

The next few weeks provided up-and-down play from the young team. The squad was able to earn a pair of home victories over Ole Miss and Mississippi State to open October, but then suffered back-to-back road defeats the following week to South Carolina and Tennessee. Homecoming Weekend saw Kentucky earn a payback 3-2 win over the visiting LSU Tigers, but UK was unable to avenge its loss to Arkansas, falling 3-1 to the Razorbacks.

UK was overpowered at Florida the following weekend, extending its losing streak to the Gators to 27 matches. Kentucky was dealt another blow in Gainesville as Popp ruptured the bursae in her right elbow during warm-ups. She was able to play in two games, but hit -.600 for the match and added only two digs. A 3-1 win over Georgia in Athens helped UK end the weekend on a strong note however. Popp was able to play in the match as well, tallying nine kills and 12 digs.

The Wildcats closed out October with a 3-1 loss at Alabama before traveling across the state to face Auburn. UK earned the win after a career-best 33-dig performance by Jenni Casper, but allowed the Tigers to take their first game-win in the series in three years. South Carolina traveled to Lexington on Nov. 5 and was able to escape with a 3-1 win, including a 31-29 game four victory. Kentucky bounced back to defeat the visiting Tennessee Vols, 3-1, after Popp and Sarah Spinner each recorded 21 kills and combined for 25 digs in the match.

Kentucky visited in-state rival and 19th-

ranked Louisville on Nov. 10 and quickly took charge in the match, earning a 30-26 victory in the first game. It was UK's first game win over the Cardinals since the 1999 season, and Louisville came back with vengeance closing out the match with three straight wins. Canfield was tops for UK, hitting .407 for the match with 15 kills and two blocks.

Georgia visited Lexington in the final SEC regular-season weekend looking to steal a win and it did just that. With Kentucky leading the match 2-0, the Bulldogs returned from the halftime break to take game three, 30-18. UGA then took a close game with UK, 30-26, before winning the match and leaving the Cats stunned with a 15-11 final game win. UK played host to Florida on Senior Day for Canfield, McCaslin and Julie Davis, and the Gators made quick work of the home team, winning the match 3-0 as the Cats hit just .115 on the afternoon.

For the second consecutive season, Kentucky drew the eighth seed in the SEC Tournament and was pitted against the Gators for back-to-back matches. The Wildcats traveled to Columbia, S.C., for the tournament festivities and was honored several times at the annual banquet. Casper was named the first-ever SEC Defensive Player of the Year, while joining Popp on the SEC All-Freshmen team. Casper also earned accolades as the defensive player for the All-SEC First Team.

As play got under way at the Volleyball Competition Facility, Kentucky had a hard time handling the eventual NCAA runners-up,

falling in three games - 30-20, 30-19 and 30-19. McCaslin was UK's leading performer in the match, totaling nine kills on .296 hitting as UK hit .078 collectively.

The Cats took to the road one final time over the Thanksgiving holiday, traveling to Las Vegas for the UNLV Thanksgiving Tournament at the Cox Pavilion. Just a mile off the strip, the Cats spent the holiday in a tough battle with the host Rebels. After splitting the first four games, UNLV was able to gain an edge in the final battle, winning the match and pushing UK's losing streak to five matches.

The final match of the season promised to be one of the toughest of the year as Kentucky faced No. 2 Hawaii Rainbow Wahine the next day. While UH was able to earn a 3-0 sweep of Kentucky, the battle was much closer than it appeared. UK lost two games by a combined seven points before a crowd of 525, most of which were cheering for the visiting Rainbow Wahine. The loss ended UK's season at 14-18, though the Cats had to close the season playing three of their final four matches against top-three teams.

Though the season ended on a sour note, several Wildcats left their mark on the record books. Casper's 473 digs ranked third for single-season digs at UK, while Marcum's 1,561 assists were the third most in a single season in UK's 27-year history. Marcum moved her career total, which spanned the 2003 year and just 12 matches in 2002, to 1,679 assists, already ranking the junior-to-be eighth in the record books.

2003 Final Statistics

RECORD:	OVERALL	HOME	AWAY	NEUTRAL
ALL MATCHES	14-18	6-5	4-9	4-4
CONFERENCE	6-10	4-4	2-6	0-0
NON-CONFERENCE	8-8	2-1	2-3	4-4

No.	Player	G	ATTACK					Set		SERVE			DIG			BLOCKING					Pts	
			K	K/G	E	TA	Pct	A	A/G	SA	SE	SA/G	RE	DIG	Dig/G	BS	BA	Total	B/G	BE		BHE
7	Sissy Canfield	126	374	2.97	107	800	.334	10	0.08	24	39	0.19	2	46	0.37	18	86	104	0.83	5	1	459.0
5	Julie Gagnon	40	4	0.10	1	11	.273	4	0.10	0	2	0.00	9	42	1.05	0	0	0	0.00	0	1	4.0
11	Katie Bright	6	7	1.17	3	15	.267	2	0.33	0	1	0.00	0	3	0.50	0	0	0	0.00	1	0	7.0
8	Danielle Wallace	70	219	3.13	97	514	.237	8	0.11	6	16	0.09	9	116	1.66	2	19	21	0.30	2	1	236.5
4	Leigh Marcum	126	88	0.70	37	228	.224	1561	12.39	26	38	0.21	2	234	1.86	3	48	51	0.40	16	66	141.0
3	Amy Kaplan	81	118	1.46	51	325	.206	4	0.05	13	17	0.16	1	71	0.88	7	41	48	0.59	7	2	158.5
9	Liz McCaslin	103	256	2.49	96	782	.205	14	0.14	11	12	0.11	22	257	2.50	2	26	28	0.27	3	5	282.0
1	Melissa Popp	120	369	3.08	197	984	.175	63	0.52	36	83	0.30	26	249	2.08	2	39	41	0.34	5	4	426.5
14	Sarah Spinner	119	428	3.60	241	1171	.160	18	0.15	40	91	0.34	26	301	2.53	8	48	56	0.47	15	4	500.0
15	Julie Davis	68	64	0.94	39	184	.136	9	0.13	16	12	0.24	1	28	0.41	7	60	67	0.99	12	1	117.0
10	Jenni Casper	126	1	0.01	4	45	-.067	48	0.38	0	0	0.00	56	473	3.75	0	0	0	0.00	0	3	1.0
12	Kirby Newhouse	47	1	0.02	3	12	-.167	9	0.19	7	9	0.15	9	65	1.38	0	1	1	0.02	0	2	8.5
TEAM														17								
KENTUCKY		126	1929	15.31	876	5071	.208	1750	13.89	179	320	1.42	180	1885	14.96	49	368	233.0	1.85	66	90	2341.0
Opponents		126	1801	14.29	737	4803	.222	1620	12.86	180	255	1.43	177	1863	14.79	70	464	302.0	2.40	47	78	2283.0