohio State (1961, Elite 8)

FIELD GOALS

18, Jack Givens vs. Duke (1978 Championship) [27 att.]
17, Dan Issel vs. Notre Dame (1970 Sweet 16) [28 att.]
15, Jim Andrews vs. Austin Peay (1973 Sweet 16) [19 att.]
14, Tayshaun Prince vs. Tulsa (2002 2nd Round) [21 att.]
14, Dan Issel vs. Marquette (1968 Sweet 16) [18 att.]
14, Louie Dampier vs. Dayton (1966 Sweet 16) [23 att.]
14, Bob Burrow vs. Wayne State (1956 Sweet 16)
by Opponent
22 by Austin Carr, Notre Dame (1970, 1st Round) [35 att.]
15 by Henry Finkel, Dayton (1966, Sweet 16) [26 att.]

FIELDS GOAL ATTEMPTS

30, Kevin Grevey vs. UCLA (1975 Championship)
29, Bill Spivey vs. Kansas State (1951 Championship)
28, Dan Issel vs. Notre Dame (1970 Sweet 16)
27, Jack Givens vs. Duke (1978 Championship)
27, Pat Riley vs. Michigan (1966 Elite 8)
27, Cotton Nash vs. Loyola (1964 Reg. Cons.)
by Opponent
35 by Austin Carr, Notre Dame (1970, 1st Round)
32 by Elgin Baylor, Seattle (1958, National Championship)
31 by James Williams, Austin Peay (1973, Sweet 16)
29 by Don Hennon, Pittsburgh (1957, Sweet 16)
26 by Ron Carter, VMI (1977, Sweet 16)
26 by Henry Finkel, Dayton (1966, Sweet 16)
26 by Bob Brown, Louisville (1951, 1st Round)

FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE
(MIN. 8 ATTEMPTS)

1.000, Kenny Walker vs. Western Kentucky (1986, 2nd Round) [11-for-11]
.909, Travis Ford vs. Wake Forest (1993, Sweet 16) [10-of-11]
.900, DeMarcus Cousins vs. Wake Forest (2010, 2nd Round) [9-10]
.900, Patrick Patterson vs. East Tennessee State (2010, 1st Round) [9-10]
.875, Anthony Davis vs. Louisville (2012, Final Four) [7-8]
.875, Josh Harrellson vs. Princeton (2011, 2nd Rd) [7-8]
by Opponent
1.000 by Christian Laettner, Duke (1992, Elite 8) [10-of-10]
.900 by Ben Caton, Utah (1996, Sweet 16) [9-of-10]
.875 by Ric Cobb, Marqutte (1969, Sweet 16) [7-of-8]
.818 by Randy Ayers, Miami, Ohio (1978, Sweet 16) [9-of-11]
.800 by Rayshard Allen, Tulane (1995, 2nd Round) [12-of-15]
.800 by Mickey Dillard, Florida State (1978, 1st Round)

[8-of-10]

3-POINT FIELD GOALS

8, Eric Bledsoe vs. East Tennessee St. (2010, 1st Round)
7, Tony Delk vs. Syracuse (1996 Championship)
6, Tayshaun Prince vs. Tulsa (2002 2nd Round)
6, Tayshaun Prince vs. Iowa (2001 2nd Round)
5, 12 players

by Opponent
6 by David Bluthenthal, USC (2001, Sweet 16)
6 by Dean Oliver, Iowa (2001, 2nd Round)
6 by Jeff Boschee, Kansas (1999, 2nd Round)
6 by Tyler Brown, South Carolina State (1998, 1st Round)

3-POINT FIELD GOALS ATTEMPTS

14, Tony Delk vs. North Carolina (1995 Elite 8)
12, Scott Padgett vs. Arizona (1997 Championship)
12, Tony Delk vs. Syracuse (1996 Championship)
12, Tony Delk vs. Marquette (1994 2nd Round)
11, Brandon Knight vs. UConn (2011, Final Four)
11, Brandon Knight vs. North Carolina (2011, Elite 8)
by Opponent
18 by Jeff Boschee, Kansas (1999, 2nd Round)
9 by Harrison Barnes, North Carolina (2011, Elite 8)
9 by Shabazz Napier, Connecticut (2014, Championship)
7 by Jon Diebler, Ohio State (2011, Sweet 16)
7 by Douglas Davis, Princeton (2011, 2nd Round)
7 by T.J. Price, Western Kentucky (2012, 2nd Round)

3-POINT FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE (MIN. 5 ATTEMPTS)

1.000, Jamal Mashburn vs. Wake Forest (1993, Sweet 16) [5-of-5]
.889, Eric Bledsoe vs. East Tennessee State (2010, 1st Round) [8-of-9]
.833, Cameron Mills vs. St. Joseph's (1997, Sweet 16) [5-of-6]
.833, Travis Ford vs. Wake Forest (1993, Sweet 16) [5-of-6]
.800, John Pelphrey vs. Iowa State (1992, 2nd Round) [4-of-5]
by Opponent
.857 by Brandon Rush, Kansas (2007, 2nd Round) [6-of-7]
.714 by Kirk Penney, Wisconsin (2003, Sweet 16) [5-of-7]
.667 by seven players

FREE THROWS

17, Roger Newman vs. Ohio State (1961 Elite 8)
14, Randolph Morris vs. Kansas (2007, 2nd Round)
13, Scott Padgett vs. Kansas (1999 2nd Round)
13, Rodrick Rhodes vs. Tennessee St. (1994 1st Round)
13, Ed Davender vs. Maryland (1988 2nd Round)
13, Kenny Walker vs. Washington (1985 1st Round)
by Opponent
16 by John Riser, Pittsburgh (1957, Sweet 16)
15 by Ron Bayless, Iowa State (1992, 2nd Round)
14 by Miles Simon, Arizona (1997 Championship)
14 by Dean Meminger, Marquette (1971, Regional Cons.)
14 by Jim Coleman, Loyola (1964, Elite 8)

FREE THROW ATTEMPTS

22, Roger Newman vs. Ohio State (1961 Elite 8)
19, Rodrick Rhodes vs. Tennessee St. (1994 1st Round)
17, Scott Padgett vs. Kansas (1999 2nd Round)
16, Randolph Morris vs. Kansas (2007, 2nd Round)
15, three players
by Opponent
18 by Robert Kendrick, Wayne State (1956 Sweet

16)
17 by Miles Simon, Arizona (1997 Championship)
17 by Dean Meminger, Marquette (1971, Regional Consl.)
17 by Jim Coleman, Loyola (1964, Elite 8)
17 by John Riser, Pittsburgh (1957, Sweet 16)

FREE THROW PERCENTAGE
(MIN. 10 ATTEMPTS)

1.000, Michael Kidd-Gilchrist vs. Indiana (2012, Sweet 16) [10-of-10]
1.000, Dan Issel vs. Miami, Ohio (1969, Reg. Cons.) [12-of-12]
1.000, Bobby Perry vs. UAB (2006, 1st Round) [10-of-10]
1.000, Mike Casey vs. Marquette (1969, Sweet 16) [10-of-10]
by Opponent
1.000 by Jim McDaniels, Western Kentucky (1971 Sweet 16) [11-of-11]
1.000 by Christian Laettner, Duke (1992 Elite 8) [10-of-10]

REBOUNDS

21, Bill Spivey vs. Kansas State (1951, Finals)
16, Anthony Davis vs. Kansas (2012, Championship)
16, Jim Andrews vs. Marquette (1972, Sweet 16)
16, Dan Issel vs. Marquette (1968, Sweet 16)
16, Bill Lickert vs. Morehead State (1961, Sweet 16)
16, Johnny Cox vs. Seattle (1958, Finals)
16, Ed Beck vs. Michigan State (1957, Elite 8)
16, Bill Spivey vs. Illinois (1951, Final Four)
by Opponent
30 by Jerry Lucas, Ohio State (1961, Elite 8)
23 by Kent Benson, Indiana (1975, Elite 8)
20 by Artis Gilmore, Jacksonville (1970, Elite 8)
19 by Elgin Baylor, Seattle (1958, National Championship)
18 by Five guys

ASSISTS

14, Dicky Beal vs. BYU (1984, 2nd Round)
11, John Wall vs. E. Tennessee State (2010, 1st Round)
9, seven players
by Opponent
14 by Andre McCarter, UCLA (1975, National Championship)
12 by Edgar Padilla, Massachusetts (1996, Final Four)
11 by Dwayne Wade, Marquette (2003, Elite 8)
11 by Mateen Cleaves, Michigan State (1999, Elite 8)
11 by Bruce Douglass, Illinois (1984, Elite 8)

BLOCKS

7, Anthony Davis vs. WKU (2012, 2nd Round)
6, Anthony Davis vs. Kansas (2012, National Championship)
6, Anthony Davis vs. Baylor (2012, Elite 8)
6, Jamaal Magloire vs. UCLA (1998, Sweet 16)
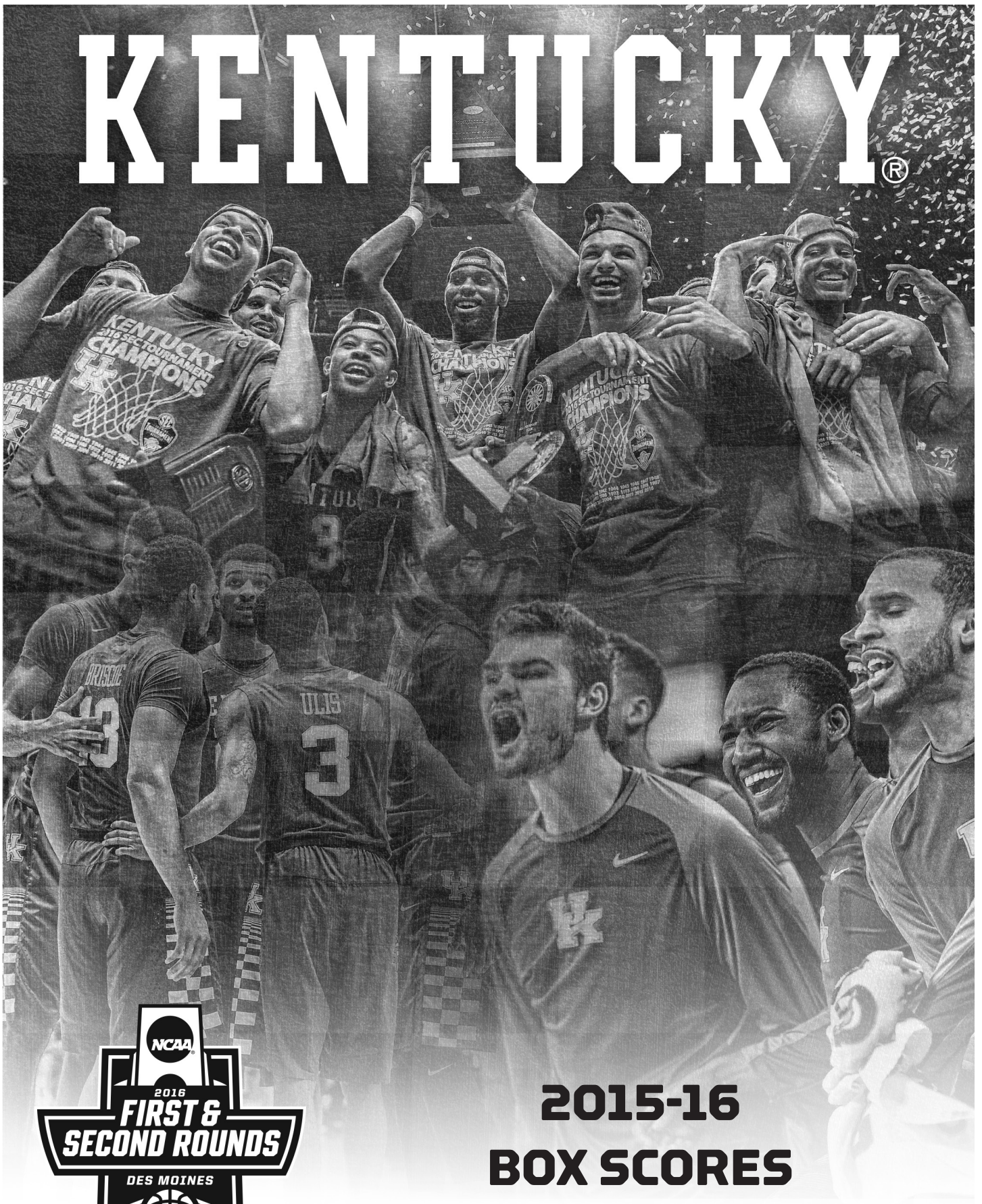6, Nazr Mohammed vs. UCLA (1998, Sweet 16)

STEALS

6, Anthony Epps vs. San Jose State (1996, 1st Round)
6, Antoine Walker vs. San Jose State (1996, 1st Round)
6, Dicky Beal vs. Louisville (1984, Sweet 16)
5, eight tied

2015-16

BOX SCORES

SEASON BOX SCORES

EXHIBITION GAME ONE
KENTUCKY 117, OTTAWA 58

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Ottawa vs Kentucky
11/2/15 7:00 pm at Rupp Arena - Lexington, KY

Ottawa 58

##	Player		FG-FGA	3FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
44	Oakes, Preston	f	2-9	0-4	0-0	0	1	1	3	4	1	2	0	0	15
32	O'Con, John	c	0-1	0-0	1-2	1	2	3	2	1	0	1	1	0	17
00	Mitchell, Hollis	g	2-7	0-3	0-0	1	1	2	1	4	3	1	0	1	14
03	Jones, Pat	g	1-5	1-4	0-0	0	2	2	2	3	1	3	0	0	14
33	Norfleet, Marshon	q	6-12	4-8	4-4	0	1	1	1	20	0	2	1	2	19
01	McKinney, Mike		2-4	0-1	0-0	0	1	1	2	4	0	1	0	0	10
05	Shaffer, Tyler		0-2	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
10	Brown, Zach		1-3	1-2	0-0	1	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	22
11	Okoronkwo, Emeka		1-5	0-2	5-6	1	2	3	1	7	0	3	0	0	11
12	Hasty, Alex		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	12
13	Gant, Eric		0-3	0-2	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	15
14	Bullinger, Logan		2-9	0-0	6-6	1	3	4	1	10	0	0	0	0	24
22	Falk, Riley		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	4
25	Perez, Devin		0-2	0-1	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
35	Stackhouse, Dallas		0-1	0-0	2-2	2	2	4	2	2	0	0	0	0	17
	Team					3	1	4							
	Totals		17-65	6-27	18-20	11	17	28	18	58	5	17	2	4	200

FG % 1st Half: 11-34 32.4% 2nd half: 6-31 19.4% Game: 17-65 26.2%
3FG % 1st Half: 6-19 31.6% 2nd half: 0-8 0.0% Game: 6-27 22.2%
FT % 1st Half: 7-8 87.5% 2nd half: 11-12 91.7% Game: 18-20 90.0%
Deadball Rebounds 0

Kentucky 117

##	Player		FG-FGA	3FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
00	Lee, Marcus	f	5-7	0-0	0-1	2	4	6	2	10	0	0	1	2	16
01	Labissiere, Skal	f	9-12	0-0	0-0	0	5	5	4	18	2	1	2	1	22
03	Ulis, Tyler	g	5-10	4-5	3-4	1	3	4	0	17	10	0	0	2	27
13	Briscoe, Isaiah	g	4-6	0-1	3-4	0	3	3	1	11	3	3	0	1	22
23	Murray, Jamal	g	8-15	4-8	2-2	3	9	12	3	22	9	3	1	3	29
04	Matthews, Charles		2-4	0-1	0-2	1	1	2	1	4	3	1	1	0	19
10	David, Jonny		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
11	Mulder, Mychal		2-5	2-4	0-0	1	1	2	1	6	1	0	0	0	9
15	Humphries, Isaac		4-6	0-0	1-3	4	2	6	1	9	0	1	0	1	17
22	Poythress, Alex		3-7	2-2	0-0	2	4	6	3	8	1	1	2	0	17
24	Floreal, EJ		1-1	0-0	0-0	0	3	3	0	2	1	1	0	0	4
35	Willis, Derek		5-6	0-0	0-2	5	2	7	1	10	2	0	2	0	14
	Team					1	0	1							
	Totals		48-80	12-22	9-18	20	39	59	17	117	32	12	9	10	200

FG % 1st Half: 26-36 72.2% 2nd half: 22-44 50.0% Game: 48-80 60.0%
3FG % 1st Half: 7-10 70.0% 2nd half: 5-12 41.7% Game: 12-22 54.5%
FT % 1st Half: 8-12 66.7% 2nd half: 1-6 16.7% Game: 9-18 50.0%
Deadball Rebounds 4

Officials: John Hampton, Bart Lenox, Brent Hampton
Technical fouls: Ottawa-None. Kentucky-None.
Attendance: 20743

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Ottawa	35	23	58
Kentucky	67	50	117

EXHIBITION GAME TWO
KENTUCKY 111, KENTUCKY STATE 58

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Kentucky State Unive vs Kentucky
11/6/15 6:00 p.m. at Rupp Arena - Lexington, KY

Kentucky State Unive 58 • 0-0

##	Player		FG-FGA	3FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
32	William Bryant	f	0-1	0-0	0-0	2	3	5	5	0	0	1	0	0	16
12	Julius Barton	c	1-3	0-0	1-4	1	0	1	5	3	0	0	0	0	8
00	Dorian Jordan	g	2-3	0-0	0-0	1	1	2	1	4	1	2	0	1	16
03	Tryston Ford	g	3-12	2-5	1-4	0	2	2	1	9	4	1	0	1	26
04	Malcolm Smith	g	4-12	2-4	4-4	3	2	5	0	14	0	7	0	0	21
01	Rob Shaw		2-4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	2	4	0	1	0	1	9
05	Kevin Shaw		2-11	1-7	4-6	2	1	3	3	9	0	1	0	0	21
10	Teddy Ware		2-6	1-4	0-0	0	1	1	1	5	0	0	0	0	10
11	Daquan Boyd		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	1	0	2	2	0	0	8
15	Johntae Alexander		3-5	0-0	0-2	2	2	4	5	6	0	0	0	1	24
22	Quentin Henderson		0-6	0-0	1-2	0	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	15
24	Ivan Hooker		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	15
31	Michael Cross		1-4	0-2	1-1	2	2	4	3	3	1	1	0	1	11
	Team					2	3	5				1			
	Totals		20-68	6-22	12-23	15	20	35	31	58	8	17	0	4	200

FG % 1st Half: 9-36 25.0% 2nd half: 11-32 34.4% Game: 20-68 29.4%
3FG % 1st Half: 2-9 22.2% 2nd half: 4-13 30.8% Game: 6-22 27.3%
FT % 1st Half: 0-4 0.0% 2nd half: 12-19 63.2% Game: 12-23 52.2%
Deadball Rebounds 4

Kentucky 111 • 0-0

##	Player		FG-FGA	3FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
00	Lee, Marcus	f	3-5	0-0	3-4	3	8	11	2	9	2	0	2	0	26
01	Labissiere, Skal	f	9-12	0-0	4-5	2	7	9	3	22	0	3	1	1	17
03	Ulis, Tyler	g	4-8	0-1	7-8	0	3	3	2	15	4	1	0	3	29
13	Briscoe, Isaiah	g	3-7	1-3	1-7	0	2	2	3	8	4	1	0	3	26
23	Murray, Jamal	g	6-11	1-4	7-7	0	4	4	1	20	3	2	0	1	29
04	Matthews, Charles		3-5	0-0	5-6	3	1	4	1	11	1	1	0	0	14
10	David, Jonny		0-3	0-3	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
11	Mulder, Mychal		0-3	0-2	0-0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
15	Humphries, Isaac		3-4	0-0	1-1	1	7	1	0	7	1	1	0	0	7
22	Poythress, Alex		5-7	1-1	2-4	2	6	8	3	13	0	0	4	0	17
24	Floreal, EJ		0-0	0-0	1-1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	4
35	Willis, Derek		2-2	1-1	1-2	2	7	9	0	6	5	2	2	2	21
	Team					1	0	1							
	Totals		38-67	4-15	31-44	17	40	57	18	111	20	11	10	10	200

FG % 1st Half: 18-32 56.3% 2nd half: 20-35 57.1% Game: 38-67 56.7%
3FG % 1st Half: 2-6 33.3% 2nd half: 2-9 22.2% Game: 4-15 26.7%
FT % 1st Half: 13-19 68.4% 2nd half: 18-25 72.0% Game: 31-44 70.5%
Deadball Rebounds 5

Officials: John Hampton, Bart Lenox, Byron Jarrett
Technical fouls: Kentucky State Unive-None. Kentucky-None.
Attendance: 21328

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Kentucky State Unive	20	38	58
Kentucky	51	60	111

GAME ONE
#2 KENTUCKY 78, ALBANY 65

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Albany vs Kentucky
11/13/15 7:00 pm at Rupp Arena - Lexington, KY

Albany 65 • 0-1

##	Player		FG-FGA	3FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
10	Rowley, Mike	f	1-1	0-0	0-0	2	1	3	5	2	0	5	0	4	31
43	Stire, Greig	f	4-7	0-0	1-2	3	1	4	4	9	0	1	0	0	26
00	Singletary, Evan	g	7-16	1-5	2-4	0	3	3	2	17	1	2	0	1	40-
01	Sanders, Ray	g	0-5	0-1	0-2	0	1	1	4	0	1	0	0	1	17
12	Hooley, Peter	g	6-15	0-5	6-8	1	2	3	2	18	2	3	0	2	37
02	Andrews, Jamir		1-5	0-3	4-4	0	0	0	1	6	0	1	0	0	11
03	Cremo, Joe		3-4	0-0	0-0	2	1	3	0	6	0	1	0	0	12
22	Peters, Richard		2-2	0-0	0-0	1	2	3	4	4	0	0	0	1	7
24	Ennema, Dallas		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
30	Charles, Travis		1-3	0-0	1-2	1	2	3	4	3	0	1	0	0	17
	Team					2	3	5				1			
	Totals		25-58	1-14	14-22	13	15	28	26	65	4	15	0	9	200

FG % 1st Half: 9-25 36.0% 2nd half: 16-33 48.5% Game: 25-58 43.1%
3FG % 1st Half: 0-8 0.0% 2nd half: 1-6 16.7% Game: 1-14 7.1%
FT % 1st Half: 9-15 60.0% 2nd half: 5-7 71.4% Game: 14-22 63.6%
Deadball Rebounds 4,1

Kentucky 78 • 1-0

##	Player		FG-FGA	3FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
00	Marcus Lee	f	5-7	0-0	2-7	5	3	8	2	12	3	1	3	0	27
03	Tyler Ulis	g	4-9	2-5	2-2	1	3	4	3	12	2	5	0	0	37
04	Charles Matthews		2-2	0-0	0-0	1	1	2	3	4	0	1	0	0	15
23	Jamal Murray	g	8-15	2-5	1-1	1	2	3	3	19	8	5	0	3	32
01	Skal Labissiere	*	3-5	0-0	3-4	1	4	5	2	9	0	3	4	0	30
11	Mychal Mulder		1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
15	Isaac Humphries		0-1	0-0	4-4	0	2	2	0	4	0	1	0	0	7
22	Alex Poythress		1-2	0-1	0-2	0	3	3	4	2	0	0	1	1	11
25	Dominique Hawkins		0-1	0-1	0-0	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	11
35	Derek Willis		4-7	2-5	4-4	2	3	5	1	14	3	3	0	2	28
	Team					0	1	1				1			
	Totals		28-50	6-17	16-24	12	22	34	21	78	16	20	8	6	200

FG % 1st Half: 13-28 46.4% 2nd half: 15-22 68.2% Game: 28-50 56.0%
3FG % 1st Half: 4-11 36.4% 2nd half: 2-6 33.3% Game: 6-17 35.3%
FT % 1st Half: 8-11 72.7% 2nd half: 8-13 61.5% Game: 16-24 66.7%
Deadball Rebounds 2,2

Officials: Karl Hess, Brian Shey, Glenn Tuitt
Technical fouls: Albany-Charles, Travis; Singletary, Evan. Kentucky-Alex Poythress; Jamal Murray; Tyler Ulis.
Attendance: 22080

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Albany	27	38	65
Kentucky	38	40	78

Points	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
ALBANY	38	18	16	6	19
UK	34	19	11	10	22

Last FG - ALBANY 2nd-00:19, UK 2nd-00:59.
Largest lead - ALBANY None, UK by 21 2nd-08:33.
ALBANY led for 00:00. UK led for 38:35. Game was tied for 01:25.

Score tied - 0 times.
Lead changed - 0 times.

GAME TWO
#2 KENTUCKY 87, NJIT 57

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
NJIT vs Kentucky
11/14/15 8:00 pm at Rupp Arena - Lexington, KY

NJIT 57 • 0-1

##	Player		FG-FGA	3FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
02	Coleman, Tim	r	3-9	0-3	4-4	1	3	4	3	10	0	3	1	4	20
15	Smith, Terrence	r	2-4	0-0	0-0	1	4	5	3	4	1	1	0	0	23
00	Howard, Ky	g	4-8	1-1	4-6	1	1	2	2	13	1	2	0	0	27
05	Lynn, Damon	g	6-15	4-9	3-4	1	0	1	2	19	0	3	0	0	29
11	Willis, Winfield	g	0-4	0-2	0-0	0	3	3	1	0	3	3	0	0	29
03	Jenkins, Chris		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
23	Izevbuwa, Osa		0-3	0-2	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
24	Tselentakis, Emmanuel		0-2	0-1	0-0	0	2	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	20
25	Ukawuba, Rob		2-6	0-0	2-2	1	1	2	3	6	1	2	0	0	22
33	Shustov, Vlad		0-1	0-0	2-2	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	9
34	Bendary, Mohamed		0-2	0-0	0-0	2	1	3	4	3	0	0	1	0	8
	Team					0	1	1							
	Totals		17-55	5-19	18-22	7	16	23	22	57	8	14	2	6	200

FG % 1st Half: 11-27 40.7% 2nd half: 6-28 21.4% Game: 17-55 30.9%
3FG % 1st Half: 3-8 37.5% 2nd half: 2-11 18.2% Game: 5-19 26.3%
FT % 1st Half: 3-4 75.0% 2nd half: 15-18 83.3% Game: 18-22 81.8%
Deadball Rebounds 3,1

Kentucky 87 • 2-0

##	Player		FG-FGA	3FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
00	Marcus Lee	r	4-8	0-0	2-2	7	1	8	3	10	0	3	3	1	20
01	Labissiere, Skal	f	10-12	0-0	6-6	3	2	5	3	26	0	3	2	1	21
35	Derek Willis	r	4-5	3-4	0-0	0	3	3	1	11	1	0	2	0	17
03	Ulis, Tyler	g	1-8	0-2	3-4	2	3	5	1	5	5	1	0	0	31
23	Jamal Murray	g	3-13	1-10	1-1	1	4	5	2	8	2	3	0	1	30
04	Matthews, Charles		0-2	0-1	1-2	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	17
10	Jonny David		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
11	Mychal Mulder		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	9
13	Isaiah Briscoe		5-11	1-4	0-0	1	11	12	1	11	2	4	0	2	29
15	Isaac Humphries		2-4	0-0	1-2	1	2	3	1	5	0	2	1	0	6
22	Alex Poythress		3-5	0-0	3-4	3	4	7	4	9	0	1	1	1	21
25	Dominique Hawkins		0-1	0-0	1-2	1	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	3
	Team					3	0	3							
	Totals		32-69	5-21	18-24	22	32	54	18	87	14	14	9	6	200

FG % 1st Half: 14-34 41.2% 2nd half: 18-35 51.4% Game: 32-69 46.4%
3FG % 1st Half: 2-11 18.2% 2nd half: 3-10 30.0% Game: 5-21 23.8%
FT % 1st Half: 6-8 75.0% 2nd half: 12-16 75.0% Game: 18-24 75.0%
Deadball Rebounds 4

Officials: Joe DeRosa, Chuck Jones, Jacyn Goble
Technical fouls: NJIT-None. Kentucky-None.
Attendance: 22671

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
NJIT	28	29	57
Kentucky	36	51	87

Points	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
NJIT	24	10	10	4	11
UK	38	15	23	8	27

Last FG - NJIT 2nd-04:35, UK 2nd-01:32.
Largest lead - NJIT by 6 1st-15:57, UK by 34 2nd-05:31.
NJIT led for 06:59. UK led for 30:05. Game was tied for 02:56.

Score tied - 2 times.
Lead changed - 1 time.

GAME THREE
#2 KENTUCKY 74, #5 DUKE 63

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Kentucky vs Duke Blue Devils
11/17/15 6:30 pm at United Center   Chicago, IL

Kentucky 74 • 3-0

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
00	Marcus Lee	f	5-10	0-0	0-0	5	5	10	5	10	1	1	2	0	22
1	Skal Labissiere	f	3-5	0-0	1-2	2	2	4	5	7	1	2	1	0	13
13	Isaiah Briscoe	g	5-8	1-1	1-3	0	3	3	1	12	1	1	0	2	31
23	Jamal Murray	g	7-17	2-3	0-2	3	2	5	2	16	5	3	0	4	38
3	Tyler Ulis	g	6-13	0-4	6-6	0	4	4	0	18	6	0	1	2	40
15	Isaac Humphries		1-3	0-0	0-0	2	1	3	3	2	1	1	2	0	12
22	Alex Poythress		3-10	0-1	3-5	4	3	7	4	9	0	0	1	0	30
35	Derek Willis		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	7
4	Charles Matthews		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7
	Team					1	2	3					1		
	Totals		30-67	3-10	11-18	17	22	39	21	74	15	9	7	9	200

FG % 1st Half: 16-37 43.2% 2nd half: 14-30 46.7% Game: 30-67 44.8%
3FG % 1st Half: 2-6 33.3% 2nd half: 1-4 25.0% Game: 3-10 30.0%
FT % 1st Half: 3-6 50.0% 2nd half: 8-12 66.7% Game: 11-18 61.1%

Deadball Rebounds 3

Duke Blue Devils 63 • 2-1

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
14	Brandon Ingram	f	1-6	0-0	2-2	0	1	1	4	4	1	4	1	0	19
21	Amile Jefferson	f	7-8	0-0	2-4	8	7	15	2	16	0	2	0	0	35
40	Marshall Plumlee	c	4-6	0-0	4-8	4	6	10	2	12	1	0	6	0	36
13	Matt Jones	g	5-11	3-6	3-4	0	0	0	2	16	2	0	0	2	35
3	Grayson Allen	g	2-11	1-2	1-3	0	3	3	4	6	1	4	0	1	28
12	Derryck Thornton		3-7	1-2	0-0	0	3	3	3	7	3	4	0	0	29
2	Chase Jeter		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	1	0	4
5	Luke Kennard		0-5	0-3	2-2	1	1	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	14
	Team					2	3	5							
	Totals		22-54	5-13	14-23	15	24	39	20	63	9	16	8	3	200

FG % 1st Half: 12-33 36.4% 2nd half: 10-21 47.6% Game: 22-54 37.0%
3FG % 1st Half: 2-7 28.6% 2nd half: 3-6 50.0% Game: 5-13 38.5%
FT % 1st Half: 5-9 55.6% 2nd half: 9-14 64.3% Game: 14-23 60.9%

Deadball Rebounds 4

Officials: Doug Sirmons, Roger Ayers, Tony Greene
Technical fouls: Kentucky-None. Duke Blue Devils-None.
Attendance: 21461

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Kentucky	37	37	**74**
Duke Blue Devils	31	32	**63**

Points	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
UK	48	17	14	18	11
DU	30	5	23	4	9

Last FG - UK 2nd-04:09, DU 2nd-01:18.
Largest lead - UK by 16 2nd-04:09, DU by 2 1st-08:42.
UK led for 33:20. DU led for 00:05. Game was tied for 06:35.

Score tied - 6 times.
Lead changed - 2 times.

GAME FOUR
#2 KENTUCKY 78, WRIGHT STATE 63

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Wright State vs Kentucky
11/20/15 8:00 pm at Rupp Arena - Lexington, KY

Wright State 63 • 1-3

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
11	Yoho, JT	r	6-15	1-1	0-0	2	3	5	3	13	3	2	2	0	33
22	Ernsthausen, Parker	r	1-4	0-0	3-4	1	0	1	4	5	0	1	0	0	24
13	Benzinger, Grant	g	4-9	3-6	8-9	0	4	4	4	19	0	1	0	0	35
23	Alstork, Mark	g	3-8	1-3	2-2	1	3	4	3	9	2	0	0	0	24
32	Thomasson, Joe	g	4-12	1-4	0-0	1	4	5	5	9	2	4	0	0	28
02	Collie, Daniel		0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
03	Hughes, Mark		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	12
04	Vest, Alan		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	17
05	Mitchell, Justin		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	6
14	Karena, Michael		2-7	0-0	2-2	2	1	3	5	6	0	1	0	1	12
15	Neel, Brandon		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	6
21	Stacey, Trey		1-1	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	1
35	Davis, Roderick		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0+
	Team					0	1	1							
	Totals		21-58	6-14	15-17	8	19	27	33	63	8	12	4	1	5	200

FG % 1st Half: 10-32 31.3% 2nd half: 11-26 42.3% Game: 21-58 36.2%
3FG % 1st Half: 3-6 50.0% 2nd half: 3-8 37.5% Game: 6-14 42.9%
FT % 1st Half: 3-4 75.0% 2nd half: 12-13 92.3% Game: 15-17 88.2%

Deadball Rebounds 1,3

Kentucky 78 • 4-0

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
00	Marcus Lee	r	0-1	0-0	0-0	1	6	7	0	0	0	0	0	1	23
01	Labissiere, Skal	r	6-12	0-0	1-5	2	1	3	4	13	0	1	1	0	24
03	Ulis, Tyler	g	5-9	1-3	10-12	0	2	2	1	21	5	2	0	2	36
13	Isaiah Briscoe	g	7-11	0-2	1-5	0	3	3	3	15	2	3	0	0	35
23	Jamal Murray	g	1-4	1-3	10-10	0	6	6	1	13	1	5	0	0	34
04	Matthews, Charles		2-2	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	3	4	0	1	0	1	13
11	Mychal Mulder		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	4
22	Alex Poythress		3-5	0-1	4-4	2	8	10	3	10	0	0	0	1	22
35	Derek Willis		1-3	0-1	0-0	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	9
	Team					1	2	3							
	Totals		25-47	2-10	26-37	7	30	37	17	78	9	12	1	5	200

FG % 1st Half: 17-29 58.6% 2nd half: 8-18 44.4% Game: 25-47 53.2%
3FG % 1st Half: 1-5 20.0% 2nd half: 1-5 20.0% Game: 2-10 20.0%
FT % 1st Half: 4-6 66.7% 2nd half: 22-31 71.0% Game: 26-37 70.3%

Deadball Rebounds 4

Officials: Byron Jarrett, Don Daily, Marc Ellard
Technical fouls: Wright State-Thomasson, Joe. Kentucky-Jamal Murray.
Attendance: 22563

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Wright State	26	37	**63**
Kentucky	39	39	**78**

Points	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
WSU	20	5	8	6	8
UK	38	16	6	10	16

Last FG - WSU 2nd-00:26, UK 2nd-00:50.
Largest lead - WSU None, UK by 20 2nd-05:26.
WSU led for 00:00. UK led for 39:08. Game was tied for 00:52.

Score tied - 0 times.
Lead changed - 0 times.

GAME FIVE
#1 KENTUCKY 82, BOSTON U. 62

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Boston U. vs Kentucky
11/24/15 9:00 pm at Rupp Arena - Lexington, KY

Boston U. 62 • 2-3

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
22	Dieudonne, Nathan	r	5-10	0-1	1-2	0	4	4	3	11	3	2	2	0	37
32	Alston, Justin	r	1-3	0-0	0-1	0	2	2	4	2	1	2	0	1	15
02	Papale, John	g	5-12	3-10	2-2	1	2	3	1	15	2	2	0	1	36
15	Mosely, Cheddi	g	2-11	2-9	4-4	0	1	1	4	10	0	0	0	1	29
25	Foreman, Kyle	g	4-8	1-4	2-3	1	1	2	2	11	3	8	0	2	32
00	Johnson, Eric		0-4	0-0	2-2	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	8
01	Havener, Nick		2-4	0-1	2-2	2	3	5	5	7	0	1	0	1	18
05	Mbargorba, Blaise		0-1	0-0	1-2	1	2	3	1	1	0	1	0	0	6
13	Goff, Will		1-1	1-1	0-0	0	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	13
24	Chambers, Kamali		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
34	Johnson, Brandon		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
41	Haines, Dylan		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Team					3	3	6							
	Totals		20-54	8-24	14-18	8	19	27	22	62	9	17	2	6	200

FG % 1st Half: 11-30 36.7% 2nd half: 9-24 37.5% Game: 20-54 37.0%
3FG % 1st Half: 5-15 33.3% 2nd half: 3-9 33.3% Game: 8-24 33.3%
FT % 1st Half: 6-8 75.0% 2nd half: 8-10 80.0% Game: 14-18 77.8%

Deadball Rebounds 3,1

Kentucky 82 • 5-0

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
00	Marcus Lee	r	4-4	0-0	1-4	2	0	2	3	9	0	2	1	1	18
01	Labissiere, Skal	r	7-13	0-0	2-5	2	5	7	3	16	0	2	3	1	29
03	Ulis, Tyler	g	4-12	1-5	6-6	0	6	6	1	15	6	2	0	3	34
13	Isaiah Briscoe	g	4-10	0-1	3-7	1	3	4	2	11	5	1	1	3	35
23	Jamal Murray	g	5-9	2-5	0-0	1	2	3	4	12	2	2	0	0	31
04	Matthews, Charles		1-1	0-0	1-4	3	4	7	0	3	2	1	0	1	18
10	Jonny David		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
11	Mychal Mulder		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
22	Alex Poythress		7-8	0-0	0-0	5	5	10	3	14	0	1	0	1	21
25	Dominique Hawkins		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
35	Derek Willis		1-6	0-3	0-0	1	1	2	1	2	0	0	0	2	9
	Team					1	0	1							
	Totals		33-64	3-15	13-26	18	27	45	18	82	15	12	5	12	200

FG % 1st Half: 17-34 50.0% 2nd half: 16-30 53.3% Game: 33-64 51.6%
3FG % 1st Half: 2-11 18.2% 2nd half: 1-4 25.0% Game: 3-15 20.0%
FT % 1st Half: 4-10 40.0% 2nd half: 9-16 56.3% Game: 13-26 50.0%

Deadball Rebounds 6

Officials: Anthony Jordan, Karl Hess, Olandis Poole
Technical fouls: Boston U.-Havener, Nick. Kentucky-Marcus Lee.
Attendance: 22623

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Boston U.	33	29	**62**
Kentucky	40	42	**82**

Points	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
BOSTON	16	17	9	2	13
UK	58	17	24	10	19

Last FG - BOSTONU 2nd-02:00, UK 2nd-02:58.
Largest lead - BOSTONU by 1 1st-03:40, UK by 24 2nd-02:12.
BOSTONU led for 00:26. UK led for 39:17. Game was tied for 00:17.

Score tied - 0 times.
Lead changed - 2 times.

GAME SIX
#1 KENTUCKY 84, SOUTH FLORIDA 63

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Kentucky vs USF
11/27/15 5:05 PM at AmericanAirlines Arena

Kentucky 84 • 6-0

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
00	Marcus Lee	*	2-5	0-0	3-3	3	6	2	4	0	0	0	1		19
1	Skal Labissiere	*	5-8	0-0	7-8	0	4	4	3	17	2	0	3	1	29
13	Isaiah Briscoe	*	3-9	0-1	0-0	6	6	6	4	1	1	0	0		27
23	Jamal Murray	*	8-16	2-5	3-3	2	1	3	0	21	3	0	0	0	35
3	Tyler Ulis	*	2-4	2-2	2-2	0	2	0	8	2	1	0	2		14
10	Jonny David		0-0	0-0	2-2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0		1
11	Mychal Mulder		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		4
15	Isaac Humphries		1-3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	3	2	0	1	2	0	11
22	Alex Poythress		4-6	0-0	0-0	0	5	5	3	8	0	0	0	1	21
25	Dominique Hawkins		1-2	1-2	0-0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	1		9
35	Derek Willis		1-3	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	1	6
4	Charles Matthews		4-5	1-1	2-2	1	1	2	2	11	1	2	0	1	24
	Team					4	5	9							
	Totals		31-62	6-13	16-19	12	25	37	17	84	16	8	5	9	200

FG % 1st Half: 16-29 55.2% 2nd half: 15-33 45.5% Game: 31-62 50.0%
3FG % 1st Half: 4-7 57.1% 2nd half: 2-6 33.3% Game: 6-13 46.2%
FT % 1st Half: 6-8 75.0% 2nd half: 10-11 90.9% Game: 16-19 84.2%

Deadball Rebounds 1

USF 63 • 1-5

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
01	PERRY, Chris	*	5-11	0-0	2-3	4	4	8	4	12	0	1	0	0	32
03	PETERS, Roddy	*	1-4	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	3	2	2	6	0	0	27
05	MORILLO, Nehemias	*	3-9	0-2	3-4	0	0	0	1	9	2	3	1	0	30
15	COUSINS, Jaleel	*	5-6	0-0	2-4	1	2	3	4	12	0	1	1	1	18
22	NUNEZ, Angel	*	2-7	1-3	2-2	1	3	4	2	7	1	1	0	0	29
00	MCMURRAY, Jahmal		6-14	1-5	0-0	1	2	3	2	13	0	1	0	0	29
10	BRYANT, Tre'		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
13	BODWAY, Jake		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
14	DAVID, Justin		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
33	GUERRERO, Ruben		4-4	0-0	0-2	2	3	5	2	8	0	1	2	1	27
35	ZEIGLER, Bo		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
	Team					1	5	6							
	Totals		26-56	2-10	9-15	10	21	31	17	63	5	14	4	2	200

FG % 1st Half: 8-26 30.8% 2nd half: 18-30 60.0% Game: 26-56 46.4%
3FG % 1st Half: 1-6 16.7% 2nd half: 1-4 25.0% Game: 2-10 20.0%
FT % 1st Half: 4-4 100.0% 2nd half: 5-11 45.5% Game: 9-15 60.0%

Deadball Rebounds 1

Officials: Anthony Jordan, Forest Sigler, Sean Casey
Technical fouls: Kentucky-None. USF-None.
Attendance: 10023
HoopHall Miami Invitational Game #1

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Kentucky	42	42	**84**
USF	21	42	**63**

Points	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
UK	40	23	14	5	17
USF	26	6	10	3	21

Last FG - UK 2nd-01:14, USF 2nd-00:42.
Largest lead - UK by 31 2nd-11:43, USF by 2 1st-18:07.
UK led for 37:09. USF led for 00:39. Game was tied for 02:12.

Score tied - 2 times.
Lead changed - 1 time.

GAME SEVEN
#1 KENTUCKY 75, ILLINOIS STATE 63

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Illinois State vs Kentucky
11/30/15 7:00 pm at Rupp Arena - Lexington, KY

Illinois State 63 • 3-5

##	Player		FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
11	McIntosh, MiKyle	f	4-10	2-3	4-4	0	1	1	4	14	2	3	0	0	26
23	Hawkins, Deontae	f	2-11	0-5	0-0	2	3	5	4	4	1	2	0	2	20
01	Lee, Paris	g	1-7	1-1	0-0	0	2	2	5	3	1	3	0	0	26
12	Wills, Tony	g	0-2	0-0	0-0	1	1	2	4	0	1	0	0	1	21
44	Akoon-Purcell, DeVaug	g	9-20	2-5	2-2	2	4	6	4	22	2	4	0	1	32
00	Banyard, Nick		0-2	0-1	0-0	0	4	4	0	0	1	1	0	0	18
02	Brewer, Quintin		2-5	0-1	2-4	4	4	8	2	6	0	1	1	1	15
04	Ndiaye, Daouda		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
15	McCloud, Justin		0-3	0-2	0-0	0	1	1	4	0	0	1	0	0	13
35	Griffin, Roland		7-10	0-2	0-0	1	2	3	5	14	0	1	1	0	28
	Team					4	1	5							
	Totals		25-70	5-20	8-10	14	23	37	32	63	8	16	2	5	200

FG % 1st Half: 14-32 43.8% 2nd half: 11-38 28.9% Game: 25-70 35.7%
3FG % 1st Half: 2-7 28.6% 2nd half: 3-13 23.1% Game: 5-20 25.0%
FT % 1st Half: 1-2 50.0% 2nd half: 7-8 87.5% Game: 8-10 80.0%
Deadball Rebounds 3,1

Kentucky 75 • 7-0

##	Player		FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
01	Labissiere, Skal	f	0-1	0-0	2-2	0	2	2	3	2	0	1	1	0	16
22	Alex Poythress	f	3-7	0-1	3-5	2	5	7	2	9	2	0	2	1	30
04	Matthews, Charles	g	1-6	0-1	3-8	1	2	3	3	5	2	3	1	2	34
13	Isaiah Briscoe	g	7-13	0-2	4-7	1	6	7	5	18	3	5	1	1	27
23	Jamal Murray	g	3-9	1-3	9-13	1	4	5	2	16	1	4	0	1	29
00	Marcus Lee		6-8	0-0	1-2	7	5	12	3	13	0	1	2	0	30
11	Mychal Mulder		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
25	Dominique Hawkins		1-5	0-3	5-7	0	0	0	1	7	0	1	1	1	24
35	Derek Willis		1-2	1-2	2-2	0	2	2	0	5	0	0	1	0	8
	Team					0	1	1							
	Totals		22-51	2-12	29-46	12	27	39	19	75	8	15	9	6	200

FG % 1st Half: 10-21 47.6% 2nd half: 12-30 40.0% Game: 22-51 43.1%
3FG % 1st Half: 1-4 25.0% 2nd half: 1-8 12.5% Game: 2-12 16.7%
FT % 1st Half: 10-20 50.0% 2nd half: 19-26 73.1% Game: 29-46 63.0%
Deadball Rebounds 10,3

Officials: Joe Lindsay, Mike Nance, Doug Sirmons
Technical fouls: Illinois State-None. Kentucky-None.
Attendance: 21894

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Illinois State	31	32	63
Kentucky	31	44	75

Points	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
ILS	32	14	17	6	20
UK	38	18	12	10	25

Last FG - ILS 2nd-00:45, UK 2nd-01:19.
Largest lead - ILS by 1 1st-17:06, UK by 16 2nd-12:00.
ILS led for 09:41. UK led for 25:27. Game was tied for 04:16.

Score tied - 6 times.
Lead changed - 3 times.

GAME EIGHT
UCLA 87, #1 KENTUCKY 77

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Kentucky vs UCLA
m at os n eles alif a le a lion

Kentucky 77 • 7-1

##	Player		FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
00	Marcus Lee	f	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	4
01	Labissiere, Skal	f	2-3	0-0	2-2	0	1	1	4	6	0	1	2	0	16
03	Ulis, Tyler	g	2-12	1-5	4-4	0	2	2	3	9	9	2	0	2	38
13	Isaiah Briscoe	g	7-10	1-2	5-8	1	1	2	4	20	1	1	0	0	27
23	Jamal Murray	g	5-16	5-11	2-3	1	4	5	3	17	0	3	0	2	35
04	Matthews, Charles		1-4	0-1	0-0	2	1	3	1	2	1	0	0	0	14
15	Isaac Humphries		1-2	0-0	2-4	2	4	6	1	4	0	1	0	0	27
22	Alex Poythress		1-6	0-1	2-2	3	2	5	5	4	1	0	0	1	17
25	Dominique Hawkins		1-3	0-1	0-0	2	1	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	8
35	Derek Willis		4-9	1-4	2-2	3	3	6	5	11	0	0	0	1	14
	Team					2	0	2							
	Totals		25-66	8-25	19-25	16	21	37	27	77	12	8	2	6	200

FG % 1st Half: 12-32 37.5% 2nd half: 13-34 38.2% Game: 25-66 37.9%
3FG % 1st Half: 3-9 33.3% 2nd half: 5-16 31.3% Game: 8-25 32.0%
FT % 1st Half: 2-2 100.0 2nd half: 17-23 73.9% Game: 19-25 76.0%
Deadball Rebounds 3

UCLA 87 • 5-3

##	Player		FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
23	Parker, Tony	f	3-5	0-0	5-7	2	1	3	4	11	2	0	0	1	26
40	Welsh, Thomas	c	8-11	0-0	5-6	3	8	11	2	21	0	0	2	0	36
03	Holiday, Aaron		3-6	2-2	2-2	1	7	8	3	10	7	5	0	1	33
10	Hamilton, Isaac	g	4-11	1-2	6-8	1	2	3	3	15	2	1	0	1	35
20	Alford, Bryce	g	5-13	2-5	3-4	0	5	5	2	15	4	4	0	0	37
05	Ali, Prince		3-4	0-1	2-4	0	3	3	0	8	0	0	0	1	12
43	Bolden, Jonah		2-3	0-1	3-3	2	1	3	4	7	1	0	1	1	21
	Team					1	1	2							
	Totals		28-53	5-11	26-34	10	28	38	18	87	16	10	3	5	200

FG % 1st Half: 14-28 50.0% 2nd half: 14-25 56.0% Game: 28-53 52.8%
3FG % 1st Half: 3-7 42.9% 2nd half: 2-4 50.0% Game: 5-11 45.5%
FT % 1st Half: 6-7 85.7% 2nd half: 20-27 74.1% Game: 26-34 76.5%
Deadball Rebounds 2

Officials: Verne Harris, Randy McCall, David Hall
Technical fouls: Kentucky-None. UCLA-None.
Attendance: 12202

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Kentucky	29	48	77
UCLA	37	50	87

Points	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
UK	28	6	19	4	23
UCLA	30	14	15	0	15

Last FG - UK 2nd-00:23, UCLA 2nd-03:30.
Largest lead - UK by 2 1st-19:32, UCLA by 15 2nd-13:08.
UK led for 00:30. UCLA led for 38:10. Game was tied for 01:20.

Score tied - 1 time.
Lead changed - 1 time.

GAME NINE
#5 KENTUCKY 88, EASTERN KENTUCKY 67

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
EKU vs Kentucky
12/9/15 7:00 pm at Rupp Arena - Lexington, KY

EKU 67 • 7-3

##	Player		FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
10	Mayo, Nick	f	4-10	1-4	2-3	0	1	3	1	9	0	1	0	1	25
21	Hawkins, Javontae	f	9-15	0-3	1-3	2	3	5	3	19	5	4	0	0	33
30	Reischel, Jarelle	f	3-11	1-5	5-5	2	4	6	4	12	1	4	0	1	29
02	Jackson, Paul	g	3-8	0-0	4-5	1	1	2	2	10	3	1	0	0	35
05	McGlone, Isaac	g	2-4	1-3	0-0	1	1	2	2	5	0	0	1	2	26
00	Weaver, Dujuanta		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	4
01	King, Greg		2-4	0-0	0-1	2	2	4	1	4	1	2	0	1	14
04	Matthews, Tommy		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
11	Babb-Harrison, Jaylen		0-3	0-3	0-0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	10
24	Biuford, K.J.		2-8	2-7	0-0	0	1	1	2	6	0	0	0	2	13
32	Powell, Ja'Mill		1-2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	6
33	Pratt Jr, Anthony		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
	Team					1	0	1							
	Totals		26-65	5-18	10-14	11	14	25	19	67	11	13	1	7	200

FG % 1st Half: 14-31 45.2% 2nd half: 12-34 35.3% Game: 26-65 40.0%
3FG % 1st Half: 1-8 12.5% 2nd half: 4-10 40.0% Game: 5-18 27.8%
FT % 1st Half: 7-9 77.8% 2nd half: 3-5 60.0% Game: 10-14 71.4%
Deadball Rebounds 0,2

Kentucky 88 • 8-1

##	Player		FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
01	Labissiere, Skal	f	3-6	0-0	4-4	0	2	2	3	10	0	1	1	0	25
22	Alex Poythress	f	9-12	0-2	3-3	6	7	13	4	21	0	1	0	0	24
03	Ulis, Tyler	g	3-10	2-6	1-2	0	4	4	0	9	8	2	0	1	39
13	Isaiah Briscoe	g	5-9	0-0	0-3	2	4	6	4	10	1	1	0	2	26
23	Jamal Murray	g	6-15	2-9	2-4	2	5	7	2	16	4	4	1	0	36
00	Marcus Lee		5-5	0-0	1-1	3	5	8	2	11	0	4	5	0	25
04	Matthews, Charles		3-4	0-0	1-1	1	1	2	1	7	0	2	0	0	13
25	Dominique Hawkins		0-0	0-0	2-2	1	1	2	1	2	2	0	0	0	6
35	Derek Willis		1-3	0-2	0-0	0	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	6
	Team					1	2	3							
	Totals		35-64	4-19	14-20	18	32	50	17	88	18	17	9	3	200

FG % 1st Half: 20-33 60.6% 2nd half: 15-31 48.4% Game: 35-64 54.7%
3FG % 1st Half: 2-9 22.2% 2nd half: 2-10 20.0% Game: 4-19 21.1%
FT % 1st Half: 8-10 80.0% 2nd half: 6-10 60.0% Game: 14-20 70.0%
Deadball Rebounds 1

Officials: Antinio Petty, Tony Henderson, Michael Roberts
Technical fouls: EKU-Reischel, Jarelle. Kentucky-Isaiah Briscoe.
Attendance: 22544

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
EKU	36	31	67
Kentucky	50	38	88

Points	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
EKU	30	22	9	9	12
UK	58	22	29	6	22

Last FG - EKU 2nd-02:04, UK 2nd-01:06.
Largest lead - EKU None, UK by 21 2nd-01:06.
EKU led for 00:00. UK led for 39:42. Game was tied for 00:18.

Score tied - 0 times.
Lead changed - 0 times.

GAME 10
#5 KENTUCKY 72, ARIZONA STATE 58

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Arizona State vs Kentucky
12/12/15 3:15 PM at Rupp Arena - Lexington, KY

Arizona State 58 • 6-3

##	Player		FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
02	Atwood, Willie	r	1-4	0-2	2-3	1	4	5	3	4	1	0	1	0	30
11	Goodman, Savon	r	2-6	0-0	1-4	1	4	5	4	5	0	0	1	1	23
21	Jacobsen, Eric	r	2-4	0-0	0-2	2	5	7	3	4	0	2	0	0	27
00	Holder, Tra	g	6-16	1-3	2-2	2	2	4	4	15	3	3	0	2	33
04	Blakes, Gerry	g	3-8	0-2	0-0	1	4	5	4	6	4	0	0	0	21
01	O'Field, Maurice		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	6
05	Oleka, Obinna		1-6	0-4	3-4	2	0	2	5	5	0	3	0	1	18
22	Witherill, Austin		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
24	Spight, Andre		3-8	1-5	0-0	0	0	0	2	7	0	1	0	1	20
44	Justice, Kodi		5-9	2-4	0-0	3	0	3	1	12	3	5	0	0	21
	Team					3	1	4							
	Totals		23-62	4-20	8-15	15	21	36	24	58	6	17	0	5	200

FG % 1st Half: 12-31 38.7% 2nd half: 11-31 35.5% Game: 23-62 37.1%
3FG % 1st Half: 2-8 25.0% 2nd half: 2-12 16.7% Game: 4-20 20.0%
FT % 1st Half: 5-6 83.3% 2nd half: 3-9 33.3% Game: 8-15 53.3%
Deadball Rebounds 5,3

Kentucky 72 • 9-1

##	Player		FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
01	Labissiere, Skal	r	0-2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	5	0	0	1	1	0	13
22	Alex Poythress	r	3-3	0-0	4-6	6	4	10	0	10	0	1	1	1	19
03	Ulis, Tyler	g	3-11	2-7	4-5	1	4	5	0	12	6	2	0	0	40
13	Isaiah Briscoe	g	4-9	1-3	0-2	0	4	4	3	9	4	2	0	2	32
23	Jamal Murray	g	4-13	2-6	7-8	1	2	3	2	17	5	2	0	0	29
00	Marcus Lee		6-8	0-0	2-5	2	5	7	2	14	0	1	5	1	29
04	Matthews, Charles		0-1	0-0	1-0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	8
10	Jonny David		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
11	Mychal Mulder		0-1	0-1	0-0	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	7
15	Isaac Humphries		1-1	0-0	1-3	1	0	1	3	3	0	0	0	0	5
25	Dominique Hawkins		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
35	Derek Willis		3-4	1-2	0-0	1	2	3	1	7	0	1	1	1	14
	Team					2	2	3							
	Totals		24-55	6-21	18-26	11	25	36	20	72	15	14	8	6	200

FG % 1st Half: 9-29 31.0% 2nd half: 15-26 57.7% Game: 24-55 43.6%
3FG % 1st Half: 1-11 9.1% 2nd half: 5-10 50.0% Game: 6-21 28.6%
FT % 1st Half: 13-16 81.3% 2nd half: 5-10 50.0% Game: 18-26 69.2%
Deadball Rebounds 4,1

Officials: Tony Greene, Doug Shows, Joe Lindsay
Technical fouls: Arizona State-None. Kentucky-None.
Attendance: 23665

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Arizona State	31	27	58
Kentucky	32	40	72

Points	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
ASU	30	12	8	8	24
UK	36	15	13	14	24

Last FG - ASU 2nd-00:19, UK 2nd-04:29.
Largest lead - ASU by 1 1st-17:21, UK by 23 2nd-04:29.
ASU led for 00:44. UK led for 37:55. Game was tied for 01:21.

Score tied - 3 times.
Lead changed - 2 times.

SEASON BOX SCORES

GAME 11
OHIO STATE 74, #4 KENTUCKY 67

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Ohio State vs Kentucky
12/19/15 3:30 p.m. at Brooklyn, N.Y. (Barclays Center)

Ohio State 74 • 6-5

##	Player		FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
02	Loving, Marc	f	3-10	2-3	4-4	2	6	8	2	12	2	1	1	3	31
33	Bates-Diop, Keita	f	5-12	2-5	2-5	1	6	7	0	14	3	2	0	3	39
32	Thompson, Trevor	c	4-7	0-0	2-2	2	3	5	3	10	0	0	5	0	24
01	Tate, Jae'Sean	g	3-9	0-2	0-0	6	4	10	4	6	1	1	1	1	22
13	Lyle, JaQuan	g	4-11	2-3	1-2	0	1	1	1	11	2	4	0	2	24
04	Giddens, Daniel		2-5	0-0	2-2	0	3	3	3	6	0	0	0	0	16
12	Harris, A.J.		2-4	2-3	0-0	0	0	0	1	6	0	1	0	0	16
15	Williams, Kam		3-6	1-2	2-2	0	2	2	2	9	2	1	0	0	28
	Team					2	4	6				1			
	Totals		26-64	9-18	13-17	13	29	42	16	74	10	11	7	9	200

FG % 1st Half: 14-33 42.4% 2nd half: 12-31 38.7% Game: 26-64 40.6%
3FG % 1st Half: 7-12 58.3% 2nd half: 2-6 33.3% Game: 9-18 50.0%
FT % 1st Half: 2-2 100.0 2nd half: 11-15 73.3% Game: 13-17 76.5%
Deadball Rebounds 2

Kentucky 67 • 9-2

##	Player		FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
01	Labissiere, Skal	f	1-7	0-0	0-0	1	4	5	1	2	0	0	2	0	21
22	Alex Poythress	f	2-4	1-1	1-3	2	5	7	4	6	1	2	1	0	28
03	Ulis, Tyler	g	4-12	1-7	2-2	1	1	2	1	11	4	3	0	1	39
13	Isaiah Briscoe	g	1-9	0-1	1-4	2	4	6	2	3	7	2	0	1	35
23	Jamal Murray	g	13-23	7-9	0-0	1	2	3	3	33	1	2	0	1	34
00	Marcus Lee		4-7	0-0	4-5	2	7	9	5	12	0	2	2	2	30
04	Matthews, Charles		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	7
11	Mychal Mulder		0-1	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	4
25	Dominique Hawkins		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Team					3	4	7							
	Totals		25-63	9-19	8-14	13	27	40	17	67	14	12	5	6	200

FG % 1st Half: 11-36 30.6% 2nd half: 14-27 51.9% Game: 25-63 39.7%
3FG % 1st Half: 1-6 16.7% 2nd half: 8-13 61.5% Game: 9-19 47.4%
FT % 1st Half: 2-3 66.7% 2nd half: 6-11 54.5% Game: 8-14 57.1%
Deadball Rebounds 2

Officials: Tony Greene, Terry Wymer, Roger Ayers
Technical fouls: Ohio State-None. Kentucky-None.
Attendance: 16311
CBS Sports Classic Game 2
Intentional Foul KY #3 - 2:56 in 2nd Half

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Ohio State	37	37	74
Kentucky	25	42	67

Points	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
OSU	28	16	13	2	21
UK	26	8	9	9	12

Last FG - OSU 2nd-01:28, UK 2nd-00:08.
Largest lead - OSU by 16 2nd-14:17, UK by 3 1st-16:13.
OSU led for 35:31. UK led for 02:37. Game was tied for 01:52.

Score tied - 1 time.
Lead changed - 3 times.

GAME 12
#12 KENTUCKY 75, #16 LOUISVILLE 73

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
#16/15 Louisville vs Kentucky
12/26/15 12:00 pm at Rupp Arena - Lexington, KY

#16/15 Louisville 73 • 11-2

##	Player		FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
13	Spalding, Ray	f	1-4	0-0	1-2	3	2	5	1	3	0	3	1	0	23
32	Onuaku, Chinanu	f	4-7	0-0	1-3	6	4	10	2	9	2	3	0	0	26
00	Lee, Damion	g	8-20	2-7	9-10	0	1	1	2	27	0	2	0	1	40
02	Snider, Quentin	g	0-5	0-1	0-0	0	2	2	3	0	1	0	0	1	28
03	Lewis, Trey	g	6-10	2-3	1-1	1	1	2	4	15	1	3	0	2	29
05	Stockman, Matz		1-3	0-0	0-0	3	2	5	3	2	1	1	0	0	6
10	Johnson, Jaylen		3-6	0-0	0-2	2	1	3	2	6	0	1	0	0	17
14	Mahmoud, Anas		0-0	0-0	1-2	1	1	2	2	1	0	0	0	1	8
22	Adel, Deng		1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
45	Mitchell, Donovan		3-7	0-3	2-2	2	3	5	2	8	3	1	0	0	21
	Team					3	1	4				1			
	Totals		27-63	4-14	15-22	21	18	39	21	73	8	15	1	5	200

FG % 1st Half: 12-32 37.5% 2nd half: 15-31 48.4% Game: 27-63 42.9%
3FG % 1st Half: 3-7 42.9% 2nd half: 1-7 14.3% Game: 4-14 28.6%
FT % 1st Half: 9-12 75.0% 2nd half: 6-10 60.0% Game: 15-22 68.2%
Deadball Rebounds 3,2

Kentucky 75 • 10-2

##	Player		FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
00	Marcus Lee	f	4-5	0-0	0-0	4	3	7	4	8	0	1	1	1	30
22	Alex Poythress	f	5-7	0-1	4-7	2	4	6	1	14	1	1	3	1	34
03	Ulis, Tyler	g	7-12	4-7	3-4	0	1	1	2	21	8	1	1	1	39
04	Matthews, Charles		1-3	0-0	0-0	1	1	2	4	2	0	0	0	0	10
23	Jamal Murray	g	3-14	3-8	3-6	1	5	6	3	12	2	7	1	0	34
01	Labissiere, Skal		0-3	0-0	2-2	1	2	3	2	2	0	0	0	1	10
11	Mychal Mulder		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
25	Dominique Hawkins		3-4	3-4	4-6	0	1	1	3	13	1	1	0	0	26
35	Derek Willis		1-4	1-3	0-0	1	1	2	0	3	0	2	0	0	16
	Team					0	1	1				2			
	Totals		24-52	11-23	16-25	10	19	29	19	75	12	15	6	4	200

FG % 1st Half: 13-30 43.3% 2nd half: 11-22 50.0% Game: 24-52 46.2%
3FG % 1st Half: 5-10 50.0% 2nd half: 6-13 46.2% Game: 11-23 47.8%
FT % 1st Half: 13-19 68.4% 2nd half: 3-6 50.0% Game: 16-25 64.0%
Deadball Rebounds 7

Officials: Doug Shows, Pat Adams, Michael Roberts
Technical fouls: #16/15 Louisville-TEAM. Kentucky-TEAM.
Attendance: 24412

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
#16/15 Louisville	36	37	73
Kentucky	44	31	75

Points	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
LOU	38	18	23	6	19
UK	24	11	11	0	18

Last FG - LOU 2nd-01:39, UK 2nd-02:47.
Largest lead - LOU by 5 1st-06:38, UK by 16 2nd-17:54.
LOU led for 06:53. UK led for 30:22. Game was tied for 02:45.

Score tied - 5 times.
Lead changed - 3 times.

GAME 13
#10 KENTUCKY 83, OLE MISS 61

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Ole Miss vs Kentucky
01/02/16 7:00 pm at Rupp Arena - Lexington, KY

Ole Miss 61 • 10-3, 0-1

##	Player		FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
11	Saiz, Sebastian	f	5-10	0-0	2-3	3	3	6	3	12	0	3	0	1	26
12	Gielo, Tomasz	f	2-5	1-3	1-2	0	0	0	3	6	1	0	0	0	28
13	Perez, Anthony	f	2-5	0-1	1-2	1	3	4	3	5	2	0	0	0	22
01	Newby, Martavious	g	1-2	0-0	3-4	2	3	5	2	5	1	4	0	1	24
42	Moody, Stefan	g	6-9	2-5	9-9	0	2	2	1	23	1	5	0	0	30
02	Escobar, J.T.		1-2	0-0	0-1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	6
03	Davis, Terence		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
05	Hymon, Marcanvis		1-4	0-0	2-4	1	1	2	1	4	0	1	2	0	13
10	Finley, Sam		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3
14	Brooks, Rasheed		2-7	0-5	0-1	0	3	3	3	4	2	0	1	2	28
20	Fitzpatrick-Dorsey,D		0-2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	11
25	Brutus, Terry		0-3	0-0	0-0	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	6
30	Coddington, Jake		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	Team					0	2	2				1			
	Totals		20-50	3-14	18-26	10	17	27	19	61	7	16	3	6	200

FG % 1st Half: 6-26 23.1% 2nd half: 14-24 58.3% Game: 20-50 40.0%
3FG % 1st Half: 3-10 30.0% 2nd half: 0-4 0.0% Game: 3-14 21.4%
FT % 1st Half: 7-11 63.6% 2nd half: 11-15 73.3% Game: 18-26 69.2%
Deadball Rebounds 6,1

Kentucky 83 • 11-2, 1-0

##	Player		FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
00	Marcus Lee	f	6-9	0-0	1-5	3	5	8	2	13	0	1	2	0	28
22	Alex Poythress	f	2-5	0-1	2-3	3	6	9	4	6	0	3	0	0	23
03	Ulis, Tyler	g	8-13	1-6	3-4	1	2	3	3	20	10	4	0	0	38
13	Isaiah Briscoe	g	2-8	0-2	2-4	2	3	5	3	6	3	1	0	4	35
23	Jamal Murray	g	7-17	4-12	0-0	3	3	6	1	18	3	2	0	1	39
01	Labissiere, Skal		4-7	0-0	1-2	3	0	3	5	9	0	0	0	0	14
04	Matthews, Charles		1-1	0-0	1-2	1	0	1	2	3	0	0	0	2	10
15	Isaac Humphries		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1
25	Dominique Hawkins		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	3
35	Derek Willis		3-4	2-3	0-0	1	0	1	1	8	1	2	0	0	9
	Team					3	2	5							
	Totals		33-66	7-25	10-20	20	21	41	25	83	18	12	2	13	200

FG % 1st Half: 17-33 51.5% 2nd half: 16-33 48.5% Game: 33-66 50.0%
3FG % 1st Half: 3-11 27.3% 2nd half: 4-14 28.6% Game: 7-25 28.0%
FT % 1st Half: 9-17 52.9% 2nd half: 1-3 33.3% Game: 10-20 50.0%
Deadball Rebounds 5,1

Officials: Tony Greene, Bryon Jarrett, Terry Moore
Technical fouls: Ole Miss-None. Kentucky-None.
Attendance: 24399

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Ole Miss	22	39	61
Kentucky	46	37	83

Points	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
OM	30	18	9	4	10
UK	42	20	16	12	20

Last FG - OM 2nd-01:06, UK 2nd-01:36.
Largest lead - OM by 2 1st-17:21, UK by 29 2nd-17:44.
OM led for 00:22. UK led for 36:59. Game was tied for 02:38.

Score tied - 2 times.
Lead changed - 2 times.

GAME 14
LSU 85, #9 KENTUCKY 67

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Kentucky vs LSU
at Baton Rouge (Maravich Center)

Kentucky 67 • 11-3 (1-1)

##	Player		FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
00	Marcus Lee	f	0-2	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	5	0	0	2	0	0	5
22	Alex Poythress	f	2-3	0-1	0-3	0	4	4	5	4	0	3	0	0	26
03	Tyler Ulis	g	7-16	2-6	7-8	1	0	1	1	23	6	2	0	0	40-
13	Isaiah Briscoe	g	2-6	0-2	1-7	1	5	6	4	5	0	3	1	1	30
23	Jamal Murray	g	9-17	2-5	1-1	1	1	2	2	21	1	2	0	1	36
01	Skal Labissiere		1-3	0-0	1-2	1	1	2	2	3	0	1	0	0	16
04	Charles Matthews		0-0	0-0	1-1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	7
11	Mychal Mulder		1-4	1-2	2-2	3	5	8	0	5	0	0	0	0	14
15	Isaac Humphries		0-2	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	1	0	7
35	Derek Willis		2-5	2-4	0-0	2	1	3	2	6	0	0	0	1	19
	Team					1	1	2							
	Totals		24-58	7-20	12-23	11	21	32	25	67	8	14	1	3	200

FG % 1st Half: 9-28 32.1% 2nd half: 15-30 50.0% Game: 24-58 41.4%
3FG % 1st Half: 3-11 27.3% 2nd half: 4-9 44.4% Game: 7-20 35.0%
FT % 1st Half: 6-14 42.9% 2nd half: 6-9 66.7% Game: 12-23 52.2%
Deadball Rebounds 4,1

LSU 85 • 9-5 (2-0)

##	Player		FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
25	SIMMONS, Ben	f	5-5	0-0	4-6	3	7	10	2	14	3	2	1	2	27
32	VICTOR II, Craig	f	3-11	0-1	9-14	4	8	12	4	15	1	1	1	1	36
02	BLAKENEY, Antonio	g	3-9	0-3	0-0	0	0	0	2	6	1	1	0	0	23
04	HORNSBY, Keith	g	3-6	2-3	1-2	0	4	4	2	9	2	2	1	2	28
55	QUARTERMAN, Tim	g	9-15	2-4	1-2	6	4	10	1	21	7	0	1	0	31
00	SAMPSON, Brandon		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
03	ROBINSON III, Elbert		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
15	GRAY, Josh		3-9	0-1	4-6	2	0	2	1	10	2	2	0	1	9
20	BRIDGEWATER, Brian		1-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	2	2	0	0	1	0	1
21	EPPS, Aaron		3-4	2-2	0-0	1	0	1	2	8	0	0	0	1	9
22	MALONE, Darcy		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Team					0	3	3				1			
	Totals		30-61	6-14	19-30	16	30	46	17	85	17	9	4	8	200

FG % 1st Half: 14-30 46.7% 2nd half: 16-31 51.6% Game: 30-61 49.2%
3FG % 1st Half: 4-9 44.4% 2nd half: 2-5 40.0% Game: 6-14 42.9%
FT % 1st Half: 5-10 50.0% 2nd half: 14-20 70.0% Game: 19-30 63.3%
Deadball Rebounds 4

Officials: Doug Shows, Pat Adams, Joe DeRosa
Technical fouls: Kentucky-None. LSU-TEAM.
Attendance: 13573

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Kentucky	27	40	67
LSU	37	48	85

Points	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
UK	24	10	14	2	14
LSU	44	22	16	8	20

Last FG - UK 2nd-00:40, LSU 2nd-00:50.
Largest lead - UK by 2 1st-19:36, LSU by 18 2nd-01:15.
UK led for 00:21. LSU led for 37:15. Game was tied for 02:24.

Score tied - 1 time.
Lead changed - 1 time.

GAME 15
#9 KENTUCKY 77, ALABAMA 61

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Kentucky vs Alabama
1/9/16 5:00 p.m. at Tuscaloosa, Ala. (Coleman Coliseum)

Kentucky 77 • 12-3, 2-1

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
00	Marcus Lee	f	4-5	0-0	0-5	5	6	11	4	8	0	2	1	0	24
22	Alex Poythress	f	8-10	0-1	9-11	3	4	7	3	25	0	4	2	0	34
03	Tyler Ulis	g	2-7	0-1	4-6	0	5	5	2	8	8	1	1	1	39
13	Isaiah Briscoe	g	6-10	0-1	0-2	1	4	5	1	12	4	1	0	0	36
23	Jamal Murray	g	7-13	1-4	6-6	2	3	5	3	21	0	1	0	1	31
01	Skal Labissiere		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	1	0	4
04	Charles Matthews		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
11	Mychal Mulder		1-4	1-2	0-0	2	2	4	2	3	0	1	0	0	11
24	EJ Floreal		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
35	Derek Willis		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	17
	Team					1	2	3				1			
	Totals		28-51	2-9	19-30	14	29	43	23	77	12	11	5	2	200

FG % 1st Half: 13-29 44.8% 2nd half: 15-22 68.2% Game: 28-51 54.9%
3FG % 1st Half: 2-7 28.6% 2nd half: 0-2 0.0% Game: 2-9 22.2%
FT % 1st Half: 10-13 76.9% 2nd half: 9-17 52.9% Game: 19-30 63.3%
Deadball Rebounds 3

Alabama 61 • 9-5, 0-2

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
03	Kessens, Michael	f	0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	7
10	Taylor, Jimmie	f	2-3	0-0	0-2	2	4	6	3	4	0	1	4	0	20
04	Edwards, Arthur	g	3-9	2-6	3-5	0	3	3	3	11	0	2	0	0	25
05	Coleman, Justin	g	1-6	1-4	0-0	0	0	0	3	3	2	0	0	0	25
32	Obasohan, Retin	g	6-14	3-4	6-8	0	2	2	2	21	1	2	0	1	36
01	Norris, Riley		3-5	0-1	4-4	2	1	3	2	10	2	0	1	1	27
02	Schaffer, Lawson		1-1	1-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	2
11	Hale, Shannon		1-9	0-6	4-6	0	2	2	4	6	0	0	0	0	26
23	Austin, Brandon		0-2	0-1	0-0	0	1	1	2	0	1	1	1	0	15
35	Hall, Donta		1-2	0-0	1-2	3	3	6	3	3	0	0	0	0	17
	Team					1	1	2				1			
	Totals		18-52	7-24	18-27	8	17	25	24	61	5	7	7	3	200

FG % 1st Half: 9-23 39.1% 2nd half: 9-29 31.0% Game: 18-52 34.6%
3FG % 1st Half: 3-11 27.3% 2nd half: 4-13 30.8% Game: 7-24 29.2%
FT % 1st Half: 7-13 53.8% 2nd half: 11-14 78.6% Game: 18-27 66.7%
Deadball Rebounds 6

Officials: Olandis Poole, Lamar Simpson, Glenn Tuitt
Technical fouls: Kentucky-Skal Labissiere. Alabama-None.
Attendance: 15383

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Kentucky	38	39	**77**
Alabama	28	33	**61**

GAME 16
#14 KENTUCKY 80, MISSISSIPPI STATE 74

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Mississippi State vs Kentucky
01/12/16 7:00 pm at Rupp Arena - Lexington, KY

Mississippi State 74 • 7-8, 0-3

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
20	Ware, Gavin	f	4-7	0-0	3-3	2	4	6	3	11	0	4	0	0	29
14	Newman, Malik	g	3-7	2-4	6-6	0	1	1	1	14	4	1	0	0	27
15	Ready, IJ	g	2-6	0-0	3-4	0	4	4	1	7	2	3	0	1	34
23	Daniels, Travis	g	1-3	1-1	0-0	0	1	1	2	3	0	2	0	1	24
32	Sword, Craig	g	9-13	0-0	2-3	0	2	2	5	20	1	5	0	1	31
01	Thomas, Fred		3-3	2-2	0-0	0	2	2	0	8	1	0	0	1	21
04	Zuppardo, Johnny		1-4	1-4	0-0	1	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	11
11	Weatherspoon,Q		4-8	0-2	0-0	1	2	3	4	8	0	1	0	2	22
35	Holman, Aric		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
	Team					0	0	0				1			
	Totals		27-51	6-13	14-16	3	17	20	20	74	8	19	0	5	200

FG % 1st Half: 13-22 59.1% 2nd half: 14-29 48.3% Game: 27-51 52.9%
3FG % 1st Half: 4-7 57.1% 2nd half: 2-6 33.3% Game: 6-13 46.2%
FT % 1st Half: 1-1 100.0 2nd half: 13-15 86.7% Game: 14-16 87.5%
Deadball Rebounds 1

Kentucky 80 • 13-3, 3-1

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
00	Marcus Lee	f	1-2	0-0	0-0	2	7	9	5	2	0	3	2	0	24
22	Alex Poythress	f	1-4	0-1	4-6	2	6	8	4	6	0	1	0	1	31
03	Ulis, Tyler	g	7-14	2-6	5-5	1	2	3	21	5	4	0	2	36
13	Isaiah Briscoe	g	7-9	0-0	0-1	2	2	4	4	14	5	1	0	1	36
23	Jamal Murray	g	7-14	5-11	3-4	0	1	1	3	22	3	4	0	1	36
01	Labissiere, Skal		2-3	0-0	1-2	1	3	4	1	5	0	1	1	0	14
04	Matthews, Charles		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
11	Mychal Mulder		1-5	0-3	0-0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	10
35	Derek Willis		2-3	2-2	2-2	1	1	2	0	8	1	1	1	1	11
	Team					2	0	2				1			
	Totals		28-55	9-23	15-20	11	22	33	21	80	16	17	4	7	200

FG % 1st Half: 16-34 47.1% 2nd half: 12-21 57.1% Game: 28-55 50.9%
3FG % 1st Half: 6-17 35.3% 2nd half: 3-6 50.0% Game: 9-23 39.1%
FT % 1st Half: 1-2 50.0% 2nd half: 14-18 77.8% Game: 15-20 75.0%
Deadball Rebounds 4

Officials: Tony Greene, Ron Groover, Roger Ayers
Technical fouls: Mississippi State-Ready, IJ. Kentucky-Isaiah Briscoe: Ulis, Tyler.
Attendance: 23897

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Mississippi State	31	43	**74**
Kentucky	39	41	**80**

GAME 17
AUBURN 75, #14 KENTUCKY 70

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Kentucky vs Auburn
01/16/16 3:00 p.m. at Auburn Arena -- Auburn, Ala.

Kentucky 70 • 13-4, 3-2

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
00	Marcus Lee	f	1-3	0-0	1-2	2	2	4	3	3	1	0	2	0	19
22	Alex Poythress	f	2-5	0-0	2-2	0	3	3	2	6	0	1	3	1	21
03	Ulis,Tyler	g	5-17	0-3	7-7	5	5	10	4	17	8	1	0	0	40-
13	Isaiah Briscoe	g	3-12	0-0	2-4	2	1	3	4	8	1	4	0	2	31
23	Jamal Murray	g	8-22	4-10	0-1	4	1	5	5	20	2	2	0	3	36
01	Labissiere,Skal		2-3	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	3	4	0	1	1	0	8
04	Matthews,Charles		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	7
10	Jonny David		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0+
11	Mychal Mulder		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
24	EJ Floreal		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0+
35	Derek Willis		4-10	2-5	2-2	3	9	12	3	12	2	2	1	1	31
	Team					2	4	6							
	Totals		25-72	6-18	14-18	18	30	48	25	70	15	11	7	7	200

FG % 1st Half: 14-37 37.8% 2nd half: 11-35 31.4% Game: 25-72 34.7%
3FG % 1st Half: 3-7 42.9% 2nd half: 3-11 27.3% Game: 6-18 33.3%
FT % 1st Half: 4-7 57.1% 2nd half: 10-11 90.9% Game: 14-18 77.8%
Deadball Rebounds 2

Auburn 75 • 8-8, 2-3

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
05	Bowers, Cinmeon	r	3-12	0-4	2-6	2	8	10	2	8	1	6	1	2	28
12	Harris, Tyler	f	6-11	3-3	6-8	2	9	11	3	21	2	2	1	0	29
25	Granger, Jordon	r	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	19
01	Canty, Kareem	g	7-20	5-12	7-11	0	2	2	1	26	4	2	0	0	39
23	Lang, TJ	g	2-2	2-2	0-0	0	2	2	1	6	1	1	0	0	32
00	Spencer, Horace		1-3	0-0	2-2	0	3	3	1	4	0	0	5	0	21
02	Brown, Bryce		2-7	2-5	0-0	0	1	1	1	6	1	1	0	0	29
21	Keim, Patrick		0-0	0-0	2-2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1
31	Waddell, Devin		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
	Team					3	4	7							
	Totals		21-55	12-26	21-31	7	31	38	13	75	9	13	7	2	200

FG % 1st Half: 9-32 28.1% 2nd half: 12-23 52.2% Game: 21-55 38.2%
3FG % 1st Half: 6-16 37.5% 2nd half: 6-10 60.0% Game: 12-26 46.2%
FT % 1st Half: 6-10 60.0% 2nd half: 15-21 71.4% Game: 21-31 67.7%
Deadball Rebounds 7

Officials: Tony Henderson, Brian Sheym Michael Roberts
Technical fouls: Kentucky-Labissiere,Skal. Auburn-None.
Attendance: 9121
*Auburn's 6th sellout in Bruce Pearl's 2nd season of the 11 total in 6 seasons of Auburn Arena.
*Auburn's Tyler Harris 7th double-double of the season.
*AU snaps 18 game losing streak to UK, 15 game losing streak to ranked teams.

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Kentucky	35	35	**70**
Auburn	30	45	**75**

		In	Off	2nd	Fast	
	Points	Paint	T/O	Chance	Break	Bench
UK		32	12	18	10	16
AU		16	5	4	7	12

Last FG - UK 2nd-00:13, AU 2nd-01:04.
Largest lead - UK by 12 2nd-15:41, AU by 7 2nd-00:20.
UK led for 23:32. AU led for 10:58. Game was tied for 05:30.

Score tied - 11 times.
Lead changed - 11 times.

GAME 18
#23 KENTUCKY 80, ARKANSAS 66

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Kentucky vs Arkansas
m at Fa ette ille rk B alton rena

Kentucky 80 • 14-4, 4-2 SEC

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
22	Alex Poythress	r	3-5	0-0	1-2	4	2	6	4	7	0	0	1	0	15
35	Derek Willis	r	5-8	2-4	0-0	2	5	7	2	12	0	1	4	1	35
03	Tyler Ulis	g	4-10	0-3	14-15	0	1	1	3	24	5	1	0	1	38
13	Isaiah Briscoe	g	1-7	0-2	0-0	3	4	7	4	2	3	0	0	0	29
23	Jamal Murray	g	7-18	1-7	4-5	1	6	7	2	19	1	2	1	1	37
00	Marcus Lee		2-3	0-0	0-0	1	1	2	5	4	0	1	0	1	10
01	Skal Labissiere		4-10	0-0	3-4	4	11	0	3	11	0	0	3	1	20
04	Charles Matthews		0-1	0-0	1-2	2	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	12
10	Jonny David		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0+
11	Mychal Mulder		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
15	Isaac Humphries		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
24	EJ Floreal		0-0	0-0	0-2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Team					3	2	5							
	Totals		26-62	5-16	23-30	16	27	43	25	80	9	6	9	5	200

FG % 1st Half: 14-36 38.9% 2nd half: 12-26 46.2% Game: 26-62 41.9%
3FG % 1st Half: 2-9 22.2% 2nd half: 3-7 42.9% Game: 5-16 31.3%
FT % 1st Half: 6-7 85.7% 2nd half: 17-23 73.9% Game: 23-30 76.7%
Deadball Rebounds 3

Arkansas 66 • 9-9, 3-3 SEC

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
33	Kingsley, Moses	r	3-6	0-0	7-10	2	4	6	4	13	0	4	2	1	32
55	Miles, Keaton	r	2-4	0-0	1-4	0	5	5	0	5	1	0	2	0	12
03	Hannahs, Dusty	g	7-14	1-5	5-7	2	1	3	3	20	0	2	0	0	33
04	Durham, Jabril	g	1-5	0-1	0-0	2	2	2	3	5	0	0	0	0	24
05	Bell, Anthon	g	5-12	1-4	5-6	1	3	4	16	0	1	1	1	28
01	Thompson, Trey		1-2	0-0	0-0	1	3	4	5	2	3	0	1	0	21
21	Watkins, Manuale		1-3	0-0	0-0	2	0	2	1	2	1	1	0	0	9
23	Whitt, Jimmy		0-3	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	14
31	Beard, Anton		2-6	0-2	1-2	0	5	5	2	5	2	0	1	1	25
50	Kouassi, Willy		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Team					4	2	6							
	Totals		22-55	2-12	20-31	12	22	34	23	66	12	9	5	3	200

FG % 1st Half: 9-25 36.0% 2nd half: 13-30 43.3% Game: 22-55 40.0%
3FG % 1st Half: 0-3 0.0% 2nd half: 2-9 22.2% Game: 2-12 16.7%
FT % 1st Half: 6-12 50.0% 2nd half: 14-19 73.7% Game: 20-31 64.5%
Deadball Rebounds 5,2

Officials: Tony Greene, Karl Hess, Olandis Poole
Technical fouls: Kentucky-None. Arkansas-Kingsley, Moses.
Attendance: 18588
Fouled out: Kentucky #00, Lee (2H 10:16)
Arkansas #1, Thompson (2H 1:55)

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Kentucky	36	44	**80**
Arkansas	24	42	**66**

		In	Off	2nd	Fast	
	Points	Paint	T/O	Chance	Break	Bench
UK		32	8	19	6	16
AR		34	6	8	5	9

Last FG - UK 2nd-01:21, AR 2nd-00:03.
Largest lead - UK by 18 2nd-09:15, AR by 1 1st-19:34.
UK led for 38:45. AR led for 00:28. Game was tied for 00:26.

Score tied - 1 time.
Lead changed - 1 time.

