



The Way I See it

By
Doug Ponder

The Big Blue Nation is in mourning after the Robert Morris Colonials beat the Kentucky Wildcats 59-57 in the first round of the NIT Tournament Tuesday night.

Just when UK basketball fans thought the season couldn't get any worse, after not receiving a bid to the NCAA Tournament, the Wildcats were outplayed and embarrassed by a small school team that barely averaged 1,000 fans during their fifteen home games this season.

Quite frankly, I have never heard of anything like the Wildcat's 2012-2013 season before and I believe the loss to Robert Morris was simply the "icing on the cake" to one of the most disastrous seasons in UK basketball history.

After the game Tuesday night, I was reminded of some statements made earlier this season by Morehead State Head Basketball Coach and former Kentucky basketball player Sean Woods.

After meeting some of the freshman on this year's squad for the first time in November during a WKYT telethon for the victims of Hurricane Sandy, Woods told reporters that he didn't "like the vibe" he felt from this season's crop of Wildcats and he sensed that they had already developed "a feeling of entitlement" after talking to them.

His comments received mixed reviews from the Big Blue Nation and he later retracted them by praising Coach Cal and his 2012-2013 squad. However, after evaluating the lackluster performance and results from this season's team, I believe Wood's comments accurately described the 2012-2013 Kentucky Wildcats to a tee.

It seemed like every player on Coach Cal's team this year believed they already had the 2013 National Championship in the bag before the season had even started. Pre-season photo shoots of the talented freshman Cats would only encourage this belief as photos were printed with captions stating "In Line for 9" and "Nation's number 1 class looks to continue championship legacy."

Truth is, they already felt entitled before the season even started. But regardless of how talented you may be, no one is "entitled" to anything and you have to "earn" everything. This year's Wildcat squad had to learn this lesson the hard way and die-hard Wildcat fans were the true victims as they had to suffer a disappointing sea-

son because of it.

As the season progressed, and the Wildcat players soon realized that they weren't playing up to their potential, they became frustrated and started to focus on themselves instead of their team.

But as the majority of the players continued to struggle game after game, I believe Nerlens Noel and Willie Cauley-Stein realized about mid-season that they would have to put forth effort as a team and worry more about the name on the front of their jersey instead of the name on the back of their jersey.

However, I believe Archie Goodwin, Ryan Harrow and Alex Poythress never grasped the system like the rest of the team did in the middle of the season. This was evident in interviews after games when they were more worried about themselves getting better instead of more worried about their team getting better.

Goodwin was a McDonald's All-American, Arkansas's Mr. Basketball and was ranked 14th overall in his class. Harrow was a transfer from North Carolina State and was ranked as the 25th overall prospect by Scout.com as a senior in high school. Poythress was a McDonald's All-American, Tennessee's Mr. Basketball and was ranked 7th overall in his class.

With all the success before college, this season was probably the first time these three players had gone through a struggle in their life. As the old saying goes "everyone is a stud in high school but college is what separates the men from the boys."

This is what happened with Goodwin, Harrow and Poythress. They were some of the most talented players to ever set foot on the basketball court but their college careers suffered because they lacked the mental toughness to become a team player and play through adversity.

By being some of the top players in the nation, these three players believed they could come to UK and use Coach Cal to springboard them into the NBA after one season without having to put forth little effort. When players have these kind of beliefs, the only results you will see are results similar to the 2012-2013 Kentucky Wildcats season.

As a UK fan, I hope Coach Cal changes his recruiting strategy in the fu-

(Cont. to A4)

Points East

By Ike Adams



One thing I'm pretty sure about these days is that the economy is not going to get a whole lot better anytime soon. And I don't expect food prices to get any lower in the foreseeable future.

On the other hand, I do expect the best growing season we've had in a decade. I'm not going to get into the basis for that latter expectation in this column except to say that all the signs are right for cooperative weather for the rest of the year and the timing right.

If your budget is stretched thin, this may be the year that you need give some thought to growing some of the stuff you eat. But don't think very long. Just get off your lazy fat behind and do it.

If the sunshine hits your lawn or the sides of your home for 8 hours a day during the daylight saving time season, you can grow just about any vegetable worth eating that you'd find in the produce section of whatever grocery you shop for such.

If all you eat, veggie wise, is canned or frozen stuff from the grocery, then read no further. Go straight to the obituaries and commence planning on how you'd like to be remembered.

