2016-17 Gameday Tipoff Preview

# 







Mississippi State Game January 17, 2017 Starkville, Miss.



# Mississippi State Game

Jan. 17 | 7 p.m. | Humphrey Coliseum | Starkville, Miss.

# Inside Today's Game



**Cat Byte** 

Q&A with Isaiah Briscoe and Malik Monk



Catching Up With Cal Assistant coach Joel Justus discusses tonight's match-up against Mississippi State



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Gameday





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# Mississippi State Game

Jan. 17 | 7 p.m. | Humphrey Coliseum | Starkville, Miss.

# University and Tradition

Olympic Sports Update

Cats in

Cats in the NBA

Cats in the NBA

UK Sports

**Retired Jerseys** Layton Rouse

**Retired Jerseys** Kenny Rollins

Kentucky Tradition

Rupp

President Eli Capilouto

**Athletics Director** Mitch Barnhart

2016-17 Kentucky Gameday Preview is published by the University of Kentucky Athletics Department.



### University of Kentucky

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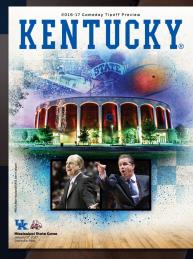
# Design & Publishing

**Managing Editor** Jai Giffin

**Creative Director** Jamie Barker

**Production Assistance** 

Laura Doolittle, Adam Peterson, Lisa Roberts, Bob Slater



### On the Cover:

Cats vs. Dogs, Kentucky tangles with Mississippi State in a SEC road battle in Starkville, Miss.



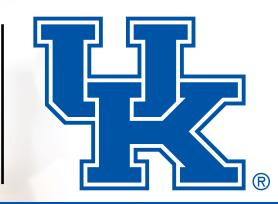


Isaiah Briscoe and Malik Monk

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# Current Features from CoachCal.com

- Briscoe 'makes it happen' for Kentucky by Metz Camfield
- Kentucky cracks top 5 in latest rankings by Metz Camfield







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# 2016-17 Basketball Schedule





Clarion Lexington, Ky. Exhibition | W, 108-51

Exhibition | W, 156-63



🛂 Game Recap

December W. 103-100

**North Carolina** Las Vegas, Nev.





Florida Gainesville, Fla. TRA

Ҷ Game Recap



**Asbury** Lexington, Ky.

👇 Game Recap

December

Louisville Louisville, Kv. W. 73-70



Tuesday **February** 

LSU Lexington, Ky. 7 p.m.

🚹 Game Recap





Stephen F. Austin Lexington, Ky. W, 87-64

Miss

Thursday December

Ole Miss Oxford, Miss. W. 99-76

Saturday Februar<sub>\</sub>

Alabama Tuscaloosa, Ala. 1 p.m.

🚹 Game Recap



Novembe

Canisius Lexington, Ky. W, 93-69

🖣 Game Recap

🖥 Game Recap

January

Texas A&M Lexington, Ky. W, 100-58

**February** 

Tennessee Lexington, Ky.

🚹 Game Recap



Novembe New York, N.Y.

Michigan State W. 69-48



January

Arkansas Lexington, Ky. W. 97-71



**February** 

Georgia Athens, Ga. TRA

🛂 Game Recap



Sunday Novembe 

Duquesne Lexington, Ky. W, 93-59



🛂 Game Recap

Tuesday Vanderbilt January Nashville, Tenn. W. 87-81



February

Missouri Columbia, Mo. 9 n.m.

🚹 Game Recap



Wednesda\ Novembe

**Cleveland State** Lexington, Ky. W. 101-70



Game Recap

Saturday January

Auburn Lexington, Ky. W. 92-72





Florida Lexington, Ky.

🚤 Game Recap



**UT Martin** Lexington, Ky. W. 111-76

🚹 Game Recap

Tuesday January

Mississippi State Starkville, Miss. 7 p.m.





Vanderbilt Lexington, Ky. 9 p.m.

🖶 Game Recap



Monday

**Arizona State** 

Paradise Island, Bahamas W. 115-69



**South Carolina** Lexington, Ky.





Texas A&M College Station, Texas Noon

🛂 Game Recap



**UCLA** 

Lexington, Ky. 97-92, L



Tennessee Knoxville, Tenn.

Kansas



Wed.-Sun. March 8-12 **SEC Tournament** Nashville, Tenn. Bridgestone Arena | TBA

🚹 Game Recap



Valparaiso Lexington, Ky.

W. 87-63

Saturday January

Lexington, Ky. SEC/Big 12 Challenge | 6 p.m.



March-April 14-3 **NCAA Tournament** Final Four® Phoenix, Ariz. | TBA

🚤 Game Recap



Sunday

Hofstra Brooklyn, N.Y. W. 96-73



Georaia Lexington, Ky. 9 p.m.



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# Around the SEC 🐠

### 2016-17 Final SEC Standings Team SEC Overall Home Road Kentucky 5-0 15-2 9-1 2-1 3-1 Florida 5-0 14-3 4-0 South Carolina 4-0 14-3 3-1 10 - 1Mississippi State 3-1 7-3 2-0 12-4 Alabama 3-1 10-6 6-2 2-2 3-2 11-6 7-2 3-3 Georgia Arkansas 2-3 13-4 10-2 1-2 Tennessee 2-3 9-8 5-3 4-2 2-3 Vanderbilt 8-9 6-3 1-3 Auburn 1-4 11-6 6-2 3-2 7-3 Ole Miss 1-4 10-7 1-3 LSU 1-4 9-7 7-3 1-2 Texas A&M 1-4 9-7 7-2 0 - 3Missouri 0 - 45-11 4-6 0-2Scoring Player-Team.....PPG Malik Monk, UK...... 21.8 Quinndary Weatherspoon, MSU.......17.9 Rebounding Player-Team.....RPG Sebastian Saiz, MISS.......11.7 Moses Kingsley, ARK ...... 8.4 Yante Maten, UGA ...... 8.3 Edrice Adebayo, UK ......7.4 Assists Player-Team......APG De'Aaron Fox, UK...... 6.4 I.J. Ready, MSU...... 5.1 Steals Player-Team.....SPG Quinndary Weatherspoon, MSU...... 1.9 Blocks Player-Team......BPG

# Around the Country

# 2016-17 Associated Press Rankings

As of Jan. 16, 2017 (week 11)

	Team	Record	Points
1	Villanova (28)	1 <i>7</i> -1	1,580
2	Kansas (32)	16-1	1,562
3	UCLA (3)	18-1	1,472
4	Gonzaga (2)	17-0	1,433
5	Kentucky	15-2	1,357
6	Baylor	16-1	1,315
_ 7	Creighton	17-1	1,185
_ 7	West Virginia	15-2	1,185
9	North Carolina	16-3	1,063
10	Florida State	16-2	964
11	Oregon	16-2	931
12	Louisville	15-3	900
13	Butler	15-3	823
14	Arizona	16-2	757
15	Notre Dame	16-2	748
16	Virginia	13-3	677
17	Wisconsin	14-3	644
18	Duke	14-4	614
19	Florida	14-3	405
20	Cincinnati	15-2	373
21	Purdue	14-4	309
22	Xavier	13-4	294
23	Saint Mary's	15-2	210
24	South Carolina	14-3	125
25	Maryland	16-2	121



Luke Kornet, VANDY ......2.1



# **Gameday Preview**

**S**ince John Calipari arrived in Lexington eight years ago, the Kentucky basketball program has annually fielded one of the nation's youngest teams. But on Tuesday night, the 2016-17 Wildcats will face a team that actually has less experience than they do.

There are 351 NCAA Division I men's basketball programs this season, and Kentucky's Tuesday night foe, Mississippi State, ranks 350th in experience, per KenPom.com. Kentucky is just a shade above the Bulldogs at No. 347.

Despite the youth on both squads, these are two of the hottest teams in the Southeastern Conference heading into Tuesday's clash on ESPN at 7 p.m. ET. Kentucky is 15-2 overall and a spotless 5-0 in league play. Missis-

sippi State is 12-4 overall and 3-1 in the SEC, having won three in a row, including two on the road (at LSU and at Arkansas). The Bulldogs have won six of their last seven games and nine of their last 11.

"Ben's doing an outstanding job," Calipari said of Mississippi State head coach Ben Howland. "He's got a young team like we do, but they fight, they defend, they create good shots, they've got skilled guys. It's going to be a rough one."

Mississippi State starts three freshmen and two sophomores. The Bulldogs have only one senior (I.J. Ready) and one junior (Drew Davis) on their roster, which includes eight freshmen and four sophomores.

It's the two starting sophomores who lead

the Bulldogs in scoring. Quinndary Weatherspoon, the reigning SEC Player of the Week, leads Mississippi State, and is fifth in the conference, at 17.9 points per game.

"He's a tremendous player," Kentucky assistant coach Joel Justus said of Weatherspoon. "He's obviously in a little bit of the same role as maybe as what we were just talking about with Isaiah (Briscoe), with a group of inexperienced players. He's a guy that is able to provide maybe some stability for that group with Ready coming off the bench."

(continued on page 18)



Two of the five most inexperienced teams in the country will face off Tuesday night at Humphrey Coliseum. (photo by Elliott Hess, UK Athletics)

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Indianapolis, IN







# **Gameday Preview**

(continued from page 16)

Sophomore big man Aric Holman, who led Owensboro (Ky.) High School to a KH-SAA state championship in 2015, averages 10.4 points and a team-high 6.8 rebounds per contest for the Bulldogs.

Howland, who took UCLA to three straight Final Four appearances from 2006-08, knows talent when he sees it. The MSU head coach is impressed with the Wildcats.

"We're excited about the opportunity to play the best team in our league (Tuesday) night in Kentucky, and what I think is one of, obviously, the very best teams in the entire country," Howland said on Monday's SEC teleconference. "So, that'll be a great challenge and a great measuring stick for us as to where our team is at this point."

Freshman Malik Monk continues to lead the Wildcats, and the SEC, in scoring at 21.8 points per outing. Fellow freshman De'Aaron Fox is second on the team, and eighth in the league, averaging 16.5 points per game. Sophomore Isaiah Briscoe is 10th in the SEC with a 15.4 per game average.

Kentucky has won nine in a row against Mississippi State, but games against the Bulldogs seem to always be tough, and many times memorable. For example, in 2004, fifth-ranked Kentucky went into Humphrey Coliseum to face No. 20 and unbeaten Mississippi State. And with the Cats trailing 66-65 and two seconds left on the clock, Erik Daniels caught a deflected pass intended for Chuck Hayes and laid it in ahead of the buzzer to give Kentucky a 67-66 win.

Calipari's first two games against Mississippi State were also quite memorable. In the regular season, the Wildcats needed overtime, and a highly-motivated DeMarcus Cousins, who had allegedly been receiving cell phone calls from MSU fans all week, to get past the Bulldogs 81-75 in Starkville. The two teams met again in the SEC Tournament in Nashville, where a Cousins put-back at the end of regulation forced overtime, where the Wildcats won 75-74.

