**Football Kit Resource Guide**

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**Introduction:**

This resource guide is designed to provide you with tools to help people engage with the past and connect with others. There are images and objects to share with your customers, an oral history interview that can be played and shared, statistics about high school football in Kentucky, and articles about Kentucky football.

**Images and objects:**

Encourage your group members to look at the photographs included with the kit and to discuss what is happening in them.

There are objects included with the kit like a football and a pennant. Encourage your customers to hold them and talk about what the objects are. If they want to share stories about their memories related to the objects, please encourage them to do so.

Some conversation prompts can include:

* What do you want to say about what is going on in this picture?
* What do you think is happening in this picture?
* Did you or anyone in your family play footbal? Tell me about the games.
* What was the football stadium like? What food did you eat at the game? Did you bring your own food, or buy food at the stadium?
* What were the uniforms like? What was the team’s name?
* What team was your rival?
* Did the players have any traditions that they did before or after the game? What were those traditions?
* What is your favorite memory about a sports event?

**Keywords or events to discuss**

T.W. Alley

Laurie Apitz

Bowl Games

Bruce Armstrong

Charlie Bradshaw

Deion Branch

Rich Brooks

Bear Bryant

Doug Buffone

Frank Camp

Jerry Claiborne

Mark Clayton

Randall Cobb

Ron Cooper

Blanton Collier

Tim Couch

Fran Curci

Bill Curry

Ben Cregor

Will Duffy

Bill Duncan

Fred Enke

Vince Gibson

Ernest Givens

Wilburn Hackett

Houston Hogg

KHSAA (Kentucky High School Athletic Association)

Lamar Jackson

Tom Jackson

Joe Jacoby

Roy Kidd

Tom King

A.D. Kirwan

Steve Kragthorpe

Lester Larson

Sam Madison

Jack McGrath

A.M. Miller

C.V. Money

Guy Morriss

Hal Mumme

Nate Northington

Greg Page

DeVante Parker

Bobby Petrino

Joker Phillips

John Ray

Scott Satterfield

Howard Schnellenberger

Bernie Shively

John L. Smith

Mark Stoops

Charlie Strong

Jacob Tamme

Johnny Unitas

Ted Washington

Bob Weber

Some of the names on this list were gathered from these resources:

“Facts and Figures” University of Kentucky Football, 1942

https://exploreuk.uky.edu/catalog/xt718911qd5z#page/1/mode/1up

NFL.com (2023). Top 10 all-time NFL players from Louisville. NFL. Retrieved from: https://www.nfl.com/photos/top-10-all-time-nfl-players-from-louisville-0ap1000000204097#a908025a-e3d8-4d01-bbe8-ef82cef6eb64

Riddle, Becky. “Miller Hall 1898,” ExploreKYHistory, accessed July 13, 2023, https://explorekyhistory.ky.gov/items/show/140.

Sports Illustrated. (October 8, 1962). The New Rage to Win

A Grim Commando Mood Has Hit Football. It Is Especially Evident at Kentucky, Where the Coach Is Demanding Total Dedication to Victory. *Sports Illustrated.* Retrieved from: https://vault.si.com/vault/1962/10/08/the-new-rage-to-win

Underwood, John. (September 29, 1969). A Cloudburst for Kentucky's Ray of Sunshine Coach John Ray, Who Took Over the Wildcats 10 Months Ago, Has Spent Much of His Time Since Convincing Everyone the Team Would Be a Winner. Last Week Indiana Noted an Exception. *Sports Illustrated.* Retrieved from: https://vault.si.com/vault/1969/09/29/a-cloudburst-for-kentuckys-ray-of-sunshine

**Books to share**

*100 Things Louisville Fans Should Know & Do Before They Die* by Mike Rutherford

This guide is the ultimate resource for true fans of the Cardinals. Whether you cheered along for the 1980 and 1986 March Madness victories, or whether you're a more recent supporter in the Rick Pitino era, these are the 100 things every fan needs to know and do in their lifetime. Experienced sportswriter Mike Rutherford has collected every essential piece of Louisville knowledge and trivia, as well as must-do activities, and ranks them all from 1 to 100, providing an entertaining and easy-to-follow checklist as you progress on your way to fan superstardom.

(Book summary provided by Amazon.)

*Fort Thomas Highlands Football* by Bill Thomas

Few high school football programs can match the success of Highlands. Having captured 17 state championships since 1960, the school ranks fifth in total wins among all high schools in the United States. The program has produced many outstanding college and professional players, including Jared Lorenzen of the New York Giants and Rob Smith of the Kansas City Chiefs. Legendary coach Homer Rice led Highlands to its first state championships in 1960 and 1961 before going on to coach Rice University and the Cincinnati Bengals. Fort Thomas Highlands Football highlights the program through the 2007 championship season and pays tribute to the teams and players since 1915. (Book summary provided by Amazon.)