GAME 19
#23 KENTUCKY 76, VANDERBILT 57

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Vanderbilt vs Kentucky
01/23/16 4:00 pm at Rupp Arena - Lexington, KY

Vanderbilt 57 • 11-8, 3-4

			Total	3-Ptr		Rebounds							
##	Player		FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
03	Kornet, Luke	f	2-8	1-3	2-2	2	5	7	2	7	2	2	0	0	22
11	Roberson, Jeff	f	3-6	2-3	4-4	0	0	0	2	12	0	1	0	0	32
30	Jones, Damian	c	5-7	0-0	3-6	2	7	9	2	13	1	1	2	1	31
04	Baldwin Iv, Wade	g	1-9	0-1	5-6	0	1	1	1	7	2	5	1	1	32
13	LaChance, Riley	g	1-5	1-3	0-0	0	1	1	1	3	1	1	0	0	21
00	Justice, Camron		0-3	0-1	0-0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	7
02	Toye, Joe		1-1	0-0	3-4	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	12
05	Fisher-Davis, Matthe		1-4	1-3	0-0	1	3	4	1	3	0	0	0	0	21
14	Josephs, Carter		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
21	Sehic, Samir		0-2	0-0	2-2	2	1	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
24	Cressler, Nolan		1-2	0-1	1-1	0	3	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	12
40	Henderson, Josh		1-3	0-0	0-0	1	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	1	6
	Team					1	0	1				1			
	Totals		16-50	5-15	20-25	10	22	32	10	57	8	12	3	3	200

FG % 1st Half: 7-21 33.3% 2nd half: 9-29 31.0% Game: 16-50 32.0%
3FG % 1st Half: 3-7 42.9% 2nd half: 2-8 25.0% Game: 5-15 33.3%
FT % 1st Half: 10-12 83.3% 2nd half: 10-13 76.9% Game: 20-25 80.0%

Deadball Rebounds 2

Kentucky 76 • 15-4, 5-2

			Total	3-Ptr		Rebounds							
##	Player		FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
22	Alex Poythress	f	8-10	0-1	0-0	0	2	2	3	16	0	0	0	0	27
35	Derek Willis	f	2-8	1-6	2-2	1	8	9	3	7	0	0	1	1	30
03	Ulis, Tyler	g	9-13	2-4	1-1	0	3	3	3	21	5	2	0	1	34
13	Isaiah Briscoe	g	3-8	0-1	0-0	0	4	4	3	6	4	2	0	0	36
23	Jamal Murray	g	7-13	3-6	1-1	2	5	7	0	18	2	0	1	3	36
00	Marcus Lee		3-5	0-0	0-0	1	4	5	3	6	0	0	1	1	17
01	Labissiere, Skal		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	4
04	Matthews, Charles		1-2	0-0	0-2	2	0	2	2	2	1	2	0	0	15
24	EJ Floreal		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Team					0	0	0				1			
	Totals		33-60	6-19	4-6	6	26	32	19	76	12	7	3	6	200

FG % 1st Half: 17-35 48.6% 2nd half: 16-25 64.0% Game: 33-60 55.0%
3FG % 1st Half: 2-9 22.2% 2nd half: 4-10 40.0% Game: 6-19 31.6%
FT % 1st Half: 1-3 33.3% 2nd half: 3-3 100.0 Game: 4-6 66.7%

Deadball Rebounds 1,1

Officials: Joe Lindsay, Ron Groover, Glenn Tuitt
Technical fouls: Vanderbilt-None. Kentucky-None.
Attendance: 22975

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Vanderbilt	27	30	57
Kentucky	37	39	76

	Points	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
VU		18	5	10	2	15
UK		34	17	6	7	8

Last FG - VU 2nd-03:41, UK 2nd-03:15.
Largest lead - VU None, UK by 23 2nd-04:05.
VU led for 00:00. UK led for 39:46. Game was tied for 00:14.

Score tied - 0 times.
Lead changed - 0 times.

GAME 20
#20 KENTUCKY 88, MISSOURI 54

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Missouri vs Kentucky
01/27/16 9:00 PM at Rupp Arena - Lexington, KY

Missouri 54 • 8-12, 1-6

			Total	3-Ptr		Rebounds							
##	Player		FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
24	Puryear, Kevin	f	4-7	0-0	2-2	0	1	1	1	10	0	1	0	0	19
44	Rosburg, Ryan	r	1-3	0-0	0-1	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	11
01	Phillips, Terrence		3-6	0-0	2-2	1	5	6	4	8	3	4	0	2	31
12	Wright, Namon	g	0-6	0-2	3-3	0	1	1	1	3	0	4	0	0	22
15	Clark, Wes	g	3-16	2-5	3-4	0	0	0	0	11	0	2	0	1	25
05	Allen, D'Angelo		0-5	0-1	1-2	1	4	5	1	1	3	1	1	0	14
10	Walton, K.J.		3-5	1-2	3-4	4	2	6	1	10	0	1	0	0	21
11	Barton, Jimmy		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
23	Gant, Jakeenan		1-3	0-1	0-0	0	3	3	1	2	0	1	1	1	17
25	Woods, Russell		0-0	0-1	1-2	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
32	Wolf, Adam		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
33	Vanleer, Cullen		3-6	1-3	0-1	0	1	1	3	7	1	1	0	0	20
	Team					3	0	3							
	Totals		18-57	4-14	14-19	9	19	28	15	54	7	15	2	4	200

FG % 1st Half: 7-27 25.9% 2nd half: 11-30 36.7% Game: 18-57 31.6%
3FG % 1st Half: 3-8 37.5% 2nd half: 1-6 16.7% Game: 4-14 28.6%
FT % 1st Half: 3-5 60.0% 2nd half: 11-14 78.6% Game: 14-19 73.7%

Deadball Rebounds 3

Kentucky 88 • 16-4, 6-2

			Total	3-Ptr		Rebounds							
##	Player		FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
22	Alex Poythress	r	2-5	0-0	4-4	2	5	7	1	8	1	2	0	1	21
35	Derek Willis	r	6-9	4-5	2-2	3	9	12	0	18	1	2	2	0	25
03	Ulis, Tyler	g	9-14	2-6	0-0	0	2	2	0	20	8	3	0	0	29
13	Isaiah Briscoe	g	5-9	0-0	5-6	2	4	6	2	15	6	0	0	2	33
23	Jamal Murray	g	4-14	3-8	0-1	2	7	9	2	11	2	0	0	2	33
00	Marcus Lee		1-2	0-0	0-0	2	1	3	2	2	0	1	3	0	9
01	Labissiere, Skal		6-8	0-0	0-1	0	0	0	1	12	0	1	2	1	18
04	Matthews, Charles		1-2	0-0	0-0	2	1	3	0	2	0	1	0	0	17
10	Jonny David		0-1	0-1	0-0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
11	Mychal Mulder		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	4
15	Isaac Humphries		0-0	0-0	0-0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	7
24	EJ Floreal		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
	Team					2	1	3							
	Totals		34-65	9-20	11-14	15	32	47	12	88	18	11	11	6	200

FG % 1st Half: 19-35 54.3% 2nd half: 15-30 50.0% Game: 34-65 52.3%
3FG % 1st Half: 5-10 50.0% 2nd half: 4-10 40.0% Game: 9-20 45.0%
FT % 1st Half: 4-5 80.0% 2nd half: 7-9 77.8% Game: 11-14 78.6%

Deadball Rebounds 0

Officials: Anthony Jordan, Jeffery Clark, Jeffrey Anderson
Technical fouls: Missouri-None. Kentucky-None.
Attendance: 23933

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Missouri	20	34	54
Kentucky	47	41	88

	Points	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
MU		26	19	7	4	20
UK		24	22	18	10	16

Last FG - MU 2nd-00:59, UK 2nd-03:17.
Largest lead - MU by 2 1st-19:39, UK by 41 2nd-11:45.
MU led for 00:37. UK led for 39:02. Game was tied for 00:21.

Score tied - 0 times.
Lead changed - 1 time.

GAME 21
#4 KANSAS 90, #20 KENTUCKY 84 OT

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Kentucky vs #4/3 Kansas
m at a rence S llen Fiel o se

Kentucky 84 • 16-5

			Total	3-Ptr		Rebounds							
##	Player		FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
22	Alex Poythress	r	5-8	1-2	2-2	0	8	8	5	13	1	3	1	2	37
35	Derek Willis	r	2-5	1-4	1-2	1	4	5	5	6	0	1	0	3	23
13	Isaiah Briscoe	g	3-9	0-1	6-12	1	3	4	4	12	5	3	1	0	38
23	Jamal Murray	g	6-11	2-7	1-2	1	5	6	3	15	0	3	1	1	39
3	Tyler Ulis	g	11-19	1-6	3-4	0	2	2	2	26	8	3	0	3	45
00	Marcus Lee		2-2	0-0	0-0	2	1	3	5	4	0	1	2	0	12
1	Skal Labissiere		2-3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	5	4	0	1	1	0	14
25	Dominique Hawkins		2-5	0-3	0-0	0	1	1	4	4	1	0	0	1	15
4	Charles Matthews		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Team					1	1	2				1			
	Totals		33-62	5-23	13-22	6	25	31	33	84	15	16	6	10	225

FG % 1st Half: 17-27 63.0% 2nd half: 13-29 44.8% OT: 3-6 50.0% Game: 33-62 53.2%
3FG % 1st Half: 4-10 40.0% 2nd half: 0-9 0.0% OT: 1-4 25.0% Game: 5-23 21.7%
FT % 1st Half: 8-11 72.7% 2nd half: 4-6 66.7% OT: 1-5 20.0% Game: 13-22 59.1%

Deadball Rebounds 4

#4/3 Kansas 90 • 17-4

			Total	3-Ptr		Rebounds							
##	Player		FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
33	Lucas, Landen	r	0-1	0-0	3-6	1	2	3	4	3	1	3	0	0	13
34	Ellis, Perry	f	1-4	0-0	8-13	4	5	9	3	10	1	2	0	0	31
00	Mason III, Frank	g	3-11	2-4	5-6	0	8	8	3	13	1	3	0	2	42
01	Selden Jr., Wayne	g	12-20	3-5	6-8	1	2	3	0	33	0	2	0	2	44
04	Graham, Devonte'	g	3-9	2-5	3-6	0	1	1	3	11	5	1	0	0	37
02	Vick, Lagerald		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
13	Diallo, Cheick		1-1	0-0	0-2	2	1	3	1	2	0	1	0	0	10
14	Greene, Brannen		1-2	1-2	4-4	0	4	4	1	7	1	2	0	0	10
15	Bragg Jr., Carlton		3-5	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	2	6	0	1	0	0	11
31	Traylor, Jamari		2-2	0-0	1-2	4	1	5	2	5	2	2	1	1	25
	Team					2	2	4							
	Totals		26-56	8-17	30-47	14	28	42	20	90	13	15	1	5	225

FG % 1st Half: 15-27 55.6% 2nd half: 10-27 37.0% OT: 1-2 50.0% Game: 26-56 46.4%
3FG % 1st Half: 2-8 25.0% 2nd half: 6-9 66.7% OT: 0-0 0.0% Game: 8-17 47.1%
FT % 1st Half: 8-12 66.7% 2nd half: 10-19 52.6% OT: 12-16 75.0% Game: 30-47 63.8%

Deadball Rebounds 8

Officials: Mark Whitehead, Patrick Adams, Doug Sirmons
Technical fouls: Kentucky-Isaiah Briscoe. #4/3 Kansas-None.
Attendance: 16300
UK #13 I. Briscoe assessed dead ball contact technical foul at 18:46 1st half
UK #35 D. Willis fouls out at 4:51 in 2nd half
UK #00 M. Lee fouls out at 1:24 in 2nd half
UK #1 fouls out at 2:11 in 1st OT; UK #22 fouls out :25 in 1st OT

Score by periods	1st	2nd	OT	Total
Kentucky	46	30	8	84
#4/3 Kansas	40	36	14	90

	Points	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
UK		36	11	10	4	12
KU		26	10	10	4	20

Last FG - UK OT-00:04, KU OT-03:11.
Largest lead - UK by 8 2nd-19:39, KU by 9 OT-00:25.
UK led for 25:46. KU led for 13:37. Game was tied for 05:37.

Score tied - 12 times.
Lead changed - 18 times.

GAME 22
TENNESSEE 84, #20 KENTUCKY 77

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Kentucky vs Tennessee
02/02/16 7:04 p.m. at Knoxville, Tenn.

Kentucky 77 • 16-6, 6-3 SEC

			Total	3-Ptr		Rebounds							
##	Player		FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
22	Alex Poythress	f	6-9	0-0	2-4	3	2	5	5	14	1	4	0	0	17
35	Derek Willis	f	3-8	2-6	0-0	1	7	8	3	8	0	2	0	0	35
03	Ulis, Tyler	g	3-10	2-4	12-14	0	0	0	5	20	5	1	0	2	38
13	Isaiah Briscoe	g	5-10	0-0	0-1	4	4	8	4	10	3	1	0	0	30
23	Jamal Murray	g	7-20	3-12	4-4	3	2	5	1	21	5	2	0	0	36
00	Marcus Lee		1-1	0-0	0-0	1	2	3	2	2	0	1	0	0	20
01	Labissiere, Skal		1-2	0-0	0-0	2	0	2	2	2	1	1	3	0	11
04	Matthews, Charles		0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
25	Dominique Hawkins		0-2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	10
	Team					4	1	5							
	Totals		26-62	7-22	18-23	16	20	36	26	77	15	11	4	2	200

FG % 1st Half: 13-30 43.3% 2nd half: 13-32 40.6% Game: 26-62 41.9%
3FG % 1st Half: 3-9 30.0% 2nd half: 4-12 33.3% Game: 7-22 31.8%
FT % 1st Half: 13-14 92.9% 2nd half: 5-9 55.6% Game: 18-23 78.3%

Deadball Rebounds 2

Tennessee 84 • 11-11, 4-5 SEC

			Total	3-Ptr		Rebounds							
##	Player		FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
04	Moore, Armani	f	5-11	1-2	7-8	4	9	13	4	18	4	3	0	2	38
05	Schofield, Admiral	f	2-6	1-4	6-6	3	5	8	2	11	2	1	0	0	28
11	Alexander, Kyle	f	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	12
00	Punter, Kevin	g	7-19	3-8	10-11	0	3	3	2	27	3	2	0	1	37
34	Baulkman, Devon	g	1-3	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	13
03	Hubbs III, Robert		2-6	0-0	4-6	4	0	4	2	8	0	1	0	0	25
15	Mostella, Detrick		4-7	2-3	3-3	0	2	2	1	13	3	0	2	0	29
23	Reese, Derek		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
25	Phillips, Shembari		2-2	1-1	0-0	0	2	2	4	5	0	0	1	0	13
	Team					3	0	3							
	Totals		23-56	8-19	30-34	14	23	37	19	84	12	8	3	3	200

FG % 1st Half: 9-27 33.3% 2nd half: 14-29 48.3% Game: 23-56 41.1%
3FG % 1st Half: 3-9 33.3% 2nd half: 5-10 50.0% Game: 8-19 42.1%
FT % 1st Half: 15-15 100.0 2nd half: 15-19 78.9% Game: 30-34 88.2%

Deadball Rebounds 3

Officials: Karl Hess, Ron Groover, Keith Kimble
Technical fouls: Kentucky-None. Tennessee-None.
Attendance: 19295

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Kentucky	42	35	77
Tennessee	36	48	84

	Points	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
UK		32	11	11	9	4
UT		24	14	7	10	26

Last FG - UK 2nd-00:31, UT 2nd-01:31.
Largest lead - UK by 21 1st-05:46, UT by 7 2nd-03:27.
UK led for 26:29. UT led for 09:32. Game was tied for 03:54.

Score tied - 3 times.
Lead changed - 3 times.

GAME 23
#20 KENTUCKY 80, FLORIDA 61

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Florida vs Kentucky
02/06/16 4:00 PM at Rupp Arena - Lexington, KY

Florida 61 • 15-8, 6-4

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
10	Finney-Smith,D	r	8-11	2-5	6-7	1	7	8	2	24	1	1	0	0	35
15	Egbunu,John	c	3-7	0-0	6-8	2	3	5	2	12	0	1	1	1	26
00	Hill,Kasey	g	2-7	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	4	4	1	2	0	0	13
04	Allen,Kevaughn	g	1-6	1-4	0-0	0	2	2	0	3	3	1	0	1	27
11	Chiozza,Chris	g	1-8	1-4	0-0	0	2	2	1	3	4	2	0	1	29
01	Walker,Devon		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
02	Francis-Ramirez,B		3-7	1-4	0-0	1	2	3	0	7	0	0	0	0	20
03	Robinson,Devin		3-6	1-1	1-2	1	3	4	4	8	0	1	0	1	18
13	Hayes,Kevarrius		0-0	0-0	0-2	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	11
24	Leon,Justin		0-0	0-0	0-1	2	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	13
32	Rimmer,Schuyler		0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Team					1	0	1							
	Totals		21-53	6-19	13-20	9	19	28	17	61	10	10	1	4	200

FG % 1st Half: 11-30 36.7% 2nd half: 10-23 43.5% Game: 21-53 39.6%
3FG % 1st Half: 3-10 30.0% 2nd half: 3-9 33.3% Game: 6-19 31.6%
FT % 1st Half: 7-12 58.3% 2nd half: 6-8 75.0% Game: 13-20 65.0%
Deadball Rebounds 3,4

Kentucky 80 • 17-6, 7-3

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
00	Marcus Lee	r	2-2	0-0	0-1	1	5	6	5	4	1	0	0	0	26
35	Derek Willis	r	3-7	2-6	4-5	0	6	6	1	12	0	1	0	0	25
03	Ulis, Tyler	g	7-12	2-3	2-3	1	3	4	2	18	11	2	0	2	38
13	Isaiah Briscoe	g	1-6	0-1	1-2	1	1	2	3	3	6	1	0	0	34
23	Jamal Murray	g	13-21	8-10	1-2	1	5	6	0	35	1	2	0	0	36
01	Labissiere, Skal		1-3	0-0	0-0	1	2	3	4	2	0	3	1	0	15
04	Matthews, Charles		1-4	0-0	0-1	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	11
11	Mychal Mulder		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0+
15	Isaac Humphries		2-3	0-0	0-0	3	3	6	3	4	0	0	2	0	15
24	EJ Floreal		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0+
25	Dominique Hawkins		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0+
	Team					3	0	3				1			
	Totals		30-58	12-20	8-14	11	26	37	18	80	19	10	5	2	200

FG % 1st Half: 18-29 62.1% 2nd half: 12-29 41.4% Game: 30-58 51.7%
3FG % 1st Half: 7-11 63.6% 2nd half: 5-9 55.6% Game: 12-20 60.0%
FT % 1st Half: 7-13 53.8% 2nd half: 1-1 100.0% Game: 8-14 57.1%
Deadball Rebounds 0,1

Officials: Joe Lindsay, Glenn Tuitt, Terry Moore
Technical fouls: Florida-None. Kentucky-None.
Attendance: 24406

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Florida	32	29	61
Kentucky	50	30	80

Points	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
UF	26	11	11	7	15
UK	26	10	17	11	8

Last FG - UF 2nd-02:04, UK 2nd-01:04.
Largest lead - UF None, UK by 26 2nd-18:17.
UF led for 00:00. UK led for 39:11. Game was tied for 00:49.

Score tied - 1 time.
Lead changed - 0 times.

GAME 24
#22 KENTUCKY 82, GEORGIA 48

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Georgia vs Kentucky
02/09/16 9:00 pm at Rupp Arena - Lexington, KY

Georgia 48 • 13-9, 6-5

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
01	Maten, Yante	r	4-14	0-0	8-8	3	8	11	1	16	0	3	0	0	30
25	Geno, Kenny Paul	r	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	4	0	1	1	0	0	23
04	Mann, Charles		2-4	0-0	5-6	1	2	3	2	9	1	6	0	0	28
12	Gaines, Kenny	g	3-12	2-5	0-0	2	0	2	3	8	0	1	0	0	24
30	Frazier, J.J.	g	0-8	0-4	4-4	0	4	4	5	4	1	0	0	0	31
00	Jackson II, William		1-2	1-2	2-2	0	0	0	1	5	1	1	0	0	8
13	Wilridge, E'Torrion		0-0	0-0	0-0	1	2	3	5	0	2	0	0	1	12
15	Iduwe, Osahen		0-1	0-0	2-3	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	3
24	Kessler, Houston		0-1	0-0	0-0	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	13
32	Edwards, Mike		0-2	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
34	Ogbeide, Derek		1-6	0-0	2-4	5	2	7	1	4	0	1	0	0	16
	Team					2	1	3							
	Totals		11-50	3-11	23-27	16	20	36	20	48	5	15	0	0	200

FG % 1st Half: 5-25 20.0% 2nd half: 6-25 24.0% Game: 11-50 22.0%
3FG % 1st Half: 1-4 25.0% 2nd half: 2-7 28.6% Game: 3-11 27.3%
FT % 1st Half: 13-16 81.3% 2nd half: 10-11 90.9% Game: 23-27 85.2%
Deadball Rebounds 3,2

Kentucky 82 • 18-6, 8-3

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
00	Marcus Lee	r	2-2	0-0	0-1	1	1	2	4	4	0	1	0	0	16
35	Derek Willis	r	4-8	3-7	0-0	1	5	6	1	11	0	0	1	2	28
03	Ulis, Tyler	g	6-11	0-2	0-3	0	3	3	1	14	8	0	0	3	38
13	Isaiah Briscoe	g	2-6	0-0	3-8	0	3	3	2	7	4	2	0	1	23
23	Jamal Murray	g	8-14	6-10	2-2	0	2	2	2	24	0	1	0	2	30
01	Labissiere, Skal		3-9	0-1	0-0	4	3	7	5	6	0	0	1	0	18
04	Matthews, Charles		2-2	0-0	3-4	3	2	5	1	7	0	0	0	0	16
10	Jonny David		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
11	Mychal Mulder		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	3	3	5	0	1	4	0	0	14
15	Isaac Humphries		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
24	EJ Floreal		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0+
25	Dominique Hawkins		2-3	1-1	4-4	0	0	0	1	9	1	1	0	0	13
	Team					1	0	1				2			
	Totals		29-56	10-21	14-22	10	24	34	20	82	13	7	7	8	200

FG % 1st Half: 17-30 56.7% 2nd half: 12-26 46.2% Game: 29-56 51.8%
3FG % 1st Half: 5-10 50.0% 2nd half: 5-11 45.5% Game: 10-21 47.6%
FT % 1st Half: 3-6 50.0% 2nd half: 11-16 68.8% Game: 14-22 63.6%
Deadball Rebounds 3

Officials: Pat Adams, Tony Henderson, Gerry Pollard
Technical fouls: Georgia-None. Kentucky-None.
Attendance: 22136

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Georgia	24	24	48
Kentucky	42	40	82

Points	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
UGA	14	2	10	0	11
UK	28	15	12	10	22

Last FG - UGA 2nd-00:53, UK 2nd-01:16.
Largest lead - UGA by 2 1st-19:27, UK by 37 2nd-02:15.
UGA led for 00:34. UK led for 37:40. Game was tied for 01:46.

Score tied - 2 times.
Lead changed - 1 time.

GAME 25
#22 KENTUCKY 89, SOUTH CAROLINA 62

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Kentucky vs South Carolina
m T at ol mbia S olonial ife rena

Kentucky 89 • 19-6, 9-3 SEC

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
00	Marcus Lee	r	5-9	0-0	1-1	6	7	13	2	11	0	2	2	0	36
35	Derek Willis	r	3-4	3-4	0-0	0	2	2	4	9	0	0	1	1	18
03	Tyler Ulis	g	7-14	4-8	9-11	0	0	0	1	27	12	1	0	2	38
13	Isaiah Briscoe	g	4-8	0-1	2-3	1	4	5	3	10	3	5	0	1	31
23	Jamal Murray	g	9-21	4-11	4-6	1	4	5	0	26	1	2	0	0	38
01	Skal Labissiere		2-4	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	4	4	0	1	1	1	16
04	Charles Matthews		1-3	0-0	0-0	2	3	5	1	2	1	1	0	0	12
15	Isaac Humphries		0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	7
25	Dominique Hawkins		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4
	Team					3	3	6	2						
	Totals		31-64	11-25	16-21	14	24	38	21	89	17	12	5	6	200

FG % 1st Half: 16-34 47.1% 2nd half: 15-30 50.0% Game: 31-64 48.4%
3FG % 1st Half: 5-11 45.5% 2nd half: 6-14 42.9% Game: 11-25 44.0%
FT % 1st Half: 5-7 71.4% 2nd half: 11-14 78.6% Game: 16-21 76.2%
Deadball Rebounds 0,1

South Carolina 62 • 21-4, 8-4 SEC

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
24	CARRERA, Michael	r	6-13	2-6	11-15	4	6	10	2	25	1	1	3	0	29
25	KACINAS, Mindaugas	r	1-3	0-0	0-0	2	2	4	2	2	0	0	0	0	25
30	SILVA, Chris	r	2-7	0-0	6-8	4	4	8	1	10	1	1	2	0	20
00	THORNWELL, Sindarius	g	3-10	0-3	1-2	0	2	2	2	7	2	5	1	1	31
15	DOZIER, PJ	g	1-7	0-1	0-0	1	2	3	4	2	0	4	1	1	21
01	STROMAN, Marcus		0-1	0-0	0-0	1	3	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	9
02	DOBY, Raymond		1-3	0-0	0-0	1	2	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	15
04	GREGORY, Jamall		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
10	NOTICE, Duane		3-5	2-3	2-2	1	0	1	2	10	0	1	0	0	27
14	CHATKEVICIUS, L.		1-4	0-0	2-4	2	2	4	2	4	0	0	1	0	13
20	MCKIE, Justin		0-2	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	9
	Team					1	4	5							
	Totals		18-55	4-14	22-31	16	23	39	20	62	7	16	8	3	200

FG % 1st Half: 9-26 34.6% 2nd half: 9-29 31.0% Game: 18-55 32.7%
3FG % 1st Half: 2-7 28.6% 2nd half: 2-7 28.6% Game: 4-14 28.6%
FT % 1st Half: 7-15 46.7% 2nd half: 15-16 93.8% Game: 22-31 71.0%
Deadball Rebounds 5,1

Officials: Tony Greene, Brian Shey, Doug Sirmons
Technical fouls: Kentucky-Isaiah Briscoe; TEAM 2. South Carolina-GREGORY, Jamall.
Attendance: 18000

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Kentucky	42	47	89
South Carolina	27	35	62

Points	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
UK	34	22	12	12	6
SC	20	10	16	7	16

Last FG - UK 2nd-01:16, SC 2nd-01:43.
Largest lead - UK by 34 2nd-07:03, SC by 1 1st-16:33.
UK led for 37:33. SC led for 02:03. Game was tied for 00:24.

Score tied - 1 time.
Lead changed - 4 times.

GAME 26
#14 KENTUCKY 80, TENNESSEE 70

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Tennessee vs Kentucky
02/18/16 7:00 pm at Rupp Arena - Lexington, KY

Tennessee 70 • 12-14, 5-8

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
04	Moore, Armani	r	8-15	0-0	5-9	5	6	11	2	21	2	0	2	0	34
11	Alexander, Kyle	r	1-1	0-0	2-4	2	0	2	3	4	0	0	0	0	14
00	Punter, Kevin	g	4-14	2-7	9-10	0	3	3	1	19	1	3	0	0	33
25	Phillips, Shembari	g	2-5	1-1	2-2	1	4	7	1	5	1	0	0	0	26
34	Baulkman, Devon	g	1-5	1-3	1-2	1	4	5	1	4	2	1	0	1	24
03	Hubbs III, Robert		2-8	0-0	0-0	2	0	2	1	4	1	1	0	0	19
05	Schofield, Admiral		2-6	0-1	0-1	1	2	3	2	4	0	0	0	0	17
15	Mostella, Detrick		1-3	0-0	0-0	5	5	5	2	2	1	2	1	0	26
23	Reese, Derek		1-1	1-1	2-2	1	2	3	1	5	1	0	1	0	7
	Team					0	3	3							
	Totals		22-58	5-14	21-30	13	26	39	17	70	7	7	3	1	200

FG % 1st Half: 10-28 35.7% 2nd half: 12-30 40.0% Game: 22-58 37.9%
3FG % 1st Half: 2-7 28.6% 2nd half: 3-7 42.9% Game: 5-14 35.7%
FT % 1st Half: 8-12 66.7% 2nd half: 13-18 72.2% Game: 21-30 70.0%
Deadball Rebounds 1

Kentucky 80 • 20-6, 10-3

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
00	Marcus Lee	r	2-3	0-0	0-0	1	3	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	17
35	Derek Willis	r	8-12	7-11	2-2	2	3	5	3	25	0	0	1	0	25
03	Ulis, Tyler	g	3-15	1-4	4-4	0	4	4	2	11	9	2	0	0	35
13	Isaiah Briscoe	g	2-10	0-1	1-4	2	8	10	3	5	1	0	0	0	36
23	Jamal Murray	g	8-12	3-6	9-10	2	7	9	2	28	2	2	1	1	35
01	Labissiere, Skal		2-6	0-0	0-0	1	3	4	3	4	1	1	0	0	14
04	Matthews, Charles		0-2	0-0	0-1	1	1	2	2	0	0	1	0	1	15
10	Jonny David		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
11	Mychal Mulder		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
15	Isaac Humphries		1-2	0-0	1-2	4	2	6	4	3	0	1	2	0	16
25	Dominique Hawkins		0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
	Team					0	0	0				1			
	Totals		26-62	11-24	17-23	14	31	45	19	80	13	8	4	2	200

FG % 1st Half: 12-30 40.0% 2nd half: 14-32 43.8% Game: 26-62 41.9%
3FG % 1st Half: 4-11 36.4% 2nd half: 7-13 53.8% Game: 11-24 45.8%
FT % 1st Half: 8-12 66.7% 2nd half: 9-11 81.8% Game: 17-23 73.9%
Deadball Rebounds 2

Officials: Joe Lindsay, Olandis Poole, Tony Henderson
Technical fouls: Tennessee-None. Kentucky-None.
Attendance: 24274

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Tennessee	30	40	70
Kentucky	36	44	80

Points	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
UT	24	14	14	2	15
UK	26	8	15	7	7

Last FG - UT 2nd-00:24, UK 2nd-04:07.
Largest lead - UT by 5 1st-17:05, UK by 22 2nd-10:53.
UT led for 07:30. UK led for 30:45. Game was tied for 01:45.

Score tied - 1 time.
Lead changed - 2 times.

GAME 27
TEXAS A&M 79, #14 KENTUCKY 77

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Kentucky vs #RV/24 Texas A&M
02/20/16 5:30 PM at Reed Arena (College Station, TX)

Kentucky 77 • 20-7; 10-4 SEC

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
00	Marcus Lee	*	4-5	0-0	0-1	1	4	5	5	8	0	2	3	0	31
03	Tyler Ulis	*	7-12	3-5	5-6	0	4	4	2	22	11	4	1	1	45
13	Isaiah Briscoe	*	5-12	1-1	0-0	1	5	6	4	11	3	2	0	0	41
23	Jamal Murray	*	6-16	4-10	5-6	0	1	1	2	21	1	1	0	0	42
35	Derek Willis	*	1-4	1-3	0-0	0	1	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	20
01	Skal Labissiere		1-1	0-0	1-2	1	2	3	2	3	0	0	1	0	9
04	Charles Matthews		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
15	Isaac Humphries		2-2	0-0	2-2	2	10	12	5	6	0	0	2	1	20
25	Dominique Hawkins		1-1	1-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	10
	Team					1	2	3							
	Totals		27-54	10-20	13-17	6	30	36	21	77	15	9	7	3	225

FG % 1st Half: 14-26 53.8% 2nd half: 11-21 52.4% OT: 2-7 28.6% Game: 27-54 50.0% Deadball
3FG % 1st Half: 7-11 63.6% 2nd half: 2-6 33.3% OT: 1-3 33.3% Game: 10-20 50.0% Rebounds
FT % 1st Half: 1-2 50.0% 2nd half: 8-9 88.9% OT: 4-6 66.7% Game: 13-17 76.5% 2

#RV/24 Texas A&M 79 • 20-7; 9-5 SEC

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
11	Anthony Collins	*	1-7	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	3	2	8	0	1	1	32
12	Jalen Jones	*	9-19	4-8	2-5	1	7	8	1	24	0	0	0	2	34
21	Alex Caruso	*	4-8	1-3	1-1	1	1	2	3	10	3	2	0	1	36
23	Danuel House	*	2-13	1-4	4-4	0	3	3	0	9	3	1	0	1	35
34	Tyler Davis	*	5-9	0-0	5-10	9	3	12	3	15	0	1	0	0	28
01	DJ Hogg		4-8	2-5	0-0	0	1	1	1	10	0	1	0	0	20
03	Admon Gilder		1-5	0-2	0-2	2	0	2	2	2	1	1	0	0	18
10	Tonny Trocha-Morelos		2-2	2-2	1-2	4	2	6	1	7	3	1	0	0	14
42	Tavario Miller		0-1	0-0	0-0	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
	Team					2	2	4	1						
	Totals		28-72	9-24	14-24	20	21	41	15	79	18	7	1	5	225

FG % 1st Half: 13-39 33.3% 2nd half: 12-26 46.2% OT: 3-7 42.9% Game: 28-72 38.9% Deadball
3FG % 1st Half: 6-15 40.0% 2nd half: 3-8 37.5% OT: 0-1 0.0% Game: 9-24 37.5% Rebounds
FT % 1st Half: 3-6 50.0% 2nd half: 6-11 54.5% OT: 5-7 71.4% Game: 14-24 58.3% 4,2

Officials: Pat Adams, Anthony Jordan, Gerry Pollard
Technical fouls: Kentucky-Isaac Humphries. #RV/24 Texas A&M-TEAM.
Attendance: 12029

Score by periods	1st	2nd	OT	Total
Kentucky	36	32	9	**77**
#RV/24 Texas A&M	35	33	11	**79**

Points	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
UK	24	5	11	0	12
TAMU	34	7	22	6	19

Last FG - UK OT-01:10, TAMU OT-00:01.
Largest lead - UK by 3 2nd-17:21, TAMU by 8 2nd-11:54.
UK led for 09:46. TAMU led for 28:51. Game was tied for 06:23.

Score tied - 12 times.
Lead changed - 29 times.

GAME 28
#16 KENTUCKY 78, ALABAMA 53

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Alabama vs Kentucky
02/23/16 7:00 pm at Rupp Arena - Lexington, KY

Alabama 53 • 16-11, 7-8

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
10	Taylor, Jimmie	r	1-3	0-0	1-2	1	0	1	3	3	1	0	1	0	22
11	Hale, Shannon	r	0-4	0-1	2-4	0	2	2	3	2	1	3	0	0	27
01	Norris, Riley	g	1-5	1-3	0-0	1	3	4	3	3	3	0	3	0	23
04	Edwards, Arthur	g	0-3	0-2	0-0	0	2	2	4	0	0	1	1	0	20
32	Obasohan, Retin	g	9-13	1-1	10-12	1	4	5	3	29	1	4	1	0	31
02	Schaffer, Lawson		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
03	Kessens, Michael		0-2	0-1	0-0	1	4	5	3	0	1	0	0	0	17
05	Coleman, Justin		3-11	2-4	0-0	0	2	2	3	8	1	0	0	0	32
23	Austin, Brandon		2-3	2-2	0-0	0	0	0	2	6	0	0	0	0	11
24	Clark, Christian		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
35	Hall, Donta		1-3	0-0	0-0	2	6	8	1	2	0	0	1	0	13
	Team					0	0	0							
	Totals		17-48	6-15	13-18	6	23	29	23	53	6	12	4	0	200

FG % 1st Half: 6-23 26.1% 2nd half: 11-25 44.0% Game: 17-48 35.4% Deadball
3FG % 1st Half: 2-5 40.0% 2nd half: 4-10 40.0% Game: 6-15 40.0% Rebounds
FT % 1st Half: 7-8 87.5% 2nd half: 6-10 60.0% Game: 13-18 72.2% 4

Kentucky 78 • 21-7, 11-4

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
00	Marcus Lee	r	3-5	0-0	0-0	6	6	12	2	6	2	1	1	0	31
15	Isaac Humphries	r	2-5	0-0	0-0	2	2	4	2	4	1	0	1	0	21
03	Ulis, Tyler	g	5-13	0-3	9-11	0	5	5	2	19	10	1	0	3	36
13	Isaiah Briscoe	g	4-11	0-1	2-3	1	3	4	2	10	1	0	0	1	33
23	Jamal Murray	g	7-14	2-5	7-8	2	2	4	2	23	0	1	2	1	37
01	Labissiere, Skal		1-3	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	1	2	0	0	1	0	9
04	Matthews, Charles		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	5
11	Mychal Mulder		0-1	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
22	Alex Poythress		5-6	0-0	4-6	1	0	1	3	14	0	1	0	0	17
24	EJ Floreal		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
25	Dominique Hawkins		0-1	0-1	0-0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	7
	Team					2	2	4							
	Totals		27-59	2-10	22-28	15	26	41	15	78	15	4	5	6	200

FG % 1st Half: 11-29 37.9% 2nd half: 16-30 53.3% Game: 27-59 45.8% Deadball
3FG % 1st Half: 1-6 16.7% 2nd half: 1-4 25.0% Game: 2-10 20.0% Rebounds
FT % 1st Half: 10-13 76.9% 2nd half: 12-15 80.0% Game: 22-28 78.6% 0

Officials: Karl Hess, Bryon Jarrett, Michael Roberts
Technical fouls: Alabama-None. Kentucky-None.
Attendance: 24262

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Alabama	21	32	**53**
Kentucky	33	45	**78**

Points	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
UA	22	7	5	8	16
UK	40	9	10	8	16

Last FG - UA 2nd-03:30, UK 2nd-00:50.
Largest lead - UA by 2 1st-17:07, UK by 25 2nd-00:50.
UA led for 00:16. UK led for 36:50. Game was tied for 02:54.

Score tied - 3 times.
Lead changed - 2 times.

GAME 29
VANDERBILT 74, #16 KENTUCKY 62

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Kentucky vs Vanderbilt
m at as ille Tenn emorial G m

Kentucky 62 • 21-8, 11-5 SEC

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
00	Marcus Lee	r	2-2	0-0	5-9	2	4	6	4	9	1	0	3	0	30
22	Alex Poythress	r	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	3	3	5	0	0	1	1	0	16
03	Ulis, Tyler	g	5-20	0-7	2-4	1	2	3	3	12	6	1	0	1	39
13	Isaiah Briscoe	g	4-8	0-3	0-4	1	3	4	2	8	2	0	0	0	34
23	Jamal Murray	g	12-20	6-10	3-4	2	7	9	2	33	1	2	0	0	37
01	Labissiere, Skal		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	4	0	0	0	1	0	8
04	Matthews, Charles		0-0	0-0	1-2	2	2	4	1	0	0	0	2	1	11
10	Jonny David		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
11	Mychal Mulder		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
15	Isaac Humphries		0-2	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	14
24	EJ Floreal		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
25	Dominique Hawkins		0-1	0-1	0-0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	8
	Team					0	4	4							
	Totals		23-55	6-22	10-23	9	28	37	22	62	10	5	7	2	200

FG % 1st Half: 16-29 55.2% 2nd half: 7-26 26.9% Game: 23-55 41.8% Deadball
3FG % 1st Half: 4-9 44.4% 2nd half: 2-13 15.4% Game: 6-22 27.3% Rebounds
FT % 1st Half: 3-9 33.3% 2nd half: 7-14 50.0% Game: 10-23 43.5% 8

Vanderbilt 74 • 18-11, 10-6 SEC

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
03	Kornet, Luke	r	3-8	1-3	1-2	3	8	11	2	8	1	0	0	0	37
11	Roberson, Jeff	r	6-13	1-2	3-4	3	5	8	5	16	1	0	0	0	37
30	Jones, Damian	c	6-13	0-0	1-2	3	5	8	4	15	1	1	1	1	33
04	Baldwin Iv, Wade	g	4-15	0-2	6-8	0	1	1	3	14	6	1	1	0	36
05	Fisher-Davis, Matthe	g	7-12	4-9	2-4	0	4	4	0	20	0	1	1	0	37
00	Justice, Camron		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0+
02	Toye, Joe		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
10	Watkins, Nathan		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
13	LaChance, Riley		0-1	0-0	1-2	0	1	1	2	1	2	0	0	0	12
14	Josephs, Carter		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
20	McGloin, Phillip		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
21	Sehic, Samir		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
40	Henderson, Josh		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Team					2	3	5							
	Totals		26-62	6-16	16-23	11	28	39	16	74	11	5	3	1	200

FG % 1st Half: 13-32 40.6% 2nd half: 13-30 43.3% Game: 26-62 41.9% Deadball
3FG % 1st Half: 3-8 37.5% 2nd half: 3-8 37.5% Game: 6-16 37.5% Rebounds
FT % 1st Half: 7-11 63.6% 2nd half: 9-12 75.0% Game: 16-23 69.6% 4

Officials: Roger Ayers, Jeffery Clark, Don Daily
Technical fouls: Kentucky-None. Vanderbilt-None.
Attendance: 14326

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Kentucky	39	23	**62**
Vanderbilt	36	38	**74**

Points	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
UK	26	6	11	4	0
VU	36	11	19	0	1

Last FG - UK 2nd-06:16, VU 2nd-01:27.
Largest lead - UK by 8 1st-04:07, VU by 12 2nd-00:35.
UK led for 20:00. VU led for 19:15. Game was tied for 00:45.

Score tied - 1 time.
Lead changed - 4 times.

GAME 30
#22 KENTUCKY 88, FLORIDA 79

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Kentucky vs Florida
3/1/16 7 p.m. at O'Connell Center - Gainesville, Fla.

Kentucky 88 • 22-8, 12-5 SEC

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
01	Labissiere, Skal	r	5-10	0-0	4-4	3	5	8	4	11	0	1	1	1	15
22	Alex Poythress	r	5-12	0-0	2-2	0	10	10	5	12	1	1	1	0	30
03	Ulis, Tyler	g	5-10	2-3	7-8	0	4	4	3	19	11	4	0	1	37
13	Isaiah Briscoe	g	4-7	0-0	5-6	2	1	3	5	13	3	0	0	0	32
23	Jamal Murray	g	5-10	4-6	7-10	0	2	2	2	21	4	3	1	0	39
00	Marcus Lee		2-2	0-0	1-2	1	7	8	3	5	0	1	4	0	26
04	Matthews, Charles		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
15	Isaac Humphries		2-3	0-0	0-0	2	1	3	2	4	0	1	0	0	7
25	Dominique Hawkins		1-1	1-1	0-0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	1	1	11
	Team					1	0	1							
	Totals		29-55	7-10	23-32	9	36	45	27	88	19	13	8	3	200

FG % 1st Half: 17-34 50.0% 2nd half: 12-21 57.1% Game: 29-55 52.7% Deadball
3FG % 1st Half: 2-5 40.0% 2nd half: 5-5 100.0% Game: 7-10 70.0% Rebounds
FT % 1st Half: 0-0 0.0% 2nd half: 23-32 71.9% Game: 23-32 71.9% 7

Florida 79 • 17-13, 8-9 SEC

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
03	Robinson, Devin	r	3-7	2-2	3-4	1	3	4	5	11	0	0	1	0	32
10	Finney-Smith, D	r	5-12	1-5	4-6	3	2	5	3	15	5	1	0	1	37
15	Egbunu, John	c	12-15	0-0	3-11	3	1	4	3	27	0	0	1	0	34
04	Allen, Kevaughn	g	5-16	2-6	3-4	2	3	5	3	15	2	1	0	0	29
11	Chiozza, Chris		1-9	0-4	0-2	1	4	5	4	2	4	2	0	1	25
00	Hill, Kasey		3-8	0-0	2-6	0	2	2	4	8	4	0	0	2	23
01	Walker, Devon		0-0	0-0	2-2	2	1	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	4
13	Hayes, Kevarrius		0-0	0-0	1-4	1	2	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	6
14	Edwards, Lexx		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
24	Leon, Justin		0-1	0-1	0-0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
	Team					2	1	3							
	Totals		29-68	5-18	16-37	16	19	35	24	79	15	5	2	4	200

FG % 1st Half: 12-35 34.3% 2nd half: 17-33 51.5% Game: 29-68 42.6% Deadball
3FG % 1st Half: 2-8 25.0% 2nd half: 3-10 30.0% Game: 5-18 27.8% Rebounds
FT % 1st Half: 6-16 37.5% 2nd half: 10-21 47.6% Game: 16-37 43.2% 8

Officials: Olandis Poole, Ron Groover, Karl Hess
Technical fouls: Kentucky-None. Florida-None.
Attendance: 10684
UK#13 I.Briscoe fouls out at 2:06(2), UK#22 A.Poythress at 1:45(2),
UF#3 D.Robinson at 1:25(2)

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Kentucky	36	52	**88**
Florida	32	47	**79**

Points	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
UK	26	10	13	7	12
UF	42	15	8	6	9

Last FG - UK 2nd-05:17, UF 2nd-00:22.
Largest lead - UK by 17 2nd-04:52, UF by 2 1st-16:12.
UK led for 36:24. UF led for 01:28. Game was tied for 02:08.

Score tied - 4 times.
Lead changed - 4 times.

GAME 31
#22 KENTUCKY 94, LSU 77

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
LSU vs Kentucky
03/05/16 2:00 pm at Rupp Arena - Lexington, KY

LSU 77 • 18-13, 11-7

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
25	SIMMONS, Ben	f	5-12	0-0	7-11	4	7	11	3	17	4	6	0	7	40
32	VICTOR II, Craig	f	3-6	0-0	1-2	0	3	3	2	7	0	0	0	0	22
02	BLAKENEY, Antonio	g	7-14	1-6	4-4	0	4	4	1	19	0	0	1	0	40
15	PATTERSON, Jalyn	g	2-3	2-3	0-0	0	0	0	3	6	0	1	1	0	20
55	QUARTERMAN, Tim	g	9-16	2-6	3-3	1	3	4	2	23	3	5	1	0	34
00	SAMPSON, Brandon		0-2	0-2	0-0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	9
05	GRAY, Josh		1-4	0-1	0-0	1	2	3	2	2	1	0	0	0	17
20	BRIDGEWATER, Brian		1-2	0-0	1-1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	6
21	EPPS, Aaron		0-2	0-2	0-0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
22	MALONE, Darcy		0-1	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	6
	Team					2	0	2							
	Totals		28-62	5-20	16-21	10	19	29	17	77	9	12	3	8	200

FG % 1st Half: 10-30 33.3% 2nd half: 18-32 56.3% Game: 28-62 45.2%
3FG % 1st Half: 2-14 14.3% 2nd half: 3-6 50.0% Game: 5-20 25.0%
FT % 1st Half: 10-11 90.9% 2nd half: 6-10 60.0% Game: 16-21 76.2%
Deadball Rebounds 2,1

Kentucky 94 • 23-8, 13-5

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
01	Labissiere, Skal	f	8-10	0-0	2-3	2	1	4	5	2	6	0	25
22	Alex Poythress	f	6-7	0-0	0-0	2	1	3	4	12	1	1	0	1	19
03	Ulis, Tyler	g	5-16	1-5	3-4	1	4	5	1	14	5	1	0	0	38
13	Isaiah Briscoe	g	4-14	0-0	0-0	3	3	6	2	8	3	2	0	2	33
23	Jamal Murray	g	6-12	4-8	6-7	2	5	7	4	22	4	2	0	0	32
00	Marcus Lee		6-7	0-0	0-3	6	4	10	3	12	0	2	0	0	21
04	Matthews, Charles		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
11	Mychal Mulder		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
15	Isaac Humphries		1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1
25	Dominique Hawkins		0-1	0-1	0-0	1	1	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	13
35	Derek Willis		2-4	2-4	0-0	0	1	1	1	6	0	0	0	0	14
	Team					1	1	2							
	Totals		38-72	7-18	11-17	18	27	45	16	94	26	11	6	3	200

FG % 1st Half: 17-30 56.7% 2nd half: 21-42 50.0% Game: 38-72 52.8%
3FG % 1st Half: 1-4 25.0% 2nd half: 6-14 42.9% Game: 7-18 38.9%
FT % 1st Half: 6-11 54.5% 2nd half: 5-6 83.3% Game: 11-17 64.7%
Deadball Rebounds 2

Officials: Tony Greene, Joe Lindsay, Terry Moore
Technical fouls: LSU-QUARTERMAN, Tim. Kentucky-None.
Attendance: 24414

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
LSU	32	45	77
Kentucky	41	53	94

	Points	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
LSU		34	16	10	8	5
UK		36	19	18	4	20

Last FG - LSU 2nd-00:13, UK 2nd-00:22.
Largest lead - LSU by 6 1st-13:31, UK by 26 2nd-03:45.
LSU led for 07:12. UK led for 31:52. Game was tied for 00:56.

Score tied - 2 times.
Lead changed - 6 times.

GAME 32
#16 KENTUCKY 85, ALABAMA 59

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Alabama vs Kentucky
m T at S ens To rnament- as ille T

Alabama 59 • 18-14, 8-10

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
01	Norris, Riley		0-5	0-4	2-4	2	5	7	3	2	1	2	1	0	30
03	Kessens, Michael	r	2-3	0-0	0-0	2	1	3	0	4	0	1	0	0	12
10	Taylor, Jimmie	r	1-4	0-0	0-0	2	2	4	0	2	0	1	0	0	15
04	Edwards, Arthur	g	7-12	6-10	0-0	0	1	1	3	20	0	1	0	1	33
32	Obasohan, Retin	g	6-12	1-3	5-7	1	2	3	2	18	2	5	1	0	26
02	Schaffer, Lawson		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
05	Coleman, Justin		0-5	0-4	0-0	0	2	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	21
11	Hale, Shannon		3-5	2-3	0-0	0	0	0	1	8	0	1	0	0	22
23	Austin, Brandon		0-2	0-1	1-2	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	18
24	Clark, Christian		0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
35	Hall, Donta		0-0	0-0	4-6	2	1	3	4	4	0	0	2	0	19
	Team					2	0	2							
	Totals		19-48	9-26	12-19	12	15	27	14	59	4	13	4	2	200

FG % 1st Half: 10-26 38.5% 2nd half: 9-22 40.9% Game: 19-48 39.6%
3FG % 1st Half: 5-12 41.7% 2nd half: 4-14 28.6% Game: 9-26 34.6%
FT % 1st Half: 2-4 50.0% 2nd half: 10-15 66.7% Game: 12-19 63.2%
Deadball Rebounds 4,1

Kentucky 85 • 24-8, 13-5

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
01	Labissiere, Skal	r	3-6	0-0	1-2	1	4	5	2	7	0	0	0	0	18
22	Alex Poythress	r	7-8	4-5	2-2	4	3	7	1	20	0	1	1	0	29
03	Ulis, Tyler	g	5-11	2-5	5-5	0	1	1	2	17	5	2	0	0	31
13	Isaiah Briscoe	g	1-5	0-0	2-5	1	3	4	1	4	6	1	0	0	31
23	Jamal Murray	g	8-15	5-9	2-2	1	2	3	2	23	4	1	0	1	33
00	Marcus Lee		1-1	0-0	0-0	1	4	5	2	2	1	2	0	0	18
04	Matthews, Charles		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
11	Mychal Mulder		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
15	Isaac Humphries		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
24	EJ Floreal		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
25	Dominique Hawkins		3-5	1-3	0-0	1	1	2	3	7	1	0	0	0	20
35	Derek Willis		2-4	1-3	0-0	1	2	3	1	5	0	0	0	0	13
	Team					2	1	3							
	Totals		30-55	13-22	12-16	11	24	35	16	85	18	7	1	2	200

FG % 1st Half: 14-26 53.8% 2nd half: 16-29 55.2% Game: 30-55 54.5%
3FG % 1st Half: 6-10 60.0% 2nd half: 7-12 58.3% Game: 13-22 59.1%
FT % 1st Half: 3-4 75.0% 2nd half: 9-12 75.0% Game: 12-16 75.0%
Deadball Rebounds 2

Officials: Tony Greene, Ron Groover, Byron Jarrett
Technical fouls: Alabama-None. Kentucky-None.
Attendance:

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Alabama	27	32	59
Kentucky	37	48	85

	Points	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
UA		18	5	13	2	13
UK		20	18	17	6	14

Last FG - UA 2nd-06:24, UK 2nd-01:03.
Largest lead - UA by 2 1st-12:15, UK by 27 2nd-01:03.
UA led for 01:10. UK led for 35:40. Game was tied for 03:08.

Score tied - 2 times.
Lead changed - 4 times.

GAME 33
#16 KENTUCKY 93, GEORGIA 80

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Georgia vs Kentucky
m T at S ens To rnament- as ille T

Georgia 80 • 19-13, 10-8

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
01	Maten, Yante	r	7-13	1-2	5-6	2	2	4	1	18	2	2	6	0	29
34	Ogbeide, Derek	r	1-4	0-0	0-0	4	4	8	1	2	0	1	1	1	16
04	Mann, Charles	g	3-4	1-1	1-2	0	3	3	5	8	0	4	0	0	21
12	Gaines, Kenny	g	5-14	3-8	3-3	1	2	3	2	16	0	1	0	0	29
30	Frazier, J.J.	g	6-12	0-3	7-8	0	2	2	3	19	5	1	0	0	26
00	Jackson II, William		3-5	3-4	0-0	0	0	0	3	9	1	0	1	2	15
13	Wilridge, E'Torrion		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	15
24	Kessler, Houston		2-3	0-1	0-0	3	0	3	4	4	0	2	0	0	12
25	Geno, Kenny Paul		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	14
32	Edwards, Mike		1-2	0-0	0-2	1	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	23
	Team					2	1	3							
	Totals		28-57	8-19	16-21	13	16	29	24	80	8	12	5	3	200

FG % 1st Half: 19-31 61.3% 2nd half: 9-26 34.6% Game: 28-57 49.1%
3FG % 1st Half: 6-12 50.0% 2nd half: 2-7 28.6% Game: 8-19 42.1%
FT % 1st Half: 5-6 83.3% 2nd half: 11-15 73.3% Game: 16-21 76.2%
Deadball Rebounds 3,1

Kentucky 93 • 25-8, 13-5

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
01	Labissiere, Skal	r	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	4
22	Alex Poythress	r	5-9	0-0	0-1	0	2	2	4	10	0	2	0	1	19
03	Ulis, Tyler	g	7-16	4-7	7-8	1	0	1	1	25	5	1	0	2	39
13	Isaiah Briscoe	g	4-8	0-1	4-5	3	4	7	1	12	2	3	0	1	28
23	Jamal Murray	g	8-12	3-7	7-8	2	4	6	1	26	2	1	0	0	39
00	Marcus Lee		1-2	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	3	2	1	0	0	0	28
04	Matthews, Charles		0-1	0-0	0-0	1	2	3	1	0	0	0	1	2	11
11	Mychal Mulder		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
15	Isaac Humphries		0-1	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
24	EJ Floreal		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
25	Dominique Hawkins		1-2	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	4
35	Derek Willis		2-6	2-5	8-8	2	5	7	3	14	0	0	4	0	25
	Team					3	0	3							
	Totals		29-58	9-21	26-30	13	18	31	18	93	10	5	5	6	200

FG % 1st Half: 14-31 45.2% 2nd half: 15-27 55.6% Game: 29-58 50.0%
3FG % 1st Half: 4-12 33.3% 2nd half: 5-9 55.6% Game: 9-21 42.9%
FT % 1st Half: 12-15 80.0% 2nd half: 14-15 93.3% Game: 26-30 86.7%
Deadball Rebounds 3

Officials: Joe Lindsay, Anthony Jordan, Olandis Poole
Technical fouls: Georgia-None. Kentucky-None.
Attendance: 19108
Session 6 Attendance is 19,108.

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Georgia	49	31	80
Kentucky	44	49	93

	Points	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
UGA		24	8	13	13	15
UK		34	20	22	4	18

Last FG - UGA 2nd-00:12, UK 2nd-00:19.
Largest lead - UGA by 10 1st-15:27, UK by 15 2nd-00:19.
UGA led for 30:27. UK led for 08:43. Game was tied for 00:50.

Score tied - 1 time.
Lead changed - 5 times.

GAME 34
#16 KENTUCKY 82, #17 TEXAS A&M 77 OT

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Kentucky vs #17/17 Texas A&M
m T at S ens To rnament- as ille T

Kentucky 82 • 26-8, 13-5

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
01	Labissiere, Skal	r	1-2	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	3	2	1	0	2	0	8
22	Alex Poythress	r	3-6	0-0	3-5	1	5	6	5	9	0	0	0	1	29
03	Ulis, Tyler	g	10-17	3-5	7-8	0	3	3	0	30	5	1	0	3	45
13	Isaiah Briscoe	g	5-8	0-0	0-1	1	4	5	3	10	6	2	0	2	41
23	Jamal Murray	g	5-14	3-10	4-5	2	3	5	4	17	0	2	0	2	44
00	Marcus Lee		1-1	0-0	0-0	1	1	2	0	2	0	2	0	0	18
04	Matthews, Charles		0-0	0-0	1-3	2	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	7
15	Isaac Humphries		0-3	0-0	0-0	2	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	7
25	Dominique Hawkins		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
35	Derek Willis		3-7	1-4	1-2	1	10	11	0	1	2	2	1	25
	Team					4	2	6							
	Totals		28-58	10-24	16-24	14	24	35	18	82	13	13	6	9	225

FG % 1st Half: 13-25 52.0% 2nd half: 12-28 42.9% OT: 3-5 60.0% Game: 28-58 48.3%
3FG % 1st Half: 2-6 33.3% 2nd half: 5-14 35.7% OT: 3-4 75.0% Game: 10-24 41.7%
FT % 1st Half: 6-10 60.0% 2nd half: 8-10 80.0% OT: 2-4 50.0% Game: 16-24 66.7%
Deadball Rebounds 3,1

#17/17 Texas A&M 77 • 26-8, 13-5

##	Player		Total FG-FGA	3-Ptr FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
34	Davis, Tyler	c	2-5	0-0	4-6	4	5	9	3	8	1	1	2	1	28
11	Collins, Anthony	g	0-4	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	3	0	1	1	0	1	18
12	Jones, Jalen	g	6-16	1-4	2-3	4	5	9	3	15	2	2	0	1	37
21	Caruso, Alex	g	5-9	1-3	0-0	3	5	8	2	11	6	4	0	0	38
23	House, Danuel	g	10-23	4-13	8-11	3	3	6	0	32	1	3	2	0	40-
01	Hogg, DJ		1-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	14
03	Gilder, Admon		1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	2	27
10	Trocha-Morelos, Tonny		3-7	0-2	1-2	2	4	6	2	7	0	1	0	0	18
42	Miller, Tavario		0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
	Team					0	1	1							
	Totals		28-66	6-23	15-22	17	24	41	20	77	11	13	4	5	225

FG % 1st Half: 13-30 43.3% 2nd half: 13-29 44.8% OT: 2-7 28.6% Game: 28-66 42.4%
3FG % 1st Half: 4-12 33.3% 2nd half: 1-7 14.3% OT: 1-4 25.0% Game: 6-23 26.1%
FT % 1st Half: 8-9 88.9% 2nd half: 6-11 54.5% OT: 1-2 50.0% Game: 15-22 68.2%
Deadball Rebounds 3

Officials: Tony Greene, Joe Lindsay, Olandis Poole
Technical fouls: Kentucky-None. #17/17 Texas A&M-None.
Attendance: 19613
Session 7 Attendance is 19,613.

Score by periods	1st	2nd	OT	Total
Kentucky	34	37	11	82
#17/17 Texas A&M	38	33	6	77

	Points	In Paint	Off T/O	2nd Chance	Fast Break	Bench
UK		32	20	14	12	13
TAM		34	14	10	14	11

Last FG - UK OT-00:15, TAM OT-00:10.
Largest lead - UK by 7 2nd-04:01, TAM by 6 1st-02:42.
UK led for 22:16. TAM led for 16:55. Game was tied for 05:49.

Score tied - 10 times.
Lead changed - 8 times.

1948 1949 1951 1958 1978 1996 1998 2012

KENTUCKY®

2016 FIRST & SECOND ROUNDS
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2015-16
SEASON STATISTICS

2015-16 Kentucky Men's Basketball
Kentucky Combined Team Statistics (as of Mar 13, 2016)
All games

RECORD:	OVERALL	HOME	AWAY	NEUTRAL
ALL GAMES	26-8	17-0	4-7	5-1
CONFERENCE	13-5	9-0	4-5	0-0
NON-CONFERENCE	13-3	8-0	0-2	5-1

##	Player	gp-gs	min	avg	fg-fga	fg%	3fg-fga	3fg%	ft-fta	ft%	off	def	tot	avg	pf	dq	a	to	blk	stl	pts	avg
23	Jamal Murray	34-34	1198	35.2	230-504	.456	110-261	.421	115-146	.788	49	123	172	5.1	68	1	73	78	9	34	685	20.1
03	Tyler Ulis	33-33	1219	36.9	178-412	.432	52-152	.342	161-188	.856	19	85	104	3.2	58	1	236	62	4	48	569	17.2
22	Alex Poythress	29-21	689	23.8	114-187	.610	7-23	.304	64-94	.681	52	125	177	6.1	104	7	10	35	20	16	299	10.3
13	Isaiah Briscoe	32-31	1035	32.3	125-290	.431	5-37	.135	51-118	.432	45	122	167	5.2	92	2	105	59	4	33	306	9.6
35	Derek Willis	30-11	562	18.7	78-163	.479	51-117	.436	32-35	.914	29	89	118	3.9	53	2	11	21	22	19	239	8.0
01	Skal Labissiere	34-16	529	15.6	90-174	.517	0-2	.000	41-62	.661	35	69	104	3.1	102	5	10	32	53	8	221	6.5
00	Marcus Lee	34-20	743	21.9	98-144	.681	0-0	.000	22-58	.379	86	123	209	6.1	104	8	11	33	56	10	218	6.4
25	Dominique Hawkins	25-0	218	8.7	16-42	.381	8-28	.286	16-21	.762	9	6	15	0.6	27	0	12	6	3	5	56	2.2
15	Isaac Humphries	22-1	208	9.5	16-40	.400	0-0	.000	11-15	.733	20	36	56	2.5	46	2	2	10	16	2	43	2.0
04	Charles Matthews	34-3	361	10.6	22-51	.431	1-4	.250	14-34	.412	31	27	58	1.7	33	0	13	19	5	15	59	1.7
11	Mychal Mulder	23-0	88	3.8	4-19	.211	2-11	.182	2-2	1.000	9	17	26	1.1	6	0	7	2	0	1	12	0.5
10	Jonny David	10-0	10	1.0	0-2	.000	0-2	.000	2-2	1.000	0	0	0	0.0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0.2
24	EJ Floreal	12-0	15	1.3	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0-2	.000	1	5	6	0.5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0.0
	Team										57	49	106		2			17				
	Total..........	34	6875		971-2029	.479	236-637	.370	531-777	.683	442	876	1318	38.8	696	28	490	376	192	191	2709	79.7
	Opponents......	34	6875		782-1954	.400	192-582	.330	565-808	.699	407	726	1133	33.3	677	-	311	420	104	145	2321	68.3

TEAM STATISTICS	UK	OPP
SCORING	2709	2321
Points per game	79.7	68.3
Scoring margin	+11.4	-
FIELD GOALS-ATT	971-2029	782-1954
Field goal pct	.479	.400
3 POINT FG-ATT	236-637	192-582
3-point FG pct	.370	.330
3-pt FG made per game	6.9	5.6
FREE THROWS-ATT	531-777	565-808
Free throw pct	.683	.699
F-Throws made per game	15.6	16.6
REBOUNDS	1318	1133
Rebounds per game	38.8	33.3
Rebounding margin	+5.4	-
ASSISTS	490	311
Assists per game	14.4	9.1
TURNOVERS	376	420
Turnovers per game	11.1	12.4
Turnover margin	+1.3	-
Assist/turnover ratio	1.3	0.7
STEALS	191	145
Steals per game	5.6	4.3
BLOCKS	192	104
Blocks per game	5.6	3.1
ATTENDANCE	397148	264066
Home games-Avg/Game	17-23362	11-14500
Neutral site-Avg/Game	-	6-17428

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	OT	Totals
Kentucky	1306	1375	28	2709
Opponents	1052	1238	31	2321

	Date	Opponent		Score	Att.
	11/13/15	ALBANY	W	78-65	22080
	11/14/15	NJIT	W	87-57	22671
1	11/17/15	vs #5/4 Duke	W	74-63	21461
	11/20/15	WRIGHT STATE	W	78-63	22563
	11/24/15	BOSTON U.	W	82-62	22623
2	11/27/15	vs USF	W	84-63	10023
	11/30/15	ILLINOIS STATE	W	75-63	21894
	12/03/15	at UCLA	L	77-87	12202
	12/9/15	EKU	W	88-67	22544
	12/12/15	ARIZONA STATE	W	72-58	23665
3	12/19/15	vs Ohio State	L	67-74	16311
	12/26/15	#16/15 LOUISVILLE	W	75-73	24412
*	01/02/16	OLE MISS	W	83-61	24399
*	01/05/16	at LSU	L	67-85	13573
*	1/9/16	at Alabama	W	77-61	15383
*	01/12/16	MISSISSIPPI STATE	W	80-74	23897
*	01/16/16	at Auburn	L	70-75	9121
*	01/21/16	at Arkansas	W	80-66	18588
*	01/23/16	VANDERBILT	W	76-57	22975
*	01/27/16	MISSOURI	W	88-54	23933
4	01/30/16	at #4/3 Kansas	Lot	84-90	16300
*	02/02/16	at Tennessee	L	77-84	19295
*	02/06/16	FLORIDA	W	80-61	24406
*	02/09/16	GEORGIA	W	82-48	22136
*	2/13/16	at RV/#20 South Carolina	W	89-62	18000
*	02/18/16	TENNESSEE	W	80-70	24274
*	02/20/16	at RV/#24 Texas A&M	Lot	77-79	12029
*	02/23/16	ALABAMA	W	78-53	24262
*	02/27/16	at Vanderbilt	L	62-74	14326
*	3/1/16	at Florida	W	88-79	10684
*	03/05/16	LSU	W	94-77	24414
5	03/11/16	vs Alabama	W	85-59	18049
5	03/12/16	vs Georgia	W	93-80	19108
5	03/13/16	vs #17/17 Texas A&M	Wot	82-77	19613

* = Conference game
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4 = Big 12/SEC Challenge
5 = SEC Tournament - Bridgestone Arena, Nashville, Tenn.

RECORD:	OVERALL	HOME	AWAY	NEUTRAL
ALL GAMES	13-5	9-0	4-5	0-0
CONFERENCE	13-5	9-0	4-5	0-0
NON-CONFERENCE	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0

##	Player	gp-gs	min	avg	fg-fga	fg%	3fg-fga	3fg%	ft-fta	ft%	off	def	tot	avg	pf	dq	a	to	blk	stl	pts	avg
23	Jamal Murray	18-18	646	35.9	137-288	.476	67-151	.444	63-78	.808	28	70	98	5.4	35	1	33	31	6	18	404	22.4
03	Ulis, Tyler	18-18	672	37.3	104-237	.439	26-79	.329	96-114	.842	11	49	60	3.3	41	1	152	34	2	26	330	18.3
22	Alex Poythress	13-12	297	22.8	50-81	.617	0-5	.000	30-43	.698	18	50	68	5.2	48	4	4	22	8	4	130	10.0
35	Derek Willis	15-9	342	22.8	48-94	.511	35-70	.500	14-15	.933	17	60	77	5.1	29	0	5	11	12	8	145	9.7
13	Isaiah Briscoe	18-18	593	32.9	64-161	.398	1-18	.056	24-55	.436	29	62	91	5.1	55	1	55	25	1	15	153	8.5
00	Marcus Lee	18-12	390	21.7	47-69	.681	0-0	.000	9-30	.300	42	71	113	6.3	58	5	5	17	28	2	103	5.7
01	Labissiere, Skal	18-2	238	13.2	43-85	.506	0-2	.000	10-20	.500	20	35	55	3.1	51	2	4	14	27	4	96	5.3
15	Isaac Humphries	13-1	131	10.1	10-22	.455	0-0	.000	3-4	.750	13	25	38	2.9	33	2	1	4	11	1	23	1.8
25	Dominique Hawkins	11-0	84	7.6	4-12	.333	3-8	.375	4-4	1.000	3	1	4	0.4	9	0	5	3	2	2	15	1.4
04	Matthews, Charles	18-0	158	8.8	7-20	.350	0-0	.000	5-14	.357	16	14	30	1.7	14	0	4	6	3	5	19	1.1
11	Mychal Mulder	12-0	57	4.8	3-15	.200	2-8	.250	2-2	1.000	6	13	19	1.6	4	0	2	2	0	1	10	0.8
24	EJ Floreal	9-0	12	1.3	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0-2	.000	0	5	5	0.6	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0.0
10	Jonny David	6-0	5	0.8	0-1	.000	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Team										30	25	55		2		9					
	Total.........	18	3625		517-1086	.476	134-342	.392	260-381	.682	233	480	713	39.6	380	16	270	179	100	86	1428	79.3
	Opponents......	18	3625		395-1015	.389	102-302	.338	328-470	.698	206	396	602	33.4	329	-	173	197	59	63	1220	67.8

TEAM STATISTICS	UK	OPP
SCORING	1428	1220
Points per game	79.3	67.8
Scoring margin	+11.6	-
FIELD GOALS-ATT	517-1086	395-1015
Field goal pct	.476	.389
3 POINT FG-ATT	134-342	102-302
3-point FG pct	.392	.338
3-pt FG made per game	7.4	5.7
FREE THROWS-ATT	260-381	328-470
Free throw pct	.682	.698
F-Throws made per game	14.4	18.2
REBOUNDS	713	602
Rebounds per game	39.6	33.4
Rebounding margin	+6.2	-
ASSISTS	270	173
Assists per game	15.0	9.6
TURNOVERS	179	197
Turnovers per game	9.9	10.9
Turnover margin	+1.0	-
Assist/turnover ratio	1.5	0.9
STEALS	86	63
Steals per game	4.8	3.5
BLOCKS	100	59
Blocks per game	5.6	3.3
ATTENDANCE	214696	130999
Home games-Avg/Game	9-23855	9-14555
Neutral site-Avg/Game	-	0-0

Date	Opponent		Score	Att.
* 01/02/16	OLE MISS	W	83-61	24399
* 01/05/16	at LSU	L	67-85	13573
* 1/9/16	at Alabama	W	77-61	15383
* 01/12/16	MISSISSIPPI STATE	W	80-74	23897
* 01/16/16	at Auburn	L	70-75	9121
* 01/21/16	at Arkansas	W	80-66	18588
* 01/23/16	VANDERBILT	W	76-57	22975
* 01/27/16	MISSOURI	W	88-54	23933
* 02/02/16	at Tennessee	L	77-84	19295
* 02/06/16	FLORIDA	W	80-61	24406
* 02/09/16	GEORGIA	W	82-48	22136
* 2/13/16	at RV/#20 South Carolina	W	89-62	18000
* 02/18/16	TENNESSEE	W	80-70	24274
* 02/20/16	at RV/#24 Texas A&M	Lot	77-79	12029
* 02/23/16	ALABAMA	W	78-53	24262
* 02/27/16	at Vanderbilt	L	62-74	14326
* 3/1/16	at Florida	W	88-79	10684
* 03/05/16	LSU	W	94-77	24414

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5 = SEC Tournament - Bridgestone Arena, Nashville, Tenn.

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	OT	Totals
Kentucky	702	717	9	1428
Opponents	524	685	11	1220

2015-16 Kentucky Men's Basketball
Kentucky Combined Team Statistics (as of Mar 13, 2016)
Last five games

RECORD:	OVERALL	HOME	AWAY	NEUTRAL
ALL GAMES	5-0	1-0	1-0	3-0
CONFERENCE	2-0	1-0	1-0	0-0
NON-CONFERENCE	3-0	0-0	0-0	3-0

##	Player	gp-gs	min	avg	fg-fga	fg%	3fg-fga	3fg%	ft-fta	ft%	off	def	tot	avg	pf	dq	a	to	blk	stl	pts	avg
23	Jamal Murray	5-5	187	37.4	32-63	.508	19-40	.475	26-32	.813	7	22	29	5.8	9	0	14	9	1	3	109	21.8
03	Ulis, Tyler	5-5	190	38.0	32-70	.457	12-22	.545	29-33	.879	2	12	14	2.8	7	0	40	9	0	6	105	21.0
22	Alex Poythress	5-5	126	25.2	26-42	.619	5-7	.714	7-10	.700	7	21	28	5.6	19	2	2	6	2	3	64	12.8
13	Isaiah Briscoe	5-5	165	33.0	18-42	.429	0-1	.000	11-17	.647	10	15	25	5.0	12	1	20	8	0	5	47	9.4
35	Derek Willis	4-0	77	19.3	9-21	.429	8-19	.421	9-10	.900	3	10	13	3.3	8	0	1	2	6	1	35	8.8
01	Labissiere, Skal	5-5	70	14.0	18-29	.621	0-0	.000	4-9	.444	6	17	23	4.6	13	0	3	3	9	1	40	8.0
00	Marcus Lee	5-0	111	22.2	11-13	.846	0-0	.000	1-5	.200	8	17	25	5.0	15	0	2	5	6	0	23	4.6
25	Dominique Hawkins	5-0	49	9.8	5-9	.556	2-6	.333	0-0	.000	2	2	4	0.8	6	0	3	1	1	1	12	2.4
15	Isaac Humphries	5-0	17	3.4	3-8	.375	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	3	3	6	1.2	4	0	0	1	0	1	6	1.2
04	Matthews, Charles	5-0	26	5.2	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	1-3	.333	3	2	5	1.0	1	0	0	1	1	2	1	0.2
24	EJ Floreal	2-0	2	1.0	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
11	Mychal Mulder	3-0	5	1.7	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0.0
	Team										11	4	15					4				
	Total..........	5	1025		154-298	.517	46-95	.484	88-119	.739	62	125	187	37.4	95	3	86	49	26	23	442	88.4
	Opponents......	5	1025		132-301	.439	33-106	.311	75-120	.625	68	93	161	32.2	99	-	47	55	18	22	372	74.4

TEAM STATISTICS	UK	OPP
SCORING	442	372
Points per game	88.4	74.4
Scoring margin	+14.0	-
FIELD GOALS-ATT	154-298	132-301
Field goal pct	.517	.439
3 POINT FG-ATT	46-95	33-106
3-point FG pct	.484	.311
3-pt FG made per game	9.2	6.6
FREE THROWS-ATT	88-119	75-120
Free throw pct	.739	.625
F-Throws made per game	17.6	15.0
REBOUNDS	187	161
Rebounds per game	37.4	32.2
Rebounding margin	+5.2	-
ASSISTS	86	47
Assists per game	17.2	9.4
TURNOVERS	49	55
Turnovers per game	9.8	11.0
Turnover margin	+1.2	-
Assist/turnover ratio	1.8	0.9
STEALS	23	22
Steals per game	4.6	4.4
BLOCKS	26	18
Blocks per game	5.2	3.6
ATTENDANCE	24414	67454
Home games-Avg/Game	1-24414	1-10684
Neutral site-Avg/Game	-	3-18923

Date	Opponent		Score	Att.
* 3/1/16	at Florida	W	88-79	10684
* 03/05/16	LSU	W	94-77	24414
5 03/11/16	vs Alabama	W	85-59	18049
5 03/12/16	vs Georgia	W	93-80	19108
5 03/13/16	vs #17/17 Texas A&M	Wot	82-77	19613

* = Conference game
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Score by Periods	1st	2nd	OT	Totals
Kentucky	192	239	11	442
Opponents	178	188	6	372

2015-16 Kentucky Men's Basketball
Kentucky Season Box Score (as of Mar 13, 2016)
All games

RECORD:	OVERALL	HOME	AWAY	NEUTRAL
ALL GAMES	26-8	17-0	4-7	5-1
CONFERENCE	13-5	9-0	4-5	0-0
NON-CONFERENCE	13-3	8-0	0-2	5-1

##	Player	gp-gs	min	avg	Total fg-fga	fg%	3-Point 3fg-fga	3fg%	F-Throw ft-fta	ft%	Rebounds off	def	tot	avg	pf	dq	a	to	blk	stl	pts	avg
23	Jamal Murray	34-34	1198	35.2	230-504	.456	110-261	.421	115-146	.788	49	123	172	5.1	68	1	73	78	9	34	685	20.1
03	Tyler Ulis	33-33	1219	36.9	178-412	.432	52-152	.342	161-188	.856	19	85	104	3.2	58	1	236	62	4	48	569	17.2
22	Alex Poythress	29-21	689	23.8	114-187	.610	7-23	.304	64-94	.681	52	125	177	6.1	104	7	10	35	20	16	299	10.3
13	Isaiah Briscoe	32-31	1035	32.3	125-290	.431	5-37	.135	51-118	.432	45	122	167	5.2	92	2	105	59	4	33	306	9.6
35	Derek Willis	30-11	562	18.7	78-163	.479	51-117	.436	32-35	.914	29	89	118	3.9	53	2	11	21	22	19	239	8.0
01	Skal Labissiere	34-16	529	15.6	90-174	.517	0-2	.000	41-62	.661	35	69	104	3.1	102	5	10	32	53	8	221	6.5
00	Marcus Lee	34-20	743	21.9	98-144	.681	0-0	.000	22-58	.379	86	123	209	6.1	104	8	11	33	56	10	218	6.4
25	Dominique Hawkins	25-0	218	8.7	16-42	.381	8-28	.286	16-21	.762	9	6	15	0.6	27	0	12	6	3	5	56	2.2
15	Isaac Humphries	22-1	208	9.5	16-40	.400	0-0	.000	11-15	.733	20	36	56	2.5	46	2	2	10	16	2	43	2.0
04	Charles Matthews	34-3	361	10.6	22-51	.431	1-4	.250	14-34	.412	31	27	58	1.7	33	0	13	19	5	15	59	1.7
11	Mychal Mulder	23-0	88	3.8	4-19	.211	2-11	.182	2-2	1.000	9	17	26	1.1	6	0	7	2	0	1	12	0.5
10	Jonny David	10-0	10	1.0	0-2	.000	0-2	.000	2-2	1.000	0	0	0	0.0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0.2
24	EJ Floreal	12-0	15	1.3	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0-2	.000	1	5	6	0.5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0.0
	Team										57	49	106				2		17			
	Total..........	34	6875		971-2029	.479	236-637	.370	531-777	.683	442	876	1318	38.8	696	28	490	376	192	191	2709	79.7
	Opponents......	34	6875		782-1954	.400	192-582	.330	565-808	.699	407	726	1133	33.3	677	-	311	420	104	145	2321	68.3

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	OT	Totals
Kentucky	1306	1375	28	2709
Opponents	1052	1238	31	2321

TEAM STATISTICS	UK	OPP
SCORING	2709	2321
Points per game	79.7	68.3
Scoring margin	+11.4	-
FIELD GOALS-ATT	971-2029	782-1954
Field goal pct	.479	.400
3 POINT FG-ATT	236-637	192-582
3-point FG pct	.370	.330
3-pt FG made per game	6.9	5.6
FREE THROWS-ATT	531-777	565-808
Free throw pct	.683	.699
F-Throws made per game	15.6	16.6
REBOUNDS	1318	1133
Rebounds per game	38.8	33.3
Rebounding margin	+5.4	-
ASSISTS	490	311
Assists per game	14.4	9.1
TURNOVERS	376	420
Turnovers per game	11.1	12.4
Turnover margin	+1.3	-
Assist/turnover ratio	1.3	0.7
STEALS	191	145
Steals per game	5.6	4.3
BLOCKS	192	104
Blocks per game	5.6	3.1
WINNING STREAK	5	-
Home win streak	34	-
ATTENDANCE	397148	264066
Home games-Avg/Game	17-23362	11-14500
Neutral site-Avg/Game	-	6-17428

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	OT	Totals
Kentucky	1306	1375	28	2709
Opponents	1052	1238	31	2321

Points	G	Pts	Pts/G
Jamal Murray	34	685	20.1
Tyler Ulis	33	569	17.2
Isaiah Briscoe	32	306	9.6
Alex Poythress	29	299	10.3
Derek Willis	30	239	8.0
Skal Labissiere	34	221	6.5
Marcus Lee	34	218	6.4
Charles Matthews	34	59	1.7
Dominique Hawkins	25	56	2.2
Isaac Humphries	22	43	2.0
Mychal Mulder	23	12	0.5
Jonny David	10	2	0.2

Scoring Average	G	Pts	Avg/G
Jamal Murray	34	685	20.1
Tyler Ulis	33	569	17.2
Alex Poythress	29	299	10.3
Isaiah Briscoe	32	306	9.6
Derek Willis	30	239	8.0
Skal Labissiere	34	221	6.5
Marcus Lee	34	218	6.4
Dominique Hawkins	25	56	2.2
Isaac Humphries	22	43	2.0
Charles Matthews	34	59	1.7
Mychal Mulder	23	12	0.5
Jonny David	10	2	0.2

FG Percentage	FG	Att	Pct
Marcus Lee	98	144	.681
Alex Poythress	114	187	.610
Skal Labissiere	90	174	.517
Derek Willis	78	163	.479
Jamal Murray	230	504	.456
Tyler Ulis	178	412	.432
Charles Matthews	22	51	.431
Isaiah Briscoe	125	290	.431
Isaac Humphries	16	40	.400
Dominique Hawkins	16	42	.381
Mychal Mulder	4	19	.211
Jonny David	0	2	.000
EJ Floreal	0	1	.000

Field Goal Attempts	G	Att	Att/G
Jamal Murray	34	504	14.8
Tyler Ulis	33	412	12.5
Isaiah Briscoe	32	290	9.1
Alex Poythress	29	187	6.4
Skal Labissiere	34	174	5.1

Field Goals Made	G	Made	Made/G
Jamal Murray	34	230	6.8
Tyler Ulis	33	178	5.4
Isaiah Briscoe	32	125	3.9
Alex Poythress	29	114	3.9
Marcus Lee	34	98	2.9

3-Point Percentage	3FG	Att	Pct
Derek Willis	51	117	.436
Jamal Murray	110	261	.421
Tyler Ulis	52	152	.342
Alex Poythress	7	23	.304
Dominique Hawkins	8	28	.286
Charles Matthews	1	4	.250
Mychal Mulder	2	11	.182
Isaiah Briscoe	5	37	.135
Jonny David	0	2	.000
Skal Labissiere	0	2	.000

3-Point FG Attempts	G	Att	Att/G
Jamal Murray	34	261	7.7
Tyler Ulis	33	152	4.6
Derek Willis	30	117	3.9
Isaiah Briscoe	32	37	1.2
Dominique Hawkins	25	28	1.1

3-Point FG Made	G	Made	Made/G
Jamal Murray	34	110	3.2
Tyler Ulis	33	52	1.6
Derek Willis	30	51	1.7
Dominique Hawkins	25	8	0.3
Alex Poythress	29	7	0.2

Free Throw Percent	FG	Att	Pct
Jonny David	2	2	1.000
Mychal Mulder	2	2	1.000
Derek Willis	32	35	.914
Tyler Ulis	161	188	.856
Jamal Murray	115	146	.788
Dominique Hawkins	16	21	.762
Isaac Humphries	11	15	.733
Alex Poythress	64	94	.681
Skal Labissiere	41	62	.661
Isaiah Briscoe	51	118	.432
Charles Matthews	14	34	.412
Marcus Lee	22	58	.379

Free Throw Attempts	G	Att	Att/G
Tyler Ulis	33	188	5.7
Jamal Murray	34	146	4.3
Isaiah Briscoe	32	118	3.7
Alex Poythress	29	94	3.2
Skal Labissiere	34	62	1.8

Free Throws Made	G	Made	Made/G
Tyler Ulis	33	161	4.9
Jamal Murray	34	115	3.4
Alex Poythress	29	64	2.2
Isaiah Briscoe	32	51	1.6
Skal Labissiere	34	41	1.2

Rebounds	G	Reb	Reb/G
Marcus Lee	34	209	6.1
Alex Poythress	29	177	6.1
Jamal Murray	34	172	5.1
Isaiah Briscoe	32	167	5.2
Derek Willis	30	118	3.9

Rebound Average	G	Reb	Avg/G
Marcus Lee	34	209	6.1
Alex Poythress	29	177	6.1
Isaiah Briscoe	32	167	5.2
Jamal Murray	34	172	5.1
Derek Willis	30	118	3.9

Offensive Rebounds	G	No.	Avg/G
Marcus Lee	34	86	2.5
Alex Poythress	29	52	1.8
Jamal Murray	34	49	1.4
Isaiah Briscoe	32	45	1.4
Skal Labissiere	34	35	1.0

Defensive Rebounds	G	No.	Avg/G
Alex Poythress	29	125	4.3
Marcus Lee	34	123	3.6
Jamal Murray	34	123	3.6
Isaiah Briscoe	32	122	3.8
Derek Willis	30	89	3.0

Fouls	G	No.	Per/G
Alex Poythress	29	104	3.6
Marcus Lee	34	104	3.1
Skal Labissiere	34	102	3.0
Isaiah Briscoe	32	92	2.9
Jamal Murray	34	68	2.0

Foulouts	G	No.
Marcus Lee	34	8
Alex Poythress	29	7
Skal Labissiere	34	5
Derek Willis	30	2
Isaiah Briscoe	32	2
Isaac Humphries	22	2

Assists	G	No.	Ast/G
Tyler Ulis	33	236	7.2
Isaiah Briscoe	32	105	3.3
Jamal Murray	34	73	2.1
Charles Matthews	34	13	0.4
Dominique Hawkins	25	12	0.5

Steals	G	No.	Stl/G
Tyler Ulis	33	48	1.5
Jamal Murray	34	34	1.0
Isaiah Briscoe	32	33	1.0
Derek Willis	30	19	0.6
Alex Poythress	29	16	0.6

Blocked Shots	G	No.	Blk/G
Marcus Lee	34	56	1.6
Skal Labissiere	34	53	1.6
Derek Willis	30	22	0.7
Alex Poythress	29	20	0.7
Isaac Humphries	22	16	0.7

Minutes	G	No.	Min/G
Tyler Ulis	33	1219	36.9
Jamal Murray	34	1198	35.2
Isaiah Briscoe	32	1035	32.3
Marcus Lee	34	743	21.9
Alex Poythress	29	689	23.8

Turnovers	G	No.	TO/G
Jamal Murray	34	78	2.3
Tyler Ulis	33	62	1.9
Isaiah Briscoe	32	59	1.8
Alex Poythress	29	35	1.2
Marcus Lee	34	33	1.0