With two of the nation's youngest teams going at it on Tuesday, perhaps this rivalry can produce another classic contest.





Malik Monk, the reigning SEC Freshman of the Week, will face Quinndary Weatherspoon, the reigning SEC Player of the Week on Tuesday. (photo by Chris Reynolds)



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# 2016-17 **Kentucky Wildcats**

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Hometown
0	De'Aaron Fox	G	6-3	187	Fr.	Houston, TX
1	Sacha Killeya-Jones	F	6-10	230	Fr.	Chapel Hill, NC
3	Edrice Adebayo	F	6-10	260	Fr.	Washington, NC
5	Malik Monk	G	6-3	200	Fr.	Lepanto, AR
10	Jonny David	G	6-2	183	So.	Pittsburgh, PA
11	Mychal Mulder	G	б-4	185	Sr.	Windsor, ON
13	Isaiah Briscoe	G	6-3	210	So.	Newark, NJ
14	Tai Wynyard	F	6-10	254	Fr.	Auckland, New Zealand
15	Isaac Humphries	F	7-0	255	So.	Sydney, NSW
20	Brad Calipari	G	6-0	178	Fr.	Franklin Lakes, NJ
25	Dominique Hawkins	G	6-0	191	Sr.	Richmond, KY
30	Dillon Pulliam	G	6-3	195	So.	Cynthiana, KY
32	Wenyen Gabriel	F	6-9	213	Fr.	Manchester, NH
35	Derek Willis	F	6-9	228	Sr.	Mount Washington, KY



**Coaching Staff Head Coach:** John Calipari **Associate Head Coach:** Kenny Payne **Assistant Coaches:** Tony Barbee, John Robic, Joel Justus

**Quick Facts** 

**Location:** Lexington, Ky. **Founded:** 1865 Enrollment: 28,928 **Conference:** SEC







# 2016-17 Mississippi State Bulldogs

##	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Hometown
1	Lamar Peters	G	6-0	181	Fr.	New Orleans, La.
2	Eli Wright	G	6-4	197	Fr.	Owensboro, Ky.
3	Xavian Stapleton	G	6-6	195	So.	Flora, Miss.
4	Mario Kegler	F	6-7	230	Fr.	Jackson, Miss.
5	Joe Strugg	F	6-9	196	RFr.	Montgomery, Ala.
11	Quinndary Weatherspoon	G	6-4	202	So.	Canton, Miss.
12	Drew Davis	G	5-10	172	Jr.	Atlanta, Ga.
13	L.J. Singleton	G	6-5	190	So.	Decatur, Ga.
15	I.J. Ready	G	5-11	160	Sr.	Little Rock, Ark.
20	Miles Washington	С	6-7	195	Fr.	New Albany, Miss.
23	Tyson Carter	G	6-4	155	Fr.	Starkville, Miss.
24	Abdul Ado	F	6-11	235	Fr.	Chattanooga, Tenn.
34	Schnider Herard	С	6-10	260	Fr.	Plano, Texas
35	Aric Holman	F	6-10	218	So.	Owensboro, Ky.
45	E.J. Datcher	С	6-9	251	Fr.	Vincent, Ala.



**Coaching Staff Head Coach:** Ben Howland Assistant Coaches: George Brooks, Korey McCray, Ernie Zeigler

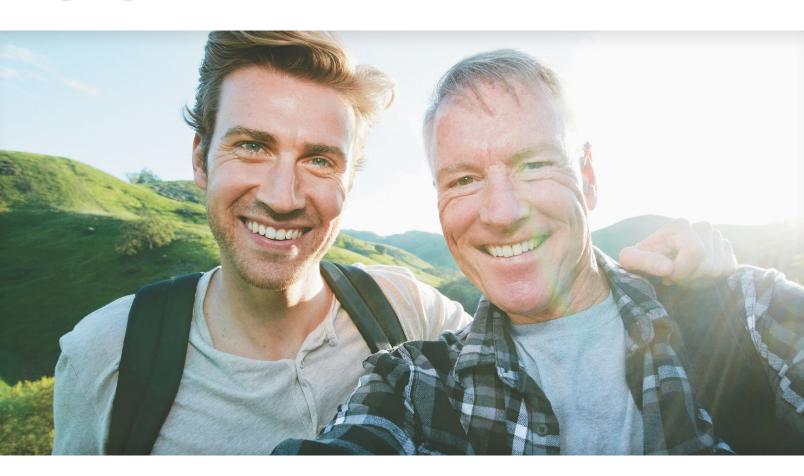
**Quick Facts** 

**Location:** Starkville, Miss.

**Founded:** 1878 **Enrollment:** 20,873 **Conference:** SEC







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# 2016-17 **Kentucky Wildcats**

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Hometown
0	De'Aaron Fox	G	6-3	187	Fr.	Houston, TX
1	Sacha Killeya-Jones	F	6-10	230	Fr.	Chapel Hill, NC
3	Edrice Adebayo	F	6-10	260	Fr.	Washington, NC
5	Malik Monk	G	6-3	200	Fr.	Lepanto, AR
10	Jonny David	G	6-2	183	So.	Pittsburgh, PA
11	Mychal Mulder	G	б-4	185	Sr.	Windsor, ON
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14	Tai Wynyard	F	6-10	254	Fr.	Auckland, New Zealand
15	Isaac Humphries	F	7-0	255	So.	Sydney, NSW
20	Brad Calipari	G	6-0	178	Fr.	Franklin Lakes, NJ
25	Dominique Hawkins	G	6-0	191	Sr.	Richmond, KY
30	Dillon Pulliam	G	6-3	195	So.	Cynthiana, KY
32	Wenyen Gabriel	F	6-9	213	Fr.	Manchester, NH
35	Derek Willis	F	6-9	228	Sr.	Mount Washington, KY



**Coaching Staff Head Coach:** John Calipari **Associate Head Coach:** Kenny Payne **Assistant Coaches:** Tony Barbee, John Robic, Joel Justus

**Quick Facts** 

**Location:** Lexington, Ky. **Founded:** 1865 Enrollment: 28,928 **Conference:** SEC







# 2016-17 **Auburn Tigers**

##	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Hometown
0	Horace Spencer	F	6-8	220	So.	Philadelphia, Pa.
1	Jared Harper	G	5-10	165	Fr.	Mableton, Ga.
2	Bryce Brown	G	6-3	195	So.	Stone Mountain, Ga.
3	Danjel Purifoy	F	6-7	230	Fr.	Centreville, Ala.
4	T.J. Dunans	G	6-5	174	Sr.	Atlanta, Ga.
5	Mustapha Heron	G	6-5	215	Fr.	Waterbury, Conn.
10	Heath Huff	F	6-10	250	Fr.	Auburn, Ala.
12	LaRon Smith	F	6-8	215	Grad.	Palm Bay, Fla.
13	DeSean Murray	F	6-4	230	Jr.	Stanley, N.C.
21	Patrick Keim	G	6-0	186	Jr.	Birmingham, Ala.
22	Will Macoy	G	6-4	180	Fr.	Birmingham, Ala.
23	TJ Lang	G	6-7	200	Jr.	Mobile, Ala.
24	Anfernee McLemore	F	6-7	210	Fr.	Warwick, Ga.
25	Mike Cohen	G	5-10	175	Fr.	Voorhees, N.J.
31	Devin Waddell	G/F	6-5	225	Sr.	Greensboro, N.C.
35	Ronnie Johnson	G	6-0	180	Grad.	Indianapolis, Ind.
41	Cole Blackstock	F	6-9	253	So.	Killen, Ala.
44	New Williams	G	6-2	170	So.	Inglewood, Calif. )
52	Trey Tate	F	6-6	230	So.	Dothan, Ala.



**Coaching Staff Head Coach:** Bruce Pearl **Assistant Coaches:** Chuck Person, Harris Adler, Chad Dollar

**Quick Facts** Location: Auburn, Ala. **Founded: 1856 Enrollment:** 25,469 Conference: SEC





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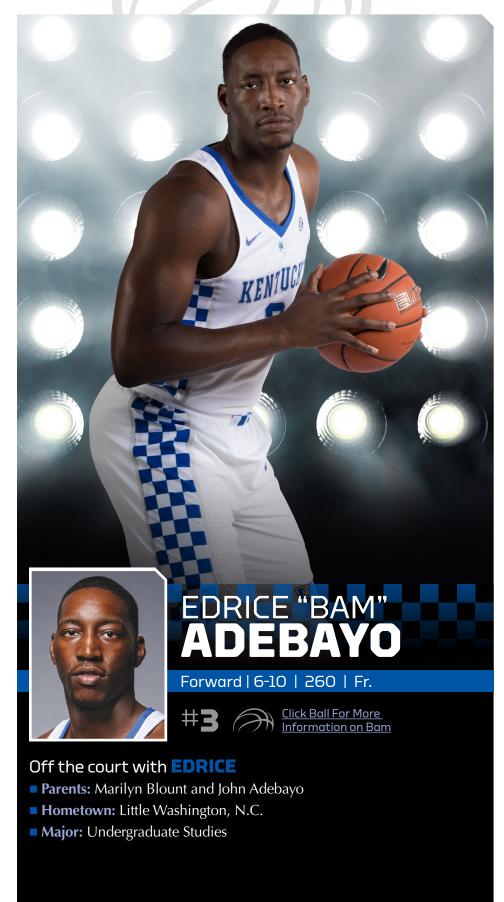
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## Q: What is the best part of playing basketball at UK?

A: The competition level. Going into practice thinking I have to be the best I can be or someone else will get ahead of me.

# Q: What is a musician or type of music that people would be surprised you like?

A: Katy Perry – people are surprised by that. I like TGIF the best. When I'm in my room and have my speakers on, that's what I listen

## Q: What is your favorite class that you taken in your brief time here or in high school?

A: I enjoy my small groups communications class. The professor is always energetic and we have fun in that class. It's a morning class, but she makes it fun for us.

# Q: What age were you the first time you dunked?

A: I think it was the 6th grade. I was at a tournament and the opposing team was late so we were just messing around, and I dunked.