*The Ultimate Cincinnati Bengals Trivia Book: A Collection of Amazing Trivia Quizzes and Fun Facts for Die-Hard Bungles Fans!* By Ray Walker

This trivia book is packed with interesting facts about the Bengals from cover to cover, taking you through the best and worst times of this storied organization over the years.

In this book, you’ll discover the answers to such questions as:

* How did Boomer Esiason earn his nickname?
* Who has played the most games for the Bengals in franchise history?
* Which Bengals defensive lineman provided the start to Brett Favre’s historic streak?
* How many Hall-of-Famers have the Bengals drafted?
* Who holds the Cincinnati record for most points in a season?

(Book summary provided by Amazon.)

\*There is a printout of a program from a 1934 University of Kentucky Football game. Share this program with your customers and encourage them to talk about how football and sports has changed since 1934.

**Web resources:**

**Cincinnati Bengals:**

https://www.bengals.com/

**Kentucky High School Athletic Association: Football**

https://khsaa.org/sports-activities-events/fall/football/

\*Share the printed statistics with your group members.

**Kentucky Pro Football Hall of Fame:**

https://kyprofootballhof.org/

The Kentucky Pro Football Hall of Fame Past Inductees:

Kentucky is the only state that has its own Pro Football Hall of Fame.

The purpose of the KY Pro Football Hall of Fame is to appropriately honor persons that have brought significant recognition to the state of Kentucky, or have by their unusual successful service achieved significant accomplishment on behalf of their school, or have by a significant act or contribution distinguished themselves as an unusual former National Football League player, coach, referee, owner, manager, etc., or have been a significant or unusual supporter of Pro Football.

The State of Kentucky has Six NFL Hall of Famers

Champ Bailey

George Blanda

Dermontti Dawson

Paul Hornung

George McAfee

Johnny Unitas

**University of Kentucky’s fight song:**

https://youtu.be/CBrybtgmJow

**University of Louisville fight song**

University of Louisville fight song:

https://youtu.be/KcR2o4VGzGA

https://youtu.be/-SDSkJqevxg

**Oral history interview**

Share some clips from these oral history interviews, which are available from the William H. Berge Oral History Center, Eastern Kentucky University Libraries. After playing clips or an entire interview, encourage your audience members to share their own memories. Use the keywords and phrases listed above to help generate conversation too.

Permission to share these interviews in this guide has been granted.

Roy Kidd, interview by Ronald Chris Whitefield, Nov. 12, 1996, tape no. 1997OH024, Eastern Kentucky University 1979 National Championship Project, William H. Berge Oral History Center, Eastern Kentucky University Libraries, Special Collections & Archives. https://oralhistory.eku.edu/items/show/43.

Joe Blankenship, interview by Ronald Chris Whitefield, Dec. 2, 1996, tape no. 1997OH021, Eastern Kentucky University 1979 National Championship Project, William H. Berge Oral History Center, Eastern Kentucky University Libraries, Special Collections & Archives. https://oralhistory.eku.edu/items/show/46.

**Articles**

Share one or more of the articles below and ask your group questions about them. You can read the articles to your audience members or have them take turns reading the articles you select.

Questions:

* What do you find interesting about what the article discusses?
* What memories do you have about the events discussed in the articles? Would you like to share your memories with the group?

**Article 1:**

2023 marks 100th anniversary of UK football center's death. By Jon Hale. (June 18, 2023). Lexington Herald-Leader. Retrieved from the NewsBank database.

Not far from the shining monument to legendary basketball coach Adolph Rupp in the Lexington Cemetery is the final resting place of a less remembered but still noteworthy figure in UK sports history.

A simple headstone reaching just a few inches above ground level marks the grave of Price McLean. His place in UK athletics lore is not evident by only the dates of his life accompanying his name on the stone: Jan. 13, 1901 to Oct. 7, 1923.

Oct. 7, 1923, was the day after an otherwise forgettable 14-0 Kentucky football win at Cincinnati. Shortly before halftime McLean, the center for the Wildcats, was kicked in the head, suffering what was thought to be only a minor injury at the time. A day later, he was dead.

The death of McLean may be a little-remembered footnote in UK football history a century later, but it was front page news in October 1923.

"Never in my life as a boy or minister have I known of a death that has so shocked the community as this one," Rev. G.R. Combs said at McLean's funeral, according to the Oct. 10, 1923, edition of The Lexington Herald.

A junior, McLean was playing his first season of varsity football in 1923. In the second game of the season, McLean took a blow to the head just before halftime.

Reports suggested McLean was visibly shaken immediately after the the play but appeared to quickly recover and continued to play until halftime. He was removed from the lineup in the second half after complaining of dizziness.