SUMMARY	Overall Statistics									Conference Statistics									
	gp-gs	min/g	fg%	3fg%	ft%	r/g	a/g	stl	blk	pts/g	gp-gs	min/g	fg%	3fg%	ft%	r/g	a/g	stl	blk	pts/g
Jamal Murray	34-34	35.2	.456	.421	.788	5.1	2.1	34	9	20.1	18-18	35.9	.476	.444	.808	5.4	1.8	18	6	22.4
Tyler Ulis	33-33	36.9	.432	.342	.856	3.2	7.2	48	4	17.2	18-18	37.3	.439	.329	.842	3.3	8.4	26	2	18.3
Alex Poythress	29-21	23.8	.610	.304	.681	6.1	0.3	16	20	10.3	13-12	22.8	.617	.000	.698	5.2	0.3	4	8	10.0
Isaiah Briscoe	32-31	32.3	.431	.135	.432	5.2	3.3	33	4	9.6	18-18	32.9	.398	.056	.436	5.1	3.1	15	1	8.5
Derek Willis	30-11	18.7	.479	.436	.914	3.9	0.4	19	22	8.0	15-9	22.8	.511	.500	.933	5.1	0.3	8	12	9.7
Skal Labissiere	34-16	15.6	.517	.000	.661	3.1	0.3	8	53	6.5	18-2	13.2	.506	.000	.500	3.1	0.2	4	27	5.3
Marcus Lee	34-20	21.9	.681	.000	.379	6.1	0.3	10	56	6.4	18-12	21.7	.681	.000	.300	6.3	0.3	2	28	5.7
Dominique Hawkins	25-0	8.7	.381	.286	.762	0.6	0.5	5	3	2.2	11-0	7.6	.333	.375	1.000	0.4	0.5	2	2	1.4
Isaac Humphries	22-1	9.5	.400	.000	.733	2.5	0.1	2	16	2.0	13-1	10.1	.455	.000	.750	2.9	0.1	1	11	1.8
Charles Matthews	34-3	10.6	.431	.250	.412	1.7	0.4	15	5	1.7	18-0	8.8	.350	.000	.357	1.7	0.2	5	3	1.1
Mychal Mulder	23-0	3.8	.211	.182	1.000	1.1	0.3	1	0	0.5	12-0	4.8	.200	.250	1.000	1.6	0.2	1	0	0.8
Jonny David	10-0	1.0	.000	.000	1.000	0.0	0.0	0	0	0.2	6-0	0.8	.000	.000	.000	0.0	0.0	0	0	0.0
EJ Floreal	12-0	1.3	.000	.000	.000	0.5	0.0	0	0	0.0	9-0	1.3	.000	.000	.000	0.6	0.0	0	0	0.0
Totals	34		.479	.370	.683	38.8	14.4	191	192	79.7	18		.476	.392	.682	39.6	15.0	86	100	79.3
Opponent	34		.400	.330	.699	33.3	9.1	145	104	68.3	18		.389	.338	.698	33.4	9.6	63	59	67.8

SCORING	Overall Statistics								Conference Statistics							
	fg-fga	fg%	3fg-fga	3fg%	ft-fta	ft%	pts	pts/g	fg-fga	fg%	3fg-fga	3fg%	ft-fta	ft%	pts	pts/g
Jamal Murray	230-504	.456	110-261	.421	115-146	.788	685	20.1	137-288	.476	67-151	.444	63-78	.808	404	22.4
Tyler Ulis	178-412	.432	52-152	.342	161-188	.856	569	17.2	104-237	.439	26-79	.329	96-114	.842	330	18.3
Alex Poythress	114-187	.610	7-23	.304	64-94	.681	299	10.3	50-81	.617	0-5	.000	30-43	.698	130	10.0
Isaiah Briscoe	125-290	.431	5-37	.135	51-118	.432	306	9.6	64-161	.398	1-18	.056	24-55	.436	153	8.5
Derek Willis	78-163	.479	51-117	.436	32-35	.914	239	8.0	48-94	.511	35-70	.500	14-15	.933	145	9.7
Skal Labissiere	90-174	.517	0-2	.000	41-62	.661	221	6.5	43-85	.506	0-2	.000	10-20	.500	96	5.3
Marcus Lee	98-144	.681	0-0	.000	22-58	.379	218	6.4	47-69	.681	0-0	.000	9-30	.300	103	5.7
Dominique Hawkins	16-42	.381	8-28	.286	16-21	.762	56	2.2	4-12	.333	3-8	.375	4-4	1.000	15	1.4
Isaac Humphries	16-40	.400	0-0	.000	11-15	.733	43	2.0	10-22	.455	0-0	.000	3-4	.750	23	1.8
Charles Matthews	22-51	.431	1-4	.250	14-34	.412	59	1.7	7-20	.350	0-0	.000	5-14	.357	19	1.1
Mychal Mulder	4-19	.211	2-11	.182	2-2	1.000	12	0.5	3-15	.200	2-8	.250	2-2	1.000	10	0.8
Jonny David	0-2	.000	0-2	.000	2-2	1.000	2	0.2	0-1	.000	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	0.0
EJ Floreal	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0-2	.000	0	0.0	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0.0
Totals	971-2029	.479	236-637	.370	531-777	.683	2709	79.7	517-1086	.476	134-342	.392	260-381	.682	1428	79.3
Opponent	782-1954	.400	192-582	.330	565-808	.699	2321	68.3	395-1015	.389	102-302	.338	328-470	.698	1220	67.8

TOTALS	Overall Statistics									Conference Statistics								
	o-reb	d-reb	total	pf	fo	a	to	a/to	hi pts	o-reb	d-reb	total	pf	fo	a	to	a/to	hi pts
Jamal Murray	49	123	172	68	1	73	78	0.9	35	28	70	98	35	1	33	31	1.1	35
Tyler Ulis	19	85	104	58	1	236	62	3.8	30	11	49	60	41	1	152	34	4.5	27
Alex Poythress	52	125	177	104	7	10	35	0.3	25	18	50	68	48	4	4	22	0.2	25
Isaiah Briscoe	45	122	167	92	2	105	59	1.8	20	29	62	91	55	1	55	25	2.2	15
Derek Willis	29	89	118	53	2	11	21	0.5	25	17	60	77	29	0	5	11	0.5	25
Skal Labissiere	35	69	104	102	5	10	32	0.3	26	20	35	55	51	2	4	14	0.3	18
Marcus Lee	86	123	209	104	8	11	33	0.3	14	42	71	113	58	5	5	17	0.3	13
Dominique Hawkins	9	6	15	27	0	12	6	2.0	13	3	1	4	9	0	5	3	1.7	9
Isaac Humphries	20	36	56	46	2	2	10	0.2	6	13	25	38	33	2	1	4	0.3	6
Charles Matthews	31	27	58	33	0	13	19	0.7	11	16	14	30	14	0	4	6	0.7	7
Mychal Mulder	9	17	26	6	0	7	2	3.5	5	6	13	19	4	0	2	2	1.0	5
Jonny David	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0.0	0
EJ Floreal	1	5	6	0	0	0	1	0.0	0	0	5	5	0	0	0	1	0.0	0
Totals	442	876	1318	696	28	490	376	1.3	94	233	480	713	380	16	270	179	1.5	94
Opponent	407	726	1133	677	-	311	420	0.7	90	206	396	602	329	-	173	197	0.9	85

2015-16 Kentucky Men's Basketball
Kentucky Team Game-by-Game (as of Mar 13, 2016)
All games

TEAM STATISTICS

Opponent	Date	Score		Total fg-fga	pct	3-Pointers 3fg-fga	pct	Free throws ft-fta	pct	Rebounds off	def	tot	avg	pf	a	t/o	blk	stl	pts	avg
ALBANY	11/13/15	78-65	W	28-50	.560	6-17	.353	16-24	.667	12	22	34	34.0	21	16	20	8	6	78	78.0
NJIT	11/14/15	87-57	W	32-69	.464	5-21	.238	18-24	.750	22	32	54	44.0	18	14	14	9	6	87	82.5
vs #5/4 Duke	11/17/15	74-63	W	30-67	.448	3-10	.300	11-18	.611	17	22	39	42.3	21	15	9	7	9	74	79.7
WRIGHT STATE	11/20/15	78-63	W	25-47	.532	2-10	.200	26-37	.703	7	30	37	41.0	17	9	12	1	5	78	79.2
BOSTON U.	11/24/15	82-62	W	33-64	.516	3-15	.200	13-26	.500	18	27	45	41.8	18	15	12	5	12	82	79.8
vs USF	11/27/15	84-63	W	31-62	.500	6-13	.462	16-19	.842	12	25	37	41.0	17	16	8	5	9	84	80.5
ILLINOIS STATE	11/30/15	75-63	W	22-51	.431	2-12	.167	29-46	.630	12	27	39	40.7	19	8	15	9	6	75	79.7
at UCLA	12/03/15	77-87	L	25-66	.379	8-25	.320	19-25	.760	16	21	37	40.2	27	12	8	2	6	77	79.4
EKU	12/9/15	88-67	W	35-64	.547	4-19	.211	14-20	.700	18	32	50	41.3	17	18	17	9	3	88	80.3
ARIZONA STATE	12/12/15	72-58	W	24-55	.436	6-21	.286	18-26	.692	11	25	36	40.8	20	15	14	8	6	72	79.5
vs Ohio State	12/19/15	67-74	L	25-63	.397	9-19	.474	8-14	.571	13	27	40	40.7	17	14	12	5	6	67	78.4
#16/15 LOUISVILLE	12/26/15	75-73	W	24-52	.462	11-23	.478	16-25	.640	10	19	29	39.8	19	12	15	6	4	75	78.1
OLE MISS	01/02/16	83-61	W	33-66	.500	7-25	.280	10-20	.500	20	21	41	39.8	25	18	12	2	13	83	78.5
at LSU	01/05/16	67-85	L	24-58	.414	7-20	.350	12-23	.522	11	21	32	39.3	25	8	14	1	3	67	77.6
at Alabama	1/9/16	77-61	W	28-51	.549	2-9	.222	19-30	.633	14	29	43	39.5	23	12	11	5	2	77	77.6
MISSISSIPPI STATE	01/12/16	80-74	W	28-55	.509	9-23	.391	15-20	.750	11	22	33	39.1	21	16	17	4	7	80	77.8
at Auburn	01/16/16	70-75	L	25-72	.347	6-18	.333	14-18	.778	18	30	48	39.6	25	15	11	7	7	70	77.3
at Arkansas	01/21/16	80-66	W	26-62	.419	5-16	.313	23-30	.767	16	27	43	39.8	25	9	6	9	5	80	77.4
VANDERBILT	01/23/16	76-57	W	33-60	.550	6-19	.316	4-6	.667	6	26	32	39.4	19	12	7	3	6	76	77.4
MISSOURI	01/27/16	88-54	W	34-65	.523	9-20	.450	11-14	.786	15	32	47	39.8	12	18	11	11	6	88	77.9
at #4/3 Kansas	01/30/16	84-90	Lot	33-62	.532	5-23	.217	13-22	.591	6	25	31	39.4	33	15	16	6	10	84	78.2
at Tennessee	02/02/16	77-84	L	26-62	.419	7-22	.318	18-23	.783	16	20	36	39.2	26	15	11	4	2	77	78.1
FLORIDA	02/06/16	80-61	W	30-58	.517	12-20	.600	8-14	.571	11	26	37	39.1	18	19	10	5	2	80	78.2
GEORGIA	02/09/16	82-48	W	29-56	.518	10-21	.476	14-22	.636	10	24	34	38.9	20	13	7	7	8	82	78.4
at RV/#20 South Carolina	2/13/16	89-62	W	31-64	.484	11-25	.440	16-21	.762	14	24	38	38.9	21	17	12	5	6	89	78.8
TENNESSEE	02/18/16	80-70	W	26-62	.419	11-24	.458	17-23	.739	14	31	45	39.1	19	13	8	4	2	80	78.8
at RV/#24 Texas A&M	02/20/16	77-79	Lot	27-54	.500	10-20	.500	13-17	.765	6	30	36	39.0	21	15	9	7	3	77	78.8
ALABAMA	02/23/16	78-53	W	27-59	.458	2-10	.200	22-28	.786	15	26	41	39.1	15	15	4	5	6	78	78.8
at Vanderbilt	02/27/16	62-74	L	23-55	.418	6-22	.273	10-23	.435	9	28	37	39.0	22	10	5	7	2	62	78.2
at Florida	3/1/16	88-79	W	29-55	.527	7-10	.700	23-32	.719	9	36	45	39.2	27	19	13	8	3	88	78.5
LSU	03/05/16	94-77	W	38-72	.528	7-18	.389	11-17	.647	18	27	45	39.4	16	26	11	6	3	94	79.0
vs Alabama	03/11/16	85-59	W	30-55	.545	13-22	.591	12-16	.750	11	20	31	39.1	16	18	7	1	2	85	79.2
vs Georgia	03/12/16	93-80	W	29-58	.500	9-21	.429	26-30	.867	13	18	31	38.9	18	10	5	5	6	93	79.6
vs #17/17 Texas A&M	03/13/16	82-77	Wot	28-58	.483	10-24	.417	16-24	.667	11	24	35	38.8	18	13	13	6	9	82	79.7
Kentucky		2709		971-2029	.479	236-637	.370	531-777	.683	442	876	1318	38.8	696	490	376	192	191	2709	79.7
Opponents		2321		782-1954	.400	192-582	.330	565-808	.699	407	726	1133	33.3	677	311	420	104	145	2321	68.3

Games played: 34
Points/game: 79.7
FG Pct: 47.9
3FG Pct: 37.0
FT Pct: 68.3

Rebounds/game: 38.8
Assists/game: 14.4
Turnovers/game: 11.1
Assist/turnover ratio: 1.3
Steals/game: 5.6
Blocks/game: 5.6

OPPONENT STATISTICS

Opponent	Date	Score		Total fg-fga	pct	3-Pointers 3fg-fga	pct	Free throws ft-fta	pct	Rebounds off	def	tot	avg	pf	a	t/o	blk	stl	pts	avg
ALBANY	11/13/15	78-65	W	25-58	.431	1-14	.071	14-22	.636	13	15	28	28.0	26	4	15	0	9	65	65.0
NJIT	11/14/15	87-57	W	17-55	.309	5-19	.263	18-22	.818	7	16	23	25.5	22	8	14	2	6	57	61.0
vs #5/4 Duke	11/17/15	74-63	W	22-54	.407	5-13	.385	14-23	.609	15	24	39	30.0	20	9	16	8	3	63	61.7
WRIGHT STATE	11/20/15	78-63	W	21-58	.362	6-14	.429	15-17	.882	8	19	27	29.3	33	8	12	1	5	63	62.0
BOSTON U.	11/24/15	82-62	W	20-54	.370	8-24	.333	14-18	.778	8	19	27	28.8	22	9	17	2	6	62	62.0
vs USF	11/27/15	84-63	W	26-56	.464	2-10	.200	9-15	.600	10	21	31	29.2	17	5	14	4	2	63	62.2
ILLINOIS STATE	11/30/15	75-63	W	25-70	.357	5-20	.250	8-10	.800	14	23	37	30.3	32	8	16	2	5	63	62.3
at UCLA	12/03/15	77-87	L	28-53	.528	5-11	.455	26-34	.765	10	28	38	31.3	18	16	10	3	5	87	65.4
EKU	12/9/15	88-67	W	26-65	.400	5-18	.278	10-14	.714	11	14	25	30.6	19	11	13	1	7	67	65.6
ARIZONA STATE	12/12/15	72-58	W	23-62	.371	4-20	.200	8-15	.533	15	21	36	31.1	24	6	17	0	5	58	64.8
vs Ohio State	12/19/15	67-74	L	26-64	.406	9-18	.500	13-17	.765	13	29	42	32.1	16	10	11	7	9	74	65.6
#16/15 LOUISVILLE	12/26/15	75-73	W	27-63	.429	4-14	.286	15-22	.682	21	18	39	32.7	21	8	15	1	5	73	66.2
OLE MISS	01/02/16	83-61	W	20-50	.400	3-14	.214	18-26	.692	10	17	27	32.2	19	7	16	3	6	61	65.8
at LSU	01/05/16	67-85	L	30-61	.492	6-14	.429	19-30	.633	16	30	46	33.2	17	17	9	4	8	85	67.2
at Alabama	1/9/16	77-61	W	18-52	.346	7-24	.292	18-27	.667	8	17	25	32.7	24	5	7	7	3	61	66.8
MISSISSIPPI STATE	01/12/16	80-74	W	27-51	.529	6-13	.462	14-16	.875	3	17	20	31.9	20	8	19	0	5	74	67.2
at Auburn	01/16/16	70-75	L	21-55	.382	12-26	.462	21-31	.677	7	31	38	32.2	13	9	13	7	2	75	67.7
at Arkansas	01/21/16	80-66	W	22-55	.400	2-12	.167	20-31	.645	12	22	34	32.3	23	12	9	5	3	66	67.6
VANDERBILT	01/23/16	76-57	W	16-50	.320	5-15	.333	20-25	.800	10	22	32	32.3	10	8	12	3	3	57	67.1
MISSOURI	01/27/16	88-54	W	18-57	.316	4-14	.286	14-19	.737	9	19	28	32.1	15	7	15	2	4	54	66.4
at #4/3 Kansas	01/30/16	84-90	Lot	26-56	.464	8-17	.471	30-47	.638	14	28	42	32.6	20	13	15	1	5	90	67.5
at Tennessee	02/02/16	77-84	L	23-56	.411	8-19	.421	30-34	.882	14	23	37	32.8	19	12	8	3	3	84	68.3
FLORIDA	02/06/16	80-61	W	21-53	.396	6-19	.316	13-20	.650	9	19	28	32.6	17	10	10	1	4	61	68.0
GEORGIA	02/09/16	82-48	W	11-50	.220	3-11	.273	23-27	.852	16	20	36	32.7	20	5	15	0	0	48	67.1
at RV/#20 South Carolina	2/13/16	89-62	W	18-55	.327	4-14	.286	22-31	.710	16	23	39	33.0	20	7	16	8	3	62	66.9
TENNESSEE	02/18/16	80-70	W	22-58	.379	5-14	.357	21-30	.700	13	26	39	33.2	17	7	7	3	1	70	67.0
at RV/#24 Texas A&M	02/20/16	77-79	Lot	28-72	.389	9-24	.375	14-24	.583	20	21	41	33.5	15	18	7	1	5	79	67.5
ALABAMA	02/23/16	78-53	W	17-48	.354	6-15	.400	13-18	.722	6	23	29	33.3	23	6	12	4	0	53	67.0
at Vanderbilt	02/27/16	62-74	L	26-62	.419	6-16	.375	16-23	.696	11	28	39	33.5	16	11	5	3	1	74	67.2
at Florida	3/1/16	88-79	W	29-68	.426	5-18	.278	16-37	.432	16	19	35	33.6	24	15	5	2	4	79	67.6
LSU	03/05/16	94-77	W	28-62	.452	5-20	.250	16-21	.762	10	19	29	33.4	17	9	12	3	8	77	67.9
vs Alabama	03/11/16	85-59	W	19-48	.396	9-26	.346	12-19	.632	12	15	27	33.2	14	4	13	4	2	59	67.6
vs Georgia	03/12/16	93-80	W	28-57	.491	8-19	.421	16-21	.762	13	16	29	33.1	24	8	12	5	3	80	68.0
vs #17/17 Texas A&M	03/13/16	82-77	Wot	28-66	.424	6-23	.261	15-22	.682	17	24	41	33.3	20	11	13	4	5	77	68.3
Opponents		2321		782-1954	.400	192-582	.330	565-808	.699	407	726	1133	33.3	677	311	420	104	145	2321	68.3
Kentucky		2709		971-2029	.479	236-637	.370	531-777	.683	442	876	1318	38.8	696	490	376	192	191	2709	79.7

Games played: 34
Points/game: 68.3
FG Pct: 40.0
3FG Pct: 33.0
FT Pct: 69.9

Rebounds/game: 33.3
Assists/game: 9.1
Turnovers/game: 12.4
Assist/turnover ratio: 0.7
Steals/game: 4.3
Blocks/game: 3.1

2015-16 Kentucky Men's Basketball
Kentucky Points-Rebounds-Assists (as of Mar 13, 2016)
All games

Opponent	Date	Score		00 LEE,MARCUS	01 LABISSIERE	03 ULIS,TYLER	04 MATTHEWS,C	10 DAVID,JONN	11 MULDER,MYC	13 BRISCOE,IS
ALBANY	11/13/15	78-65	W	12-8-3	9-5-0	12-4-2	4-2-0	DNP	2-0-0	DNP
NJIT	11/14/15	87-57	W	10-8-0	26-5-0	5-5-5	1-0-2	0-0-0	0-2-1	11-12-2
vs #5/4 Duke	11/17/15	74-63	W	10-10-1	7-4-1	18-4-6	0-0-0	DNP	DNP	12-3-1
WRIGHT STATE	11/20/15	78-63	W	0-7-0	13-3-0	21-2-5	4-1-0	DNP	0-2-1	15-3-2
BOSTON U.	11/24/15	82-62	W	9-2-0	16-7-0	15-6-6	3-7-2	0-0-0	0-0-0	11-7-5
vs USF	11/27/15	84-63	W	4-6-0	17-4-2	8-2-2	11-2-1	2-0-0	0-0-0	6-6-7
ILLINOIS STATE	11/30/15	75-63	W	13-12-0	2-2-0	DNP	5-3-2	DNP	0-0-0	18-7-3
at UCLA	12/03/15	77-87	L	2-2-0	6-1-0	9-2-9	2-3-1	DNP	DNP	20-2-1
EKU	12/9/15	88-67	W	11-8-0	10-4-2	9-4-8	7-2-0	DNP	DNP	10-6-1
ARIZONA STATE	12/12/15	72-58	W	14-7-0	0-0-0	12-5-6	0-1-1	0-0-0	0-2-1	9-4-2
vs Ohio State	12/19/15	67-74	L	12-9-0	2-5-0	11-2-4	0-0-0	DNP	0-1-1	3-6-7
#16/15 LOUISVILLE	12/26/15	75-73	W	8-7-0	2-3-0	21-1-8	2-2-0	DNP	0-0-0	DNP
OLE MISS	01/02/16	83-61	W	13-8-0	9-3-0	20-3-10	3-1-0	DNP	DNP	6-5-3
at LSU	01/05/16	67-85	L	0-2-0	3-2-0	23-1-6	0-1-1	DNP	5-8-0	5-6-0
at Alabama	1/9/16	77-61	W	8-11-0	0-1-0	8-5-8	0-0-0	DNP	3-4-0	12-5-4
MISSISSIPPI STATE	01/12/16	80-74	W	2-9-0	5-4-0	21-3-5	0-0-0	DNP	2-0-2	14-4-5
at Auburn	01/16/16	70-75	L	3-4-1	4-2-0	17-10-8	0-0-1	0-0-0	0-3-0	8-3-1
at Arkansas	01/21/16	80-66	W	4-2-0	11-3-0	24-1-5	1-3-0	0-0-0	0-1-0	2-7-3
VANDERBILT	01/23/16	76-57	W	6-5-0	0-0-0	21-3-5	2-2-1	DNP	DNP	6-4-4
MISSOURI	01/27/16	88-54	W	2-3-0	12-0-0	20-2-8	2-3-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	15-6-6
at #4/3 Kansas	01/30/16	84-90	L	4-3-0	4-0-0	26-2-8	0-0-0	DNP	DNP	12-4-5
at Tennessee	02/02/16	77-84	L	2-3-0	2-2-1	20-0-5	0-0-0	DNP	DNP	10-8-3
FLORIDA	02/06/16	80-61	W	4-6-1	2-3-0	18-4-11	2-1-0	DNP	0-0-0	3-2-6
GEORGIA	02/09/16	82-48	W	4-2-0	6-7-0	14-3-8	7-5-0	0-0-0	0-1-0	7-3-4
at RV/#20 South Carolin	2/13/16	89-62	W	11-13-0	4-1-0	27-0-12	2-5-1	DNP	DNP	10-5-3
TENNESSEE	02/18/16	80-70	W	4-4-0	4-4-1	11-4-9	0-2-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	5-10-1
at RV/#24 Texas A&M	02/20/16	77-79	L	8-5-0	3-3-0	22-4-11	0-1-0	DNP	DNP	11-6-3
ALABAMA	02/23/16	78-53	W	6-12-2	2-2-0	19-5-10	0-2-0	DNP	0-1-0	10-4-1
at Vanderbilt	02/27/16	62-74	L	9-6-1	0-1-0	12-3-6	0-4-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	8-4-2
at Florida	3/1/16	88-79	W	5-8-0	11-8-0	19-4-11	0-0-0	DNP	DNP	13-3-3
LSU	03/05/16	94-77	W	12-10-0	18-9-2	14-5-14	0-0-0	DNP	0-0-0	8-6-3
vs Alabama	03/11/16	85-59	W	2-5-1	7-5-0	17-1-5	0-0-0	DNP	0-0-1	4-4-6
vs Georgia	03/12/16	93-80	W	2-1-1	2-0-0	25-1-5	0-3-0	DNP	0-0-0	12-7-2
vs #17/17 Texas A&M	03/13/16	82-77	W	2-1-0	2-1-1	30-3-5	1-2-0	DNP	DNP	10-5-6

Opponent	Date	Score		15 HUMPHRIES,	22 POYTHRESS,	23 MURRAY,JAM	24 FLOREAL,EJ	25 HAWKINS,DO	35 WILLIS,DER
ALBANY	11/13/15	78-65	W	4-2-0	2-3-0	19-3-8	DNP	0-1-0	14-5-3
NJIT	11/14/15	87-57	W	5-3-0	9-7-0	8-5-2	DNP	1-1-1	11-3-1
vs #5/4 Duke	11/17/15	74-63	W	2-3-1	9-7-0	16-5-5	DNP	DNP	0-0-0
WRIGHT STATE	11/20/15	78-63	W	DNP	10-10-0	13-6-1	DNP	DNP	2-0-0
BOSTON U.	11/24/15	82-62	W	DNP	14-10-0	12-3-2	DNP	0-0-0	2-2-0
vs USF	11/27/15	84-63	W	2-0-0	8-5-0	21-3-3	DNP	3-0-1	2-0-0
ILLINOIS STATE	11/30/15	75-63	W	DNP	9-7-2	16-5-1	DNP	7-0-0	5-2-0
at UCLA	12/03/15	77-87	L	4-6-0	4-5-1	17-5-0	DNP	2-3-0	11-6-0
EKU	12/9/15	88-67	W	DNP	21-13-0	16-7-4	DNP	2-2-2	2-1-1
ARIZONA STATE	12/12/15	72-58	W	3-1-0	10-6-0	17-3-5	0-1-0	0-0-0	7-3-0
vs Ohio State	12/19/15	67-74	L	DNP	6-7-1	33-3-1	DNP	0-0-0	DNP
#16/15 LOUISVILLE	12/26/15	75-73	W	DNP	14-6-1	12-6-2	DNP	13-1-1	3-2-0
OLE MISS	01/02/16	83-61	W	0-0-0	6-9-0	18-6-3	DNP	0-0-1	8-1-1
at LSU	01/05/16	67-85	L	0-1-0	4-4-0	21-2-1	DNP	DNP	6-3-0
at Alabama	1/9/16	77-61	W	DNP	25-7-0	21-5-0	0-0-0	DNP	0-2-0
MISSISSIPPI STATE	01/12/16	80-74	W	DNP	6-8-0	22-1-3	DNP	DNP	8-2-1
at Auburn	01/16/16	70-75	L	DNP	6-3-0	20-5-2	0-0-0	DNP	12-12-2
at Arkansas	01/21/16	80-66	W	0-0-0	7-6-0	19-7-1	0-1-0	DNP	12-7-0
VANDERBILT	01/23/16	76-57	W	DNP	16-2-0	18-7-2	0-0-0	DNP	7-9-0
MISSOURI	01/27/16	88-54	W	0-1-0	8-7-1	11-9-2	0-1-0	DNP	18-12-1
at #4/3 Kansas	01/30/16	84-90	L	DNP	13-8-1	15-6-0	DNP	4-1-1	6-5-0
at Tennessee	02/02/16	77-84	L	DNP	14-5-1	21-5-5	DNP	0-0-0	8-8-0
FLORIDA	02/06/16	80-61	W	4-6-0	DNP	35-6-1	0-0-0	0-0-0	12-6-0
GEORGIA	02/09/16	82-48	W	0-3-0	DNP	24-2-0	0-1-0	9-0-1	11-6-0
at RV/#20 South Carolin	2/13/16	89-62	W	0-1-0	DNP	26-5-1	DNP	0-0-0	9-2-0
TENNESSEE	02/18/16	80-70	W	3-6-0	DNP	28-9-2	DNP	0-1-0	25-5-0
at RV/#24 Texas A&M	02/20/16	77-79	L	6-12-0	DNP	21-1-1	DNP	3-0-0	3-1-0
ALABAMA	02/23/16	78-53	W	4-4-1	14-1-0	23-4-0	0-2-0	0-0-1	DNP
at Vanderbilt	02/27/16	62-74	L	0-1-0	0-3-0	33-9-1	0-0-0	0-1-0	DNP
at Florida	3/1/16	88-79	W	4-3-0	12-10-1	21-8-4	DNP	3-0-0	DNP
LSU	03/05/16	94-77	W	2-0-0	12-3-1	22-7-4	DNP	0-2-2	6-1-0
vs Alabama	03/11/16	85-59	W	0-0-0	20-7-0	23-3-4	0-0-0	7-2-1	5-1-0
vs Georgia	03/12/16	93-80	W	0-1-0	10-2-0	26-6-2	0-0-0	2-0-0	14-7-0
vs #17/17 Texas A&M	03/13/16	82-77	W	0-2-0	10-6-0	17-5-0	DNP	0-0-0	10-4-1

Opponent	Date	Score	Points	Rebounds	Assists	Steals	Blocked shots
ALBANY	11/13/15	78-65	19-Jamal Murray	8-Marcus Lee	8-Jamal Murray	3-Jamal Murray	4-Skal Labissiere
NJIT	11/14/15	87-57	26-Labissiere, Skal	12-Isaiah Briscoe	5-Ulis, Tyler	2-Isaiah Briscoe	3-Marcus Lee
vs #5/4 Duke	11/17/15	74-63	18-Tyler Ulis	10-Marcus Lee	6-Tyler Ulis	4-Jamal Murray	2-Isaac Humphries Marcus Lee
WRIGHT STATE	11/20/15	78-63	21-Ulis, Tyler	10-Alex Poythress	5-Ulis, Tyler	2-Ulis, Tyler	1-Labissiere, Skal
BOSTON U.	11/24/15	82-62	16-Labissiere, Skal	10-Alex Poythress	6-Ulis, Tyler	3-Ulis, Tyler Isaiah Briscoe	3-Labissiere, Skal
vs USF	11/27/15	84-63	21-Jamal Murray	6-Marcus Lee Isaiah Briscoe	7-Isaiah Briscoe	2-Isaiah Briscoe Tyler Ulis	3-Skal Labissiere
ILLINOIS STATE	11/30/15	75-63	18-Isaiah Briscoe	12-Marcus Lee	3-Isaiah Briscoe	2-Matthews, Charles	2-Marcus Lee Alex Poythress
at UCLA	12/03/15	77-87	20-Isaiah Briscoe	6-Isaac Humphries Derek Willis	9-Ulis, Tyler	2-Jamal Murray Ulis, Tyler	2-Labissiere, Skal
EKU	12/9/15	88-67	21-Alex Poythress	13-Alex Poythress	8-Ulis, Tyler	2-Isaiah Briscoe	5-Marcus Lee
ARIZONA STATE	12/12/15	72-58	17-Jamal Murray	7-Marcus Lee	6-Ulis, Tyler	2-Isaiah Briscoe	5-Marcus Lee
vs Ohio State	12/19/15	67-74	33-Jamal Murray	9-Marcus Lee	7-Isaiah Briscoe	2-Marcus Lee	2-Labissiere, Skal Marcus Lee
#16/15 LOUISVILLE	12/26/15	75-73	21-Ulis, Tyler	7-Marcus Lee	8-Ulis, Tyler	1-Marcus Lee Alex Poythress Labissiere, Skal Ulis, Tyler	3-Alex Poythress
OLE MISS	01/02/16	83-61	20-Ulis, Tyler	9-Alex Poythress	10-Ulis, Tyler	6-Ulis, Tyler	2-Marcus Lee
at LSU	01/05/16	67-85	23-Tyler Ulis	8-Mychal Mulder	6-Tyler Ulis	1-Derek Willis Jamal Murray Isaiah Briscoe	1-Isaiah Briscoe
at Alabama	1/9/16	77-61	25-Alex Poythress	11-Marcus Lee	8-Tyler Ulis	1-Jamal Murray Tyler Ulis	2-Alex Poythress
MISSISSIPPI STATE	01/12/16	80-74	22-Jamal Murray	9-Marcus Lee	5-Isaiah Briscoe Ulis, Tyler	2-Ulis, Tyler	2-Marcus Lee
at Auburn	01/16/16	70-75	20-Jamal Murray	12-Derek Willis	8-Ulis,Tyler	3-Jamal Murray	3-Alex Poythress
at Arkansas	01/21/16	80-66	24-Tyler Ulis	7-Isaiah Briscoe Derek Willis Jamal Murray	5-Tyler Ulis	1-Jamal Murray Marcus Lee Tyler Ulis Derek Willis Skal Labissiere	4-Derek Willis
VANDERBILT	01/23/16	76-57	21-Ulis, Tyler	9-Derek Willis	5-Ulis, Tyler	3-Jamal Murray	1-Jamal Murray Derek Willis Marcus Lee
MISSOURI	01/27/16	88-54	20-Ulis, Tyler	12-Derek Willis	8-Ulis, Tyler	2-Isaiah Briscoe Jamal Murray	5-Labissiere, Skal
at #4/3 Kansas	01/30/16	84-90	26-Tyler Ulis	8-Alex Poythress	8-Tyler Ulis	3-Derek Willis Tyler Ulis	2-Marcus Lee
at Tennessee	02/02/16	77-84	21-Jamal Murray	8-Isaiah Briscoe Derek Willis	5-Ulis, Tyler Jamal Murray	2-Ulis, Tyler	3-Labissiere, Skal
FLORIDA	02/06/16	80-61	35-Jamal Murray	6-Marcus Lee Isaac Humphries Jamal Murray Derek Willis	11-Ulis, Tyler	2-Ulis, Tyler	2-Isaac Humphries Marcus Lee
GEORGIA	02/09/16	82-48	24-Jamal Murray	7-Labissiere, Skal	8-Ulis, Tyler	3-Ulis, Tyler	4-Isaac Humphries
at RV/#20 South Carolina	2/13/16	89-62	27-Tyler Ulis	13-Marcus Lee	12-Tyler Ulis	2-Tyler Ulis	2-Marcus Lee
TENNESSEE	02/18/16	80-70	28-Jamal Murray	10-Isaiah Briscoe	9-Ulis, Tyler	1-Matthews, Charles Jamal Murray	2-Isaac Humphries
at RV/#24 Texas A&M	02/20/16	77-79	22-Tyler Ulis	12-Isaac Humphries	11-Tyler Ulis	1-Isaac Humphries	3-Marcus Lee

Opponent	Date	Score	Points	Rebounds	Assists	Steals	Blocked shots
						Dominique Hawkins Tyler Ulis	
ALABAMA	02/23/16	78-53	23-Jamal Murray	12-Marcus Lee	10-Ulis, Tyler	3-Ulis, Tyler	2-Jamal Murray
at Vanderbilt	02/27/16	62-74	33-Jamal Murray	9-Jamal Murray	6-Ulis, Tyler	1-Matthews, Charles Ulis, Tyler	3-Marcus Lee
at Florida	3/1/16	88-79	21-Jamal Murray	10-Alex Poythress	11-Ulis, Tyler	1-Ulis, Tyler Dominique Hawkins Labissiere, Skal	4-Marcus Lee
LSU	03/05/16	94-77	22-Jamal Murray	10-Marcus Lee	14-Ulis, Tyler	2-Isaiah Briscoe	6-Labissiere, Skal
vs Alabama	03/11/16	85-59	23-Jamal Murray	7-Alex Poythress	6-Isaiah Briscoe	1-Jamal Murray Isaac Humphries	1-Alex Poythress
vs Georgia	03/12/16	93-80	26-Jamal Murray	7-Derek Willis Isaiah Briscoe	5-Ulis, Tyler	2-Matthews, Charles Ulis, Tyler	4-Derek Willis
vs #17/17 Texas A&M	03/13/16	82-77	30-Ulis, Tyler	6-Alex Poythress	6-Isaiah Briscoe	3-Ulis, Tyler	2-Marcus Lee Derek Willis Labissiere, Skal

Kentucky - TEAM GAME HIGHS

POINTS	94		LSU (03/05/16)
	93		vs Georgia (03/12/16)
	89		at RV/#20 South Carolina (2/13/16)
	88		at Florida (3/1/16)
	88		MISSOURI (01/27/16)
	88		EKU (12/9/15)
FIELD GOALS MADE	38		LSU (03/05/16)
	35		EKU (12/9/15)
FIELD GOAL ATTEMPTS	72		LSU (03/05/16)
	72		at Auburn (01/16/16)
FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE	.560	(28-50)	ALBANY (11/13/15)
	.550	(33-60)	VANDERBILT (01/23/16)
3 PT FIELD GOALS MADE	13		vs Alabama (03/11/16)
	12		FLORIDA (02/06/16)
3 PT FG ATTEMPTS	25		at RV/#20 South Carolina (2/13/16)
	25		OLE MISS (01/02/16)
	25		at UCLA (12/03/15)
3 PT FG PERCENTAGE	.700	(7-10)	at Florida (3/1/16)
	.600	(12-20)	FLORIDA (02/06/16)
FREE THROWS MADE	29		ILLINOIS STATE (11/30/15)
	26		vs Georgia (03/12/16)
	26		WRIGHT STATE (11/20/15)
FREE THROW ATTEMPTS	46		ILLINOIS STATE (11/30/15)
	37		WRIGHT STATE (11/20/15)
FREE THROW PERCENTAGE	.867	(26-30)	vs Georgia (03/12/16)
	.842	(16-19)	vs USF (11/27/15)
REBOUNDS	54		NJIT (11/14/15)
	50		EKU (12/9/15)
ASSISTS	26		LSU (03/05/16)
	19		at Florida (3/1/16)
	19		FLORIDA (02/06/16)
STEALS	13		OLE MISS (01/02/16)
	12		BOSTON U. (11/24/15)
BLOCKED SHOTS	11		MISSOURI (01/27/16)
	9		at Arkansas (01/21/16)
	9		EKU (12/9/15)
	9		ILLINOIS STATE (11/30/15)
	9		NJIT (11/14/15)
TURNOVERS	20		ALBANY (11/13/15)
	17		MISSISSIPPI STATE (01/12/16)
	17		EKU (12/9/15)
FOULS	33		at #4/3 Kansas (01/30/16)
	27		at Florida (3/1/16)
	27		at UCLA (12/03/15)

Opponent - GAME HIGHS

POINTS	90		at #4/3 Kansas (01/30/16)
	87		at UCLA (12/03/15)
	85		at LSU (01/05/16)
	84		at Tennessee (02/02/16)
	80		vs Georgia (03/12/16)
FIELD GOALS MADE	30		at LSU (01/05/16)
	29		at Florida (3/1/16)
FIELD GOAL ATTEMPTS	72		at RV/#24 Texas A&M (02/20/16)
	70		ILLINOIS STATE (11/30/15)
FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE	.529	(27-51)	MISSISSIPPI STATE (01/12/16)
	.528	(28-53)	at UCLA (12/03/15)
3 PT FIELD GOALS MADE	12		at Auburn (01/16/16)
	9		vs Alabama (03/11/16)
	9		at RV/#24 Texas A&M (02/20/16)
	9		vs Ohio State (12/19/15)
3 PT FG ATTEMPTS	26		vs Alabama (03/11/16)
	26		at Auburn (01/16/16)
3 PT FG PERCENTAGE	.500	(9-18)	vs Ohio State (12/19/15)
	.471	(8-17)	at #4/3 Kansas (01/30/16)
FREE THROWS MADE	30		at Tennessee (02/02/16)
	30		at #4/3 Kansas (01/30/16)
FREE THROW ATTEMPTS	47		at #4/3 Kansas (01/30/16)
	37		at Florida (3/1/16)
FREE THROW PERCENTAGE	.882	(30-34)	at Tennessee (02/02/16)
	.882	(15-17)	WRIGHT STATE (11/20/15)
REBOUNDS	46		at LSU (01/05/16)
	42		at #4/3 Kansas (01/30/16)
	42		vs Ohio State (12/19/15)
ASSISTS	18		at RV/#24 Texas A&M (02/20/16)
	17		at LSU (01/05/16)
STEALS	9		vs Ohio State (12/19/15)
	9		ALBANY (11/13/15)
BLOCKED SHOTS	8		at RV/#20 South Carolina (2/13/16)
	8		vs #5/4 Duke (11/17/15)
TURNOVERS	19		MISSISSIPPI STATE (01/12/16)
	17		ARIZONA STATE (12/12/15)
	17		BOSTON U. (11/24/15)
FOULS	33		WRIGHT STATE (11/20/15)
	32		ILLINOIS STATE (11/30/15)

Kentucky - GAME LOWS

POINTS	62		at Vanderbilt (02/27/16)
	67		vs Ohio State (12/19/15)
	67		at LSU (01/05/16)
	70		at Auburn (01/16/16)
	72		ARIZONA STATE (12/12/15)
FIELD GOALS MADE	22		ILLINOIS STATE (11/30/15)
	23		at Vanderbilt (02/27/16)
FIELD GOAL ATTEMPTS	47		WRIGHT STATE (11/20/15)
	50		ALBANY (11/13/15)
FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE	.347	(25-72)	at Auburn (01/16/16)
	.379	(25-66)	at UCLA (12/03/15)
3 PT FIELD GOALS MADE	2		WRIGHT STATE (11/20/15)
	2		ILLINOIS STATE (11/30/15)
	2		at Alabama (1/9/16)
	2		ALABAMA (02/23/16)
3 PT FG ATTEMPTS	9		at Alabama (1/9/16)
	10		vs #5/4 Duke (11/17/15)
	10		WRIGHT STATE (11/20/15)
	10		ALABAMA (02/23/16)
	10		at Florida (3/1/16)
3 PT FG PERCENTAGE	.167	(2-12)	ILLINOIS STATE (11/30/15)
	.200	(2-10)	WRIGHT STATE (11/20/15)
	.200	(2-10)	ALABAMA (02/23/16)
	.200	(3-15)	BOSTON U. (11/24/15)
FREE THROWS MADE	4		VANDERBILT (01/23/16)
	8		vs Ohio State (12/19/15)
	8		FLORIDA (02/06/16)
FREE THROW ATTEMPTS	6		VANDERBILT (01/23/16)
	14		vs Ohio State (12/19/15)
	14		MISSOURI (01/27/16)
	14		FLORIDA (02/06/16)
FREE THROW PERCENTAGE	.435	(10-23)	at Vanderbilt (02/27/16)
	.500	(10-20)	OLE MISS (01/02/16)
	.500	(13-26)	BOSTON U. (11/24/15)
REBOUNDS	29		#16/15 LOUISVILLE (12/26/15)
	31		at #4/3 Kansas (01/30/16)
	31		vs Alabama (03/11/16)
	31		vs Georgia (03/12/16)
ASSISTS	8		ILLINOIS STATE (11/30/15)
	8		at LSU (01/05/16)
STEALS	2		at Alabama (1/9/16)
	2		at Tennessee (02/02/16)
	2		FLORIDA (02/06/16)
	2		TENNESSEE (02/18/16)
	2		at Vanderbilt (02/27/16)
	2		vs Alabama (03/11/16)
BLOCKED SHOTS	1		WRIGHT STATE (11/20/15)
	1		at LSU (01/05/16)
	1		vs Alabama (03/11/16)
TURNOVERS	4		ALABAMA (02/23/16)
	5		at Vanderbilt (02/27/16)
	5		vs Georgia (03/12/16)
FOULS	12		MISSOURI (01/27/16)
	15		ALABAMA (02/23/16)

Opponent - GAME LOWS

POINTS	48		GEORGIA (02/09/16)
	53		ALABAMA (02/23/16)
	54		MISSOURI (01/27/16)
	57		NJIT (11/14/15)
	57		VANDERBILT (01/23/16)
FIELD GOALS MADE	11		GEORGIA (02/09/16)
	16		VANDERBILT (01/23/16)
FIELD GOAL ATTEMPTS	48		ALABAMA (02/23/16)
	48		vs Alabama (03/11/16)
FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE	.220	(11-50)	GEORGIA (02/09/16)
	.309	(17-55)	NJIT (11/14/15)
3 PT FIELD GOALS MADE	1		ALBANY (11/13/15)
	2		vs USF (11/27/15)
	2		at Arkansas (01/21/16)
3 PT FG ATTEMPTS	10		vs USF (11/27/15)
	11		at UCLA (12/03/15)
	11		GEORGIA (02/09/16)
3 PT FG PERCENTAGE	.071	(1-14)	ALBANY (11/13/15)
	.167	(2-12)	at Arkansas (01/21/16)
FREE THROWS MADE	8		ILLINOIS STATE (11/30/15)
	8		ARIZONA STATE (12/12/15)
FREE THROW ATTEMPTS	10		ILLINOIS STATE (11/30/15)
	14		EKU (12/9/15)
FREE THROW PERCENTAGE	.432	(16-37)	at Florida (3/1/16)
	.533	(8-15)	ARIZONA STATE (12/12/15)
REBOUNDS	20		MISSISSIPPI STATE (01/12/16)
	23		NJIT (11/14/15)
ASSISTS	4		ALBANY (11/13/15)
	4		vs Alabama (03/11/16)
STEALS	0		GEORGIA (02/09/16)
	0		ALABAMA (02/23/16)
BLOCKED SHOTS	0		ALBANY (11/13/15)
	0		ARIZONA STATE (12/12/15)
	0		MISSISSIPPI STATE (01/12/16)
	0		GEORGIA (02/09/16)
TURNOVERS	5		at Vanderbilt (02/27/16)
	5		at Florida (3/1/16)
FOULS	10		VANDERBILT (01/23/16)
	13		at Auburn (01/16/16)

Kentucky - INDIVIDUAL GAME HIGHS

Points	35		Jamal Murray vs Florida (02/06/16)
	33		Jamal Murray at Vanderbilt (02/27/16)
	33		Jamal Murray vs Ohio State (12/19/15)
	30		Ulis, Tyler vs #17/17 Texas A&M (03/13/16)
	28		Jamal Murray vs Tennessee (02/18/16)
Field Goals Made	13		Jamal Murray vs Florida (02/06/16)
	13		Jamal Murray vs Ohio State (12/19/15)
Field Goal Att.	23		Jamal Murray vs Ohio State (12/19/15)
	22		Jamal Murray at Auburn (01/16/16)
FG Pct (min 5 made)	1.000	(5-5)	Marcus Lee vs EKU (12/9/15)
	.875	(7-8)	Alex Poythress vs Alabama (03/11/16)
	.875	(7-8)	Alex Poythress vs Boston U. (11/24/15)
3-Point FG Made	8		Jamal Murray vs Florida (02/06/16)
	7		Derek Willis vs Tennessee (02/18/16)
	7		Jamal Murray vs Ohio State (12/19/15)
3-Point FG Att.	12		Jamal Murray at Tennessee (02/02/16)
	12		Jamal Murray vs Ole Miss (01/02/16)
3-Pt FG Pct (min 2 made)	1.000	(2-2)	Ulis, Tyler vs Alabama (03/11/16)
	1.000	(2-2)	Derek Willis vs Mississippi State (01/12/16)
	1.000	(2-2)	Tyler Ulis vs USF (11/27/15)
Free Throws Made	14		Tyler Ulis at Arkansas (01/21/16)
	12		Ulis, Tyler at Tennessee (02/02/16)
Free Throw Att.	15		Tyler Ulis at Arkansas (01/21/16)
	14		Ulis, Tyler at Tennessee (02/02/16)
FT Pct (min 3 made)	1.000	(10-10)	Jamal Murray vs Wright State (11/20/15)
	1.000	(8-8)	Derek Willis vs Georgia (03/12/16)
	1.000	(7-7)	Ulis,Tyler at Auburn (01/16/16)
	1.000	(6-6)	Jamal Murray at Alabama (1/9/16)
	1.000	(6-6)	Ulis, Tyler vs Boston U. (11/24/15)
	1.000	(6-6)	Tyler Ulis vs #5/4 Duke (11/17/15)
	1.000	(6-6)	Labissiere, Skal vs NJIT (11/14/15)
	1.000	(5-5)	Ulis, Tyler vs Alabama (03/11/16)
	1.000	(5-5)	Ulis, Tyler vs Mississippi State (01/12/16)
	1.000	(4-4)	Ulis, Tyler vs Tennessee (02/18/16)
	1.000	(4-4)	Dominique Hawkins vs Georgia (02/09/16)
	1.000	(4-4)	Jamal Murray at Tennessee (02/02/16)
	1.000	(4-4)	Alex Poythress vs Missouri (01/27/16)
	1.000	(4-4)	Labissiere, Skal vs EKU (12/9/15)
	1.000	(4-4)	Ulis, Tyler at UCLA (12/03/15)
	1.000	(4-4)	Alex Poythress vs Wright State (11/20/15)
	1.000	(4-4)	Isaac Humphries vs Albany (11/13/15)
	1.000	(4-4)	Derek Willis vs Albany (11/13/15)
	1.000	(3-3)	Alex Poythress vs EKU (12/9/15)
	1.000	(3-3)	Jamal Murray vs USF (11/27/15)
Rebounds	13		Marcus Lee at RV/#20 South Carolina (2/13/16)
	13		Alex Poythress vs EKU (12/9/15)
Assists	14		Ulis, Tyler vs LSU (03/05/16)
	12		Tyler Ulis at RV/#20 South Carolina (2/13/16)
Steals	6		Ulis, Tyler vs Ole Miss (01/02/16)
	4		Isaiah Briscoe vs Ole Miss (01/02/16)
	4		Jamal Murray vs #5/4 Duke (11/17/15)
Blocked Shots	6		Labissiere, Skal vs LSU (03/05/16)
	5		Labissiere, Skal vs Missouri (01/27/16)

	5	Marcus Lee vs Arizona State (12/12/15)
	5	Marcus Lee vs EKU (12/9/15)
Turnovers	7	Jamal Murray vs #16/15 Louisville (12/26/15)
	5	Isaiah Briscoe at RV/#20 South Carolina (2/13/16)
	5	Isaiah Briscoe vs Illinois State (11/30/15)
	5	Jamal Murray vs Wright State (11/20/15)
	5	Tyler Ulis vs Albany (11/13/15)
	5	Jamal Murray vs Albany (11/13/15)
Fouls	5	Alex Poythress vs #17/17 Texas A&M (03/13/16)
	5	Isaiah Briscoe at Florida (3/1/16)
	5	Alex Poythress at Florida (3/1/16)
	5	Alex Poythress at Vanderbilt (02/27/16)
	5	Isaac Humphries at RV/#24 Texas A&M (02/20/16)
	5	Marcus Lee at RV/#24 Texas A&M (02/20/16)
	5	Labissiere, Skal vs Georgia (02/09/16)
	5	Isaac Humphries vs Georgia (02/09/16)
	5	Marcus Lee vs Florida (02/06/16)
	5	Alex Poythress at Tennessee (02/02/16)
	5	Ulis, Tyler at Tennessee (02/02/16)
	5	Alex Poythress at #4/3 Kansas (01/30/16)
	5	Marcus Lee at #4/3 Kansas (01/30/16)
	5	Derek Willis at #4/3 Kansas (01/30/16)
	5	Skal Labissiere at #4/3 Kansas (01/30/16)
	5	Marcus Lee at Arkansas (01/21/16)
	5	Jamal Murray at Auburn (01/16/16)
	5	Marcus Lee vs Mississippi State (01/12/16)
	5	Marcus Lee at LSU (01/05/16)
	5	Alex Poythress at LSU (01/05/16)
	5	Labissiere, Skal vs Ole Miss (01/02/16)
	5	Marcus Lee vs Ohio State (12/19/15)
	5	Labissiere, Skal vs Arizona State (12/12/15)
	5	Alex Poythress at UCLA (12/03/15)
	5	Derek Willis at UCLA (12/03/15)
	5	Isaiah Briscoe vs Illinois State (11/30/15)
	5	Marcus Lee vs #5/4 Duke (11/17/15)
	5	Skal Labissiere vs #5/4 Duke (11/17/15)
Minutes	45	Ulis, Tyler vs #17/17 Texas A&M (03/13/16)
	45	Tyler Ulis at RV/#24 Texas A&M (02/20/16)
	45	Tyler Ulis at #4/3 Kansas (01/30/16)
	44	Jamal Murray vs #17/17 Texas A&M (03/13/16)
	42	Jamal Murray at RV/#24 Texas A&M (02/20/16)

OPPONENT INDIVIDUAL GAME HIGHS

Category	Value		Player / Game
Points	33		Selden Jr., Wayne at #4/3 Kansas (01/30/16)
	32		Danuel House vs #17/17 Texas A&M (03/13/16)
	29		Obasohan, Retin vs Alabama (02/23/16)
	27		Egbunu,John at Florida (3/1/16)
	27		Punter, Kevin at Tennessee (02/02/16)
	27		Lee, Damion vs #16/15 Louisville (12/26/15)
Field Goals Made	12		Egbunu,John at Florida (3/1/16)
	12		Selden Jr., Wayne at #4/3 Kansas (01/30/16)
Field Goal Att.	23		Danuel House vs #17/17 Texas A&M (03/13/16)
	20		Selden Jr., Wayne at #4/3 Kansas (01/30/16)
	20		Canty, Kareem at Auburn (01/16/16)
	20		Lee, Damion vs #16/15 Louisville (12/26/15)
	20		Akoon-Purcell,DeVaug vs Illinois State (11/30/15)
FG Pct (min 5 made)	1.000	(5-5)	SIMMONS, Ben at LSU (01/05/16)
	.875	(7-8)	Amile Jefferson vs #5/4 Duke (11/17/15)
3-Point FG Made	6		Edwards, Arthur vs Alabama (03/11/16)
	5		Canty, Kareem at Auburn (01/16/16)
3-Point FG Att.	13		Danuel House vs #17/17 Texas A&M (03/13/16)
	12		Canty, Kareem at Auburn (01/16/16)
3-Pt FG Pct (min 2 made)	1.000	(3-3)	Harris, Tyler at Auburn (01/16/16)
	1.000	(2-2)	Robinson,Devin at Florida (3/1/16)
	1.000	(2-2)	Austin, Brandon vs Alabama (02/23/16)
	1.000	(2-2)	Lang, TJ at Auburn (01/16/16)
	1.000	(2-2)	Thomas, Fred vs Mississippi State (01/12/16)
	1.000	(2-2)	EPPS, Aaron at LSU (01/05/16)
	1.000	(2-2)	Holiday, Aaron at UCLA (12/03/15)
Free Throws Made	11		CARRERA, Michael at RV/#20 South Carolina (2/13/16)
	10		Obasohan, Retin vs Alabama (02/23/16)
	10		Punter, Kevin at Tennessee (02/02/16)
Free Throw Att.	15		CARRERA, Michael at RV/#20 South Carolina (2/13/16)
	14		VICTOR II, Craig at LSU (01/05/16)
FT Pct (min 3 made)	1.000	(9-9)	Moody, Stefan vs Ole Miss (01/02/16)
	1.000	(8-8)	Maten, Yante vs Georgia (02/09/16)
	1.000	(6-6)	Schofield, Admiral at Tennessee (02/02/16)
	1.000	(6-6)	Newman, Malik vs Mississippi State (01/12/16)
	1.000	(5-5)	Reischel, Jarelle vs EKU (12/9/15)
	1.000	(4-4)	BLAKENEY, Antonio vs LSU (03/05/16)
	1.000	(4-4)	Danuel House at RV/#24 Texas A&M (02/20/16)
	1.000	(4-4)	Frazier, J.J. vs Georgia (02/09/16)
	1.000	(4-4)	Greene, Brannen at #4/3 Kansas (01/30/16)
	1.000	(4-4)	Roberson, Jeff vs Vanderbilt (01/23/16)
	1.000	(4-4)	Norris, Riley at Alabama (1/9/16)
	1.000	(4-4)	Loving, Marc vs Ohio State (12/19/15)
	1.000	(4-4)	McIntosh, MiKyle vs Illinois State (11/30/15)
	1.000	(4-4)	Mosely, Cheddi vs Boston U. (11/24/15)
	1.000	(4-4)	Coleman, Tim vs NJIT (11/14/15)
	1.000	(4-4)	Andrews, Jamir vs Albany (11/13/15)
	1.000	(3-3)	Gaines, Kenny vs Georgia (03/12/16)
	1.000	(3-3)	QUARTERMAN, Tim vs LSU (03/05/16)
	1.000	(3-3)	Jones, Damian at Vanderbilt (02/27/16)
	1.000	(3-3)	Mostella, Detrick at Tennessee (02/02/16)
	1.000	(3-3)	Wright, Namon vs Missouri (01/27/16)
	1.000	(3-3)	Ware, Gavin vs Mississippi State (01/12/16)

	1.000	(3-3)	Bolden, Jonah at UCLA (12/03/15)
Rebounds	15		Amile Jefferson vs #5/4 Duke (11/17/15)
	13		Moore, Armani at Tennessee (02/02/16)
Assists	8		Anthony Collins at RV/#24 Texas A&M (02/20/16)
	7		QUARTERMAN, Tim at LSU (01/05/16)
	7		Holiday, Aaron at UCLA (12/03/15)
Steals	7		SIMMONS, Ben vs LSU (03/05/16)
	4		Coleman, Tim vs NJIT (11/14/15)
	4		Rowley, Mike vs Albany (11/13/15)
Blocked Shots	6		Marshall Plumlee vs #5/4 Duke (11/17/15)
	5		Spencer, Horace at Auburn (01/16/16)
	5		Thompson, Trevor vs Ohio State (12/19/15)
Turnovers	8		Foreman, Kyle vs Boston U. (11/24/15)
	6		SIMMONS, Ben vs LSU (03/05/16)
	6		THORNWELL, Sindarius at RV/#20 South Carolina (2/13/16)
	6		Mann, Charles vs Georgia (02/09/16)
	6		Bowers, Cinmeon at Auburn (01/16/16)
	6		PETERS, Roddy vs USF (11/27/15)
Fouls	5		Mann, Charles vs Georgia (03/12/16)
	5		Robinson,Devin at Florida (3/1/16)
	5		Roberson, Jeff at Vanderbilt (02/27/16)
	5		Frazier, J.J. vs Georgia (02/09/16)
	5		Thompson, Trey at Arkansas (01/21/16)
	5		Sword, Craig vs Mississippi State (01/12/16)
	5		Lee, Paris vs Illinois State (11/30/15)
	5		Griffin, Roland vs Illinois State (11/30/15)
	5		Havener, Nick vs Boston U. (11/24/15)
	5		Karena, Michael vs Wright State (11/20/15)
	5		Thomasson, Joe vs Wright State (11/20/15)
	5		Rowley, Mike vs Albany (11/13/15)

2015-16 Kentucky Men's Basketball
Kentucky Team Game-by-Game Comparison (as of Mar 13, 2016)
All games

Opponent	1st	2nd	Score	Mar	Total FG	FG Pct	3-Pointers	3FG Pct	Free Throws	FT Pct	Rebounds		Assist	T/Over	Block	Steal	Fouls
ALBANY	38/27	40/38	78-65	+13	28-50/25-58	.560/.431	6-17/1-14	.353/.071	16-24/14-22	.667/.636	34/28	+6	16/4	20/15	8/0	6/9	21/26
NJIT	36/28	51/29	87-57	+30	32-69/17-55	.464/.309	5-21/5-19	.238/.263	18-24/18-22	.750/.818	54/23	+31	14/8	14/14	9/2	6/6	18/22
#5/4 Duke	37/31	37/32	74-63	+11	30-67/22-54	.448/.407	3-10/5-13	.300/.385	11-18/14-23	.611/.609	39/39	-	15/9	9/16	7/8	9/3	21/20
WRIGHT STATE	39/26	39/37	78-63	+15	25-47/21-58	.532/.362	2-10/6-14	.200/.429	26-37/15-17	.703/.882	37/27	+10	9/8	12/12	1/1	5/5	17/33
BOSTON U.	40/33	42/29	82-62	+20	33-64/20-54	.516/.370	3-15/8-24	.200/.333	13-26/14-18	.500/.778	45/27	+18	15/9	12/17	5/2	12/6	18/22
USF	42/21	42/42	84-63	+21	31-62/26-56	.500/.464	6-13/2-10	.462/.200	16-19/9-15	.842/.600	37/31	+6	16/5	8/14	5/4	9/2	17/17
ILLINOIS STATE	31/31	44/32	75-63	+12	22-51/25-70	.431/.357	2-12/5-20	.167/.250	29-46/8-10	.630/.800	39/37	+2	8/8	15/16	9/2	6/5	19/32
UCLA	29/37	48/50	77-87	(10)	25-66/28-53	.379/.528	8-25/5-11	.320/.455	19-25/26-34	.760/.765	37/38	(1)	12/16	8/10	2/3	6/5	27/18
EKU	50/36	38/31	88-67	+21	35-64/26-65	.547/.400	4-19/5-18	.211/.278	14-20/10-14	.700/.714	50/25	+25	18/11	17/13	9/1	3/7	17/19
ARIZONA STATE	32/31	40/27	72-58	+14	24-55/23-62	.436/.371	6-21/4-20	.286/.200	18-26/8-15	.692/.533	36/36	-	15/6	14/17	8/0	6/5	20/24
Ohio State	25/37	42/37	67-74	(7)	25-63/26-64	.397/.406	9-19/9-18	.474/.500	8-14/13-17	.571/.765	40/42	(2)	14/10	12/11	5/7	6/9	17/16
#16/15 LOUISVILLE	44/36	31/37	75-73	+2	24-52/27-63	.462/.429	11-23/4-14	.478/.286	16-25/15-22	.640/.682	29/39	(10)	12/8	15/15	6/1	4/5	19/21
OLE MISS	46/22	37/39	83-61	+22	33-66/20-50	.500/.400	7-25/3-14	.280/.214	10-20/18-26	.500/.692	41/27	+14	18/7	12/16	2/3	13/6	25/19
LSU	27/37	40/48	67-85	(18)	24-58/30-61	.414/.492	7-20/6-14	.350/.429	12-23/19-30	.522/.633	32/46	(14)	8/17	14/9	1/4	3/8	25/17
Alabama	38/28	39/33	77-61	+16	28-51/18-52	.549/.346	2-9/7-24	.222/.292	19-30/18-27	.633/.667	43/25	+18	12/5	11/7	5/7	2/3	23/24
MISSISSIPPI STATE	39/31	41/43	80-74	+6	28-55/27-51	.509/.529	9-23/6-13	.391/.462	15-20/14-16	.750/.875	33/20	+13	16/8	17/19	4/0	7/5	21/20
Auburn	35/30	35/45	70-75	(5)	25-72/21-55	.347/.382	6-18/12-26	.333/.462	14-18/21-31	.778/.677	48/38	+10	15/9	11/13	7/7	7/2	25/13
Arkansas	36/24	44/42	80-66	+14	26-62/22-55	.419/.400	5-16/2-12	.313/.167	23-30/20-31	.767/.645	43/34	+9	9/12	6/9	9/5	5/3	25/23
VANDERBILT	37/27	39/30	76-57	+19	33-60/16-50	.550/.320	6-19/5-15	.316/.333	4-6/20-25	.667/.800	32/32	-	12/8	7/12	3/3	6/3	19/10
MISSOURI	47/20	41/34	88-54	+34	34-65/18-57	.523/.316	9-20/4-14	.450/.286	11-14/14-19	.786/.737	47/28	+19	18/7	11/15	11/2	6/4	12/15
#4/3 Kansas	46/40	30/36	84-90	(6)	33-62/26-56	.532/.464	5-23/8-17	.217/.471	13-22/30-47	.591/.638	31/42	(11)	15/13	16/15	6/1	10/5	33/20
Tennessee	42/36	35/48	77-84	(7)	26-62/23-56	.419/.411	7-22/8-19	.318/.421	18-23/30-34	.783/.882	36/37	(1)	15/12	11/8	4/3	2/3	26/19
FLORIDA	50/32	30/29	80-61	+19	30-58/21-53	.517/.396	12-20/6-19	.600/.316	8-14/13-20	.571/.650	37/28	+9	19/10	10/10	5/1	2/4	18/17
GEORGIA	42/24	40/24	82-48	+34	29-56/11-50	.518/.220	10-21/3-11	.476/.273	14-22/23-27	.636/.852	34/36	(2)	13/5	7/15	7/0	8/0	20/20
RV/#20 South Carolina	42/27	47/35	89-62	+27	31-64/18-55	.484/.327	11-25/4-14	.440/.286	16-21/22-31	.762/.710	38/39	(1)	17/7	12/16	5/8	6/3	21/20
TENNESSEE	36/30	44/40	80-70	+10	26-62/22-58	.419/.379	11-24/5-14	.458/.357	17-23/21-30	.739/.700	45/39	+6	13/7	8/7	4/3	2/1	19/17
RV/#24 Texas A&M	36/35	32/33	77-79	(2)	27-54/28-72	.500/.389	10-20/9-24	.500/.375	13-17/14-24	.765/.583	36/41	(5)	15/18	9/7	7/1	3/5	21/15
ALABAMA	33/21	45/32	78-53	+25	27-59/17-48	.458/.354	2-10/6-15	.200/.400	22-28/13-18	.786/.722	41/29	+12	15/6	4/12	5/4	6/0	15/23
Vanderbilt	39/36	23/38	62-74	(12)	23-55/26-62	.418/.419	6-22/6-16	.273/.375	10-23/16-23	.435/.696	37/39	(2)	10/11	5/5	7/3	2/1	22/16
Florida	36/32	52/47	88-79	+9	29-55/29-68	.527/.426	7-10/5-18	.700/.278	23-32/16-37	.719/.432	45/35	+10	19/15	13/5	8/2	3/4	27/24
LSU	41/32	53/45	94-77	+17	38-72/28-62	.528/.452	7-18/5-20	.389/.250	11-17/16-21	.647/.762	45/29	+16	26/9	11/12	6/3	3/8	16/17
Alabama	37/27	48/32	85-59	+26	30-55/19-48	.545/.396	13-22/9-26	.591/.346	12-16/12-19	.750/.632	31/27	+4	18/4	7/13	1/4	2/2	16/14
Georgia	44/49	49/31	93-80	+13	29-58/28-57	.500/.491	9-21/8-19	.429/.421	26-30/16-21	.867/.762	31/29	+2	10/8	5/12	5/5	6/3	18/24
#17/17 Texas A&M	34/38	37/33	82-77	+5	28-58/28-66	.483/.424	10-24/6-23	.417/.261	16-24/15-22	.667/.682	35/41	(6)	13/11	13/13	6/4	9/5	18/20

Note: Game totals are displayed in the format TEAM/OPPONENT for each category

1948 1949 1951 1958 1978 1996 1998 2012

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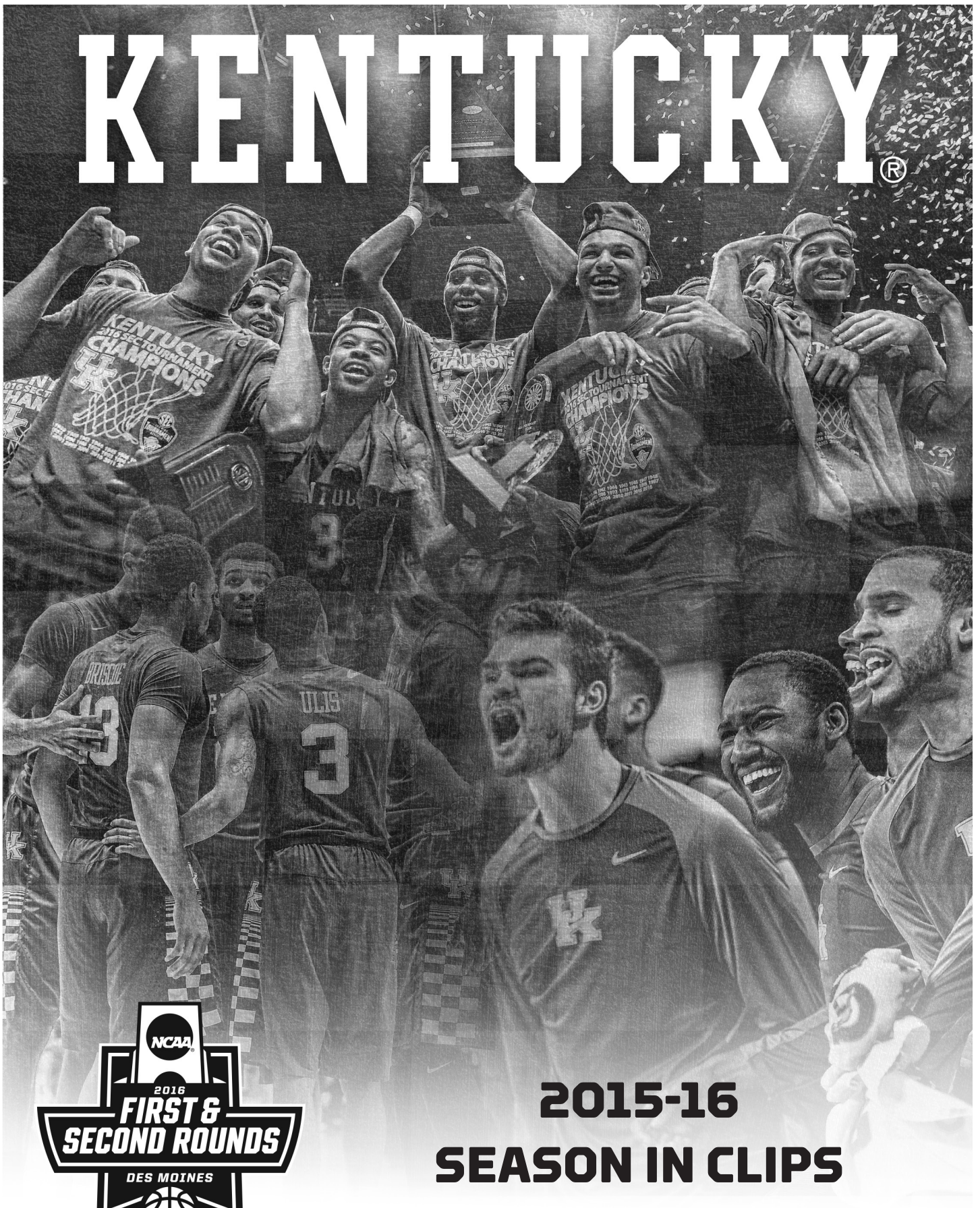
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Meet the Wildcats: Like artwork, Matthews looks to create unique identity

By Metz Camfield| CoachCal.com | July 29, 2015

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Artwork is as unique as the stripes on a zebra's back.

There's street art, water color, oil and acrylic. There are sculptures, abstract paintings and conglomerations that to some appear to be an oddly formed pile of scraps, but to others is a masterpiece that tells a story. Whatever it is, no two pieces of art are exactly same.

For incoming Kentucky guard Charles Matthews, that individuality, that ability to be oneself while playing off the style of others, is something that he admires, even if his own credentials as an artist are up for debate, according to his friends.

"I like art because people get to express themselves," Matthews said in an exclusive interview with CoachCal.com. "If you look at a lot of artists, everybody has their own style, their own sense of culture, and all of their art represents them in some ways."

With that said, he's not into art history, and has no interest in studying art as a major in college. But in terms of street art, Matthews can't help but smile just thinking about it.

Among his favorite artists is Hebru Brantley, a street artist from his hometown of Chicago, who uses everything from spray paint, to oil, to coffee to make his images come to life.

Similarly, Matthews attempts to employ many different tools and styles of play on the basketball court to get the job done. Described by head coach John Calipari as a "slasher," Matthews says getting to the basket is his strength, "but that's not what I'm limited to."

A middle child, Matthews, credits his parents as having the greatest personal impact on his life and his older and younger brother as having the greatest impact on his life in basketball. A former skateboarder — "skinny jeans and everything," he laughed — on the South Side of Chicago, Matthews got serious about basketball midway through his freshman year as the light came on for him about his basketball abilities.

Coached by Gary DeCesare at St. Rita, a former coach at DePaul, Matthews matured at a young age and realized what he does off the court can have an impact on what he wants to be and do on it. With that perspective in mind, the 6-foot-5 guard said he made sacrifices and focused on how he carried himself.

"I have to give up a lot of things a normal, average teenager wouldn't have to," he said. "I wouldn't say that I couldn't live a teenage life, because I still did that, but I just couldn't participate in a lot of things that a lot of my peers were doing."

Instead, Matthews continued working on his game and became a top-15 prospect nationally before suffering nagging groin and ankle injuries that he attributed to a lack of stretching. The result of the injuries was a drop in his rankings by various recruiting services to around 50th in the country.

"I really don't listen to outside sources," said Matthews, a self-described laid back player who doesn't try to ever get above the moment, but instead tries to go with the flow of the game. "I just keep my circle tight and I know how good I can be and that's really all that matters with me."

In what is regarded by most as a top-two class in the country, Matthews has flown under the radar of fellow incoming freshmen Isaiah Briscoe, Skal Labissiere and Jamal Murray, but says he's fine with the analysts talking about them.

"Might not be talking about me now, but later on down there I'm pretty sure they will," he said.

He lists Kobe Bryant and Anfernee Hardaway as his favorite players, among others, but says he doesn't like to mold his game after just one player, referring back to his love for individuality instead.

"I just like to take bits and pieces from each and every one to create this – how can I say this – Megatron or whatever Charles Matthews," he said. "Just be myself."

Ask him what his personal goals are, and Matthews will give you a team goal instead, which is to win a national championship. He admits that everybody has individual goals, but he doesn't like to focus on them.

"I really feel the better you are as a team, the more individual awards you will receive anyway, so I just really try to focus on being a great team player and having lots of team success," Matthews said.

The 2014-15 Wildcats would certainly agree with that mindset. Despite playing limited minutes, Willie Cauley-Stein was a consensus first team All-American and the Southeastern Conference Defensive Player of the Year. Karl-Anthony Towns was a second team All-American and the SEC Freshman of the Year. And, oh yeah, the Cats had an NBA-record tying four players taken in the lottery and an NBA-record tying six drafted.

"It motivated me a lot just seeing those guys I've played against and their dreams are coming true," Matthews said of the NBA Draft. "I'm just hoping one time my turn will be soon.

"I feel the sky is the limit so I just continue to look myself in the mirror and think, 'Why can't I be the best player?' That's what really does motivate me to go out and work hard."

One guy who will help Matthews in his pursuit of reaching the top will be sophomore point guard Tyler Ulis, an artist with the basketball who is able to penetrate and dish, find the open man or sink a floater. The two played AAU ball together with the Meanstreets team in Chicago, and stayed in touch throughout the 2014-15 season as Ulis and the Cats went on their historic run.

Coach Cal actually recruited Matthews initially before then seeing Ulis and recruiting him.

"It's crazy how life works, isn't it?" Matthews said.

Having his former point guard at Kentucky didn't influence his decision to be here, but it was an added benefit, he said.

"We're really cool," Matthews said. "Tyler is a great guy and a great point guard. We've played with each other in the summer time with Meanstreets, and we created a bond over that. We just continue to get one another better and compete with each other.

"I think it will help me tremendously and will also help the team out," Matthews added when asked about playing together, "because us together, we can be pretty good and I feel we have a great team around us as well so we can do some scary things this year."

And the idea of doing scary things is one shared by his head coach, who has already asked the returners, "Why not do something special again this year?" While watching the Cats reel off 38 straight wins, Matthews said he was cheering them on and was one of their biggest fans, wanting to see nothing but the best.

With that said, Matthews also believes there's no pressure on the current group of Wildcats to match what the past team accomplished. Like artwork, the Chicago native believes every team, player and season is unique.

"Each and every team is different," he said. "Each and every player is different. Each and every year is going to be different, so we're just going to try to create our own identity and be the best we can be.

"I feel we have great players as well, so I'm like, Why not shock the world? Why not go ahead and win the national champi-

onship?"

Meet the Wildcats: A journey unlike any other, Labissiere arrives at UK embracing competition

By Metz Camfield | CoachCal.com | Aug. 5, 2015

On Jan. 12, 2010, Skal Labissiere's life changed forever.

The day started off just like any other for Labissiere, 14 years old at the time, except that his dad picked him up from school instead of his mom. Later, that would prove to be a blessing in disguise.

Because it was his dad who had picked him up, Labissiere ran inside when he got home to say hello to his mother and little brother while his dad stayed outside to work on fixing a basketball hoop that Skal and his little brother, Elliot, played on. With basketball practice scheduled for later that day, Skal went to wash his hands before getting something to eat. It was at that point that his life, and the lives of millions of others, was affected forever, as the epicenter of a 7.0 magnitude earthquake hit just 16 miles from his home in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

"I ran to my mom, my little brother ran and had just enough time to make it there. Then the house just collapsed on us," Labissiere said in an exclusive interview with CoachCal.com. "The only reason my dad didn't come inside the house was because of the basketball goal. He was fixing it. I remember just being there and how fast it happened. I thought I was dreaming at first. I just shook my head and was like, 'Wow, this is really happening.' "

A computer desk was the only thing that stopped the wall to their side from crumbling on top of them, essentially saving their lives. The first thing Skal could remember was hearing his brother screaming about his foot, which had been caught in the rubble. Though he couldn't see where they were coming from behind the now ruined houses of Port-au-Prince, screams from people elsewhere echoed into the wreckage.

Because Skal's dad was outside during the earthquake, he knew to look for them amid the rubble. Had he not been outside, who knows if or when the Labissieres would have been rescued from underneath their now demolished home.

"I remember us just praying and doing our repentance prayers because I thought I was going to die," Skal said. "That was the only thing that was going through my mind. I remember my dad being on the outside. He came around and started screaming my mom's name to see if we were alive, and she answered. It took him about two, three more hours to get us out of there."

Both Skal and his younger brother had trouble walking immediately after the earthquake because their legs had been trapped for so long, and his mother received a cut on the nose by her eye. That there was nothing more was truly a blessing.

The Labissieres slept on the street that night, eventually ignoring the frequent rumble of the earth that continued to shake every 5-10 minutes in the aftermath of one of the largest earthquakes Haiti had ever seen. They continued to live in a tent for a long time after that for fear of going inside a house or school that might come crumbling down from aftershocks measuring a magnitude of 5.0 or greater.

Despite the disaster and everything that ensued, Labissiere maintains an admirable and impressive outlook on the event.

"I think about it a lot," he said. "To see where I am today, where God put me today, I believe that everything happens for a reason."

Instead of asking "Why us?" Labissiere and his family were thankful to be alive. Their next step was to get Skal to the United States as quickly as possible.

Throughout his life, Labissiere's dream was to play in the NBA. With no college basketball games on TV in Haiti, Labissiere often watched the Los Angeles Lakers and his favorite player, Kobe Bryant. It wasn't Kobe's jumper or his high-flying dunks that drew him to the game; it was his drive, work ethic and competitive spirit that enamored him the most.

"I just love working," Labissiere said. "It might be painful at the time, but at the end of the day I know I'm going to get better. It's just temporary, like the pain I'm going through when I'm working out. But after workouts I just feel like I got better. I just like to take it a day at a time, step-by-step, and it's just a process. I really enjoy it."

With that kind of mindset, it should come as no surprise that Labissiere wanted to get to the United States much sooner rather than later, but his father was hesitant to have him leave home until he was about 16-18 years old. Following the earthquake in 2010, Labissiere's father quickly changed his mind and said, "Skal, you're getting out of here."

Labissiere moved to Olive Branch, Miss., a small town of just over 30,000 at the northern most part of Mississippi, just outside of Memphis, Tenn., where he lived with his guardian, Gerald Hamilton. While Memphis is a big city with a lot going on, Olive Branch is a small town where "people know each other."

Initially, the move was difficult for Skal, who had to get accustomed to American food.

"I remember trying to eat a burger, I would take a bite of it and throw the rest away because it tasted so weird to me," he said. "The chicken was different. I remember my family at home cooking for me and I didn't really feel like eating other food sometimes."

Skal, with a determination as strong as any anyone's, continued working hard toward his dream of playing basketball professionally, and he tried to live a normal life in what was anything but. He has not been back to Haiti since his move to the States, but his parents have come to visit and he talks to them on the phone frequently. There was also of course the language barrier to overcome.

One thing that did translate was basketball.

After playing well in camps as a freshman in high school, Labissiere began to move up recruiting rankings quickly, but he said he never paid too much attention to them because "it's just a ranking." What did get his attention was when John Calipari and the University of Kentucky began recruiting him.

"To be honest, (Coach Cal) didn't really have to give (a recruiting pitch) because I watched Kentucky for myself," Labissiere said. "I've been watching them since freshman year – actually every year since they had Brandon Knight and made it to the Final Four that year, and the next year I watched Anthony Davis and I loved the way he used Anthony Davis. I remember watching the Kentucky All-Access show the following year with Nerlens Noel and all those guys. ... (Coach Cal) didn't really have to tell me a whole lot because his track record speaks for itself. I just really wanted to come here."

Labissiere is a player who doesn't shy away from competition. In fact, he embraces it. Instead of going to a school where he could load up on shots and pad his stats, the 7-footer chose to go to a place where he was going to be challenged.

On a visit to UK, he played pick-up ball against the Cats and got "killed" by Willie Cauley-Stein, who he said went to work on him. Instead of shying away from the competitiveness of the pick-up games though, Labissiere relished it, ultimately making his

decision that much easier.

"I'll find any way that can make me better," Labissiere said. "I thought coming here was going to make me better so that's what I chose to do. I remember coming here on my visit and I saw what the level of competition was – there was nothing compared to this at the other schools I visited. I love competition, I love getting better, I love playing against the best because that's going to make me a better player."

That work ethic then makes sense when you hear what his career goals are.

"At the end of the day I'm trying to better myself because one day I want to be a hall of famer," Labissiere said. "That's my goal. I want to be a hall of famer one day."

As for college, Labissiere's goal is to bring a ninth national championship banner to Lexington.

"I think we have the team and the talent to do it," he said. "We have a great group of guys. … We love each other and love playing with each other, and we have a great coaching staff. I think we have a chance to make it to the national championship. We just recently got Jamal Murray. Me and him are really good friends and I think that's a huge addition for us. We have a chance to make it to a championship and win it."

A self-professed great teammate and very coachable player, Labissiere believes he can only control his controllables. Can he guarantee 30 points in a game? No, he says, but he can make sure to run and dive on the floor, block shots and play hard. Labissiere, who says he "loves" school, is enjoying Lexington already and is excited about the independence that accompanies being away at college.

Despite being an 18-year-old living more than a thousand miles away from home, Labissiere is able to keep everything in perspective and have not only an appreciation, but an admiration for hard work and competition, thanks to what happened on that fateful day in January of 2010 when his life changed forever."

"That's why I am very thankful for life," Labissiere said. "I understand that it can be taken away from me at any moment, at any second. It was a terrible thing that happened, but I think I learned a lot from it and it made me into the person I am today."

Kentucky's Jamal Murray Is Putting The NBA On Notice Long Before He Even Arrives
By Jonathan Wasserman | Bleacher Report | Aug. 5, 2015

Just a few months ago, Jamal Murray was a standout guard in Canada expected to graduate high school in 2016. He's now the hottest prospect eligible for the 2016 NBA draft.

Murray's late rise started in April, when he tore up the Nike Hoop Summit with 30 points in front of dozens of NBA scouts. It led to him reclassifying and accepting an offer to play at Kentucky in the fall.

His resume and image have only continued to strengthen. Despite being more than eight years younger than the average participant, according to Synergy Sports Technology, Murray was recently a force in the Pan American Games, where he averaged 16 points and helped confirm the Summit breakout as legit.

His success at the Games may also end up earning him an invite to play with Canada in the FIBA Americas Championships (August 31 to September 12)—a tournament in which the top two countries qualify for the 2016 Rio Olympics. Though he never jumped out as a big-time athlete or physical specimen—wrinkles that had previously seemed to limit his perceived ceiling and NBA upside—his recent impact against noteworthy competition has just been too convincing.

Murray's most persuasive pitch to scouts: a 22-point stretch during the fourth quarter and overtime that helped sink Team USA on July 24.

"It was one for the ages, especially against the United States, against seasoned pros; some NBA players, some fringe NBA players," Canada's assistant general manager Rowan Barrett told the Courier-Journal's Kyle Tucker.

At 18 years old, Murray took over with unstoppable playmaking and shotmaking during the game's final 15 minutes. It highlighted the offensive firepower he packs, as well as some eye-opening poise and confidence.

"He always had the ability to compartmentalize big moments. Those moments really never got too big," Murray's coach at Orangeville Prep, Larry Blunt, told Bleacher Report. "Even as a youngster, he just had a maturity that was unbelievable for a young man his age."

"The bigger the stage, the bigger he's performed," said Blunt. "And history repeats itself."

Murray compensates for a lack of burst

with exceptional ball skills and basketball IQ. At 6'5", he has good size for a 2-guard, along with the handle and off-the-dribble game to create at the point.

Either way, Murray remains a scorer at heart with terrific offensive instincts. He shakes defenders left and right using hesitation and change of speed. And he's awfully crafty in the lane, with the ability to hit floaters and other awkward shots off one foot on the move.

However, it's Murray's perimeter game that separates him and ultimately translates to points in bunches.

He's lethal from outside, both with the stop-and-pop and spot-up jumper from downtown. Murray knocked down 40.7 percent of his threes at the Pan Am Games after sinking three of seven triples at the Nike Hoop Summit.

And though you wouldn't categorize him as a distributor, Murray has strong timing and feel when setting the table for teammates off ball screens and penetration.

"A lot of people don't realize how well he can facilitate and pass," said Blunt. "He averaged almost nine assists a game for us. He can really create and create for others. Because he scores it so well, people are quick to call him a 2-guard."

Murray's versatility should ultimately go a long way for him at Kentucky, where coach John Calipari has run with the philosophy of playing positionless basketball. Chances are Murray will be setting up from all different spots and angles as a freshman.

With Tyler Ulis returning to the Wildcats' backcourt as a sophomore, and Isaiah Briscoe, another incoming freshman ballhandler, also expected to play, Murray's fit and role with Kentucky should become a talking point early on.

The big question is how well Murray adapts to sharing the rock, and even playing off it.

As Jonathan Givony of DraftExpress points out, "Murray tends to get quiet and somewhat passive when he isn't the focal point of the action."

"He's great with the ball," Blunt said. "He can really, really create and facilitate for others, and he can really score. I think he's best when he has the ball for sure."

Suiting up alongside Ulis and Briscoe will certainly take some adjusting for Murray, who, compared to his days in high school, will have less freedom and fewer opportunities to make things happen and build individual rhythm.

Murray should receive reps this year both managing the offense and working

from the wing. And as the season progresses, I'd imagine there will be regular debate over Murray's true position, as well as his NBA potential and draft stock.

"He's a point guard," Blunt said. "He's like a Jason Kidd type. I'd say he's a better shooter than when Kidd came out of high school or college."

While scouts I've reached out to have refrained from pegging Murray as a future NBA star this early in the process, his size, skills, intelligence and production are bound to fuel big-name comparisons throughout the year.

His former coach even believes Murray is actually better suited for the pros than college, where his green light won't be as bright and the floor won't be as open.

"I think his game translates more to the NBA because he can create his own shot, create space and do those things," said Blunt.