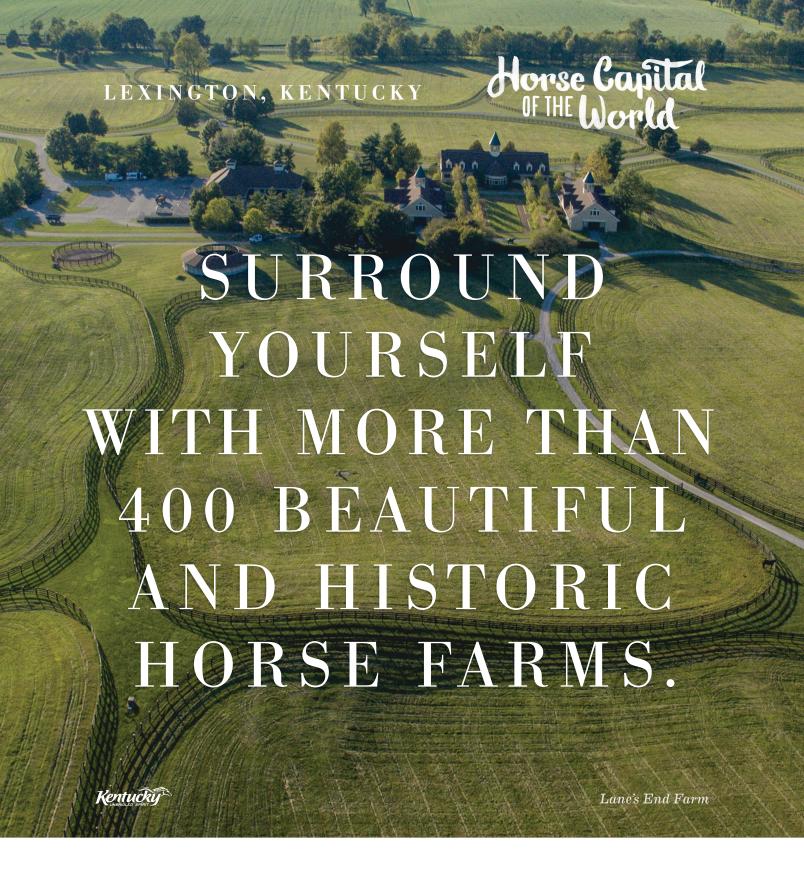
# Q: What is the best part about being a UK basketball player?

A: The basketball. Getting suited up in blue with other great players.



# **High School**

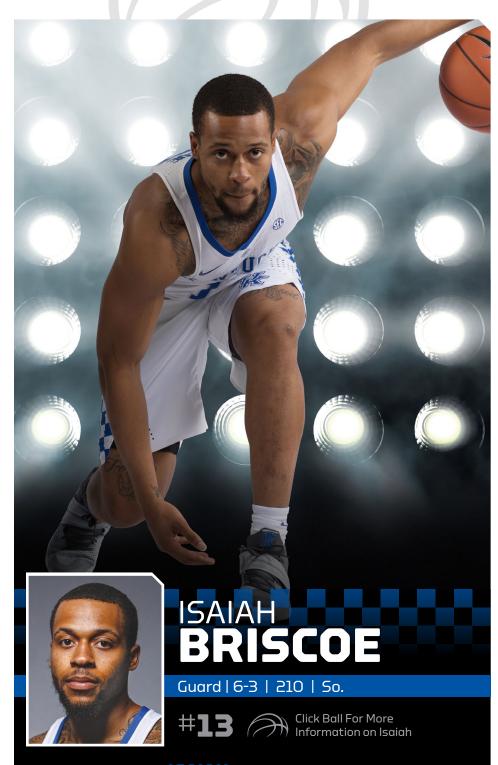
Named a McDonald's All-American and participated in the Jordan Brand Classic game ... Tabbed to the second team of the All-USA Boys Basketball Team ... McDonald's All-American Game Morgan Wootten Player of the Year finalist ... Made the Naismith All-America Second Team ... Tabbed the North Carolina Gatorade Player of the Year ... Joins Kentucky out of High Point Christian Academy in High Point, North Carolina, where he averaged 18.9 points and 13.0 rebounds his senior season ... He led High Point Christian Academy to an appearance in the state title game ... Ranked in the top 10 by ESPN (No. 5) and Rivals (No. 7) ... Scout (No. 11) and 247Sports (No. 12) tabbed him as a top-15 prospect in the 2016 class ... Ranked No. 8 overall in the Recruiting Services Consensus Index ... Has USA Basketball experience and was named a MaxPreps All-American in 2013 ... An honor-roll student ... Also was a member of the poetry club ... Was a member of the Kids Hoops service project.





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# Off the court with ISAIAH

- Parents: Henrietta Hemingway and George Briscoe
- Hometown: Newark, N.J.
- **Major:** Undergraduate Studies
- Career High Points: 20 (at UCLA 12/3/15)
- Career High Rebounds: 12 (vs. NJIT 11/14/15)
- **Career High Blocks:** 1 (five times)

# Q: Who in your life do you look up to the

A: My parents. They are both hardworking, loving parents who always put us first. They made sure that we never wanted for anything and if we did, they tried their best to give it to us.

# Q: What's a sport that you've never tried, or maybe played since you were a little kid that you'd like to play?

A: I haven't played football in a long time. I loved football. I wish I could go back and play. As a kid, I was a running back, but now I'd be a wide receiver.

# Q: First time you met Coach Cal in person, what did you think?

A: I don't remember. I remember at Peach Jam he came and watched a couple of my games, but other than that, I can't recall the first time we met. My first impression of Coach is that he is crazy. I love him. He cares for his players, but he's crazy.

# Q: What is the most points you've ever scored in a basketball game?

A: I scored 63 one night during my senior year of high school. That night everything was dropping.

# Q: What is the part of your game that you are most proud of?

A: I'm most proud of my ball-handling skills.



# 2015-16 (Freshman)

Played in 34 games, with 33 starts ... Missed two games due to injury ... Earned SEC Freshman of the Week honors once ... Led all Kentucky guards in rebounding with 5.3 boards per game ... Scored in double figures in 18 games.

### Personal

Son of Henrietta Hemingway... Born April 13, 1996, in Newark, New Jersey ... Chose Kentucky over Arizona, Connecticut and St. John's ... Has two sisters, Iasia and Iesha, and a brother, George ... Sister Iasia played basketball at Syracuse ... Is a cousin of Cleveland Cavaliers' guard Kyrie Irving ... Picked No. 13 because it's a "bad-luck" number and he likes to be different ... Most memorable moment on the court is winning the 17U Peach Jam ... If he wasn't a player, he would be an agent ... His biggest influence in life are his parents ... Wanted to be a firefighter when he was growing up.



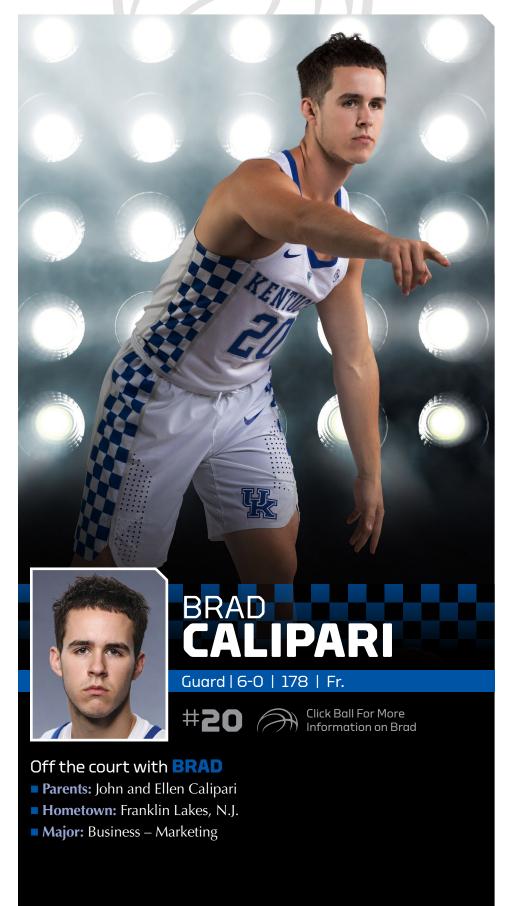
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## Q: What are your best memories from Christmas?

A: When the chandelier fell down in our dining room. It just collapsed and fell from the ceiling. It was our first Christmas in Kentucky. We were all shocked, but we cleaned it up, put it to the side and continued with Christmas.

# Q: What is the single best part about being a UK player?

A: Being able to get into the gym anytime I want. I love it. I can go to the gym any time of day or night. It's nice that it's always accessible.

Q: What sport have you never tried, or have tried that you'd like to play again? A: I want to try bobsledding. It looks intense and fun.

# Q: If you can only follow one of your teammates on Snapchat, who would it be?

A: That's a tough one. It would probably be De'Aaron. He's just funny. De'Aaron or Bam, they both do the same things. They're always together on the Snapchat. They are usually singing songs that they shouldn't be singing.

# Q: Who in your life do you most look up to

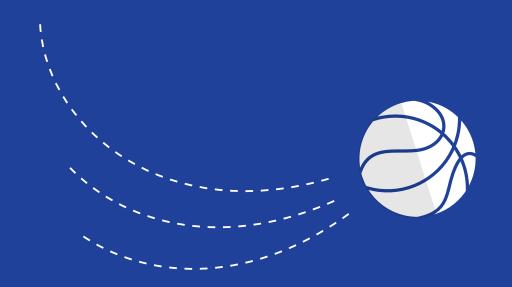
A: My parents because they've always led me in the right direction. They know what's best for me. They've been through a lot and share their wisdom.



# **High School**

Joined Kentucky after a productive final season at the MacDuffie School in Massachusetts ... The 6-foot guard spent the last two seasons at MacDuffie after starting his high school career at Lexington Christian Academy ... Developed into a sharpshooter during his final season at MacDuffie, where he shot a team-high 47 percent from behind the 3-point line ... Averaged 15.3 points, 3.6 assists and 2.6 rebounds per game as a senior ... Finished his career as a 1,000-point scorer ... Was the MVP of the 2016 HoopHall Classic ... Chosen for the 2016 Kentucky Derby Festival Basketball Classic, where he scored nine points on three 3-pointers to go along with four rebounds ... In January, played against incoming UK signee Wenyen Gabriel and scored 17 points on five made 3-pointers, while leading his team to a 69-61 victory over Gabriel's squad ... Also played golf ... Earned academic honors for art, specializing in drawing.

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Off the court with **JONNY** 

■ Parents: Joseph and Sandi David

■ Hometown: Pittsburgh, Pa.

**■ Major:** Kinesiology

■ Career High Points: 2 (South Florida, 11/27/15)

**■** Career High Rebounds: 0

**■ Career High Blocks:** 0

## Q: What are you most looking forward to about this season?

A: Just like everyone else, I'm curious to see how we do. Will we mesh together in the preseason, when we go up against the top teams? I think it's going to be a fun year.

Q: If you could only do one of these things, which would it be - drive down the lane and dunk on a fellow big man, or crossover a guard and hit a shot?

A: I would dunk, because I don't dunk often.

Q: What's your go-to TV show and why? A: I think my favorite show of all time is "That 70s Show." I've seen all the episodes. It's the same thing with "Friends," but I haven't seen "Friends" in a while.