The Kentucky Kernel's report from the game described a troubling scene that would raise no shortage of red flags today.

"The blow that he received temporarily blinded him, but on each play he would line up with his team and automatically charge with the linemen," The Kernel wrote. "He was unable to remember his signals but with the aid of the guard who played next to him he passed the ball each time until the half closed."

Despite that troubling sequence, his injuries were not believed to be serious after the game since he was able to walk off the field under his own power and accompanied teammates back to the hotel. McLean was put to bed on the train ride home, along with another injured player, but was alert the next morning at his family home on Stone Avenue just north of campus.

After eating lunch on Oct. 7, McLean was found unconscious in his room. He was taken to Good Samaritan Hospital where doctors discovered a blot clot had begun to form on his brain. A surgery to address the blood clot was initially believed to be a success, but at 7:30 p.m. McLean died while still in the hospital.

"The tragedy is unfortunate beyond the measure of words," UK professor Enoch Grehan, a faculty representative on the university athletic council, told The Lexington Herald. "I knew the young man well. He was an admirable student, clean, capable, courageous as a lion, and his loyalty to the university, to its traditions and to his teammates was an inspiration at all times. He was gallant in victory and defeat alike. He was never known to flinch under fire."

Two days later, UK classes were canceled as the university community gathered to mourn McLean's death.

His teammates served as pallbearers in a funeral at the First Methodist Church. University President Frank McVey was the principal speaker at the service.

Messages of condolences poured in from across the country.

"We believe that his supreme sacrifice will make the world more appreciative of the inherent qualities of American college athletes," Georgia Athletics Director H.J. Stegeman wrote in a telegram. "We believe that his supreme sacrifice will not be in vain."

Despite McLean's death, Kentucky returned to Stoll Field only six days later for a game against Washington and Lee. The only mention of McLean in the coverage of the game from the Lexington Herald or Lexington Leader was made in reference to the play of replacement center Curtis Sauer.

Not everyone shared the opinion of Georgia's athletics director or the thousands of fans who flocked to Stoll Field for the Washington and Lee game.

In a speech delivered to the Farmers' Union of Fayette County on the same day of the Washington and Lee game, Thomas B. Adams called for the university to eliminate football for the "best interests of humanity."

Adams said students "were being killed and crippled for the amusement of a cheering crowd like the gladiators of old," according to The Lexington Leader.

"The citizens of Kentucky are being taxed to support the state university, and I believe that we taxpayers should protest against our money being used to exterminate our boys on the football field, instead of educating them to useful occupations," Adams said.

In a back-and-forth that would not look out of place today, Adams' speech was met with a swift rebuttal from former deputy sheriff Cloud Bosworth.

"Too many of our youths are being reared under a glass case now, until they are becoming hot house plants," Bosworth said. "Football develops their muscles and strength and makes men of them. And these kind of men are needed at this day and time."

The debate was tabled after several members "expressed a desire to repair to Stoll Field and witness the football game between the teams of the University of Kentucky and Washington and Lee." Adams declined an invitation to accompany them.

Survived by his mother, four brothers and one sister, McLean, 22 at the time of his death, was remembered fondly around the program for decades.

One of McLean's four brothers, Charles Grandison McLean, joined Kentucky's football team as a student manager in 1924. Later in his life, Charles McLean and his wife became close friends of legendary Kentucky coach Paul "Bear" Bryant.

A little more than a year after McLean's death, his former classmates dedicated a plaque in his honor in the newly constructed grandstand at Stoll Field during the 1924 homecoming game. That structure came to be known as McLean Stadium.

Kentucky played at Stoll Field through the 1972 season before moving to Commonwealth Stadium, now called Kroger Field.

McLean's classmates might have hoped the McLean Stadium name would last 100 years as it has at Cincinnati's Nippert Stadium - named for the Bearcats' center who died due to injuries suffered in a game later in the 1923 season - but his memory will have to be preserved in other ways.

"The Bluegrass has had her favorite sons, whose names resound on the lips of countless Kentuckians, but none will ever hold the place that Price McLean occupies in the hearts of his comrades," the editors of The Kentuckian wrote in the 1923-24 UK yearbook. "A man indeed, with inexpressible good qualities that made his fellow students his chums and perpetuated his memory when death claimed him. It is saying the least when we say that he played the game of life as he fought on the gridiron - bravely, truly and cleanly. He gave his all to his alma mater, and died as he had lived - a man."

**Article 2:**

Origins of the Super Bowl-bound Bengals. By James Juett. (February 11, 2022). The Daily Independent. Retrieved from the NewsBank database.

The Super Bowl buzz in Cincinnati and its expanding market area is a big change from the doldrums of a 2-14 season just two seasons ago.