With more and more scorers emerging as primary ball-handlers in today's NBA, Murray's dangerous one-on-one attack—which he pads with a willingness to look for teammates—will certainly be coveted by general managers searching for a new lead guard.

He could very well be the first point off the board in what's expected to be a lottery dominated by wings, forwards and bigs. Expect the top-five buzz surrounding Murray to start up early in 2015-16.

Kentucky coach Calipari humbled by Hall of Fame induction

By Teresa Walker | Associated Press | Sept. 10, 2015

LEXINGTON, Ky. – Words usually come easily for John Calipari when he gets to talking about basketball.

And he has been known to ramble on once he gets going.

Lately though, he's been struggling. The Kentucky coach is trying to choose the right words to thank everyone during his 10-minute speech at this weekend's induction in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. The list is long, and time is short.

It's actually been pretty nerve-racking for the boisterous Calipari.

"We've taken down a few trees trying to get this thing, believe me," he said of trying to keep his acceptance speech within the time limit. "I've changed it 6,000 times to shorten it, shorten it. Let's put it this way: I don't want to be that guy."

Calipari, 56, is part of an 11-member class entering the Hall in Springfield, Massachusetts. Among the other inductees are

former Wildcat and ABA star Louie Dampier; Boston Celtics greats Tom Heinsohn and Jo Jo White; and Spencer Haywood, whose lawsuit opened the door for college underclassmen to enter the NBA draft.

Calipari has taken full advantage of that landmark decision, prepping a pipeline of "one-and-done" players for the pros at Kentucky and Memphis while taking those schools and UMass to Final Fours.

Former Wildcats coach Joe B. Hall believes Calipari's successful resume' despite the succession of short-timers at Memphis and Kentucky proves his Hall worthiness.

"He's done it in spite of that handicap," said Hall, a Calipari confidant and College Hall of Famer himself. "I think this honor makes you reflect on the road you've taken and the opportunities you've had. John has certainly arrived."

Calipari didn't have the same level of success at the NBA level, where he was 72-112 over parts of three seasons with the New Jersey Nets. He was a Philadelphia 76ers assistant under Larry Brown, who will be among a trio of Hall of Fame presenters including former Kentucky star Pat Riley and Julius "Dr. J" Erving.

For Calipari, taking his place among the greats hasn't really sunk in.

"I don't see myself as one of those guys," said the Pittsburgh-area native, saying his success has been rooted in getting opportunities at good programs. "I mean, first ballot? It's the ultimate pat on the back, a thank you for players, coaches and contributors and officials."

While Calipari's success is being validated, the road to the Hall of Fame hasn't been totally smooth. There have been a few pot holes along the way.

The NCAA vacated UMass' 1996 Final Four appearance and Memphis' 2007-08 season and runner-up finish for violations involving stars Marcus Camby and Derrick Rose, respectively. Calipari was not implicated in either instance.

Those vacated berths have left Calipari with an adjusted college record of 593-176 in 23 seasons as well as fuel for critics.

While UMass plans to honor Calipari this season, Memphis canceled a dinner planned for December hours after announcing the benefit on Thursday. Calipari left Memphis to take the Kentucky job, and took several recruits with him.

Memphis President M. David Rudd received resistance to the idea from fans and issued a statement on Twitter citing "genuine distress" at the idea of honoring Calipari.

The coach views getting called by the Hall as perhaps the biggest vindication of

his career.

"I'm not worried about those people," Calipari said of his detractors, before Memphis announced its change of plans. "Those aren't the people that helped us get to where we are. They're going to have a tough weekend."

Calipari, on the other hand, plans to live it up.

He will have a throng of well-wishers including this year's Kentucky squad, which has the tall order of following a top-ranked team that finished 38-1 and featured six players taken in the NBA draft.

There'll probably be too many supporters to count, though the only number that's on Calipari's mind these days is 10; he's got to get the timing of that speech down.

Outsider no more: Calipari in Hall of Fame

By Kyle Tucker | Courier-Journal | Sept. 11, 2015

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. – John Calipari says a lot of things for effect, but on Thursday he seemed instead affected as he told a crowd at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame: "I never thought I'd be standing up here," having just slid his arms into the official jacket to kick off three days of enshrinement celebration.

While this year's 10 other inductees spoke, Calipari's eyes kept wandering upward, toward the ceiling, where his picture is now alongside all the greats.

"I was looking at the founders of the game," he said. "I had friends of mine who are Hall of Famers that said, 'You're going to get there, up on that stage, and there's going to be an emotion that goes through your body when you realize you're in the fraternity.'"

Thursday's press conference was just a warm-up. Friday night is the official ceremony, where Calipari's primary objectives are to avoid crying and giving a speech so long he gets the hook.

"I'm kind of nervous and excited," he said. "I'm feeling stuff I normally don't feel."

Because this is a place he never thought he belonged – or at least that he never believed he'd be accepted. Despite leading Massachusetts, Memphis and Kentucky to the Final Four (the Cats have now been four times in the last five years), Calipari has always seen himself as a party crasher and not an invited guest.

"He never put it explicitly, but it was always pretty clear how much it meant to him to get on what he considered the

right side of the rope, and it bothered him that he wasn't accepted, arms wide open, by the establishment," said CBS analyst Gary Parrish, who covered Calipari for the Memphis Commercial Appeal from 2001 to 2006. "He'd always been the UMass coach or the Memphis coach, but he'd never been the Carolina coach or the Kansas coach. And there was a time it didn't look like he would get that opportunity."

The Kentucky job, which Calipari now credits with legitimizing him as a Hall of Famer, came open two years before he actually got it.

"He would've killed for that job. He didn't even get a phone call," said Parrish, who has probably spent more time around Calipari than any reporter. At UK, where he is inundated with media requests, Calipari has built a wall around himself. But back then, he communicated daily with the Tigers' only newspaper beat writer via text message or phone call – or not uncommonly by Parrish interviewing the always-in-a-hurry coach through a shower curtain after practice.

All of that to say: "I know that hurt him on some level when he couldn't even get a phone call from Kentucky when it opened, when Jay Wright got a phone call, and Rick Barnes got a phone call, and obviously Billy Gillispie got a phone call," Parrish said. "I think he thought at that moment he was forever going to be an outsider, and that was always going to bother him."

Because to Calipari, it didn't matter if he won 30 games at UMass in 1992 or 35 games – including one against eventual national champion Kentucky – in 1996. It didn't matter if he won at least 33 games each of his final four seasons at Memphis, including a trip to the NCAA title game.

If he didn't do it as coach of a traditional power, "you're not getting the respect you deserve," Calipari said Thursday. "You know the kind of program we had at Memphis? There was a 5-year period we were as good as anyone – maybe in the last 50 years. But we didn't get that kind of respect."

But then, in 2009, after the Gillispie hire proved to be disastrous, the Wildcats finally came calling. When they did, Calipari's career went supersonic. And on that stage, everyone was watching.

"It's just different," he said. "It's got a different ring to it."

Calipari will also have a different ring – in addition to his 2012 national championship jewelry – by the end of this weekend: the ring worn by just five other active Hall of Fame coaches. He has invited nearly everyone he knows to come celebrate the moment.

His expected guest list for the ceremony includes 15 former Memphis players, 20 former Kentucky players (and the current roster), 27 former UMass players – stars Marcus Camby, Derrick Rose, Anthony Davis, John Wall and Karl-Anthony Towns among them – plus 158 other friends, family and staff.

"He told me he looked at the Hall of Fame as 'that thing for those guys.' He never thought that he would be accepted into that company, especially with the controversy he's had for most of his career," said Sporting News columnist Mike De-Courcy, acknowledging Calipari's vacated Final Fours at UMass and Memphis – and the in-your-face style Calipari used to get attention and rub many the wrong way when he was starting out.

The coach chose DeCourcy, who he's known since the late 1980s, to write an article about Calipari for the official Hall of Fame program. DeCourcy also wrote an exhaustive, five-part series on his path from underdog to enshrinement for TSN.

"In the time I spent with him to do the program piece, I saw a side of him that I'd never really seen in 30 years," DeCourcy said. "He was genuinely moved by the fact that he was invited in on the first ballot. I don't think giddy is quite on the money, but it wasn't far from that."

Calipari's joy, surprise even, was apparent Thursday as he scanned those photos of James Naismith and John Wooden and Dean Smith with a look of wonder. He's in their club now. The emotion was evident as his eyes welled up while he tried to describe how Camby helped him launch this Hall of Fame career.

"I think it's the ultimate moment for him where he can finally say, 'I've been accepted by the establishment,'" Parrish said. "Like, 'I am Mike Krzyzewski. I am Roy Williams. I am Rick Pitino.' I don't know that he ever expected this, but I know he always wanted it."

Reloaded UK basketball aims to finish job

By Kyle Tucker | Courier-Journal | Oct. 1, 2015

LEXINGTON, Ky. – And for his next trick, Kentucky basketball coach John Calipari will lose seven players to the NBA draft and still attempt the seemingly impossible feat of following a near-perfect season in which his Wildcats set an NCAA record by winning their first 38 games before falling in the Final Four.

The crazy part: After reloading with another top recruiting class, Calipari still has six former five-star prospects and a potential No. 1 overall pick on his roster. And with no obvious juggernauts heading into the 2015-16 season, Kentucky looks like one of the best teams in America yet again.

Incredibly, Las Vegas was taking bets on another undefeated run this summer.

Calipari was not.

"Last year's team was an anomaly," he said. "That should be thrown out. Don't ever look at it, don't compare. If you tell me about that team, stop, just don't tell me, because that may never happen again."

Sophomore point guard Tyler Ulis hopes it doesn't.

As much fun as that ride was, he was inconsolable after UK came up two wins short of college basketball's first 40-0 season – and more notably to him, just shy of claiming the program's ninth national championship. In the losing locker room back in April, Ulis said that single smudge ruined the whole picture for him.

Time supposedly heals all wounds. So all these months later, has he gained some perspective?

"Still feel that same way," Ulis said. "I've thought back a little bit like, 'We still went 38-1,' but I still feel like it doesn't matter. Our goal was to win the national championship, not go 40-0. We wanted to do that, of course, but at the end of the day we wanted to win a national championship.

"It eats at me so much. I hate it. I still think about it almost every day, like, 'I can't believe we lost.'"

Ulis, junior forward Marcus Lee and senior forward Alex Poythress, the three former McDonald's All-Americans who stuck around after last season, are all similarly motivated by the lingering sting of that defeat. For Poythress, a 6-foot-8, 230-pound freak athlete who never expected to be in college two years, much less four, it's even more urgent.

Inconsistent play delayed his NBA dream through last year, and a torn ACL in December forced him to come back again, becoming the first Calipari recruit to stay four years at UK. The injury also cost Poythress a chance to help the Wildcats in their Final Four rematch with Wisconsin, a game he greatly impacted the year before.

He's experienced almost everything – a rare NIT appearance for the Cats his freshman year, an NCAA title game as a sophomore, major injury and an historic run his junior season – except cutting down the one net that matters most.

"It's going to drive me a lot," Poythress said. "We were so close. So close two years ago, so close last year. So close you can taste it."

The veterans hope their fire and Calipari's annual infusion of fresh talent, which included five-star freshmen Skal Labissiere, Jamal Murray and Isaiah Briscoe, can propel UK to the only thing that will soothe the disappointment: banner No. 9.

This team won't be as deep and likely not as dominant, and a non-conference schedule that includes Duke, UCLA, Arizona State, Ohio State, Louisville and Kansas could deliver a few early speed bumps, but the blend of proven veterans and elite newcomers looks like a recipe with which the Cats' Hall of Fame coach can cook up a contender.

"He's up there right now just scheming," said Murray, pointing to Calipari's office overlooking Kentucky's practice gym. "It's going to be interesting to see what he has for us."

Murray is a versatile, 6-4 guard who can play anywhere in the backcourt. His stock skyrocketed this summer after he dominated against grown men and led the Canadian national team to its first medal at the Pan-Am Games. Now a projected NBA lottery pick, Murray was widely viewed as the missing piece in Calipari's fast-tracked rebuilding plan when he signed in late June.

"They needed one more guy," he says, shrugging off that distinction, "but they have enough guys on this team to do something really special anyways. When you look around the room, and you just look at everybody individually, we have a lot of talent. We have so many weapons, everybody's so good, it's hard to point to one piece."

Sound familiar? There won't be enough for a repeat of the platoon system, but there are elite players at every position and in all shapes, sizes and skill sets. There's a trio of point guards — 5-9 Ulis, 6-3 bulldog Briscoe and Murray — which Calipari plans to play all together at times.

There's Poythress and the springy 6-9 Lee, plus 6-11 Labissiere (the possible top pick) and another late recruiting addition, 7-foot, 260-pound Australian freshman Isaac Humphries. Junior-college transfer Mychal Mulder (6-4) is a sharpshooter and top-100 freshman Charles Matthews (6-6) is a lockdown defender and high-flying finisher.

That's enough talent to leave home-grown juniors Dominique Hawkins and Derek Willis scratching for whatever's left of the playing time. Calipari won't force

the issue on sharing minutes this time around.

"This isn't the eighth-grade league. I did what I did last year because I had no choice. Everybody deserved to play," Calipari said, but "some of my best teams, I've played five guys, six guys. I mean, my best teams."

Like the one that did what last season's remarkable team could not. His 2012 national champions had six guys play 26-plus minutes per game, and those Cats also won 38 games — just in a more satisfying order. Of course, those six guys all bolted for the NBA, and Kentucky nose-dived the next season.

These Cats hope to avoid a similar fate, but it does beg an interesting question: Why would anyone want to follow an act like that?

"I'm always up for a challenge," Murray said. "It's great to see what they did last year, but we're trying to create our own story and hopefully win a championship. That's our goal. I don't see why this team can't go all the way."

Walking on to a dream
By Kevin Erpenbeck| CoachCal.com | Oct. 2, 2015

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Donning that official UK blue and white jersey is a dream many young basketball players have, whether they are from Kentucky or not.

It's that kind of dream that UK's newest walk-ons, Dillon Pulliam and Jonny David, decided to pursue when they forwent scholarships and possible starting time at different Ivy and Patriot League schools for an opportunity to play in Lexington under head coach John Calipari.

Pulliam, a 6-foot-3 guard from Cynthiana, Ky., transferred from Transylvania University. Being a Kentucky native, he knows all about what it's like to root on the Cats, especially since his whole hometown was right there rooting with him.

"I grew up watching the program," Pulliam said. "I would watch the games on my TV and have my little (basketball) goal out, shooting on end, dreaming of being in the moment."

The sophomore recalled the days of watching some of his favorite players come through the Kentucky doors, like Tayshaun Prince and UK Hall of Famer Keith Bogans. But recently, with all the success and exceptional talent the Cats have had, Pulliam said it's hard to really pick a favorite player from this generation.

All the more reason to be a part of such a successful system.

"I mean, it's history," Pulliam said. "All the great players that have come through here. It was always a dream."

Pulliam averaged 4.8 points and 3.4 rebounds while playing in 25 games at Transylvania. Before that, he went to Harrison County High School, where he was named to the All-10th Region Team three times and MVP in the district tournament. Pulliam scored over 1,000 points for Harrison County, finished fifth all-time in career scoring, third in 3-point field goals and played in the most games in school history.

But one of Pulliam's fondest memories of his playing days came in a game where he recorded nine 3-pointers, which is also a school record.

"I think I hit my first seven, and I think they were all in the first half," Pulliam said. "Then the other team didn't let me hardly touch the ball and I ended up with like two more in the second half. I think I ended up going like 9-for-11, so it was one of those days where I looked at the (basketball) goal and it was like four-feet wide. I felt like everything was going in that day."

That marksmanship was something of an identity that he developed during his early playing days until his junior year of high school, when he honed in on other skills like ball handling and increasing his strength.

But while he said he can always fall back on his shot, he wants the Big Blue Nation, a group he was once a member of, to know that he will always be a hard worker at UK and continue to push for that Kentucky success, like the players who did before him.

"Growing up here, I know how crazy it is and how awesome it is," Pulliam said. "The fans are incredible. So I'm going to come to practice every day and give it my all; do whatever the coaches ask of me. And whenever I get a chance to play, be ready."

While David may not have grown up in Kentucky as a Cat fan like Pulliam, he's still very familiar with the success of the program. When deciding where he wanted to go for his collegiate career, the 6-2 guard said it wasn't a hard decision when he really thought about it.

"It's Kentucky basketball," David said. "It's the best in the country; best guys every year. Just to be down here and play against them, become a better basketball player and learn from them. You have a Hall of Fame coach and just learning from him too … listen to everything he says, everything he tells you to do. You listen because he's a Hall of Fame coach for a reason. It's just something I wasn't going

to pass up."

David comes from Mt. Lebanon High School, where he averaged 18.5 points per game during his senior year and earned all-state honors.

But nothing could compare to the final regular season game of David's high school career. In a packed gym during triple-overtime, the guard hit the game-winning 3 to win the Section Championship for his team.

"It was a great atmosphere," David recalled. "It was one of those games where we just weren't going to lose. It was our senior night and it was definitely a good turnout."

During his senior year, schools like Navy, Bucknell and Princeton were recruiting David, telling him they were interested in bringing him in. But once he received the opportunity to be a walk-on at UK, David said he stopped listening to all other offers.

"I just kind of told them I had the opportunity to go to Kentucky as a walk-on, so I'm taking it," David said. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I wasn't going to pass it up."

David knew of the previous walk-ons at UK, like last year's Tod Lanter, who he met at the team's orientation meeting earlier this year. Through some meetings with the coaches and seeing the success of the 2014-15 team, David knows exactly what's expected of him.

"I'm just going to work as hard as I can and become a better basketball player," David said. "I'll learn from everyone, from the veterans. Hopefully push them and make them better. They had an amazing season last year and to think I could be a part of that. It's something I've been thinking about for a long time."

That dream of playing for Kentucky basketball is no longer just a thought to Pulliam and David. It's a reality.

Meet the Cats: Floreal awaiting opportunity to shine, will 'be ready for that moment'
By Jerry Tipton| Lexington Herald-Leader | Oct. 4, 2015

LEXINGTON, Ky. – Seven times in a conversation lasting seven minutes or so, EJ Floreal said he merely wants to help. This modest ambition gains poignancy when you consider that in his first two seasons for Kentucky he's played a total of 24 minutes, scored three points and grabbed two rebounds.

Apparently, UK Coach John Calipari has emphasized that Floreal is making a contri-

bution.

"I mean, Cal has told me that even in the past, when I've felt like I haven't been able to help this team that much, that I've helped them so much," Floreal said. "It's stuff that people don't see.

"I don't need people to see it. I just want to make an impact on this team."

A year earlier, Floreal drew comfort from someone seeing it. ESPN analyst Jay Bilas watched Floreal work out prior to UK games in the Bahamas, and noted the player's improvement.

"For somebody like Jay Bilas, who's watched the best of the best back to LeBron (James) in high school or even Kobe (Bryant) in high school before that, for him to say I look good and I'm improving and he's pulling for me, that was really big," Floreal said this time last year.

Entering the 2015-16 school year, Floreal offered a more philosophical take on his place in the UK pecking order.

"It's a sacrifice," he said. "Everybody has to sacrifice. It's a sacrifice I was willing to make for not only the betterment of myself as a player and as a man, but the betterment of the team."

Not that Floreal, now a junior, has resigned himself to being, at best, a practice player.

"Of course, I want to get into the games and play," he said. "I mean, that's what every kid wants to do. If they tell you otherwise, that's not true. I've been working really hard to, hopefully, get that opportunity. And if that opportunity comes, I don't want to put the blame on anyone but myself if I'm not ready. Then, that's on me."

You don't have to search long to find moments when little-used players found themselves face to face with the chance to help. Most recently, Jon Hood came off the bench in the first half at Mississippi State in 2014 to spark a listless UK team.

"I always think, and for the past two years I've said the same thing: a possibility, a moment could happen," Floreal said. "And I've just always worked really hard to be ready for that moment whenever it comes."

Hood as hero did not stun Floreal. "I knew how hard 'Hoodie' worked," he said. "And I knew what he could do. And he was ready for his moment."

Much the same occurred in the opening game of the 2012-13 season when — who's he? — Jarrod Polson surprised Maryland with a 10-point, three-assist, no-turnover performance. In his first two seasons, Polson had scored a total of seven points and had an assist-to-turnover

ratio of 1-to-8.

"It is a motivator," Floreal said of these starbursts.

While he prepares for fate to afford him a similar chance, Floreal said he continues to try to improve. "The skills are better," he said.

No doubt it helps to be from a family of athletes who know the ups and downs of competing. His father, Edrick, and mother, LaVonna, were Olympians.

"It definitely helps that I have a background of professional athletes in my parents," Floreal said. "They're able to give me a lot of wisdom, a lot of guidance that maybe a lot of other parents wouldn't necessarily know."

One such moment came when Floreal tore an anterior cruciate ligament while at Lexington's Paul Laurence Dunbar High School. "I was really discouraged and thought my dreams were just over," he said. "And my dad told me: stuff happens. You just have to keep working hard. If this is what you really want to do, then you're going to do it."

The Old New Guy: Mulder balancing leadership, learning
By Guy Ramsey| CoachCal.com | Oct. 5, 2015

LEXINGTON, Ky. – Mychal Mulder came on campus and joined a set of teammates with whom he had never played. Knowing their time together would be limited, Mulder knew they would have to jell in short order.

They did, and Mulder left school for bigger and better things after a wildly successful two-loss season that saw him earn All-America honors.

Sound like something close to a best-case scenario for Mulder's junior season at Kentucky?

Maybe so, but it's a script Mulder already wrote at his previous stop, Vincennes University.

"In the years I spent there, as a freshman I kind of looked to the sophomores for leadership and to set the tempo a little bit," Mulder said. "About halfway through that year, I kind of knew what was expected at that level. As a sophomore coming back from a pretty strong team in our first year, me and a pretty big group of guys as sophomores, we were able to take on pretty much any team in the country. We wanted to make a name for ourselves."

Mulder, averaging 15.7 points and 6.4 rebounds per game during his final season at Vincennes, made enough of a name for himself that John Calipari came calling.

Even though Mulder grew up far away from Lexington in Windsor, Ontario, the 6-foot-4 wing knew exactly what Coach Cal was offering with that scholarship.

"I was aware of UK when it comes to basketball since I was little," Mulder said. "Kind of a hard program to miss if you watch basketball."

Mulder knew he wasn't going to find a spotlight brighter than the one he'd play under at UK. He also knew he wasn't going to find a tougher challenge anywhere else. Mulder could have gone somewhere else and stepped immediately into a featured role, but instead he's embracing everything that comes with being a Wildcat.

Though it was on a smaller scale, Mulder made similar decisions both in choosing to attend a different high school than his friends and going far away to Vincennes.

"I could have gone closer to home and stuff like that but I knew that my coach there (Vincennes' Todd Franklin) was going to be really tough on us and really hard-core on us and make us the best he could," Mulder said. "That's what he did and it turned out to be great. So I wouldn't see a point in switching now and taking the easy way out and going somewhere else when I know this is going to make us the best players that we can possibly be, is in this building right here."

That will also be the place where the Cats seek to build the same kind of team chemistry that carried Vincennes to a 33-2 record. Mulder plans to apply the lessons he learned through that process.

"It gave me a little bit of experience in that area of how important team bonding is, how important it is to know everybody and be close with everybody," Mulder said. "Sacrifice. You gotta sacrifice something for the team sometimes. You're not always going to do exactly what you want and that's perfectly fine because at the end of the day team accomplishments will get you individual accomplishments and what you want."

Mulder's experience gives him a unique perspective compared to his fellow newcomers. It's one he hopes to put to good use.

"I feel like it's exciting to be in that situation where I'm a junior and they could look to me and some of the older guys for leadership and mentorship, whatever they need," Mulder said. "Just as a great teammate in general. To any of these guys, I just want to be a great teammate and to be thought of as the guy who's always working as hard as I can and they know I'll run through a wall for them and I know they'll

do the same for me. I think that's an exciting experience in itself."

Two years older than his freshman teammates, Mulder is a veteran in one sense. But in another, he's still playing Division-I college basketball at Kentucky for the first time just like Skal Labissiere, Jamal Murray, Isaiah Briscoe, Charles Matthews and Isaac Humphries.

"It's a balance that you gotta work," Mulder said. "I'm new to UK but I've been a college student before. I'm ready to take on the size of college classes and the course load and stuff like that. The only real difficulty, I gotta find my classes. But other than that, I've played college basketball. Not at this level, but I've played college basketball. So I think that's going to be a positive thing on my time here."

One of many, Mulder hopes.

"I think as players we all just need to come together," Mulder said. "I mean, we've had a great preseason and we've been working really hard. Coming together as a team, it's a work in progress and we're doing pretty well at it. I feel like as long as we continue down that road we'll be fine."

Aussie 7-footer Humphries fills big UK need

By Kyle Tucker | Courier-Journal | Oct. 6, 2015

LEXINGTON, Ky. — John Calipari faced some simple, troublesome math this summer: The NBA subtracted four big men from his Kentucky team (No. 1 pick Karl-Anthony Towns, No. 6 Willie Cauley-Stein, No. 12 Trey Lyles and No. 48 Dakari Johnson) and by late July, he'd signed only one post player to replenish the roster.

"We didn't have enough guys," Calipari said. "We just didn't."

While the backcourt was fully reloaded with four new guards, including a pair of five-star freshmen and a junior-college sharpshooter, the frontcourt was down to 6-foot-8 senior Alex Poythress (coming off knee surgery), 6-9 juniors Marcus Lee and Derek Willis (career backups to this point) and 6-11 freshman Skal Labissiere.

Three of those are former five-star recruits — so no one was shedding any tears for Calipari — but none is nearly as proven at the college level as Towns, Cauley-Stein, Lyles or Johnson, who also stood 6-11, 7 feet, 6-10 and 7 feet. Kentucky wasn't going to be short on talent in 2015-16, but it was going to be short compared to Calipari's previous teams.

And then, seemingly out of nowhere, a solution: 7-foot, 260-pound Australian native Isaac Humphries reclassified from the

2016 recruiting class to 2015 and signed with the Wildcats in August. The top-50 prospect from Sydney, who moved to Indiana to finish high school, was just what UK needed.

"That's what I was thinking about (this summer): We don't have a person like Dakari Johnson who can muscle people and bang with the bigger players," Willis said. "We have Isaac now. It's just going to help us. Also when we go against that in practice — we have somebody we can push around, and they can push us back."

But how did Humphries get from the La Lumiere School in La Porte, Ind., to Lexington without anyone really noticing until the deal was done?

"It was very under the radar, because I kept it under the radar. My circle is close and I like to just keep things very private," Humphries said. "Cal saw me play in Indiana. I came and visited, and then I just committed."

No big deal, except that it is for the Cats.

Fellow UK freshman Jamal Murray had told Calipari how good Humphries could be and that the coach should check him out if he needed a big man. The latter averaged 18.9 points, 11.6 rebounds and 3.3 blocks in leading the Australian U17 National Team to a silver medal in the 2014 FIBA World Championship.

Humphries dropped 41 points and 19 rebounds on Murray's Canadian team during that event.

"Jamal told me what he was. Then I see him, and the kid is really skilled," Calipari said. "I flew in to see him … and it was the worst snow storm. I mean, it was awful. I almost didn't go, (but) I ended up fighting and getting to the gym, and I watched him and I said, 'He's Josh Harrellson.'"

That would be the 6-10, 275-pound former Wildcat who became a second-round NBA draft pick after two seasons under Calipari.

"Same kind of body, only bigger than Josh," the coach said of Humphries. "I just wanted to catch a glance at him because I had a day. And I'm glad I did it, because when they said, 'Hey, he's thinking about reclassifying,' I said, 'Well, he'd be good for us.'"

In Kentucky, Humphries saw opportunity — both to play immediately and to develop for his future. Due to the NBA's age limits, he'll have to play at least two years of college ball. Rare is the top prospect who comes to the Cats already planning to stick around a while.

"What sold me was the level of talent that was here and how much that's going

to lift my game," Humphries said. "I've moved around so much in the past – different teams, different everything – that it's going to be good for me to kind of just be situated and really get used to a place and learn so much in two years."

Not long ago, though, he couldn't have imagined a coach like Calipari or a program like Kentucky wanting him.

"I kind of stopped when I heard that I could potentially be here," Humphries said. "I thought, like, 'Really? Why me?' I'm 17. I didn't know that I was even going to be able to compete at this type of level. But now that I'm here and I've played with the guys, I know that if I work really hard and am determined enough, I'm definitely going to be able to hold my own and contribute to the team."

Veteran players are already singing his praises after summer pickup games and early workouts. Point guard Tyler Ulis raved to Calipari about Humphries' aptitude for pick-and-rolls. He'd put the 7-footer through a series of drills and any time his man left him open, Ulis threw him the ball.

"And the kid made that shot," Calipari said. "Tyler's like, 'This guys' really going to help us.' … Like, he can make 15-footers. He'll make his free throws. Anything around the goal, he makes."

This all comes with a disclaimer: Humphries is so young, his body is not "near ready," Calipari said, to rebound, run the floor or defend the way his new coach expects. But Humphries said he believes those are things he can fix in relatively short order – and he's confident he can score at the college level right now.

"I think I can have an immediate impact, but that's on me," Humphries said. "I need to work, and I need to prove that. I'm not going to come in and automatically play 40 minutes a game. No one is. I'm going to have to really knuckle down and work, but I'm more determined than I have been ever in my life.

"I'm so far away from home, if I'm doing this, I want to do it proper. I don't want to come here and sit on the bench."

Lee prepared for next step in UK career

By Metz Camfield| CoachCal.com | Oct. 8, 2015

LEXINGTON, Ky. – Whatever Marcus Lee is doing, and wherever he is doing it, he always wants to make an impact.

Whether he's in Lexington, Ky., back home in California, or anywhere in between, Lee says he always wants to make an impact on somebody.

Entering his junior season, Lee has accomplished that mission in the community. Now, he has his best opportunity to do it on a consistent basis on the court.

"I feel like I'm just more comfortable, and I think that's what you get with age and more years," Lee said. "You get more comfortable with what you're doing and you don't mind trying to do things you haven't done before. I think that's what's great about being an upperclassman. You're comfortable in your skin."

Lee, who has always seemed comfortable in his own skin, will be seen as one of the leaders on this year's roster, and has already shown signs of that in practice with his communication and positivity. As an upperclassman, he sees it as a role he must take one in order to help the younger ones along the way.

The 6-foot-9 forward was a member of one of the greatest recruiting classes, not only at Kentucky, but in college basketball history. An eight-member class highlighted by six McDonald's All-Americans, Lee is the only five-star recruit who remains.

"You have to go in and be ready to do great things, no matter how long it takes," Lee said. "When you're ready, you're ready. You have to stay ready and that's something you have to keep in your mind. You can't really set a time for yourself."

And Lee has done great things, most notably a 10-point, eight-rebound performance against Michigan in the 2014 NCAA Regional Final that helped propel the Wildcats to their third Final Four in four years. What must happen now is for those performances to occur on a more frequent and consistent basis.

Lee has played just 582 minutes in his two seasons at Kentucky. By comparison, last season then-freshman guard Tyler Ulis logged 882 minutes, exactly 300 more minutes than Lee's career total. But after playing behind Julius Randle, Willie Cauley-Stein and Dakari Johnson as a freshman, and then Cauley-Stein, Johnson and Karl-Anthony Towns as a sophomore, Lee figures to have a greater opportunity for playing time in year three.

Kentucky welcomes in freshmen forwards Skal Labissiere, one of the top prospects in the country, and Isaac Humphries. It also welcomes back senior forward Alex Poythress, who missed most of last season with a torn ACL. Still, throughout the offseason, UK head coach John Calipari predicted big things from Lee during his junior season. Now, Lee says, it's up to him to back up those words.

"You can't really just hear your coach say that and then stop what you're doing just because they're starting to feel good about you," Lee said. "You have to do better and exceed his expectations of what he just said. That's kind of what you have to do as you go throughout the season. You have to actually prove what he's saying."

Lee bulked up over the offseason thanks to the hard work he put in with assistant strength coach Robert Harris. With the added muscle and confidence, Lee can now hold and gain his position in the post easier, and has become much more than just a supremely gifted athlete capable of jumping out of the gym.

"It's what we need right now because when we started off we were all skinny," Lee said. "We didn't have any really big guys. It's really good and helps us.

"We kind of just worked together this offseason. That's kind of the biggest thing we've done. We did everything. We lifted together. We ran together. We worked out together. We played together. That's kind of one of the biggest things we stressed is being together. We have just as many freshmen and new guys as our returning players, so that's something we had to stress to come together."

Off the court, Lee has been a five-star citizen for some time now. In addition to being a member of the basketball team and working hard in the classroom, Lee is the treasurer of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and frequently takes time out of his day to visit and befriend kids at local hospitals, sometimes unbeknownst to his coach.

"I've always been taught that it's how you touch people's lives, not how many people you tell," Lee said. "I didn't really feel like it was that important to tell, because I didn't feel like it was noteworthy. It's not something that you have to go brag about. It's just something that you go do because you have the ability. And since I go to the University of Kentucky and I am a basketball player here, we're held at such high standards. We're able to help people, change people's days, change people's attitudes. I've also tried to take that and help other people."

And now he hopes to begin the next chapter of his basketball career as someone who makes a similarly large impact on the court.

"My expectation this year is just to lead this team and help them out because they're really great players and they know exactly what they want to do," Lee said. "…

Once we find a way to come together as a team, the sky is the limit."

These Cats will go as far as Ulis takes them

By Kyle Tucker| Courier-Journal | Oct. 8, 2015

LEXINGTON, Ky. — One day after Kentucky's Final Four loss in April, coach John Calipari was already thinking about life without what turned out to be seven underclassmen who would declare for the NBA draft. He knew immediately who'd lead the new-look Wildcats this season.

Calipari texted point guard Tyler Ulis: "I'm going to build a team. Get your guys and let's do this again."

Six months later, the coach has delivered on his promise — another No. 1-ranked recruiting class has bolstered the supporting cast — and Ulis has not disappointed in his promotion from understudy to leading man.

"He's got a toughness about him. He wants to win, and he makes everybody better," Calipari said. "You want a general out there that people want to follow. They want to follow him."

The Courier-Journal asked every player on the 2015-16 roster which teammate they'd want with them for a game of 2-on-2, and the vote was nearly unanimous: a 5-foot-9, 160-pound Ulis. No one seemed concerned about his size or the fact he has yet to start a game in college (which is only because Andrew Harrison was still on last year's team).

"Tyler Ulis, any time, any day," freshman forward Skal Labissiere said. "Just because of his competitive nature. Tyler is just such a leader. He wants to win really bad. So I would go to war any day with Tyler."

The diminutive Ulis played with blood streaming down his face during a physical struggle against rival Louisville last season. He nearly got in a fight with a 7-footer from Auburn. And legend has it, during a pickup game on his recruiting visit to UK, Ulis got in the face of massive NBA star DeMarcus Cousins.

"What you hear about him is true," Labissiere said. "He'll do anything to win: guard bigger guys, guys my size, try to push them off the block. With that size and the way he plays, the way he leads the team, he facilitates for his teammates, it's just really easy to play with Tyler."

That's what Calipari is counting on. Ulis, a sophomore who averaged 5.6 points, 3.6 assists, one turnover and one steal in 23.8 minutes per game last season, is the one

known quantity on this year's team. Senior forward Alex Poythress is coming off knee surgery and junior Marcus Lee has so far shown only occasional flashes.

Nearly everyone else is brand new — and apparently looking like it in practice.

"We gotta hope Tyler is so good that we can get by being ugly," Calipari said Wednesday.

The team is already feeding off Ulis' energy and attitude, a vibe that says: Don't worry, I got this.

"That's what everybody loves about him. That's why he is who he is," freshman center Isaac Humphries said. "Tyler's just a natural leader. He conducts and kind of establishes — not the mood, but the flow of practices and pickup."

Proof positive of Ulis' impact: five-star freshman Isaiah Briscoe identifies him as the leader. The two might've clashed, as Briscoe considers himself a point guard too, but have instead hit it off. The uber-confident Ulis views his fellow McDonald's All-American not as a threat but an ally.

"He's just been showing me the ropes," Briscoe said, "how to be a point guard and what to expect in college basketball."

Ulis is electric with the ball, a pest on defense and hit a team-high 42.9 percent of his 3-pointers last season. He said his shot is even sharper now, and Calipari claims he had 25 assists and just three turnovers during a recent three-day stretch of practice.

"Tyler's an amazing point guard," junior-college transfer Mychal Mulder said. "Not only will he knock down shots on demand, any time, and he's extremely aggressive and has that winning mentality, but also he's so unselfish. He'll hit you when you're ready, not when he's ready to hit you."

Calipari used the same phrase as Labissiere: Ulis always "makes it easy" for his teammates. The motivation is not entirely unselfish. Losing in the Final Four after a 38-0 start still haunts Ulis. He wants a title, and he knows he'll need help to get one.

Get your guys and let's do this again.

"Just try to lead them on the court, help them off the court, just make sure everybody's together, make sure everybody's clicking, and make sure no one strays away from the team," Ulis said. "I'm a distributor, but I can score if I need to. If Cal wants me to score more, then that's what I'm going to do. At the end of the day, my job is to lead the team and keep everybody happy. I'm just going to do what I need to do to win."

Meet the Cats: Murray brings kung fu edge to Kentucky

By Jerry Tipton| Lexington Herald-Leader | Oct. 10, 2015

Theodore Roosevelt called it "the crowded hour," the make-or-break time when decisions must be made and action taken. This is Kentucky freshman Jamal Murray's time.

"We just became so accustomed to him making big shots and tough shots in tough moments, it was almost expected," Murray's high school coach, Larry Blunt, said. "He has a knack for the big moment."

Murray's secret? Kung fu.

Because of extensive training in this martial art, Murray believes he is serene during a game's decisive moment while others might be anxious.

"Typically, when the stage gets bigger, most kids of his age tend to speed up and get going a million miles per hour," Blunt said. "It's very clear watching him things really slow down. He's at a pace that's just calm, steady. And you can just tell there's a mental exercise that goes into playing. Moments aren't moving as fast for him."

Murray's father, Roger, trained his son in kung fu. This enabled father and son to train when the winters in Kitchener, Ontario, Canada, made outdoor basketball impossible. Besides, there weren't that many outdoor hoops in Kitchener. So father and son ran and did other mentally challenging conditioning.

"All that fun stuff," Murray said with a chuckle. "We'd just go over mental toughness, and develop a spirit inside you that can always create adrenalin. So whenever you need energy, you can always go to it."

Conversely, the kung fu training enabled Murray to learn to slow his heart rate in stressful situations. It's an ability Murray said he uses often.

"Any time I exercise or work out," he said. "It's breathing. Putting it in perspective. I'm running. Yeah, I'm tired. But I know how to slow my heart rate down."

When other hearts could be beating 180 beats per minute, Murray said, "I'd be 50-something. My heart rate is just calm and cool."

Of course, Kentucky has promoted how it monitors the players' heart rates. The general idea seems to be that more beats equals more exertion. Yet, Murray's heart rate might call for a re-Cal-ibration.

"That is how it is," Murray said of the supposed direct correlation between heartbeats and effort. "It's a training involved that my dad helped me do. He's been great in helping me slow myself

down mentally and physically, and really have a different perspective on the game."

UK Coach John Calipari assured reporters that UK's heart monitoring system is sophisticated enough to factor in Murray's kung fu and not automatically translate a slower heart rate as loafing.

Dr. Ben Kibbler, a Lexington-based orthopedic surgeon who specializes in sports medicine, said that the benefits of martial arts were more difficult to measure than, say, strength or speed. But, he said, "it does exist."

Murray had been surprising Calipari long before Kentucky strapped on a heart monitor. His ability to astound athletically convinced the UK coach that Murray was — in a word — exceptional.

"He's a guy you've got to really watch," Calipari said. "Like, really watch. Because he's sneaky athletic. In other words, he just went up and dunked it over his head? What?! And the speed is like 'where did that come from?'"

When the boundaries of the possible are so ill-defined, Calipari has not been sure exactly how to help Murray optimize this talent.

"I don't even know what his upside is," Calipari said. "Like, when I looked at Karl (Anthony Towns), I knew where I was trying to take him. But this kid just started showing me stuff. Like, what in the world? Where is this going?"

Meet the Cats: High expectations 'not a burden' for Kentucky's Tyler Ulis

By Jerry Tipton| Lexington Herald-Leader | Oct. 13, 2015

LEXINGTON, Ky. – Kentucky sophomore Tyler Ulis will enter the 2015-16 season with all the subtlety of 76 trombones led by drum major Donald Trump. ESPN analysts Seth Greenberg and Sean Farnham saw to that this summer when they said Ulis would be the best point guard in college basketball this season.

"I hope they're right," UK Coach John Calipari said. "I have a lot of faith in them."

For his part, Ulis is aware of the star billing and intent on not being influenced by it.

"People are going to say good things about you," he said. "And then, if you don't live up to their expectations, they're going to say bad things. I just try to stick to what I need to do, what my team and my family expect me to do, and go from there."

Ulis knows how to play point guard. He's played the position since he was 6. He took to it quickly, in part because he

learned to ignore his stepfather's urgings to shoot more.

"I just always tried to play my game and run the team," he said. "The most important thing is to keep everybody happy. ... You have to be making sure he's getting his (and) he's getting his. So there's no conflict within the team."

Ulis and Kentucky deftly handled the makings of a conflict last season. As if keeping 10 players engaged and harmonious wasn't difficult enough, UK played two point guards: Andrew Harrison and Ulis. This was akin to a football team playing two quarterbacks: Comparisons are inevitable.

The potential for conflict will be cubed this season. Kentucky might have three point guards on the floor with freshmen Jamal Murray and Isaiah Briscoe joining Ulis. And then there's junior Dominique Hawkins.

Ulis downplayed the possibility of conflict.

"I think it's going to work because off the court we're really cool," he said. "Me and 'Zay' (Briscoe), we're really close."

Ulis said he knew and got along with Briscoe before they became teammates. "He's my boy," Ulis said.

Briscoe echoed the sentiment. "Tyler's actually been teaching me a lot ... ," he said. "He's more of a big brother to me."

Murray was a relatively late arrival to summer workouts, but "we clicked," Ulis said. "I feel we'll be close friends on and off the court."

As a freshman last season, Ulis came off the bench. Coincidentally, he and Harrison each averaged 3.6 assists.

Of his role this season, Ulis said, "Of course, I'll have to do a lot more with more minutes. We had 10 guys last year, so I really didn't have to do much."

For this, Ulis credited the now departed Karl-Anthony Towns.

"If I didn't feel comfortable, I gave it to Karl and he just does what he wants," Ulis said. "I'll have more responsibility (in 2015-16), and I'm just going to try to show more."

Ulis welcomed the chance at a larger role.

"I love it," he said. "I feel like it's a great thing. I played this game all my life, and I've always been ready for it."

As with the best-point-guard hype, Ulis shrugs off the many tough acts he has to follow as a Calipari point guard. To review, his predecessors include two overall No. 1 picks in NBA drafts (Derrick Rose in 2008 and John Wall in 2010), two other lottery picks (Tyreke Evans in 2009 and Brandon

Knight in 2011), one other first-round pick (Marquis Teague in 2012) and a second-rounder (Harrison).

"It's not a burden on me," Ulis said. "I really don't believe in pressure, as of right now. I may feel it soon.

"I just try to play my game. I'm not trying to live up to anyone's expectations."

UK's Mulder willing to do whatever is asked

By Jon Hale| Courier-Journal | Oct. 18, 2015

LEXINGTON, Ky. – When Kentucky head coach John Calipari brought his 2010-11 team to Windsor, Canada, for a preseason three-game exhibition series he hoped to gain some valuable early experience for a young roster.

Turns out he also made an early impression on a future recruit.

Junior-college transfer Mychal Mulder, a Windsor native, was among the fans in the stands at the St. Denis Centre for games between Kentucky, the University of Windsor and the Western Ontario Mustangs in August 2010. Three years later, Mulder found himself at Vincennes University in Indiana. Almost five years later he would receive the call from Calipari asking him to consider transferring to Kentucky.

"It's hard not to be a Kentucky fan when you like college basketball," Mulder said. "So as soon as we heard that Kentucky was coming to the city to play our team, right away we were on that. I feel like if you enjoy college basketball you shouldn't miss that one."

Mulder, who graduated from Catholic Central High School in Windsor, and his father wanted to get a look at Kentucky's then-freshman point guard Brandon Knight, who had recently signed with the Wildcats as a top-10 recruit. He remembers Kentucky handling the two Canadian teams easily and coming away impressed with the talent on the roster.

"I remember them being really fast, and I remember knowing that there were NBA players in that gym that day," he said. "That was really cool to watch."

Since childhood, Mulder knew he wanted to play basketball in college, but even he had a difficult time imagining himself in a Kentucky jersey when watching Knight and his teammates, who would go on to reach the first Final Four of the Calipari era at UK.

"I wanted to play Division I basketball," Mulder said. "I wanted to play at the highest level. I'm not sure what I imagined for myself at this point in my life back then,

but I knew that was my goal. I wanted to get there."

Now Mulder has a chance to fulfill that dream.

As Calipari missed on several high-profile high school recruits this spring, the sharp-shooting Mulder became an option for the Wildcats.

Mulder earned NJCAA first-team All-American honors this spring after leading a 33-2 Vincennes team in scoring (15.7 points per game), and 3-point shooting (44.7 percent). With Kentucky losing Devin Booker and Aaron Harrison to the NBA draft, there was an obvious need for a shooter on the roster.

Now Mulder finds himself competing with freshman Charles Matthews and juniors Dominique Hawkins and Derek Willis for one of the reserve wing spots in the rotation.

"What he does is he can shoot the ball," Calipari said. "He's a catch-and-shoot guy. He's a good athlete. And he's got to find his way."

When Calipari signed Mulder, he noted the 6-foot-4, 185-pound guard was no stranger to sacrificing individual accolades for the good of a winning team.

While Mulder led Vincennes in scoring and field-goal attempts as a sophomore, he started just 17 of 35 games.

"I think that was something that probably stood out to coach," Mulder said. "Back at Vincennes it wasn't all about me. It was about the team. … Me and those guys were really close, and I feel like that's what made us a really good team at that level."

Mulder has no illusions about the adjustment he faces in moving from junior college to the top tier of Division I basketball.

He knows he is also not guaranteed a spot in the rotation this season, but for now Mulder is working not to worry too much about the competition for minutes.

"We're all competing, but it's all for a common goal," Mulder said. We want to be the best team we can be. To achieve our ultimate goal of a national championship that's what we're going to have to do."

To accomplish that goal, Mulder is willing to do whatever is needed.

"Whatever coach asks of me, I feel like that's something I'm definitely willing to do," Mulder said. "Whether it be to shoot, whether it be to defend, anything that he wants me to do, that's what I'm willing to do."

If you are old school, you should root hard for Alex Poythress this winter

By Mark Story | Lexington Herald-Leader | Oct. 19, 2015

If you are from the masochistic school of Kentucky fandom, you perhaps watch over and over the video of last season's Final Four loss to Wisconsin that ruined UK's bid for perfection.

What you see is Wisconsin forwards Sam Dekker and Nigel Hayes score the three baskets that sank the 38-0 Cats.

The 6-foot-7 Dekker hit a driving layup that cut Kentucky's 60-56 lead in half with 4:26 left. Then the 6-8 Hayes tied the game on a basket that barely beat the shot clock (or didn't beat it). Finally, Dekker drained a cold-blooded three-pointer from the top of the key to give Wisconsin the lead for good, 63-60.

Making a horrid experience even more painful for UK backers is the Wildcats had the perfect player on their roster to lock down those Badgers forwards. Except Alex Poythress was watching on the Kentucky bench that April night in Lucas Oil Stadium because of the torn ACL that ended his junior season after eight games.

"That was very hard," the 6-8, 230-pound Poythress said last week at UK's media day. "I felt like if I was healthy, I would have done a great job guarding and defending them. I wish I could have played. (It was due to) unfortunate circumstances I couldn't. But you don't want to dwell on the past. You figure out what to do and what the next step is."

For Poythress, the "next step" is a place he never envisioned being. When the McDonald's All-American arrived at UK in 2012-13, he expected to punch his ticket on the John Calipari one-and-done gravy train to the NBA.

Instead, Poythress will have a Kentucky Senior Day.

That will give the Clarksville, Tenn., product a piece of UK basketball history. If my math is right, Calipari has signed 32 players as true freshmen since he became Kentucky coach in 2009.

Some holdover Billy Gillispie signees, think Josh Harrellson, Darius Miller and Jon Hood (who spent his entire playing career under Calipari but signed with Billy G.), have had Senior Days under Cal. So have transfers (think Julius Mays, Eloy Vargas etc.) and players who came as walk-ons (think Jarrod Polson, Sam Malone etc.).

Poythress, however, will be the first player Calipari signed as a freshman to hear My Old Kentucky Home in Rupp Arena before the final home game of his senior season.

Yet if his time at Kentucky has not gone the way he expected — and has gone on far longer than he initially intended — Poythress has more than made the most of it. He earned his undergraduate degree in business marketing in just three years. In 2015-16, Poythress will be working toward a master's degree in sports leadership.

Having already been a three-time SEC Academic Honor Roll member, the guy who came to Kentucky hoping to be one-and-done is instead an old-school symbol of what college sports used to be.

"I wouldn't trade this experience for the world," Poythress said of his time at UK. "I've got my degree. I'm working on a master's. Every decision I made (to stay or go), I made on my own. I'm happy with the decisions I've made."

Whether Poythress can produce a Cinderella finish to his UK career, while helping Kentucky compensate for the loss of four front-court players to the 2015 NBA draft, depends on his overcoming the ACL tear in his left knee both physically and mentally.

Calipari last week put Poythress at 75 percent of the way back.

"It takes time," the UK coach said. "Anybody that's had an ACL (injury) will tell you (their) jump is a little off which means their shot is a little off until (they) get back to the rhythm of jumping the same way every time."

For what a healthy Poythress with confidence in his repaired knee could mean, there's another old game video Kentucky fans could study. In UK's rally past Louisville in the 2014 NCAA Tournament round of 16, explosive plays by No. 22 down the stretch were huge.

To get back to that, "you've got to get used to your knee again and trust it," Poythress said.

In the meantime, Alex, now that you are at the ripe old age of 22, do your teammates call you gramps?

"Nah, nobody calls me that," Poythress said with a grin. "I don't feel that old. I might be the oldest on the team, but I'm still close enough to everybody (else's) age."

Kentucky's "Mr. Old School" is not ready to be labeled as Kentucky's "Mr. Old."

UK's Briscoe banishes bravado, takes coaching

By Kyle Tucker| Courier-Journal | Oct. 19, 2015

LEXINGTON, Ky. – Start telling Isaiah Briscoe about the little dance Kentucky coach John Calipari does to imperson- ate him, and the freshman point guard will break into his own impression of the impression. He sees it almost every day.

It's a tongue-wagging, shoulder-shim- mying pantomime of a behind-the-back dribble. When speaking publicly, Calipari uses it to describe the part of Briscoe's game he's trying to tone down. In practice, it's an unspoken reminder to the McDon- ald's All-American.

"I'll do a couple moves, and he'll stop practice," Briscoe said, laughing. "He'll do the little (dance). Then I'll know what he's talking about. 'We're not doing this here, Isaiah.'"

Teammates giddily anticipate these playful interactions, especially fellow point guard Tyler Ulis, a sophomore who has tak- en Briscoe under his wing and helped him to understand the way Calipari coaches his collection of future pros.

"It's hilarious," Ulis said, "because I see when Zay does stuff like that, and I just know Cal's going to stop practice. He's a flashy player. That's how he's always played, but he's learning to play more north and south."

Those are the most important words in Briscoe's life right now. They must replace east and west in his basketball vocabulary. Go forward, not sideways, is the point. Don't dribble just for the sake (or the show) of it, is his coach's constant refrain.

"It's not AND1 Mixtape," Calipari said, referencing the popular streetball tour, although he isn't trying to rob Briscoe of all his creativity. "If you play north-south, you're fine with me. I really don't care what you're doing. We can get you to make good decisions, but north-south. It's the east-west stuff I can't stand. We take ground and we don't give it back."

The 6-foot-3, 202-pound Briscoe, who Calipari calls a "pit bull," said he learned his bad habits, his basketball-as-perfor- mance-art mentality by growing up on the game in New York City, where the play- grounds encourage as much.

Trash talk is just part of that deal, and Briscoe got very good at that, too, by the time he finished high school as a five-star recruit, two-time state champion and gold medalist with Team USA at the U18 FIBA Americas. But Calipari zipped his lips just as quickly as he reset his on-court com- pass.

"He won't play that way here," Calipari said. "He's already starting to change. I'm really pretty happy with how he's doing, but he's got a ways to go. Like, he's never been in anything like this. You want him to be confident, but he'll realize (what's acceptable). He's not a dumb kid."

In fact, Briscoe has smartly taken the cri- tiques of his game as positives. Like most Wildcats, he has NBA aspirations. Draft- Express.com projects him to be selected 18th overall next summer. But that's all about potential, and Briscoe is determined to realize it.

"(Calipari) coaches me, and that's one thing I've been missing," he said. "So when he's giving me structure and telling me what to do, I'm all open ears, and I believe what he's telling me is the best thing. I'm not saying (my way) won't work, but he feels as though I'm a better basket- ball player playing north-south. With his resume, he knows exactly what he's talking about. So I'm going to listen."

This summer, Calipari said he trusted the instincts of Ulis and freshman guard Jamal Murray enough to let them free- lance within the flow of a game at times. They'd typically make the right decision, find the open teammate. But he wasn't there yet with Briscoe.

"Because his instincts might be ..." Cali- pari said, launching into his head-bobbing impersonation.

By last week, though, the coach's tune was changing. NBA scouts who'd just been in town for an on-campus combine were impressed by the evolution in progress.

"He's getting there, I'm telling you," Calipari said. "All the scouts that I talked to just said, 'You know what? You're going to have to play three guards, because he plays. That kid balls.'"

It'll never be this good again

By Chris Fisher| 247Sports | Oct. 23, 2015

The winningest program in the history of college basketball.

Eight national championships spanning five different decades.

Seventeen Final Fours.

Fifty-nine 20-win seasons, 14 30-win seasons.

Forty-eight SEC Championships, 28 SEC Tournament Championships.

Twenty-five consensus First Team All- Americans.

As good as Kentucky basketball has been over the last 112 seasons, you can certainly make the argument that under John Calipari, it's the best it's ever been.

And after entertaining overtures from the NBA on what has become an annual basis only to remain in Lexington, it's looking more and more likely that Calipari will ultimately retire as head coach at the University of Kentucky, which would be string music to the collective ears of Big Blue Nation.

And whenever he does decide to hang it up, it'll be too soon for UK fans because when that time comes, it'll never be this good again.

A quick history lesson, if you'll indulge me.

When Calipari arrived in the spring of 2009, Kentucky was teetering on the edge of obscurity, mired in its longest Final Four drought in school history and slowly becoming a historical foot note in the col- lective consciousness of college basketball.

From day one, Calipari was a massive and instant success, signing John Wall and the rest of the 2009 class and once again, putting Kentucky basketball front and center.

Over the last six years, Calipari has re- habilitated and restored Kentucky's image and in the process, has built the preemi- nent brand in college basketball.

And not only did he transform Kentucky basketball, Calipari brought sweeping change to college basketball across the board with his recruiting approach to one and dones.

Calipari is the Chick-Fil-A of recruiting. He didn't invent the one-and-done, he just perfected it. And the rest of college basketball coaches adopted it.

Calipari has done exactly what he said he would do in Lexington:
1) "Add to the wall."
2) "Return this legendary program back to its rightful place atop the mountain of college basketball."
3) "Make UK the gold standard."

He's also used his platform to raise mil- lions and millions of dollars for both local and national charities through various telethons, alumni games, fantasy camps and other ventures.

No coach has mastered the part-poli- tician, part-coach approach it takes to be head coach at Kentucky. No one has sold or marketed his program more fervently or expertly. If there ever was an off-season for Kentucky basketball, there definitely isn't one now. Calipari constantly finds ways to keep UK's name in the news.

If, by chance, UK basketball is ever bet- ter than it is right now, it'll never be cooler. No coach has given the UK program the celebrity status it's enjoyed under Cali- pari. Drake, whether you like him or not,

is a mega-star and not only did he cut an over-the-top promo for Calipari at Big Blue Madness, he even raps about "rocking Kentucky blue." That's not normal, folks.

Oh, and throw in Lebron James, Jay-Z, Magic Johnson for good measure. The list goes on and on.

No one has shown more swagger or brandished more bravado.

No one was born to be the Kentucky coach quite like Calipari.

But as good as he's been, it's not as though Calipari hasn't been without flaw. His most common criticism among fans has been under-performing in big games, a fair assessment if you consider the Wildcats have been in a position to win a national championship in each of his six seasons, winning just one.

But if you judge a season's success or failure on national championships alone, you're going to fail a lot.

During last season's historic run, it wasn't about the 38 games Kentucky won. It was about the one they didn't.

For UK fans, the only game that matters is the last one. When your appetite is insatiable, all you care about is your next meal and UK fans aren't exactly the types to savor the flavor.

So as counter-intuitive as it is for Kentucky fans to pause, reflect, enjoy and appreciate what Calipari has accomplished, I would implore you to do so. Because it won't last forever and as the current events 70 miles west of Lexington have shown, it can be gone in an instant.

In the historical context of Kentucky basketball, consider these numbers from the Calipari Era:

– Calipari's 190 wins over the last six seasons are the most in the NCAA over that span and the most over a six-year stretch in school history, edging Adolph Rupp's 188 wins from 1946-52 and Rick Pitino's 183 wins from 1991-97. His win percentage (.837) is also the highest in school history, besting Rupp's .821 clip.

– Calipari not only ended the longest Final Four drought in school history (13 years) in 2011, he proceeded to take Kentucky to the Final Four in four of the last five seasons, joining Mike Krzyzewski (!) and John Wooden (!!) as the only coaches in NCAA history to accomplish that feat.

– Calipari has won nearly 75% of his games against ranked opponents (41-14) and gone a combined 17-4 (80.9%) against rivals Louisville (7-1), Kansas (3-0), Indiana (3-1) and North Carolina (4-2).

– Kentucky had only gone undefeated in the SEC twice in the last 55 years prior to Calipari's arrival. Under Calipari, the Wildcats have finished unbeaten in the league twice (2012, 2015) in six seasons, winning over 80% of its regular season league games.

– Calipari won his first 54 games at Rupp Arena, the second-longest streak in school history (129). Since the facility opened in 1976, the Wildcats have won almost 90% of its games at Rupp Arena (529-64). Calipari has posted an insane 102-4 (.962) record at home.

– In its history, Kentucky has played 175 games all-time as the No. 1-ranked team in the AP Poll. Sixty-eight of those (38.8%) have come in the last six seasons under Calipari.

– In 2012, Calipari led the Wildcats to an NCAA single-season record 38 wins en route to the school's eighth national championship.

– In 2015, Calipari led Kentucky to a school-record and NCAA single-season best 38-game win streak, which also ranked as the 10th-longest in NCAA history and was the longest win-streak in college basketball in 23 years. The Wildcats became the first team in NCAA history to start a season 38-0, winning its games by an average of 20.7 points per game.

– In the first 62 NBA Drafts, Kentucky did not produce a No. 1 overall pick. Since 2010, Calipari has yielded three:

    John Wall (2010)
    Anthony Davis (2012)
    Karl-Anthony Towns (2015)

– Since 2010, there have been 360 total players selected in the NBA Draft. Twenty-five of them played for Calipari at Kentucky, or 6.9%.

Further, during that same time frame, Calipari's Wildcats have accounted for 19 first round picks (10.5%), 12 lottery picks (13.3%), 10 top-10 picks (16.6%), six top-five picks (20%) and three No. 1 picks (50%).

– Kentucky produced 84 overall NBA Draft selections over the first 62 years of the NBA Draft. Calipari has coached 25 over the last six. That means Calipari has accounted for nearly a quarter of UK's all-time NBA Draft picks.

– Calipari's draft picks will combine to make almost $120 million in the NBA this season alone and their total contracts exceed $700 million. Not only is he getting players to the league, they're excelling once they get there.

– According to the 247Sports Composite, which averages recruiting rankings from every major outlet, Calipari has signed the No. 1 recruiting class in five of the last seven years, finishing No. 2 in 2012 and 2014.

– Since 1978, McDonald's All-Americans have become the standard by which recruits are judged. From 1978 to 2008, Kentucky signed 32 of them, or basically one per year. Calipari has signed 21 since 2009, the most of any school during that stretch.

– From 2002 to 2008, Kentucky signed a total of four 5-star recruits. From 2009 to 2015, Calipari signed 26.

– Last week, Kentucky was voted pre-season No. 1 in the USA Today Coaches Poll for the third consecutive year. The Wildcats have started the season in the top five of the Coaches Poll in six of the seven seasons in the Calipari Era.

– Kentucky is ranked preseason No. 1 despite losing seven players to the NBA, its top seven scorers and being forced to replace:

    86.8% of its points
    78.1% of its rebounds
    69.6% of its assists
    83.2% of its blocks
    78.2% of its steals
    Pause. Enjoy. Reflect. Appreciate.

Because when Calipari is gone, it'll never be this good again.

No team faces -- and meets -- unrealistic expectations like Kentucky

By Reid Forgrave| Fox Sports | Oct. 28, 2015

LEXINGTON, Ky. – Of the many things John Calipari has accomplished in his six seasons as head coach of the Kentucky Wildcats – four Final Fours, one national title, twice winning a record 38 games and sending an astounding 25 players to the NBA – perhaps the greatest accomplishment is what happens at the beginning of each season, before his team even plays a game.

I'm talking about the fact that, despite having the youngest team in college hoops virtually every year, John Calipari has managed to create a juggernaut that may have the highest set of annual expectations of any sports team in America.

Think about it. I know fans of the New England Patriots expect to win a Super Bowl every year. Fans of New York Yankees and Los Angeles Dodgers are always thinking World Series or bust. If Alabama isn't in the College Football Playoff, Tuscaloosa thinks the universe is out of whack.

But what Calipari has done in raising the Kentucky expectations to a near impossible level is unmatched in American sports.

What makes it even more astounding

is that these expectations are put on the shoulders of a team that must reinvent itself every year.

Last year's Wildcats nearly became the first 40-0 team in history, then lost seven players to the NBA. Calipari brought in six more freshmen with the nation's best recruiting class, including two projected top-five picks in Skal Labissiere and Jamal Murray. Coaches preach the importance of experience in college basketball, and yet Kentucky – with exactly one senior on its roster – is ranked No. 1 in the USA Today Preseason Coaches Poll. Over the past five years under Calipari, here are Kentucky's preseason rankings: second, third, first, first, first.

The annual hype around this program is so great that more than 15,000 fans came to Rupp Arena for Tuesday night's intra-squad scrimmage. For comparison's sake, last season only 13 teams in all of college basketball averaged home crowds larger than the bunch who watched the Wildcats in their practice jerseys Tuesday.

And this is the characteristic of Cal that has as big of a part as anything in turning him into a first-ballot Hall of Famer: Each season he's able to take a new group of AAU All-Stars, bring them into the hype and the spotlight that is Kentucky basketball, break down their egos and turn one-and-done NBA prospects into a cohesive team.

Tuesday brought evidence that this annual process is not an easy one. The youngsters often looked disjointed. There were turnovers galore. Labissiere, who could be Calipari's record fifth player to be drafted first overall, had seven fouls, many of them silly. (There's no fouling out in scrimmages.) Freshmen weren't fighting for extra position on the boards. Defenders weren't rotating on the weak side. It looked exactly like what it was: Despite the talent and the expectations, the Wildcats were a young, disjointed team.

How Cal manages those annual expectations and how he is able to get elite athletes to buy into his defense-first system is his greatest coaching trait.

"You play like we did today, and then, you know, 'Oh my gosh, we're not that good right now,' " Calipari said. "You have guys who made 47 out of 50 free throws (in practice) and then today go one for eight when there's people in the seats and the popcorn's popping. These guys know where we are. They know the hype of this program. They know."

Yes, they know. We all do. Much hype in American sports is unearned, based solely on potential. Kentucky's is earned. Calipari

has proven he can turn potential into production in just a few months. Every season Calipari is able to shepherd new faces through his process and – in time, and more often than not – live up to expectations that are at once utterly absurd and utterly realistic.

"You kind of know what to expect by coming to Kentucky," said freshman guard Charles Matthews. "That comes with the territory here. But at the end of the day, the ranking doesn't mean anything."

These are the type of things you hear from Kentucky freshmen every year. Gone are the days when they arrive on campus predicting a 40-0 season. The flop of a season in 2012-13 – that team was ranked third in the preseason and had the nation's top recruiting class but ended its year with a first-round loss in the NIT – gives Calipari all the evidence he needs to get his team to buy in.

"I really don't pay attention to (the expectations)," Labissiere said. "It's going to be a process, as Coach Cal says every day."

And it's become an annual process for college hoops fans, too: Placing absurd and unrealistic expectations on a Calipari team that's consistently the youngest in America and having the team live up to it, again and again.

Tyler Ulis embraces role as Kentucky's floor general
By Larry Vaught | Vaughtsviews.com | Oct. 29, 2015

LEXINGTON, Ky. – Tyler Ulis is already doing things that Kentucky coach John Calipari said he couldn't do a year ago when he was one of the biggest surprises on UK's 38-1 team that lost in the Final Four.

"He's way more comfortable doing stuff. You see runners now. He understands I can drive in there and still get lobs, but me, I've got to stop a little shorter. He's shooting the ball way better," said Calipari. "He's healthier. Last year he played the whole year with shin splints. There were games where he was 80 percent. This year he's healthy.

"He may be the best floor general-- I'm not saying the best guard but the best floor general-- I've ever coached. And I'm not saying he's Derek Rose, and he's John Wall and he's Brandon Knight and he's -- you could go on and on, all the point guards I've had. Tyreke Evans. They're all different. This kid is a floor general."

Ulis says he's honored to be put in the same class as Calipari's top point guards. He had 15 assists and 10 points in Tues-

day's Blue-White Game.

"It means a lot considering the guys he's coached. That means a lot coming from him," Ulis said. "As a point guard, you have to be the general on the court, the coach on the court. So I like it the same."

Calipari says Ulis "moves people" and that he can coach more and let Ulis do more on the court.

"You do what you think you need to do," Calipari said.

He noted that freshman Jamal Murray is not ready to be given that type of freedom when he plays the point that he can give Ulis.

The 5-9 Ulis has been named to the all-Southeastern Conference preseason team and is seen as the key player on UK's team by most. It's a role Ulis admits he'll relish compared to this time a year ago when many wondered if he had the size to be a valuable contributor at UK.

"It is completely different. Last year we had a lot of guys and I could be looked over. We had Willie (Cauley-Stein), Karl (-Anthony Towns), Devin (Booker), the (Harrison) twins. With the twins being here, I didn't have much responsibility. I just came in and played my role and went from there," Ulis said. "This year I love the bigger role. I can't wait to lead this team to wins and try to win the national title. I'm a lot more comfortable with what he (Calipari) wants on the court. If the guys can't hear him, I can be his voice."

Here's more of what Ulis had to say about this year's team.

Question: Have you thought about all that John Calipari is asking you to do?

Ulis: "Not really because he is not asking me to lead the country. He is just asking me to lead a basketball team. It's really not that hard. I just have to try to lead us to wins."

Question: How can you help the freshmen off the court?

Ulis: "Just hanging around them and showing them the ropes. Everybody is pretty settled in and pretty good now. Skal (Labissiere) is like all over campus. He knows a lot of people. Everybody is fitting in well. I would not say they are relying on me, but they are listening. They are great players so they know how to play the game. They just don't know what Cal wants them to do yet. They are learning the ropes. They are just trying to learn through me, but they are getting it."

Question: How does he anticipate this team being different from last year's, especially with more guards?

Ulis: "Anybody can see this team is going to be different. Last year we had an

unbelievable team. We had seven guys go to the NBA and four were in the lottery. We have three point guards this year. Last year it was just Andrew (Harrison) and I. We have Charles (Matthews) too. It's more guard-oriented this year. Last year we had Willie (Cauley-Stein) and Karl (Towns) that we could just throw lobs to and it ran through them. We just have to figure out what we're going to do. It was different. I understand that and so does Cal."

Question: Jamal Murray said you could guard him, but not stop him. Is that accurate?

Ulis: "I don't know how to explain that. Once Jamal gets hot, he gets hot. So if he is on a hot day, there is no stopping him even if I am right in front of him. He is just going to throw it up and it is going to go in. But I can stop him. I don't know what he is talking about. But some days if he is hot, it's hard to contain him."

Question: What does Calipari mean saying he wants each player to be the best version of himself?

Ulis: "Basically just working on your game. Making sure you understand what he wants you to do for the team. Don't force things. Don't show off too much stuff. Just do what you have to do for us to be successful and win."

Question: Despite his height does he feel like he has got a lot better?

Ulis: "That's an accurate statement. I'm not going to grow. I'm the player I'm going to be. I make good decisions and I can shoot the ball, but there are always things that you can do to polish your game and get better. That's the player I'm going to be."

Question: What are Isaiah Briscoe and Jamal Murray like on the court?

"They're completely different players. Jamal can score the ball anytime he wants. When he gets hot, he's hot. He can score the ball really well. Isaiah is a finisher at the rim and uses his body really well. He passes the ball a lot better than I thought. We're all going to play well together. We played together a couple times in open gym and I felt like it was a scary sight to see. We love playing with each other and we're close on and off the court."

Question: Why do guys follow you so well?

Ulis: "I feel like they just respect me as a point guard and understand that I know how to play the game and know the game. I am not really going to tell them anything that is going to hurt them. I want them all to be successful in their careers. They are all skilled players and I am telling them stuff to help them, both good and bad.

If they are doing something wrong, I tell them. If they are doing something good, I congratulate them for that. We are all the same with each other. They tell me, too. Anybody can do that."

Question: So if a player makes a mistake, are you gentle with your criticism or more of an in your face guy?

Ulis: "It depends. Sometimes you have to be all up in the face. Sometimes you just let them know. If you are playing hard, you not get up in them unless not listening or not playing hard."

Question: What about Calipari going into the Hall of Fame?

Ulis: "I felt like he deserved it. I am really happy for him. It was a great experience."

Question: Did he even contemplate leaving for the NBA like seven teammates off last year's 38-1 team did?

Ulis: "I understood I wasn't ready. I knew I had to wait my turn. I still want to win a national title. I'm happy I'm here again."

Question: What's it like for him and former AAU teammate Charles Matthews on the court?

Ulis: ""We have great chemistry on the court. "We click, even with Jamal (Murray) and Charles. Everybody likes each other on and off the court. We go out together and go to movies together. We're just having a ball."

Kentucky's Poythress back from hoops hell of torn ACL, but rehab was pure purgatory

By Reid Forgrave| Fox Sports | Oct. 30, 2015

LEXINGTON, Ky. – The 21-year-old lay in his bed at Kentucky's Wildcat Coal Lodge, his laptop glowing, his left knee in pain after another day of excruciating rehab.

It had been a few months before — in December, 10 games into a promising junior season where it looked like he'd finally found his right role for head coach John Calipari — when Alex Poythress landed awkwardly on his left knee on an uncontested layup at a Kentucky practice. He'd torn his ACL, ending his season as his teammates were chasing the first 40-0 season in college basketball history.

Surgery came right after Christmas. Then some time in a knee brace, doing little things to get ready for the long recovery. Now was the most painful part: Getting his knee to bend again.

That meant bending his foot as far back as he could, inch by inch. Before Poythress could move any further to a return at

the beginning of the 2015-16 season he needed to break up the scar tissue from the surgery and return his knee to full flexibility.

"You gotta be sure you get your flexion back, bending it, touching your foot to your butt," Poythress said the other day, not long after he played in his first game before a Rupp Arena crowd since his injury. "That's the most painful part. Once you get past that, you start doing the fun part of rehab. Squats. Defensive slides. Getting your quad back, getting your knee back stronger. You can't do all the other stuff until you got that part done. It's painful. Some days, you're yelling."

On those days — the toughest days of his rehab, which coincided with the most high-flying days of what would become a record-tying 38-1 Final Four season for Kentucky — Poythress would yell his way through rehab. Then he would sit on the sidelines and watch his teammates practice. Then he would walk across the parking lot from the practice facility and go inside Wildcat Lodge. Then he would walk past the eight Kentucky national championship trophies in the lobby, go on the elevator, pass the photographs in the hallway of every Kentucky player who played in the NBA, and open the door to the dorm suite he shared with teammate Willie Cauley-Stein.

He lay on his bed, popped open his laptop, and clicked on the show "Breaking Bad." It's a dark show to watch during a time when Poythress was trying to avoid going to a dark place. He is obsessed with TV and movies — his favorite is "Space Jam," but he watches all the critically-acclaimed shows of modern television — and some days he'd watch four or five episodes of "Breaking Bad" in a row before he fell asleep.

"I'm not sure what the low point was, but it was real hard," Poythress said. "It was rough. You're a part of the team but you're not playing. Your season is over, but your team's season isn't. It's hard to get around. But you just need to cheer them on, not be a bad teammate."

In the darker moments, there were people Poythress would lean on. His mom. Coach Cal. The Harrison twins. Cauley-Stein, who'd help take Poythress' mind off things by playing video games with him.

And most of all, his twin sister, Alexis, a kinesiology student at Kentucky. The two are, as Alexis puts it, "best friends." She is 18 minutes older, and much more vocal. Poythress isn't shy; he's just quiet. He was a bookworm as a kid, reading a book a day in elementary school and setting his

elementary school's all-time record in a book-reading challenge. Alexis saw Alex struggle with being the awkward tall kid in school when he was younger. Then she saw him come into his own at Kentucky, go from the guy who wouldn't say a thing his freshman year to a much more confident guy now.

Alexis had just finished a physics exam last December when she got a text from Coach Cal, telling her Alex had been hurt at practice and was at a hospital. At first, coaches and trainers didn't think it was serious, just a tweaked knee. By the time Alexis got to the hospital, her twin brother knew the news was bad.

"There were a lot of tears between him and his teammates and his coaches," Alexis recalled. "It was upsetting, because he's had such a long journey. But you can come back from it. It's not death. You're not going to jail or anything. You're just hurt. I wasn't too freaked out about it."

Why not? Because when Alexis was a volleyball player in high school, she tore her ACL. And her brother came with her to her therapy sessions, to doctor's appointments. The family had been down this road before.

The ACL injury itself was more weird than painful. That's how Alexis described it. It was like you could feel your loose ligament popping around the bone. But the rehab — that's where the pain came in. You get home from surgery and you want to pick up your leg, but you can't.

Each therapy session became more and more painful for Alex: Strengthening the quad muscle. Breaking up the scar tissue. Getting flexion back in your knee. Doing defensive slides.

"You're such an independent person and you can't do simple life skills by yourself," Alexis said. "Learning how to walk again is going to be mentally draining if you're 5, 20, 50. You think it's going to be so easy, and then it just doesn't come back like you expect. It's not like you twisted your ankle. It's such a big thing. You want it to happen so fast, but it can't."

And so Poythress would go to business marketing classes. He would go to therapy sessions. He'd be there for practice, and film sessions, and games — a busier schedule than even when he was playing — and he'd cheer on his teammates. It wasn't hard to cheer them on. After all, they were always there for him. But it was hard, so hard, to not be able to be out there on the floor, to be part of something historic.

His teammates kept Alex's chin up. So did his coaches, and his mom. So did his

sister, who'd tell him things like: "Life is unpredictable. Everything happens for a reason. You just have to learn to deal with it."

And so did, in an odd way, the mental therapy of sitting in his dorm room late at night and disappearing into Netflix or Hulu or HBO GO, watching the darkness of "Breaking Bad," which could put his own life into perspective.

"I never got depressed or anything like that," Poythress said of his recovery. "But I learned to not take the game for granted. Basketball was taken away from me for a few months. I'm just so thankful and humbled that I can keep playing again."

On a recent afternoon, Poythress was back in a familiar position: Sitting under a basket at Kentucky's practice facility, bent at the waist, head in hand as he watched his teammates practice. Coaches gave him the day off because the night before he'd played in Kentucky's intrasquad scrimmage in front of 15,000 people. It was his first competitive game since his injury. He had shone: 17 points, seven rebounds, back to that same high-energy, glue-guy role he'd found so much success in at the beginning of last season. His knee felt good. It still got sore sometimes, but he had a spring in his step.

After the grueling three-hour practice, Poythress walked across the gym. Calipari wanted everyone to make 100 free throws before they left the gym, Poythress included. Before he went to the free-throw line, he spun the ball on his finger and smiled. He talked about how important it was to have that circle of encouragement around him over the past 10 months. His struggles have brought him closer to his teammates, his coaches, his sister, his God. He stared off into the distance as he spoke, still a man of few words, but there was a palpable joy in being back on the basketball court.

Not that far in the distance, Poythress could envision the happy ending to his wild journey. He'd started as a one-and-done possibility, went through the disaster that was the NIT season, journeyed through two Final Fours and an ACL recovery, and now, at 22, has become the rarest of Wildcats on a Calipari team: the four-year rotation player.

"Win the national title then go on and play professional," Poythress said. "That's the fairy-tale ending."

Any darkness of the past 10 months was a distant memory. He'd made it through to the other side. As the sun was descending outside, he'd make his 100 free throws, walk across the way to Wild-

cat Lodge, grab a meal, then go up to his dorm suite and flip open the laptop.

It was only there, inside his dorm, where the darkness still came out. Only, it wasn't a darkness inside Poythress. Not any more. It was the new show he's now obsessed with: "The Walking Dead." It is a show about a zombie apocalypse.

UK's Poythress "Doing Things He Used To"
By Kyle Tucker | Courier-Journal | Oct. 30, 2015

LEXINGTON, Ky. – Alex Poythress' 17 points and seven rebounds in Kentucky basketball's Blue-White scrimmage looked like progress in the senior forward's comeback from a torn ACL, but it was not a surprise to his teammates.

"I've seen it for the past three or four months," junior Marcus Lee said. "So it was probably really a joy for you guys to finally see him in full action, but I've seen him getting better and better and working through his injury."

While Poythress hitting 3-pointers – he made 3 of 4 in the scrimmage – would be a big bonus, his real value to the Wildcats is in the ability to do freakishly athletic things: throwing down crazy dunks, soaring to block shots, leaping above a crowd for an acrobatic rebound. After a serious knee injury, can he get that back?

"You can definitely see some times where he'll forget he's ever been injured," Lee said, "and he'll jump out of the gym like he (used to) and then after he does it, he'll kind of have like a surprised face, forgetting how powerful he really is."

Assistant coach John Robic has also seen flashes of the old Poythress.

"It's just (happening) as his confidence grows and sometimes not even thinking about it and just going and playing," Robic said. "The big thing Coach is telling him is he just has to trust it, but there are times when his explosiveness is there. … I couldn't even give you a percentage of what he is right now, but it's nice to see him do the things that he used to do."

Calipari: "I Want Derek Willis To Play"
By Kyle Tucker | Courier-Journal | Nov. 3, 2015

LEXINGTON, Ky. – In Kentucky's exhibition opener against Ottawa on Monday night, junior forward Derek Willis made another strong case that he deserves a bigger role than he's seen the last two seasons.

The 6-foot-9 Bullitt East alum produced

10 points on 5-of-6 shooting to go with seven rebounds, two blocks and two assists in just 14 minutes off the bench. He threw down several rim-rattling dunks, each drawing roars from a Rupp Arena crowd that loves home-grown talent, and defended aggressively.

"(If) we play him, we could end up being 7-foot, 6-8, 6-9, 6-10. That's another huge front line," said coach John Calipari, who lost four post players to the NBA after last season. "I want to play Derek Willis. But he's going to have to take minutes from somebody. Whether I want to play him or not, does anyone give him minutes?"

Of course not, but taking them looks like what Willis did in one particularly impressive stretch Monday: blocked shot, slashing layup, blocked shot, all in the span of 20 seconds. In another two-minute outburst, Willis had a dunk, swished jump shot and four rebounds (three offensive).

"I think he should be playing. I was proud of him today," Calipari said. "I was really on him pretty hard yesterday. I was hard on him to say that, 'You're not playing doing this, this and this.' My point is you might as well keep it real with the kids, tell them, 'This is what is going to get you on the floor; this is what's going to take you off the floor.' "

In-depth look at how freshmen have fared under Calipari
By Chris Fisher | The Cats' Pause | Nov. 3, 2015

No coach in college basketball has had more success with freshmen than Kentucky's John Calipari.

Calipari almost single-handedly paved the way for the one-and-done era of college basketball and has changed how we view and what we expect from first-year players.

Although it won't show up in the record books, freshman guard Jamal Murray made his unofficial UK debut Monday night by flirting with a triple-double: 22 points, 12 rebounds and nine assists. Skal Labissiere wasn't far behind, scoring 18 points.

No one has gotten more out of more than Calipari and CatsPause.com takes a look at just how much he's relied on freshmen and how they've performed during his tenure in Lexington:

– A freshman led Kentucky in scoring in each of Calipari's first five seasons. Sophomore guard Aaron Harrison was the Wildcats' leading scorer last season (11.0 ppg), edging out Karl-Anthony Towns (10.3).

– Freshmen comprised UK's top two scorers in 2009-10, top three in 2010-11 and 2012-13 and top four scorers in 2013-14

– Eighteen of Calipari's 29 freshmen (62 percent) have averaged double-figures, led by Brandon Knight's 17.3 ppg in 2010-11.

– Only five (Knight, John Wall, Terrence Jones, DeMarcus Cousins and Julius Randle) have averaged 15.0 ppg or better.

– All six of Calipari's squads have produced multiple double-digit freshman scorers. His first four seasons featured three, with four in 2013-14 and two last season:

2009-10: 3 (Wall, Cousins, Bledsoe)
2010-11: 3 (Knight, Jones, Lamb)
2011-12: 3 (Davis, Kidd-Gilchrist, Teague)
2012-13: 3 (Goodwin, Poythress, Noel)
2013-14: 4 (Randle, Young, Aa. Harrison, An. Harrison)
2014-15: 2 (Towns, Booker)

– Eighteen freshmen have combined for 88 20-plus point games during Calipari's first six seasons:

Brandon Knight (14)
James Young (9)
John Wall (8)
Terrence Jones (8)
Julius Randle (7)
Anthony Davis (6)
Alex Poythress (6)
Doron Lamb (5)
Archie Goodwin (5)
DeMarcus Cousins (4)
Eric Bledsoe (4)
Andrew Harrison (3)
Aaron Harrison (2)
Michael Kidd-Gilchrist (2)
Karl-Anthony Towns (2)
Marquis Teague (1)
Willie Cauley-Stein (1)
Kyle Wiltjer (1)

– A Kentucky player has won SEC Freshman of the Year every year under Calipari:

2010: DeMarcus Cousins
2011: Terrence Jones
2012: Anthony Davis
2013: Nerlens Noel
2014: Julius Randle
2015: Karl-Anthony Towns

– A Wildcat has won SEC Freshman of the Week 52 times out of a possible 104 weeks (50 percent) in the Calipari Era.

– Two Kentucky freshmen--John Wall (2010) and Anthony Davis (2012)--captured SEC Player of the Year and national player of the year honors.

– Three Wildcats--Wall, Davis and Towns--went on to become the No. 1 overall pick in the NBA Draft.

– Of the 15 freshmen that played only one season in Lexington, Calipari has produced:

– 3 No. 1 overall picks (Wall, Davis, Towns)
– 2 top-5 picks (Cousins, Kidd-Gilchrist)
– 3 top-10 picks (Knight, Randle, Noel)
– 2 lottery picks (Lyles, Booker)
– 5 first round picks (Young, Bledsoe, Orton, Teague, Goodwin)

Freshman Points Per Game Calipari Era

1. Brandon Knight [2010-11]: 17.3 ppg
2. John Wall [2009-10] – 16.6 ppg
3. Terrence Jones [2010-11] – 15.7 ppg
4. DeMarcus Cousins [2009-10] – 15.1 ppg
5. Julius Randle [2013-14] – 15.0 ppg
6. James Young [2013-14] – 14.3 ppg
7. Anthony Davis [2011-12] – 14.2 ppg
8. Archie Goodwin [2012-13] – 14.1 ppg
9. Aaron Harrison [2013-14] – 13.7 ppg
10. Doron Lamb [2010-11] – 12.3 ppg
11. Michael Kidd-Gilchrist [2011-12] – 11.9 ppg
12. Eric Bledsoe [2009-10] – 11.3 ppg
13. Alex Poythress [2012-13] – 11.2 ppg
14. Andrew Harrison [2013-14] – 10.9 ppg
15. Nerlens Noel [2012-13] – 10.5 ppg
16. Karl-Anthony Towns [2014-15] – 10.3 ppg
17. Devin Booker [2014-15] – 10.0 ppg
18. Marquis Teague [2011-12] – 10.0 ppg
19. Trey Lyles [2014-15] – 8.7 ppg
20. Willie Cauley-Stein [2012-13] – 8.3 ppg
21. Tyler Ulis [2014-15] – 5.6 ppg
22. Dakari Johnson [2013-14] – 5.2 ppg
23. Kyle Wiltjer [2011-12] – 5.0 ppg
24. Daniel Orton [2009-10] – 3.4 ppg
25. Marcus Lee [2013-14] – 2.4 ppg
26. Jon Hood [2009-10] – 1.2 ppg
27. Derek Willis [2013-14] – 1.1 ppg
28. Dominique Hawkins [2013-14] – 0.8 ppg
29. Stacey Poole, Jr. [2010-11] – 0.3 ppg

Calipari: UK's Briscoe can be elite defender

By Kyle Tucker | Courier-Journal | Nov. 3, 2015

LEXINGTON, Ky. — John Calipari said the strangest thing after Kentucky's first exhibition game of the season Monday night.

Isaiah Briscoe, a five-star freshman guard known for slick dribbling and binge scoring, "could be the best defensive guard in the country if he chooses," the Wildcats' coach said.

That came as a surprise to most, but not to Briscoe, a 6-foot-3, 202-pound McDonald's All-American from New Jersey whose pre-college style could best be described as "playground." The word "defense" was rarely associated with his game.

Even so, Calipari wasted no time planting that seed in Briscoe's mind upon his arrival in Lexington. UK has sophomore point guard Tyler Ulis, an assist machine, and another five-star freshman combo guard, Jamal Murray, who is the most efficient scorer of the group.

Those two combined for 39 points and 19 assists in the exhibition against Ottawa, while Briscoe had a quieter 11 points, three assists, three rebounds and a steal. He's going to have to find his own way to make an impact.

For now, while Calipari tries to redefine his offensive game from zigs and zags to straight-line attacks, that has to be as a stopper on the other end. Briscoe has embraced that idea.

"I take on the challenge," he said. "I knew coming here I was going to be forced to play defense, and I'm actually starting to like it. My freshman and sophomore year (in high school), I used to guard the best player. Then my junior and senior year, I kind of took a step back.