Q: Have you ever played Pokemon Go? A: I did. Me, Tai and Sacha played when it first came out. We wanted to see what it was about. Later, we found a way to cheat at the game. Basically, you can lay in bed and hit a button and play without going outside. The cheat button worked for awhile, then something happened and it quit working so we haven't been playing lately.

# Q: What was your reaction when you heard that fans camp out in tents for Big Blue Madness?

A: I was shocked. I had heard about fans camping out and I knew it was going to happen. When you see it in person, though, it's totally different. We have the best fans in the country.



# 2015-16 (Freshman)

SEC First-Year Academic Honor Roll member ... Appeared in 11 games during his freshman campaign ... Played in a season-high two minutes in games against NJIT and Georgia ... Made his NCAA Tournament debut in UK's victory over Stony Brook in the first round ... Drained his only two free-throw attempts of the season in a win over South Florida.

## Personal

Son of Joseph and Sandi David ... Born Nov. 7, 1996, in Pittsburgh ... ... Father was a basketball letterwinner for the University of Pittsburgh ... Has two brothers, Justin and Jeremy, and a sister, Samantha ... Brother Justin plays basketball for South Florida ... Most memorable moment as a basketball player was hitting the game-winning shot on senior night to win the sectional championship ... Chose No. 10 because he has always worn it.



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#### Q: What's the best part about playing basketball UK?

A: The people around you. These guys have been some of the top players in the country in their respective classes and we are all bonding together and having fun while we are playing.

#### Q: In the classroom, what's a subject or class that sticks out to you?

A: My team leadership class in high school. It was interesting to learn how to communicate with people and develop leadership skills.

#### Q: How old were you when you first realized you were good at basketball?

A: I was in sixth grade. We were at nationals and we lost in the final four. At that point, I realized I was around a lot of good people who would be playing this game a long time.

#### Q: What is the part of your game that you're most proud of?

A: My speed. Speed is something you can't teach. I feel my speed is an advantage and is one thing that I hope is never taken away from me.

#### Q: What is a sport that you have never played that you would like to try?

A: Handball. I was watching the Olympics this year and handball looks like something I would really like to play.



#### **High School**

Named to the All-USA Boys Basketball team as a first-team selection ... Also made the Naismith All-America First Team ... Naismith High School Player of the Year finalist ... Also a McDonald's All-American and participated in both the Jordan Brand Classic game and the Nike Hoop Summit ... Shared MVP honors at the Jordan Brand Classic with fellow UK signee Malik Monk after scoring a game-high 23 points on 8-of-16 shooting to go along with five rebounds ... Led Cypress Lakes (Katy, Texas) with a pair of back-toback 40-point performances in the Texas high school state playoffs before falling in the regional finals ... During the regular season he scored 30 or more points in 20 games, 40 or more eight times and even hit the 50-point mark in February ... Tabbed the Texas Gatorade High School Player of the Year in 2016 ... Three-time all-region selection and twice was tabbed the district's most valuable player ... Named his district's newcomer of the year in 2013.







#### Q: What are your best memories from Christmas?

A: When I was little, I remember I went to the store, and there were these monster trucks. I cried to get a monster truck, and my mom got me the biggest one. Unfortunately, I broke it the next day.

### Q: Who in your life do you most look up

A: My mom. To endure the struggle that she's been through is impressive. We came from a war in South Sudan. She came to the United States and works by herself and takes care of six children.

#### Q: What is the part of your game right now that you are the most proud of?

A: My motor. I play hard. When I step on the floor, I know that I'm the hardest working player on the court and that means a lot to me.

#### Q: What is a sport you've never tried that you'd like to play?

A: I've tried a lot of sports but I've never played baseball. It would be fun to try swinging a bat.

#### Q: What is the best part of playing basketball at UK?

A: The competitiveness and playing against this level of talent every day.



#### **High School**

Forward who averaged 22.0 points, 14.0 rebounds, 7.0 blocks and 6.3 assists at Wilbraham & Monson Academy in Wilbraham, Massachusetts, as a senior ... Made the Naismith All-America Third Team ... A two-time most valuable player for Wilbraham & Monson Academy ... Suited up for Mass Rivals on the AAU circuit ... A 1,000-point scorer in high school ... Participated in the Jordan Brand Classic game and was a member of the Nike Hoop Summit ... Ranked as high as No. 12 in the national rankings by Scout ... Rivals tabbed him at No. 13 overall and ESPN and 247Sports rated him as the No. 14 player in the 2016 class ... Ranked No. 8 overall in the Recruiting Services Consensus Index ... Named to the 2016 USA Junior National Select Team.

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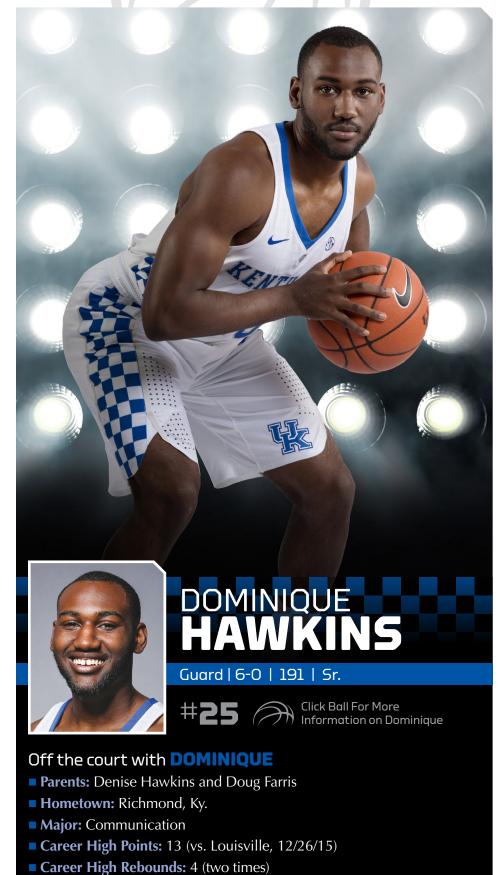
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#### Q: What is the part of your game right now that you are the most proud of?

A: Defense. I definitely take pride in that. I take pride in shutting somebody down for a whole game.

## Q: What is the best thing about being a UK

A: That you learn about each and everybody from all over the world. I never thought I'd be playing with somebody from Australia or New Zealand, but that's pretty neat. Also, everybody's just so different and you realize that we're not just basketball players, but we're actual human beings.

#### Q: What is a sport you never tried that you'd like to play?

A: Tennis. I've never played it before, but I've always wanted to try it. Tennis looks fun.

#### Q: What is a type of music that people would be surprised you listen to?

A: I like Maroon 5, everybody loves Adam Levine.

#### Q: What is your favorite class that you've taken at UK?

A: Probably, Communications 249. It's an interpersonal communications class that I found interesting. I thought it was fun learning various ways that people communicate on a daily basis such as picking up on non-verbal cues.



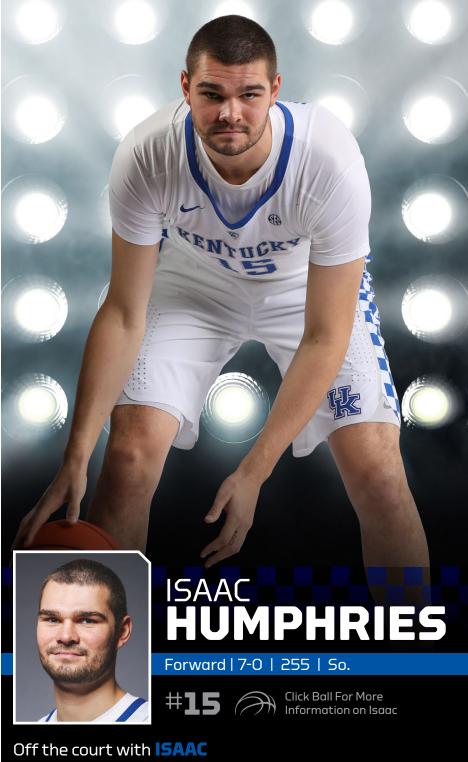
#### 2015-16 (Junior)

SEC Academic Honor Roll member ... Saw action in 27 games during an injury-plagued junior season ... Had career-highs in points, blocks, free throws, 3-point field goals and shooting percentage ... Averaged 2.3 points with a 2.2 assist-to-turnover ratio ... Missed seven games in January due to an ankle sprain and also broke his hand during fall camp ... Had a career game in a win over rival No. 16/15 Louisville with career bests in points (13), 3-pointers (three) and minutes played (26) ... Prior to that game he had never made more than one 3-pointer in a game ... He became the first Kentucky native to score in double figures for the Wildcats against Louisville since Darius Miller did so in the 2012 Final Four ... Posted three points with three rebounds in the loss to Indiana in 14 minutes of action in the second round of the NCAA Tournament ... Played in 17 minutes of the NCAA Tournament win over Stony Brook ... Scored two points and hauled in a season-high four rebounds ... Scored seven points vs. Alabama in the SEC Tournament quarterfinals.

**■ Career High Blocks:** 1 (five times)



HERALD-LEADER



■ Parents: Michaela Humphries

■ Hometown: Sydney, Australia

■ Major: Communication

■ Career High Points: 6 (at Texas A&M, 2/20/16)

■ Career High Rebounds: 12 (at Texas A&M, 2/20/16)

■ Career High Blocks: 4 (vs. Georgia, 2/9/16)

Q: What is your go-to TV show and why?

A: "Modern Family" because it's so funny. It really depicts a lot of modern families today. It's nothing like Australian culture, but a family is a family.

#### Q: What's the most points you've ever scored in a basketball game?

A: I scored 63 in a game when I was 15 years old. I averaged around 45 points per game that season.

#### **Q:** When was the last time you cried tears of joy?

A: Beating Spain at Worlds in 2014. We were down by 20 points at halftime. Playing for your country is a big deal and the winner would advance into the grand final match. We forced the game into overtime, and I got a steal and a dunk in the win. It was just a great moment.

#### Q: What is one thing friends at home don't understand about Kentucky?

A: Everything. Where do I begin. They don't understand the complete hype and the severity of how big basketball is in America.

#### **Q:** What is a type of music that people would be surprised you listen to?

A: People are more surprised that I don't listen to music. Beyonce is my favorite singer, but I don't really listen to music day in and day out.

#### Q: What is your favorite class you've taken so far at UK, or in life?

A: My music class in Australia. We did a cool thing where every week where we would perform for the class and that was fun.



#### 2015-16 (Freshman)

SEC First-Year Academic Honor Roll member ... Appeared in 22 games his freshman season with one start ... Proved to be a valuable backup off the bench ... Played 10 or more minutes nine times ... Appeared in 12 straight games before a DNP to end the season ... Posted four points with three rebounds in the win at Florida ... Made his first career start at home vs. Alabama and produced four points, four rebounds, a block and an assist in 21 minutes ... Logged career highs in points (six) and rebounds (12) with two blocks in 20 critical minutes at Texas A&M ... Recorded three points, six rebounds and two blocks at home vs. Tennessee ... Swatted a career-high four shots in 14 minutes in the home victory vs. Georgia.