But if you want to eat the highest quality food known to man, try growing some yourself.

The easy choices are tomatoes, peppers, green beans, sugar snap or snow peas, green onions (scallions) lettuce, radishes, spinach, mustard greens, kale, cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, eggplant, cucumbers, squash, beets, okra, and whatever you like best as long as it's not mush-

rooms. If you have a sunny spot, a foot wide and ten feet long, you can easily grow a couple dozen ears of sweet corn and even plant Kentucky Wonder or cornfield beans to climb the stalks once the corn gets about a foot tall.

If your lawn will grow nice, green, grass it will grow veggies and herbs. You may have to borrow a mattock and a spade to dig up a few holes or trenches, but basically all you have to do is just that. Get a little exercise, pay some attention once a week to weeding and watering and feast out when the crop is ready to eat.

Summer squash, such as zucchini and golden crookneck, will almost grow in asphalt. (Actually, if your driveway is badly cracked, just drop a couple or three squash seed in) Don't bother with those because somebody like me will be trying to give them to you from June until late October.

And don't try everything at once. Don't be planting stuff that you won't eat unless Aunt Maggie is in the old folks' home and swears that eggplant is the only thing that will keep her alive.

If you have never tried to grow stuff, start out small. Get your feet wet before you try to swim across the Channel. Put out a hill of cucumbers and half a dozen big boy or Parks whopper or cherry tomatoes or a combination of the three. Sow a few lettuce seed and stick a few onion bulbs in the ground.

If you are a long time gardener, then bear in mind, that spring is just the begin-

(Cont. to A4)

ramblings...

by: perlina m. anderkin

Spent Saturday at the Red Barn in Renfro Valley perusing items up for auction from the estate of the late Billy Hiatt.

Everyone remembers Billy as the owner of Hiatt's 5&10 and, there were several items from his store included in the sale.

I had a good time. I bought a much-needed bedroom suite, some not so much-needed decorative items and generally left with a good feeling. I have left some auctions, so mad I could spit nails because I didn't get items I felt at the time I absolutely had to have. In fact, even though I mentally set a price in my mind I will not go over, I invariably wind up going a little higher, because after all what's \$10, \$25, \$50 more?

I was much better Saturday, even though I did go higher than my mental cut-off on a sofa and set of dishes -- still didn't get them but at least I wasn't sitting there looking for who was bidding against me so I could give them the "evil eye" or mentally recalculating my living expenses for the next year in order to raise the bid one more time.

This sort of sale is what I have always said I would manage to come back and

haunt my children for. But, if I had the quality of items that Billy and Barb had to dispose of I might change my mind -- I don't so don't expect any change of mind.

Like other Kentucky fans, I was depressed after watching Monday night's laughter loss to Robert Morris. I wasn't surprised because it has been that kind of season for Kentucky. I have always felt that 1) more Kentucky boys should be recruited and 2) it's no much fun to watch even the best of players if you know there time is going to be limited to one season. There's no time to build any rapport with players who you know are only using the school for a one year stop on their way to the pros. But, on the other hand, as Coach Cal has said, you just don't turn down an Anthony Davis because you know he's only going to be there for one year. I would just like to see more kids in the program who care about Kentucky -- the state and not just there because they have to be somewhere for a year before they can get their millions in the pros. And, I don't blame them, either. Why would you stay somewhere and take a chance on getting hurt and missing out

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OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND!

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FREE TRASH DROP-OFF DAY

The Rockcastle County Fiscal Court, in conjunction with PRIDE (Personal Responsibility in a Desirable Environment) is pleased to once again offer a

Free Trash and Bulk Goods Drop-Off Day

This event will be held **Saturday, April 27th from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.** (rain or shine) at the Brodhead Fairgrounds. This event is open to Rockcastle County residents only! Sign-in at the gate will be required this year in order to qualify as a PRIDE volunteer! Identification is required!

We will be able to accept the following items:
household trash, bulk goods (such as couches, chairs, mattresses, etc), appliances, televisions, computer equipment, etc.



Personnel will be on hand to assist with unloading items.

We will **NOT** accept any tires, liquids, brush, clean wood, propane tanks or hazardous materials.

For more information, call the Rockcastle County Solid Waste Office at 606-256-1902



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