"Now Cal's like, 'You can be the best defender in the country.' He tells me that every day in practice. So I'm just going to take on the challenge and try to be the best defender in the country."

You can almost hear his father, George Briscoe, smiling on the other end of the phone as he talks about the transformation he's witnessing in Isaiah. DraftExpress.com projects him to be picked 18th overall in the next NBA draft, but that's based primarily on his offense prowess.

Who knows how high Briscoe could climb, or how far he could help carry the Cats, if he becomes an elite defender?

"That's why I sent him to Kentucky," George Briscoe said. "I'm so proud of him that he said he's going to challenge himself to be the best defensive guard in the country, because that's telling me that by all means necessary he wants to win a championship for Kentucky.

"He's sacrificing his game for the betterment of the team. I kind of love that. That's like life."

Isaiah has made significant progress on offense, too. If Las Vegas had taken bets for which Wildcat would try to put on a razzle-dazzle display of his talent in a 117-58 rout Monday, Briscoe would've been the odds-on favorite. The house would've won, though.

He played almost completely under control, no look-at-me dribbling in sight.

"That's not the kind of offense we run," he said. "We're dribble-drive, play in straight lines. I'm just learning how to play basketball and being coached by Coach Cal. I actually like the way I play better now than I did before."

And there goes George, smiling through the phone again.

"All the energy he has in being fancy" on offense, said the father, "now he can apply that to defense."

He doesn't sound like a dad who is mad that Ulis and Murray got more glory in the exhibition opener. He doesn't talk like a guy worried that his son will be overshadowed by those two or underutilized.

"This is what Coach Cal said would happen," George Briscoe said. "He's not promising nothing, but he's going to get the best out of our son and turn him into a man, and that's exactly what he's doing. I already see a little bit more maturity in his game. I'm happy with how it's going. Too happy."

Even in a 59-point win, we learned some things about Kentucky

By Jerry Tipton | Lexington Herald-Leader | Nov. 3, 2015

LEXINGTON, Ky. — From beast (Alex Poythress) to least (Ottawa University), here are six takeaways from Kentucky's 117-58 exhibition victory Monday:

1. Poythress, the irreplaceable one, is at 80 percent.

UK Coach John Calipari continued to emphasize that Poythress can make a significant difference. His combination of size and athleticism was not fully on display (eight points, six rebounds, two blocks). But, as Calipari reminded reporters, Poythress is in the midst of a recovery from surgery to repair a torn anterior cruciate ligament.

"He's got to stay in practice, stay off the bike, and get into game shape," Calipari said. "Like, you saw him behind the action a bunch."

Calipari estimated Poythress at 80 percent of his pre-injury capabilities.

"I love the fact that the fans went crazy when he went in," Calipari said. "It lets him know we're all here for you. We want you to do well."

After saluting the contributions of five other players, Calipari added, "But who is your beast? You better have a beast. That's why I'm saying, we really need Alex to make strides now. ... He made some shots. Don't care. It's all energy. It's playing people before they catch it. It's being where you're supposed to be early. Staying in a stance. Flying up and down the court. Having unbelievable energy when you play. He doesn't have that right now."

2. Good shooting suggests UK can handle opponents' zone defenses.

The shorter shot clock, an emphasis on calling fouls on drives and Kentucky's abundance of talent suggest that opponents will play a lot of zone defense. So UK's continued good shooting, especially from three-point range, suggested that zones won't be a problem. The Cats made 12 of 22 three-point attempts against Ottawa. That after making 13 of 34 attempts in the Blue-White Game. That adds up to 44.6-percent accuracy.

Calipari offered a cautionary note about UK's shooting against Ottawa by reminding reporters that the visitors played man-to-man defense.

"The reason this team didn't play zone (is) because I asked them not to play zone," he said. "Because we don't really have much zone (offense) in right now. We worked 45 minutes on one (zone) offense two days ago. ... That's where we are right now. We're behind."

UK has had several sharpshooters from three-point range: Jamal Murray (seven of 16), Poythress (five of six), Tyler Ulis (four of nine), Derek Willis (two of four), Mychal Mulder (five of 14).

"We're good," Murray said. "We're all capable shooters. Not just the three (guards). But guys coming off the bench. Mike. Derek. We're getting Dom (Dominique Hawkins) back, too. Whatever the defense does to us, we have to play around it."

3. Derek Willis looked more confident on the floor and played with more confidence. He had 10 points, seven rebounds and two blocks in 14 minutes.

"I think he should be playing," Calipari said. "I was proud of him."

4. Isaac Humphries.

The freshman big man was busy around the basket (six rebounds) and shows a soft shooting touch from the baseline. More than once in the Blue-White Game, and then against Ottawa, he made baseline shots that required touch from a mid-distance range.

5. It's helpful when guards rebound.

With UK seemingly leaning toward a three-guard lineup, a relative lack of size might be a concern. The more guards rebound, the less the concern.

Against Ottawa, Murray had 12 rebounds, Ulis four and Briscoe three.

"If our guards rebound the way we did (against Ottawa), we'll be fine," Calipari said.

6. It would be too early to draw conclusions if Kentucky had played Duke on Monday night. To be frank, Ottawa offered little resistance. So the lack of competition must be factored into the good vibes coming out of the exhibition.

Or as Ottawa Coach Aaron Siebenthall put it, "We had a little stretch ... where we really boxed out. I mean all five guys boxed out. And it didn't matter. They're bigger, faster and stronger than us."

Three guards, one good looking offense
By Metz Camfield | CoachCal.com | Nov. 4, 2015

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Last season, with 10 players all deserving of playing time, Kentucky head coach John Calipari instituted a platoon system. Five players would sub out for five new players every four minutes or so. While the platoon system is gone for 2015-16, the bevy of talent remains, especially at the point guard position.

But instead of rotating his guards in and out every few minutes on Monday night against Ottawa, Calipari started and played Tyler Ulis, Jamal Murray and Isaiah Briscoe together.

"When I had John Wall and Eric Bledsoe, everybody said, 'How will they coexist? How will that work? That won't work. They're two of this. They're the same.' " Coach Cal told the media back in early September. "Well, first of all, we play positionless is what I've said this summer. We don't really – we can play with three point guards. We can play with three centers, as long as you can play basketball. Guys like Tyler and Isaiah and Jamal, and those kids who are comfortable in their own skin, they're not in competition with the guy on their team. They are, but they're not. Good kids like that, they're not worried about the other guy. They're comfortable

in how good they are."

The results were glowing.

Against Ottawa, a small NAIA school in eastern Kansas, Ulis scored 17 points, dished out 10 assists and didn't commit a turnover. Murray flirted with a triple-double with 22 points, 12 rebounds and nine assists, and Briscoe showed off his strong build, constantly driving to the basket with an 11-point, three-rebound and three-assist performance.

"It's a lot of fun because we play off each other, we all look to score and pass to each other," Murray said. "Our offense is always in set when us three are on the floor together."

With so many point guards on the floor together, Kentucky got up and down the floor in a hurry, logging 84 possessions, which would have been a season-high one year ago. Despite the high number of possessions, UK committed just a dozen turnovers, and of its 48 made field goals, 32 were assisted (66.7 percent).

The key for these three point guards as the season progresses will be their continuity on and off the court. So far so good on that front.

"It's a lot of fun (playing together)," Murray said. "That's what makes this a special place to play at. It's very unselfish, and as you can see with all the assists we had here today. We just had a lot of fun playing with each other."

"Coming here, we knew we had to check the egos at the door and sacrifice, and I think all three of us don't have a problem with that and it shows on the court," Briscoe said.

Ulis, who Calipari declared earlier this season may be the best "floor general" he's ever coached, has received ample praise this preseason, including being tabbed the No. 5 player in the country by a panel of 26 ESPN college basketball writers, editors and analysts.

If you average out the 5-foot-9 point guard's performances in the Blue-White Scrimmage and Ottawa exhibition, he would have 13.5 points, 12.5 assists and just 1.5 turnovers per game.

"He's very in command," Murray said of Ulis. "He's a leader on the court. He puts everybody in the right spot, the right position. So, we look to him to run the offense, and then we play off of that. At any time Isaiah or myself can run the offense too."

And that's what makes it all so enticing for Coach Cal and this team. If Ulis gets in foul trouble or needs to rest, the offense appears that it can keep on trucking with more than capable options in Murray and Briscoe. It also gives the UK bigs more

opportunities to score by not allowing defenses to sag in the paint.

"They're unselfish," Calipari said. "They're all skilled. They can attack the basket. You can play a little more random yet be organized."

In Murray's two preseason contests he has averaged 19.5 points, 7.5 assists and 2.5 turnovers. Briscoe, meanwhile, has averaged 13.5 points, 4.0 assists and 2.0 turnovers, while playing very strong defense that Calipari believes could one day make him the best defensive guard in the country if he wants to be.

"We're going to get in the gym, continue to work and I'm going to try to be the best defender in the country," Briscoe said Monday. "I think I'm ok (at defense). There's always room for improvement and this is my first game as a college player, and I think I played pretty well."

Briscoe's defensive abilities are aided by his "bulldog" build and ability to move side to side very quickly. When Kentucky did its agility testing prior to its open practice in front of NBA personnel in October, Briscoe tied Ulis for the fastest shuttle run on the team (2.78 seconds).

The Newark, N.J., native has embraced defense by counting his steals in practice and making sure to let associate head coach Kenny Payne know after each one he gets. Competing with and against each other in practice has also improved all three guards' game.

"He's very physically strong," Murray said of Briscoe. "He's a bulldog, that's what Coach says. He moves his feet well and he stays in front of people."

After Monday's game, Coach Cal said he believes three players on this year's roster will play 30 minutes per game, and "a couple other guys" will play 27-28 minutes. The question Calipari still must answer is how deep his rotation gets.

For now, it appears the starting rotation may feature Ulis, Murray and Briscoe.

"Got a great group of kids," Coach Cal said. "I mean, competitive, great basketball IQs. But they're also great kids that care about one another. They're passing. Going forward, it bodes well for what we could be."

Poythress says he has "mental breakthrough" against Kentucky State
By Metz Camfield | CoachCal.com | Nov. 8, 2015

When Alex Poythress takes the floor Friday night for No. 2/1 Kentucky's season-opener against Albany, it will be the first time

in over 11 months that he's played in a regular-season game.

Poythress has played basketball his entire life, but coming off major knee surgery will require the athletic forward to trust his rehab with every aggressive move he makes. That's why his performance against Kentucky State was so important.

Senior Alex Poythress impressed versus Kentucky State, finishing with 13 points, eight rebounds and four blocks. (photo by Chris Reynolds)

"It felt good today," Poythress said. "I'm getting more confident in my knee, as you can see."

The Clarksville, Tenn., native was all over the floor, finishing with 13 points, eight rebounds and four blocks in 17 minutes. It didn't start out so hot, though.

For his first two minutes and 19 seconds on the floor, Poythress was, more or less, absent. His stats: 0 for 0 from the field, 2 for 2 at the free-throw line, no rebounds, no assists, no blocks. So, Hall of Fame head coach John Calipari took Poythress out and had a little conversation with his senior leader before putting him back into the game 35 seconds later.

"He was just saying, 'Just get out there and play. Use your athleticism. Trust your knee. Be confident in it,' " Poythress said of their conversation.

What transpired was what Calipari and UK fans alike have been hoping to see. Poythress was active, grabbing rebounds with two hands, blocking shots and finishing offensive plays. By halftime, his once two-point stat line, featured eight points on 3-of-3 shooting from the field, five rebounds and four blocks in 10 total minutes.

"This is a mental breakthrough," Calipari said afterward. "Now, you saw spurts today where you said, 'woo', but that's got to be who he is, not every once in a while."

Poythress agrees, saying that being an "elite athlete" for him is simply doing the stuff he normally used to do: blocking shots, getting dunks and rebounding.

In UK's first exhibition game, Poythress put up similar, though not quite as impressive numbers, but said Friday's game versus Kentucky State was different.

"I was probably a little bit nervous being out there for the first time in a game," Poythress said in regards to UK's game against Ottawa. "Today, I was a little bit more confident – used to doing it. Just getting back into the flow of things. It's early. We still got time. We still have a lot of games to play. Just getting back to that."

Calipari wants Poythress to focus on being an elite athlete, adding that he

believes the senior had a "mental breakthrough" against KSU. (photo by Elliott Hess, UK Athletics)

Calipari has said he believes Poythress is closer to being 80 percent back than 100 percent. It appears safe to assume that regardless of the exact percentage, he's still not quite 100 percent. How much of that deficit is owed to his physical rehab and how much is mental, is a question only Poythress can answer.

"I mean, it's both," Poythress said. "A lot more mental than physical. It's still physical because you do want to work on it, get the strength back and get it back to 100 percent. A lot mental because you have to trust it, like, I know one time when I was running I stopped because I didn't want to run in the stands or anything like that. But a lot of it is mental and just getting back used to it. I had major surgery. It takes time."

His teammates, who see him each day in practice, may disagree with the percentages being thrown out.

"I mean, people say he has issues with his knee and it's all like in his head," junior forward Derek Willis said. "Personally, I think he's doing fine. It's just he hasn't played in a while and he's still getting into the swing of things. He's fine."

Whether Poythress cracks the starting rotation Friday is also a question on the minds of many. Junior Marcus Lee started at the four in each of UK's two exhibition games, averaging 9.5 points and a team-high 8.5 rebounds.

One thing Poythress appears to have worked on that he can bring to the table at the four spot is his outside shot. A 30.1 percent 3-point shooter for his career, Poythress went 3 for 3 during the two exhibition games, and 3 for 4 in the Blue-White Scrimmage.

Regardless of whether Poythress or Lee starts, they both figure to get plenty of time on the floor. Calipari has said he believes he will have three players logging 30 minutes per game and two more averaging 27-28 minutes. He's also thrown out varying numbers as to how many people will make up the UK rotation.

As Calipari has told a number of players on this year's team already, including Poythress, as he continues to recover he must focus on being the best version of himself, which is an elite athlete.

"I just said you got to show that you're an elite athlete," Coach Cal said. "So just don't worry about anything else, except being an elite athlete. Run, go grab rebounds in traffic, be tough, be lower than

the other guy, play him before — none of the other stuff matters. …

"I told him he went in and laid one and I said dunk that. Don't lay that ball, dunk that. But, then he's busting through some stuff."

A beauiful mind: if Kentucky's Tyler Ulis is nation's best point guard, he'll see it first.

By Jerry Tipton | Herald-Leader | Nov. 7, 2015

Sorry, devotees of analytics, but Tyler Ulis defies numbers. His approach to basketball eludes easy numerical measurement. To borrow from the introduction to the classic television show The Twilight Zone, his skill comes from a dimension not only of sight and sound, but of mind. It can be a wondrous land whose boundaries are that of imagination.

That might be laying it on a bit thick, but watching the Kentucky point guard play does that to people.

Mike Taylor coached Ulis in high school. He marveled at how Ulis saw possibilities on the court. He takes no credit for a quality that in athletic parlance is called Basketball IQ.

"I wish I could take credit," Taylor said. "But I don't think the music teacher really taught Mozart how to play."

That's definitely laying it on thick.

ESPN analyst Seth Greenberg defined Basketball IQ in terms of anticipation, if not clairvoyance.

"Good point guards and good players see plays before they happen," Greenberg said. "The best was Magic (Johnson). He could see a play develop. What I call see plays early. Tyler Ulis sees plays early."

During pre-Bahamas practices in the summer of 2014, reporters saw this quality for themselves. Before an outlet pass reached Ulis, it was already apparent that the ball would be quickly redirected. A long distance touch pass found its target in stride often enough to make a lasting impression. This from a freshman who had been on campus for only a few weeks and had yet to play a college game.

Ulis flashed what Taylor calls "wow moments" during last season. A 45-foot (or farther) pass that found Devin Booker in the Southeastern Conference Tournament comes to mind.

"I play with my mind the whole game," Ulis said this fall. "It's a big part of my game. I have to out-think guys."

Taylor suggested that, on occasion, coaching could get in the way of such a

cerebral player. Think of that metaphorical music teacher trying to restrict Mozart's creativity.

"He's the type of kid you don't try to overcoach him," Ulis' high school coach said. "You don't try to tell him what you see because he sees what you see and more. More often than not, you just loosen the reins and let him go. And good things happen."

It's interesting to ponder how a player possesses such a talent.

Another ESPN analyst, Jay Williams, played point guard for Duke. He described a process that includes several phases.

"It starts off being innate," he said. "I didn't play point guard in high school."

Williams taught himself a feel for the game and how it should be played.

"More film you watch," he said. "More time spent with your players, and understanding their sweet spot.

"Jason Kidd was one of the best I've ever seen. I think Tyler has that quality."

Perhaps, necessity played a role. Listed at 5-foot-9 and 160 pounds, Ulis was not going to overpower opponents. No bullyball, as UK Coach John Calipari called Andrew Harrison's playing style the last two seasons.

Instead, Ulis has had to out-think, out-smart and out-anticipate bigger, stronger opponents.

When asked about this brains-rather-than-brawn explanation for Ulis' effectiveness, Taylor said, "Oh, I agree totally. It allowed him, because of his limitations, to be really creative with his body and mind.

"You can see his mind working out there, if you're watching closely. You can see his mind working, constantly working."

'It's just natural'

It's tempting to think Ulis evolved as a player, resorting to cunning when brute force did not work. That would be incorrect.

"I've always been small," Ulis said. "I've never been big. It's not like I ever had to change my game. I feel like it's just natural."

Ulis was a quick learner, Taylor said.

"He didn't sit there and bang his head against a wall a thousand times," Ulis' high school coach said. "He realized it pretty quick. Boom! You see it in the development of his game. If you walked in and saw him as a freshman in high school, some of these same traits you're seeing now, you would have seen them then. You just would have seen them in a 5-2 body."

Williams said the idea of an undersized player using his mind as a means to compete as "100-percent accurate." Sam Cas-

sell, who played for Florida State before a long and successful NBA career, was such a player.

"Not the fastest," Williams said of Cassell. "Not going to blow by you. Actually, slow as molasses. I couldn't stop him because he knew the game."

Of course, Ulis is not slow. He is short, but not small. His heart and his mind are as big as any opponent's.

Although plenty athletic, Ole Miss star Stefan Moody fits the mold of undersized player who learned to compensate. He saw his size (5-10, 179) as an advantage as a first-year player in the Southeastern Conference last season.

"I probably snuck up on a lot of people," he said. "Not knowing who I was. I'm probably one of the smaller guys in the SEC. Only so much is expected when you're a certain size because a lot of people look for height, and instantly judge who you are and how good you are by how big you are.

"But there's a lot more to it than that."

Moody, who has had his vertical leap measured at 46 inches, does not complain about the importance people place on size.

"That's just how this generation is," he said. "And I'm in it. So, by the end of the day, if a taller player is what you like, then that's what you like. But I'm just going to show you that that's not what's important."

Moody agreed with the idea of a player evolving to find a way to succeed.

"Your brain kind of does that itself, really, with experience," he said. "Over time, your brain learns how to adjust automatically."

More minutes more difficult

The unsettling thing for Kentucky opponents this coming season is that Ulis now has last season on file. He can use the experiences of 2014-15 going forward.

Earlier this preseason, Calipari spoke of an improved Ulis.

"He's doing things he didn't do a year ago," the UK coach said. "He's way more comfortable doing stuff. You're seeing runners now. He understands, 'I can drive in there and still get lobs, but now I've got to stop a little shorter. He's shooting the ball way better.

"He's healthier. Last year he played the whole year with shin splints, so there were games he was 80 percent. This year's he healthy."

Not everyone is convinced that Ulis will be better than ever.

Going against form, the usually bombastic Dick Vitale was cautious. He said

that playing a larger number of minutes as a starter this season can expose a player's weaknesses (read: Ulis' lack of size).

"I think he's going to be fine," Vitale said of Ulis. "He makes up for a lack of size with his toughness and his quickness. I'm just saying, generally, we've got to wait before you make a rash statement: Guys saying he's the best point guard in the country. I think you've got to wait a little while. I really do."

Early this preseason, Greenberg and another ESPN analyst, Sean Farnham, declared Ulis as the best point guard in college basketball this coming season. Ulis downplayed the significance of this designation.

For what it's worth, Sports Illustrated placed Ulis at No. 7 in a list of top college point guards posted in late October.

Calipari has acknowledged the difference increased minutes can make. That could be especially true for a player like Ulis, who relies on relentlessness to be an effective defender.

"You can't play that way for 38 minutes," Calipari said. "I'd like to keep him out there, but I just can't see it."

Ulis did not recoil from the idea of playing more than 30 or 35 minutes a game.

"I don't feel like there is a max," he said. "I'll play as much as he needs me to play. My stamina is pretty good. So I'll be good in that area."

You might say playing more than 30 minutes a game requires mental toughness. If it's a mind game, Ulis seems well-equipped to compete.

"I feel I was blessed with a high IQ," he said. "I'm not the tall guy. I'm not big and strong. So I have to use my IQ to my advantage."

NBA Stock Watch | Can Ulis overcome size?

By Kyle Tucker | Courier-Journal | Nov. 11, 2015

LEXINGTON, Ky. – The Tyler Ulis Era at Kentucky officially begins Friday night when the second-ranked Wildcats open their season with the sophomore point guard finally alone at the controls. Big Blue Nation would be wise to enjoy it while it lasts.

Although one-and-done has become commonplace at UK since coach John Calipari came to town, and two-and-done is typically considered a long stay in Lexington, there was some hope when the 5-foot-9 Ulis signed that he was going to be a rare four-year star. For all his ability, he's well below what the NBA considers

ideal height. So maybe he'd have to stay.

This summer, though, Calipari all but ended that dream for Cats fans.

"What's not going to change about Tyler?" he asked. Barring a growth spurt, it's pretty obvious. "So either you like a guy 5-9 or not. There are some (NBA) teams that won't play a 5-9 guy. They just won't. So there comes a point where he is what he is and staying longer here helps me win more games – and I would want him here longer – but it's not going to change who he is.

"If he needs another year, we're here for him, but I don't see how much he can change from what he's able to do now. He's our best player – and it ain't close."

Calipari was quick to point out that doesn't make Ulis the team's best pro prospect. Far from it. Projected top-10 picks Skal Labissiere (a 6-11 forward) and Jamal Murray (a 6-4 guard) will battle for that distinction.

"Even I know I'm not the best NBA prospect," Ulis said. "I'm 5-foot tall. Skal is 7 feet. Come on, he's potentially a No. 1 pick. I understand that, but at the end of the day I know how to play and I'm just going to go out there and show what I can do."

That was sometimes hidden last season. Splitting point guard duties with Andrew Harrison, Ulis only averaged 23.8 minutes per game. But his averages per 40 minutes were impressive: 9.5 points, 6.1 assists, 1.7 turnovers, 1.7 steals. He also shot 42.9 percent from 3-point range.

Now, after seven teammates left for the NBA, Ulis is the clear leader of these new-look Cats. ESPN draft analyst Chad Ford believes this season can solidify him as a legitimate pro prospect but agrees there is likely not much benefit to extending his stay in college any further.

"I think Cal has it exactly right," said Ford, who rates Ulis the 38th-best prospect for the 2016 draft. "From a talent standpoint, he's an NBA player all the way, and if he was 6-foot-2 or 6-foot-3, we'd be talking about Tyler as a top-five prospect in this draft. You have a guy who can see the floor, with his speed and vision and the fact that he can actually shoot the rock on top of it, all of that points to him being an elite NBA point guard.

"The problem, and the only problem, is that he's 5-foot-9 and this is just a bit of uncharted water for guys being dominant players in the NBA."

Mighty mites Isaiah Thomas (of the Celtics, not the former Pistons star) and Nate Robinson recently, Muggsy Bogues and Spud Webb previously, have carved out nice roles in the NBA. But none of those similarly-sized guys truly became stars.

"So Tyler has that to overcome," Ford said. "NBA scouts love his game. They're all just worried about his size, both offensively and defensively. If he doesn't have a great season, I don't think he gets drafted at all. But if he ends up playing as well as teams think he can play – I know some scouts who think he's the best point guard in college basketball, that he's a legitimate (National) Player of the Year candidate – if he has that type of season, then maybe he sneaks into the late first round or early second round.

"Can he increase that ceiling into being a lottery pick? I think only a growth spurt would make that happen."

So there it is, UK fans, the catch-22: Maybe a bad season would keep Ulis in Lexington (but who would root for that?), while a great year likely means he maxed out his pro stock and would be wise to leave. As it turns out, despite being the smallest player Calipari has coached, he's just like so many stars before him.

"I'm not going to grow. I'm the player I'm going to be," Ulis said. "(Calipari) had that conversation when I first got here, telling me if I'm a four-year player – if I think that – then I don't need to come. I'm just trying to focus on this year, trying to play within our team, and just trying to lead us to a championship. Not really thinking too much into that."

Five storylines for Kentucky entering the 2015-16 season
By Metz Camfield | CoachCal.com | Nov.11, 2015

The Kentucky men's basketball team enters the 2015-16 season with both a lot of promise and a lot of uncertainty.

The promise comes by way of having so much talent. In addition to returners Tyler Ulis, Alex Poythress, Marcus Lee, Dominique Hawkins and Derek Willis, the Wildcats also welcome in the No. 1 recruiting class in the country.

Each of the aforementioned returners have, at some point in their careers, shown the potential to be a strong player in UK's still unknown rotation. Meanwhile, freshmen Skal Labissiere and Jamal Murray have each garnered preseason All-America hype, and head coach John Calipari believes Isaiah Briscoe could become the best defensive guard in the country. The uncertainty over this team looms with the departures of the Wildcats' top seven scorers to the NBA Draft. Kentucky will be looking to replace 85.9 percent of its scoring and 77.3 percent of its rebounding. Who takes the big shot late in a game? Who grabs that decisive rebound?

Every team in the country has a number of storylines to pay attention to as the 2015-16 season begins, and Kentucky is no different. Here are five to keep an eye on throughout the year.

Alex Poythress' health

In early September, Coach Cal sat at a table with local Kentucky basketball beat reporters all around him asking questions about the upcoming season. The questions, obviously, covered a number of topics, but of the most frequent was the health status of Poythress.

Those questions, though not quite as frequent thanks to results on the court during the preseason, still exist today. In September, Calipari said that a lot of what happens with his team this season will be determined by how quickly Poythress starts returning to form.

"You don't have anybody like him," Coach Cal said at the time. "You have no one that's that physical, that tough, the ability to just go get balls and make plays. We have no one like that on the team. If he does what he can do, the rest of the guys will kind of fall into what they are."

Poythress, personally, does not enjoy constantly having to talk about his knee, but Friday's game versus Albany will be his first regular season game since a four-point, two-rebound outing against Columbia on Dec. 10 of last season.

"I'm getting more confident in my knee, as you can see," Poythress said after UK's 53-point win over Kentucky State. "I feel like I'm really shooting it well when I'm getting my feet set and everything. I feel like that's really working."

On Tuesday, Calipari said the 6-foot-8 "beast" was getting healthier each time he stepped out on the court. If he can maintain that health and return to his previous form, he will buoy a Wildcat frontcourt that could be one of the best and most formidable in the nation.

Thanks to the NBA getting smaller and smaller, Poythress can now play his more natural position as a power forward. In two exhibition games, Poythress averaged 10.5 points, 7.0 rebounds and 3.0 blocks in 17.0 minutes per game.

"He can be a four now," Calipari said. "That's exactly what he can play and play well, and be a skilled four, and be a beast four."

Kentucky's bevy of backcourt talent

In case you've been hiding under a rock

for some odd reason over the last few months, you've read somewhere about the bevy of talent playing in Kentucky's backcourt.

Ulis is leader of the UK guards, and it's shown on the court during practices and exhibition games. The Chicago native is consistently asked by Coach Cal to tell the team what he's thinking, and on the court he directs the team as well as an orchestra conductor.

"He may be the best floor general – I'm not saying the best guard but the best floor general I've ever coached," Calipari said at Media Day. "... He just moves people. I can do less coaching, let him do more. I let him call the plays. It's like having a quarterback (who's) not getting signals from the sidelines. You do what you think you need to do."

Beside him is Murray, a 6-4 scoring machine who is now being talked about as a potential top-five pick in next summer's NBA Draft. The Kitchener, Ontario, native stole the headlines against Ottawa, finishing with 22 points, 12 boards, nine assists and three steals. Then, against Kentucky State, he scored 20 points to go with four rebounds and three assists.

ESPN NBA Draft analyst Chad Ford called him a potential NBA superstar, while an NBA scout said he and Ulis could be the best two players in the country.

And then, of course, there's Briscoe and Hawkins, who prior to breaking his hand in October was "no doubt" a part of UK's rotation, Coach Cal said.

"I will say our guard play is really, really good," Coach Cal said at Media Day. "Then I just have to make a decision at some point do we play three, how much do we play three guards, how do we play if we're playing three guards, how do we defend if we're playing three guards? I mean, there's a lot of things that we have to come to grips with on."

These are all questions that will be answered over the course of the season, but if last week's exhibitions are an indication it appears UK will start with Ulis, Murray and Briscoe on the floor together.

"The more that we can play through our guards and let them make choices, the better we'll be," Calipari said.

Who's next?

Who's next? It's more than just a theme this year for Kentucky basketball.

Sure, the Wildcats have sent 26 players to the NBA over the past six seasons, including 19 first-round draft picks, three No. 1 overall selections and 13 lottery picks, but all that success is earned, not given.

With Kentucky trying to replace nearly 86 percent of its scoring and over 77 percent of its rebounding, there is clearly plenty of opportunity to earn a spot in the rotation. The question is who takes those spots.

"I put up a tape of us running an offense last year for the team to see so we could put it in and they'd see it," Coach Cal said at the annual Tipoff Luncheon Oct. 7. "And as I walked out of the door, Tyler was out ahead of me and I called him back as we left the room. I said, 'Tyler, oh my gosh. Did you see this?' He said, 'What?' 'See how good we were last year?' He busted out laughing. He said, 'We were really good. We were really good.' "

Labissiere and Murray are pegged as potential lottery picks, and Briscoe as a potential first rounder, with Ulis, Lee and Poythress also being talked about as potential NBA Draft selections next summer.

If each of the Wildcats perform to their potential and are the best versions of themselves, the "who's next?" theme will have its answer.

Style of play

One of Coach Cal's great abilities as a head coach is to change his style of play based on his personnel.

At Memphis, Calipari used his Dribble-Drive Motion offense. At Kentucky, however, he has used various offensive and defensive systems to play to his team's strengths. Whether it be dribble handoffs on offense or switching constantly on defense, Calipari's ability to exploit his team's strengths to its advantage has allowed UK to win a national championship and reach four Final Fours during his six years in Lexington.

The question with his 2015-16 team is what that style will be.

With so many "positionless" players, the possibilities seem to be endless. It looks as though Kentucky is likely to start three point guards, giving the offense flexibility, while also helping ensure that it will always be in order and playing at a fast pace.

In the frontcourt, the athleticism of Poythress, Lee and Labissiere should give UK plenty of mismatches, while Isaac Humphries gives the post more size and physicality. The 7-0 Australian has also shown a nice shooting touch.

"Tyler I guess put him on the baseline like eight or nine feet doing pick and rolls, and anytime his man left he threw it to him and the kid made that shot," Calipari said in September. "Tyler's like, 'This guy's really going to help us!' Yeah, he's going to help your game in a pick-and-roll because if you don't have a lob man then you throw to him and he can make the shot."

Which style trumps the others will be an intriguing storyline to keep an eye on, especially early in the season. And, as Coach Cal has shown in the past, he's not immune to adjusting that style of play as the year progresses and players' strengths and weaknesses become more apparent.

Team chemistry

Any time a team has as many new pieces to welcome aboard as Kentucky does this year, there will be a learning curve.

There are eight players on Kentucky's roster this year who were not on the team last year. Whereas last year's team had seven returners with significant in-game experience, as well as an invaluable trip to the Bahamas, this year's team has only had the practice gym.

Practice time, both structured and of the pick-up variety, has been a time for the Cats to get to know each other, their style of play, tendencies, strengths and weaknesses. The Wildcat Coal Lodge has been a place for them to get to know their backgrounds and personalities. With four players on the team from outside the US, that's been an adjustment as well.

"I think it's something new because a lot of people who have been here, we don't really get to be out and see different things," Marcus Lee said back in an August interview. "(The international players) come with a different culture. It's good to learn from them and they learn from us. It's been really fun to learn different things and learn about each other."

On the court, thanks in part to a plethora of guards, the Wildcats have looked fairly in sync considering the calendar is still in November.

"It's coming together real well," Poythress said after Kentucky's second exhibition game. "We're starting to jell. Really playing well with the three guards. Skal is playing better – played really well in the second half. We're just coming along together."

Willis off to strong start for Cats

By Jon Hale | Courier-Journal | Nov.14, 2015

LEXINGTON, Ky. – Days before the official start of his junior season, Kentucky forward Derek Willis called on his past to help facilitate a change in his on-court performance.

Willis met with his father and former Bullitt East High School coaches John Hunt and Troy Barr to talk about his chances of securing a role in the primary UK rotation

for the first time in his career.

"I've been raised to be like a humble person," Willis said. "That's how my parents raised me, so I don't really think highly of myself or I don't really think cocky."

His former coaches told him to change that attitude.

"They pretty much told me you have to have a certain level of arrogance," Willis said. "It doesn't mean you're out there being however you want to be, but to be confident in the game you have to be, 'This is where I know I can play.' That's what I'm trying to develop right now."

Willis' newfound confidence was on full display in Kentucky's season-opening 78-65 win over Albany on Friday night.

He and senior forward Alex Poythress were the first substitutes to check in for the Wildcats at the 15:12 mark in the first half. One minute later he scored his first points on a jumper.

During an almost three-minute stretch from the 10:53 mark to the 8:05 mark in the first half, Willis scored seven of Kentucky's nine points.

By halftime he had set career-highs with 14 points and 13 minutes played. Willis had never scored more than six points or played more than 12 minutes in any of his first 35 appearances as a Wildcat across two seasons.

"If Derek doesn't play in the first half, it's probably a one-bucket game at halftime," UK head coach John Calipari said.

Willis missed both of his field-goal attempts in the second half to finish his night with 14 points, five rebounds, three assists and three turnovers. He hit 4 of 7 field-goal attempts and 2 of 5 shots from 3-point range. Willis made all four of his free throws.

"Derek made a lot of mistakes in the second half," Calipari said. "But you know what? You watched and said, 'Man, he's just playing.'"

For Willis, the first-half performance marked his first significant minutes in his collegiate career. While he was happy to contribute, Willis was quick to note he had room for improvement after the game.

"I look at every game the same," he said. "That's been like that since high school. I just want to come out here and play and bring energy and be passionate about the game and let the people enjoy it."

Albany head coach Will Brown highlighted Willis' versatility, nothing the 6-foot-9 forward can cause a mismatch for teams at the three or four positions.

Willis may not have featured signifi-

cantly in the Great Danes' game plan, but that was not because of any lack of talent.

"It's not that he's not a really good basketball player," Albany head coach Will Brown said. "It's just that he's had plenty of lottery picks ahead of him. Now it's his turn. He's got an opportunity, and I'm sure he'll take advantage of it."

Willis showed off his versatility by hitting his first four field-goal attempts and spearheading the point of Kentucky's press with two steals.

"He's definitely comfortable," junior forward Marcus Lee said of Willis. "He knows what he's supposed to be doing. Cal's really trying to define and make sure he knows what to do exactly. And Derek's just taken what Cal wants him to do and has just gone with it and has just been totally aggressive with it."

A vocal portion of the fan base has called for Willis to see an expanded role since he stepped on campus, while other spectators have frequently doubted he would ever earn a spot in the rotation at Kentucky.

Willis insisted he does not listen to that chatter, but for at least one game he made a stake to being an important piece for Kentucky this season.

And for the doubters who questioned if Willis would ever become a consistent contributor at Kentucky, he has a philosophical approach.

"You have to look at it from a different perspective. Like, maybe something is wrong with that person," Willis said. "Like, maybe they go to work for 80 hours a week, and they're just mad at their cat or something and they've just got to take it out on somebody."

If Willis posts many more performances like the Albany game, cat problems or not, those fans will need to find a new avenue to vent their frustration.

Briscoe's energy 'changes a lot' for Kentucky
By Kyle Tucker | Courier-Journal | Nov.15, 2015

All Isaiah Briscoe's delayed debut did was highlight just how valuable he is to the Kentucky basketball team.

Without him, the Wildcats scratched out a victory over Albany on Friday. With him, they steamrolled New Jersey Institute of Technology on Saturday.

"Isaiah makes us different," coach John Calipari said. "I knew it when he wasn't playing the first game. I thought we were going to lose."

It's about more than the final scores.

Kentucky, which Calipari thought lacked grit and toughness on opening night, suddenly had a little extra edge when Briscoe returned from a right knee bruise for the second act.

"When I saw him warming up, I was a little disappointed, to be honest with you," NJIT coach Jim Engles said. "Being from Jersey (Briscoe's home state), we have obviously seen him play a lot – I saw him play in AAU – and he's got a really terrific future. He is a very big complement to the rest of the guys."

Briscoe, a 6-foot-3 freshman and former McDonald's All-American, produced 11 points, 12 rebounds, two steals and two assists in his first college game. He attacked at every opportunity – on the glass, on defense, on loose balls he hurled himself after.

For a team loaded with skill but light on enforcers, Briscoe is exactly what these Cats need.

"It helps a lot. He's a bulldog," said skinny superstar Skal Labissiere, a 6-11 forward who poured in 26 points but grabbed just five rebounds against undersized NJIT. "Every time you go up for a rebound, here's Isaiah coming, snatching it from whoever it is. Twelve rebounds for his position, I think that's legit."

Briscoe, who is trying to carve out his own niche on a roster featuring two other five-star guards (Tyler Ulis and Jamal Murray), knows one way to earn brownie points with Calipari is to crash the boards.

"But he don't give you too many," Briscoe said, grinning. "He likes to keep you level-headed."

The coach was more than willing to dole out some praise for the freshman after Saturday's showing, though. He knows Briscoe will be big on Tuesday night when second-ranked Kentucky collides with fifth-ranked Duke in Chicago.

"He has a winning attitude," Calipari said. "He's going to do what it takes."

The defending national champion Blue Devils have some very good guards – Grayson Allen scored 54 points in their first two games – but the Cats have an elite floor general in Ulis, scoring machine in Murray and, in Briscoe, a guy Calipari has challenged to be the best defensive guard in college basketball.

"He and Jamal are perfect partners on the court," the coach said. "Jamal can do stuff that he can't do. He does stuff that Jamal can't do. And they both do one thing pretty well: turn it over. They had seven between them. But short of that, those two, and then Tyler … I'm happy."

Everyone was in a better mood after

Kentucky's second game than the first. The Cats just looked different, and so afterward felt different. It wasn't all because of Briscoe, but his presence was the only thing that changed for UK.

Briscoe said in watching from the bench Friday, he didn't think the Cats "were having fun." He fixed that.

"His energy, it changes a lot," senior forward Alex Poythress said. "Because he's tough, he rebounds, he guards. That's what we need. We need to hang our hats on defense to win games, and when he came in, that's what he changed the game with."

Labissiere's unique talent forcing Calipari to adjust
By Guy Ramsey | Cat Scratches | Nov. 15, 2015

Back-to-back scoreless first halves for Skal Labissiere in Kentucky's final exhibition game and regular-season opener led to some logical concerns about his ability to get off to quick starts.

Go ahead and cast those worries aside, thanks in part to a pregame pep talk from John Calipari that waited until halftime in those last two games.

"Coach Cal obviously is a great coach," Labissiere said. "He talked to me before the game, told me that they were going to go to me early before the game. So I just have to put myself in the right positions to catch the ball and score."

He did just that repeatedly from the opening tip.

Labissiere exploded for 18 first-half points, helping UK (2-0) overcome an early deficit of six points in an 87-57 victory over NJIT (0-1) on Saturday night. He stuck around in the second half as well, finishing with 26 points on everything from turn-around jumpers to dunks.

"Whatever the defense gives me, wherever they make me go," Labissiere said, trying to explain how he chooses from his arsenal of moves each time he touches the ball. "I'm just going to take whatever they give me."

The Port-au-Prince, Haiti native almost always made the right choice, and nearly flawlessly to boot. Labissiere made all seven of his first-half field goals and both of his free throws, not missing the mark until after he had made one more shot in the second half.

"The kid's unbelievable," NJIT head coach Jim Engles said. "On tape, he's got such a great tempo to his game and he's so long and he's got an unbelievable touch. And I literally thought we were contesting some of his shots, but he can just turn and shoot over you. He's a special player"

All told, the true freshman shot 10 of 12 from the field and 6 of 6 from the free-throw line.

"That's something we work on every single day," he said. "Coach Kenny Payne, every single day we work on catching it and just scoring. And I get to play against Isaac (Humphries) and Marcus (Lee) every single day. So that helps a lot."

At least on the offensive end, Labissiere seems to need less work than his predecessors to become a dominant force. His game has a polish that even future No. 1 NBA Draft picks Anthony Davis and Karl-Anthony Towns lacked, which has forced Coach Cal's hand in a way.

"The thing is, I've got to figure him out," Calipari said. "I haven't done a really good job."

Calipari, with a couple regular-season games coaching Labissiere under his belt, has come to realize he has a unique talent on his hands. That demands a unique approach to molding his young pupil's game.

"He's totally different than Karl," Calipari said. "He's just a different player. He's totally different than Anthony. And I'm not comparing him to them two, as far as he's as good as them, he's different. So, now you want to play him like Shaq (O'Neal). He's not Shaq. He's never going to be Shaq. So when you get him the ball in seven, eight feet from the basket and he can turn and shoot, I don't know how you guard him."

The answer to that might be that you don't, which means Calipari knows he needs to put the ball in Labissiere's hands in position to hit that shot often.

"He's going to try to figure out a way to play me to make me more comfortable out there," Labissiere said. "We are still working on that."

Hold on, Labissiere wasn't comfortable on a night when he scored 26 points? Apparently not.

"I'm still trying to get more comfortable," Labissiere said. "I think as the year goes on I'm going to get more comfortable. Still trying to get used to playing with the guys and playing against that level of competition every single day."

And in addition to developing his offensive game, Labissiere is simultaneously working to grow as a physical presence on defense and the glass to capitalize on his 6-foot-11 frame. That doesn't come quite as naturally as deft touch around the basket.

"He's got to rebound more," Calipari said. "And I told him the one thing that I can't do for him is teach him fight and grit. He's going to have to do that. But he made strides, he did good today."

Labissiere agreed he has work ahead of him, saying that aggressiveness is the most important factor in improving. He'll get an immediate test of that on Tuesday, as UK heads to Chicago to take on defending national champion Duke in the Champions Classic.

"I think it's going to be a challenging game because obviously they are good too," Labissiere said. "It's Duke. We have practice tomorrow, we're going to get ready for them and see if we can slow them down."

Zen and the Art of Making the Perfect Player: Meet Kentucky's Jamal Murray
By Jason King | Bleacher Report | Nov. 16, 2015

LEXINGTON, Ky. — He'd traveled more than 600 miles, crossed the Canadian border and sat through a high school workout in an Ontario gym. Now, finally, it was time for Kentucky assistant Kenny Payne to shake the hand of the recruit he'd been so anxious to meet.

Or so he thought.

As Payne rose from his seat in the Orangeville Prep bleachers and began to approach Jamal Murray, the star guard's father stepped in and told Payne he'd need to wait a little longer.

"I'm sorry," Roger Murray said, "but Jamal needs time to meditate."

Sure enough, Payne turned his head and saw the top teenage player in Canada sitting alone on the hardwood in a corner of the gym. His eyes were closed, his mind clearly in deep thought. It's a ritual Jamal Murray says he practices both before and after every workout—and every game.

"Mental kung fu," he calls it.

"Sometimes I'm reflecting on a practice and things I could've done better," Murray says. "Other times I'm visualizing things that will happen in a game. Having that time to myself is important. It's a big part of who I am as a player."

No one can argue with the results.

Murray—who signed with Kentucky in June after reclassifying to the class of 2015—is projected to be a top-10 pick in next summer's NBA draft, thanks, in part, to a string of banner performances last spring and summer.

In April he was named MVP of the Nike Hoop Summit following a 30-point

effort in the World Team's 103-101 victory over Team USA. Two months later, in the Pan American Games, Murray led Team Canada to a 111-108 win over Team USA by scoring all 22 of his points in the fourth quarter and overtime.

Entering what will likely be his only season in college, Murray has arguably been the top performer—both in practices and in scrimmages—for a Kentucky team with realistic hopes of a third straight berth in the Final Four.

"Not only is Murray the top point guard prospect in the draft," ESPN's draft analyst Chad Ford wrote, "he might be the best player in college basketball."

Such lofty praise doesn't surprise Rowan Barrett, the assistant general manager of Canada Basketball who discovered Murray four years ago.

"He's a heat-seeking missile," Barrett said. "He's talented, yes. But there's something special inside of him."

That, more than anything, is what shapes the narrative surrounding Murray. Even more interesting than his talent and accomplishments is the path he took to achieve them.

By the time he was six years old—while most kids his age were obsessed with Star Wars figures, Legos and video games— Murray was competing in basketball leagues against 10-year-olds. To ensure he remained focused on basketball growing up, Murray's father had the family's cable television disconnected.

The advent of social media didn't distract Murray as he grew older. In fact, before his arrival at Kentucky over the summer, Murray didn't even have a cell phone. Instead of hanging out with friends at the mall as a teenager, Murray spent his free time in the gym. Last summer his father said he made 270 consecutive free throws.

Jamal Murray's late-game offensive heroics led Canada past the U.S. and to an eventual second-place finish at the Pan Am Games this year.
Even now, it's not uncommon to find Murray shooting alone, late into the night, on Kentucky's practice court.

"You've got to understand...this kid is different now," Payne says. "This entire situation is different. It's not just a kid saying, 'I want to be a good basketball player.' His whole approach is unique and interesting and cerebral.

"It's something we've never seen."

As much as Jamal Murray grew up idolizing NBA stars Vince Carter and Michael Jordan, the biggest influence on his playing style was a person who likely never

touched a basketball: Bruce Lee.

The seeds were planted decades before Jamal was even born.

Roger Murray estimates he was about seven years old when he became enamored with Lee, a famous martial artist who starred in a series of movies in the early 1970s. More than his kicks and chops, Roger was impressed with the way the 5'7" Lee never backed down from his much-larger combatants—how he never showed fear. The more he watched Lee, the more curious Roger became.

"I wanted to know more about how he got so strong mentally," Roger said. "No matter who was standing in front of him, he was never afraid."

Roger began reading books on kung fu and learning about the mentality one must develop to practice it successfully. Eventually he began using the techniques on his own and vowed that, if he ever had a son, he'd train him to think the same way.

Years later, Roger made good on his promise.

Before he ever reached high school, Jamal had been taught by his dad how to draw strength from kung fu. He says he began a routine of showering before every game to "refresh his body" then finding a quiet space in the locker room to meditate and visualize things that would happen over the next few hours on the court.

The ritual, which he still practices today, has such a calming effect that Murray says it lowers his in-game heart rate to 34 beats per minute. A normal, resting heart rate is about 40-60 beats per minute, according the American Heart Association. Perhaps it's no surprise, then, that Murray's most impressive trait is his ability to stay calm and even-keeled during the most intense moments of a game.

"When you meditate," Murray says, "you go deeper into your thinking and explore parts of your mind that you never would've explored.

"When you're calm, you're more focused and you make better choices. The game is moving fast, but to you it still seems slow."

Murray's former mentors say they've never encountered an athlete who takes such an intellectual approach to the game.

"He reminds me of (former NBA coach) Phil Jackson—a Zen master on the court," says Tony McIntyre, who coached Murray's AAU team, the CIA Bounce. "The whole time he's playing, he's in a different zone— a different place than anyone else."

As much as he depends on the mental aspect of his game, the 6'4" Murray wouldn't have flourished into one of North

America's top players without years of work on the court, too. And just like with kung fu, Roger Murray deserves most of the credit for his son's development.

Before he ever reached kindergarten in Kitchener, Ontario, Jamal was being put through dribbling exercises, footwork drills and shooting sessions under the watchful eye of his father.

"I stopped my life for this kid," Roger Murray chuckles.

When Roger went to the local gym to play pickup ball with his friends, Jamal joined in. Playing against 10-year-olds at age six, Dad figured, would seem easy after competing against grown men.

John Calipari sees Murray as a player who defies an easy categorization, noting that the freshman can play any position. Instead of focusing on one position, Roger taught Jamal the intricacies of all five. They'd spend months working on the footwork and post moves of power forwards and centers before honing the inside-out game of a small forward. Then came the shooting stations to hone his scoring prowess on the wing and, months later, the dribbling drills that would help him as a point guard.

"He's a positionless player," Kentucky coach John Calipari says. "We can use him anywhere on the court."

Murray's versatility didn't surface by accident. It was all part of a plan—one that saw his mother, Sylvia, guiding his academic studies while Roger took care of the on-court lessons.

At the direction of his father, Jamal would often play entire games without taking a single shot, instead focusing on notching a double-figure total in assists. Other times he was only allowed to attempt field goals with his left hand, which eventually helped him become ambidextrous.

When they weren't in the gym, Jamal and his father were on the track working on sprints to increase his speed. Roger also said he put Jamal through exercises, such as push-ups in the snow, to increase his pain tolerance. He declined to elaborate further.

"I don't want to give away all of my secrets," Roger says. "The whole idea was to get him to block out what he was feeling— that it was only temporary. Some kids get hit or cut and immediately think it's worse than it is. I tried to show him that pain is something we all go through, that it's a part of life. If you don't get freaked out by it, you can get past it."

So focused on basketball and his studies was Jamal that he didn't have time for

much of a social life. His dad subscribed to cable a few times during the winter so he and his son could watch basketball games, but he eventually discontinued the service for good. Murray never had a cell phone throughout high school—only an iPod he rarely used. The only reason he joined Twitter was to discredit the impersonators who had started accounts pretending to be him.

"I didn't let him hang out with kids at the mall, either," Roger says. "Kids waste so much time these days. They cheat themselves. I wanted everything he did to have a purpose."

Murray's willingness to defend, along with his varied skills, immediately caught the attention of Canada's national team. Murray's hard work in grade school began to pay off when he was 15. It was then that Barrett, the Canada Basketball assistant GM, received a call from a friend urging him to drive to Falstaff Community Centre in Ontario to watch a kid he'd never heard of compete in a pickup game.

There—in the same gym where former Canadian stars such as Tristan Thompson, Cory Joseph, Dwight Powell and Nik Stauskas used to train—Barrett's jaw dropped as he watched a player who may someday be better than all of them.

"(Murray) was diving on the floor for loose balls," Barrett says. "He was in passing lanes. He was rebounding on both ends, and he was scoring on layups and and-1's and threes and off of one leg. Defensively, he was up in guys' (jerseys).

"His motor and competitiveness were off the charts. The things that are hard to quantify...he had those things inside of him."

Murray immediately began training with Canada Basketball and, within a year, he was starring in international competitions. As a 16-year-old, he had 24 points and seven rebounds in the Jordan Brand International game and also averaged 17.4 points for Team Canada in the U16 FIBA Americas.

"The big games, the big moments, seem to ignite him," Barrett says. "There's a switch there. That's when you see his teeth."

As big of a factor as he was on the court, Murray also set an example in other ways. When Barrett tried to hold him out of a practice because of a mild ankle sprain, Murray asked if he could at least put on his jersey and watch from the sideline. Barrett agreed, and then Murray capitalized by sneaking into a drill while his coaches were at the other end of the court.

Another time, coaches became concerned with their player's workload—they were practicing twice a day for two hours—while training for the U16 FIBA Americas.

Murray's near-obsession with practice, and busy playing schedule, prompted his father to force him to take a short break after he committed to Kentucky.

"Jamal was shooting in between sessions, and guys were following his lead," Barrett says. "We were worried about fatigue, so we told our staff to literally take away everyone's shoes and hide them. That way we could get them off their feet."

Later that day, though, coaches spotted Murray in the gym during off-hours.

He was shooting barefoot.

"He's got the heart of a lion," Barrett says. "He doesn't need anyone to push him."

Originally a member of the class of 2016, Murray decided to reclassify following his 30-point outburst in the Nike Hoop Summit last spring. It was then, shortly before the Pan Am Games and Jamal's commitment to Kentucky, that Roger Murray, fearing burnout, decided his son had earned some time off.

For more than a month, Jamal Murray rarely played basketball.

"After a few weeks he was like, 'Dad, it feels like I retired,' " Roger says. "He was eager to get back on the court. But I think he needed that break."

Especially since, for the foreseeable future, it'd be the last one he'd get to take.

When Jamal Murray walked into Kentucky's basketball facility for the first time in August, he hadn't even seen his dorm room or stopped by the coaching offices.

Instead, Murray's introduction to Wildcats basketball involved being picked up at the Lexington airport and driven straight to a media training session with his new teammates, some of whom he'd never met.

"I guess that was fitting," says Murray, relaxing on a leather couch in Kentucky's players' lounge last month. "That's what you sign up for when you come here. Basketball is a job now."

Murray may have been well-known in Canada, but never has he dealt with the type of spotlight he'll encounter with the most-scrutinized program in America.

Hundreds of local and national media members dissect the Wildcats' every move, students ask players for pictures as they walk to class and autograph hounds lurk outside the basketball dorm.

Approximately 80 NBA scouts were on hand in October for an open practice

televised live on ESPNU. Later that month more than 15,000 fans flocked to Rupp Arena just to watch Kentucky scrimmage.

With Murray, Kentucky is certain to be a frequent destination for NBA scouts this season.

Murray insists he isn't affected by the constant glare and hectic schedule that can often be overwhelming for an 18-year-old freshman.

"I don't mind the workload at all," he says. "I don't feel any stress whatsoever."

That has to be comforting to Calipari, who will depend heavily on Murray to help guide a unit that lost all five starters from last year's Final Four squad.

The Wildcats may elect to go with a three-man backcourt featuring Murray, sophomore Tyler Ulis (who many felt was the team's best point guard last season despite coming off the bench) and freshman Isaiah Briscoe, a McDonald's All-American. If the three players remain unselfish and develop a strong chemistry, Kentucky will have America's top guard trio.

Murray has blended in nicely thus far, scoring 19 points and adding eight assists in a season-opening win for a team that enters the season ranked No. 2 in the Associated Press poll. Game 2 saw him struggle from the field but still add five rebounds and two assists in a blowout Kentucky victory over NJIT.

"He really doesn't have a weakness," Payne said. "He's worked hard to develop as a player, but some of his gifts are a blessing. They're God-given.

"He has instincts that are natural and really, really unique. He doesn't get rattled or panicked or sped up. He's able to digest things and figure out things naturally. Sometimes I don't think he knows how he's doing it."

Mental kung fu, perhaps?

"Hey," Payne says, "whatever works."

Before Kentucky's official workouts began last month, it wasn't uncommon for staff members to call Wildcats players in the evening and urge them to head to the practice gym for a workout. Often, they'd discover Murray was already there, hoisting shot after shot deep into the night as tunes by J. Cole and Busta Rhymes played over the sound system.

Murray scored 19 points, handed out eight assists, grabbed three rebounds and made three steals in his Kentucky debut vs. Albany Friday night.

Payne says Murray's individual sessions can become unorthodox. He'll make 20 straight free throws with his right hand and then force himself to make 20 in a row with his left. Or he'll swish 50 consecutive

mid-range jumpers and then challenge himself to connect on 10 straight fading away off one foot.

"Some things are so easy for him that he gets bored with it," Payne says. "Instead of playing against an opponent, he's playing against himself."

Roger Murray appreciates the praise for his son, but it doesn't surprise him. He directed Jamal's path and monitored his training for years—all in preparation for this moment.

"He's way better than anyone realizes," Roger says. "I have confidence that my son can do things no one else is doing."

Still, as excited as they are about what lies ahead, Kentucky's coaches still have one question about Murray.

How will he handle adversity?

All his life, he's been the most dominant player on his team, the best prospect on the court. But how will Murray react during those rare times when things don't go his way?

"It'll be good for him to hit the wall a little bit at some point," Payne says. "It builds character. I'm curious to see how he responds. I mean…that's how great players are measured."

Payne pauses.

"Jamal has a chance to be more than a great player," he says. "He has a chance to be special."

Skal Labissiere looks to take next step for No. 2 Kentucky
By Gary B. Graves | Associated Press | Nov. 16, 2015

Skal Labissiere has heeded Kentucky coach John Calipari's advice to be an offensive presence.

The 6-foot-11 freshman leads the second-ranked Wildcats in scoring at 17.5 points through two games. He's coming off a 26-point performance against NJIT, a game in which he floated jumpers, slammed home fierce dunks and generally had his way against the smaller Highlanders.

"I'm still trying to get more comfortable," Labissiere said after making 10 of 12 shots. "I'm still trying to get used to playing with the guys and playing against that level of competition every single day."

Statistically, Labissiere looks good; now the 225-pounder from Haiti must take his game to another level physically.

Kentucky (2-0) faces defending national champion and No. 5 Duke (2-0) Tuesday night in the Champions Classic in Chicago. Fourth-ranked Kansas (1-0) faces No. 13 Michigan State (1-0) in the other matchup.

Kentucky and Duke are more guard-heavy after the departure of low-post talent to the NBA. Though the Blue Devils lost 6-11 Jahlil Okafor and Justise Winslow, they still feature big bodies, including 7-footers Marshall Plumlee and freshman Antonio Vrankovic.

Duke's frontcourt must try to contain the lanky Labissiere.

"This is going to be a challenge for Skal because Plumlee plays so physical," Calipari said Monday. "This is a grit game, a grind-it game. They do a great job of wedging on rebounds. If you're not ready to fight, they're going to get offensive rebounds."

Calipari has often used words such as grit and fight as things he wants to see from his made-over roster and Labissiere in particular. Though the coach has down-played initial comparisons of Labissiere to recent Kentucky stars such as Anthony Davis and Karl-Anthony Towns, he obviously wants his big man to show that same ferocity around the basket.

That will take time, but Labissiere's game has shown other things to feel good about.

Saturday's explosion followed a nine-point, five-rebound debut that was solid if unspectacular given the hype around him as one of the nation's top newcomers. Calipari told Labissiere before the NJIT game to expect the ball more, and the rest was easy as the big man relished shooting chances out to nine feet.

"I wouldn't say he was tentative," point guard Tyler Ulis said of Labissiere's debut, "but it was his first game and he hadn't learned how to fight yet. But now he's doing what he has to do fighting in the low post, and when he gets the ball, he's scoring."

Labissiere's next step is learning the dirty work of guarding the rim and rebounding. His shot-blocking potential seems there with him and junior Marcus Lee sharing the team lead with six rejections each, and he's just six behind him on the boards.

Challenged by his coach to take charge more with the ball, Labissiere now looks forward to the opportunity to develop that same edge defending the basket. Especially against a Duke squad featuring players he can also look in the eye.

"I just have to be more aggressive," Labissiere said. "That's one of the things I'm still working on. I've gotten better and determined to get even better at it."

'Cats defeat Blue Devils, show they're ready to rock & rule
By Reid Forgrave | Fox Sports | Nov. 17, 2015

As much as November games will mean squat come March, and as much as I don't want to say this about the forever-young Kentucky Wildcats, there is only one way-too-early-but-impossible-to-deny conclusion to come to after Kentucky's 74-63 dismantling of Duke on Tuesday night:

Kentucky is the best team in the country.

Already.

And the Wildcats are only playing to a fraction of their potential.

And they're going to be exponentially better by March, when freshmen like Skal Labissiere and Isaac Humphries have found their place, when senior Alex Poythress has his full confidence back in his surgically repaired knee, and when this three-guard lineup of sophomore Tyler Ulis and freshmen Jamal Murray and Isaiah Briscoe becomes absolutely terrifying.

I don't want to think this. Not this early. Not during a season where the top of the heap in college basketball feels so in flux.

But after Tuesday night, is there really any other correct thought?

It was just a few weeks ago when I was in Lexington for Kentucky's intrasquad scrimmage at Rupp Arena. The 'Cats looked disjointed. Absurdly talented, yes, but like they hadn't played much basketball together (which, of course, they hadn't). Labissiere had seven fouls. (Hey, it was a scrimmage). The Wildcats shot less than 50 percent from the free-throw line as a team. The next morning, I spoke with John Calipari, and he told me he couldn't sleep the night before. That scrimmage was the moment when the coach realized just how far this team had to go.

It seemed like this team would be a lot more like Kentucky's team from two years ago, when it had an up-and-down regular season before peaking in March, than last year, when it annihilated Kansas at this same Champions Classic event in November on its way to a 38-1 season.

Yeah. About that …

This team looks fun! The Wildcats look like they are truly enjoying playing basketball together, with the leadership firmly in hands grasp of Ulis, who led the team with 18 points and six assists (and zero turnovers) against Duke. Calipari looks like he's having fun coaching them. They're fun to watch, too. Poythress has his bounce back and is fully accepting his down-and-dirty, crash-the-boards role, Marcus Lee is a rebounding and dunking machine, Murray might be the most exciting player in col-

lege hoops and Briscoe has some nifty East Coast point guard swagger to his game.

Most importantly, they have a winning formula. Tuesday night's game against Duke was a mathematical proof of the new-school basketball formula: Three point guards > zero point guards. (By the way, the lack of Tyus Jones' calming leadership at the point may affect Duke much more this season than the lack of Jahlil Okafor's gravitational pull in the post.)

As has become tradition, Kentucky and Duke were ranked atop the rankings of recruiting classes for this season. What defines Calipari's genius as a coach isn't his marketing skill of getting all these one-and-done-type recruits to come to Lexington. It's that he's able to get these kids who for years have been "The Guy" on their AAU teams and, within a few months of getting to Lexington, get them to gel together as a team. What's even more amazing is how when you look at the makeup of this Kentucky team vs. last year's squad, they are virtually polar opposites. Last year's Wildcats were from the Land of the Giants; the 7-footers who choked the post were more from an NBA roster than a collegiate roster. It was an often-ugly style of physical, defensive basketball.

This year is a fun, exciting, perimeter team. When I went to a preseason practice, I noticed how much Calipari was browbeating his guys to grab a rebound and run, run, run. On Tuesday, those three guards — Ulis, Murray and Briscoe — combined for 46 points, 12 assists and eight steals. Yes, Labissiere is an elite shot blocker and a scintillating interior talent, and Lee and Humphries will have their moments in the post, but the team will make its hay on the perimeter.

Duke will be fine. The lack of a true point guard is a serious concern, but it'll be rare for freshman Brandon Ingram and sophomore Grayson Allen to both play so terribly in the same game (a combined 10 points, 3-of-17 shooting and eight turnovers).

But the fact that Kentucky is so good so fast — against the defending champ, the worthiest of opponents — is the story.

This wasn't the November blowout of Kansas from a year ago, when Kentucky's 32-point win ushered in four months of hype for a possible 40-0 season. It wasn't that big of a statement.

But it was a big one. In a college basketball season that feels as wide open as this one, how can you come away from Kentucky's outclassing of Duke with any other feeling than that come March, Calipari will be in his fifth Final Four in six years, and

Tyler Ulis takes charge as dynamic Kentucky backcourt stymies Duke

By Brian Hamilton | Sports Illustrated | Nov. 18, 2015

Duke needed a play, someone to create offense in the waning moments of the first half on Tuesday night, and the ball made its way into the hands of Grayson Allen outside the three-point line. This made some sense. Allen averaged 27 points in the first two games of the year, and the sophomore is probably the Blue Devils' best option for attacking the rim off the bounce and drawing a defense. Opting to call his number was fine. The results were not.

Off the first bounce, three Kentucky defenders converged. It was chaos, instantly, a full meltdown of anything approximating good offense. The ball bounced around a bit before the Wildcats corralled it. Not shockingly, that ball swiftly made its way through the net at the other end, another of the abundant transition opportunities Kentucky converted in this Champions Classic matchup. As freshman Isaiah Briscoe mugged with his mouthpiece hanging off his lip, Duke skulked off the court, deflated by another counterpunch from the Wildcats' jet-propelled guards. But then it's always disappointing when someone shows you exactly what you're missing.

There's something very auspicious about Kentucky after its 74–63 win here, though it's more subtle than the way the Wildcats turned their last visit to the United Center into a horror show, putting a decent UCLA team through a grain thresher last December. No, this was something less bloody than that 39-point win but no less meaningful: Teams win with good guards, and teams can win huge when their guards are lightning bolts that can alter a game at both ends. Between Tyler Ulis, Jamal Murray and Briscoe, Kentucky should have someone capable of getting a shot or making a play on every single trip.

This seems like a championship essential, and it was essentially the case on Tuesday: Kentucky's guards either scored or assisted on 24 of the team's 30 field goals on the night.

"Our backcourt took care of it," Ulis said. "We saw they spread the court out, and that's what we like, being guards that can penetrate the defense. Me, Jamal and Zay, we just kind of take turns."

This is part backcourt, part multi-pronged electrical outlet: There should always be a charge available even if one or two spots have shorted out. "That's why it makes us good," Wildcats coach John Calipari said. "Last year, we had 7-foot, 7-foot, 6'10". This year we're 5'9", 6'2", 6'5". Last year—why did you throw it to the post every time? Seven-foot, 7-foot, 6'10". Why are you driving it every time? Five-nine, 6'2", 6'5". We're just a different team. We're playing different. The whole idea today was to put it on the floor, just move that ball, get some good spacing.

Calipari finished his thought by noting that he's back to the dribble-drive, teaching like he did at "that other school," but even reducing Kentucky's advantage to Xs and Os is an over-simplification. The Wildcats' speed is bracing, as evidenced by a ridiculous 18–4 advantage in fast-break points on Tuesday. But without guards who can strike the match on a transition opportunity, it means nothing. And then there's the havoc that trio can wreak on the other end: Ulis, Briscoe and Murray recorded eight steals against Duke, dosing every possession with misery. "On the perimeter," Blue Devils coach Mike Krzyzewski said, "those three kids had tough nights." Briscoe, in particular, took the lead in frustrating Allen, who missed his first nine shots en route to a 2-for-11 effort.

Ulis, Murray and Briscoe combined for 48 points and 12 assists overall. In its kinetic, confident backcourt, Kentucky has what Duke doesn't, at least not yet.

But at the core of this assessment is an even more propitious truth: Maybe no one anywhere has someone like Ulis.

The 5'9" Chicago native basked in an ovation as loud as anyone's before a hometown crowd and then played as if he was in the middle of nowhere. He logged 40 minutes without a turnover, making his team-highs of 18 points and six assists almost of ancillary importance. Kentucky is all of three games into this season, and the presumptions of today can spin into a ditch within a month. But Ulis exerts an effervescence upon his team, inflicting his energy upon both Kentucky and its opponents, to opposite effects for each.

"God was good to him," Krzyzewski said. "They didn't give him height, but they gave him probably a heart that's five times bigger than most people. He has great balance. And he's got poise. It doesn't look like he gets tired. He's in complete control of his team. Competing against him, I admired his presence throughout the game and his face throughout the game. It was the face of a winner, and a really good leader."

A team run by the Harrison twins the previous two seasons was, obviously, effective. But it was methodical. A team run by Ulis just looks so much more expansive. The numbers from last year suggested it might, too: As a freshman, Ulis had the second-highest offensive rating of any Kentucky regular (123.3), despite his relatively limited role, and his defensive rating (90.3) was even better than Wichita State's Fred VanVleet (91.4), who is considered one of the best defensive point guards in the nation. "When he's off the court, you know we're not the same," Calipari said. "He's like a baseball player who watches the ball and he can see the seams. The game happens slower for him."

It's another way to say things come easy for Ulis, even when Duke tried its best to make things hard. It rotated defenders like Allen, the 6'5" Matt Jones, the 6'2" Derryck Thornton and even the 6'9" Brandon Ingram on to Kentucky's point guard, to virtually no effect. Ulis's consistency in turn should make things easy on Kentucky. It certainly did Tuesday, when the Wildcats broke open the game early in the second half: Their first six buckets were all layups or dunks, five of which were the handiwork of the guards themselves or their passes that led directly to the score.

"We're going to be trouble in a fast-paced game like that," Ulis said.

Asked how his role has evolved from last year, Ulis went to boilerplate material, alluding to increased minutes and an enhanced responsibility to lead. That is hardly where the list ends. Tuesday confirmed that Kentucky's undersized point guard can inject his team with an outsize spirit, and his team will be able to command virtually any game as long as Ulis's backcourt-mates share the vibe and the ball. Even if they don't, even if the Wildcats falter early on a given night, their guards should have the capacity to change things in a blink. Given the history of recent national champions with guards imposing themselves on the action at critical moments, that seems elemental to everything this team wants to achieve.

This Champions Classic matchup ended with another Duke turnover on another steal by a Kentucky guard, with the ball flung far ahead toward the opposite basket. For the first time all evening, as time ran out, the Wildcats slammed on the brakes and declined to attack. No one should expect to see much more of it.

New Look, Same Swagger for Kentucky in Impressive Champions Classic Win vs. Duke
By Kerry Miller | Bleacher Report | Nov. 18, 2015

Are we absolutely certain Kentucky's seven leading scorers from last season declared for the NBA draft?

Despite playing just its third game with a new cast of characters, the 74-63 final score doesn't even begin to represent how thoroughly No. 2 Kentucky dismantled No. 5 Duke in the Champions Classic on Tuesday night.

For prolonged stretches, it felt like we were watching a replay of Kentucky's 32-point thrashing of Kansas in the 2014 Champions Classic. There weren't quite as many blocked shots in this year's edition, but the forced turnovers, alley-oop dunks and fast-break points were vividly reminiscent of the team that would eventually win 38 consecutive games.

If anything, Kentucky looked even better on Tuesday than it did for the majority of last season because of how phenomenal its guard play was against the Blue Devils.

There's a old cliche in football: If you have two quarterbacks, you actually have none.

In basketball, however, it turns out that having three great point guards in the starting lineup can be the recipe for a team that is extremely fun to watch. Tyler Ulis, Jamal Murray and Isaiah Briscoe ran circles around Duke on Tuesday night, combining for 46 points, 12 assists and eight steals against just four turnovers.

Even more importantly, they made four-fifths of Duke's backcourt look completely helpless.

Grayson Allen entered the night averaging 27.0 points per game, but he ended up being a microcosm of everything that went wrong for Mike Krzyzewski's club. He and super frosh Brandon Ingram combined for just 10 points on 17 field-goal attempts to go along with eight fouls and eight turnovers. Point guard Derryck Thornton had more turnovers than assists, and reserve three-point assassin Luke Kennard failed to convert on any of his five field-goal attempts.

If you were just watching the game and not paying much attention to the scoreboard, it felt like Kentucky won by a landslide. It's only because of double-doubles from Amile Jefferson and Marshall Plumlee (no, seriously) that this didn't devolve into one of the most lopsided losses of Krzyzewski's illustrious career.

Plain and simple: The Wildcats looked really good. And they aren't nearly as inexperienced as one might expect from a team that lost all seven of its leading scorers.

They still have Alex Poythress, whose importance to the roster as an athletic freak of nature John Calipari has been professing ad nauseam for months. Marcus Lee was the forgotten member of last year's platoon system, but the junior forward is still there and flying around the court like a madman, resulting in a double-double on Tuesday. And even though he's only a sophomore, it'd be hard to overstate how much Ulis' one year of experience will bring to this roster.

Now comes the downright terrifying part for college basketball fans who aren't a part of Big Blue Nation.

As ESPN's Jeff Goodman reported after the game, Ulis was frank enough to admit that the double-digit win over the reigning national champions wasn't even Kentucky's best effort.

That isn't arrogance or hot air. The Wildcats seriously didn't play as well as we, they or their coach know they can.

After the game, Calipari offered a few more words than Ulis, telling reporters, "If we learn to fight every possession, play the guy before he catches the ball, be alert defensively and stay in the stance...and play off of one another, we're going to be really good."

The frontcourt struggled mightily early in the game as Plumlee greeted the first media timeout with nine points and four offensive rebounds. Skal Labissiere—the potential No. 1 overall pick in the 2016 NBA draft—played just 13 minutes before fouling out, tallying a very lackluster seven points and four rebounds. Derek Willis scored 25 points in the first two games before playing seven scoreless minutes against Duke.

Even with those deficiencies, though, the Wildcats put on a clinic and officially put the nation on notice. A lot of the names and faces may have changed, but the Wildcats are clearly one of the early favorites to win the national championship.

Per usual.

You might not yet be on a first-name basis with this year's freshmen at Kentucky, but everyone knows John.

He's the mastermind who has turned freshman-heavy rosters into national semi-finalists in four of the past five seasons, and he certainly seems to be on his way to making it five out of six. His level of coaching excellence is so high that it's not even fun for Kentucky haters to bring up "the

Robert Morris season" anymore, because it only serves as a reminder that the man has failed just once in the past six seasons.

Heck, even Breaking Bad and Mad Men weren't as consistently great as Calipari has been, and there's an outside chance that this could be his best season yet.

Cal shocks Humphries, who pleasantly surprises Cal

By Jerry Tipton | Lexington Herald-Leader | Nov. 19, 2015

Kentucky Coach John Calipari shocked freshman Isaac Humphries during the Duke game. Of all possibilities, Calipari put the freshman big man in the game.

"When he came up to me and said I'm in, I thought, 'Me? Really? I'm going in right now?'" Humphries said Thursday. "I played a fair amount of minutes (12), and I was just determined to make sure he was happy with putting me in. I wanted to prove to him that I could do it."

Mission accomplished. Calipari noticed how Humphries contributed: two points, three rebounds, two blocks and a presence around the basket.

"Isaac was fine," Calipari said. "Isaac was not intimidated at all by the situation."

Humphries played fewer minutes against Albany (seven) and NJIT (six). As curious as it might sound, he said he was more comfortable going against Duke.

"I play better against bigger players," he said. "I like to be physical. It's easier against guys my size."

Besides providing a needed boost against Duke because of Skal Labissiere's foul trouble, Humphries said his performance made him reassess how he might contribute this season.

"I definitely learned that I could compete," he said. "I just learned to have more confidence in myself."

Family and friends in his native Australia offered Humphries congratulations.

"It must have been on TV because a lot of my friends and family were calling me afterward," he said. "It was cool."

The family and friends might not fully appreciate what Humphries did.

"We have nothing like it in Australia," he said. "They just think it's just a little basketball game. But little do they know that it's a very big game.

"I think they understand basketball, but they don't understand the severity of how important a game like that is. I just explained to them that it's pretty big. It's a pretty big arena and nothing like you've ever seen me play in. It's hard to explain to them, but they Google. So they can look it up."

Need consistency from bench

Derek Willis scored 25 points in UK's first two games. He was scoreless against Duke. That typifies the unpredictability of players coming off UK's bench so far this season.

"We need somebody who's going to be consistent off the bench," Calipari said. He mentioned Charles Matthews, Dominique Hawkins, Mychal Mulder and Willis as possibilities to fill that need.

"Somebody consistent so we knew what we're getting," Calipari said.

The Cats do not necessarily want consistent scoring, he said. The need is for reliable contributions.

Tooth or consequences

Alex Poythress got his teeth caught in the net after dunking against Duke. This prompted Calipari to say after the game that if that happened, "Why don't you do that all the time?"

Calipari meant that Poythress should show his athleticism to the fullest. It's in Poythress's self interest not to rely solely on physical play.

"On the next level, bullies don't make it," Calipari said. "You're done. You're finished. You can't play at that level. You have to be an elite athlete."

Meanwhile, Wright State Coach Billy Donlon chuckled when asked about Poythress getting his teeth caught in the net. "The only way I can relate to that in any way, shape or form is if the goal is 5 feet high," he said.

Recruiting?

While there was a buzz about UK's latest recruiting haul, Humphries and Isaiah Briscoe were not caught up in the enthusiasm. Each applauded the signings, but . . .

"I don't pay attention to that," Briscoe said.

Added Humphries: "I'm just focused on what we're doing right now."

Not necessarily a mate

Humphries, who is from Australia, laughed at how people assume he knows recruit Tai Wynyard, who is from New Zealand.

"We're supposed to be best friends because we're from the Southern Hemisphere," Humphries told reporters. "It's two different countries, guys."

Wright State

Wright State made 22 of 44 three-point shots in its last two games, and lost both. One reason: Wright State shot only 18 free throws in those games. The losses were to Cal State-Northridge and Northern Illinois, which were the second and third games in a three-day period to start the season.

"We've got to drive more, which will be an incredible challenge (against UK)," Donlon said.

The Raiders can put four three-point shooters on the floor, and on occasion five, Donlon said.

"When you're shooting all those threes, that's all you want to do," Donlon said. Etc.

▪ Donlon played for UNC-Wilmington, where Calipari began his college playing career. There's another connection. Joel Justus, UK's analytics specialist, played for UNC-Wilmington when Donlon was an assistant coach.

▪ Dave Baker, Joe Dean Jr. and sideline reporter Brooke Weisbrod will call the game for the SEC Network.

Challenge accepted: Briscoe transforming game at UK

By: Metz Camfield | CoachCal.com | Nov. 19, 2015

Isaiah Briscoe hasn't met a challenge he didn't like.

Prior to Kentucky's game against Duke on Tuesday, he went up to UK associate head coach Kenny Payne and had one simple question.

"How many is he allowed to get?"

The "he" Briscoe was referring to was Duke leading scorer Grayson Allen. The answer Payne gave him was 10.

Allen finished with six points on 2-of-11 shooting.

"I'm such a competitor," Briscoe said, "I'm always looking for something to keep me going."

Allen entered Tuesday night's contest as one of the headlines of the sport's opening weekend after scoring 26 points on 8-of-13 shooting against Siena, and 28 points on 8-of-18 shooting against Bryant. Against UK, however, his first field goal didn't come until 12:08 was left in the second half.

The scouting report told Briscoe and his teammates to not allow the 6-foot-5 Allen to catch and shoot or get straight-line drives, and instead force him into taking tough 2s against UK's big interior featuring Skal Labissiere, Marcus Lee and Isaac Humphries.

"I've known (Grayson) from the AAU circuit and I know he's a great player," Briscoe said. "But, you know, our defensive schemes worked. I paid a lot of attention to the scouting report and it worked."

In fact, the only thing that held Briscoe back was a lack of fluids in his body as he began to cramp during the second half. He said Thursday that he's not used to eating

and drinking a lot on game days, but his head coach had a different solution.

"My point to him today is, you gotta go harder in practice if you expect to play that hard in a game," Coach Cal said. "If you don't go harder you're gonna cramp up every game. Your body's got to get used to that kind of pace."

After UK's preseason exhibition game against Ottawa, Calipari said Briscoe "could be the best defensive guard in the country if he chooses" to be. The comment came as a surprise to many who were familiar with Briscoe's game, including his friends, who texted him asking since when did he start playing defense.

In high school AAU ball, the 6-3, 202-pound guard from Newark, N.J., wasn't forced to play defense. Instead, he chose to play what he calls "honest defense."

"Take a couple trips off," Briscoe said. "Might play defense three trips in a row, then take another couple trips off."

Needless to say, that wouldn't work at Kentucky for Coach Cal, who Briscoe said holds each player accountable for what they know how to do.

Defense, for Briscoe, is another opportunity to do what he enjoys doing the most: compete.

In practice, he keeps track of how many steals he gets, often looking toward Payne and counting the number to him out loud. Briscoe will then keep track of that total and try to top it the next day in practice as a way to help him continue to strive to get better each and every day and become a more complete player.

"(Defense) gets me in the game early and my adrenaline is always rushing and just knowing that I'm playing the best offensive player on the other team," Briscoe said, "no room for error."

His defensive play is just one part of his game that he's transformed. Another area would be his body, as he had just 8.52 percent body fat during UK's preseason open practice in front of NBA personnel, and tied backcourt mate Tyler Ulis with the fastest shuttle run on the team (2.78 seconds).

"He's been tremendous," Calipari said. "He's confident and he's comfortable in his own skin, so he really doesn't worry about anybody else. He knows what he is."

On Friday night, Briscoe and No. 2 Kentucky (3-0) will face a Wright State team (1-2) that is attempting more than 22 3s per game, and connecting on over 47 percent of them. Defensively, Calipari said the Raiders will play pack-line defense, as well as a 2-3 zone.

"This team we're playing, Wright State, they're going to take 70 shots and 25 will be 3s, 65 shots and nearly half of them 3s," Calipari said. "They have three really good 3-point shooters."

But while 3-point shooting appears to be a strength for Wright State, rebounding looks like a weakness. The Horizon League members are grabbing just 29.0 boards per game, and have been outrebounded in each game this season.

Briscoe missed Kentucky's season-opening victory over Albany with a bone bruise after banging knees with teammate Dominique Hawkins during practice. After UK's 13-point win over the Great Danes, Calipari said his team was lacking a grit and toughness.

One day later, Briscoe made his collegiate, regular-season debut against NJIT. The Wildcats outrebounded the Highlanders by 31, the most lopsided margin of the Coach Cal era, and Briscoe led the way with a dozen boards off the bench.

"We're just trying to define him in a way that everybody wants to watch and say, 'Wow, I love that kid,' " Coach Cal said. "And it's beginning to happen. The way he can defend, the way he can rebound – he's so fast and strong physically, so good with the ball."

Calipari, however, would not compare him to other defensive stoppers at UK such as DeAndre Liggins or Michael Kidd-Gilchrist due to his abilities on the offensive side of the ball where he is averaging 11.5 points on 52.6-percent shooting in two games.

Still, the striking transformation in Briscoe's game in such short order has been eyebrow-raising, and bodes well for the Wildcats on each end of the floor, and in big games against big-time perimeter scorers, the Wildcats may just have their man.

"It was fun," Briscoe said. "I love the environment. That's the kind of thing I live for."

Like father, like son: Ulis leadership spans generations
By: Jerry Tipton | Lexington Herald-Leader | Nov. 21, 2015

James Ulis is a district store manager for Nike. His territory stretches from his hometown of Chicago to Dallas, plus two stores in Toronto.

He knows leadership.

"When things are going great, you look great," he said. "If you're struggling, it's on you. When you're a leader, there is accountability. It always brings the best out of you, so I expect to see the best out of

Tyler."

Of course, he was talking about his son, UK point guard Tyler Ulis. All evidence suggests the son listened and learned how to be a leader.

"I'm very willing to do it because that's what's going to help me and our team," Ulis said this month. "I'm going to have to do it. I don't have a choice."

Ulis' leadership skills caught the notice of both coaches in last week's Kentucky-Duke game. Both John Calipari and Mike Krzyzewski spoke of this intangible quality come to life in Ulis.

"You just feel it … ," Calipari said. "When he's off the court, you know we're not the same."

Calipari has also said that Ulis has improved as an off-court leader.

Krzyzewski spoke of a "presence" Ulis possesses. "He's in complete control of his team," the Duke coach said.

Apparently, Ulis has had the presence of a leader for a long time. Mike Taylor, who coached Ulis on the high school level, saw it years ago.

"That was noticeable to us fairly early," he said. "And not vocally. But just his work ethic and how badly he wanted to compete. It helped him become a leader without having to raise his voice."

The publication Entrepreneur listed five leadership qualities. The first was do what you say. The third was to be passionate about the task at hand.

"Taking charge. That's what I tried to instill," James Ulis said. "He just takes it to another level."

In the preseason, Calipari said Ulis might be "the best floor general I've ever coached."

The UK coach likened Ulis to a football quarterback, coincidentally the command-and-control position Ulis played in middle school. By the way, another quarterback/ point guard — Allen Iverson — is one of Ulis' heroes.

"Like a quarterback, he's not getting signals from the sidelines," Calipari said. "Do what you think you need to do. He's going to be unselfish. He's going to be for his teammates.

"He's got a toughness about him. He wants to win. You want a general out there you want to follow. And they want to follow him."

When asked why UK players were willing to follow Ulis, teammate Derek Willis said, "For me, Tyler is a real individual. That just makes me respect him off that. He's trustworthy. Coach Cal has been on him about just-bring-the-team-together type stuff."

Upon request, Willis defined what he meant by Ulis being a real individual.

"Coach Cal even says it, too," Willis said. "He really tells the truth."

For ESPN analyst Seth Greenberg, Ulis' leadership skills are obvious and valuable.

"They know he's the leader," he said. "There's no debate. A leader is only as good as the people who are going to follow him. And this team is going to follow Tyler Ulis. That's a non-debatable issue. Last year, I'm not sure they had a leader. They may have had a group of leaders."

The sportswriter had asked Greenberg about Ulis' intelligent play and savvy sense of anticipation. Yes, yes, Greenberg replied before changing the subject.

"Tyler Ulis' greatest asset is he has the ability to get people to follow him, and buy into him," Greenberg said.

This is especially important for a Kentucky program built upon a foundation of one-and-done freshmen, he said.

"When you have the turnover like they've had with the (NBA) Draft, you need someone that others are going to follow."

The cliché that fits is coach on the floor. Unwittingly or not, it's the reference the UK player's father called upon.

"He's excited to be John Calipari on the court," James Ulis said of his son. "He relishes that."

Return to No. 1 puts Kentucky basketball on historic plateau

By Jerry Tipton| Kenucky.com| Nov. 23, 2015

As radio play-by-play man Tom Leach might scream, the No. 1 ranking has come home to Kentucky!!!

With North Carolina losing last weekend, Kentucky supplanted the Tar Heels as the No. 1 team in this week's media poll conducted by The Associated Press. It had the feel of a homecoming, as assistant coach John Robic pointed out Monday.

"I think that's five of the seven years we've been here at some point in time we've had that honor," Robic said. "It's kind of a neat thing, to be honest with you."

It's almost an unprecedented thing. Even for Kentucky, being ranked No. 1 at some point of five seasons in a seven-year span is an unusual distinction. You have to go back to 1948-49 through 1954-55 to find similarly consistent excellence.

Robic, who was substituting for John Calipari at a news conference, credited the UK coach, players and staff for the current five-in-seven roll. The Calipari-coached

Kentucky teams not ranked No. 1 were the Cats of 2010-11 (they got hot late and reached the Final Four) and 2012-13 (ranked as high as No. 3 early before Nerlens Noel's torn ACL caused the season to crash).

"Not to make a big deal of it," Robic said of the latest No. 1 ranking. "It's November. But it's great."

With Kentucky's high turnover of players each season, a No. 1 ranking does not become routine for the players, Robic said.

For those who count such things, Kentucky increased the times it's been voted No. 1 to 114, according to the AP. Only UCLA (134) and Duke (127) have been No. 1 in more polls. The AP began its college basketball poll in the 1948-49 season.

Junior forward Marcus Lee downplayed the ranking.

"It's honestly just a number," he said. "Each team is just as equal right now. At this point of the season, rankings don't really matter till March. Then at that moment, it doesn't really matter till the last four teams."

Lee did not embrace the idea of the ranking serving as validation for Calipari again fashioning a highly efficient team from disparate, though highly regarded freshmen. The Cats, who received 59 of 65 first-place votes, also count on holdover players thrust into more prominent roles.

"Honestly, it means nothing to us because we know we still have a long way to go," Lee said. "We are a new team. ... We know we're not where we're meant to be right now."