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## Q: Who in your life do you most look up

A: My parents. They have been really supportive of me and everything I've done. They're great role models, and always tell me to be my own person.

#### Q: What is the part of your game right now that you are the most proud of?

A: Probably my versatility. Currently, I'm glad I'm getting a lot stronger and I'm going to be able to be more physical and be really imposing. It's going to be good for me at this

#### Q: What is the single best part about being a UK player?

A: I think just being on this team. We have tremendous talent and all the guys are so great and we all get along with each other. It's been a lot of fun. It's been a lot of hard work, too.

#### Q: Before you were ever a UK recruit, what were your ideas about UK basketball?

A: I knew Kentucky was the best of the best. I was committed to Virginia for a while. When I was committed to Virginia was the year Kentucky went 38-1. I was like, "They have to lose, somebody has to beat them." I remember the UK-Notre Dame game in the tournament that season. Virginia had lost to Michigan State the game before. The UK game was a nail-biter and I forget who hit the shot in the corner to beat Notre Dame in the Elite Eight, but I remember that game really vividly.

#### Q: What sport have you never tried, or haven't played since you were a kid that you'd like to play?

A: Baseball. I played wee baseball and it was fun.



#### **High School**

Suited up as a McDonald's All-American in 2016 ... A double-double machine during his final season at Virginia Episcopal in Lynchburg, Virginia, posting 13 games with at least 20 points and at least 10 rebounds ... A two-time all-state selection ... Named the state's player of the year as a senior ... Hauled in conference player of the year and Super 64 MVP honors in his final campaign ... A 1,000-point scorer for Virginia Episcopal School ... A consensus top-10 forward in the class of 2016 ... Rivals, ESPN and 247Sports all ranked him No. 24 overall in their national rankings ... Scout tabbed him at No. 27.

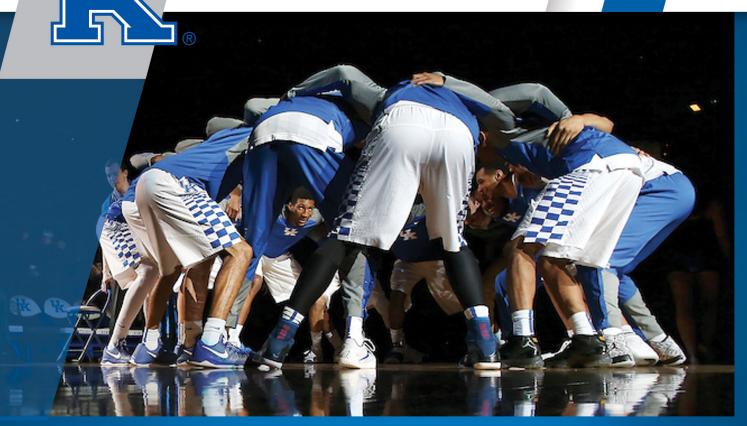
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#### Q: What are your best memories from Christmas?

A: In fourth grade, I got a toy Hummer with a remote control. I loved it, but I broke it the first month and I was so mad at myself.

#### Q: What are the most points you've ever scored in a basketball game?

A: It was 60 and I was in 11th grade. It was a game that went into four overtimes.

#### Q: What are you looking forward to most about this season?

A: I'm looking forward to the travel. I enjoy traveling, and now I'm looking forward to seeing fans of the Big Blue Nation supporting us at every road game.

#### Q: What is one thing friends at home don't understand about Kentucky?

A: It's a business. You have to be on time with everything. You have to be on point with everything. The team revolves around the coach and not the players. You learn quickly that you're on their time now.

#### Q: What is the best Halloween costume vou ever had?

A: I had a Jason suit when I was in fifth grade. I had the boots, his real face, the mask, and the machete. I was hiding around scaring people. Then another year, I had a full out Freddie suit with the mask.



#### **High School**

Made the All-USA Boys Basketball Second Team ... Tabbed to the Naismith All-America Second Team ... McDonald's All-American Game Morgan Wootten Player of the Year finalist ... Also a McDonald's All-American and Jordan Brand Classic game participant ... Shared MVP honors with fellow UK signee De'Aaron Fox at the Jordan Brand Classic after posting 22 points, five rebounds, three assists and three steals ... Won the McDonald's 3-point shooting contest and finished second in the dunk contest ... The 2016 Arkansas Gatorade Player of the Year in addition to earning the state's Mr. Basketball award ... An all-state player ... Considered the top shooting guard in the class and a consensus five-star prospect ... Ranked No. 9 overall by Rivals and ESPN ... 247Sports rated him as the No. 10 player overall and Scout tabbed him at No. 13 ... Ranked No. 9 overall in the Recruiting Services Consensus Index ... Averaged 28.6 points, 7.5 rebounds and 4.4 assists as a senior ... Season highlights include a single-game school scoring record with 53 points.



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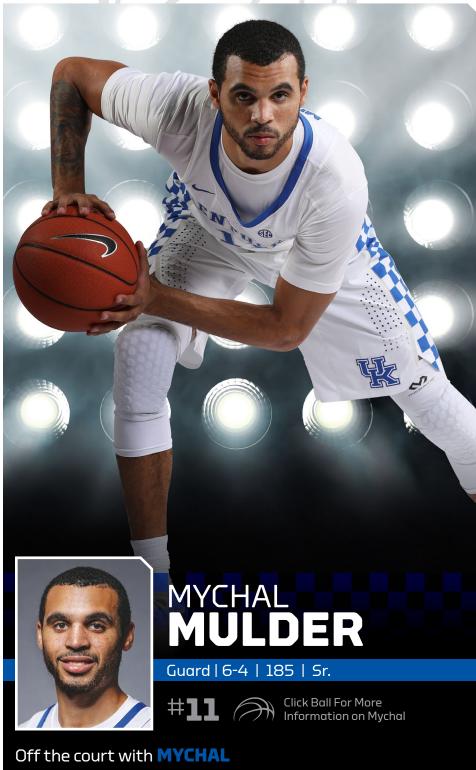








SECNetwork.com/Now



■ Parents: Randy Mulder and Jennifer Gignac

■ **Hometown:** Windsor, Ontario

■ Major: Communication

■ Career High Points: 5 (at LSU, 1/5/16)

■ Career High Rebounds: 8 (at LSU, 1/5/16)

**■ Career High Blocks:** 0

#### Q: Who in your life do you most look up to?

A: My dad. He's a strong individual who's been through a lot in his life, and he's always overcome that adversity. Growing up, I always wanted to be like him. We have the same type of attitude, a chip on our shoulder, and he's taught me alot about being a man and being a basketball player.

#### Q: What is the single best part about being a UK player?

A: I think it's the relationships that we build. We go through so much together, so many ups and downs. We have difficult days in the gym. We work so hard competing against each other, and after practice we're just so close friends. I have a lot of friends that have come through the program. Whether we lost them to the NBA or to other things, and we're still close. I think relationship building is important and during my time at UK, the ones I've built have been so special to me.

#### Q: What is your favorite class you've taken either at UK or your school before that?

A: I was really into the psychologies. I did general studies back at my old school, and I found it really interesting to think about how the mind works, and people's motivations and why they do the things they do. It's not something you think about, though, unless you're forced to.

#### Q: If you could only do one of these things which would it be - drive down the lane and dunk on a fellow big man, or crossover a guard and hit a shot?

A: Drive down the lane and dunk on a big man. There's not many things that compare with the feeling when you rise on somebody and throw it down on them. It's just such an exhilarating experience, you feel powerful you feel dominant, it's just an empowering feeling.



#### 2015-16 (Junior)

Made an appearance in 24 games ... Logged 90 minutes with 12 points and 27 rebounds ... Grabbed three rebounds in seven minutes at Auburn ... Averaged 3.3 points and 4.0 rebounds during a three-game stretch from Jan. 5 to Jan. 12 ... Played 10 minutes in the win against Mississippi State, scoring two points ... Posted three points and four rebounds along with a made 3-pointer in 11 minutes at Alabama ... Recorded career highs in points (five), rebounds (eight) and minutes (14) on the road at LSU.



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#### Q: What is the part of your game right now that you are the most proud of?

A: Probably either my work ethic or my shooting ability. I feel like this summer I really improved my body in terms of conditioning, agility and jumping ability.

### Q: If you can only follow one of your teammates on Snapchat, who would it be and

A: I would probably go with De'Aaron because he's funny and he's always on Snapchat. I don't actually have a Snapchat account, but he would be a good guy to follow.

#### Q: What is one thing friends at home don't understand about Kentucky?

A: I don't think people understand all the work behind the scenes before the games. An example is all the practicing, the conditioning, the workouts, the long hours in the gym - just all the time we put in that isn't seen.

#### Q: What is the best part of playing basketball at UK?

A: The fans. I mean Big Blue Nation is crazy. 20,000-plus people in Rupp Arena for your games. That's something you dream of.

#### **Q:** Have you ever played Pokemon Go?

A: Yes, I do. I downloaded it. Some of my friends were playing, so I downloaded it over the summer. Since then I'm on it at least five times a day. I don't have as many Pokemons caught as some of these guys. They have an app that let's them cheat, and I actually play legit.



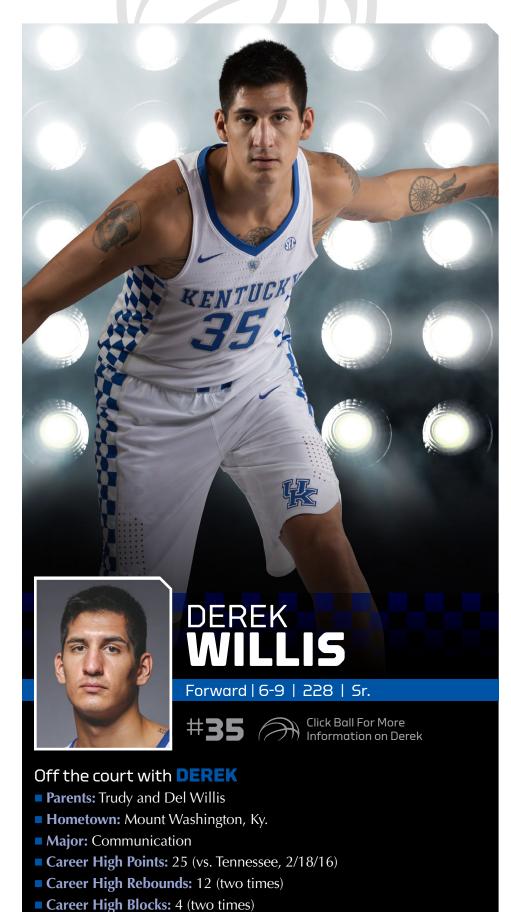
#### 2015-16 (Sophomore)

SEC First-Year Academic Honor Roll member ... Did not play due to NCAA transfer rules. Transferred from Transylvania University after the 2014-15 season.