Boston University Coach Joe Jones, whose team plays Kentucky on Tuesday night, saluted the way Calipari annually transforms a collection of heralded freshmen with one-and-done aspirations into cohesive units.

"It's unbelievable the job Cal really does with their stuff and their program ...," Jones said. "People don't really understand."

Jones saw it first hand last season when that freshman-dependent UK team beat Boston U. 89-65.

"I was just impressed with the way they went about their business," he said. "They tried to get good shots every time down the floor. They weren't forcing it. They were playing as an unit. They were buying into what they were asking them to do. I was more impressed with that than anything."

Of course, it's not all seamless joy. After UK beat Wright State 78-63 last Friday, Calipari lamented "the step back" the Cats took. He said there had to be 20 better

teams in the country.

Lee explained.

"After three years, I've noticed that he doesn't back up in any way," he said of Calipari. "He goes for perfection. He wants you to give your best all the time.

"When he sees you're not doing what he asks of you and the team asks of you, he loses his mind. That's what great coaches do. They push you."

Unwittingly, perhaps, the Cats set the standard by which Calipari measured the team by beating Duke earlier last week.

"The expectation grew at that moment," Lee said, "and we took a step backward (in beating Wright State). That's not something we're supposed to do. We're supposed to take that other step forward."

Lee was philosophical about Kentucky not advancing its quality of play after the Duke game. (The thought of Calipari thinking a team can't afford to be philosophical echoed in the mind.)

"It happens sometimes with athletes," Lee said. "It happens sometimes in games. You're mentally not there."

The gravity of such a slip will be determined in future games, he said.

"It depends on the game after, and if you're ready to pick it back up again," Lee said, "and continue to do better."

Is Kentucky the No. 1 team? The best team in the country?

"We have no idea," Lee said. "We have a really far way to go to be the best team in the country."

Labissiere continues to show improvement

By: Kevin Flaherty| 27 Sports| Nov. 27, 2015

As Kentucky gets ready for its sixth game of the season Friday, the Wildcats can take heart in the fact that top freshman Skal Labissiere has rebounded well from his struggles against Duke.

The slender 6-foot-11, 225-pounder had problems with Duke's bulk on the interior, fouling out in 13 minutes with just seven points and four rebounds. But that forgettable performance has paved the way for better play his last two times out.

Against Wright State, Labissiere played 24 minutes — though he did have foul trouble once more with four fouls — scoring 13 points, grabbing three rebounds and blocking a shot. He topped that the Wildcats' next night out with a 16-point, 7-rebound, 3-block performance as he avoided foul trouble against better competition in Boston University. The 16 points paced the Wildcats for the game,

and provided a pretty good look at what the former No. 2 player in the 247Sports Composite is capable of.

If there's an area that could help Labissiere's continued improvement, it would be knocking down his freebies. Even with his play over the last few games, he's left points on the line by going a combined 3-for-10 from the free throw line over that stretch. And he'd also help himself from a points perspective if he could keep the fouls down, something he was able to accomplish against BU.

South Florida is considerably worse than both Wright State and Boston University, but the Bulls could provide a good litmus test for Labissiere's evolution.

Calipari to Briscoe: Make the difficult look easy, not the easy look difficult
By Jery Tipton | Hearld-Leader | Nov. 29, 2015

To help freshman Isaiah Briscoe improve as a player, Kentucky Coach John Calipari has resorted to a form of sign language.

Calipari said he had asked Briscoe to tape a card on a mirror in his Wildcat Coal Lodge room. That way the first thing Briscoe saw when he awoke each morning would be the message on the card.

The message: "Make the ridiculously hard play look easy," Calipari said. "See, he flips that the other way. Makes a really easy play look ridiculously hard."

Calipari attributed this making-the-easy-harder-than-it-should-be to basketball on the high school and AAU level, where style points count. "It's just how they play," Calipari said.

Briscoe's acrobatics against South Florida Friday led Calipari to liken the maneuvers to a game of H-O-R-S-E. The UK coach also made a reference to Skee-Ball.

On the plus side, extended minutes created by Tyler Ulis' injury gave Calipari a chance to appraise Briscoe and fellow freshman Jamal Murray. "It gave me a clearer picture of where I have to go to help Isaiah with his game," Calipari said. "He could have almost had a triple-double, but he was flipping balls."

Saying Briscoe tried to avoid contact, Calipari said, "He played a little bit, like, casual. He has to understand you can't play like that and be a lead guard for us."

Falling behind
Dominique Hawkins, who missed several weeks in the preseason because of a broken bone in his hand, said he's been pain-free for a week or two.

"I felt I was getting left behind because he was putting in the Dribble-Drive," Hawkins said of being sidelined. "We didn't have the Dribble-Drive last year, so I didn't really know the plays really well."

Maryland and UK?
Last Tuesday, Illinois State led No. 2 Maryland by five points with less than eight minutes left before losing 77-66. Now, the Redbirds play No. 1 Kentucky.

"Some of it is happenstance," Coach Dan Muller said of playing teams ranked 1 and 2 in the nation.

The trip to Cancun was scheduled two years ago, Muller said.

Illinois State, which has three starters back from a team that won 22 games last season, has a 3-4 record. "We're going to be really good this year," Muller said. "It's just a matter of when."

Have a plan
"In teaching responsibility, Calipari said he asks players to chart a path for how to reach personal goals.

UK's Hawkins still fighting for playing time
By: Kyle Tucker | Courier-Journal | Nov. 29, 2015

LEXINGTON, Ky. — It was always going to be an uphill battle for junior Dominique Hawkins to earn playing time for this season's Kentucky basketball team. With three five-star guards on the roster, his position is pretty crowded.

But Hawkins was playing well in the preseason, doing everything he could to scratch out a role, impressing the coaching staff. "There was no doubt he was in the rotation," coach John Calipari said. Then he broke his right (shooting) hand.

By the time Hawkins returned a few weeks later, just as the season started, Tyler Ulis, Jamal Murray and Isaiah Briscoe had all established themselves in the backcourt. If the former Mr. Basketball from Richmond was to unglue himself from the bench, he'd have to make up a lot of ground.

"I felt like I was getting left behind," Hawkins said, because with so many skilled guards, Calipari was installing his old dribble-drive motion offense "and we really didn't put in the dribble-drive last year, so I didn't know the plays really well. I had to come back and learn them." That helps, of course, as there are two ends of a basketball court. But Hawkins' path to playing time now is the same as it was on the Wildcat's back-to-back Final Four teams for which he made a handful of important cameo appearances.

"What I said to him is, 'You understand if you don't defend, then you have no chance of playing here. Like, none.' He said, 'I know,'" said Calipari, who gave Hawkins an earful for going under a screen last week against Boston University. "Defensive effort and defensive intensity and focus, that isn't like missing a shot or turning it over. That can be expected, especially when you're trying to get on the floor."

Hawkins, who played three minutes against NJIT, sat out against Duke and played three minutes against Boston, got the message. In nine minutes off the bench against South Florida on Friday, he played aggressively on defense and confidently on offense.

Moments after entering the game, he buried a 3-pointer. He had a steal and took a charge, prompting Calipari to say afterward: "Dom may be that rotational guy. I like what I saw from him."

The coach said Hawkins hit "every shot" in shootaround before that game and came in feeling more sure of himself because of the work he'd put in on his own time. Regardless of the team's other talent, that's the secret to success.

"My question to all these kids: 'What's your plan to help yourself?' " Calipari said. "Michael (Kidd-Gilchrist) and Brandon Knight had a plan of how they were going to attack this and how they were going to make it. So that's what we've been talking about a lot right now.
what he wants and what he's willing to do to get that."

Hawkins' resurgence couldn't have come at a better time. Ulis suffered a hyperextended elbow in the last game and could miss Monday night's game against Illinois State, a team that spreads out opposing defenses and puts a premium on perimeter pressure. Right up Hawkins' alley.

"I would expect if Tyler doesn't play, Dom gets more minutes," Calipari said, "and this could be a good game for him."

The always-effervescent Hawkins, who said the residual pain in his hand finally went away a week or two ago, was downright giddy when he found out how his coach has been talking about him lately. He dreamed of playing for UK and all but begged them to recruit him three years ago.

He has played in 60 games with the Wildcats, starting nine, producing a total of 58 points, 41 rebounds, 28 assists, 12 steals and 11 turnovers. It was always going to be hard for him to earn playing time here – because Calipari's teams are always

loaded with NBA prospects – but Hawkins is realistic about that and relishes each opportunity to prove he belongs.

"It feels real good to know that (Calipari) said that," he said. "I'm always fighting against the best three guards that anybody could probably practice against. To hear that from Coach Cal is definitely giving me more confidence to play the way I've been playing. I have to be a lockdown defender, give the team energy and make open shots."

Do all that and, despite everything working against him, Hawkins will find a real role.

Cats Clearly See Path ahead after Loss at UCLA

By: Guy Ramsey | Cat Scratches | Dec. 4, 2015

LOS ANGELES – Kentucky had just fallen to UCLA in a battle of the two programs with the most national championships in college basketball history.

The Wildcats – ranked No. 1 – trailed by double digits for all but 77 seconds of the second half, never really threatening the Bruins in front of a crowd that rushed the floor in celebration.

John Calipari's assessment of the proceedings was succinct.

"Their coach out-coached our coach," Calipari said. "Their guards out-hustled our guards to balls. They executed better than us. We got kicked and every once in a while this stuff happens."

An accurate statement, to be sure, but "this stuff" simply hasn't happened to UK often of late. The Cats (7-1) hadn't lost a regular-season game in nearly 21 months and hadn't lost in double digits once in that span before this 87-77 defeat to UCLA (5-3).

Perspective, in the wake of a defeat so contrary to recent history, can be difficult to find. Isaiah Briscoe, a mere freshman, has that covered.

"A loss, it happens," Briscoe said. "It's not like I wanted it to happen. Of course I wanted to win, but I don't think we're going to be judged off this loss. I think we're going to be more judged about how we bounce back and how we continue to play from here on out."

Briscoe is as competitive as anyone on UK's roster – his 20 points on 7-of-10 shooting and tireless drives to the basket proved it – but he understands the Cats are playing the long game. The loose balls they couldn't come up with in a tough road environment, they'll have plenty of chances to make them when they really

count. The same goes for the defensive stands they couldn't make and the rebounds they couldn't grab.

"I think taking one early is going to help this team because sometimes we come out not playing too hard and guys are going to understand we can lose," Tyler Ulis said. "Nobody wants to have this feeling again so I feel like we're going to come out better."

Ulis has now only had that feeling twice in his college career, and he certainly did everything in his power to avoid it. After sustaining a hyperextended elbow just six days ago, Ulis played through pain to tally nine points and a career-high nine assists.

Clearly, Ulis had an understanding of Coach Cal's "everybody's Super Bowl" refrain about the way opponents play Kentucky.

"Look, would you say this is the best (UCLA) played?" Calipari said. "OK, every game we play, it's the best that they play, whoever the team is. ...We're playing Eastern Kentucky (on Wednesday); they will play the greatest game in the history of games because they're playing us. We have to understand: They play tougher, they play rougher, they play more focused. That's what it is. Playing at Kentucky, that's what you get."

For his part, Briscoe gets it.

"This is what we signed up for," he said. "This is no surprise to me. I knew coming into Kentucky that it was going to be this way."

Some of his teammates aren't quite there yet, but Calipari – and Ulis for that matter – will make sure they make it.

"It just will come down to, are we going to be tougher than the people we're playing?" Calipari said. "And if you don't understand that, you gotta figure it out."

That's what Ulis said when he approached Skal Labissiere in a second-half huddle.

The talented freshman forward was a relative nonfactor on Thursday night, managing only six points and one rebound. The play that caught Ulis' attention was a loose-ball rebound Labissiere couldn't come up with, and the sophomore point guard appeared on the ESPN broadcast taking Labissiere to task for the play.

"Whatever I did, I was just trying to be hard on him, make him get the rebound," Ulis said. "But at the same time, I told him, 'You good. It's OK. We still need you to play in this game.' I'm just trying to lead him. He's going to get there. He's young. Like I said, it's early in the season. We need him."

Calipari echoed Ulis, both aware of the

challenge ahead for Labissiere and confident in his ability to meet it.

"Gotta do it," Calipari said. "Got no options. Gotta get lower, gotta use leverage, can't try to use your arms and hands. When they came at you and you go down (with your hands), that's a foul now. Can't do it. He's going to be fine."

Labissiere, in many ways, is a microcosm of his team. He possesses unmatched talent, but lacks experience. He has all the potential in the world, but not the approach it will take to reach it.

Not yet.

"This is the growing pains of trying to coach the most inexperienced team in the country," Calipari said. "But I'm fine with it. We got beat, we got kicked, we move on. We've had a pretty good run and now see if we can get it going again."

An audience with Kentucky coach John Calipari

By: Dick Jerardi | Philadelphia Daily News | Dec. 10, 2015

LEXINGTON, Ky.- John Calipari's office in the $30 million Joe Craft Center is tiny, smaller than the old office Phil Martelli had at Saint Joseph's. A new, larger office is being constructed behind a false wall, just steps away. The Craft Center, which houses the Kentucky basketball offices and a practice court, is attached to Memorial Coliseum, where Adolph Rupp's teams played. It is surprisingly less extravagant than some of the hoops palaces that have been built on other campuses.

It was getting to be late morning on the last Friday of October, two weeks before another basketball season was to begin and about eight hours after Coach Cal had returned from Houston following a very late-night recruiting trip.

Audiences with Cal these days are like audiences with the pope- carefully arranged, double-checked and absolutely at his convenience. I have known Cal for a quarter century but harbored no illusions about getting a sit-down with the man who has somehow made the empire that is Kentucky basketball bigger than it has ever been. Calls were made to Bruiser Flint and Martelli. They called Cal and he agreed to meet while I was in town for the Breeders' Cup, leaving me a message to call Eric Lindsey, the UK basketball contact, to set it up.

It was not until early that morning when Lindsey texted me with the time and place that I knew for sure it was going to happen.

"I don't need any publicity," Cal remind-

ed me during our half-hour conversation.

Calipari, 56, is at the stage of his career where he no longer cares what he says or what you think.

When I asked him if as a kid growing up in Moon Township outside Pittsburgh - who went on to play at UNC Wilmington and Clarion, where he was, of course, a "marketing major," and then serve as an assistant at Kansas and Pittsburgh before taking over one of America's worst programs at Massachusetts- he ever imagined all this: Final Fours at three schools, 2012 national championship, 2015 Basketball Hall of Fame inductee.

"I was always able to kind of look ahead and not look back, and try to figure out how I make things better for people around me and us and whoever is in our family of people," Calipari said. "When you see a turtle on a post, he didn't get there by himself. I'm like that turtle on the post that everybody says, 'How in the world did he get there?' "

Calipari grabbed Anthony Davis and DeMarcus Cousins at the Hall of Fame ceremony and told them: "This is happening for me because of you two."

"Oh, we know," they told him.

The Atlantic 10 coaches had no issues with Cal when it all began in 1988. They would bury his teams and pay him no mind.

"The early years, there was no choking, it was all hugging," Calipari said.

Cal's only goal then was to make John Chaney uncross his legs or possibly stand up during a game.

"I remember when we were playing Temple and we were 0-for-the-history-of-the-universe," Calipari said. "We had never beaten them. I ended up later being on that side when you win 18 in a row. And let me tell you what happens. The other team wants to beat you so bad they can't beat you."

Calipari used to coach that other team.

"My first two years, I can remember being in the locker room with a chance to lose every game," Calipari said. "You went in there and you're sick. I said to my staff, 'How do guys do this for 40 years?' "

Calipari came upon the obvious solution- have a chance to win every game.

Now, closing on 25 years as a college head coach, Calipari said: "I know how they do it. You're one of those programs that's going to win 25 a year, yeah, you can last 40 years. Go to UMass in the day, go to Memphis when you're trying to get it started, do that for 15 of your years."

Unbeaten almost happened at UMass.

It almost happened at Memphis. And it was five bad minutes last April in Indianapolis from a 40-0 chance at Kentucky.

"Right now, I'm hacked off we didn't go 40-0," Calipari said. "I wanted to have a team go 40-0 and I thought that team could and I thought we were the best team."

Calipari still can't figure out what went down at the end of the Wisconsin national semifinal game because his teams almost never lose late leads. It was a bizarre combination of airballs and 35-second shot-clock violations.

"Sometimes, fate intervenes and you lose," he said. "Could we have done more, could I have done more, could I have called a timeout? Yeah sure, all hindsight."

Kentucky is not like UMass or Memphis. It did not take Cal long to understand the difference.

"The only thing they have up are national championship banners," Calipari said. "There are no leagues, Final Fours . . . You don't have to sell a ticket. They're sold. Raising money, other than they need you to do a presidential wave. You don't need to make a call, you don't need to beg anybody."

Kentucky and Calipari were always going to find each other. It is the perfect basketball marriage.

"You come here, you coach basketball and you recruit," Calipari said.

He explained how the private plane he had flown in the previous day made it so much easier to recruit. It also made for a very long day when the recruit's schedule changed.

"I always say, 'Don't cry on the yacht now,' " Calipari said.

Even Calipari did not imagine the trappings on his yacht. He was just trying to recruit the best players he could. He did not consider the unintended consequences that have changed the entire model. After five of his Kentucky players went in the first round of the NBA draft following his first season, Calipari said: "The light went on, holy bleep, what just happened?"

What happened was the ultimate recruiting pitch- come play for a season, win almost all of the games, get incredible exposure and then go make millions of dollars. The purists, of course, were appalled, but anybody who actually understands the top levels of college basketball in the 21st century already knew it is just a business proposition. All Calipari did was announce it loudly when he said after that 2010 draft that "this is the biggest day in the history of this program, if you understand what this just did for us as a program."

After six years, the count now stands at three No. 1 picks (John Wall, Anthony Davis, Karl-Anthony Towns), six top-five picks, 13 lottery selections and 19 overall first-rounders. It also stands at four Final Fours, two national championship games, one championship and a 197-39 record.

"It not only changed how we do things, it changed college basketball, turned it on its ear," Calipari said. "It made everybody mad at me like it was my rule. Now, if you're not about the kids, you're not getting them. If you act like you're about the kids and they come to your school and you try to keep them in school, you're done."

Calipari cited some heartwarming graduation statistics and grade-point averages for his Kentucky players who stayed a while, almost apologizing for one-and-dones before catching himself.

"It's not at the expense of academics," Calipari insisted. "They come here for a reason. Why should we be mad about it? Jordan Spieth went to Texas one year and now he made $50 million last year. We should say he should have stayed in school."

Calipari said his job on campus is a professor of basketball and "my job is to help these kids get jobs, to prepare them for a job."

Many of these jobs happen to be quite well-paying, with perks like four-star hotels, charter jets and endorsement opportunities.

Now that Duke won the 2015 championship with freshmen (three of whom bolted for the NBA draft) scoring every second-half point in the title game, Cal said: "I won't hear another word about this."

Time will tell on that, but when Mike Krzyzewski does it that way, it does tend to cause less concern.

My last question, because Martelli prompted me, was to ask about the pope's visit to America.

Seems Calipari is very friendly with former Speaker of the House John Boehner. Why wouldn't he be? And why wouldn't he be sitting in the audience the day Pope Francis spoke in front of a joint session of Congress?

"I stood where he stood on the balcony afterward," Calipari said. "I was in his presence, but I didn't get to be close to him. John Boehner and I took a picture of it. You could see the names of where everybody was supposed to stand. That was probably five minutes after he left that stage. I did rub up against the mic because I knew he spoke into the mic."

Cal liked this line from the pope so

much he recited it to me.

"The more opportunity you create for others, the more opportunity you will have yourself," Calipari said.

Before I left, I asked Calipari if he was going to the Breeders' Cup. He said he wasn't really into horses. Late the next afternoon, there was Cal, a videographer shadowing him, in the Keeneland paddock, awaiting the arrival of American Pharoah and Bob Baffert.

Baffert, his son Bode and Calipari posed for several pictures. Baffert autographed Calipari's Breeders' Cup ticket.

I have no idea if Calipari stayed for the $5 million race, but I do know absolutely everybody knew he was there.

Calipari finally sees some toughness out of Skal Labissiere – sort of
By: Larry Vaught | Vaugh's Views | Dec. 10, 2015

All season Kentucky coach John Calipari has been pleading for Skal Labissiere to play tougher and not get pushed around.

Against Eastern Kentucky Wednesday night, he did — sort of.

"I thought Skal made strides," said Calipari after the 88-67 win where Labissiere had 10 points, four rebounds, three blocks, three turnovers and two steals in 25 minutes. "He dove on the floor once. He said he did hurt his elbow, but he did dive on the floor."

Then there was this.

"I liked that Skal blocked somebody out (on a rebound) so somebody else could get the ball," Calipari said.

Of course, a few possessions later he let his man beat him to a rebound that landed him a spot on the bench.

"We are still a ways away," Calipari said. "I was happy about some stuff. But we didn't come up with stops to put people away. It has been that way all year."

He was "disappointed" that UK had 17 turnovers — four each by Jamal Murray and Marcus Lee, three by Labissiere — from a lack of "being tough with the ball" and making easy plays.

Calipari said he was probably expecting too much too soon and that everyone had been "spoiled because when we step on the court we are supposed to win" and the loss to UCLA last week was a reality check.

He was even coy about senior Alex Poythress, who had his third double-double of the season with 21 points and 13 rebounds. He was 9-for-12 from the field and 3-for-3 at the foul line.

Inconsistency has plagued Poythress, a

senior, during his career.

Why is that and why does he have trouble always playing full speed?

"I don't know. We are bringing Alex out here (for interviews). You can ask him," Calipari said. "He is ready. Fire away."

Poythress didn't back down from questions and said after the loss to UCLA, everyone was "challenging our manhood; we have to change our persona."

He might be, too, because he sort of fired back when asked about UK being too soft physically.

"You want to call us soft, come play us," Poythress said — and I don't think he was joking.

Calipari said he wants Poythress to be the best player in the country.

"He's capable of that," the UK coach said.

The coach said other than missing a few shots, bringing one rebound down to where it could be knocked away and getting beat once on defense, Poythress played a "near perfect game" against Eastern.

Lee's Emergence Key for Cats, a Lesson for Labissiere
By: Guy Ramsey | Cat Scratches | Dec.12, 2015

Marcus Lee bided his time through three seasons, standing aside as his fellow Kentucky big men – future lottery picks, almost all of them – starred.

He had his moments, to be sure, but Lee spent most of his time as an understudy, quietly improving.

Lee is still improving, but he's no longer doing it backstage.

"It's great knowing that I have such a big impact on my team, vocally and on the court, which is a great feeling," Lee said.

As a junior, Lee has evolved into one of UK's most consistent performers, a fact he reinforced as the No. 5/4 Wildcats (9-1) dispatched visiting Arizona State (6-3) with a dominant second half, 72-58. Lee had 14 points and a team-high seven rebounds on Saturday.

"He's a seasoned player with experience playing in big games," Arizona State head coach Bobby Hurley said. "He has obviously the physical tools that you look for: his mobility and his motor and how he plays. He can finish and he's going to defense around the basket."

Hurley surely had the five shots Lee blocked on his mind when he said that. The springy Antioch, Calif., native now has that many blocks – his career high – in back-to-back games, hearkening back to

his high-school days. Lee averaged 9.1 blocks in his final season before coming to Lexington to play for John Calipari.

"That's something that I always have behind me and I can keep in my head," Lee said. "So seeing something like that, it kind of brings me toward that I'm going back to my old ways."

Lee's emergence has been a continual theme in 2015-16.

Not only is he averaging career highs in nearly every category, Lee is also approaching his point total from all of last season just 10 games. He has scored in double figures six times after doing so just three times in his first two years.

Calipari explains that in simple terms.

"He's more confident," Calipari said.

"There's nothing that I say that rattles him or Alex (Poythress). Like, I'm on those two as much as I'm on the other guys, but they look at me and they say, 'I've got you,' and it has no effect what I say."

That wasn't an easy lesson for Lee to learn.

"That's a huge thing," Lee said. "And that's the one thing you gotta learn when you come here. Cal, he just screams because he likes to scream. But you kind of gotta take the screaming out of what he's saying and actually listen to what he's saying. Then you'll figure it out."

Skal Labissiere is right in the middle of that learning process.

The talent of the 6-foot-11 freshman is beyond question, but Labissiere is averaging 4.5 points, 2.8 rebounds and 3.8 fouls in his last four games after fouling out in 13 scoreless minutes against ASU. Calipari admitted to be "somewhat" worried about Labissiere's confidence, but only in the short term.

"To do what these kids want to do, this is all a great thing that he's got to work through, and it's the first time in his life," Calipari said. "You understand he came from Haiti. He played basketball for a year and a half and then he played church league for two years. He's never been through any of this. This is all new to him."

Lee is helping reinforce that message.

"That it's normal," Lee said when asked what advice he gives to Labissiere. "That's kind of what he has to realize, is that we're all going through this. Especially since it's Skal, we're pushing him toward such a high standard that if he's anything short from that then he's getting yelled at. That's what he doesn't realize yet, is that he has to go at everything so hard and that's what we're just teaching."

Physicality has been Labissiere's biggest issue. Stronger, more experienced

opponents have taken advantage when Labissiere has gotten out of his stance. The result has been fouls and easy baskets for the opposition.

Lee can relate to that struggle.

"Toughness is something that you have to learn," Lee said. "I know exactly what he's going through. I was 180 (pounds) coming into college."

Lee faced a humbling similar to the one Labissiere is going through, but he wasn't counted on nearly as much as Labissiere is. Lee is still confident his teammates will come out on the other side a better player.

"That happens to freshmen," Lee said. "You come with a huge head. I personally did. I know I did. And it's kind of a reality check. Once you get the reality check and once you know that your team's behind you, you'll be fine."

Not playing 'winning basket-ball'

By: John Clay | Lexington Herald-Leader | Dec.19, 2015

NEW YORK -- Hey, this is New York City. No one's going to give you what you want here. No one's going to just hand it over. That's not how it works. Not here in Gotham. You have to go after it. You have to take it. If you don't, someone else will.

In No. 4 Kentucky's 74-67 loss to a previously middling Ohio State at the Barclays Center on Saturday, there were several key moments when the Cats went after the basketball — be it off the glass, or on the loose, or on the floor — and somehow, some way, the ball ended up with Ohio State, and somehow, some way, the Buckeyes always seemed to make the Cats pay.

"Winning basketball," lamented UK coach John Calipari afterward. "We're not playing winning basketball."

At the end of the first half, UK's Isaiah Briscoe forces a shot off a hard drive to the basket. Out of position, Marcus Lee is called for an over-the-back foul on the rebound. Ohio State gets the ball and when freshman guard JaQuan Lyle nails a deep three just before the first-half buzzer, the Buckeyes take a 37-25 lead.

Second half, UK is on the comeback trail. Jamal Murray has gone mad, firing in threes at an epic clip, converting creative shots off the dribble. The freshman is just starting to heat up, making back-to-back threes, when Skal Labissiere can't hold onto a defensive rebound. Ohio State claims it and kicks it out to an open Marc Loving for a three with 12:19 left.

Next possession, Murray steals an Ohio State in-bounds pass only to have the Cats turn it right back to the Buckeyes before Kentucky can even cross halfcourt. Guess the result. You got it. A.J. Harris hits a three and the Buckeyes are up 55-39.

Then when Kentucky is finally making some headway, chopping the Ohio State lead to seven points at 59-52, Lee misses a shot inside — but worse, Alex Poythress can't hold the rebound. Calipari all but has a stroke on the UK sideline, waving his arms and punching the air furiously, while at the other end Ohio State's Keita Bates-Diop scores to make it 61-52 Buckeyes.

"I mean, late there were three or four rebounds, you bring it in, we're right there. We have our chance," Calipari said later. "You don't bring it in, they lay it in and it's an and-one or whatever, you don't have a chance to win."

If you can stand it, here's one last example. Labissiere misses a shot inside, the ball is batted out where a wild scramble ensues. It seems for a moment that Kentucky is going to come up with the 50-50 ball, but instead it is Thad Matta's team that comes out of the scrum with the ball, and in a hurry. In trying to prevent a runout, UK's Tyler Ulis is called for the intentional foul with 2:56 left. Kam Williams makes both free throws.

"These guys have just played basketball in the past," Calipari said. "Now we've got to teach them how to win."

From the opening tip, Ohio State played like the team hungry to win. Tired of being dissed and discounted, the then-5-5 Buckeyes played "with a chip on our shoulder," said Loving, a junior.

After losing to UCLA on the West Coast, Kentucky opened on the East Coast in much the same fashion — "on our heels," Calipari said — falling behind to the aggressor. Only when the Cats trailed by 16 did they appear to realize the clock was ticking, and even then they hitched their star to Murray's heroics in hopes of a miracle comeback that came up short.

It doesn't help that the same UCLA team that beat the Cats got waxed in Saturday's opening game of the CBS Sports Classic, falling 89-76 to North Carolina, which was without its best inside player, Kennedy Meeks.

"I want them to be farther along than they are," said Calipari afterward of his team. "But (we) are where we are right now."

Going into the Christmas break, a week away from the Louisville game, Kentucky is a talented but young team that has been given a couple of hard early lessons. Whether it's learned those lessons, we'll soon find out.

Murray's outburst not enough in UK loss to OSU

By: Kyle Tucker | Courier-Journal | Dec.19, 2015

BROOKLYN – Jamal Murray played like a microcosm of his fourth-ranked Kentucky basketball team Saturday: brilliant in bursts, but not quite enough to escape a 74-67 upset at the hands of Ohio State at the Barclays Center.

The freshman guard caught fire in the second half, scoring 27 of his career-high 33 points after intermission, to lead the Wildcat (9-2) almost all the way back from a 16-point deficit. They got within three points in the final three minutes but could never get closer.

"That's exactly what we need him to do," junior forward Marcus Lee said of Murray's late outburst, but "we need that fire at all points in the game. You can't light it under him. We need him to start picking it up a whole lot earlier and getting into it earlier."

On the surface, this is an odd time to nitpick Murray. Plenty of his teammates gave far less in Saturday's CBS Sports Classic. Fellow freshman Skal Labissiere's two points, five rebounds and 1-for-7 shooting hardly helped.

Had Labissiere's late, point-blank shot fallen to cut the lead to 63-61 – instead of a miss that led to an intentional foul and four free throws for the Buckeyes on the other end – who knows? But UK dug too deep a hole during an ugly first half in which they shot 30.6 percent and OSU (6-5) sank seven 3-pointers.

Murray was part of the problem, playing half-hearted defense and unfocused on offense before halftime. He made just 3 of 10 shots. Like Lee, coach John Calipari hardly talked about Murray the way one might imagine after a dazzling finish.

"The way he started the game, I had to take him out twice. Because you're not being aggressive," Calipari said. "He's got a lot to learn – but he is really talented and he can do some stuff with the ball. We just gotta get him playing right."

That's exactly what Murray did in the second half. When Kentucky had to have it, he put on a spectacular show. He swished his first seven 3-point tries after intermission and, when forced, he drove and spun and sank floaters from closer range.

Murray buried open 3s and contested ones. He let fly from catch-and-shoots, running off screens and by making just enough space for himself off the dribble.

"I think Cal did a tremendous job of creating different ways for him to score," Ohio

State coach Thad Matta said. "He knew he had a hot hand and he got him open. I turned to the bench at one point and said, 'Is there anybody that can guard him right now?'"

Murray brought a large contingent of Cats fans to a roar when he scored eight points in 85 seconds to slice a 14-point deficit to eight in a blink. Buckeyes defender Keita Bates-Diop had a hand in his face several times, but Murray simply shot rainbows over him.

"That was one of the best performances I've seen in a short period of time," Matta said. "He's the one guy that we feared going in, in terms of him having the capability of getting hot. Now, we had no idea that he was going to get that hot, but that's what great players do. He kind of put them on his back and got them back in the game."

That's the silver lining in what was otherwise another alarming-sounding defeat for Kentucky, like the one 16 days earlier at UCLA. That was a decisive beating and this one was headed the same way before Murray went wild.

"He got going when we were down," Calipari said. "We need to play winning basketball when we're up."

That Isaiah Briscoe was 1 for 9 shooting and Tyler Ulis hit only 1 of 7 of his 3-point attempts and that Ohio State outrebounded Kentucky and ever-inconsistent Alex Poythress picked Saturday to no-show again are all worrisome facts from the loss. And yet, there were enough flashes to see that this team could do something special before it's all said and done.

Lee, who finished with 12 points, nine rebounds, two blocks and two stelas, kept the Cats from being run off the court in the first half. Briscoe's defense helped ignite the second-half run.

"I like the fact that we didn't give up," Calipari said. "We fought in the second half and did some good things, but we're a ways away. I want them to be farther along than they are, but we're where we are right now."

And now here comes 19th-ranked rival Louisville to Rupp Arena next Saturday.

"The schedule doesn't get any easier from this point," Calipari said. "People smell blood. They'll come after us."

Calipari bests Pitino yet again, revealing the strategist in recruiter's clothing

By: Mike DeCourcy | sportingnews.com | Dec.26, 2015

Kentucky coach John Calipari was thinking about what was being concocted down at the other bench when Louisville called timeout with 13 seconds remaining in their game Saturday afternoon at Rupp Arena. Oh, you bet he was.

UK held merely a 2-point lead, and the Cardinals had possession of the basketball, which meant a 3-pointer would win the game for Louisville — and wouldn't that just be a heck of a way to end a day on which so much had gone right for the Kentucky team?

So Calipari pondered what Rick Pitino might be manufacturing and designed his own counters. If Louisville screened or crossed, the Wildcats would switch. If Louisville tried a pick-and-roll, the Wildcats would trap it.

Afterward, Calipari was claiming the trap was a dumb idea. "The goofy coaches," he said in a rare moment of self-deprecation. "Thank God they didn't pick-and-roll because someone would have made a three and we'd have lost by one."

The switch, though — that worked spectacularly. Louisville star Damion Lee, who stands 6-6, opened the possession being guarded by 5-9 Tyler Ulis. That's a 9-inch height gap. What more could the Cardinals want? But they ran the play as called, which meant Cards center Chinanu Onuaku set a pin-down screen on Ulis as Lee darted up from the baseline toward the left wing. As Lee sprinted, 6-9 Alex Poythress, UK's best athlete, picked him up. Lee's rushed 3-pointer ended as an air ball, and Kentucky celebrated a 75-73 victory.

The best reasons Calipari owns an 8-1 advantage in his Kentucky-Louisville matchups against Pitino are playing in the NBA: John Wall, Anthony Davis, Willie-Cauley Stein. Even Cal will tell you this. The greatest difference between any two basketball coaches almost always is the difference between one coach's talent and the other's.

This is not the exclusive difference, though. The squandering of superior talent is not without precedent at any level of the game, particularly in college, where rosters must be built and rebuilt rapidly and chemistry must be conjured almost daily.

The best work Calipari did in regards to UK's game against Louisville came in advance. The Wildcats had become a perfunctory sort of team, as he saw it, expecting success perhaps because of their draft ratings or their preseason All-American honors or the brand they represent. Ohio State and UCLA both had stumbled into their meetings with Kentucky, and Ken-

tucky seemed to anticipate more stumbling. Instead, the Wildcats were clocked twice.

"Part of our issue is, we needed enthusiasm," Calipari said. "I demanded it. It's kind of like we're saying, 'We're throwing you a life raft, but you've got to swim.' You've got to swim. All you guys on the boat that threw the life raft, you've got to say, "SWIM! Come on, baby, you can do it, there's a shark behind you, SWIM!'

"Or you can sit on the boat and look around at each other and say, 'You see that shark behind him? Shark's going to get his leg. You watch.' The enthusiasm that we need for each other — enthusiasm matters, fight matters. Obviously you've got to have a skilled team and good players, and I think we do."

Kentucky also was doing a miserable job executing against zone offense over the first 10 games. Having worked on that for a week fully expecting a 2-3 matchup scheme from Louisville, the Cats were effective enough to build a 52-36 lead inside the first 3 minutes of the second half. They shot 46.2 percent from the floor for the game, including 11-of-23 on 3-pointers.

Eventually their execution against Louisville's matchup withered, but they shot confidently enough when stranded above the foul line and racing the melting shot-clock to hit twice from distance in the final 5 minutes. Average time-to-shoot on those: 4.5 seconds.

"Courage," Calipari said. "I've said that to all these guys. I said, 'The guys who make game-winners or make big plays that are like the knife in the — they're not afraid to miss that shot.' The guy that's afraid to miss it will ball-fake it and take a tough one. 'I was trying to draw a foul.' No, you weren't. You did not want to take the open shot."

Calipari built his path toward the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame primarily with an uncommon understanding of how to get players to play together, to play well and to play well together. Some have doubted, dismissed or derided his ability to strategize, even though he has coached nearly three decades and only in the past seven seasons — since arriving at Kentucky — has enjoyed the luxury of rosters deep in high-end NBA prospects.

On Saturday, though, his full array of talents as a college coach were apparent. He was the recruiter who pursued Ulis when talent scouts were ranking him outside the top 40 prospects; Ulis produced 21 points and 8 assists. Calipari was the psychologist who chased the Wildcats out

of whatever funk might have seemed likely after they'd mostly stunk last Saturday against Ohio State.

And he was the coach who put Ulis into a last-second defensive assignment he almost certainly would struggle to fulfill. Calipari dared Louisville to change its play call on the fly or cope with the consequences. The Cards chose not to audible. Was that how Calipari figured it would go? He never said. He didn't need to.

UK's Murray working on making the easy play

By: Jon Hale | Courier-Journal | Jan.3, 2016

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Freshman guard Jamal Murray may lead Kentucky in highlight-worthy plays this season, but it was a simple jumper at the free-throw line that most excited John Calipari Saturday.

"I'm trying to explain degree of difficulty does not get you more points," Calipari said after Kentucky's 83-61 win over Ole Miss Saturday. "Like the harder the shot you try to take – there's no four-pointers unless you get fouled on a 3-pointer. That's a hard one for him."

Through 13 games, Murray leads Kentucky in scoring (16.8 points per game) but is shooting 40.3 percent from the field and 38.2 percent from 3-point range.

Murray has scored in double digits in all but one game this season and has topped the 20-point plateau twice. He has shown the ability to take over games – most notably with 33 points in a loss to Ohio State – but has struggled to find the consistency Calipari and fans have wanted.

Murray followed his career night against Ohio State with 12 points on 3-of-14 shooting against Louisville. He totaled seven turnovers and just two assists in the game.

Against Ole Miss, Murray looked on the way to another poor shooting performance after missing his first four shots in the game, but he bounced back to total 18 points on 7-of-17 shooting.

While Calipari took issue with some of Murray's early decisions against the Rebels, he saw progress in the freshman's shot selection.

Kentucky's Jamal Murray confirms his three-point shot is good against Ole Miss. He had 18 points with three assists. (Photo: Matt Stone/The Courier-Journal)

"He can't help himself," Calipari said. "I don't know if you saw, but he started the game in transition, he went between his legs and I went crazy. Like, what are you doing? He's got habits he's just got to

break."

Murray is growing used to Calipari's direction to take the easy play.

"He says that all the time," Murray said. "That's just what he says to me on the court, off the court. I did OK today with that and had a higher percentage."

It is not difficult to see why Murray attempts so many spectacular plays.

Throughout the nonconference schedule he showed an unusual ability to convert those plays, but in games like his poor showing against Louisville the negatives outweigh the benefits from his conversions.

"It's kind of hard, because in high school you can do whatever you want and here you think you can but you can't," senior forward Alex Poythress said. "He's learning how to make easy plays and lower the numbers on all them fancy up-and-unders he does. But he's getting better at it."

Even against Ohio State Murray started slowly by converting just 3 of 10 field goals in the first half before erupting for 27 points in the second half. Murray said he has focused on getting his teammates involved early in games, which might have contributed to his recent slow starts.

Playing off the ball alongside sophomore point guard Tyler Ulis has also been an adjustment for Murray.

"It's a different perspective," Murray said. "Just getting used to it."

While Murray's shooting line may have been ugly at times, he has rarely displayed any lack of reluctance to take another shot. Asked about that confidence, Murray responded with a laugh before saying, "You don't have to tell me twice."

According to Calipari, there is plenty of reason for Murray to have that attitude.

"He's one of the best players in the country," Calipari said. "He gives us another guy that can make 3-point shots, that spreads the court out. He's a terrific passer.

"This is all new to him. It's just new, but he's doing fine."

Assertive Ulis sparks Kentucky

By: Tim Sullivan | Courier-Journal | Jan.3, 2016

LEXINGTON, Ky. — By the time the ball stopped bouncing on the rim and finally fell through, Tyler Ulis had drawn a foul, reached the baseline and stood staring into the crowd in search of his parents.

With his right hand clenched, Kentucky's petite point guard pounded his chest with a bravado that belied his slight

stature. Saturday's game was barely four minutes old, and Kentucky's 83-61 victory over Ole Miss a long way from secure, but Ulis' message was unambiguous.

"We need more guys that look at the other guy and say, 'I'm going to show who is the better player here,'" UK coach John Calipari said. "He's out to prove who he is."

The other guy on this night was Mississippi's prolific Stefan Moody, and that challenge brought out the beast mode in Tyler Ulis. The sophomore dervish scored 20 points and set career highs with 10 assists and six steals to lead the Wildcats to their 11th victory in 13 games, and he did so with a gliding grace Ole Miss coach Andy Kennedy associates with a different sport.

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"After the game I said, 'I know what you did,' and in front of the team he smiled," Calipari said. "But I don't have enough other guys that want to do that."

For his part, Tyler Ulis played down the perception that he was out to prove his own superiority, and he played the nurturing teammate by passing up a late layup in an attempt to feed Isaac Humphries during the freshman's only minute in the game.

"You can't just let someone come out there and just kill you," Ulis said of his battle with Moody, "because you could be the reason you lose the game. When it's a matchup, you have to lock in, like I tried to do defensively, and just try to stop them so you're not the reason your team lost."

More often than not, Tyler Ulis is the reason Kentucky wins.

Mychal Mulder makes most of opportunity at LSU

By:Jon Hale | Courier-Journal | Jan.8, 2016

LEXINGTON, Ky. – Kentucky fans will remember little about the loss at LSU fondly, but for junior guard Mychal Mulder the game could represent something of a turning point for his career.

Mulder played no more than seven minutes in any of Kentucky's first 13 games. He didn't make it off the bench at all in four of the first 13 games and played fewer than five minutes in nine of his first 10 appearances. He totaled just two points and seven rebounds in that span.

In the 85-67 loss at LSU, Mulder's fortunes changed with season highs in points (five), rebounds (eight) and minutes (14).

"I thought he had great energy," UK head coach John Calipari said of Mulder. "He rebounded the ball, mixed it up. Did good stuff."

Mulder was a late addition to Kentucky's 2015 recruiting class, committing to UK in late April after Calipari missed out on several five-star prospects.

As a junior-college transfer from Vincennes (Ind.) University, Mulder was supposed to add depth to the Kentucky roster and a 3-point shooting threat off the bench, but he quickly found himself at the end of the bench outside the primary rotation.

Still, Mulder never wavered in his commitment to the team.

"I play with a lot of great players and the guys that are in front of me are amazing players," Mulder said. "It's just more just waiting for my opportunity to come and when it does grab it with two hands."

Mulder's path to seizing his opportunity with "two hands" primarily came by grabbing rebounds the same way at LSU.

With most of Kentucky's post players struggling, the 6-foot-4, 185-pound guard led the Wildcats with eight rebounds, including a team-high three offensive boards. He also hit his first 3-pointer of the season while making 1 of 4 field-goal attempts.

"Not strictly offense is going to keep you on the floor," Mulder said. "So, when I got my opportunity to go in I made sure I fought hard on the glass, and I felt like that was something (Calipari) noticed."

Even when Kentucky was struggling as a team from 3-point range Mulder, who was supposed to be one of the team's best shooters, failed to make an impact. He only attempted three 3-pointers in his first nine games, but he missed each attempt.

Mulder's first 3-pointer came with 7:17 left in the first half at LSU, cutting the Tigers' lead to five.

"Now that the first one fell, I hope a couple fall after that," Mulder said.

Calipari made no promises about Mulder's playing time moving forward but he speculated Mulder had moved into the "three-guard rotation."

The talent level of the players in front of Mulder in the rotation has not changed, but the UK coaches have told him to continue to bring the energy he showed at LSU.

For a young team still looking for its first road win, that role could be key again on Saturday at Alabama. If Mulder is given another opportunity he knows what to do.

"This team is full of great guys and I love my teammates," Mulder said. "They're so talented, so it's not like I'm playing behind bad players. I was just trying to work hard for my moment and trying to make the most of my opportunity when it came. I feel like that's what I was trying to do."

Murray keeping it simple

By: Kevin Erpenbeck | CoachCal.com | Jan. 10, 2016

With the way freshman guard Jamal Murray had been playing before conference season, it at times he appeared he had a little bit of the Harlem Globetrotters in him.

But while his myriad of trick shots, fancy dribble moves and "creative" passes may have awed some of the fans, they were making head coach John Calipari do unhappy jigs on the sideline.

"I don't know if you saw, he started the game in transition, he went between his legs and I went crazy," Calipari said after UK's win over Ole Miss. "Like what are you doing? He's got habits he's got to break."

So the coaching staff kept it simple for Murray during the duration of Camp Cal: Make the easy plays.

"We just want to see Jamal shoot disciplined game shots that we practice," said associate head coach Kenny Payne. "He has unlimited range. He can shoot the pull-ups, he can make layups. Coach is on him about finishing and playing like a big guard instead of flipping shots or floaters or trick shots."

If the last few games are any indication, it appears that Murray is beginning to understand the instruction. Instead of dribbling behind his back and between his legs to juke out defenders, he's using his speed to blow by them. He's passing up the one-handed flip shot opportunities for the easy layups and a chance to be fouled. When the jump shot is open, he simply takes it.

All of these changes have led Murray to perform better on the court, even though he doesn't look as flashy while doing so.

In 12 non-conference games, Murray had averaged 3.3 turnovers a game, including seven against then-No. 16/15 Louisville, and was shooting 40.2 percent from the field. But in his last two games, Murray has reduced his turnovers to 1.5 a game and has shot it with 53.3 percent accuracy. Even in the aforementioned Ole Miss game, Murray only had two turnovers in the contest, though he didn't shoot the ball as well.

Now, instead of stomping the hardwood and ferociously punching the air with rage, Calipari is recognizing Murray's crucial, yet simple change of play.

"I thought Jamal played winning basketball more," Calipari said after UK's 77-61 win over Alabama on Saturday.

Murray scored 21 points for the second straight game and picked up five rebounds and a steal. With the help of senior forward Alex Poythress, the two combined to score the Cats' first 27 points of the game, with Murray scoring 14 in that stretch. Murray was also a perfect 6 for 6 from the line, continuing his hot streak of free-throw shooting having hit eight straight now.

But it wasn't just Saturday where Murray showed a difference. After Tuesday's 85-67 loss at LSU, Murray stood up and addressed some of the team's issues after fellow guard Tyler Ulis spoke to the team per Calipari's request. The move was a sign of leadership from the Kitchener, Ontario native, and showed his growth during his freshman year.

"It was just frustrating knowing that we're so much better and just a couple key plays, a couple key moments in the game where we can take advantage of it and we just don't," Murray said after the loss. "That's what we gotta figure out. Like I said, just frustrating. As a leader and point guard, I just think we need to do a better just of getting this team organized and getting this team more prepared for games like this when other teams are so fired up and excited to play us."

Ulis and Murray were the only players with productive outings in that game, scoring 23 and 21 points, respectively.

Junior guard Mychal Mulder said it was a moment like that, that really spoke to the team, giving them a sense of purpose heading into Tuscaloosa, Ala., on Saturday.

"When it comes from someone else in

the locker room, it might mean a little bit more, it might resonate with the players a little bit more." Mulder said. "So hearing it from them I think was good for us."

As one of the most skilled guards in the country, Murray may be able to perform the dribble moves other players can't or put up the circus-like shots that no one else could. But at the end of the day, all those fancy moves aren't worth much outside of a showmanship basketball exhibition. In real games, it'll just get you a few awes, some costly mistakes and one angry coach.

Murray is starting to change all that and is leading his team by doing one thing: Keeping it simple.

"Let me just say this, he's one of the best players in the country," Calipari said of Murray. "He gives us another guy that can make 3-point shots that spreads the court out. He's a terrific passer. This is all new to him. Like, it's just new. But he's doing fine."

Briscoe's resurgence a bright spot in UK escape
By: Kyle Tucker | Courier-Journal | Jan. 12, 2016

LEXINGTON, Ky. – The expectation coming into this Kentucky basketball season was that the Wildcats would have a three-headed monster in the backcourt, but lately it was just Tyler Ulis and Jamal Murray piling up gaudy stats while Isaiah Briscoe sputtered.

So although coach John Calipari had plenty of reasons to rant Tuesday night, after his team nearly blew a 20-point lead and had to hold off a ho-hum Mississippi State squad for an 80-74 win at home, Briscoe was not one of them. The freshman guard shined for a second straight game, continuing to shake off the recent slump that had shaken his confidence.

On a night when Ulis scored 21 points and Murray 22, and when forwards Alex Poythress and Marcus Lee faded into the background yet again, Briscoe's 14 points, five assists, four rebounds, a steal and just one turnover might've been the bigger story. Because it meant that three-headed monster is alive and well – and 14th-ranked Kentucky (13-3, 3-1 SEC) is going to need it.

"When we're all playing so well, it's hard to stop us, because we have so many different options," Ulis said. "They tried to take me and Jamal away this game and last game, and Isaiah, he stepped up and did a lot of great things."

Before breaking out Saturday at Alabama, Briscoe had averaged just 5.8

points and made 9 of 32 shots in the four previous games. He has scored 26 points on 13-of-19 shooting the past two games. Against the Bulldogs (7-8, 0-3), Briscoe swished pull-up jump shots and driving layups – more than once leaping from one side of the rim and sinking a reverse layup on the other side.

The former McDonald's All American credited assistant coach Kenny Payne with helping him get back on track.

"Coach Payne was just telling me, 'Watching you grow up and watching you play before you got here, you've been going off confidence,'" Briscoe said. "He said, 'Just go out there and play with your heart, play with your confidence. That's who you are.' The last two games, that's what I've been doing."

That heart, he said, helped the 6-foot-3 guard become Kentucky's post presence for the night. With the Bulldogs playing a zone defense and the Cats' two starting big men producing a total of four points until the final minute, Calipari ordered Briscoe to run the baseline behind the defense and search for the soft spots in the lane. Ulis and Murray found him there.

"We couldn't get anybody with size back there that had any confidence to score a ball," Calipari said. "So then we put him under the basket. That's what the adjustment was. 'You dudes are afraid? We'll go to him.' And he got behind the basket and he scored."

Briscoe said he'd started overthinking the game during his slump and he has finally freed his mind to just play again, to improvise and use his keen court awareness to make the right play without fear of making the wrong one. And when you get loose like that, sometimes even the bad ones work out.

That was the case when Briscoe pulled up from the free-throw line and banked in a not-so-great shot against the Bulldogs.

"I didn't even think that was going in. The first person I looked at was Coach," said Briscoe, who shrugged his shoulders at Calipari. "He just started smiling."

Getting a grin out of Kentucky's coach was a feat Tuesday, considering all that went wrong in a game that should've been a rout. But given the Cats' obvious frontcourt limitations, they look like they'll go only as far as the guards take them, so Briscoe's improvement is key.

Mississippi State coach Ben Howland called him a zone killer, "their best playmaker tonight with the ball," and noted just how difficult it is to defend a team with three elite options in the backcourt.

"Toward the end, they started playing

man (defense), and Coach's eyes lit up and all our eyes lit up. We know nobody in the country can play us man if we spread the court," Briscoe said. "I don't think there's a team in the country that can guard us three."

Ulis the Enforcer
By:Darell Bird | 247 Sports | Jan. 12, 2016

At 5-foot-9, 150 pounds, there is only one way Tyler Ulis can survive playing at the highest level of college basketball. Giving every ounce of energy he can muster.

So imagine how Kentucky's point guard must feel when he sees bigger, stronger and, yes, more physically talented players wasting their gifts.

"When some guys are giving it their all and some guys just choose not to come out and play that day it brings our entire team down," Ulis said moments after Kentucky blew a 20-point lead before edging Mississippi State 80-74 Tuesday night.

"It's hard for us to get a good win," Ulis said. "They came back because we didn't have the same energy and guys didn't come to play."

Ulis can't begin to wrap his head around the thought of not playing his hardest every minute of every game.

"Guys came out and didn't want to play again," Ulis said. "I don't understand why guys would come out like that, but we have to keep working on it."

Freshman guard Isaiah Briscoe understands Ulis' frustration completely.

"He's so little and he gives 110 percent every game. He's diving on the floor, steals, scoring, getting everybody involved," Briscoe said. "He feels that if somebody is giving any less than 110 percent then they shouldn't be on the court."

Kentucky coach John Calipari is fine with Ulis voicing those concerns to his teammates, even publicly calling them out while the game is under way, so long as there is consistency.

"I told Tyler, 'You say it before the game and you say it during the game, then you're allowed to say it after the game. You don't say something to him before the game and during the game. Do not speak to him after the game. That's not fair,'" Calipari said. "But if you're telling them what they need to do and they're not responding, then you have a right to say something after."

Ulis says he starts out in an encouraging tone. His in-game responses are entirely up to his teammates.

"I don't really get on guys before the game. I tell them, 'We've got to come out

ready to play. Make sure we're ready to play,'" Ulis said. "But during the game if I see someone mess up then I try to get on them and let him know what he needs to do. I'm just trying to keep people to do their jobs."

Being the bad guy comes easy to the team's smallest player.

"I don't even think about it," Ulis said. "If somebody is not doing what they're supposed to do, then as the point guard on this team I need to tell them."

He is even unaffected by how it might split the locker room if not corrected.

"Honestly, you just have to talk to them and let them know what they need to do. Then guys have to step up and do the job," Ulis said. "It's a game and we're fighting for our lives. Everybody has to do that. It's not about shooting the ball, it's about giving your all."

The reason? The season.

"It has to get through eventually," Ulis said, "because we're not going to win games if we keep playing like that.

"Some guys have it, but they don't always come out ready to play," he added. "But when we do, everybody has the same intensity, then we're a good team."

Humphries a 7-footer with post and piano skills

By: Kyle Tucker | Courier-Journal | Jan. 13, 2016

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Isaac Humphries has just finished saying how he's not the type to get nervous in front of a crowd, which is an important quality to have as a Kentucky basketball player, but now it's time to perform and all the eyeballs and cameras in this place are trained on him and the freshman 7-footer's palms are sweating.

He rubs them dry, though, draws in a deep breath to compose himself and lets it fly.

"Hello, it's me. I was wondering if after all these years you'd like to meet," he sings, as his hands dance across the keys of a piano inside UK's Schmidt Vocal Arts Center, filling the room with a beautiful rendition of Adele's hit song.

Long before a growth spurt at age 13 turned him into a basketball player, Humphries' first love was music. He remembers a red and white tambourine that he just couldn't put down and a mother who recognized his talent by age 5 and enrolled him an elementary school that focused on the performing arts.

He learned to play piano, trumpet, saxophone and drums. He can only read music for the trumpet and teaches himself songs on the other instruments by ear.

Humphries started doing plays and musicals, including "The King and I," "Oliver" and "High School Musical," which coincidentally is about the captain of a basketball team turning heads when he tries out for the lead in a show. That part, and a quote he heard on television recently and stored in his phone, struck a chord (so to speak) within Humphries.

"I don't want to be known for one thing that I do, but everything that I do. You only get one life to live, so live it," he said. "I like that. I thought it applied to me with basketball and singing and everything. I feel like I have so much more than just basketball. Why not do a lot, do everything? You only get one shot."

So there was the towering Australian center on Monday before basketball practice, belting out Adele songs and Snow Patrol's hit "Chasing Cars," allowing the Courier-Journal's cameras to capture the talent most Kentucky fans only know from a few short Instagram videos Humphries has shared.

The next night, he'd be in uniform at Rupp Arena, which was filled with about 23,000 people expecting greatness. But that big stage is still not as intimidating as singing and dancing on an actual stage in front of much smaller crowds.

"Just because there's always that fear of forgetting your lyrics," Humphries said, "whereas basketball, you can kind of play through forgetting a play or something like that."

On the court, Humphries remains a work in progress. He has played in just eight of 16 games for the 14th-ranked Wildcats, averaging 9.5 minutes, 2.5 points and a pair of rebounds. His best game of the season came in a loss at UCLA after Marcus Lee was injured, when he got four points and six boards.

But he views this almost like a bonus year. Humphries wasn't planning to enter college until next fall but reclassified and jumped in early because he saw an opportunity at Kentucky, which has a thin frontcourt. Thanks to the NBA's minimum age requirement — players must be 19 to enter the draft — he's a rare top-40 recruit with no designs on bolting after just one season. He only turned 18 last week. His focus is developing into a good college player.

"It's been something to get used to and adjust to, but I think every day, just working with (assistant coach Kenny Payne) I'm getting so much better than I was at the start," Humphries said. "Eventually, I'll get to a point where I'll be able to play and contribute, not just get on and shoot an airball like I did last week.

"It took me a while to kind of figure it out and understand what you need to do and how much you need to work to do this. Now that I've figured it out, it's just a day-to-day thing."

While he chases the basketball dream, music has been temporarily put on the back burner. He's taking a music class this semester, but he's not in UK's music school. He hasn't performed in a musical since he left Australia to finish high school in the U.S.

Humphries does get over to the university's fine arts building about twice a week to play the piano and hopes to eventually rekindle a musical career of some kind.

"I would like to one day do both and use a name I create in (basketball) to do that," he said. "Imagine an NBA Christmas album."

He loves to sing "O Holy Night." His favorite artist is Beyonce and favorite song is "Ordinary People" by John Legend. His favorite musical — Humphries stayed in New York with his mother to see three Broadway shows in as many days after UK's game against Ohio State in Brooklyn — is "Wicked."

He's not sure there's a part for him in that Wizard of Oz-inspired show, but "maybe 'The Addams Family,' as Lurch. That's fitting." That's a good joke now, because he's abnormally tall, but he wasn't always. Heading into the seventh grade, Humphries was still normal-sized and had never really even picked up a basketball.

"That was a weird stage in my life," he said. "I wasn't really playing a sport at that point, which was different for me because I'd always been playing a sport. I literally tried every sport except for basketball, and I was kind of in a dead spot. Music had kind of taken a back seat because it wasn't really the social thing to do and wasn't really, like, accepted."

Then he started growing — and growing and growing.

"My mom said, 'Why don't you try basketball?' " Humphries said. "So yeah, lucky I grew."

These days, his two passions often intersect. One of his highlights this season was meeting "The Voice" winner and Kentucky native Jordan Smith before he sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" before UK's game against Ole Miss. They had plenty to talk about, as Humphries is close friends with two former competitors — one of them a winner — on Australia's version of the show.

And now that his teammates have

discovered his talent, Humphries is always on call to perform.

"If we're ever on the road or in a car and 'Hello' comes on, it's instantly, 'Isaac, you have to start singing.' They say they can't listen to 'Hello' without thinking of me now," he said. "They really like it. They think it's really cool. That's not how it is everywhere. A lot of people could think it's a little weird and a little different, but I'm at a point now where I really don't care what people think. I just kind of do what I want. Do what makes you happy."

Oddly, what doesn't make Humphries happy is listening to music in the car or on his phone, where he has just two songs (by the Australian "Voice" winner) downloaded. He prefers to either be making the music or watching it live. Otherwise, not at all.

"It's a very strange thing. People don't understand it, but that's just me. I don't listen to music before a game. I don't ever listen to music," he said. "I like to sit in silence and just think. When I'm in the car, especially, I don't want loud music blaring all the time. When you're with your friends, I'd rather talk than just have rap music playing or a big techno song going.

"But maybe I'm just a different human. Who knows?"

Calipari ready to make changes after Auburn loss

By: Kyle Tucker | Courier-Journal | Jan. 16, 2016

AUBURN, Ala. — Change is coming. That much we know after Kentucky's worst loss of the season on Saturday, after the 14th-ranked Wildcats blew a 12-point lead in the second half, after their big men no-showed again, after their freshman guards faltered on defense, after a sub-.500 Auburn team roared back for a stunning 75-70 upset.

What remains to be seen is whether coach John Calipari moving around the pieces on this now obviously flawed team will make much difference. But he's going to try.

"It's January – what's the date today? – 16th. We're fine. I'm not worried about it," he said. "I just want to make some changes to see if guys will respond and, like, fight."

That might mean a seat on the bench for junior Marcus Lee or senior Alex Poythress – or both – after the two starting forwards combined for just nine points and seven rebounds against the Tigers. They'd produced a total of eight points Tuesday against Mississippi State

and gotten challenged by Auburn forward Cinmeon Bowers' pregame comments, but neither answered the bell Saturday.

Calipari was most disturbed by that fact. Bowers said the Cats (13-4, 3-2 SEC) were no longer intimidating inside. He said the Tigers (8-8, 2-3) had better guards. He said, shrugging off an 18-game losing streak in the series, Auburn was going to beat Kentucky.

Then Bowers and his teammates did it. He combined with forward Tyler Harris for 29 points and 22 rebounds. Tigers guard Kareem Canty poured in 26 points – outscoring UK stars Tyler Ulis and Jamal Murray – including the three-point play that gave Auburn the lead for good with 1:32 to go.

The home team shot the lights out, burying 12 of 26 3-pointers, and Bowers celebrated the fulfillment of his prophecy with a horde of Tigers fans who rushed the court.

"It's just disappointing when stuff is being said" and the Cats can't respond, Calipari said. "Last year, we beat West Virginia by a hundred (after the Mountaineers talked trash before an NCAA tournament game). This year, you know, where's the fight in this?"

The smallest player on the team, 5-foot-9 Ulis, had plenty, per usual. But his near triple-double – 17 points, 10 rebounds, eight assists (and just one turnover) – could not carry Kentucky. Neither could the best game of junior forward Derek Willis' college career.

The Bullitt East High alum, two days after Calipari skewered his defensive ability in a press conference, was one of the few Cats who did answer the challenge. He produced his first double-double at UK: 12 points and 12 rebounds to go with two assists, a block and a steal in 31 minutes off the bench.

"That's how you battle, what Derek did," Ulis said, adding that more of his teammates need to take notes. "We had people who didn't want to play. It's very frustrating. Ain't no way we should've lost that game, and we did."

So it could be time to shake things up. Although he didn't light up the stat sheet – three rebounds in seven minutes – backup guard Mychal Mulder impressed Calipari with his hustle, too. He might soon take time away from Murray or fellow freshman Isaiah Briscoe, who had 28 points between them but six turnovers, a series of defensive lapses and some foolish fouls.

To be fair, the coach said, those two have started trying to do too much because veterans like Lee and Poythress

continue "no-showing us."

"I'm expecting them to be 23-year-old, winning basketball players," Calipari said, but UK is leaning instead on guys "who are 19 and aren't ready for this. They're going to have to grow up fast if we're going to take this thing where it needs to go."

Willis is a veteran, though, and Kentucky will have to give him another hard look after Saturday. If there was a bright spot in a truly ugly loss, it was him.

"I was so happy," Calipari said. "If you ask me, he moved by all the other bigs. That's my opinion. But now he's got to be consistent. But he rebounded and he tried. I was just proud of him. I think everybody knows – they watch him and they're like, 'Why doesn't he rebound and just defend. Cal could leave him on the floor.' Like, I'm not some genius. And then there's an opportunity now, because some guys are not stepping up."

Willis took little consolation in his stats after a defeat, but he was happy to have so quickly answered his critics. Those included his own father.

"(He) was like, 'Hey, I know what kind of player you are and I know what you can be and all the stuff you can do,' " Willis said. "You gotta know that you're at the peak of college basketball, and if you don't have the mindset – and almost a little bit of arrogance – 'I play for Kentucky and I'm better than anyone out here' ... You just gotta have that edge over people, and tonight they brought it over us."

Hawkins' return, Skal's star-burst strengthen hope for UK basketball takeoff

By: Jerry Tipton | Kentucky.com | Jan. 18, 2016

Lack of consistency. Insufficient competitive spirit. Not good enough to put it on cruise control. The absence of a quality not normally associated with Kentucky basketball: desperation.

On a Southeastern Conference teleconference Monday, UK Coach John Calipari hit on familiar themes that remain unresolved. He took hope in two developments.

Reserve guard Dominique Hawkins is expected to return to practice soon, though he sat out again Monday night. He has been sidelined since sustaining a high ankle sprain against Ole Miss on Jan. 2.

Calipari suggested that Hawkins can boost Kentucky's inconsistent energy level, a quality most in need against consistently zealous opponents.

"Whatever is holding you back from re-

ally high-energy play, you've got to figure it out," Calipari said, "because … we're facing teams playing like their lives depend on it. And we've got to be a desperate team, too."

Freshman Skal Labissiere is making progress, Calipari said. Labissiere, the focal point of fan impatience, reminded everyone last weekend why he was the darling of the recruiting world. In his first 10 seconds on the court in the second half at Auburn, he blocked a shot, then outran everyone and dunked a lob pass in transition.

"He's finally got the pressure off him," Calipari said of Labissiere. "So just play, now."

But Calipari cautioned against any expectation of Labissiere suddenly becoming the fully-formed post presence that Kentucky so desperately needs.

"I don't want it to be 30 or 40 minutes in games, now, because he's not ready for that," Calipari of Labissiere's immediate contribution. "But if he can go 15, 20 minutes, and really help our team, then it's going to change his mentality and it's going to help us immensely."

Calipari again acknowledged that inconsistency had hampered Kentucky and put undue pressure on point guard Tyler Ulis.

Without mentioning names, Calipari said UK had "a couple guys — Alex Poythress? Marcus Lee? — not doing what they're capable of doing every game. It puts (Ulis) in a bad spot. He has to make plays or take shots that he shouldn't have to take. But he wants to win so bad, he does it anyway."

Ulis came away from the loss at Auburn on Saturday feeling he should have done more, Calipari said.

Calipari disagreed, and cited a sequence inside the final two minutes as an example. Ulis drove and somehow banked in a go-ahead shot over Tyler Harris, who is a foot taller.

"Then our team doesn't run back … ," Calipari said.

Auburn countered eight seconds later with a transition basket scored by Kareem Canty while being fouled by none other than Ulis.

Kentucky continues to search for answers.

"You're trying to really get guys to settle into roles," Calipari said. The players must balance trying to out-play an individual opponent while staying within the team concept.

"Getting guys more consistent," Calipari said. "And what does that mean? How do we do that? What if they're not capable of that? Then how do we play the game anyway?"

Kentucky's inconsistency becomes painfully apparent during what Calipari calls "winning time." He noted that UK nearly lost to Mississippi State after leading by 20 points in the second half. At Auburn, UK lost after leading by 12 in the second half.

"Historically, my team's up 10, it's death for the other team," Calipari said. "That's not the case right now.

"It is young guys not understanding winning basketball at crunch time. But that's what we've got to work on, and that's why it's a process. And the only way you get through it is experience. But veterans will help you win games as you're learning and growing that way."

As he did in the postgame meeting with reporters at Auburn, Calipari said that Kentucky had time to turn it around.

"I'm not panicked in any way," he said.

Calipari again pointed out that Kentucky cannot duplicate the dominance of last season.

"It's just convincing guys there's got to be a consistency of play," he said. "Your teammates have to know what you're bringing to every game. And, at the very least, it's fight and battle and compete."

Calipari likened this Kentucky team to the 2013-14 UK team. That UK team lost four of its final seven regular-season games, then advanced to the Final Four. Then and now, Kentucky had issues revolving around winning time, consistency of play."

"We almost ran out of runway," Calipari said, "and we got the plane down."

Size No Issue As Ulis Leads Cats To Win

By: Jon Hale | Courier-Journal | Jan. 23, 2016

LEXINGTON, Ky. – When Tyler Ulis showed up on campus, UK men's basketball coach John Calipari struggled to find a way to get under his 5-foot-9 point guard's skin.

The answer was simple: bring up the size.

"I even call him little guy," Calipari said after Saturday's 76-57 win over Vanderbilt. "Makes him so mad. 'Give the little guy the ball.' He just smokes. It's coming out of his ears when I do that."

Ulis is used to cracks about his size. After all, it's the first quality that is generally discussed about his game.

The key for his elevation to Kentucky's best player may be learning to turn that source of frustration into an asset.

"He's really got everything," Vanderbilt coach Kevin Stallings said after watching Ulis total 21 points, three rebounds and five assists against his team. "He actually utilizes his size to his advantage. He creates advantages with his stature. That's a unique skill."

Almost 20 games into Kentucky's season the fact that Ulis is good is no breaking news.

Opposing coaches generally heap praise on the sophomore after visiting Rupp Arena. Stallings was no different.

"I felt Ulis was probably the most dominant player on the floor for either team," he said. "I thought that he played better than probably anyone."

Calipari also makes no secret of Ulis' importance to his squad.

When Ulis headed to the bench at the 6:58 mark in the first half after picking up his second foul, Calipari thought he might get a rare breather for a player who averages more than 36 minutes per game.

As Kentucky (15-4, 5-2 SEC) failed to score over the next 2:17 and Vanderbilt (11-8, 3-4) cut the lead to single digits, Calipari rethought that plan.

"Game got close. Hey, man, I'm putting him back in," Calipari said. "Don't foul. How about that thought? You've got two. Don't get another one. I took him out and we ended up up 10. When they got it to seven, I just wasn't going to let it be a two-point halftime game when we played the way we were playing."

Ulis helped end the scoring drought with a steal and assist on a Charles Matthews jumper at the 3:05 mark. Kentucky weathered the storm and took a double-digit lead into halftime.

In the second half Ulis was close to perfect with 11 points on 5-of-6 shooting to go with three assists.

He became the first UK player with at least four assists in 12 consecutive games since the 1990-91 season. With one made free throw he improved his mark at the line to 96.4 percent (27 for 28) over the last four games. He topped the 20-point plateau for the seventh time this season.

Ulis' play has been one of the few constants for Kentucky this season, but against Vanderbilt he had no shortage of help.

Senior forward Alex Poythress totaled 16 points, and freshman guard Jamal Murray added 18 to give Kentucky three players with at least 16 points for the first time this season. Junior forward Derek Willis added seven points and nine rebounds.

"I feel like everybody is accepting the challenge," Ulis said.

The challenge is one Calipari has re-

peated frequently since a loss at Auburn.

"He has enough on him," Calipari said. "Be responsible. Take the shot you're supposed to make. If you can't make it, you better get in the gym at night and shoot it. You must take it and not throw it back to him and make him now, with all that he's got on his shoulders now, have to make every shot at the shot clock.

"No. We're not having that."

It would be easy for Ulis to grow frustrated with his teammates failing to match his consistent effort, but he chose to only focus on the positives with asked about that dynamic after the game.

Perhaps it's that attitude that has led Calipari to turn to Ulis for input on game plans, locker room dynamics and practice situations.

And if he throws a "little guy" jab at the star point guard every now and then, Ulis even knows how to handle that now.

"I understand what he was trying to do now," Ulis said. "So I just try to brush it off."

In a Week's Time, Kentucky Basketball Goes From Despair to Domination

By: John Clay | Lexington Herald-Leader | Jan. 23, 2016

It was just last Saturday that Kentucky flat-out gave a game away at Auburn. Up two with 1:40 to go, the Cats lost by five. Tyler Ulis wasn't happy, expressing his anger by calling out teammates. Again. John Calipari wasn't happy. No one was happy.

In fact, you thought, well, maybe this is the way it's going to be with this Kentucky basketball team. A good game will be followed by a bad game, will be followed by … rinse and repeat. May the circle be unbroken. You thought, well, this team is just an all right team, a place-holder until Calipari's next Fort Knox haul of recruiting gold arrives in time for next season.

And then Thursday night happened. Out in Arkansas, always a tough place to play, a place where John Calipari had come up empty all three times as the UK coach, the Cats rocked the Razorbacks 80-66.

And then Saturday happened. Back home in snow-covered Lexington, playing their second game in less than 48 hours, the Cats imposed their will on a previously surging Vanderbilt by sending the Commodores back to the drawing board thanks to a 76-57 dismantling.

"We just got outplayed in pretty much every facet of the game," said Vandy coach Kevin Stallings afterward. "That pretty much sums it up."

"This team is getting better!" said UK coach John Calipari.

So how did Kentucky go from despair to domination in a week's time?

"We lost some games we shouldn't have lost," said freshman guard Jamal Murray.

Yes, but …

"We focused on playing defense," said senior forward Alex Poythress.

Yes, but …

"Cal's just been stressing to us that we have to refuse to lose," said Ulis.

Bingo.

Just maybe, somewhere in the span of this week, this Kentucky team decided it would refuse to be the team it has been. It refused to come unprepared. It refused to let guys be "no-shows" — the catchphrase of the week. It refused to be less than the team it could be.

Plus, Calipari did another smart thing. Before heading to Arkansas, the coach decided to do more scrimmaging in practice. That leads to more physical play, more head-knocking, more competition and, in the end, more confidence.

"Last year we scrimmaged every day because we had 10 guys," Ulis said. "We were at each other every day in practice. With us being so competitive in practice, it helps us out in the game."

Consider that before Saturday, Vanderbilt led the SEC in field goal percentage defense, holding opponents to 37.3 percent. Kentucky shot an even 55 percent against the 'Dores, UK's highest percentage in its seven conference games, its second-highest percentage of the season.

On the defensive end, Kentucky held Vandy to just 32 percent shooting from the floor, the lowest field goal percentage by an SEC opponent this season and the second-lowest of the entire season.

"That's the best defensive game we've had," Ulis said. "That's what we need to do every game because in order for us to win, we have to be a defensive team."

OK, OK, Calipari has been waiting to speak. Well, not waiting. When a media member tried to ask the UK coach about the week's tunaround, Calipari was rolling with his answer before the question had even approached the finish line.

"Anybody that thinks this team is not getting better, you're not watching," the coach said. "Dickie (Vitale) came in and talked to me and said, 'You know this is one team that's not getting better.' I said, 'So you're not watching college basketball that much.' Like, what are you talking about?

"… This team is getting better. Derek

Willis is getting better. Tyler's better. Jamal's better. Isaiah (Briscoe) is better. They're all better. Skal (Labissiere) is better. Alex is better."

A week ago, the Big Blue Nation would have given that assessment a collective eye-roll. Now, it has been given two very strong reasons to believe.

Kentucky Basketball: The X-Man Cometh In The Person of Derek Willis

By: Glenn Logan | A Sea Of Blue | Jan. 25, 2016

Funny thing, basketball. It's never ceases to amaze me how one player can change the fortunes of a team, not just because he might be playing well (or better, at least), but also because of the way he impacts the game. In basketball, that player can come from anywhere, but usually shows up from the deep recesses of the bench — a colorful but limited Josh Harrellson, a.k.a Jorts, who roared to prominence in the 2010-11 season comes immediately to mind. Also, the absence of a player that might not have been first round draft pick material can have the same sort of influence on a team, like Duke's unfortunate loss of Amile Jefferson. Sometimes, all it takes is that one guy, who doesn't have to be an NBA green-roomer, and a team can suddenly change its stars.

It may be slightly too early to say definitively, but Derek Willis' recent play has significantly impacted Kentucky in a very positive way. Prior to Willis seeing major minutes, Kentucky was doing okay, but seemed to be lacking something. That something was essentially a "stretch 4" or big swing forward to help unclog the lane and force teams to guard Kentucky honestly, rather than packing it in and forcing the Wildcats to shoot threes. Alex Poythress has never been able to fill that bill, and going small became much more difficult when Dominique Hawkins went down to a high-ankle sprain.

The emergence
For the past three games, Willis has changed Kentucky's fortunes. You may wonder about the Auburn game, but that is actually a special case. It was a road game where a hot player made an absurd number of 3-point shots, almost all of them challenged and one of them a 28' bank from the right wing. Combine that with the disappearing act by Alex Poythress and Marcus Lee, and you have an unexpected road loss. But if UK had gotten even modest production from the

front line, a slightly friendlier whistle and a few less off-the-chart-level-of-difficulty makes from Kareem Canty, that game is a win, too.

Consider Willis' production in the last three contests. These aren't superstar numbers, to be sure, but he's averaging 10 points, 9 rebounds and 2 blocks per game in the last three games. That's almost a double-double. In fact, in the Vanderbilt game Willis shot the ball poorly from three, making only one. But he got a lot of open looks that normally go for him, and he just keeps getting better and better defensively and rebounding the basketball.

How Willis affects the game

The way that Willis has really has helped the Wildcats is his shooting threat. Previously, you didn't have to guard Poythress, Lee, or Skal Labissiere anywhere but in or near the paint. That's not the case for Willis. Not only can he shoot the three, but he is doing yeoman's work on the offensive and defensive glass, rebounding the ball better than Lee in every game but one in SEC play, not to mention being far more dangerous on offense.

The other angle that is often overlooked is that Willis gives you another free throw shooter and pinch ball handler, and Kentucky desperately needs that. Where Lee is an outright liability on the line and Poythress is "maybeso," Willis is a 90% free throw shooter (that's right, even better than Tyler Ulis' 86%, though in far fewer shots). You can't foul him, you must guard him everywhere on the floor, and because of his length on defense he can be a nightmare, as the Arkansas game clearly illustrated.

Willis is also Kentucky's best wing-entry passer, although they haven't used him for that very much because most of Kentucky's offense this year has been initiated off high pick-and-rolls. We never have quite found the magic of the 2010 team side dribble hand-off pick and roll or pick and pop that Brandon Knight and Harrellson made such a threat, but the latter can be quite possible using Willis in a way that it isn't with anyone else. Part of the problem is the guards — they make their cuts too far away from the screener. But we could enter the post more from the wing when Poythress is playing like he did versus Vanderbilt.

Now, Willis can't really get his own, shot, but he doesn't need to — we have Jamal Murray, Ulis and to some extent Isaiah Briscoe for that. What he provides is a third spot-up shooter who doesn't significantly downsize the front line, and with him putting all that effort into rebounding

and defense, he has become a genuine "X-factor" that has made Kentucky a significantly better team. To my point, all of you who thought going into the last two games that Kentucky would hold 20+ point leads late in the game and go on to win effortlessly, hold up your hands. Mine is not up, I assure you.

Moving forward

Willis isn't likely to become what we consider a star, but he's a complementary piece we desperately needed, primarily because neither Poythress nor Lee can space the floor and force opposing defenses to open up driving lanes. With Willis in the game defending hard rather than doing his best Pasodoble imitation, Kentucky's opponents cannot pack in their zones or sagging man-to-man to defend the rim without giving him looks from the corner and the wing, and picking that poison isn't working out well anymore. Add in some surprisingly efficient rebounding and a newfound defensive competence, and Willis looks like the player we had all hoped he might become.

Of course, the question is always, "Can he keep it up?" I don't know, and neither do you, but as long as he does, Kentucky is a significantly more dangerous basketball team than they were without him. Add in a returning Dominque Hawkins to provide better reserve guard play, and Kentucky becomes pretty darn good even if Labissiere never shows up. If the big guy does find his confidence, a la the Arkansas game, the Wildcats could be really good.

Finally, Willis has provided a challenge to Lee by taking his starting spot. Lee has not responded well to the demotion, but Marcus is a smart kid who wants to succeed, and I expect that he'll up his game. If that, plus Hawkins' return is all that happens between now and the SEC Tournament, I like our chances a lot better than I did three weeks ago.

Mon dieu! Derek Willis becomes force for Kentucky
By: Jerry Tipton | Lexington-Heald Leader | Jan. 26, 2016

To explain the sudden emergence of Derek Willis as an impact player, Kentucky assistant coach Tony Barbee had reporters scurrying to their French-to-English dictionaries.

"Derek deserves the opportunity to play because of his mental approach," Barbee said Tuesday. "He'd admit he's had a little laissez-faire attitude in his approach to practice. . . . For some reason it

(changed) about a month ago."

According to the Oxford Dictionaries, laissez-faire means leaving things to take their own course.

When a reporter bounced the term laissez-faire off Marcus Lee, he nodded in agreement.

"Yeah, I definitely see a little change in Derek," he said. "I think he's more mentally ready to take advantage of everything. And since it's right there, he's been more aggressive offensively, more aggressive defensively."

A case can be made that this take-charge approach has turned Willis into Kentucky's most productive frontcourt player. Since joining the starting lineup three games ago, he's nearly averaged a double-double: 10.3 points and 9.3 rebounds.

"It's made a huge difference for us as a team," Barbee said.

Lee said that Willis' play as taken "a big toll" off Alex Poythress and himself. "Because we were the only 'bigs' doing a lot. Now, we have Derek coming in and he's doing really great."

Barbee pointed out that the threat posed by Willis' three-point shooting (seven of 17 in the last four games) forces defenses to spread out, which opens up driving lanes for Kentucky's three star guards.

A laissez-faire attitude can be hard to resist when a player sees little chance for playing time. In his first two UK seasons, Willis averaged less than four minutes in the games he got off the bench.

"We were in the same boat," Lee said. "We were kind of trying to get in where we could."

A laissez-faire attitude can come "real easy," Lee said, "especially as the year goes on. You kind of notice you can't be as helpful during the games. . . . You have to kind of kick yourself into being into the team."

Ulis a 'big?'

Although UK lists Tyler Ulis as 5-foot-9 and 160 pounds, he can be considered one of the team's "bigs."

"Like we always say, it's not how big you are, it's how big you play," Barbee said. "And Tyler is one of those guys who looks in the mirror and he sees a guy about 6-8 (and) 280 pounds.

"That's how he think he is, and that's how he plays. . . . It's a great trait to have. We wish more players had that."

Time and score

Barbee hit on a favorite topic of late: How Jamal Murray needs to take time-and-score into consideration when deciding to take a shot.

"When you're an elite scorer like he is, sometimes in your mind, you see it visually," Barbee said. "'I can score any time.'

"But understand when it's that time to go, when it's time to pass, when it's time to move the ball (run clock)."

When asked if an elite scorer like Murray had grown accustomed to making difficult shots regardless of time-and-score, Barbee said, "Not only did it work, you were expected to do it all the time."

PT for Skal?

After Skal Labissiere played only four minutes last Saturday, UK Coach John Calipari said the matchup with Vanderbilt did not favor the freshman big man.

Barbee suggested Missouri's style might translate into more playing time for Labissiere.

"It's possible . . . ," Barbee said. "This could be a game where he can be more impactful."

Missouri competes

Although tied for last place in the SEC, Missouri has continued to compete.

"We are a team that has continued to fight and claw," Coach Kim Anderson said. "Played some teams close. Not been able to get over the hump, but hopefully we're able to continue to improve."

The Tigers have lost 20 straight games away from home.

A bright spot came in a 76-61 victory over Auburn, Eleven different Missouri players played and scored in the game.

"In order for us to win and be successful, we need that kind of performance every game," Anderson said.

Another bright spot: playing competitively in the wake of the school self-imposing penalties in reaction to rule violations during Frank Haith's time as coach. Missouri will not be eligible for postseason play this year.

Etc.
• In Monday's practice, Dominique Hawkins aggravated a high ankle sprain he suffered against Ole Miss, Barbee said.
• Missouri guard Wes Clark has twice scored career-high points this season: 22 against Savannah State and 26 against South Carolina.
• Mike Morgan, Joe Dean Jr., and sideline reporter Laura Rutledge will call the game for the SEC Network.

Tiny Tyler Ulis defying tall odds
By: Chris Fisher | 247 Sports | Jan. 26, 2016

At 5-foot-9 and 160 pounds, Kentucky sophomore point guard Tyler Ulis has been defying the odds his entire basketball career.

After showing flashes of his ability playing mostly behind Andrew Harrison last season, the diminutive Ulis has taken the reins of the Wildcats' offense full time this season, averaging 15.3 points, 6.0 assists, 3.5 rebounds and a team-leading 1.4 steals over 36.2 minutes while guiding Kentucky to a 15-4 record.

With UK starting to flutter midway through his sophomore season, Ulis shifted his game into yet another gear, scoring 20-plus points in six of his last eight games while averaging 19.3 points and 6.8 assists over that stretch.

Ulis was named to the midseason watch lists for both the John R. Wooden Award and the Oscar Robertson Trophy, both presented to the national player of the year.

Despite his small stature, Ulis plays with a toughness that belies his slight frame. He combines the quickness of a waterbug with the ferocity of a pit bull, becoming a fan favorite in Lexington.

"Tyler is the quintessential guy who plays bigger than his size and a lot of that has to do with his intangibles," 247Sports Director of Scouting, Jerry Meyer, said. "He's highly skilled. He can see the play, he can make the play and he's a catalyst. He knows how to make others better. He doesn't play for himself, he plays for the team and that's what makes him great. He has that emotional IQ. He's a very mature player and he knows that in order to win, he has to make everyone better."

But his height is about the only physical attribute you can measure or quantify in regards to Ulis.

In a 91-67 win over Auburn at the SEC Tournament in Nashville last season, without hesitation, Ulis stepped to Tigers' 7-footer Trayvon Reed during an in-game scuffle.

In addition to being it's most indispensable player, Ulis is the unquestioned emotional, and yes, physical, leader of this Kentucky team. Ulis physically challenged freshman big man Skal Labissiere in UK's 87-77 loss at UCLA in December.

"Just how tough he is, his competitiveness and just how good of a teammate he is," Jonathan Givony of Draft Express told CatsPause.com. "How he can mix his scoring with his passing and is defense. He's so valuable."

ESPN analyst Dan Dakich made some waves recently, particularly among UK fans, when he said he didn't think Ulis was one of the elite point guards in college basketball.

Earlier this season, UK assistant John

Robic called Ulis one of the smartest players he's been around in what is nearing 30 years of coaching. In postgame news conferences this season, a handful of coaches have called Ulis the premier point guard in the country.

In 58 career games at UK, Ulis has handed out 3.3 assists for every turnover.

"I would want him on my team," Meyer said. "I'd have a hard time coming up with five better than Tyler Ulis."

But, in order for Ulis to take his game to the next level, he'll have to defy some tall odds related to his size.

Of the 960 draft picks since 2000, only 26 have been smaller than 6-foot-1.

Of those 26, only eight have been smaller than 6-foot:
2000: Speedy Claxton (5-11)
2000: Khalid El-Amin (5-10)
2000: Scoonie Penn (5-10)
2005: Nate Robinson (5-9)
2008: D.J. Augustin (5-11)
2011: Isaiah Thomas (5-10)
2013: Shane Larkin (5-11)
2013: Pierre Jackson (5-10)

Of those eight, only Claxton, Robinson, Augustin and Larkin were taken in the first round.

In three of the last six drafts, there haven't been any players selected under 6-foot-1 and only four total during that span and if Ulis were to be drafted, he would join Nate Robinson in 2005 as the shortest player drafted since 2000.

Currently, Draft Express projects Ulis as the No. 47 pick in this summer's NBA Draft.

"We have him in the mid-second round right now but if he were 6-3, he'd probably be a lottery pick," Givony said. "But his height has been there his whole career and it's not really stopping him from what he needs to do at the college level. Is it why he's not a lottery pick? Yes, but it's not going to prevent him from being an NBA player."