#### **High School**

A graduate of Harrison County High School, Pulliam was a five-year member of the varsity basketball team ... During his career, he made the All-10th Region Team three times, was named the district tournament MVP and was a member of the school's 1,000-point club ... Pulliam finished his career at Harrison County fifth in career scoring, third in career 3-point field goals and set a school record for most 3-point field goals made in a game with nine ... An honor-roll student, he was his high school's valedictorian ... Was a member of the BETA Club.





#### Q: How do you guys manage your days as basketball players? Is it hard to manage it now, considering the schedule the players have to keep?

A: Yes, you stay busy. I wake up at 7 a.m. every day, and go to class until noon. Then I've got practice and workouts. I usually don't get finished until about 7 or 8 p.m.

#### Q: What is your go-to TV show, and why do you like that show?

A: I just finished watching "Stranger Things" on Netflix. It's sci-fi based and directed with an 80s type of theme. It's got this Knight Rider type music to it. I enjoyed it a lot and binge watched all the episodes.

#### Q: What was your best Halloween Costume?

A: I was Batman. I was young, but my mom told me this story that I couldn't go to the store with her unless I wore my Batman costume. They walked me around Walmart with this costume on. I guess that was my favorite Halloween costume.

#### Q: First time you dunked, how old were you and what was the setup?

A: I think the first time I dunked was in eighth grade, but in a game I think it was my freshman year. At the time, I was playing junior varsity and I was going to Louisville Male. We were playing some team and had a breakaway. Someone kicked it out to me, and I barely dunked it - but I was like, 'Oh my gosh - I can't believe I just did that.'

#### Q: What is your favorite class that you've taken at UK?

A: Probably Communications 101 because it's the intro to communication classes. You get the whole accumulation of everything like the big ideas and a lot of interesting stuff you can learn with it.



#### 2015-16 (Junior)

Enjoyed a breakout season during his junior campaign where he saw action in 32 games and made 11 starts ... Averaged 7.7 points and 4.0 rebounds per game ... Hit 53 3-pointers on the season, which ranked third on the team ... His 44.2 field-goal percentage from behind the arc was tops on the team ... Led the SEC in 3-point fieldgoal percentage in conference play with a 50.0-percent clip ... Scored 18 points and hauled in a team-high 12 rebounds in a win over Missouri ... The 18-point, 12-rebound effort was the first for a Kentucky native in an SEC game since 1991.



- Q: What is the part of your game right now that you are the most proud of?
- A: Rebounding. I'm grabbing every rebound right now. I've been working on boxing out and other techniques.
- Q: Now that you've got a year under your belt, what is the single best part about being a UK player?

A: Being able to have fun with what you do. Being able to work hard with some of the best players in the world is a lot of fun.

- Q: Before you were ever a UK recruit, what were your ideas about UK basketball?
- A: I didn't have any idea about it until someone said Google Coach Cal. He's a really big deal over here, but I honestly knew nothing about UK or any actual colleges.
- Q: What sport have you never tried, or maybe haven't tried in several years that you'd like to try again?
- A: Wood chopping. I tried it again a little while ago. Maybe after I finish basketball I can go back to wood chopping or being a lumberiack. It would be a lot of fun.
- **Q:** What are some of the traditions that you observe for Christmas, that Americans don't?
- A: It's all much the same. It's just not as big back home. I mean it's big, but just not as big as compared to over here. Everyone's crazy about Christmas in the United States.

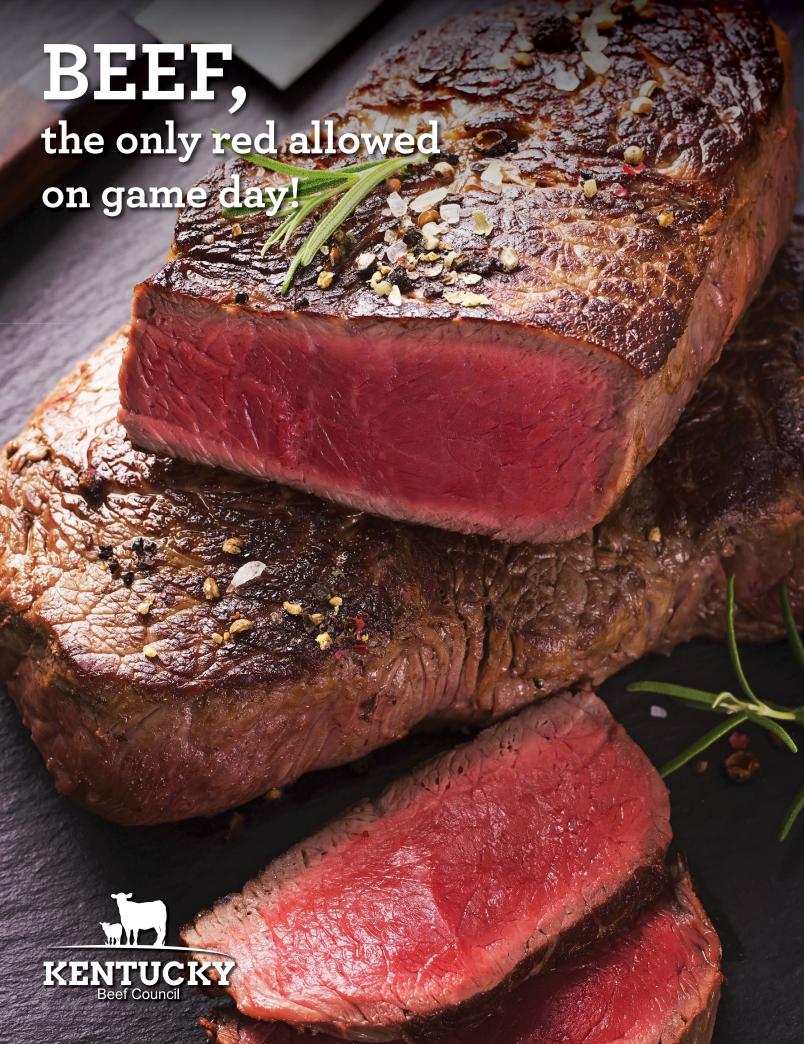


#### **2015-16 (Freshman)**

Midyear enrollee who joined the Wildcats on Dec. 17 ... Became eligible for the Ohio State game on Dec. 18 ... Did not play in any games in 2015-16 and ended up redshirting ... Played for the New Zealand National Team in the 3-on-3 World Championships for a second straight year.

#### **High School**

Graduated from Rangitoto College in Auckland, New Zealand ... Became the youngest player ever to make the New Zealand National Team when he was named to the team at 16 years old ... Named the most valuable player of the FIBA 3-on-3 World Championships after leading New Zealand to a gold medal ... Tabbed the MVP of his high school nationals in New Zealand after leading his team to the high school national championship ... Member of the World Team that defeated USA Basketball in the 2015 Nike Hoop Summit.



## Kentucky Opens Season with Win at Eastern Michigan

By Michael Scholze Media Relations Assistant

entucky gymnastics opened the season on the right foot, earning a 195.075-192.050 win over Eastern Michigan on Friday night in the Convocation Center.

The Wildcats move to 1-0 on the young season following the win, while Eastern Michigan drops to 0-1. Kentucky opens its Southeastern Conference slate next weekend when the team heads to Florida. The meet is slated for Friday, Jan. 13 with a 6:45 p.m. start. The meet can be watched live on SEC Network+

"I thought we started off really well with the first three bar routines," head coach Tim Garrison said. "The rest of the events, I thought it was the first meet out. I thought we were actually a little flat, compared to where I feel we should be. There's plenty of things to look at today but I really want to focus inward and focus on our team and how we can prepare better."

The team earned the victory after besting the Eagles in vault, beam and floor. Freshman Mollie Korth stood out, earning the all-around victory with a 39.075 performance in her first collegiate meet. Korth edged teammate sophomore Sidney Dukes for the all-around crown. Dukes scored a 39.000, and was the only other athlete to compete in all four events.

"It feels great (to win the all-around)," Korth said. "I was a little a nervous coming into competition but knowing I hit all four events made me feel really good. I'm glad that the coaches and girls were there to support me."

"Mollie is just a great competitor," Garrison added. "She's a gritty kid. There were a few things today that she made some mistakes on. Unless you were looking for them, you wouldn't see them. One, she's an outstanding athlete and two, she's a gritty competitor. That combination is going to serve her and the program well over the next few years."

#### **VAULT**

The Wildcats scored a meet-high 48.650 on vault. Sophomore Sidney Dukes highlighted the event with a 9.825 on a yurchenko layout half. Korth scored a 9.775 in her first vault event, while sophomore Danaea Davis scored a 9.700

#### **UNEVEN BARS**

While EMU bested the Wildcats on beam 48.875 - 48.850, Korth and sophomore Alex Hyland paced the Wildcats with the two best scores on beam at 9.825 each. Juniors Katie



Carlisle and Cori Rechenmacher each put up 9.775 scores.

Garrison on bars: "The first three were stuck dismounts and I thought we were really on a roll. We made a couple of mistakes after that but we ended up with four sticks and five solid routines on that first rotation."

#### **BALANCE BEAM**

Kentucky pulled away from Eastern Michigan on the beam. UK scored a 48.800 while EMU scored a 46.750. Hyland led the way for the Cats with a 9.875, while Rechenmacher followed at 9.775.

#### **FLOOR EXERCISE**

UK outscored EMU 48.775 - 48.050 on the floor. Hyland won her third event of the night with a 9.850, and she also won the bars and beam. Korth followed suit with a 9.800 en route to the all-around championship and Dukes put up a 9.775.









## **UK Sports Network**

#### John Calipari Call-in Show Dates & Times

Monday, November 21, 2016 7-8 p.m. Tuesday, November 29, 2016 7-8 p.m. Monday, December 05, 2016 6-7 p.m.

for all remaining shows

Monday, December 12, 2016

Monday, December 19, 2016

Monday, December 26, 2016

Monday, January 02, 2017

Wednesday, January 11, 2017

Wednesday, January 18, 2017

Wednesday, January 25, 2017

Monday, January 30, 2017

Monday, February 06, 2017 Monday, February 13, 2017

Wednesday, February 22, 2017

Monday, February 27, 2017

Monday, March 06, 2017

Monday, March 13, 2017

Monday, March 20, 2017

Monday, March 27, 2017

(if necessary)

#### "This is Kentucky Basketball" **Show Dates**

Sunday, November 27, 2016

Sunday, December 04, 2016 11:30

on WKYT, Noon on Fox Sports South,

check local listings etc.