Meyer says Ulis' draft stock is tough to project because it only takes one team to fall in love with him.

"All it takes is one believer. That can change everything," Meyer said. "Out of all the teams, there may be one that really values what he does. I think he can be a good NBA player. We see what he does at the highest level in college. His size is a detriment but he has a lot of qualities that make up for it."

As good a defender as Ulis is at the college level, Givony says he thinks he'll be even better in the NBA.

"With the way they're calling games this season, [UK] has to pick their spots a

little bit because they can't afford for him to get in foul trouble. The guy just drapes opposing point guards and makes their lives really difficult. We'll see that more in the NBA because he won't be relied on so heavily."

At this point, it wouldn't be wise to bet against Ulis. Givony isn't.

"Would it shock me if he was drafted in the first round? Absolutely not."

Who knew Derek Willis would be Kentucky basketball's diference-maker?

By: John Clay | Lexington Herald-Leader | Jan. 28, 2016

You know when the season started I was the one who said Derek Willis would be the key to this Kentucky basketball team.

I was the one who said that when John Calipari finally made the commitment to give the junior forward a chance, then and only then would the Cats start to click.

Ok, so that's not entirely true.

Ok, fact is, there's not an ounce of truth to that.

I certainly had no idea that the former Bullitt East star, scarcely used his first two seasons as a Cats, would turn out to be the difference-maker. I'm guessing you didn't either. I'm guessing no one did, not even the Hall of Fame head coach.

And yet that is exactly what has happened.

"I'm going to be honest with you," Calipari said on Wednesday night after his team had trounced poor visiting Missouri 88-54 at Rupp Arena, "a big part of it has been putting Derek Willis in the role that he's in. It's changed us. It's just changed our team."

After that disappointing loss at Auburn, when Calipari decided to stick Willis into the starting lineup, for whatever reason, this Kentucky team started to jell. It beat Arkansas by 14 in Fayetteville. It beat Vanderbilt by 19 at home. It manhandled Missouri.

Wednesday night, Willis scored 18 points, grabbed 12 rebounds and blocked two shots. He made four of five three-point shots, three of those in the first five minutes of the game when the Cats were reeling off 20 straight points on the way to a 20-2 lead.

"I thought tonight Willis was the X-factor," Missouri coach Kim Anderson said. With a little less than five minutes to go, Willis grabbed a rebound on the defensive end and took the basketball coast-to-coast, all by himself, for an electrifying

slam that gave the Cats an 81-44 lead. It brought the crowd to its feet.

We forget that his junior year in high school, when he committed to Kentucky, Willis was considered one of the top college prospects in the nation. For whatever reason, his star faded a bit his senior season. He arrived at UK with a class that included the Harrison twins and James Young and Julius Randle and, well, Willis got lost a bit in the shuffle.

There were plenty of rumors that he was going to transfer. There were plenty of people who thought he should transfer. But he didn't. He stuck right here. He's a Kentucky kid. This where we wanted to be, where he wanted to play, where he wanted to contribute.

What Willis needed all along was confidence. He's an honest kid with the media, more than most, and you could sense that doubt when he spoke. He was honest about his game, about his place on the roster and what he needed to do to make his mark. Knowing it is one thing, doing it is another.

He had shown flashes early this season, but never with enough consistency to make you think Calipari would find a constant role for his junior. And then, something happened. Maybe it was the way Calipari criticized Willis' defense — "What's a word worse than bad?" asked the coach — before the Auburn game. Maybe it was, as Derek has said, Willis' father issuing a challenge to his son to be the player he knew he could be.

It doesn't matter how it happened. It only matters that it did happen. In that wake-up call loss at Auburn, Willis was one of the few Cats who really played. He scored 12 points and grabbed 12 rebounds. It caused Calipari to name Willis a starter. The Cats are not just 3-0 since, they are an impressive 3-0.

Saturday's game at Kansas will surely tell a lot about this team, but where a couple of weeks ago you wouldn't have given Kentucky much chance in Lawrence, now you have to feel like it has a chance.

Wednesday night, Calipari said that after the game he asked if Willis wanted to give any of the minutes he has taken from other players back?

"Coach," said Derek Willis, "I just want to win."

UK guards still scary matchup despite Kansas loss

By: Josh Ellis | Kenucky Kernel | Jan. 30, 2016

When No. 20 UK walked in to Allen

Fieldhouse to face the No. 4 Kansas Jayhawks and a head coach in Bill Self who's lost just nine home games in his 13 years at Kansas, the Cats were supposed to be the scared ones.

Instead, after a nail-biting 90-84 overtime loss, the Cats flipped the script. Instead, the Cats showed why every other team in the nation should be the scared ones.

Anyone who watched even five minutes of the back-and-fourth duel between the two basketball blue-bloods on Saturday would know why.

Tyler Ulis, Isaiah Briscoe and Jamal Murray are why.

The trio combined for 53 points on 20-of-39 shooting and 13 assists despite nine turnovers. They drove to the basket at will and no matter who Self put in front of them, the UK guards continued to find ways to score.

"We couldn't keep (UK's) guards out of the paint. They wore us out," Self said. "Ulis was great. Briscoe totally controlled everything early."

Ulis, who has been the hottest of the bunch of late, scored 20 or more points in his fourth consecutive game. Murray struggled from three against the Jayhawks, but found other ways to score his 15 points and shoot better than 50 percent.

And Briscoe, who UK head coach John Calipari believes can be the best defending and rebounding guard in the country, got to the line 12 times against Kansas, grabbed four rebounds and dished five assists.

Despite the success the UK backcourt has had, there is still room for improvement. Ulis had two costly turnovers late in the game that turned into points for the Jayhawks. The sophomore could only focus on his flaws after the breathtaking defeat.

"That's not something I usually do," Ulis said before leaving the post-game press conference early feeling ill. He played all 45 minutes of regulation and could barley finish the game fighting cramps.

Forward Alex Poythress, who was another bright spot for UK, finished with 13 points and eight rebounds before fouling out. The senior knew his teammates gave their all despite the outcome.

"We've got some fighters," Poythress said. "Everybody who was playing was fighting."

And that was true, every UK player was indeed fighting, but some had a little too much fight in them. Derek Willis, Marcus Lee, Skal Labissiere and Poythress all fouled out against an aggressive Jayhawk team, leaving the Cats' fate in the hands of

its three guards.

The guards almost delivered. It was just too little too late for UK.

That's why Big Blue Nation should still be smiling even though their team just lost to Kansas. The three guards almost single-handily won the game.

So when No. 20 UK walked out of Allen Fieldhouse, heads down, mourning the crushing loss that seemed as if it could've had a different outcome for the majority of game, there was no fear.

But there very well could be for every other coach watching.

Learning to win for March

By: Kevin Erpenbeck | CoachCal.com | Jan. 31, 2016

The Kentucky players don't quite understand what it takes to win. Not yet, anyway.

But head coach John Calipari intends to teach them how to in preparation for the games that matter the most come tournament time.

"What I told them after is I gotta do a better job of teaching these kids how to win," Calipari said. "They do not know how to win a game. And that's my job. That's why they want me coaching them." UK's much-anticipated battle with Kansas at Allen Fieldhouse lived up to the hype it received, and then some, as it needed overtime to decide the outcome. It also served as a great stepping stone for the Cats, even in a loss, by previewing the kind of high-level talent they should expect to see in a little over a month from now.

But before they square off with such opponents, the Cats (16-5, 6-2 Southeastern Conference) need to learn how to correct their fouling problems, rebounding struggles and free-throw shooting, all of which contributed to the 90-84 loss to Kansas on Saturday.

"We had two one-handed rebounds all in the last three minutes of regulation, one on an offensive rebound," Calipari said. "If we grab it with two hands and stick it in, I think we win the game. And that's what winning players know.

"When we missed those free throws, it's kind of like we let go of the rope. And I just had talked about it. But it's all part of the growth of this team and stuff that I have to do. I got a lot of work to do. I really do."

UK has certainly grown a lot this year, though. The team lost three of its first four true road games of the season by a combined 33 points, including the shocker at Auburn after leading the Tigers by 12

in the second half. After that, the Cats buckled down, changed their mindsets in practice and pulled off three straight dominating wins, including a 14-point win over Arkansas in Fayetteville, Ark., for their second true road win.

But there were some instances in Saturday's performance that revealed UK's uglier side. The Cats had no answer for Kansas guard Wayne Selden Jr., as the 6-foot-5 upperclassman scored a game-high 33 points on a 12-for-20 shooting effort, including 3 of 5 from beyond the arc.

"We were playing (Wayne) Selden no catch," Calipari said. "What? No catch, you left him open. I know. If you're watching the game and you're playing, there is no reason you're leaving the guy that's killing you. You just say no catch, which is what we said, and the kid gets three shots off. I mean, we switched off. It was just amazing. And the kid had to make them and he did."

The Cats also suffered from their season-long fouling issues. Derek Willis, who had cemented a spot in the starting rotation with his improved play over the last few weeks, was in foul trouble for virtually the entire game before fouling out with less than five minutes to play in the second half. Next was Marcus Lee, who fouled out at the 1:24 mark in the second half, making it the sixth time he's fouled out of a game this season and the fourth time in his last eight games.

Skal Labissiere fouled out with over two minutes to go in the overtime period, forcing UK to play with just one big for the rest of the way before Alex Poythress was forced out in the game's closing seconds.

"We just have to learn to play without fouling," Poythress said. "That's something we've been struggling with all year. We just have to learn to keep our hands up and we can't look for an excuse or anything. We fouled, we shouldn't have fouled. That probably cost us the game. A lot of us were in foul trouble down the stretch."

But the Cats fought hard in a tough environment, despite their struggles near the end. Kansas had only lost nine times at Allen Fieldhouse in the last 13 years. And unlike its double-digit losses on the road to LSU and UCLA earlier this year, UK never quit and the players seem to have bought into the "refuse to lose" attitude that Coach Cal has been preaching to them since their loss to Auburn two weeks ago. They just ran out of steam in the end.

"Those kids gave everything they had," Calipari said. "They fought like heck. They came in this building expecting to win."

"I feel like we came out into their building, fought hard, played hard the whole game, the whole 40 minutes, and we have to keep our heads up for that," said Tyler Ulis, who scored a career-high 26 points against the Jayhawks.

But despite the bad taste the loss gives them, the Cats could still use Saturday's game as a measuring point, especially when they compare it to the rest of the games that were played around the country.

Ten matchups of SEC vs. Big 12 teams had been played as part of the annual Big 12-SEC Challenge on Saturday. Kansas' win over UK made the Big 12 conference come out on top 7-3, but there were plenty of wild finishes throughout the day.

The LSU Tigers pushed the No. 1/2 Oklahoma Sooners to their limit before eventually losing 77-75. No. 5/5 Texas A&M and No. 14/16 Iowa State played neck-and-neck for nearly 38 minutes before Texas A&M closed it out for a 72-62 victory. Florida got its first win over a ranked opponent this year by beating No. 9/9 West Virginia 88-71 at home.

It's quality teams like these that could give the Cats their toughest battles of the season and force them to play winning basketball throughout if they want to come out on top.

With the fight they showed against a top-tier team like Kansas, and a little bit more understanding of what "winning basketball" is, the Cats could have themselves ready to win the most important games that come a month and a half from now.

But Coach Cal says they have much to learn first.

"All we'll do is just go possession by possession, is that losing or winning basketball," Calipari said. "And they have to say it's losing. Then you go to the next possession, both offense and defense, the last five, six minutes of regulation and even some in the overtime.

"But that's my job to teach them how to win. … The young guys and even a couple of the vets, we just have to get them to understand the plays you have to make in this kind of game."

Family inspires Jamal Murray's 35-point eruption

By: Darrell Bird | 27 Sports | Feb. 6

Jamal Murray can't get home to Canada, so Canada came to him Saturday in Lexington and it paid off with a phenomenal 35-point effort from the freshman in an 80-61 rout of Florida at Rupp Arena.

"It's good to look in the crowd and see

them watching," Murray said. "When my family is here I just relax. I'm calm and just play the game I know. They helped me get here so there's no reason to feel pressure."

Murray last saw his parents during a road trip to Kansas, but before that it had been several weeks. His mom, dad, brother and high school teacher were front and center at Rupp Arena. Early on, each time Murray scored, he would point to his family and smile.

"When I hit a three," he said, "I looked to them to make sure they knew that shot was for them."

Murray opened the game in a zone, scoring 20 of Kentucky's 50 first-half points. He was 7-of-10 from the field, including 5-for-5 from 3-point range.

"I'm pretty sure the rim stays the same size, but it was fun to have the ocean out there and hit most of my shots," Murray said with a smile.

The freshman cooled a bit in the second half to finish 13-of-21 overall, but still made 8-of-10 from beyond the arc.

"That's how I should have been shooting this whole season, but I haven't," Murray said. "Hopefully, I can carry it on for the next couple of games."

Murray, who arrived at Kentucky with a reputation as a pure shooter, entered the game shooting only 41.8 percent, including 36.5 from 3-point range. In UK's most recent losses to Kansas and Tennessee, Murray made only 5-of-19 (26.3 percent) from deep.

But then his father, Roger, arrived from Kitchener, Ontario, with a couple of suggestions.

"Just a couple of minor things, shooting form adjustments," Murray said. "Having him here instead of hearing over the phone is a big difference. We have a connection where we can talk without saying anything. I'd love to have him here more often."

It was Murray's second 30-plus scoring performance and it couldn't have come at a more opportune time given the Cats' two-game losing streak.

"I knew I was shooting well. I didn't realize I had 20 at the half," Murray said. "I was mostly looking to score so they wouldn't come back like the Tennessee game. I was aware of how well I was shooting, but I didn't pay attention. I wanted to stay focused and not let it get to my head."

No worries there, not with coach John Calipari relentlessly trying to fine-tune Murray's shot selection, even invoking professional legend George 'Ice Man' Gervin.

"Jamal went on a drive right and had a lay-up, but he had to finger-roll it. He had

to do the 'Ice Man,' whee," Calipari said. "The problem was it was an airball. Why would you do that? But other than two or three plays that he just can't help himself, the way he played was really good."

Murray's response was priceless.

"It's never a perfect day for me with him," Murray said. "It's nothing personal, it's him being him. I just listen to him and then focus on my game."

One coach, however, found no flaws in Murray's game.

"Jamal Murray stole the show with his ability to make shots. I think he's still open right now," Florida coach Mike White joked. "He just did whatever he wanted to do anytime he wanted to do it."

Humphries turns pregame nerves into timely success against Florida

By: Kevin Erpenbeck | CoachCal.com| Feb. 7

The nerves were starting to creep up on Isaac Humphries. The 18-year old freshman had just been told by head coach John Calipari that he was going to play some extended minutes in Saturday's game against Florida after learning Alex Poythress experienced some pain in his right knee and was going to be held out for the day.

This uneasy feeling was new to Humphries, who said he doesn't get nervous often. But having not played in six of Kentucky's last eight games, the butterflies were starting to flutter inside his stomach.

"I was talking to Jonny (David) just before the game and I said, 'Bro, I'm really nervous.' " Humphries said. "'Like, I don't know. I know I'm going to play today. I haven't been nervous for a while.' And he just said, 'Turn it into motivation.' "

Being motivated wasn't a problem for Humphries. The 7-foot forward from Sydney, Australia, said he had been "on a mission" this week to prove himself, working hard with associate head coach Kenny Payne on being more physical and establishing a post presence. He wanted to show that he had improved since arriving at UK, and he did just that against Florida.

The young forward finished with four points, a season-high tying high six rebounds and two blocks against the Gators. By the end of it, Humphries had played 15 minutes, the most he had played since logging 27 minutes against UCLA on Dec. 3.

"I thought Humphries did a good job too, just throwing his body around," Florida head coach Mike White said. "Those guys on the interior were very good."

Having not played a lot of minutes in

over two months, Isaac Humphries said he felt "nervous" heading into Saturday's game, but played well in his opportunity. (photo by Chet White, UK Athletics)

Before even learning of Poythress' injury, Humphries had gotten help from his mom during the week when she reached out in an attempt to bring him out of the funk she could see he was in.

"I think my mom just noticed the mental, how it was affecting me mentally," Humphries said. "I mean, it wasn't that bad, but Mom's being mom. She knows when something is a little wrong. She really drilled me and said, 'Snap out of it, you'll be fine. You're young. When you get your chance, go for it.' "

And Calipari was there to give him that chance Saturday after learning of Poythress' pregame injury minutes before tipoff.

"I walked in (to the locker room) and laughed and said, 'Isaac, you've got your chance, here it is,' " Calipari said. "Go have fun, and he did. I was happy for him."

Humphries came into the game at the 16:11 mark during the first half, subbing in for Skal Labissiere after the fellow freshman forward picked up a quick foul. Within the first minute of being in, Humphries swatted a Gator shot and picked up a defensive rebound. Nearly two minutes later, he picked up another rebound, and then walked back to the bench to a thunderous applause from an appreciative Rupp Arena crowd.

"I was out there for about a minute and I was fine," Humphries said. "I was back into it. I came off the game thinking it's crazy what muscle memory does because, yes, I haven't played for a while, but – obviously we practice every day, but a game is different, and I just felt like it was old times."

Coach Cal was all smiles after the game. UK had what he called a "great bounce-back game" on Saturday, blowing out Florida 80-61 in front of a rowdy home crowd of 24,406. It was the kind of result the Cats needed as they were riding a two-game losing streak after losing to Kansas in overtime last week and blowing a 21-point lead to Tennessee on Tuesday.

Coach Cal said Humphries had "earned his space" after he took advantage of the chance that was given to him. (photo by Chet White, UK Athletics)

And while the main headlines from Saturday's game were about Jamal Murray scoring a career-high 35 points and Tyler Ulis' third double-double of the year, it was Humphries' superb effort in his golden opportunity that had Calipari grinning

from ear to ear.

"Yes, he earned his space," Calipari said of Humphries. "And I'm so happy for him because he has worked so hard and hasn't had the opportunity, and what he did was he took advantage. And we all look and say, 'He needs to play. Let him play.' "

Teammate Tyler Ulis knew that Humphries had more to give to the team after his showing against UCLA, along with his 12-minute effort against Duke in November. Ulis said he had been having conversations with Payne about Humphries and how he felt like he had what it took to perform when needed.

"I've been talking about Isaac being able to play for us and being able to give us big minutes," Ulis said. "Today I talked to him like, 'C'mon Isaac, you have to step in and do it for me, boss.' And he just came out, helped-side defense, blocking shots, walling up. Just defensively he did a great job. Offensive rebounding, and I feel like he had a great game."

For Humphries, it was about succeeding in his week-long mission. He wanted to prove he had gotten better and to show his mom that her faith in him was not misplaced. All he asked for was the opportunity to do so.

Now, instead of feeling the jitters during the pregame, Humphries is bursting with confidence.

"I just need to, what you said, stay consistent," Humphries said. "I finally got an opportunity and now I've got to continue growing on that. In Coach's eyes he will see my progression and he'll be more comfortable with playing me."

Ulis Keeps Doing It All as Cats Down Gators
By: Guy Ramsey | Cat Scratches | Feb. 6

While Jamal Murray was going off, Tyler Ulis was just going about his business.

While his backcourt mate hit seemingly every shot – often with Ulis feeding him – Kentucky's point guard ran his team, picked his spots and missed nearly as infrequently.

Overshadowed as he might have been by the 35-point explosion Murray made look easy, Ulis was awfully good himself.

"I thought Ulis really controlled the entire first half, offensively and defensively," Florida head coach Mike White said. "He didn't allow our guards to even get into ball screens defensively. I thought he put on a clinic, some of those things that won't show up in the box score offensively. He runs the show. He makes you defend on the ball, off the ball."

Ulis had his third double-double on Saturday, helping guide No. 20/19 UK (17-6, 7-3 Southeastern Conference) to an 80-61 win over the Gators (15-8, 6-4 SEC). He had 15 of his 18 points in a dominant first half by the Wildcats – UK led 24-5 early and 50-32 at half.

The win was important, as UK had lost its previous two games. Ulis, the undisputed team leader, didn't go all rah-rah to inspire the bounce-back effort.

"I didn't really give a message, but we understood as a team we have to come out and play," Ulis said. "We can't give up games at the end like with Kansas. We were in the game, we had it, and then at the end, we gave it up. Then with Tennessee, we went up 20 and let them come back."

In typical form, Ulis found a perfect balance between distributing and scoring. He had 11 assists – six of which went to Murray – as UK shot 51.7 percent and tallied 1.23 points per possession against a Florida team known for making life difficult on penetrating guards.

"I told Tyler this is a 15-assist game for you because of how they play," John Calipari said. "It's old school. You're not getting to the rim. And he had 11 assists. I said, you didn't quite get 15, but you had 11."

On the other side of the floor, Ulis set a similarly strong tone.

The only box-score evidence of his defensive day is the two steals he snagged, but anyone with a trained basketball eye could see the way Ulis disrupted the Gators in the half-court. White certainly could.

"There were three or four plays that we called that were quick hitting or with some movement in the first half that Tyler just blew up with the pressure on the basketball," White said. "I thought there were, again, six or eight ball screens that we set for our point guards in the first half that Tyler didn't even allow us to get to the screen, didn't even allow us to get that rub which would lead to the next action.

"When he's picking you off at half-court and using that and sitting in that stance and using his quickness he's got, and he's got the ability to do that."

Ulis was excellent in all facets, combining shooting, passing and on-ball pressure. But perhaps most impressively, he has been so outstanding over the second half of his sophomore season that such a performance was surprising to no one.

Over his last 12 games, Ulis has had at least five assists every time out and 20 or more points nine times. During the

stretch, he is averaging 19.9 points and 7.3 assists, all while playing nearly every minute.

Murray, whose chemistry with Ulis is improving by the game, is often the beneficiary of the 5-foot-9 guard's dynamic play. That was especially true on Saturday, as Ulis made it easy for Murray to make it look easy.

"We do a lot playing off each other," Murray said. "He's a great facilitator for the team, makes sure everybody's in place and everything. I just kind of play off of him and try and knock down shots and help him a little bit."

Tyler Ulis Putting Clamps on Opposing PGs
By: Chris Fisher | Cats Pause | Feb. 15

As one of only four players in the country averaging at least 16.7 points and 6.7 assists per game, Kentucky guard Tyler Ulis receives a great deal of praise for his play on the offensive end.

But often overlooked is his defensive prowess, where his speed, quickness and relentlessness gives him the ability to put the clamps on opposing point guards.

During Kentucky's current three-game win streak where Wildcats have won their games by an average of 26.6 points per game, Ulis has been particularly pestering.

Ulis has held opposing point guards Chris Chiozza (Florida), J.J. Frazier (Georgia) and P.J. Dozier to a combined 2 of 23 shooting, 3.0 points, 3.0 turnovers and 9.9 points below their season average while coming up with 2.3 steals per game.

All while averaging 19.6 points 10.3 assists and playing 110 of a possible 120 minutes.

His all-around play has thrust the Wildcats into a tie with LSU atop the league standings at 9-3 and thrust himself into contention for SEC Player of the Year, and according to John Calipari on the SEC Teleconference Monday, the national player of the year conversation.

Kentucky returns to action Thursday against Tennessee with a chance to avenge an 84-77 loss to the Volunteers in Knoxville Feb. 2.

SEC Coaches: UK's Ulis Player of the Year material
By: Kyle Tucker | Courier-Journal | Feb. 16

LEXINGTON, Ky. – Tyler Ulis was an easy choice for the latest Southeastern Conference Player of the Week award after averaging 20.5 points, 10 assists and 2.5 steals in blowout wins over Georgia and

South Carolina.

But his domination of league play begs a bigger question: Has he surpassed star LSU freshman Ben Simmons as the favorite to win SEC Player of the Year? In a dozen conference games, Ulis has averaged 19.4 points, 7.6 assists and just 1.8 turnovers, leading the Wildcats to a tie with the Tigers for first place in the league.

Simmons, who is averaging 19.3 points, 12 rebounds, 5.2 assists and 1.9 steals per game this season, seems to be the only serious competition for the league's top honor. So I polled 13 of 14 SEC coaches Monday to see how the race is shaping up with six regular-season games to go.

"I think it's beyond just SEC Player (of the Year)," UK coach John Calipari said. "I think he'd obviously be a name that should be mentioned, but I'm looking at what about (National) Player of the Year? There's probably four or five other guys, but he should be one of them."

First things first: The rest of Calipari and his colleagues' thoughts on Ulis as the best player in the league:

JOHN CALIPARI (Kentucky)

"When you talk about what he's been able to do for us and what he's done in these games, it's incredible. And let me say: He's got numbers that you don't see but every five to 10 years. Second thing I would tell you: He's getting better. He's better now than he was a month ago. Not only is he better, he's shooting the ball better, his efficiencies have gone way up. I told him before South Carolina: It's a 15-assist game because of how they play – they collapse. Well, he got 12 assists, yet he still scored. He defends.

"I got on the staff after the game. I looked at the stat sheet, he played 38 minutes. I go, 'You guys are on me the whole game to get him out, to sub him, yet now you coach the game and you're up 30 and he plays 38 minutes! How about you sub him?' You don't want him off the court. He laughed. I told him, 'Why'd you let them leave you in?' He just smiled. He's a great kid, and now I'm just looking for him to continue to grow. Where can we take this thing? How much better can you get on both sides of the ball?"

KEVIN STALLINGS (Vanderbilt)

"Perhaps at the very top. I mean, you'd be hard-pressed to find anybody who's been any more impactful. Simmons, obviously, has been impactful for LSU. Murray has been impactful for Kentucky, obviously. But nobody's been any more impactful for their team, in my opinion, than Tyler Ulis has been. Because he's a terrific player. He

has an incredible basketball IQ.

"He makes very, very few mistakes and he controls the game in a way very few guys can control it. He can control it offensively, he can control it defensively, and he's just a guy that plays the game exactly how it should be played and rarely, if ever, deviates from that, and that's just a rare commodity to have in your point guard."

MICHAEL WHITE (Florida)

"I haven't given Player of the Year any thought. If I had a list of guys in front of me, I might be able to give you a more calculated answer. I can tell you not one other guy comes into my mind as more deserving, just off hand, again without having given it a bunch of thought. He's unbelievable in the way that he affects every facet of the game. I appreciated him watching him on TV and studying him on film, but I appreciated Tyler at an entirely different level when we competed live in Rupp Arena. I thought that he completely dominated the game offensively and defensively.

"I thought that he was their engine. And Jamal Murray was unbelievable as well and they have a bunch of good players and as a team they defend at such a high level, but Tyler Ulis, I thought he made them go. Leadership qualities jumped out. His motor jumped out. I knew he was fast and he was quick, but he played unbelievably hard every second he was on the floor. He didn't allow our guards to get into ball screens. He pressured our guards into turnovers. You see him on film, it's amazing the number of times he's been mismatched in the post with opposing teams bigs and he fights them like he's a big."

FRANK MARTIN (South Carolina)

"If it was today, he probably needs to win it. There's still a lot of basketball to be played. I'm a true believer that a team has to, if not win a conference championship, be in the conversation to be a Player of the Year. That's just the way I think and what I believe in, but if it ended today, they're in first place and they're playing with some freshmen and he plays every minute and he just controls every game he plays in. You can't rattle him, can't speed him up and he's tough as nails. He scores, guards, passes, controls the game, knows what his coach wants his team to do. That's what it's all about out there."

MARK FOX (Georgia)

"I would say that, obviously there's still some games to play, but I would say he would be the leading candidate right now if you were taking a poll. He's really playing exceptionally well. He's a guy that you

can't speed up or slow down. He controls the game and he really is playing at an outstanding level."

JOHNNY JONES (LSU)

"I think he's a really solid player. I think he's very good and when you talk about playing on one of the top teams in our conference and what he's meant to that team and the leadership he's provided, I certainly think he should be in the conversation for Player of the Year because of what he's provided. He's certainly got, obviously some games to go, just like everyone else in the league, but he certainly should be one of those top two or three guys that should be listed in that conversation."

RICK BARNES (Tennessee)

"I think he's there. I love him. I said going into the last game: When you're his size and you compete – he does a lot of great things well, but I think he's just a big-time competitor, a guy that his teammates feed off him. I know he showed me some stuff in our game where, right in front of me, it looked like he turned his ankle and he simply tied his shoe up tighter and kept playing.

"That talks about a guy that loves the game, he's got a passion for it, and when you talk about Players of the Year, all this and that, you have to look at the top teams in the conference. When you're one of the top teams in the country or in your conference, you gotta have players to do that. When you look at what he's done and the way I think he's just grinded it out all year, he certainly has to be in the conversation with anybody for that award."

MIKE ANDERSON (Arkansas)

"I think he's doing a good job of commanding their team. He's quietly had a pretty good year. I'm sure he'll be one of those guys that are mentioned. But we've got some pretty talented players in our league. I think he will be one of those guys that will be considered.

AVERY JOHNSON (Alabama)

"(He and Simmons) can be 1A and 1B. I love Tyler. I love point guards. The job that he did when Cal got thrown out of the game at South Carolina, that was a textbook example of his great leadership and why he could be in the talks for best player in the country. If for some reason Tyler Ulis is the best player in the country and Ben Simmons is second, I think that's still great for our conference. But Ben, I think he's been really consistent as the triple-double threat, playing both ends of the floor. Both teams, obviously, are at the top of the standings in the SEC, so I don't disagree: I think it's 1A and 1B and whoever finishes

first in terms of the SEC, we'll take it."

BRUCE PEARL (Auburn)

"I've always believed that the best player on the best team – that's the guy I've usually voted for Player of the Year. So if Kentucky wins the league, then I will vote for Tyler Ulis. If LSU wins the league, I'll vote for Ben Simmons. If South Carolina wins it, I may pick one of those guys. South Carolina's got great, great talents. But he's right there. His ability to lead his team, which is still a young team, and play the entire game and stay out of foul trouble, it's pretty spectacular. He is one of the most – he is one of the guys I love to watch. I really enjoy watching him play and coach and lead on the floor. He's right there."

ANDY KENNEDY (Ole Miss)

"He certainly should be in consideration with a handful of other guys. He's been tremendous, I think, in the way he's played all season. We opened with him in SEC play and he was terrific then. And as I continue to watch them throughout the course of the year, he continues to grow by leaps and bounds. I forget that he's only a sophomore, because it seems like he plays like a fifth-year senior with his poise and his ability to make plays."

BEN HOWLAND (Mississippi State)

"He's definitely a player that you have to consider. On that, in my vantage point and view point, I always wait until the very end, because typically from my vantage point, I think the team that wins the conference – unless there's someone who's totally been dominant (and his team) is up toward the top as well – is usually going to be the team that gets the deserving player the nod for Player of the Year. To be a great player, it's all about making your team win. And what he and Murray did at South Carolina without Coach Calipari on the sideline was absolutely mind-boggling impressive.

"I just was blown away by that score, because I know how good South Carolina is and how tough they are. And those two were just incredibly dominant. Ulis does so much for his team, both ends of the floor – he is great at pressuring the ball and taking the opposing team's point guard out of the game and then he handles pressure and makes plays for others and scores, shooting the ball – he definitely, if you tell me Kentucky wins the conference, he's the Player of the Year."

BILLY KENNEDY (Texas A&M)

"He definitely needs to be strongly considered. A veteran who makes everybody around him better and runs that team and has good command and control of what they do offensively and defensively. So I think he's definitely somebody that needs to be strongly considered, especially with Kentucky playing as well as they are, in the position they're in to possibly win the league."

Willis Making Most of Minutes Starting for No. 22 Kentucky

By: Gary B. Graves | Associated Press | Feb. 12

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) — Derek Willis' hope of getting into the rotation at Kentucky required a lot of patience during a two-year wait for minutes behind a glut of NBA-caliber talent.

Right now, the 6-foot-9 junior is making teammates wait behind him as he makes the most of his opportunity starting for the No. 22 Wildcats. Willis has averaged 10.8 points and 8.1 rebounds over the past eight games with seven straight starts for Kentucky (18-6, 8-3 Southeastern Conference). In fact, his 131 points over the past 16 games are nearly double the 77 he scored in his previous 40 appearances for the Wildcats.

"It's just having more confidence in my mindset," said Willis, who's averaging 7.3 points after scoring just over one per contest the previous two years.

"I always thought I had the skill set and I always had knowledge of the game, but it was just a thing of where I really didn't have confidence. Sitting two years, it was just weird for me."

More important for Kentucky is the versatility provided by the Mt. Washington, Kentucky, native. Willis has made his presence felt with improved rebounding, which is no small matter with senior forward Alex Poythress out for two weeks with a right knee injury. Willis has even thrown down a few nasty dunks in traffic, another sign of his confidence.

Tuesday's 82-48 rout of Georgia also showcased his increasing role in the Wildcats' offense. He took Kentucky's first three 3-point attempts and made two, opening things up for freshman guard Jamal Murray as tandem shot a combined 9 of 17 from long range in the game.

Add Willis' developing perimeter defense and he fits the definition of a "stretch-4," a big man comfortable playing outside. He won't say if he has settled in at power forward but adds, "I'm just trying to do the things to stay there, honestly."

Either way, Kentucky coach John Calipari likes the added dimension Willis provides.

"He gives you another player on the floor that will stretch the defense," Calipari said. "He doesn't even have to make every shot; he just has to be prepared to shoot them."

Willis scored in double figures in Kentucky's first two games and again in a loss at UCLA but seemed to be a different player on both ends in last month's loss at Auburn. He recorded his first career double-double with 12 points and a career-high 12 rebounds, scoring 12 again in a win at Arkansas that included seven boards and a career-high four blocks.

Willis' career best followed against Missouri, an 18-point, 12-rebound game that symbolized the potential Calipari suggested was possible for him early in his career. On the other hand, the coach noted the difficulty of him cracking a rotation with 7-footer Willie Cauley-Stein, 6-11 Karl-Anthony Towns and 6-10 Trey Lyles.

The departures of that trio to the NBA created an opportunity for Willis to get the playing time he always wanted. He has been making the most of those minutes with double-figure scoring or rebounding efforts — or both.

Calipari believes Willis will need to attack the glass even more aggressively Saturday at South Carolina (21-3, 8-3 SEC), a challenge Willis just might be able to meet.

"I'm glad this is happening for him because I knew he had the capability to be a great player that he is right now," guard Dominique Hawkins said. "He's helping us out a whole lot on the offensive end and rebounding."

Tyler Ulis putting clamps on opposing PGs

By:Chris Fisher| 247 Sports| Feb. 15,2016

As one of only four players in the country averaging at least 16.7 points and 6.7 assists per game, Kentucky guard Tyler Ulis receives a great deal of praise for his play on the offensive end.

But often overlooked is his defensive prowess, where his speed, quickness and relentlessness gives him the ability to put the clamps on opposing point guards.

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Ulis has held opposing point guards Chris Chiozza (Florida), J.J. Frazier (Georgia) and P.J. Dozier to a combined 2 of 23 shooting, 3.0 points, 3.0 turnovers and 9.9 points below their season average while coming up with 2.3 steals per game.

All while averaging 19.6 points 10.3

assists and playing 110 of a possible 120 minutes.

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Undersized But Underrated: Tyler Ulis Leads Resurgent Kentucky Back Toward National-Title Contention

By: Brian Hamilton | Campus Rush | Feb. 18, 2016

LEXINGTON, Ky. — There are four main halls in Marian Catholic High, a sprawling one-floor building in Chicago's south suburbs. Having a locker in the correct hall is critical, as it is the difference between four years of convenience or four years of aggravation. On his first day, John Oliver found to his dismay that his locker was in Third Hall, which was essentially band hall, and clear across the school from anywhere he regularly needed to be. He also discovered he had vaguely familiar company.

He knew about Tyler Ulis, as much as anyone can know about a basketball prodigy he hasn't met. And now Ulis, the incoming freshman whose staggering pace and instincts lit up summer league play before he even set foot on campus, was meandering down Third Hall, too.

Despite Ulis's stature—he was about 5' 3" back then, which meant his head reached Oliver's chest—Oliver had no reason to doubt what he'd heard. And because he had played basketball since he was 4 and would continue to play at Marian, he had every reason to start a conversation. Are you Tyler Ulis? Oliver asked. And they were off, discussing how each ended up at Marian, and more. They found their lockers were separated only by one belonging to an attractive senior girl. Once they migrated to the basketball floor, Oliver understood why people praised Ulis, who would start on the varsity team from day one. He delighted in the competitive verve Ulis displayed regardless of how many inches he surrendered, an attitude that matched Oliver's own approach.

Another year and a half passed before Oliver joined Ulis on varsity, but they forged a bond long before. Oliver became part of Ulis's essential supporting cast, a

friend and teammate in a small, airtight group. They lost just seven total games as juniors and seniors. Oliver joined Ulis for his predawn workouts at Marian. He celebrated when the scholarship offer from Kentucky came, and he was among the teammates who surprised Ulis with the news that he was a McDonald's All-American, an honor validating the faith Ulis clung to all along: That he belonged, and that everyone would realize this eventually.

Oliver believed it from the start. And this is still significant for Tyler Ulis, the tiny point guard with outsize self-assurance. It's easy for a 5' 9" basketball player to feel he can do anything when his best friend does everything with one hand.

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"Everything puts me to sleep," Ulis says on an early February afternoon, roughly halfway through another of his full days. As one of the most vital guards in the country, he does not need an excuse to snooze—he calls sleeping his only hobby—but Ulis is nevertheless restless. The sophomore's workload for surging No. 14 Kentucky (19–6, 9–3 SEC) is now 36.4 minutes per game, a rate surpassed by only three Power 5 conference guards. The value Ulis provides in those minutes is similarly exclusive: An offensive rating of 128.1 (20th nationally), and a Win Shares total of 5.0 (19th nationally; he's 11th nationally with 3.7 offensive Win Shares). And he is doing this with a grand piano-sized responsibility heaped upon his 160-pound frame: Serving as the face of the most scrutinized, zealously followed program in the country, and therefore being responsible for the mental well-being of tens of thousands of people.

"Nobody has been more impactful for their team, in my opinion, than Tyler Ulis has been," Vanderbilt coach Kevin Stallings says.

In context, Stallings was discussing the SEC Player of the Year race. But the discussion needn't be restricted as such.

Ulis's numbers are exemplary: 16.7 points and 6.7 assists per night, figures that jump to 19.4 and 7.6 in conference outings and 23.0 and 8.5 in four games against ranked teams. His impact, though, is felt just as profoundly in less quantifiable ways. In January he founded what Kentucky coach John Calipari calls a workout "breakfast club": Concerned that he was losing weight due to his increased playing time, Ulis asked strength and conditioning coach Rob Harris if he could get in extra lifting. They set the sessions for around 8

a.m. Soon, nearly the entire roster began bench-pressing and squatting and doing planks before class.

Likewise, Ulis's savvy has Calipari approaching him for suggestions on how to extract the best from teammates—apparently it was Ulis's idea to turn freshman Skal Labissiere into a jump-shooting center—but it also pretty much has allowed Ulis to take on actual coaching duties. After Calipari's ejection at South Carolina last Saturday, Ulis was handed free rein with offensive calls, and the result was an 89–62 rout.

"He plays every minute and he controls every game plays in," Gamecocks coach Frank Martin says. "You can't rattle him, you can't speed him up and he's tough as nails. He scores, guards, passes, controls the game and knows what his coach wants his team to do. That's what it's all about right there."

As a barrier to production, Ulis's height is about as relevant as his eye color. For some of his current teammates, though, it stopped being relevant during a pickup game argument on a now-fabled recruiting visit, when Ulis made an interesting choice. "The first time I met him, he tried to fight DeMarcus Cousins," senior forward Marcus Lee says. "(The height) went out the window real quick when he tried to fight the biggest person I've ever met." In fairness, the height issue actually probably stopped being relevant at least six inches before that, when Ulis was a soon-to-be ninth-grader. In his first summer league game for Marian Catholic, against Brother Rice, Ulis's passes were so quick they seemed violent. Spartans coach Mike Taylor still talks with Brother Rice coach Pat Richardson about the looks they exchanged during what would have otherwise been an ordinary exhibition.

"All eyes in the gym were on him," Taylor says. "It's easy to say now, but that first glimpse, I knew we had something special."

Recruiting proved frustrating. After splitting time between his mother's house in Lima, Ohio, and his father's place in Chicago over the years, Ulis moved in with his dad for high school, immersing himself in the area's high-level hoops. At the end of his sophomore year, while fielding only a few offers from West Coast schools and Iowa, Ulis contemplated transferring to local powerhouse Whitney Young High for still more exposure. (He would have been a classmate of future Duke star and NBA draft lottery pick Jahlil Okafor, among others.) But he stayed at Marian because of his close friends, and his eventual spot

on the McDonald's All-American team as a consensus top-20 prospect confirmed Ulis's own perspective that he measured up.

"I just never really thought much about it," Ulis says. "I always thought, once they see me play, I'll be good."

On Kentucky's 38–1 squad last season, he was good. He was also just a cog in a machine, averaging 5.6 points in 23.8 minutes while coming off the bench in all 37 games he played. This season, Ulis is the turbine. Per Synergy Sports Data, his points-plus-assists per possession rate is 1.426, ranking in the 98th percentile nationally. Being short is no longer his burden; being indispensible is.

As a result, his minutes have spiked. At this, Ulis shrugs. He notes that, in his middle-school track days, he was a terrible sprinter but much more adept at distance events. "I've never been one to want to come out of the game," Ulis says. "My coach in high school used to take me out, I used to get mad and stuff. I always want to be in there. Last year, I'd come in and play really hard for four minutes and sub out. Now I have to come in and play hard, same thing, but for a longer period of time. But I've never been a person to get really tired on the court."

To put a finer point on it: Ulis is stubborn. During Marian practice drills, Taylor regularly teamed Ulis with down-the-roster players or gave points to the other side. After delivering a dirty look, Ulis would connive his way to a win. Similarly, Ulis refuses to volunteer for any competition in which he stands a chance of losing. He will not play ping-pong against most Kentucky teammates. "I won't touch the table," Ulis says. Last year, when the video game Super Smash Bros. became an intrasquad sensation, the Wildcats' point guard passed; Ulis tried it on a bus ride back from Louisville, fared poorly and declined to try again.

But obstinacy can be an asset. Ulis played the final game of his high school career with turf toe but without complaint, even as Marian Catholic fell to Edwardsville the Class 4A state quarterfinals. Taylor and Kentucky assistant coach Kenny Payne recently joked that Ulis limps right until game time, and then no one can tell he's hurt at all. When faced with the significant jump in minutes this year, he sought a way to endure the playing time rather than manage it. Hence the breakfast club, designed to build muscle mass and build up a young roster. It was a lesson that proved useful when the Wildcats dropped back-to-back games to Kansas and Tennes-

see before rallying to win three straight entering a rematch with the Volunteers on Thursday.

"Right now, we're just trying to get across that everyone has to play hard," Ulis says. "We're not as good as last year's team. We can't expect to come out and win off of talent."

He has recognized for a while that raw ability isn't always paramount. Know his friends, and you know why.

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From left to right: John Oliver, Tyler Ulis, Ki-Jana Crawford and Hayes Bynum

It was around 1:30 a.m., on the night of a Kentucky basketball game last winter, when Ki-Jana Crawford's cellphone buzzed. Let's get some Waffle House, Tyler Ulis suggested.

Though he was in bed, and though this was a school night, Crawford acquiesced. He was one of Ulis' close friends from Marian—following one semester of football at Chicago's St. Xavier University, he left the sport and transferred to Kentucky—and he knew well his buddy's affinity for breakfast food. When the bill arrived, Ulis gave Crawford a look. Crawford had seen it too many times to count. Ulis had left his wallet at home.

"He's never prepared," Crawford says. "He loses everything. Loses his keys. His wallet. He's never there completely."

In matters of basketball, Ulis can take care of himself. In other areas, he occasionally requires help. He once misplaced his Marian uniform for a game and borrowed a No. 45 jersey from a teammate. Ulis's friends once drove him 40 minutes to deliver a duffel bag to his little brother for a sleepover, only to have Ulis realize he forgot the bag on arrival. "I can't remember how many times I found his wallet in my couch," Oliver says.

"The others carried him through a lot of situations," says Taylor, the Marian coach. "'We have to get here on time, we have to do this on time, we have to make sure we get this schoolwork done'—because his focus was mainly on basketball, they kept him grounded and kind of steered him in the right direction."

No one more than the kid Ulis met in Third Hall. His friend John Oliver III was born to John and Renee Oliver of Matteson, Ill., on Feb. 12, 1996, without a left hand. As doctors explained it, Oliver's twin sister, Nia, leaned on him in the womb, and how she was positioned limited the ability of her brother's left hand to grow. Doctors usually call it a club hand, Oliver says. In reality, he did not have much of an

extremity at all: His left arm ends at the base of his palm.

When Oliver was a child, his parents brought him to a center that helped him learn how to tie his shoe or to do work with one hand. Oliver was, at one point, fitted for a prosthetic hand, but he abandoned it.

"It would just get in my way," Oliver says. "I was most definitely used to doing things my way or figuring them out on my own."

He never saw himself as different, and craved to prove himself to anyone who thought differently. "I love to compete," he says. "People think I'm not able to do this, not supposed to be able do the things I need to do—I take that and feed off it." Oliver played baseball until he began high school, pitching for a while before settling in at first base; he read stories an uncle sent him about former major leaguer Jim Abbott, who pitched for 10 years without a right hand, and his confidence swelled.

He winnowed his interests to track and basketball at Marian and remains the school's record older with a 10.9-second 100-meter dash. Oliver's high school hoops career began on the freshman squad, but he was bumped up to varsity as a sophomore and tasked with monitoring the paint as an undersized 6' 3" center for the next two-plus years. "As soon as he came in, [he had an] impact—blocking shots, rebounding, setting good screens," Crawford says of Oliver, who averaged 5.6 points as a senior but was known as a lock-down interior defender. "If you didn't know John, you'd think he had two hands. You'd think nothing was wrong."

It is no surprise that Ulis felt a pull toward Oliver. Both were comfortable in their own skin; if Oliver needed help zipping up a coat, he'd ask, and it was no big deal. Both have breezy personalities, though Ulis is less inclined to draw attention to himself than Oliver, whose windows-down, full-throated, in-car serenades remain the stuff of legend. "Don't let it be Drake," he says. "You're in for a long ride."

When they shared the floor, Oliver helped Ulis become an even better passer, in their high school coach's estimation: Ulis had to place the ball that much more precisely to a teammate who didn't have two hands to snatch it. (Oliver concedes Ulis's vision resulted in a few surprise dishes caught with his sternum.) But nothing connected them like Oliver's belief that a physical limitation was not a limitation at all. "The things he did on the court without having that left hand were just

amazing," Ulis says. "He never got down, he never really even talked about it. The crazy passes I threw in high school, he caught them, finished, blocked shots. He played 100% every time. That's something I took from him as well: He played so hard even though he didn't have that hand. He didn't really care. He just fought through it and didn't make any excuses."

It was, as Crawford puts it, a collective check on this small group of friends: If John can do it, so can you. Ulis could grumble about recruiters doubting him, he could fret over earning the All-American status that was his objective during high school. But if there was ever an inclination to self-pity, he could dissolve it with a glance at the kid almost always by his side.

"If I was going to feel bad about my height or something like that, I would just reflect back on him and the things he does," Ulis says. "Looking at him, I can't even sit there and [complain] if I don't have it as bad."

In what is a remarkable story on its own, John Oliver now plays for Division III St. John's University as a reserve forward. There's quite a distance between Collegeville, Minn., and Lexington. But it turns out you can get to both places the same way.

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After he was ejected from that South Carolina game, Calipari inspected the box score. He had to laugh. Kentucky's assistants had been bugging their boss to limit Ulis's workload. And now, during a lopsided win in which Calipari only coached for three minutes, Ulis had logged 38 minutes.

Now you know how it is, Calipari recalls telling his staff. You don't want him off the court.

"There are 25 teams in the country right now, if something happens to that player on their team, they're not the same, they're done," the Kentucky coach said recently. "So his importance to this team, it's obvious."

Over time, it became increasingly evident to college coaches that Ulis could register this kind of impact. When Calipari swooped in late and made his recruiting pitch, he talked about the stage Kentucky offered. He told Ulis how he'd have to play. And he also issued a warning: Do not come here, the coach said, if you feel like you're not a pro. Calipari didn't want a 5'9" point guard who didn't want more.

"I feel like I can reach my goals," Ulis says now, "just like I have before."

He'll assure you anything is possible.

And he has more proof of that than most.

International Flavor Gives UK Unique Perspective
By: Kyle Tucker | Courier-Journal | Feb. 18

LEXINGTON, Ky. – Skal Labissiere is a morning person. Most of his Kentucky teammates are not. When he comes busting into a room and bouncing off the walls before they've even wiped the sleep from their eyes, it doesn't always sit well at first. But then ...

"If you look at things from Skal's perspective, it's great to see," guard Mychal Mulder said. "Guys are tired or we're lumbering around and he's just happy to be there. I remember a couple times he said, 'You know how many people didn't wake up this morning? It's a good morning.' It's great to have him around, because he's really positive and it's just awesome to have someone with that perspective."

In January of 2010, Labissiere's hometown of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, was wiped out by a magnitude-7.0 earthquake that killed more than 100,000 people and reduced his third-story apartment to rubble – with him, his mother and brother inside. Incredibly, they all lived.

So even as the former five-star recruit's freshman season hasn't gone as expected – he's tumbled from potential No. 1 pick in the next NBA draft to role player for the Wildcats – Labissiere is buoyed by the knowledge that even his worst day here is better than most days for most folks back home.

"Sometimes I have to be really careful, because I can take things for granted, not realizing how far I've come and that a lot of kids wish they could be in my position. That's one of the things that I really appreciate, being here at UK," he said. "When everybody's in the locker room kind of out of it, I always walk in there and bring some energy, tell them how they have to be thankful for being here. Like personally, with my experience, I know how fast life can be taken from you."

Labissiere, a 6-foot-11 forward with a jump shot better than many guards, is slowly building himself back up on the basketball court. To watch his teammates celebrate whenever he throws down a big dunk, swishes a shot or blocks one off the backboard is to know what he means to them.

He has impacted the 14th-ranked Wildcats in ways unseen by fans and analysts who wish his game was more fully formed.

"It's special," center Isaac Humphries said, "to have someone who can relate

back to his experiences and then change the whole dynamic. He can change the day just by sharing his own personal experience."

And Labissiere isn't alone in that. In their own ways, each of Kentucky's five international players has lifted the team this season. Canadian guard Jamal Murray, the Cats' leading scorer, has made the greatest impact on the court. Off it, Australian 7-footer Humphries has a collection of mood rocks at the ready if teammates need to borrow one for a boost.

John Calipari didn't set out to build a roster with so much foreign flavor, but when he struck out on an unusual number of top-tier American prospects in the last recruiting cycle, he went global. There's Murray and Mulder from Canada, Labissiere from Haiti, Humphries from Australia and midseason enrollee Tai Wynyard from New Zealand.

"If you're afraid to come, you shouldn't. Then I'll go get players from Canada, New Zealand – we go where we gotta go – but it's interesting and exciting, and I'm just happy for these kids and their families," Calipari said. "You just want guys that are coachable and want to get better, and we have that. Where they're from or what color they are – do you guys even know who has tattoos on my team? I don't.

"I'm looking at their eyes. I'm not looking at their bodies. You just want to have kids that want to be here."

Humphries, Wynyard and Murray wanted to be at Kentucky so much that each reclassified and came to college a year early. They've helped turn the Wildcats' locker room into a melting pot of cultures and experiences, accents and traditions.

"It's good for all of us, because we get to have people who know what it's like to be far away from home," Humphries said. "And having the different cultures and all the diversity, I feel like everyone knows all of our cultures now, so it feels like everyone is from everywhere."

Teammates have tried their hand at Humphries' Australian accent and Wynyard's New Zealand sound – "everyone sucks at it," Humphries said – while having to be reminded there is a difference.

"Just so you know, Australia is not New Zealand, OK?" said Wynyard, who has a friendly rivalry with Humphries. "We're always having little digs at each other: You blingin' Kiwi. You blingin' Aussie. But we're just playing around with each other. It's been good, a lot of fun, being able to relate to someone."

Those two also have hobbies that are not exactly common in America.

Wynyard is the son of a world-class wood chopper and his own experience with an ax helped turn him into a 6-foot-10, 255-pound powerhouse. While he has yet to play in a game for Kentucky (and it appears he'll take a redshirt this season), coaches credit his physical play in practice with the development of their other big men – particularly Labissiere, who needed to get tougher.

In addition to Humphries' immense musical talent, which has been featured by The Courier-Journal and will be showcased on ESPN this week, he also collects rocks. That's not uncommon in Australia, he said, where crystal shops are all over the place.

Now his rocks serve as a comforting connection to a home that's more than 9,000 miles away.

"They all have meanings," Humphries said. "Whenever I'm feeling a little down or a little stressed, I just have my rocks. I keep one on me and I guess the energy just transfers over to me."

His favorite is an orange-and-gold stone called Tiger's Eye. The way Kentucky has played lately, it seems Humphries might be passing that one around.

"It's for strength and power and courage. I think everyone could use a little bit of that," he said. "So whenever anyone needs it, I give it to them, and when I need it, I use it. I pass it on."

These Wildcats enjoy a cultural exchange unlike any team in program history.

Junior guard Dominique Hawkins, a native of Richmond, Ky., gets a huge kick out of everyone's differences – "I thought I'd probably never, ever meet somebody from Australia and be one of their best friends" – and Humphries gets endless laughs from the way Hawkins talks.

It's a syrupy southern drawl that he'd only heard on TV before coming to Lexington.

"Dom reminds me so much of Cleveland from 'Family Guy,' it's ridiculous," Humphries said. "It's too much. Every time he speaks, that's all I hear. But we just expect you guys to talk funny."

Murray, who is on pace to break the UK freshman scoring record, agrees that it's his American teammates who sound strange, not the other way around.

"I tell them, 'You have an accent,' but they look at me like I have one. No, I speak normal," said Murray, grinning.

Also: "We don't really say, 'Eh?' a lot in Canada," Murray said. "I don't know why people think that."

Well, because some Canadians do.

"I say it a lot, I think because my mom says it," Mulder said. "But they all think we talk different and ask if we have moose in the backyard and things like that. I guess it goes the same with Isaac. Everybody asks him about kangaroos."

The dialogue has gone much deeper than that, though. Humphries likes to search the Internet for information about and pictures of Haiti, then ask Labissiere how his real experiences compare. It has helped him to understand his new friend's unflappable joy.

"You learn," Humphries said. "It's valuable to me. It's just so different from anything any of us are used to."

John Clay: Not to be repetitive, but Kentucky basketball has some really good guards

By: John Clay| Lexington-Herald Leader| Feb. 23, 2016

Some facts just bear repeating.

"We've got really good guards," Coach John Calipari said Tuesday night after Kentucky dominated Alabama 78-53. "Like we have really, really good guards."

With Willis sidelined, senior forward scores 14 in return from knee injury Megan O'Brien mobrien@herald-leader.com How good?

Tyler Ulis "is a pro," said Alabama Coach Avery Johnson, who knows a thing or two about that considering he (a) played in the pros and (b) coached in the pros.

In the final push toward deciding the regular-season SEC champion and, more importantly, polishing rough edges in advance of the NCAA Tournament, we spend so much time centering on what a team doesn't have or what it needs to have come March, we don't spend enough time praising what it does have in the way of strengths.

Kentucky's strength is its guards, especially its tandem of sophomore Tyler Ulis and freshman Jamal Murray. If there is a better pure point guard in America than Ulis, nearly all of UK's opposing coaches have failed to see it. And now, with three games left in the regular season, you can make a strong argument that there are not too many shooting guards better than Murray.

Ulis scored 19 points and dished 10 assists Tuesday for his sixth double-double of the season, the fifth in which that double-double included points and assists. It was the fifth time in the past six games in which Ulis was credited with double-digit assists, breaking the school record of four shared by Kyle Macy (1977-78), Roger Harden (1985-86) and John Wall (2009-10).

"He can play on the professional level," Johnson said. "He's probably better than a lot of guys that are now. He's good, man. He can do everything."

Johnson said that when he played in the NBA he played against sub-6-foot players like Spud Webb and Muggsy Bogues.

"He's much better than those guys offensively," Johnson said of Ulis. "He's a pure point guard that can hold his own. He takes charges. He throws his body. What does he weigh, 160 maybe, wet? He throws his body in there. As a coach, you don't like coaching against him. But I see a lot of the things I did as a player, I see it in him. He's probably going to have a long (NBA) career."

Meanwhile, in his post-game radio show, Calipari said UK would have a new point guard next year.

Then there's Murray, who finished with 23 points, hitting seven of 14 shots, including two-of-five threes. He missed just one of eight free throws. It was the seventh game in a row in which Murray has scored 20 points, the longest such streak by a Cat since Jodie Meeks had a run of nine 20-point games in 2008-09. It was the 28th game in which Murray has made at least one three-pointer. It just so happens that Tuesday was his 28th collegiate game. That's a school record.

Early in the season, Murray had to learn to play without the basketball. He was used to being a point guard, to creating his shots off the dribble, to having the ball in his hand. It was a process. It took some time. Now, Murray has that part down.

"He's completely different," said Ulis. "He's catching and shooting. He's getting by guys. He's doing what coach wants him to do. He's not turning the ball over, which is one of the reasons why we only had four turnovers tonight. He's just playing at a very high level."

"I mean how much better is he?" Calipari said. "Oh my gosh, he's not even the same player. His shot selection; he's not turning it over; he's defending better; he's getting by people; he's drawing fouls. He's that big guard that he can be."

We shouldn't slight Isaiah Briscoe, who has given the Cats grit, energy and intangibles. On this team, with these guards, Briscoe doesn't have to score. He just has to penetrate, move the ball, defend and snare rebounds, all of which he does.

"Look, we can shoot the ball well and so some stuff. We can create havoc for people," Calipari said. "But the biggest thing is if you defend and rebound, we got a chance to win every game you play. If your guards are really good, you really

have a chance to win any game you play." And, as the head coach said, Kentucky has really, really good guards.

No coach is better at setting up an NCAA title shot than John Calipari

By: Reid Forgrave| Fox Sports| Feb. 25, 2016

LEXINGTON, Ky. – Coaches like to say each season has a life of its own, and nowhere is this more true than in college basketball. Comparing last year's team to this year's team is always a fool's errand. It's not like in the NBA, where there's roster continuity and the predictability of veteran play. In college, experienced seniors graduate, green and cocky freshmen come in, disgruntled players transfer and veteran players make massive leaps from one year to the next.

And there's no team in college basketball (and therefore in all of sports) where comparing this year's version to another year's version is a more foolish endeavor than with the Kentucky Wildcats. As John Calipari has embraced the one-and-done era more than anyone during his seven seasons in Lexington, he's also embraced the most unique challenge in coaching: Throwing everything up in the air at season's end and starting over from scratch a few months later with a barely recognizable roster.

Foolish or not, I still wanted to know. I've had a theory ever since Kentucky got a drubbing at the hands of a struggling Ohio State team right before Christmas: That this team's path – an enormous amount of preseason hype, some freshmen who didn't live up to expectations, injury troubles, a group that can switch identities on an almost game-by-game basis from title contender to struggling bubble team and then back again – might be a carbon copy of the 2013-14 team that rode a roller coaster of a season all the way to the national title game.

And so, as John Calipari – looking relaxed after Kentucky's 25-point home win over Alabama earlier this week, his tie loosened, cracking jokes about how quickly a photograph of injured junior forward Derek Willis' swollen ankle had gone viral – was marching his program toward what he hopes will be an absurd fifth Final Four in seven years, I asked him just that: Does the trajectory of this group, which has lost seven games this season to less-talented opponents but is still ranked in the top 10 on KenPom.com, remind him of any other team he's coached in nearly a quarter century as a college coach?

Perhaps not surprisingly, the answer was no. This season is unique, a life unto itself.

"We've got really good guards – like, we have really, really good guards," Cal replied. "If we can shore up that front line, I like what we have here. As you know, my teams normally, as the year winds down, play their best basketball."

Most coaches would answer that question the same way, even if they were playing with the exact same roster as the year before. Coaches neither like to live in the past nor project too far ahead. But in Calipari's answer, there's something I want to focus on that gets at what is so impressive in how the Calipari Era at Kentucky has turned college basketball on its head.

Last year at this time, what was the buzz about Kentucky's then-undefeated team that nearly ran the table? That it was one of the most dominant defensive teams in college basketball history. That it had the height of a pretty tall NBA team, with six players 6-foot-9 or taller, including future No. 1 overall pick Karl-Anthony Towns and shot-blocking savant Willie Cauley-Stein, who would be picked sixth. If there was a deficiency in last season's team – and to say there was any weakness in that group is a stretch – it was in the inconsistent two starting guards, Andrew and Aaron Harrison.

And this year's team? It's literally the exact opposite. Its strength is in the guard play: In diminutive point guard Tyler Ulis, who ought to be in the conversation for national player of the year; in leading scorer Jamal Murray, who can score in more varied ways than any college basketball player this side of Buddy Hield; and in freshman Isaiah Briscoe, whose shooting woes have been well-documented but who makes winning plays in other ways, by getting to the rim and by rebounding from the guard position. Is there a better backcourt in all of college basketball? I can't think of one.

Yet it's the frontcourt that has made people wonder about the relative strength of this Kentucky team. It's way too early to call freshman Skal Labissiere a bust, but the guy who plenty of respected basketball minds thought could be the No. 1 overall pick over Ben Simmons has been a bit player, someone who often looks lost on the court. If Labissiere had come in with half the impact of Towns, Kentucky might be close to unbeatable.

The rest of the frontcourt has been unpredictable, to say the least. Alex Poythress has missed some games with an injury, and when he has played, his inconsistent energy has been the weather vane for this team's success. Marcus Lee has been Marcus Lee: a limited player, someone who can rebound and block shots but little else. Isaac Humphries has been a nice surprise as of late for Calipari, but I'm not sure if this team will revolve around a still-developing big man who is one of the youngest players in college hoops. Derek Willis' stretch-four capabilities have been huge for spreading the floor for Ulis and Murray, but his improving defense and rebounding still leave something to be desired – plus he's currently injured with a sprained ankle.

Last season, Kentucky's frontcourt terrified college basketball; this season, Kentucky's frontcourt is its Achilles heel. Last season, Kentucky's defense was historically good; this season, Kentucky ranks 42nd in defensive efficiency on KenPom.com. (The only Calipari team with a defensive efficiency ranked lower was the 2012-13 team that went to the NIT.)

And yet here we are, days away from March, and one of the biggest questions in college hoops is the same as it is every year: Can Kentucky win it all?

That is a central question of college basketball when Kentucky has a historically good team like last season, or a juggernaut of a recruiting class like next season. It is also a central question of college hoops if Kentucky is struggling mightily as in 2013-14 or has some fairly significant holes like this season's team.

But amazingly, the answer to that question – Can the Wildcats hang another banner? – is yes. Yes, they can. Every. Single. Year.

"This team got empowered early because of that South Carolina game," Calipari said, speaking of the big-time road win when he got ejected a couple minutes in. "When I saw that they really don't need me as much as I think they need me. They ran all the stuff that we work on. They did it without me telling them. They also coached each other. That's what I want. It's not just calling plays. It's that when a guy doesn't do his job, they should tell each other, not me."

"That's where we are with this team," he continued. "If your guards are really good, you really have a chance to win any game you play."

It's true: Kentucky has a chance to win any game it plays, even though this may be the Wildcats team with the most question marks since Calipari came to Lexington. They don't just have a chance, but a really good chance. That includes this weekend,

when they visit a talented Vanderbilt team that needs a big-time win to make the NCAA tournament. And that includes in Houston on April 4, when someone will be cutting down the nets to celebrate the national title.

And that is what is ultimately the most impressive achievement of John Calipari's career and one of the most impressive achievements in all of coaching today: That even though Calipari has a completely different roster every season – that even though he has about six months from the first practice to the Final Four to reinvent the wheel – his teams are always, always, always on the right path toward cutting down those nets.

John Clay: Skal Labissiere makes a play to be Kentucky basketball's Comeback Kid

By: John Clay | Lexington-Herald Leader | March 1, 2016

GAINESVILLE, FLA.-Before all the fouls and all the free throws and all the sloppiness that mucked up the end of No. 22 Kentucky's 88-79 win over Florida on Tuesday night at the O'Connell Center, there was Skal Labissiere, impact player.

That's right, Skal Labissiere. You remember him. The No. 1 college prospect in all the land, according to Rivals, when the 6-foot-11 center from Haiti arrived on the UK campus full of fanfare, hope and a silky smooth jump shot.

Four months later, special Skal was silent Skal, an afterthought on the bench, down to single-digit minutes the last two games, pushed around on the floor, where he had a tendency to total more fouls than field goals.

Then Tuesday night, out of the blue, Skal Labissiere's name showed up in Kentucky's starting lineup. And then Labissiere showed up on the floor.

He scored baskets. He grabbed rebounds. He put his long, thin body on people. He picked-and-popped as a tandem with point guard Tyler Ulis. By night's end, Labissiere had scored 11 points and grabbed a career-high eight rebounds, and Kentucky had a huge victory on the road.

"Skal was terrific," said John Calipari, the head coach. "He only played 15 minutes, but if he can give us 15, 20 minutes like that, we're pretty good."

In fact, Tuesday night was something of a back-to-the-beginning for the Cats, who in this final week of the regular season started the same center who opened the beginning of the season.

"It meant a lot," said Labissiere of his

first start since the Ohio State game on Dec. 19. "I found out (Monday) I was starting. I had a pretty good practice, and Coach Cal told me I was going to start. I just had to get myself ready for it, and that's what I did."

Did Calipari relay any instructions?

"He just told me to go out and play," said Labissiere.

Was this the famous tweak that Calipari talked about Monday?

"No," said the forward. "We can't answer that question."

Still, Kentucky did answer some questions in this final game at the O-Dome before it undergoes a $64.5 million renovation. Yes, the Cats can win a game on the road. Yes, the Cats are capable of getting production out of their frontcourt. Yes, the Cats can do the one thing the head coach wants them to do in March.

"Play with confidence," Calipari said.

Not that Labissiere had any real reason to play with confidence. And yet, if you can't root for this freshman as a comeback story, well, you must be a fan of some other team. Labissiere is one of the nicest, kindest, most soft-spoken kids you would ever want to meet. Think kind soul, think Skal.

Problem is, that doesn't always cut it on the basketball floor, where pushing and shoving and toughness often rule. It's a lesson Labissiere has had to learn the hard way, more in practice than on the playing floor.

"Every single day I practice and work on it," Labissiere said. "I just have to go out there and do it. That's basically it."

Expectations are a double-edged sword, of course. It cannot be the easiest thing in the world for a teenager to go from being listed near the top of mock NBA Drafts in October to riding the bench in February. Physical toughness is one thing, mental toughness is another.

Yet Calipari's talk of a "tweak" and Labissiere in the starting lineup offered a fresh start. And Skal took advantage. He doesn't have to be the all-world center some scouts expected. But Labissiere can provide the post presence this team has lacked on a consistent basis.

"It's a huge confidence-booster," Labissiere said of his play. "We don't have a long season left; it's almost tournament time. Hopefully, I can do that in tournament time."

"If he can do that every game, we'll love that," said teammate Alex Poythress. "But from here on out, he's just got to build on it. I think he can."

An untold story behind Poythress' UK senior day

By: Kyle Tucker | The Courier-Journal | March 5, 2016

LEXINGTON, Ky. – Before she tells you about the nine-hour dialysis treatments, Regina Poythress wants to be very clear about something: Her son Alex has cherished almost every moment of his unlikely four-year Kentucky basketball career and an overwhelming majority of the Wildcats' passionate fan base has showered her boy with love.

But she also knows there are some who lash out at him, whether by screaming vitriol from the stands or spewing it across social media, because they are frustrated that the former McDonald's All American with freakish athleticism doesn't always dominate games. In fact, sometimes he seems to disappear in them.

Why? "You'll have to ask him," coach John Calipari is always saying.

"I don't have an answer," Alex Poythress said Friday.

So now, as he prepares to play his final game at Rupp Arena on Saturday against LSU, and because senior day is a time to reflect on the totality of one's career, his mother Regina is finally going to say something that's been more or less a secret during his four years in Lexington.

"He announced he was going to Kentucky in November of 2011, and I found out I had Stage 5 kidney failure two months later," she said. "Alex has been dealing with that. He's a caring person and he tries to make sure everybody's OK, so he's definitely concerned about my health. But he's never complained, never said, 'My mom has this and I'm worried.'

"We don't put that out there. It's not an excuse. We aren't complainers. Things happen and we just deal with it. But I'm just saying people don't really know Alex. He tries to keep everything in, so they just really don't know."

What's widely known is that Poythress is a 6-foot-8, 230-pound specimen who came to Kentucky from Clarksville, Tenn., in the fall of 2012 as a top-10 recruit and proceeded, in his second college game, to tomahawk dunk his way to 20 points (plus eight rebounds) against mighty Duke, freeing the faithful to begin dreaming big.

What's also widely known is that his career since then – back when NBA draft gurus were projecting him as a top-five pick, when he was an almost certain one-and-done – has been a roller coaster of inconsistency and injury that led him to Saturday's unexpected reality: He is the

first Calipari scholarship signee at Kentucky to stick around long enough for a senior day.

When Poythress and his mother stand together on Cawood's Court, holding his framed UK jersey as some 23,000 fans serenade them with "My Old Kentucky Home," they'll be reflecting on the path that led here, which is full of what everyone doesn't know.

Most thought Alex Poythress was a one-and-done, quickly off to the NBA. Saturday, thanks to injury and an up-and-down college career, he'll celebrate an unexpected Senior Day. He sat down with the C-J to reflect on four years with the Wildcats. Kyle Tucker, CJ

"It weighed on me a lot," he said of his mother's illness. "It's something I really don't talk about, because it's personal and I don't think people really need to know. But she's been battling that, and just seeing how she battles that, it's kind of like motivation and inspiration.

"(Senior day) will mean a lot to her. It'll mean a lot to me. She's been there all my life, helping me along this journey. She raised me to the man I am today, and I'm just happy that I got a chance for her to be my mom."

Likewise, she is thankful that with the helpof nightly, hours-long treatments, she has stayed strong enough to watch him play in the 2014 national championship game and become just the 15th player in Kentucky's rich history to produce at least 800 points, 500 rebounds and 70 blocked shots in a career.

She's also seen him lose in the first round of the NIT at the end of that once-promising freshman season, his NBA stock plunging as his performance dipped. She's seen him struggle to earn minutes as a sophomore, forcing another return to school. And she has been "crushed" as he tore the ACL in his left knee after playing just eight games as a junior last season.

But Regina Poythress, unlike her soft-spoken son's critics, has never wondered whether he cared enough.

"Some of the comments about Alex, I think they've been interesting. I know who Alex is, so we try not to entertain the negativity," she said. "He's been hit, he's had a lot of challenges, but he's always come back fighting. Think about some of his (bad) games — and I know people say he's not consistent — but he'll come back and the next game he's coming out swinging. He's trying to give you what you want. He's trying.

"I think he just has been misunderstood. Just because he's quiet and his personality may be different than some — some people are loud and boisterous; Alex is just not that way — I think it's kind of not fair to compare."

Poythress, who is not a projected pick in any of the major 2016 mock drafts, admits that he thought his UK career would be shorter. But he tries not to imagine alternate realities, like the one where he's healthy for last year's Final Four and can defend Wisconsin's Sam Dekker — as he did in 2014 — instead of watching him shoot UK out of a perfect season.

"I think we would've gone 40-0," Poythress said, "but you can't change the past or think of what-ifs, because you can't solve anything by doing that."

This senior season has been another mixed bag: consecutive double-doubles for the first time in his career back in November, a 25-point outburst at Alabama in January, another knee injury — albeit minor and in his right leg — that cost him five games in February, and a scoreless foul-out in a key game at Vanderbilt last week.

"I experienced everything from the highs to the lows to everything in between," Poythress said. "I think for the most part, it's been a somewhat successful career, so hopefully (fans) would feel that, too."

Subtract the expectations of a basketball-mad Big Blue Nation — fueled by the almost unbelievable fact that 25 Wildcats were drafted, 19 in the first round, during Calipari's first six seasons — and Poythress' time in college is an unqualified success. He graduated in three years, is working on a master's degree and just became UK's first Academic All-American in 20 years.

Mom is understandably prouder of that achievement than anything else Poythress could accomplish. Not that she's surprised. He became obsessed with counting money as a tot and working complex math problems by kindergarten, when his teacher suggested skipping him ahead a grade. (Regina declined.)

By the fifth grade, her boy was winning an award for having read more books than any other child in the school.

"As you got older, sometimes people thought it wasn't as cool to be into academics," she said. "But Alex always thought it was cool."

Point being, he'll probably make a fine living even if this basketball thing doesn't work out. He'd like to work in sports marketing, maybe for Nike. But he hopes that is way down the road.

It's funny to him that some question whether he loves the game, because his only immediate plan for the future is: "Basketball."

"I just want to continue playing, continue being around it, as long as I can," Poythress said. "I want to keep on doing it forever."

If his mother has taught him anything, it's never to give up on something you love.

"Everybody acts like this is it for Alex, but I don't believe it," she said. "Success is a journey. It's not a destination."

Calipari has been along for the roller coaster ride with Poythress. He's spent four years trying to push him higher and pull more of that immense talent to the surface.

There were times the coach felt as frustrated as some fans, and he still hopes the best is yet to come from Poythress as Kentucky prepares to make a run at its third straight Final Four, but over time it seems Calipari has come to appreciate what he is and not focus on what he's not.

"Each guy is on his own path," he said. "He's had a heck of a career on all fronts. He's made us all proud — in the classroom, on the court. You know, I wish he hadn't gotten hurt and I wish he was already in the NBA. So does he. So does he. It happens sometimes, and you've got to play the cards that you're dealt, and that's what he's doing.

"I think he's going to be one of those guys that (Kentucky fans) remember fondly."

John Clay: Kentucky basketball has flipped the switch just in time

By: John Clay| Lexington-Herald Leader| March 5, 2016

Here where basketball is king and it's time to shine, the good news for Kentucky is that we have mounting evidence that the switch has been flipped and lights are on.

It's on for Skal Labissiere, the all-but-forgotten freshman center who built on his pop-up performance at Florida on Tuesday by scoring 18 points, grabbing nine rebounds and blocking six shots as Kentucky thrashed LSU 94-77 on Saturday.

It's on for Jamal Murray, the catch-and-release scoring machine of a guard who has learned not just how to play without the basketball but how to excel without the basketball. He had his 10th straight game of 20-or-more points.

It's on for Tyler Ulis, the 5-foot-9 proclaimed coach on the court and Wooden Award finalist who had a season-high 14 assists on Saturday while directing an of-

fense that tanned the Tigers.

It's on for Alex Poythress, who celebrated Senior Day by listening to surprise video tributes from his "brothers" and former teammates Karl-Anthony Towns, Aaron Harrison and Kyle Wiltjer, then made six of seven shots on the way to 12 points.

It's on for Marcus Lee, hopping off the bench to add a double-double to the festivities with 12 points and 10 boards and lob dunk after lob dunk after lob dunk.

"You've got to have a confident team going into the tournament," Coach John Calipari said, before adding: "Now all of a sudden we've got an empowered team that's playing with confidence."

At precisely the perfect time. In case you haven't noticed, March is here. Next week the SEC Tournament commences. Selection Sunday is seven days away. The real music is about to start, the Big Dance about to begin.

Admit it, you worried March wouldn't matter. Sure, this was a pretty good Kentucky basketball team, but it wasn't a great Kentucky basketball team. It certainly wasn't the 38-1 team of last year, or the surprise national runner-up of the year before. Heaven knows it wasn't close to the national title team of 2011-12.

This year's model sported too many holes, especially that rather noticeable one in the middle. Despite a glittering guard tandem, UK's frontcourt was a frustrating on-again/off-again proposition, contributing one game, hiding the next.

Why just a week ago down in Nashville, it was as if all Cats 6-5 and over missed the bus to Memorial Gym. It's hard to win that way. Kentucky didn't. Vanderbilt 74, Kentucky 62.

Then Calipari went "tweaking" again. From his bag of tricks came an oldie but a goodie — a way to hit the reset button. The message was more psychological than strategic. Tear off the rear-view mirror. It's not where we've been; it's where we're going. Confidence is the fuel to get us there.

From out of the darkness stepped Labissiere. The freshman, so disappointing for so much of the season, wasn't just a surprise starter in the Sunshine State, he was a major contributor. Fifteen minutes brought 11 points and eight rebounds.

More important, Saturday showed Florida was no fluke. Even with Ben Simmons in the building, there were stretches when you thought maybe Rivals was right all along tabbing Labissiere the nation's No. 1 prospect. There were stretches when Skal was the best big man on the floor.

It's difficult to underestimate the differ-

ence he makes. Labissiere's silky-smooth jumper from those long arms can be an unstoppable weapon. Labissiere made eight of 10 shots Saturday. His offensive success has carried over to the defensive end, where the once "Shy Skal" is now "Skal the Swatter." Shooters beware.

"When he's blocking shots like that, he's a rim protector," Poythress said. "That's what we had last year."

This isn't last year, of course. This isn't ninth-banner-or-bust. On the other hand, most experts agree this is a wide-open year. There is not a dominant team, just several good ones hoping to be "the one" that gets hot at the right time. Kentucky could be one of those teams.

"If there's 15 teams better than us," said Calipari on Saturday, "then I've got to see them."

All of a sudden, the light is bright.

Mark Story: Ulis' season best by UK point guard in Rupp Arena era

By:Mark Story| Lexington-Herald Leader| March 5,2016

John Wall is the most physically-gifted point guard to play at Kentucky in my lifetime.

Taking into account Kyle Macy's full three years at UK after he transferred from Purdue, I would still weight Macy's as the best point guard career at Kentucky.

But since Rupp Arena opened in 1976, has any Wildcats point guard ever had a better overall season than the one Tyler Ulis is putting in the books?

The answer is no.

On Senior Day for Alex Poythress, Ulis put the cap on a stellar regular season by dominating visiting LSU even though he shot only 5-of-16.

With the 5-foot-9 Ulis controlling the game through his court vision and decision-making, Kentucky avenged its 18-point loss at LSU Jan. 5 with a 94-77 pasting of the Tigers before a giddy Rupp crowd of 24,414.

The win allowed No. 22 UK (23-8, 13-5 SEC) to claim a share of its 47th Southeastern Conference regular-season title with Texas A&M. By virtue of its overtime victory over the Wildcats in College Station last month, the Aggies will be the No. 1 seed in the SEC Tournament.

Masterfully operating off high-ball screens in Kentucky's pick-and-roll attack, Ulis finished with 14 points, 14 assists and one turnover.

"If there's a better point guard in the country, you gotta show me who he is," UK

Coach John Calipari said .

The full mastery of Kentucky's fiery little sophomore was most on display during what proved to be the game's deciding stretch late in the first half. LSU (18-13, 11-7) was leading 19-18 when Ulis took over the game.

First, he set up the resurgent Skal Labissiere (18 points, nine rebounds, six blocked shots) for a 15-footer jumper which the big man swished with 8:31 left.

Next trip, Ulis made the same read and got Skal the same look for another deuce (8:00). Ensuing possession, Ulis found Marcus Lee (12 points, 10 rebounds) for a dunk (7:20).

Trying something different, LSU left Ulis open off a high pick-and-roll and he buried a 15-footer himself (6:42). Finally, on the next two trips, Ulis hit Lee for a pair of dunks (6:11 and 5:35).

Just like that, Kentucky was up 30-21 and on its way to a big victory.

"Coach Cal wanted me to shoot the ball a lot but I was seeing guys were feeling it," Ulis said. "Skal was hot. Marcus was rolling (to the basket after setting picks) hard."

In Ulis and LSU freshman star Ben Simmons, Saturday's game featured the two players most often mentioned as the leading contenders for SEC Player of the Year.

Simmons had a busy stat line, too — 17 points, 11 rebounds, seven steals, six turnovers, four assists.

Asked afterward if Ulis was the best guard LSU had faced this year, Simmons said no.

"Probably Moody," Simmons said of Mississippi star Stefan Moody. "Moody, he's shooting the ball from off the court. You can't do anything about that."

Simmons allowed that Ulis is "a great player," too.

Asked what makes the UK guard good, the LSU star said "if you touch him, it's a foul. He's crafty. He's got a lot of ball fakes, can shoot the ball from outside. He's quick. Once he gets in the lane, you don't want to jump, otherwise he's going to get into your body or dish it to one of their bigs."

For the season, Ulis is averaging 16.6 points and 7.4 assists.

In his one-and-done season (2009-10) at UK, Wall averaged 16.6 and 6.5. Over his three seasons (1977-80) at Kentucky, Macy — who played before the three-point line — never averaged more than 15.4 points (1979-80) or 5.6 assists (1977-78).

"You know, you're talking about a player of the year candidate nationally," Calipari said of Ulis. "I told the team after, he's made their job easy. He's built confidence

in big guys and now he's letting them play, and he makes my job easier because he's coaching that team on the floor."

Afterward, Ulis talked about how meaningful the final game in Rupp was for Poythress (12 points), UK's sole senior.

"Very special," Ulis said. "This arena, it's crazy. Playing here the last time, it's something to think about. You're going to miss it."

It is increasingly accepted that Ulis is likely to enter the 2016 NBA draft. So was Saturday his last game in Rupp, too?

"I don't know," Ulis said. "I don't know at all."

If it was, Tyler Ulis went out having set the single-season bar for Kentucky point guard play as high as it's ever been in Rupp Arena.

Labissiere's emergence changes the game for UK
By: Kyle Tucker| he Couier-Journal| March 5,2016

LEXINGTON, Ky. – Maybe this was all just a long con, a season-long ploy by that sly, sandbagging John Calipari, who will now unleash upon college basketball the first top-five recruit ever to be considered a secret weapon.

How else to explain what Kentucky freshman Skal Labissiere did on Saturday after all the things he didn't do the rest of the season? He appeared reborn, back from the brink of irrelevance, as he followed an encouraging game Tuesday at Florida with the best performance of his Wildcats career in a 94-77 demolition of LSU.

It took until his final regular-season game, but out of the great big blue, the 6-foot-11 Labissiere sneak-attacked the Tigers for 18 points, nine rebounds, six blocks and two assists in 25 minutes. He was 8-of-10 from the field, swishing hook shots, hitting from the elbow, posting up and burying turnaround jumpers and draining long, beautiful buckets from the baseline.

"Skal had an exceptional game today," LSU coach Johnny Jones said. "That's the best that I've seen him, obviously."

What he means by that last part: Labissiere averaged just 4.1 points and 2.4 rebounds in his first 16 Southeastern Conference games. He'd been banished to Kentucky's bench for 18 consecutive games until a surprise start in Gainesville. But with that, he came roaring back to life.

Labissiere played 40 minutes this week and produced 29 points, 17 rebounds and seven blocks.

"He's beginning to be the best he can be. I'm really proud of him, because it's been hard," Calipari said. "Here's a kid that's taken a lot of grief, (but) he looked really good in that game, and he's getting better."

The irony, of course, is that the way Labissiere played Saturday is what most expected of him all along.

Here and now, it is shocking that he outplayed Tigers freshman Ben Simmons, the projected No. 1 pick in the next NBA draft, who went for 17 points, 11 rebounds, seven steals and four assists but committed six turnovers. Six months ago, Labissiere winning this head-to-head battle wouldn't have raised many eyebrows.

He and Simmons were ranked the top two recruits in the country by every major service, two of them favoring Labissiere. DraftExpress.com projected UK's freshman, not Simmons, as the No. 1 pick. But then the actual games started and one faded inexplicably away while the other thrust himself into the national player of the year debate.

It was a precipitous fall for Labissiere, one from which few expected him to recover before the end of this season.

"I guess he must've hit rock bottom," senior forward Alex Poythress said. "When you hit rock bottom, you start to fight. You start to swim a little bit."

Not a moment too soon for Kentucky.

With their can't-miss kid missing badly, the Wildcats (23-8, 13-5 SEC) struggled at times to overcome an underwhelming frontcourt, even as Tyler Ulis and Jamal Murray – who combined for 36 points, 18 assists and 12 rebounds Saturday – blossomed into All-America candidates in the backcourt.

Projecting UK's postseason potential became a question of how far it could go without any game-changers inside. Labissiere's sudden reemergence allows the Cats to dream much bigger than the shared (with Texas A&M) SEC regular-season title they clinched Saturday.

"This team could be great" if Labissiere keeps it up, Ulis said. "He's playing a lot better. He's playing with confidence. And now he's going to be the Skal that I knew he was ... and he's just going to surprise a lot of people."

See, maybe that was Calipari's devious plan all along. More likely, though, a skinny kid from Haiti who hadn't played much high school basketball got swallowed up by the hype and expectation that came with him to college and the rugged style of play he discovered there.

After Saturday's game, Labissiere thanked Kenny Payne for all the hours they've spent together in an otherwise empty gym, the UK assistant coach pummeling him in the paint and imploring him: go harder, go harder, go harder.

"He's definitely been on my side the whole year, pushing me every day," Labissiere said. "It was tough, but you have to bounce back. That's what I did."

Sullivan | Ulis making plays look easy for UK
By: Tim Sullivan| The Courier-Journal| March 5, 2016

LEXINGTON, Ky. – Tyler Ulis brings the ball up the floor like a man studying the dessert tray. Everywhere he looks is appetizing. His plate runneth over with possibilities.

"People are wide open," the University of Kentucky's point guard said Saturday. "I'm not really doing anything special. I'm just passing the ball. Skal (Labissiere) is finishing, Marcus (Lee) is finishing. Everyone's doing their job."

After accumulating a career-high 14 assists in a 94-77 victory over LSU, Ulis made the afternoon sound almost as easy as it had looked, as if delivering the goods had become as routine as delivering the mail. Some of this may have been modesty, but some of it speaks to an array of appealing choices and an opponent painfully slow to adjust.

Late in the first half, in a span of one minute and 45 seconds, Ulis made one jump shot and three times penetrated the LSU perimeter to lob the ball to Lee for easy dunks. What had been a one-point game at the start of that sequence was never again closer than five points. What had been seen as a head-to-head duel between the Southeastern Conference's two best players rapidly devolved into a rout.

LSU freshman Ben Simmons is a brilliant talent – how many guys attempt, much less execute, a behind-the-back pass in the middle of a fast break? – but his bullet passes are not always calibrated to be caught.

For all of his flash, Simmons committed six turnovers Saturday. Ulis made only one. Over the past nine games, the 5-foot-9 sophomore has been credited with 92 assists against 16 turnovers, a ratio of 5.75-to-1. Entering Saturday's games, the season-long leader in NCAA Division I in that category was Michigan State's Lourawls Nairn Jr., at 4.58-to-1.

"If there's a better point guard in the country, you gotta show me who he is, and

I gotta watch tape," UK coach John Calipari said of Ulis. "I told the team after (the game), he's made their job easy. He's built confidence in big guys in how he's letting them play and he makes my job easier because he's coaching that team on the floor."