Sunday, December 11, 2016

Sunday, December 18, 2016

Sunday, December 25, 2016

Sunday, January 01, 2017

Sunday, January 08, 2017

Sunday, January 15, 2017

Sunday, January 22, 2017

Sunday, January 29, 2017

Sunday, February 05, 2017

Sunday, February 12, 2017

Sunday, February 19, 2017

Sunday, February 26, 2017

Sunday, March 05, 2017

Sunday, March 12, 2017

Sunday, March 19, 2017

Sunday, March 26, 2017

(if necessary)

Sunday, April 02, 2017 (if necessary)











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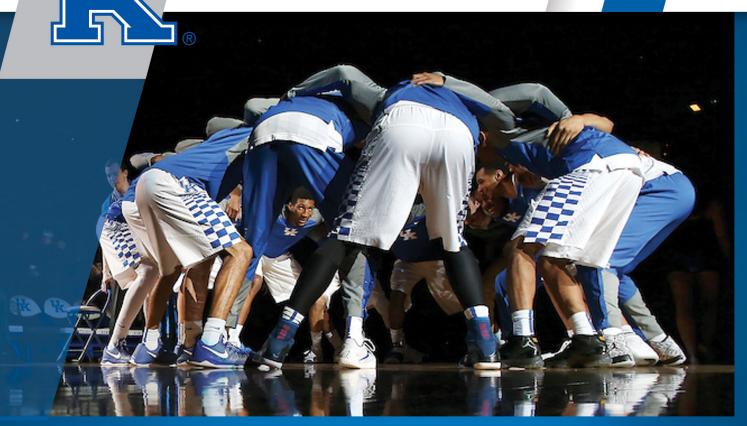
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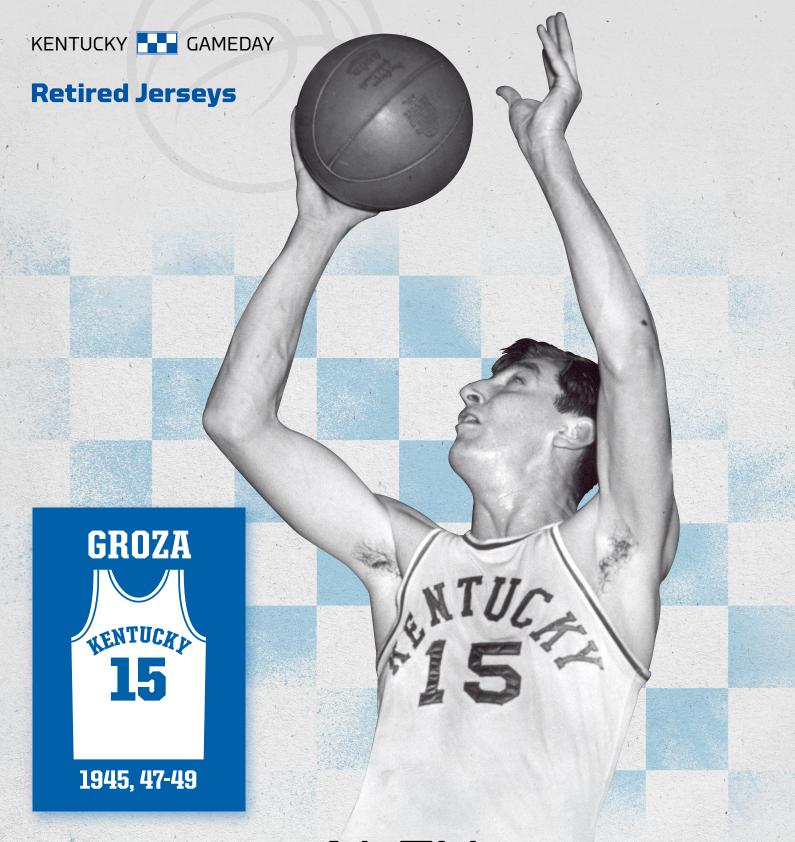




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6-7 | C | Martins Ferry, Ohio | Martins Ferry





# RALPH BEARD

5-10 | G | Louisville, Ky. | Male

### **Kentucky Traditions**

#### **Blue and White**

The University of Kentucky adopted blue and white as its official colors in 1892. UK students had first decided on blue and light yellow before the Kentucky-Centre football game Dec. 19, 1891. The yellow was soon dropped from the combination and replaced by white.

The particular Kentucky shade of blue, close to royal blue, was determined without ceremony. After settling on the base colors, a student posed the logical question, "What color blue?" Letterman Richard Stoll looked down at his necktie and raised it to the air. The vote was unanimous.

#### Wildcats Nickname

The official nickname for the University of Kentucky's athletics teams is "Wildcats." The nickname became synonymous with UK shortly after a 6-2 football victory over Illinois on Oct. 9, 1909, on the road.

Commandant Carbusier, then head of the military department at old State University (UK), told a group of students in a chapel service following the game that the Kentucky football team had "fought like wildcats."

Later the name Wildcats became more and more popular among UK followers as well as with members of the media. As a result, the nickname was adopted by the University.

#### **UK Dance Team**

The University of Kentucky Dance Team helps generate excitement and enthusiasm at Wildcat athletics events. Under the tutelage of Dawn Duncan Walters and assistant coach Andrea Masters, the dance team includes both Blue and White squads. The team won its first national championship at the 2005 national competition sponsored by the United Spirit Association. It backed that up with a second-place finish in 2006 and took home third at the 2007 championships. The 2010 squad placed fifth in the Pom Division at UDA 2010 Nationals.

#### Fan-tastic!

The Kentucky cheerleaders, band and dance team combine to entertain the nation's largest and most loyal fan base in college basketball. Sure, Ashley Judd, Tommy Lasorda, Muhammad Ali and Backstreet Boy Kevin Richardson steal the attention, but those Big Blue stars are just a few of the Cat fans in attendance at UK games. It's each and every one of the many Kentucky fans who deserve the credit for helping the Wildcats lead the nation in attendance 22 times since Rupp Arena opened in 1976-77, including 14 of the last 15 years.



And the tremendous fan base is not limited to just Lexington. Each year, Kentucky fans flock to Freedom Hall in Louisville, to fill the arena with more than 20,000 fans for an annual "home" game.

The Southeastern Conference Tournament? Well, it might as well be called the Kentucky Invitational. March Madness? Nearly the same result.

The nation's largest media contingent follows the Cats from start to finish simply because of the fans' incessant appetite for information on their Wildcats.

#### Trademark Swoosh

Only the best wear Nike. Kentucky not only wears Nike, but is under an all-school contract with the athletic apparel company. In 1997,

UK signed the contract with the popular makers of the trademark swoosh. Thanks to Nike's extensive research and product development, UK student-athletes stay on the cutting edge of quality and style with all of their gear.

All 22 sports use Nike shoes and equipment, and over the course of the contract, the Wildcats will receive millions of dollars worth of clothing, equipment and cash. The men's basketball team has been recognized by the apparel company as a "Nike Elite"

While clothing adorned with "Kentucky" was already popular throughout the nation, thanks to Nike and its international marketing reach, Kentucky's blue and white can now be found world-



## **Kentucky Traditions**

#### Cawood's Court

Prior to the UK-Louisville game on Dec. 29, 2001, the court at Rupp Arena was named "Cawood's Court" in honor of Cawood Ledford, the beloved "Voice of the Wildcats" for 39 years (1953-92). Ledford passed away in September 2001, after a long battle with cancer.

The ceremonies included the unveiling of a logo courtside, not far from where Ledford called the action. Also included in the ceremony were donations by two area businesses to the Cawood Ledford Scholarship Fund, established in 1992 to assist former student-athletes in obtaining their degrees.

#### The Wildcat

The Wildcat mascot originated during the 1976-77 academic year at UK. Gary Tanner was the original Wildcat, dancing and entertaining thousands of UK fans at Commonwealth Stadium and Rupp Arena during athletics events.

A few years later, he was joined by another Cat — walking on stilts — who made his appearance during UK's twin tower era of Melvin Turpin and Sam Bowie.

Today, both the Wildcat and his sidekick, Scratch, attend each football and basketball game, several academic functions and generally serve as friendly ambassadors for the University.

#### Scratch

Scratch joined the cheerleading squad in the mid '90s in conjunction with the UK Kids' Club, but today he has become almost as recognizable as the Wildcat.

The lovable face of UK Athletics garnered national attention after being named to the 2003 Capital One Mascot All-America team, an honor he earned again in 2004.

#### **Senior Day**

Senior Day at Kentucky has become one of the most celebrated ceremonies in college basketball. Honoring its senior class, UK's event is one of the most elaborate and moving programs of its kind. The pregame ceremony begins with player introductions. Once they have all burst through banners bearing their likenesses, their families join them at center court. Then the state song, "My Old Kentucky Home," is sung as the home crowd bids farewell.

#### **UK Cheerleaders**

Rooting on the Wildcats every game are the award-winning UK Cheerleaders.

Under the direction of adviser T. Lynn Williamson and coach Jomo Thompson, the UK Cheerleaders have become the model cheerleading squad in the nation. Since 1985, UK has earned the Universal Cheer Association national championship an impressive 18 times. The squad has been runner-up five

#### **UK Pep Band**

With more than 100 members, the University of Kentucky pep band is one of the largest in the

nation. Clad in its recognizable blue and white outfits, the pep band is directed by Scott-Lee Atchison. Performing at both home football and basketball games, the UK pep band has been named by Southern Living as one of the "top 10 bands in the South."

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## ARENA

dolph Rupp was synonymous with winning. As coach of Kentucky, he was a pioneer in the Wildcats' fastbreak offense while becoming the winningest coach the game had ever seen.

The site that now serves as a tribute to his outstanding coaching accomplishments - Rupp Arena - has become one of the most recognizable gymnasiums in the world while serving as home to college basketball's most storied program.

Now in its 41st season as the Kentucky Wildcats' home court, the facility has seen UK win nearly 90 percent of its home games since it was opened in 1976.

Long considered the mecca of college basketball, Rupp Arena received a \$16 million upgrade over the 2014-15 and 2015-16 seasons that has enhanced the fan experience and once again made it one of the premier venues in all of college basketball. The most noteable updates include:

- State-of-the-art Daktronics center-hung video board
- 15mm ribbon boards
- Replaced 16mm LED corner video boards with 6mm LED video boards to produce HD quality image
- L Acoustic Line Array audio speaker system
- Total sanding and repainting of the floor to reflect UK's updated branding and
- New basketball goals and new shot clocks
- Added press box seating to the east side of the arena
- Replaced LED scorer's table with 6mm version and moved the old 10mm scorer's table to the opposite side of the floor for radio broadcast seating
- Replaced static ad panels in lower four corners of the arena with LED ad panels

Following the 2012 season, the Wildcats received a \$3.1 million renovation to their

locker room. Funded with private donations, the facility features the actual floor from the 2012 championship game. It has its own kitchen and dining area, as well as hot and cold tubs inlaid with the UK logo. There is also a recruiting room that is available to all 22 sports at the University of Kentucky.