If Ulis is underappreciated in some places, it might be because he almost invariably makes the smart play instead of the showy one. He throws the ball where his teammates can handle it, often within a stride of the basket. Seven of Ulis' 14 assists Saturday resulted in dunks — four by Lee, three by Alex Poythress — and his feeds produced five of Labissiere eight field goals. The 14 assists were two short of John Wall's school record, but more than any Kentucky player had ever had in a conference game.

In reviewing his performance, Ulis thought there were three or four more assists available had his teammates been able to convert. But on a day when he missed five of his own 16 shots from the field, he was not inclined to quibble.

"It was fun," Ulis said. "Coach Cal wanted me to shoot the ball a lot, but I could see guys were feeling it. Skal was hot. Marcus was rolling hard. They were setting good screens, and I was coming off just trying to find guys who were open. ... Coming down the court (now), I don't have to look to score every time. I can try to set more guys up."

For much of the season, Ulis was working with a limited set of options. Labissiere's slow progress and Poythress' uneven play meant limited production from the frontcourt. The development of Derek Willis helped to spread the floor, but injuries have undermined the effectiveness of UK's frontcourt and left Ulis and Jamal Murray carrying too much of the scoring load.

To the extent that Labissiere's recent play restores balance to the Wildcats' half-court game, it figures to make Ulis' job that much easier and guarding him that much more difficult.

"If you touch him, it's a foul," Ben Simmons complained. "He's crafty. He's got a lot of head fakes. He can shoot the ball outside. And once he gets inside the lane you don't want to jump. Otherwise, he'll get into your body or dish it off to one of the bigs."

If there's a better point guard in the country, he must be mighty good.

If this is Skal now, what is Kentucky?

By: Kyle Tucker| The Couier-Journal|

March 7, 2016

LEXINGTON, Ky. – Considering Kentucky managed to go 23-8 and win a share of the Southeastern Conference championship without much contribution from its frontcourt, how high would the Wildcats' postseason ceiling get with a little help for their pair of newly minted All-American guards?

That's the scary question college basketball coaches are left to ponder after 6-foot-11 freshman Skal Labissiere stormed back into the starting lineup and won a surprise SEC Freshman of the Week award for his resurgence against Florida and LSU to close out the regular season.

"If Kentucky's front line can play with any consistency and play well, Kentucky can win it all," said Auburn coach Bruce Pearl, whose team upset the Cats on a day when Labissiere produced just four points and two rebounds. "When their frontcourt gets outplayed, that's when they have gotten beat. Because their backcourt has rarely been outplayed all year long.

"So if their front line, including Skal or any other players, can deliver at a high level in postseason, Kentucky can win it all."

Labissiere, a former top-two recruit nationally, had been a major disappointment for most of this season, averaging just 4.1 points, 2.4 rebounds and 1.2 blocks through his first 16 SEC games. But he somehow flipped a switch last week and went for 14.5 points, 8.5 rebounds and 3.5 blocks – hitting 13 of 20 shots, mostly jumpers – in easy victories over the Gators and Tigers.

"Obviously he makes our team better," UK coach John Calipari said, "but I'm happy for him. I've seen that he's finally bought into the process, and it takes time. We've had some guys that take years to buy in, and we've had some guys that take months to buy in and all of a sudden they explode."

Outplaying LSU's Ben Simmons, the likely No. 1 pick in the next NBA draft, as Labissiere did on Saturday, would seem to qualify as an explosion. So what does that mean for the Cats' postseason potential?

They already have the best backcourt in college basketball – All-Americans Tyler Ulis and Jamal Murray, with Isaiah Briscoe doing all the dirty work – but have been searching all season for a way to unlock the potential in a frontcourt full of former five-star recruits. Now maybe they have the answer.

"What Skal does for us, the biggest thing, is Marcus Lee is able to play to his strengths, which is his energy, his offensive rebounding, tip dunks, dunking balls, being around that goal," Calipari said. "He's not asked to do more. He's asked to play right into his sweet spot, because Skal can do all the scoring and all the other things that you want that big man to do, especially shooting on the perimeter."

With Labissiere doing those things Saturday, Lee went for 12 points and 10 rebounds (six offensive) in just 21 minutes. He went 6 of 7 from the field, including four ferocious dunks that energized both the crowd and the Cats.

Labissiere's career-high six blocked shots in that game also ignited Kentucky.

"That's one of the things we had last year: we had a lot of shot blockers," senior forward Alex Poythress said. "That's something we've been missing a little bit this year. If he can do that for us, it's great. When he protects the rim, blocking shots like that, it jumpstarts our offense. We get in transition more. We start flying up and down the court more."

Bottom line, Calipari said: Labissiere playing the way he did last week, the way everyone expected he would when he arrived on campus, means the other big men "aren't asked to do things that would make them less than confident."

In turn, that potentially makes the Wildcats a much bigger problem for opponents in next week's NCAA tournament.

"Skal being plugged in," Calipari said, "really kind of puts the pieces where they need to be."

Labissiere produced no points and one rebound in two games against Vanderbilt this season. UK still won the first meeting comfortably and led by eight in the second half of the other before faltering on the road. If he's that guy, the Cats' postseason fate is wildly unpredictable.

But if he's the guy who showed up out of nowhere last week?

"That changes Kentucky considerably," Commodores assistant coach Tom Richardson said. "It gives them another offensive threat. Obviously Skal is coming into his own late in the season, and it makes a tremendous difference."

Labissiere totaled six points and six rebounds in two games against Tennessee – each side won once – but Volunteers coach Rick Barnes said he could imagine the potential even then.

"He made a couple shots against us where you know it's there. Just a matter of him getting it out and understanding what they're trying to get done as a team," Barnes said. "If he does, and they get going, I like their chances against anybody."

Skal's emergence allows UK pieces to fall into place

By: Jerry Tipton| Lexinon-Herald Leader| March 7, 2016

Freshman Skal Labissiere's 11th-hour emergence does more than give Kentucky a productive big man, Coach John Calipari said Monday. Labissiere improves several positions.

"Skal being plugged in really kind of puts the pieces where they belong," Calipari said on a Southeastern Conference teleconference.

With the pieces in place, Kentucky can contend for a national championship, Auburn Coach Bruce Pearl said. But Pearl added a qualifier.

"If Kentucky's front line can play with any consistency and play well, Kentucky can win it all," he said. "But when their front line gets outplayed, that's when they've gotten beat. Because their backcourt has rarely been outplayed all year long."

Labissiere was originally envisioned as Karl-Anthony Towns reincarnate. But he struggled for most of the season in the adjustment to a more physical style.

His development also slowed as Kentucky repeatedly tried to make him a low-post scorer.

Labissiere may have hit rock bottom at Vanderbilt on Feb. 27. He played only eight minutes, in part, because he picked up four fouls in that time. He finished with no points and one rebound.

None of UK's other "bigs" did much either. That continued a season-long dependence on guards Tyler Ulis and Jamal Murray. It also prompted a meeting with the big men in which Calipari and his assistant coaches emphasized the need for production.

As if on cue, Labissiere scored 11 points and grabbed eight rebounds at Florida three nights later. That was the most he'd scored since Jan. 27 and a season-high rebound total.

Labissiere followed up with 18 points and nine rebounds last weekend against LSU.

Calipari said Labissiere's productive play impacts teammates.

"The biggest thing is Marcus Lee is able to play to his strength, which is energy, offensive rebounds, tipping balls, (playing) around the goal," the UK coach said. "He's not asked to do more (than he's capable of doing).

"He can play to his sweet spot because Skal can do the scoring and all the other things you want that big man to do."

Derek Willis provides similar help with his perimeter shooting.

With Labissiere and Willis productive, Ulis and Murray carry less of a load and enjoy more space to operate.

"Now, you have guys not asked to do things that would make them less than confident," Calipari said. "All are in positions where (they can say) 'I can do this. It's who I am, and I can be confident.'"

Instilling confidence has been a priority for Kentucky, Calipari said. It's what he's talked about for weeks.

Kentucky enters the SEC Tournament this week in Nashville having beaten Florida and LSU in the last two games of the regular season.

When asked on the teleconference for some general thoughts on the team going into the conference tournament, Calipari said, "I'm pleased. I've been pleased with this team. We're just trying to continue to build confidence from within. … That's been our mission the last three weeks.

"I love how the kids are responding, taking it on themselves. Their confidence, they own it."

When asked about his recent improvement, Labissiere has credited associate coach Kenny Payne.

Calipari saluted Payne's work.

"It's not just big guys" that have been influenced by Payne, Calipari said. "He's working with the guards and everybody.

"He has a great relationship with these kids. He doesn't B.S. them. He doesn't tell them what they want to hear. He tells them the truth."

Payne is also a demanding taskmaster, Calipari said.

"He's extremely hard on them," the UK coach said. "He's harder on them than I am, which is good for me because I'm tough, too. But I'm not as tough as him. He absolutely accepts nothing but their best.

"We're not here to alibi. We're not here to enable. We're here to move you from Point A to Point B to Point C."

Payne has been the subject of speculation about head coaching jobs. Calipari made it seem his associate coach is ready for a promotion.

"He took over at South Carolina and did a better job than I would have done," Calipari said in reference to his ejection from the Feb. 13 game in Columbia. "As a matter of fact, if we play South Carolina again (in the SEC Tournament), I'll probably be sick that day. Let him coach the team."

Calipari Eager to Take Empowered Team into Postseason

By: Guy Ramsey| UK Ahletics| March 7, 2016

John Calipari – save for a few minutes on NBA Draft night each year or after Kentucky won the national championship in 2012 – is never satisfied.

He does like the way his team is shaping up entering the postseason though.

"I'm pleased," Coach Cal said on Monday's Southeastern Conference Coaches' Teleconference. "I've been pleased with this team."

UK has had more than its share of ups and downs this season. Injuries have stunted the team's growth and a young roster has understandably taken time to adjust to playing together, leading to some head-scratching moments coming off a season in which the Wildcats made a run at a perfect season.

But through the losses – ones against Ohio State, LSU, Auburn and Tennessee stick out – UK has stayed the course.

"We're just trying to continue to build confidence from within," Calipari said. "Having each guy understand what it means to take responsibility for it, to not enable guys when they're not playing well or not playing with confidence. That's been our mission here for the last three weeks."

Over those three weeks, UK has won four of six games. The losses came on the road to likely NCAA Tournament teams and the Cats closed the regular season with two of their better performances of the season, easily dispatching Florida and LSU.

As has been the case throughout the season, Tyler Ulis is the anchor.

Awards are already rolling in for the sophomore, most notably First-Team All-America honors from USA Today and being named a finalist for Bob Cousy Point Guard of the Year. Ulis is averaging 16.6 points and 7.4 assists on the season, but has saved his best for last. He's dished out 10 or more assists in six of his last nine games and scored 20 or more points in 11 of his last 20 games.

"Tyler (is) leading this team and just doing wonderful things to put people in positions where they can play more confident," Calipari said.

When it comes to growing confidence, no one tops Skal Labissiere.

The reigning SEC Freshman of the Week is fresh off the best two-game stretch of his college career He averaged 14.5 points, 8.5 rebounds and 3.5 blocks in those two aforementioned victories.

"I'm happy for him," Calipari said. "Obviously he makes our team better, but I'm happy for him. I've seen that he's finally bought into the process, and it takes time. We've had guys that take some years to buy in, and we've had guys that take some months to buy in and then all of a sudden they explode."

All season, Calipari has had to move players around and create patchwork lineups try to create some interior support for the consistently dynamic Ulis, Jamal Murray and Isaiah Briscoe. If Labissiere's explosion continues, UK could go from being a dangerous team with arguably the nation's best backcourt to a well-rounded national-title contender.

"What Skal does for us, the biggest thing is Marcus Lee is able to play to his strengths, which is his energy, his offensive rebounding, tip dunks, dunking balls, being around that goal," Calipari said. "He's not asked to do more. He's asked to play right into his sweet spot, because Skal can do all the scoring and all the other things that you want that big man to do, especially shooting on the perimeter."

Add in a now-healthy Derek Willis — who returned to the lineup on Saturday after missing three games due to a sprained ankle — and UK finally looks to have a full complement inside.

"And Derek also helps with that, so now you have other guys that aren't asked to do things that would make them less than confident," Calipari said. "They're all in positions where: I can do this. It's who I am and I can be confident about it. Skal being plugged in really kind of puts the pieces where they need to be."

With the SEC Tournament set to start for UK on Friday at 7 p.m. against the winner of Ole Miss and Alabama, Calipari is in a familiar position.

He likes his team.

"I love what I'm seeing," Calipari said. "I love how the kids are responding. And they're taking it on themselves. Their confidence, they own it."

Ulis One of Five Finalists for Bob Cousy Point Guard of the Year
By: Eric Lindsey| UK Athletics| March 7, 2016

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — Sophomore point guard Tyler Ulis has been named one of five finalists for the 2016 Bob Cousy Point Guard of the Year Award by the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. Named after Hall of Fame guard Bob Cousy, the annual honor recognizes the top point guard in Division I men's basketball.

Ulis' competition includes Yogi Ferrell of Indiana, Monte Morris from Iowa State, Oakland's Kahlil Felder and Kris Dunn of Providence.

A national committee comprised of top college basketball personnel determined the initial watch list of 20 candidates in October, trimmed it down to 10 in February and now named the final five finalists in March. The annual honor, which is now in its 13th season, will be presented to the winner at the ESPN College Basketball Awards Show in Los Angeles on April 8.

The winner of the Cousy Award will be determined by a combination of fan votes and input from the Basketball Hall of Fame's selection committee. Fans are encouraged to visit HoophallAwards.com to cast their votes March 11-25.

Previous winners of the Bob Cousy Award include Delon Wright, Utah (2015); Shabazz Napier, Connecticut (2014); Trey Burke, Michigan (2013); Kendall Marshall, North Carolina (2012); Kemba Walker, Connecticut (2011); Greivis Vasquez, Maryland (2010); Ty Lawson, North Carolina (2009); DJ Augustin, Texas (2008); Acie Law, Texas A&M (2007); Dee Brown, Illinois (2006); Raymond Felton, North Carolina (2005. and Jameer Nelson, St. Joseph's (2004).

Ulis is looking to become the first Kentucky guard to win the award.

Already a three-time winner of the Southeastern Conference Player of the Week award and a finalist for the John R. Wooden Award, Ulis has become one of the unquestionable top players in college basketball, regardless of position.

Ulis is averaging 16.6 points, an SEC-best 7.4 assists (sixth nationally) and a league-best 3.8 assist-to-turnover ratio (fifth nationally). He's dished out 10 or more assists in six of his last nine games and scored 20 or more points in 11 of his last 20 games.

The Chicago native is the only player in the SEC averaging at least 16.6 points and 7.4 assists or better. He is one of just four players nationally to achieve that feat (Kahil Felder, Oakland; Juan'Ya Green, Hofstra; Denzel Valentine, Michigan State) and the lone underclassman.

He has the single-season school record for most 20-point, five-assist games with 12, and according to the SEC Network, his three 20-point, 10-assist games this season are the most of any SEC player in the last 20 seasons.

In league play, Ulis averaged 8.4 assists with a 4.5 assist-to-turnover ratio. He played 672 of a possible 725 minutes in SEC games, committing a turnover every 19.8 minutes per game.

Ulis' value is probably best represented by his performances in Kentucky's biggest games. He's averaging a team-best 22.8 points and a team-high 9.0 assists in UK's five games vs. ranked opponents in either the Associated Press Top 25 or the USA Today Coaches' Poll. He shot 54.3 percent with a 5.0 assist-to-turnover ratio in those games.

Already third on the school's single-season assists list with 221 dimes, he's on pace to break John Wall's single season record of 241 assists set in 2009-10. He is the only player with 24 consecutive games with four or more assists since at least 1972-73.

Ulis and the Wildcats earned a double bye in the SEC Tournament and won't play until the quarterfinals on Friday. UK will play the winner of the Alabama-Ole Miss game on Friday at 7 p.m. ET in Nashville, Tenn., on the SEC Network.

Ulis, Murray Tabbed All-Americans by USA Today
By: Eric Lindsey| UK Athletics| March 7,2016

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Sophomore guard Tyler Ulis and freshman guard Jamal Murray, arguably the best backcourt duo in the country, have been recognized for their stellar regular seasons with All-America honors from USA Today Sports. Ulis has been named to the five-man First Team while Murray has been named to the Second Team.

Ulis joined Buddy Hield (Oklahoma), Brice Johnson (North Carolina), Jakob Poeltl (Utah) and Denzel Valentine (Michigan State) on the First Team. Murray made the Second Team along with Grayson Allen (Duke), Malcolm Brogdon (Virginia), Perry Ellis (Kansas) and Yogi Ferrell (Indiana).

Together the duo averaged 40.8 points per game in conference play, more than any other tandem in the country in the major conferences (Power 5 plus the American and the Big East).

Also, Ulis was named Sunday as CBS Sports' Southeastern Conference Player of the Year on Sunday. He also picked up All-SEC First Team honors.

Head coach John Calipari, who captured a share of his fourth SEC title in his seven seasons at Kentucky, got the nod as SEC Coach of the Year from CBS. Murray was named to CBS Sports' All-SEC First Team.

Heading into the postseason, Ulis is averaging 16.6 points, a Southeastern Conference-best 7.4 assists (sixth national-

ly) and a league-best 3.8 assist-to-turnover ratio (fifth nationally). He's dished out 10 or more assists in six of his last nine games and scored 20 or more points in 11 of his last 20 games.

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Already third on the school's single-season assists list with 221 dimes, he's on pace to break John Wall's single season record of 241 assists set in 2009-10. He is the only player with 24 consecutive games with four or more assists since at least 1972-73.

Murray has been one of the nation's best scorers all season long. He currently leads the Wildcats in scoring at 20.0 points per game, which, if the season ended today, would be the highest scoring average at Kentucky in the Calipari era. Brandon Knight, in 2010-11, finished at 17.3 points per game. Murray's current average is the most for any player under Calipari since Dajuan Wagner averaged 21.2 points during the 2001-02 season at Memphis.

With 619 points this season, he trails only Brandon Knight (657 points in 2010-11) for the most points by a freshman in school history. He's posted three 30-point games this season, the most by a freshman in school history, and his 35 points vs. Florida tied Terrence Jones (Jan. 11, 2011 vs. Auburn) for the school record single-game scoring mark by a freshman. It also tied Jones for the most points in a single game in the Calipari era.

Murray is the first Wildcat to reach double figures in 29 straight games since Jodie Meeks did it 32 times in 2008-09, and he's currently on a 10-game streak of scoring 20 points or more. That's the longest such streak for any UK player since Kevin Grevey topped 20 or more points in 12 straight games in 1974-75.

Having hit a 3-pointer in every game this season, Murray owns the UK freshman record for most 3-point field goals in a single season with 99, surpassing Knight's previous record of 87. His 99 made 3-pointers is already third on the single-season 3-point field goal list, and he's got a shot at breaking Steph Curry's NCAA single-season record for 3-point field goals in a season (122).

Ulis and Murray and the Wildcats earned a double bye in the SEC Tournament and won't play until the quarterfinals on Friday. UK will play the winner of the Alabama-Ole Miss game on Friday at 7 p.m. ET in Nashville, Tenn., on the SEC Network.

Ulis Wins SEC Player and Defensive Player of the Year
By: Deb Moore | UK Athletics | March 8, 2016

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – Fab-ULIS indeed.

Sophomore guard Tyler Ulis was named the Southeastern Conference's player and defensive player of the year to highlight the league's coaches' vote announced Tuesday. Freshman sharpshooter Jamal Murray joined Ulis on the All-SEC First Team, while also earning All-SEC Freshman Team honors. In addition to the SEC Player of the Year honors and First Team All-SEC honors, Ulis headlined the All-Defensive Team.

At 5-foot-9, Ulis is the shortest player in the history of the award to win SEC Player of the Year.

"It's an honor to be recognized for something like that," Ulis said Tuesday. "I'm happy for myself. My parents I feel like are feeling it a little more than me; my dad and mom is real emotional. But it's an honor to be recognized for this award and we're just focusing on the season."

Ulis and Murray, arguably the best backcourt duo in the country, have been recognized for their stellar regular seasons as the only school with two members on the All-SEC First Team. The duo was joined by Alabama's Retin Obasohan, LSU's Ben Simmons, Ole Miss's Stefan Moody, South Carolina's Michael Carrera, Texas A&M's Jalen Jones and Vanderbilt's Damian Jones.

Kentucky's dynamic backcourt led the country in scoring within league play among the major conferences (Power 5 plus the American and the Big East). Together, they combined for 40.8 points per game for UK, helping the Wildcats earn a share of their 47th regular-season SEC crown.

Ulis is the eighth Wildcat to win SEC

Player of the Year honors as voted on by the league's coaches and first since Anthony Davis took home the hardware in 2012. He's the program's fifth player selected as the top defender. Willie Cauley-Stein captured the same honor a season ago. Ulis and Davis, the former national player of the year and No. 1 overall draft pick, are the only players in league history to earn player of the year and defensive player of the year in the same season.

"That's an award that I like the most because I take pride in my defense," Ulis said of winning SEC Defensive Player of the Year. "I really don't like being scored on and I didn't really know if people noticed the defense I played. But that was a surprise to me that I won that award and I'm happy to have it."

Murray and Ulis are the 17th and 18th players under head coach John Calipari to claim SEC honors. UK has had at least two players earn first-team honors in five of Calipari's seven seasons.

"It's an honor," Murray said Tuesday. "I enjoy those awards and I'm proud of where I've come from and how far it's taken me to this point. Just focused on what's next and the games we have ahead."

Ulis has rewritten the UK record books during his sophomore campaign while generating an abundance of accolades following one of the most impressive seasons in Kentucky history. The 5-foot-9 guard played a league-high 36.8 minutes per game and averaged 16.6 points, 7.4 assists, 3.3 rebounds and 1.4 steals for the SEC co-champions. Within league play, Ulis logged 18.3 points, 8.4 assists, 3.3 rebounds and 1.4 steals per outing.

The sophomore floor general ranks first in minutes per game (36.8), assists (7.4) and assist-to-turnover ratio (3.8), second in free-throw percentage (.850), sixth in scoring (16.6) and seventh in steals per game (1.4). His eight double-doubles on the year are good for sixth in the league.

He has the single-season school record for most 20-point, five-assist games with 12, and according to the SEC Network, his three 20-point, 10-assist games this season are the most of any SEC player in the last 20 seasons.

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Murray has been one of the nation's best scorers all season long and led the league with five SEC Weekly award honors. He currently leads the Wildcats in scoring at 20.0 points per game, which, if the season ended today, would be the highest scoring average at Kentucky in the Calipari era. Brandon Knight, in 2010-11, finished at 17.3 points per game. Murray's current average is the most for any player under Calipari since Dajuan Wagner averaged 21.2 points during the 2001-02 season at Memphis.

The Kitchener, Ontario, native averaged an SEC-high 22.4 points per game against league foes. He also hit an average of 3.72 3-pointers in SEC games. For the season, Murray ranks first in 3-point field-goals made per game (3.2), third in scoring (20.0), third in minutes per game (34.9), fourth in 3-point field-goal percentage (.421) and ninth in field-goal percentage (.451).

With 619 points this season, he trails only Knight (657 points in 2010-11) for the most points by a freshman in school history. He's posted three 30-point games this season two of which came against league competition. The three 30-point games are the most by a freshman in school history, and his 35 points vs. Florida tied Terrence Jones (Jan. 11, 2011 vs. Auburn) for the school record single-game scoring mark by a freshman. It also tied Jones for the most points in a single game in the Calipari era.

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Ulis Named USBWA District IV Player of the Year

By: Eric Lindsey | Uk Athletics | March 9, 2016

ST. LOUIS – The awards keep rolling in for Tyler Ulis and Jamal Murray.

The latest honors come from the U.S. Basketball Writers Association, which named Ulis its District IV Player of the Year on Tuesday. Murray joined Ulis on the 10-man All-District IV Team, which includes the top players from the states of Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and Florida.

The USBWA All-District Teams are based on voting from its national membership of 900-plus. The USBWA has selected All-District Teams since the 1956-57 season.

Ulis and Murray are racking in the postseason awards after spectacular individual seasons that helped guide Kentucky to a 23-8 record overall and a share of the program's 47th Southeastern Conference regular-season championship.

Among the highlights, Ulis has already been named SEC Player of the Year, SEC Defensive Player of the Year and tabbed to the USA Today All-America First Team. Murray, meanwhile, was named to the USA Today All-America Second Team and joined Ulis on the All-SEC First Team. Murray was also picked for the SEC All-Freshman Team.

The awards and honors Ulis and Murray have already collected:

Tyler Ulis- SEC Player of the Year (Coaches), SEC Defensive Player of the Year, (Coaches) All-SEC First Team (Coaches), SEC All-Defensive Team (Coaches), USA Today All-America First Team, CBS Sports SEC Player of the Year, USBWA District IV Player of the Year, USBWA All-District IV Team, Bob Cousy finalist, John R. Wooden Award finalist, Oscar Robertson finalist

Jamal Murray- All-SEC First Team (Coaches), SEC All-Freshman Team (Coaches), USA Today All-America Second Team, USBWA All-District IV Team, Wayman Tisdale finalist

Ulis has rewritten the UK record books during his sophomore campaign while generating an abundance of accolades

following one of the most impressive seasons in Kentucky history. The 5-foot-9 guard played a league-high 36.8 minutes per game and averaged 16.6 points, 7.4 assists, 3.3 rebounds and 1.4 steals for the SEC co-champions. Within league play, Ulis logged 18.3 points, 8.4 assists, 3.3 rebounds and 1.4 steals per outing.

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season 3-point field goal list, and he has a shot at breaking Stephen Curry's NCAA freshman record for 3-point field goals in a season (122).

SEC notes: MSU's coach calls Ulis-Murray the nation's best backcourt duo

By: Jerry Tipton| Lexington-Herald Leader| March 9, 2016

NASHVILLE- Mississippi State Coach Ben Howland saluted Tyler Ulis and Jamal Murray as not only the best backcourt in the Southeastern Conference, but also the best guard tandem in the nation.

"Ulis, especially," Howland said Wednesday. "Everybody talks about him, but they don't talk about his ball pressure enough. He takes out the other team's point guard with his ability to pressure the ball.

"And Murray is an absolutely phenomenal shooter, scorer and competitor."

Kentucky has noted that Murray and Ulis are the highest-scoring guard duo in the country. They enter the SEC Tournament averaging 40.8 points.

The second-highest scoring pair of guards is Duke's Grayson Allen and Brandon Ingram at 39.3 points per game.

"Murray is a freshman, but he's really improved," Howland said. "And Ulis is special. Both those guys are NBA guys."

A basketball axiom has it that guards make the critical difference. More than ever, Howland is a believer.

"That's the way the game is played now," he said. "I still like the big guy with his back to the basket. But that's a thing that seems to becoming lost in the game."

The low-post presence is not extinct.

"That's how Kansas plays," the Mississippi State coach said. "That's why I think they're so good."

Egbunu injured

Florida center John Egbunu tore a ligament in his right thumb during practice Tuesday. He participated in a shoot-around Wednesday at Bridgestone Arena with a protective wrap on his right hand.

When asked how Egbunu looked, Florida Coach Mike White said, "He looked like his thumb hurt. He had trouble catching the basketball and holding on to the basketball."

Egbunu is Florida's second-leading scorer (11.5 ppg) and rebounder (6.3 rpg). He also leads the Gators in blocks with 48. Against Kentucky last week, he had a team-high 27 points.

White did not try to downplay the significance of Egbunu's injury.

"It's big for us," he said. "He's really our best interior defender by far, and (best) interior rebounder and really our best interior scorer. ... It'd be a blow for this team."

Florida plays Arkansas in Thursday's first second-round game. Arkansas Coach Mike Anderson said his team would prepare as if Egbunu will be playing "full blast."

Vandy's mindset

Vanderbilt Coach Kevin Stallings laughed when asked about his team's mindset going into the SEC Tournament.

"I don't guess about my team's mindset anymore," he said.

Stallings addressed the theme when asked if his players understood college basketball was moving to the win-or-go-home phase.

"I don't know what they think," he said. "And I've actually stopped caring."

When asked how often in the past he stopped caring about what his players thought, Stallings said, "Not very often. I care too much. That's sort of my issue. I had to rearrange my level of caring, and it's not really caring. It's how much I was trying to affect and influence their thoughts and their mindset.

"I'll let them take care of their mindset. I'll take care of making sure they're prepared, and then we'll continue to hope for the best."

Baldwin confident

Vandy point guard Wade Baldwin IV spoke confidently.

"I'm probably the most confident guy you guys probably know ... ," he told reporters. "I don't believe in losses. I'm the most competitive guy on the court at all times, I think."

Baldwin sounded eager for Vandy's game against the Tennessee-Auburn winner on Thursday.

"I can't wait to get this (started)," he said, "and compete my (butt) off."

Size doesn't matter

Ole Miss Coach Andy Kennedy dismissed the importance of height. What prompted his comment was a question about his star guard, Stefan Moody, and Ulis being 5-foot-9.

Ulis is one of two finalists for the Bob Cousy Award. The other is Kay Felder of Oakland.

When asked about the importance of size, Kennedy said, "I think it's grossly overvalued, sometimes.

"Sometimes, you have big kids who play small. You've got little kids who play big."

Moody agreed.

"You can't just look at size," he said.

'Desperate'

At this time of year, coaches talk about teams playing with a desperate attitude. Not Georgia Coach Mark Fox.

"It implies that you're panicking," Fox said. "And I don't think we have a reason to panic. And desperate athletes don't consistently perform well."

When asked the difference between a team being "desperate" and playing with a "sense of urgency," Fox said it was the difference between being desperate and determined.

"It's a different definition," he said. "You're a writer. C'mon."

UK's Big Man with the Bigger Heart: Marcus Lee Leaving His Mark in the Community

By: Jason King| Bleacher Report| March 10, 2016

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Shortly after Kentucky's Marcus Lee threw down a dunk and swished a free throw in last month's win at South Carolina, a 10-year-old boy sat up in his hospital bed 420 miles away and posed for a picture.

Kelly Melton, who has leukemia, became Lee's biggest fan after the Wildcats junior first visited him in the hospital nearly two years ago. Now, whenever Lee has a memorable moment in a game, Melton is quick to express his excitement on social media.

Lee's three-point play against South Carolina led to this tweet and picture of Melton and Max Strong, a former Kentucky football player, who watched the game with him that afternoon at Kentucky Children's Hospital.

Melton's father, Harrison, says his son never misses a game.

"He doesn't want any distractions when the Wildcats are playing," Harrison says. "He just wants to sit there and cheer for Marcus."

Kelly's fondness for Kentucky's star forward is easy to understand.

After all, for the past two years, Lee has been cheering for him, too.

Whether it's accompanying Kelly and his family to King's Island amusement park near Cincinnati, buying him custom-designed Star Wars tennis shoes or simply playing Legos with him during his monthly hospital stays, Lee—along with former Kentucky football players Strong and Landon Foster—set aside hours upon hours of their free time for Kelly.

The level of commitment would be impressive for any college student who is juggling academics with a social life. But it's especially remarkable for someone

who is dealing with the pressure and stress of competing for the nation's most high-profile basketball program.

Kim Klement-USA TODAY Sports "Marcus takes such joy in it," Kentucky coach John Calipari says, "and that makes him want to do even more."

Indeed, as much as the high-flying Lee is known for his alley-oop dunks and ability to block shots, he's developed an even greater reputation for his actions away from the court, where his outreach and community service efforts extend well beyond his relationship with Kelly.

At Christmas time, it's not uncommon to see the 6'9" Lee outside a local grocery store, wearing a Santa hat and ringing a bell as a volunteer for the Salvation Army. He helps pack lunches for needy children and then delivers them to elementary schools. Last spring, when Kentucky gymnast Shelby Hilton was diagnosed with cancer, Lee encouraged Wildcats athletes from all sports to send her get-well cards and emails during her chemotherapy.

And that's just the stuff people know about.

Last season, Calipari stood before his team and read a note from Kim Bennett, a Lexington nurse who had treated Lee for a minor injury. While conversing with Lee, Bennett mentioned that her stepson, Noah, was a college soccer player whose freshman season had ended prematurely because of mononucleosis—a situation that resulted in homesickness and depression.

Unsolicited, Lee wrote Noah a two-page letter that immediately lifted his spirits and gave him the energy to get out of bed and return to the sidelines to cheer on his teammates.

"I cried as I read it," Bennett wrote to Calipari. "It's amazing what a few kind words can do."

Calipari finished reading the letter to the Wildcats and then looked at Lee as he sat among his teammates. "Why didn't you tell anyone you did this?" the coach asked.

Lee shrugged his shoulders.

"I just did it and moved on," he said. "I didn't realize it was something I was supposed to talk about."

Shortly after exiting the drive-thru lane at In-N-Out, Sherri Lee's car came to a halt. A homeless man with a cardboard sign stood in a nearby median, holding a sign that read "Hungry: Please Help."

Without saying a word, Sherri rolled down her window and handed the stranger the double cheeseburgers and french fries she'd just purchased for herself and

Marcus after one of his youth basketball games.

"That stuck with me," says Marcus, adding that Sherri went back through the line to order more food for the two of them. "Seeing her do those things laid a good foundation and helped send me down the path I'm on today."

Even before that pivotal moment outside the fast food restaurant, Lee had demonstrated numerous signs of selflessness and a genuine interest in helping others.

As a sixth-grader he volunteered to be a peer mediator for some of the younger children at his school. He was an usher at First Baptist Church in Pittsburg, California, and a member of the choir. During Sunday school, Lee not only listened to the weekly lesson but was active in the discussion.

Lee with his mother, Sherri, who discovered her youngest son, even at an early age, thought carefully about the welfare of those around him.

Lee never complained when his mother donated some of his toys and clothes to the Salvation Army. When Sherri attempted to take her son to a nice restaurant after games, Lee suggested they dine somewhere cheaper so his mom could save her money "for something more important."

During his elementary school years, Sherri says she usually spent about $500 on Christmas presents for each of her first two sons, who are both more than a decade older than Marcus. But years later, when she took Marcus to Toys R Us to let him pick out his gifts, he selected only two items.

"A basketball and a bowling set," Sherri chuckled. "I wanted to spoil him, but he wouldn't let me."

Multiple times during his childhood, Lee and his mother spent Thanksgiving Day serving food to homeless people— some of them children—at their church. When he wasn't handing out sandwiches, Lee interacted with the kids on the playground.

"He didn't understand why these people were the way they were—why their clothes were dirty or why they smelled different," Sherri says. "It provided a good chance for us to have a conversation about people who are less fortunate than we are and how we need to help those people.

"I think he learned a lot at an early age."

A McDonald's All-American, Lee's acts of kindness continued throughout high school. But it wasn't until he enrolled at Kentucky that he fully grasped the

pedestal he was on as a basketball player in Lexington, where the Wildcats are the most recognizable figures in the city.

From the day they step on campus, Calipari encourages his players to become "servant leaders."

"These kids get here," Calipari says, "and they realize how much power they have—how they can change someone's day with a signature, a picture, a handshake, a hug.

"I tell them, 'You have the bully pulpit. What are you going to do with it? Fame is fleeting. Money has wings. How are you going to use your position to make a lasting impact?'"

Calipari has clearly had success reaching his players. Whether it's Patrick Patterson befriending a girl with cystic fibrosis, Nerlens Noel taking a fan with diabetes to the Kentucky Derby or John Wall breaking down on national television over the death of a cancer patient, new stories about current and former Wildcats surface each year.

Lee's commitment to outreach, though, is on a different level.

He showed up unannounced in the intensive care unit to visit a fan who was injured in a fall while attending a game at Rupp Arena. He plays kickball at local elementary schools and has made numerous trips back to California to give speeches at his alma mater.

During the 2015 Catspys, a gala honoring Kentucky athletes, Lee took the stage and called Hilton on FaceTime so the gymnast could see the entire auditorium standing and cheering for her.

A common practice at the Final Four is for players from each team to visit a local children's hospital. Oftentimes walk-ons and seldom-used reserves make the trip, so rotation players can remain focused on the upcoming games. But each of the past two seasons, Lee has demanded to be included.

"Sometimes it feels like we're taking advantage of him," Kentucky assistant media relations director Deb Moore says. "But if we don't ask him, he gets mad."

Lee represents the men's basketball team on Kentucky's Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC). When the group needed a new treasurer, Lee was quick to raise his hand.

"We've never had a men's basketball player want to be an officer, mainly because they already have such high demands on their time," says Dustin Lewis, Kentucky's Life Skills Coordinator. "But this is Marcus' passion. It's as big of a part of his life as basketball."

Lewis says he constantly has to hound Lee to document all of his community service hours so he can nominate him for awards and honors.

"He does so much that it's almost impossible to track," Lewis says. "Marcus obviously had a kind heart when he arrived here. When you put someone like that with a coach who pushes these types of things, this is the end result."

Even during routine activities such as walking to class or eating at his dorm, Lee tries to fulfill the basic request that Calipari makes of every Kentucky player.

"I want them to make one person feel good every day," Calipari says. "It could be a student on campus, a maintenance worker, a grocery store clerk or a guy in food services. They need to get in the habit of making one person smile every day.

"It gets them out of thinking solely about themselves and using what they've been given to bless others. You try to explain to these guys that true joy isn't in what you take—it's in what you give. They end up feeling great joy themselves, and that makes them want to do it more.

"Marcus is a prime example of that."

Minutes after arriving at Kentucky Children's Hospital in the summer of 2014, Lee was soaked.

Using syringes filled with water as squirt guns, nine-year-old Kelly Melton, Max Strong and a host of others ambushed the Wildcats star as he rounded a first-floor hallway and startling him so much that he ducked into a stranger's room for cover.

"That," Lee says, "was the first time I ever met Kelly."

The water fight eventually moved into Kelly's hospital room, prompting nurses to bring in extra towels to clean up the mess. Silly as they may have seemed, the shenanigans sparked a relationship that has grown stronger ever since.

"We talk almost every day," Kelly says. "He's one of my best friends."

Lee learned about Kelly through Strong, a former Wildcats kicker who has long been active with fundraising efforts and community service projects on campus. Based partly on his own experience, Strong had seen how Kelly had been buoyed by friendships with Kentucky students (both athletes and non-athletes) and wanted to continue to introduce him to new people.

"Still," Strong says, "we're very protective of Kelly. We don't just invite anyone to the hospital to come see him. It has to be someone who's going to visit more than once, someone who will stick with him and play a part in his life.

"Marcus seemed like that type of person."

Over the past year-and-a-half, Lee has become a huge presence in Kelly's world.

They exchange text messages nearly every day, and Lee says Kelly has sent him countless selfies taken while watching him play on television. Glance at Lee and Kelly's Instagram and Twitter accounts and you'll see numerous pictures of them (along with Strong and others) at fundraising events and at King's Island.

Lee was too tall to fit on the amusement park's roller coasters, and because of the port in his chest used to deliver chemotherapy, Kelly was unable to go on them, too. But the two (along with Strong) braved the log ride together and took refuge in the amusement park arcade when it began to rain.

"He acts like he has no idea that anything is wrong with him," Lee says. "He runs around and acts goofy and has fun just like anyone else. Being around him makes you turn into a little kid, which is awesome."

Much of Lee's interaction with Kelly occurs during the child's monthly visit to the hospital. Kelly, who lives 70 miles away in Science Hill, Kentucky, loves to build structures with Legos and watch movies and tell jokes.

Numerous times Lee has crawled into bed next to Kelly and fallen asleep.

"Marcus has Christian values," says Lisa Melton, Kelly's mom. "That's the kind of person we want influencing our son. If I called him and said, 'Marcus, we need you right now. Can you please come over?' he'd do everything in his power to be there.

"His love for Kelly is genuine."

Rarely, Lee says, do he and Kelly talk about Kelly's cancer, although Harrison Melton did recall one key piece of advice.

"Don't let cancer dictate your life," Harrison Melton says Lee told his son. "You're alive, you're blessed. Keep moving forward."

Melton's most recent visit to Lexington occurred during the last weekend of February, when the school hosted a 24-hour dance marathon called "DanceBlue."

The event—which raised more than $1.6 million for pediatric cancer research—began Saturday, Feb. 27. But with Kentucky playing at Vanderbilt that day, Lee was unable to attend until Sunday morning.

Still, Lee made his presence felt by having an artist etch the letters "FTK"—DanceBlue's logo, which stands for "For the Kids"—on the black Jordans he wore during the game. Lee and Strong also had the man custom-design a pair of Star Wars shoes. Strong presented them to Kelly as the marathon kicked off. When Lee arrived shortly after 10 a.m. the next morning, Kelly sprinted toward him and thanked him with a hug.

"I'm not even going to wear them," Kelly says of the shoes. "I'm just going to put them in a glass case so I can look at them every day."

Less than one hour before the end of the event, Lisa Melton took the microphone, thanked all the participants and then revealed that, after more than three years of chemo, hair loss, hospital trips and stress, Kelly's cancer will be in remission following one last spinal tap on March 26.

It was a powerful, tear-inducing moment, and as Lisa spoke, Strong, Foster and a host of others who have offered support during the journey stood by her side on stage.

Lee, however, had departed 30 minutes earlier for a team meeting.

"We wanted Marcus to be up there because he's been a huge part of this fight," Lisa said later that day. "But just because he wasn't on that stage doesn't mean he wasn't thinking about us."

Indeed he was.

As beneficial as he's been in Kelly's life, Lee says the relationship has also had an impact on him.

Lee's Kentucky basketball career didn't begin like he'd hoped. He averaged 2.4 points as a freshman and 2.6 points as a sophomore, when he was primarily used as a role player off the bench. As promising as he looked at times, Lee wasn't able to earn consistent minutes behind first-round NBA draft picks Julius Randle, Willie Cauley-Stein and Karl-Anthony Towns.

Opportunities have increased for Lee this season. He's started 20 of Kentucky's 31 games and leads the team in rebounding (6.5) and blocks (1.7) per game. Still, unlike his highly touted predecessors, Lee is limited offensively and isn't viewed as a future first-round draft pick. Considered a potential second-round pick in 2017, he will likely return for his senior season, a rarity for players recruited by Calipari.

"He's made huge strides this year," Calipari says, "but there is still so much more he can do."

The situation would be difficult for any athlete, especially a McDonald's All-American who entered college with hopes of developing into an NBA player.

Thanks to Kelly—and so many of the

other people he's encountered during his service work—Lee has managed to keep a level head.

"Kentucky is the best place in the world to play basketball," Lee says. "But you have such huge expectations. If you have a bad game, it's on you. You're always thinking, 'How can I fix it?' You're always worrying about how you can do better and how you can help your team out more.

"Hanging out with Kelly gives me a fresh start. You forget about everything for a while, because you realize there are people out there with bigger issues than your own. When I get back on the court after being with him, I'm overly energetic. I'm happy. I'm ready to keep going."

Lee pauses.

"Kelly," he says, "has done a lot more for me than I've done for him."

The first weekend in April—just days after the national championship in Houston—Lee will board a plane and fly to Phoenix, where he'll be the SEC's male representative in the NCAA Leadership Forum.

Kentucky initially wanted to avoid nominating a spring-sport athlete for the conference because of their busy schedules. But Lee insisted that he wanted the opportunity.

Even if it meant potentially hopping on a plane less than 48 hours after returning from the Final Four.

"I keep hearing about all of these things he's doing," Lee's mother says. "Most of this stuff I'd have never known about if I didn't read the paper or get on the Internet. He just doesn't talk about it."

As reluctant as he's been to discuss his good deeds, Lee now realizes how his story could impact others.

"I'm hoping it'll have a domino effect, so that other people will start doing things, too," he says. "It's really not that hard. Just by smiling or saying 'hi' you can change someone's day."

Or even someone's life.

That's certainly been the case with Kelly Melton, whose father scoffed at a recent Internet column that suggested Kentucky's one-and-done culture was "ruining college basketball."

"I look at Marcus," Harrison says, "and I think, 'How is this ruining college basketball?' These kids do so much in the community that people know nothing about. For someone to make that statement..."

Harrison shakes his head as his wife interjects. "They're not ruining college basketball," Lisa says. "They're creating a new generation of kids who are committed to bettering our communities and using

their influence to help people. When times are tough, they encourage you and cheer for you during your fight.

"Just like we cheer for them."

Post Whisperer: The man who rebuilt Skal Labissiere

By: Kyle Tucker| The Courier-Journal| March 10, 2016

LEXINGTON, Ky. — When Skal Labissiere pulled that Lazarus act last week, bolting back to life long after his freshman season at Kentucky had been declared dead, he just kept thanking assistant coach Kenny Payne. When it comes to big men, Payne apparently has healing hands.

"I spent a lot of time with him," Labissiere said. "He's definitely been on my side the whole year, pushing me every day, and that's all I can ask for. I'm very thankful for him."

The magic usually kicks in before the final week of the regular season, but it always eventually does. When he was recruiting them, Payne gave post players Anthony Davis, Nerlens Noel, Julius Randle, Trey Lyles, Willie Cauley-Stein and Karl-Anthony Towns — all of whom became NBA lottery picks in the last four years — the same message.

"There are going to be times that I'm going to be more committed than you're going to be, and I'm OK with it, because at the end of the day, I'm never letting go," Payne said. "When you give me 100 percent effort, I'm going to find a way to beg for 110. It may be from me hugging you. It may be me threatening to kill you, but I'm doing it out of love. Because success is not optional."

Labissiere really put that theory to the test this season, though. The 6-foot-11 forward with a smooth jump shot came to Kentucky hyped as another potential No. 1 overall pick, like Davis and Towns before him, but fell out of the starting lineup after 11 games and nearly disappeared altogether during Southeastern Conference play.

He averaged 4.1 points and 2.4 rebounds during his first 16 league games and was widely written off as a bust. During a particularly low moment, Labissiere said something that stopped Payne in his tracks: It's like I'm the only one who has been through this.

"And I had to take a step back and say, 'Wow, he really doesn't know,'" Payne said. "He didn't recognize that Anthony Davis didn't walk in the door just dominating. Even though Karl talked to him about it, he didn't really understand that Karl struggled

in the beginning. And as hard as he thinks (coach John Calipari) is pushing him, Cal was all over Karl Towns."

No one remembers now that Davis jumped from 11.6 points per game through his first 13 at Kentucky to 15.4 over his final 27 and blossomed in a matter of months from a good player to one of the all-time greats who dominated the 2012 national championship game.

It's easy to forget that Towns also surged from eight points per game through his first 20 with the Wildcats to 12.7 over his final 19 and transformed from a role player on last year's loaded team to the guy who carried UK into the Final Four.

"So I had to explain to Skal what Anthony went through," Payne said, "how Coach Cal told the team: 'We are not throwing Anthony Davis the ball when there's a defender on his back. We're not. We'll throw him an alley-oop, but we're not throwing him the ball until he gets in the gym and works on hooks and jump shots and turnarounds and step-throughs and drop steps and right-hand hooks and left-hand. He's gotta prove that.' I had to explain to Skal the process the other great players went through."

That process includes lots of one-on-one time with Payne, who puts Labissiere through extra 20- or 30-minute workouts before afternoon practices and again at night whenever there's time within the NCAA-allowed 20 hours per week of training. These short sessions are legendary for both their intensity and effectiveness.

Payne, a 6-foot-8 former University of Louisville star and first-round draft pick, likes to run his big men hard before the technical work begins. He wants to know they can perform while struggling to breathe. Once their lungs are burning, he pummels them — or has them pummeled by student managers who whack them with heavy pads — while they try to grab rebounds and get off shots.

"He gives us such a mental toughness," said Towns, who is now running away with Rookie of the Year in the pros, "that when we go to the NBA, it's unmatched by anyone else because of everything you have to go through at Kentucky and in his private workouts."

Payne has become the Wildcats' post whisperer, their "secret weapon," Towns said. Calipari came to Kentucky with a reputation for recruiting and developing elite point guards — which he has validated here with a parade of pivots that includes John Wall, Brandon Knight, Marquis Teague, Andrew Harrison and now Tyler Ulis.

But thanks in part to Payne, the Cats could also now be considered Big Man U.

"He was very valuable," said Davis, who is now one of the five best players on the planet. "He started working with me when I first got to Kentucky on my post moves. Left hook, right hook, even my jump shot. Everything. Even now, to this day, I'll call him – 'What did you see? What do I need to get better at?' – and he's always there. That's kind of where it all started for me, getting that post work."

Davis calls Payne "Uncle Kenny," and isn't surprised that Towns and Labissiere now credit him with their development, too.

"That's what he does. He wants people to get better," Davis said. "Even in summertime, I go back and try to get some work in with him, because I love his workouts, and he always pushes me."

Calipari, who would love to see the 49-year-old Payne get his first head-coaching shot soon, is quick to point out that he doesn't just work with the big men. He's a full-service coach – who led UK to a blowout victory at South Carolina after Calipari was ejected in fewer than three minutes – but the giants are obviously his specialty.

"He has a great relationship with these kids. He doesn't BS them. He doesn't tell them what they want to hear," Calipari said. "He tells them the truth. That's one. And two, he's extremely hard on them. He is harder on them than I am. He accepts nothing but their best.

"We're not here to placate. We're not here to alibi. We're not here to enable. We're here to move you from Point A to Point B to Point C. We've done this. There's a process to it."

Sometimes, though, that process stalls. About a month ago – he can't remember the exact game – Payne was sure Labissiere was on the verge of a breakthrough. He was so excited, he couldn't keep it to himself.

"I went to the kid and I said to him, 'Skal, tonight you're going to have a special night,'" Payne said. "I felt it, because I saw him run, I saw him fight the workouts, fight through it even though it's hard and he thinks he can't go anymore. I saw him embrace the rebounding drills. I thought it was that day, that game. And I was absolutely – I can't lie to you – I was devastated, because I expected him to get it, because I knew he'd done the work to get it, and he had a bad game.

"That helped me realize that it's not about what we're doing; it's about how he perceives it. He'll get it, but he's going to get it on his terms and in his time, and

once he gets it and sees the success, he'll build on it."

That day finally came last Tuesday at Florida, when Labissiere broke out of his slump with 11 points and a career-high eight rebounds in just 15 minutes. Then he backed that up with a jaw-dropping 18 points, nine rebounds, six blocks and two assists in Saturday's regular-season finale against LSU.

He outplayed Ben Simmons, the Tigers' freshman All-American with whom Labissiere was often compared before the season started. Their college experiences have since differed dramatically, but maybe that's not such a bad thing for Kentucky's resurgent rookie.

"I gave him an analogy: How would you feel if you walked into college basketball the way Ben Simmons did, absolutely dominating it?" Payne said. "Would you appreciate the process? By you struggling and learning and seeing that it's not as easy as you thought it was, you should walk away from this situation knowing there's nothing that you can't do."

Poythress through the years
By: Josh Ellis| Kentucky Kernel| March 10, 2016

When he stepped into the Wildcat Coal Lodge for the first time, the 2012 Class AAA Tennessee Mr. Basketball probably expected a one-year stay. Now, four years later, he finds himself walking that same 30-foot saunter from the Lodge to the Joe Craft Center.

But in just a few short months, Alex Poythress will no longer make the leisurely stroll from his dorm to UK's practice facility. He will no longer get to "enjoy" Camp Cal with those he has made unbreakable bonds with, and he won't get a daily glance at the eight National Championship banners hanging on the wall of the Joe Craft Center.

What the Clarksville, Tennessee, native does get to continue doing, however, is finish an already unforgettable legacy at one of college basketball's most prestigious programs.

It will not (and should not) matter how far this year's Cats squad goes in the NCAA Tournament: Poythress has already done his due diligence. He's not like any one of the other 24 scholarship players in the John Calipari era — that alone should be enough to engrave No. 22 as a UK great.

Poythress has made the Academic All-SEC every year since he enrolled at UK, he's earned his undergraduate degree in business marketing in just three years, and

he's the only one of the 25 total scholarship players in the Calipari era to reach his senior year.

The only piece missing to an already impressive resume is a National Championship — something only one Calipari-coached team has accomplished. The 6-foot-8 forward has a chance to change that number before all is said and done.

In his first year at UK, many expected another solid season from the defending National Champs, despite the fact that seven players on the 2011-12 team departed to pursue professional careers. But in the team's first game, the Cats barely edged out a Maryland team thanks to a lift off the bench from Jarrod Polson. Poythress posted eight points and seven rebounds in his first game as a Cat.

Then UK took on Duke in Atlanta — a game the Cats lost — but the emergence of Poythress nearly masked the defeat and kept fans hopeful for another deep tournament run. The guy who tallied 20 points and eight rebounds against the Blue Devils was the same guy NBA Scouts had in their list of projected first-rounders.

The season ended up taking a turn for the worse, as Poythress fought through inconsistency his freshman year, and UK, after missing out on the NCAA Tournament, was upset by Robert Morris in the first round of the NIT.

He could have joined teammates Archie Goodwin and Nerlens Noel and fulfilled his dream to become an NBA player after one year of college, but Poythress wanted to stay in Lexington.

"It wasn't too hard. Every year you have to make a decision whether you stay or go," Poythress said. "Decisions are made, I'm content with them. I feel like I made them for the best reasons, and I'm just moving on from there."

His decision almost paid off the next year.

UK slid from No. 1 to No. 25 throughout the season, but a tweak before the postseason led the Cats all the way to AT&T Stadium and a chance at a National Championship.

In the Final Four against Wisconsin, Poythress helped contain the Badger's Sam Dekker while scoring eight points and grabbing seven rebounds of his own. Then he watched teammate Aaron Harrison drain a go-ahead three in the final seconds to advance the Cats to the National Championship game — one of Poythress' favorite memories at UK.

"(Aaron) had just hit one the game before and hit it again. Emotions, you know? Then we get to play in the national

title game," Poythress said. "Just making all your dreams come true, like what you dream of when you're a little kid. You always dream of playing for a title and we had a chance to do that that year. I mean, this year we're trying to do the same, but that year we were actually in the title game, just came up short."

Once again Poythress decided to stay after the season ended, and once again he came up just shy of reaching another National Championship. Just eight games into his junior year, he suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee during practice and missed the rest of the season.

He was forced to watch his team make history with 38 straight wins, only to then observe Dekker hit shot after shot and bury UK's dream of a perfect season.

Now he's here. Poythress is at the end of a meandering journey filled with ups and downs. He's recorded career highs and career lows in this season alone. He's even had his Senior Day, which made Calipari reflect on what Poythress has grown to be.

"But the great thing for Alex, he graduated in three years. He's been a part of this program and seen all the highs and lows of it," Calipari said after UK's win over LSU. "He's made unbelievable friends and he's going to be a professional basketball player. It's kind of neat to see and neat to see how much he's grown."

His time wearing the blue and white is coming to an end. Poythress will have one final ride to earn himself a National Championship, though his tenure at UK has almost been just as rewarding.

"It's been long, but it's been great; some of the best memories of my life," Poythress said. "I wouldn't trade it for the world."

So whether it be late March or early April when Poythress gets off the team bus following another NCAA Tournament, he'll step onto the pavement and make his way past the bronze Joe B. Hall statue and into the Lodge.

His journey at UK will be officially over, but his new journey will officially begin.

Poythress' 3-Point Barrage Key in Wildcats' Rout of Alabama
By: Metz Camfield| CoachCal.com| March 11, 2016

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Dominique Hawkins has played at Kentucky with Alex Poythress for three seasons now, but Friday night at Bridgestone Arena was a different Poythress than he had ever seen.

Poythress was a beast – nothing new

there – but the manner in which he was "beasting" the opponent was quite new.

"Alex, I've never actually seen him shoot like that since I've been at Kentucky," Hawkins said. "He shot excellent tonight and he played outstanding for us."

The Clarksville, Tenn., native entered Friday's Southeastern Conference Tournament quarterfinal game against Alabama with two made 3-pointers on just 16 attempts. Against the Crimson Tide, Poythress doubled his season-long production with a career-high four treys. Poythress had never even attempted four 3s before in his career.

As a team, Kentucky (24-8) hit a season-high 13 3-pointers en route to rolling over the Crimson Tide for the third time this season, 85-59, and advancing to the SEC Tournament semifinals at 3:30 p.m. ET on Saturday. There, the Cats will face Georgia, which overcame a double-digit deficit in a 65-64 win over South Carolina.

"If we're shooting the ball well," UK head coach John Calipari said, "we'll be a difficult team for anybody to play."

Alabama (18-14) is disappointed in the loss, but it has to be ecstatic about not having to face the 6-foot-8 UK senior again.

After scoring 20 points on 7-of-8 shooting and grabbing seven rebounds Friday night, Poythress has now averaged 19.7 points and 5.0 rebounds in three games against Alabama this season, missing just four shots out of 24 field-goal attempts. Two of his three 20-point outings this season have come against Alabama.

"We need to start saying that (we're playing Alabama every game), definitely, because I don't what it is but he always plays great against Alabama," Hawkins said.

"He has been playing good against Alabama, but like I'm saying Alex just gotta play like that every time," Isaiah Briscoe said. "I don't know what he did that made him play that way, but if Alex plays like that every game that'll help us a lot."

The fact that Poythress went off against Alabama wasn't the surprise, it's how he did it that caught everyone off guard.

In the two teams' first matchup in Tuscaloosa, Ala., Poythress went for a career-high 25 points on 8-of-10 shooting, and grabbed seven rebounds. Then, when the two teams met at Rupp Arena, Poythress returned to the court after missing five games due to a knee injury and scored 14 points on 5-of-6 shooting in just 17 minutes. He attempted just one 3-pointer in both those games combined. Friday he attempted five 3s.

"We're hoping he doesn't think he's a shooter now," Ulis said. "We need him in the post."

He did work there too. Poythress was 3 for 3 inside the arc, making post moves, going up strong and finishing through contact. He also pulled down seven boards, including four offensive rebounds, his highest total since grabbing six against Eastern Kentucky on Dec. 9.

"I thought Alex was outstanding, not just that he made jump shots," Coach Cal said. "He made free throws. He was scoring around the basket. He rebounded."

The 3-pointers perhaps are a product of his injuries.

Poythress tore the ACL in his left knee in December of his junior season, and then missed five games in February this season with a minor right knee injury. In both instances, Poythress was immobile for a bit, but he was able to work on one part of his game in particular.

"When Alex is hurt all he does is just shoot from the 3-point line because he can't move when he's hurt," Marcus Lee said. "So that's that product of not being able to do nothing else but just shoot."

With Kentucky now fully healthy, the Wildcats have strung together arguably their best three-game stretch of the year with nine-, 17- and 26-point victories at Florida, against LSU and versus Alabama, respectively.

If Kentucky could get production from Poythress on Saturday similar to Friday night's performance, the Wildcats look like they could be one of the most dangerous teams in the NCAA Tournament field.

"I mean, every game I step on the court, I try to have a big game," Poythress said. "Sometimes it happens. Sometimes it don't, you know? But everybody was just great offensively. We played a complete game today. We're just looking to build on it (Saturday)."

Certainly nobody is expecting another 3-point barrage from Poythress again in the semifinals. However, if Poythress does make a 3, his teammates expect improved form in their now-famous bow-and-arrow celebration.

"We need to teach him how to do it right," Lee said.

"We definitely don't expect Alex to do something like that," Hawkins said. "He's supposed to be the mature person on the team. It's fun though that he's doing stuff like that. It brings out the best of Alex."

UK bench hits mark with celebrations

By: John Hale| The Courier-Journal| March 11, 2016

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – UK reserves EJ Floreal, Mychal Mulder and Jonny David find themselves firmly outside of the primary rotation heading into postseason play, but the trio were still among the stars of Kentucky's 85-59 win over Alabama in the Southeastern Conference tournament on Friday.

In a season where Monmouth's bench became known for its choreographed celebrations, the UK reserves have begun to have their own fun. The act started in the regular-season finale against LSU when Jamal Murray's now-routine bow-and-arrow celebration after a made 3-pointer ended with Floreal pretending to have been shot by the imaginary arrow. As David supported Floreal's limp body, Mulder then pretended to bring him back to life with a defibrillator.

"Most teams you watch and the bench sometimes isn't into it," Floreal said. "It's just really boring to watch, but we just have a lot of fun and we just try to enjoy the process and the fun. We don't have unlimited time together. We just enjoy all the moments we have."

In the SEC tournament opener, the celebrations expanded to include variations where Floreal pulled an arrow out of his shoulder, Mulder caught an arrow and broke it over his leg and David took a shot in the chest after Floreal ducked out of the way.

All the UK players credit Floreal with inventing the celebration. Floreal gives the nod to Dallas Mavericks guard Wesley Matthews.

"I like how he plays," Floreal said. "He shoots the bow and arrow after every 3. I just said, 'I'm going to bring it to college.'"

The bench players actually did not include Murray in the planning of the celebrations. Floreal simply instructed the Wildcats' star guard to make sure he shot the arrow in their direction after a made 3-pointer.

Then Murray gets to be surprised like everyone else about what comes next.

"I just know my job is to shoot the shot and shoot EJ with the arrow," Murray said.

UK's bench has had plenty of opportunities to prepare for Murray's shooting.

The star freshman guard tied a school record against Alabama with a 3-pointer in his 32nd consecutive game. He already holds the UK freshman record with 104 made 3s and is closing in on the NCAA freshman record (122) and UK single-season record (117). He has scored at least 20 points in 11 consecutive games.

While UK's bench players are prepared for Murray's 3-point barrage, even they were caught off guard when normally stoic senior forward Alex Poythress fired off a bow-and-arrow celebration after hitting one of his season-high four 3-pointers against the Crimson Tide.

"The last guy I'd expect to do it is Tyler (Ulis), but Alex is for sure up there," Floreal said. "He's very reserved during the game unless he's yelling after a dunk. That type of celebration caught me off guard, but I'll be ready next time."

With the growing notoriety associated with the celebrations, "next time" appears almost certain. Floreal even left the door open for the celebrations to expand from bow and arrows if other players come up with their own moves.

Floreal made sure to clear his idea with John Calipari, telling the UK head coach if it became a distraction he would stop.

"He said, 'No, I love it. I love that you're having fun,'" Floreal said.

Fun is the operative word for a Kentucky team that appears to be clicking heading into NCAA tournament play.

Calipari's teams have built a reputation for playing their best basketball in March, and the current squad appears to be no exception to that trend. That success should bread future opportunities for celebration, but there are some boundaries.

Would Murray consider shooting Calipari?

"I'm not going to test my waters yet," he said with a laugh.

Perhaps the next logical step for the celebration will occur when Floreal gets a chance to return the favor. He made a late cameo in the blowout win over Alabama, but Calipari directed his players to hold the ball until the clock expired on Floreal's only possession instead of giving the former walk-on a chance at his own 3-pointer.

If that chance comes and Floreal converts the 3, expect the biggest celebration yet.

"I'm not just shooting Jamal," Floreal Said. "I'm shooting Jamal, Alex, Tyler, Isaiah (Briscoe), Jonny, Tai (Wynyard), Kenny Payne, Coach Cal, everybody. There's going to be like 15 arrows."

Murray more than just marksmanship

By: Tim Sullivan| The Courier-Journal| March 12, 2016

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Jamal Murray's shirt said "UNSTOPPABLE," and his game says the exaggeration was slight.

In a college basketball season of a capricious character, Murray has been a constant. He is a go-to guy as a freshman guard, with production so steady as to suggest an assembly line. His 26 points Saturday afternoon marked the 12th straight game he had scored at least 20 for the Kentucky Wildcats and revealed a range of skills that make him exceedingly difficult to guard.

Known best for his long-range shooting, and for his simulated archery following successful 3-pointers, Murray was more than just marksmanship in UK's 93-80 Southeastern Conference comeback victory against Georgia. He made all five of his shots inside the 3-point arc and drew enough fouls to earn eight free throws.

He was, by his own estimate, "efficient." He is, by any reckoning, remarkable.

Consider: With one game remaining in the SEC tournament and as many as six more to play in the NCAA tournament, Murray has passed Brandon Knight as Kentucky's leading freshman scorer and is closing in on Steph Curry's NCAA freshman record of 122 3-pointers. Murray made three shots from behind the arc Saturday against Georgia, raising his season total to 107, and has been shooting so sparingly of late that it almost appears as if he is determined to raise the degree of his difficulty.

After dropping 19 points in Saturday's first half, Murray attempted only two shots from the field during the first 16 minutes of the second period. Prone to some ill-advised attempts early in the season, he has become increasingly selective as the season has progressed. He is a volume scorer who can make do on rationed opportunities.

"I'm not trying to look for my shot," he said. "If I'm open, I'm open, but I'm not going to try to force it. I'm not really trying to score 20 points. I'm just trying to win the game and whatever my team needs me to do. ... I know I can go one-on-one if I want to, but I'm trying to win this game, make winning plays, trying to stay within myself and this team."

If miming the bow-and-arrow bit after made 3-pointers creates the impression of an over-the-top egotist, Murray's game is a study in restraint. He lingered on the court during a prolonged second-half tirade by John Calipari on Saturday, moving between his coach and the officials at one point, maintaining his poise as the Wildcats struggled to overcome a 10-point deficit.

"I didn't want him to overreact," Murray explained. "I try to get everybody to

stay calm."

Among the benefits of extraordinary talent is the confidence that momentary obstacles can be overcome. Though Georgia played brilliantly for 30 minutes, compensating for its tournament fatigue with platoon substitution and shooting 61.3 percent from the field in the first half, Kentucky saw that statistic as unsustainable.

"I love the fact that they shot 60 percent in the first half and didn't miss any shots and we were hanging around. ... " Calipari said, ticking off a series of pleasant talking points. "I love how my guards played. I probably played them too many minutes, but I love how they played."

Murray and Tyler Ulis both logged 39 minutes Saturday and accounted for 51 of Kentucky's 93 points. But the Wildcats showed better balance in the second half and Murray showed a willingness to share the spotlight.

"I think we're a more confident team," Murray said. "Before we were just going through the games, trying to get the win. Now we're playing with aggression, more determination."

If they're not quite unstoppable, they're getting closer.

Briscoe sparks Kentucky by Georgia into SEC title game
By: Kyle Tucker| The Courier-Journal| March 12, 2016

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Because he shares a backcourt with All-Americans Tyler Ulis and Jamal Murray, it can be hard for freshman guard Isaiah Briscoe to get much attention. Especially on a day like Saturday, when those two combined for 51 points in a come-from-behind, 93-80 win over Georgia in the Southeastern Conference semifinals.

Unless, of course, he finds himself on the wrong end of a very loud, public John Calipari tirade. That happened with about 16 minutes to go against the Bulldogs, after the coach benched Briscoe for consecutive turnovers on fast breaks.

When his replacement, Charles Matthews, immediately poked away a steal and battled alongside Derek Willis for a key offensive rebound that led to a foul, Calipari got theatrical. He made a big show of hugging Matthews on the sideline during Willis' free throws, then marched in front of Briscoe on the bench and unleashed a screaming, gesticulating fit.

For all the wrong reasons, all eyes were on him. Message received.

"Cal does what he can to try to light a flame when you're kind of dozing off, so it kind of set him up to be ready," junior forward Marcus Lee said. "Zay, in the second half, put us to a new level, a level we needed to be at."

Shortly after Briscoe checked back into the game with 14:03 to play, UK found itself down by eight points — but he helped launch a rousing resurgence. His driving layup for a three-point play woke up a huge Cats contingent at Bridgestone Arena. His offensive rebound and contested putback with 8:16 remaining gave Kentucky its first lead in more than 17 minutes.

"He's been impactful in all the games this year," senior forward Alex Poythress said, "but he turned the game around today."

Briscoe sank a jumper, drove and dished to Lee for a slam, kicked to Ulis for a 3-pointer. He produced seven points, three rebounds and two assists in the 13 minutes after Calipari's outburst. The Cats led by 10 when he checked out for good with 1:14 left.

His coach playfully pushed him up the sideline as if to say: See what happens when you listen? But what in the world had he actually said to Briscoe earlier in the game?

"Very private conversation," Calipari said, smirking.

"As a coach, he demands the best out of you. That's all he did," explained Briscoe, who finished with 12 points, seven boards, two assists and a steal. "I appreciate him for pushing me (out of) being somebody that obviously I didn't want to be at the time in the first half. But in the second half, he got the best out of me, and I performed."

Calipari said he didn't congratulate Matthews so demonstrably as a means to motivate Briscoe, but he did admit that as UK's depth has grown over the course of this season, "the bench is our best friend."

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He asked Briscoe at the postgame po-

dium whether he appreciated the coach's button-pushing in real time.

"Now that the game is over, yes," Briscoe said. "But at the moment, no."

The Wildcats very much appreciated his contribution, though, which also included quite a bit of lockdown defense that wasn't represented in the box score. He wasn't nearly as flashy as Ulis and Murray — never is — but Briscoe helped cool off a white-hot Georgia team, which shot 61.3 percent in the first half but only 34.6 in the second.

"The things I do," Briscoe said, "a lot of them don't show up on the stat sheet. Whatever the team needs me to do to win, I'll do it. (Calipari) just wanted to see the energy, the defense, the enthusiasm — just being into the game. He thought that I wasn't doing that in the first half, so he said what he said to me."

Murray, the precocious freshman star who spent the first half of this season driving Calipari mad with too-fancy dribbling and off-balance trick shots, is familiar with the coach's tough love. It has slowly but surely transformed Kentucky (25-8) into a Final Four contender that will play Texas A&M for the SEC Tournament title Sunday.

"He's done that to me a couple times," Murray said. "I know how Isaiah felt, and I know what Coach meant. It's just his learning process. We're growing as a team, individually and as a group still. He's always on top of you, always smothering you with hard talk and trying to get you going, trying to take your confidence down so that you build it back up.

"He did that to Isaiah today, and it worked."

Kentucky exacts revenge on Texas A&M to win SEC tournament
By: Zach Ellis| Sports Illustrated| March 13, 2016

NASHVILLE — When the buzzer sounded, Jamal Murray had only one place to go: center court, where Murray's Kentucky teammates viciously swarmed the freshman sharpshooter, knocking him to the ground atop the SEC logo. Confetti sprinkled from the sky in Nashville's Bridgestone Arena while the Wildcats mobbed one another, a raucous Big Blue crowd egging them on with every passing moment.

But soon, the celebration shifted to a bona-fide dance circle. First up: Reserve guard E.J. Floreal, who began gyrating like a well-lubricated groomsman, one who routinely steals the show at wedding

receptions. Later, it was Murray's turn. The freshman offered his own quick before launching into his now-famous celebration: An invisible bow-and-arrow, pulled over his right shoulder and shot directly into the chest of Floreal, who dramatically tumbled backward into a pile of willing Wildcats.

The celebration, impromptu as it was, could only be described one way.

"It was perfect," said Kentucky forward Marcus Lee.

Kentucky deserved a moment to revel after launching an arrow into top-seeded Texas A&M, whom the Wildcats beat 82–77 to win the SEC tournament title on Sunday. The result secured Kentucky's 29th tournament championship, by far the most of any SEC program.

But perfect is a word that has a new meaning to Kentucky this season. Last year, the Cats streaked through their conference bracket and entered Selection Sunday with an unblemished, head-turning 34–0 record. That group's season, which had been defined by its historical pursuit of perfection, ended in a deflating loss to top-seeded Wisconsin in the Final Four.

These Wildcats, however, are not perfect, something head coach John Calipari knows well. But that doesn't mean Kentucky can't author a different end result. On Sunday, another SEC title served as a much-needed feather in the Cats' cap heading into the Big Dance. After an up-and-down season, this Kentucky team has reverted back into the program the rest of the country should fear in March.

"Individually," Calipari said, "guys are becoming the best version of themselves."

That fairytale ending almost wasn't thanks to a stingy and relentless Texas A&M team. The Aggies hit the throttle all day against Kentucky, building a 38–34 lead by halftime despite the Cats hitting 52% of their first-half shots. But Kentucky fought back, and with 4:01 to play Murray splashed a three-pointer to give his team its largest lead of the game, 67–60. The Big Blue faithful began to drown out any hope of an A&M rally.

"We knew we were basically playing in Lexington in Rupp Arena," Aggies' coach Billy Kennedy said. "We needed to control the game and control the tempo." With Texas A&M trailing 71–66 with 1:43 to play, guard Danuel House scored the final five points of regulation, including a tying jumper with 19 ticks left. Kentucky's Tyler Ulis clanked a potential game-winner as time expired to send the matchup to overtime, which sparked a feeling of SEC

déjà vu.

On Feb. 20, Texas A&M beat Kentucky, 79–77, in overtime in College Station. That loss ultimately cost Kentucky a No. 1 seed in the SEC tournament, and Sunday's game was a chance for the Wildcats to exact some revenge. And they did so with two of the biggest shots of their season.

First, a clutch three-pointer from Derek Willis broke a 75–75 tie with 1:01 to play in overtime. One possession later, Murray delivered a true dagger: A last-ditch, pull-up three near the end of the shot clock. Murray's shot pushed Kentucky ahead 81–75 with 15 seconds remaining, and as the freshman joyously backpedaled down the court, he launched—what else?—another make-believe arrow in the direction of the Wildcats' bench.

Murray, along with a top-tier effort from SEC player of the year Ulis (30 points, five assists), kept Kentucky from heading into Selection Sunday with a sour taste in its mouth.

"It's a good feeling," Murray said afterward. "We came together as a team, and we fought hard all season. It's been a journey."

That journey has looked radically different than last season, when perfection was a legitimate goal for the Wildcats. This year, Kentucky looked shockingly un-Kentucky-like in nonconference losses to Ohio State and UCLA, as well as head-scratching setbacks against Auburn, Tennessee and LSU in SEC play. Highly touted freshman Skal Labissiere spent much of the year struggling to live up to his five-star rating. Meanwhile, the departure of seven players to the NBA draft seemingly shook the Wildcats' once-proud chemistry. An inconsistent Kentucky squad, one that could hardly match last year's suffocating defense, often looked the part of a conference pretender.

None of that seemed to matter in Nashville on Sunday. That's where Kentucky players basked in a locker-room celebration on the ground floor of Bridgestone Arena. They posed for selfies with the SEC championship trophy, pieces of basketball net hanging from their hats. The biggest piece of net hung from the neck of Isaiah Briscoe, a flashy freshman guard who scored 10 points against Texas A&M. Briscoe remains unfamiliar with the heartbreak of losing in tournament play, but as his teammates celebrated around him, he seemed to recognize what lies ahead for Kentucky.

"We just need to take this momentum and go game-by-game," Briscoe said.

Kentucky, which earned a No. 4 seed in

the East region in the NCAA tournament and will face No. 13 Stony Brook, used the SEC tourney to put its lackluster regular season behind it. Now the Cats have a chance to re-write that script in the Big Dance. And if they perform like they did in Nashville, Murray had better pack plenty of arrows.

Ulis leads Kentucky to OT victory over Texas A&M

By: Jerry Tipton| The Herald-Leader| March 13, 2016

NASHVILLE - A basketball axiom was on display in the Southeastern Conference Tournament championship game Sunday. Star players must step up in order to win big games. It's something to keep in mind entering college basketball's grandest stage: the NCAA Tournament.

Tyler Ulis personified that belief in leading Kentucky to an 82-77 overtime victory over Texas A&M.

The battle of regular-season co-champions lived up to the hype. Neither team led by more than five points through the first 36 minutes. Or as A&M glue guy Alex Caruso said, the game was "overtime-worthy."

Ulis willed Kentucky to the victory that avenged an overtime loss at A&M in February.

In a stretch of more than 10 minutes in the second half, Ulis had a hand in nine straight scores for Kentucky. He made five shots. He assisted on three other baskets. He hit two free throws.

On the defensive end during this time, Ulis made two steals and forced another turnover when he dropped down to double-team big man Tyler Davis in the low spot.

"He has no fear," teammate Marcus Lee said. "He takes on all challenges, and that's what you need in a leader. Someone that will lead you to the promised land."

A three-pointer by Jamal Murray broke Ulis' monopoly and gave Kentucky a 67-60 lead with 4:01 remaining.

A&M refused to lose without a fight. The Aggies' stars, Danuel House and Jalen Jones, also answered the big-game challenge. They scored all but four of A&M's points in the final 15-plus minutes.

House's floater, heavily contested by Ulis, tied it at 67-67 with 18.7 seconds left.

Ulis — who else? — tried to win it for Kentucky. But his off-balanced shot from about 12 feet bounced off the rim. That sent UK and A&M into overtime for the fourth time in the last five meetings.

In overtime, Ulis had a hand in Ken-

tucky taking the lead for good. His pass set up a Derek Willis three-pointer from the right wing that put the Cats ahead 78-75 with 1:01 left.

As UK Coach John Calipari explained, Ulis called the play for Willis "because they were just playing Tyler so tight."

After House missed, Jamal Murray — another UK star for the big moments — swished another three-pointer from the left wing that meant victory.

Ulis, who played every minute of a game for the seventh time, scored a career-high 30 points.

"When I feel like we're not getting anything going, I just try to get in a rhythm," Ulis said. "With Jamal, they were fouling him, denying him. I just try to make things happen for us."

House, who led A&M with a career-high 32 points, saluted Ulis.

"He's a floor general," House said. "He guides and leads his troops, and my hat goes off to him."

When asked how a player who is only 5-foot-9 can have such a big impact, House smiled.

"Height doesn't have anything to do with it," he said. "He's a little man. But he has a big heart."

Kentucky, which won its 29th SEC Tournament championship (not counting the one vacated in 1988), improved to 26-8.

Texas A&M will also take a 26-8 record into the NCAA Tournament.

Neither team led by more than seven points in a competitive first half.

Kentucky got off to a good start. In what appeared to be a set play, the Cats scored the game's first points (and maybe unleashed a heretofore unseen maneuver) when Skal Labissiere threw a lob that Murray dunked.

UK led by as many as four points three times early. But mounting fouls complicated the game.

Ulis, who had 11 first-half points, tied it at 28-28 with 5:26 left by hitting a three-pointer in transition.

But House and Jones, who scored 11 straight points in one stretch, kept A&M ahead. The pair combined for 19 points in the first half.

In plays that remind older UK fans of Bobby Joe Hill of Texas Western circa 1966 championship game, Ulis twice stole the ball from Caruso.

Ulis converted both times. His pull-up jumper put Kentucky ahead 46-45 with 15:19 left. It was UK's first lead since 18-17.

Then Ulis rolled to a fast-break layup to make the margin three points. A&M called

time with 14:54 left.

An Alex Poythress dunk off a lob from Ulis put Kentucky ahead 50-45 with 14:03 left. That was UK's largest lead to that point.

But A&M scored the next eight points.

Ulis would not allow Kentucky to wilt. He fed Isaiah Briscoe for a layup. He hit a three-pointer as the shot clock expired. He hit a pull-up jumper. He passed to an open Willis in the left corner for a three-pointer.

All came in a five-minute stretch that gave Kentucky a 60-58 lead going into the final 7:32.

Calipari said Ulis' fearlessness makes him well-suited for making clutch plays. It's a familiar role for Ulis.

"It's always been like that," he said.

"Except for last year. That's a team that will never happen again.

"I've been in this position before. I just try to play my game."

Although Calipari said UK's postseason chances will rise or fall depending on how the "bigs" produce, Jones did not agree. A&M's all-SEC player saw Ulis as Kentucky's indispensable player.

"Without him," Jones said, "they wouldn't have many wins."

Tireless Ulis Leads UK to 29th SEC Tournament Title

By: Guy Ramsey | UKathletics.com | March 13, 2016

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — John Calipari's first priority coming to Nashville wasn't winning a championship.

Rather, he coached Kentucky with an eye on the Big Dance next week, not the Southeastern Conference Tournament. The Wildcats -- for the fourth time in Coach Cal's seven seasons and 29th time overall -- won the thing anyway.

"It's a good feeling," Jamal Murray said. "We came together as a team, and we fought hard all season. It's been a journey. We trusted Coach all the way and trusted our point guard. So it's up to them to lead us again."

UK and Texas A&M waged an overtime battle worthy of the SEC Tournament championship game, going back and forth throughout. Steadied by league Player of the Year and now tournament Most Valuable Player Tyler Ulis, the Wildcats added a tournament crown to the regular-season co-championship they shared with the Aggies. Next up, the Cats will learn their draw in the NCAA Tournament Selection Show on Sunday at 5:30 p.m. ET.

"I'm really proud of this basketball team, how much they've improved," Cali-

pari said. "Individually, guys are becoming the best version of themselves."

Ulis – who was on the floor for all 45 minutes – made big play after big play in a game that featured 10 ties and eight lead changes. He poured in a career-high 30 points on 10-of-17 shooting and added five assists, three rebounds and three steals for good measure.

In a surprise to no one, he was named SEC Tournament Most Valuable Player after leading UK to its second comeback from a halftime deficit in as many days and their first two of the season.

"He's big time," said Isaiah Briscoe, who had 10 points, six assists and five rebounds. "He's a big-time point guard. Everybody always talks about, 'He's not big enough, he's not tall enough.' But he has the heart of a lion and he showed it today."

Murray – Ulis' fellow All-American and SEC All-Tournament team honoree – was blanketed by A&M and having an uncharacteristically quiet game most of the way, but he broke out his signature bow and arrow at the most opportune moment. He hit his third 3 of the afternoon in 10 attempts with 15 seconds remaining in overtime to give UK a six-point lead.

"I doubted it was going in, but he didn't," Calipari said. "That's what's good about him."

The make – combined with a Derek Willis 3 on the previous possession – touched off the celebration for the Kentucky fans who painted Bridgestone Arena blue all weekend.

"There was no doubt in my mind I was going to go to Derek Willis that last play," Calipari said. "It was supposed to be the play before, and Tyler went the other way into a pick-and-roll, and I looked at him and said, we're running the drive play, and he drove right at Derek, and Derek threw that dagger."

With four minutes left in regulation, it appeared Murray had delivered another dagger. He buried a 3 with 4:01 remaining that gave UK a seven-point lead that most opponents would have found insurmountable. Not A&M, which bested UK in College Station, Texas, in February.

Behind the brilliant Danuel House – who scored seven points in the final four minutes, including the game-tying jumper with 19 seconds left – the Aggies closed on an 11-4 run to force the extra period. House had 32 points on the day.

In the end, Ulis would not be denied. Though he missed the potential game winner at the end of regulation, Ulis buried a 3 for the first points of overtime and

found Willis for the go-ahead 3 with 1:01 to go.

"He's played three straight days about 40 minutes, and he could probably play another game right now," said Alex Caruso, the Aggie tasked with shadowing Ulis for much of the game. "He's a tremendous athlete. His conditioning is outstanding. I think that helps a lot. When someone doesn't get tired, they can play at their best, and his best is really elite. He's a good player, Player of the Year in the conference, I think rightfully so."

Calipari took his praise a step further.

"I might be biased – I don't think I am – but he should be one of those guys for Player of the Year, if not the guy," Calipari said. "And because he's 5-9, everybody, it's like, how can you do it? But when you look at his numbers and what he's doing, that's the Player of the Year, those numbers. So his heart and his energy that he plays with is just ridiculous. We feed off of it, to be honest with you."

Now UK – in the midst of a five-game winning streak – will do the same in the NCAA Tournament.

"We're just going to keep this momentum going," Briscoe said. "Everybody's clicking. Everybody knows their role. We're at our best right now."

SEC champion Cats riding high heading into NCAA

By: Kyle Tucker | The Courier-Journal | March 13, 2016

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – If momentum matters in March, Kentucky is suddenly as dangerous as ever.

"They're Final Four good," Texas A&M coach Billy Kennedy said after his team lost an 82-77 overtime battle with the Wildcats in Sunday's Southeastern Conference title game.

After a win over the Aggies (26-8), with whom UK shared the league's regular-season title, these Cats (26-8) cruise into next week's NCAA tournament having won five straight. That, and claiming the program's 29th SEC tournament crown, was no small feat this year.

"No one wants to say our top seven scorers and rebounders are gone from last year. No one wants to say this is an absolutely brand new team and totally different" from the one that went 38-1 a season ago, coach John Calipari said.

"Why I'm saying this to you: How this team has come together, accepted each other in a short period of time, is phenomenal."

A season of growing pains left Ken-

tucky standing tall on Sunday. Sophomore point guard Tyler Ulis dragged the Cats to the brink of victory with his career-high 30 points, then junior Derek Willis (a two-year benchwarmer) and freshman Jamal Murray (who struggled most of the day) buried consecutive 3-pointers in the final minute of overtime to bring home the trophy.

"This was a perfect game for us going into the tournament," Ulis said, "because they fought hard. That was like an NCAA tournament game and we came back and fought with them."

In the process, Kentucky exacted revenge for its overtime loss at Texas A&M last month, when a controversial technical foul likely cost the Cats a victory. In the rematch, UK had to overcome a dazzling performance by Aggies star Danuel House, who poured in 32 points and tied the game on a 3-pointer with 1:55 to go.

Ulis's 10-of-17 shooting day helped – "he made every big play," Calipari said – and four other Wildcats in double figures made up the difference, especially Willis and Murray late.

"I'm really confident in Derek Willis," Calipair said. "Jamal, I told him, 'Look, late-game stuff, now it's time to grow. Want that thing.'"

And Murray did. His streak of 14 consecutive games with 20-plus points finally ended Sunday, but his 17 were just enough. Despite making just two of his first nine 3-pointers against the Aggies, he did not hesitate to pull the trigger on a 10th, the clinching dagger that dropped with 15 seconds to go in overtime.

Kentucky got clutch performances like that from different guys all week.

In the quarterfinals, senior Alex Poythress produced a monster game to lead a rout of Alabama. In the semifinals, freshman Isaiah Briscoe responded to a challenge from his coach and came through with a second-half surge that sparked the Cats' comeback against Georgia.

"You want to feel confident going into the tournament," Poythress said. "Everybody on the team got a boost. Everybody picked up momentum. Derek started hitting shots, Isaiah started making plays. Everybody got a little bit going into the tournament.

"I feel like we're playing the best basketball we've played all year. We're playing great."

Not perfect, though, and there are still some holes that need plugging if Kentucky is to make another deep run. Defense was an issue this week – Calipari called Willis'

effort on that end "pitiful" – and the Cats' big men were once again wildly inconsistent.

While Poythress went for 10 points and six rebounds Sunday, he fouled out. Junior Marcus Lee found himself in foul trouble all afternoon, too, and gave UK just two points and one rebound in seven minutes. Freshman forward Skal Labissiere had the same line in eight minutes and "reverted," Calipari said, after a resurgent final week of the regular season.

"If our bigs don't play, we're not advancing," Calipari said. "And if they do play, we will advance. Just how it is. (Labissiere) did some good stuff today. He's just not playing like he was 10 days ago, so we've got a couple days to get him in the right mindset so we can do something."

But that's the tantalizing thing about Kentucky now: It just managed to beat the SEC's next-best team despite those significant flaws. And despite his own frustrating week, Lee was riding high after Sunday's game. He can see potential turning into to potency for these Cats.

"Confidence-wise, we're through the roof right now," he said. "We're confident in each other, we're confident in our coach, we're confident in our team. We're getting things done because we're all together."

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