Since the fall of 1976, the arena in downtown Lexington has served as home to four national championship teams at Kentucky. Six others have advanced to the Final Four. Thirteen seasons have witnessed the Cats go unbeaten at home.

It has played host to more than 600 UK games, more than 30 KHSAA Sweet Sixteens, a number of NBA exhibitions, 12 Men's NCAA Tournaments, three Southeastern Conference Tournaments and two Ohio Valley Conference Tournaments.

A new floor was installed in 2001. With so many unforgettable moments, the old floor still maintained a value to hoop fans across the Bluegrass and beyond. Therefore, officials made pieces of the relic available for public sale, with proceeds going to the UK Basketball Museum, the KHSAA and to help offset the costs of the new playing floor. Thanks to an auction of additional sections, like coaching boxes and lettered end zones, the old floor generated more than \$250,000. Midcourt of the old floor rests in the main entrance of the Lexington Center.

When assembled, the court lies 118 feet below the ceiling and is made of a high-grade northern maple. The floor can be removed and an ice rink can be constructed for ice shows or hockey games thanks to a \$2.5 million renovation during the summer of 1996.

But the playing surface is just one aspect of the impressive home of the Cats. Situated in downtown Lexington, Rupp Arena has played host to several premier basketball events. In March of 1985, all roads led to Lexington for the NCAA Final Four as Villanova shocked Georgetown in a memorable finale.

In 1986, Rupp played host to both the

SEC Tournament and the NCAA Women's Final Four. On numerous other occasions, the arena has served as one stop en route to the NCAA title game. Starting in 2016, Rupp Arena will host three straight NCAA women's regional rounds.

An awesome structure in sight and scope, the arena is divided into two seating areas. The lower level features 10,000 cushioned theater seats. The upper level has 13,000 seats on epoxy-coated metal bleachers. The latter can be visually isolated to provide more natural setting for small shows.

Built by the city of Lexington, the arena is the major portion of the \$53 million Lexington Center complex, which includes an expanded convention-exhibition hall, a 50-store tri-level enclosed shopping mall and a Hyatt Regency Hotel.

In January 2001, the Wildcats began utilizing a new lights-out introduction, featuring a video presentation and indoor fireworks.

#### **Rupp Arena Facts**

**Capacity: 23,000 UK's record:** 546-64 (.895) **Most Wins in a Season:** 19 (2014-15) **Longest Winning Streak:** 54 (11/13/09 to 12/1/12)

#### Packed to the Rafters

- Kentucky has led the nation in average home attendance in 18 of the last 21
- Since Rupp Arena opened for the 1976-77 season, UK has ranked either first or second in average attendance every season
- The Wildcats led the nation in average home attendance during the 2015-16 season with an average of 23,361 fans
- UK has averaged more than 23,000 fans per game in six of John Calipari's seven seasons at Kentucky

### Eli Capilouto

r. Eli Capilouto became the 12th President of the University of Kentucky on July 1, 2011. Under his leadership, the \$3.5 billion flagship and land grant research university has gained significant momentum in fulfilling its multi-faceted mission of teaching, research, service and health care.

To embolden the institution's enduring legacy, Dr. Capilouto has led a process to enrich UK's academic experience by increasing institutional investments in student financial aid, developing the Lewis Honors College, expanding Living-Learning Communities, and rebuilding academic and community spaces. Because of his priorities, the University has enrolled nearly 400 National Merit, National Achievement and National Hispanic Scholars in the last several years - tripling the number of incoming Scholars and putting UK in the Top 10 public institutions enrolling these students.

Under Dr. Capilouto's leadership, the University of Kentucky is undergoing a significant physical transformation of its academic, research, residential, health care and community spaces. Through partnership, increased philanthropy and effective financial management, UK is self-financing the vast majority of its more than \$1.9 billion infrastructure development.

Over the last five years, the University has completed, initiated or authorized construction on: 14 new residence halls; several dining facilities, including the 1,000-seat facility known as "the 90;" a \$65 million renovated and expanded Gatton College of Business and Economics supported by donors and private philanthropy; a new \$110 Academic Science Building financed, inpart, through a \$65 million partnership with UK Athletics; and a \$120 million revitalized Commonwealth Stadium funded with Athletics revenue; a renovated and expanded Nutter Training Center financed by philanthropy; a \$201 million renovation and expansion of the Student Center; \$150 million to continue the fit-out of Chandler Hospital; a new home for the School of Art and Visual Studies; a new \$265 million multi-disciplinary health sciences research facility in partnership with the state; and the renewal of the College of Law in partnership with donors and the state.

Research at the University of Kentucky is a dynamic enterprise encompassing a full spectrum of academic inquiry, including the humanities, social sciences, traditional scholarship and emerging technologies. UK's research faculty, staff and students are establishing UK as one of the nation's most prolific



public research universities in the nation. In 2013, UK's Markey Cancer Center was designated as a National Cancer Center by the National Cancer Institute; placing UK among an elite group of 22 research universities with the triple crown of federal research awards: NCI-designation, the Clinical and Translational Sciences Award and a federally supported Alzheimer's Disease Center.

Essential to the service mission of the University of Kentucky is the advanced patient care and outreach provided by UK Health-Care. As the flagship academic-medical center in the region, UK serves patients through a network of health care professionals around the Commonwealth while providing acute, sub-specialty medical care at UK Chandler Hospital. In 2013, UK HealthCare was distinguished as a Top Performer by the Joint

Commission, the largest medical accreditation body in the nation, and won a Rising Star Award from the University Health System Consortium.

A native of Montgomery, Alabama, Dr. Capilouto previously served as Provost of the University of Alabama-Birmingham (UAB) and Dean of the UAB School of Public Health -- a period of remarkable growth and transformation at one of the leading academic and health sciences institutions in the South.

Dr. Capilouto holds several undergraduate and graduate degrees from schools within the University of Alabama system, and a Doctorate in Health Policy and Management from Harvard University. He and his wife, Dr. Mary Lynne Capilouto (D.M.D.) a former Dean of the UAB School of Dentistry, have one daughter.





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#### **Mitch Barnhart**

Athletics Director of the University of Kentucky

#### Impact.

t's a word that can have a meaning of stark suddenness, as when a streaking meteor slams into an object in outer space. Or, as in the case of University of Kentucky Athletics Director Mitch Barnhart, impact comes as the result of a stream of accomplishments and service that grows steadily through the test of time.

Now in his 15th year at UK, Barnhart's influence is felt not only in Wildcat athletics, but in conference and national forums as well.

Already having served on numerous committees and boards for the NCAA and the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA), Barnhart's national leadership will continue to expand as a new member of the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Committee, which

brings responsibility for selecting, seeding and bracketing teams, along with administration of the NCAA's highest-profile event.

With his extensive previous experience on the NCAA Division I Council, as chair of the NCAA Competition Oversight Committee and as a member of the NCAA Division I Baseball Committee, in addition to several other leadership groups, Barnhart is well-suited for his latest task.

On a league level, Barnhart has been active in Southeastern Conference projects. Of recent note is his work with the SEC Compliance Committee and the SEC Network Content Committee, which helped the highly successful launch of the largest new cable channel in television history.

Barnhart's acumen and achievements are being recognized. In 2015, he was named NCAA Division I Athletics Director of the Year, one of four Division I ADs selected for the honor, at the annual NACDA convention.

Barnhart also was one of four finalists for the Athletics Director of the Year as chosen by the SportsBusiness Journal and he received the Sports Business Award from the Bluegrass Sports Commission.

It is no coincidence that Barnhart's multiple accolades came in the same year as the completion of his 15 by 15 by 15 Plan, an ambitious blueprint set in 2008 in which Kentucky would rank in the nation's top 15 athletic programs and win 15 conference or national championships by 2015. At the same



time, Barnhart set a goal of a 3.0 composite grade-point average for UK student-athletes and an even greater commitment to community service by Wildcat athletes and staff. All of the goals presented bold, unprecedented challenges for UK Athletics.

The academic goal was first achieved in the spring semester of 2010 and has an active streak of eight consecutive 3.0 semesters, hitting a peak in spring 2014 with a school-record 3.218 composite GPA. Community service has risen to more than 4,000 hours annually and includes outreach to the Lexington area, the Commonwealth of Kentucky and as far away as Ethiopia.

The Directors' Cup objective was reached a year early when UK checked in at a school-record No. 11 in the 2013-14 national all-sports standings. Kentucky has a current streak of five straight top-30 finishes in the Directors' Cup, including four of the top five rankings in school history.

The final goal was reached when UK men's basketball claimed the 2015 SEC Tournament title, the 15th championship won by Wildcat athletes since 2008.

Not content with reaching one set of goals, Barnhart has initiated a new objective - Elite 1-3-5. The aim is for each UK team to be No. 1 by winning a conference or national championship, continue a department-wide 3.0 GPA and rank in the top 5 of the Directors' Cup standings by 2022.

The impact of Barnhart is recognized

by the award-winning Cats. In her acceptance speech for the SEC Community Service Leader Award, golfer Megan Moir acknowledged the inspiration provided by the UK athletic director.

"I would like to thank Mr. Barnhart for the opportunity and the privilege of being a student-athlete at the University of Kentucky," Moir said. "I have so much respect for you and you have shown me what it means to be a true servant-leader."

The team and individual accolades didn't happen overnight and they haven't occurred by accident, either. They have been the result of a steady, methodical process which Barnhart implemented upon his arrival at Kentucky in 2002.

Barnhart began by providing funds for full coaching staffs and scholarship allotments for all 22 UK sports.

Next, Barnhart directed the construction of new facilities, including the Joe Craft Center; new stadiums for track and field, softball and soccer; the UK Golf House; and the Wildcat Coal Lodge dormitory. Commonwealth Stadium had major renovations completed in 2015 and a new football practice/ support complex opened in 2016. A new baseball stadium and indoor tennis facility are on the drawing board. All totaled, he has completed or is in the process of more than \$300 million of facility construction.

Additional milestones have occurred under Barnhart's guidance. UK athletes have set records for graduation rates and maintained a perfect mark in the 12-year history of the NCAA Academic Progress Rate.

Barnhart arrived at UK from Oregon State, where he served four successful years (1998-2002) as athletics director. Before OSU, he worked in athletics administration posts at Tennessee (1986-98), Southern Methodist University (1983-86), Oregon (1983) and San Diego State (1982-83).

A native of Kansas City, Kan., he earned his bachelor's degree from Ottawa University (Kansas) in 1981 and a master's in sports administration from Ohio University.

Barnhart's family includes his wife, Connie; three children, Blaire, Scott, and Kirby Willoughby; Kirby's husband, McKenzie, and a grandson, Cooper.