Cincinnati's victory in the modern-day classic with the Las Vegas Raiders on Jan. 15 ended the longest playoff drought in all four U.S. major sports, giving the Bengals their first playoff victory in 31 years. A look at national media tells you Bengals Who Dey mania has now gone nationwide.

The early footprints that may have led to Bengals hysteria started in 1963 when Cleveland Browns coach Paul Brown was fired by Art Modell, who bought the Browns in 1961. The highly respected Brown was courted by some to be the next NFL commissioner. Brown had already won seven championships (four in the AAFC, and three in the NFL), led Ohio State University to a share (with Georgia) of its first national championship in 1942, won seven state high school football state championships and four high school national championships.

Just like many college players, Brown left his dream coaching job at OSU and joined the military during World War II. He coached a navy team near Chicago and hired a 16-year coach and teacher from Paris High School, Blanton Collier, who had also joined the Navy. The Kentucky native later was hired by Brown as an assistant coach for Cleveland. At one point during all of Cleveland's success, Brown wanted to coach again at OSU. College football was still more popular than the NFL and some OSU fans and board members wanted Brown back — and some were still upset that Brown went to Cleveland after the war ended.

Brown is often referred to as the founder, or co-founder, of the Browns, but he was hired by Browns founder Arthur B. "Mickey" McBride. Part of Brown's contract included 6% ownership of the team. The fired Brown was still accepting his contractual salary from the Browns, and wasn't interested in being commissioner. He was said then to go golfing more in Ohio than anyone besides Jack Nicklaus. But after a bit of that, Brown yearned to be back in football.

In 1963, Brown expressed interest in starting a team in Cincinnati or Columbus. Cincinnatians were excited because Cincinnati hadn't hosted any NFL games since the Portsmouth Spartans occasionally played home games in the Queen City between 1928-34.

Brown's son, current Bengals owner Mike Brown, did a study on possible cities for another AFL team. Paul Brown decided on Cincinnati because, in 1965, Hamilton County government, City of Cincinnati and the Cincinnati Reds agreed on plans to build a multi-purpose stadium, which opened as Riverfront Stadium in 1970.

In 1965, Ohio Lt. Gov. James Rhodes and Paul Brown, met with AFL officials pitching Cincinnati as an expansion city. On May 23, 1967, the Bengals were established and became the AFL's 10th and last team, and began play in 1968. Rhodes later became Ohio's governor and his tenure of 5,480 days is still tied for fourth-longest tenure of governor in post Constitutional U.S. history. The James Rhodes Appalachian Highway runs through Rhodes' home county of Jackson, and the town Bengals superstar Joe Burrow made famous (Athens) on its span from Cincinnati to Belpre, Ohio.

Bengals superstar Burrow has a couple of prominent things in common with Paul Brown. They were high school star quarterbacks in Ohio and went to Ohio State University to play quarterback before transferring. Brown transferred to Miami University, and Burrow won a national championship and Heisman Trophy after leaving Columbus for LSU.

Early Bengals QB Greg Cook was also an outstanding Ohio high school QB in Dayton. He also played in state at the University of Cincinnati. Mike Brown was a quarterback for Dartmouth College and an Ohio prep star. He started out as a fullback for Shaker Heights High School before moving to quarterback.

Another star QB was Bengals head coach Zac Taylor. Taylor passed for 1,950 yards as a senior at Norman High School, but his hometown Oklahoma Sooners, where his father played, didn't sign him.

Taylor made a recruiting visit to Marshall University but decided to play for Wake Forest, and later transferred to Butler Community College in Kansas, before playing two years for the University of Nebraska, where he was 2006 Big 12 Offensive Player of the Year.

Zac's little brother, Press Taylor, was a junior college quarterback and had offers to finish his college career at the University of Louisville and Marshall University. He chose Marshall but didn't play much and is listed as a Marshall letterman. Press is an assistant coach for the Indianapolis Colts. Perhaps the best athlete in the Taylor family is Zac's sister, Kathleen Taylor, who was undefeated as a Special Olympics swimmer in Oklahoma for over an amazing quarter of a century.

When the Bengals began play in 1968, there had only been two Super Bowls, and the first one was actually called the AFL-NFL World Championship Game.

The Bengals' first player, QB John Stofa, signed on in December 1967. Stofa was undrafted out of the University of Buffalo but had valuable playing time in 1966 and 1967 with the expansion team Miami Dolphins. Stofa also had a catchy license plate — "1st BNGL."

In 1968 and 1969, the Bengals were in the AFL West Division. After losing 29-13 in San Diego to the Chargers in the first game in franchise history, the Bengals won their second game, in christening their first game in Riverfront Stadium on Sept. 15, 1968. Stofa threw the first TD pass in Bengals history, a 58-yard touchdown pass to Bob Trumpy in that first win, 24-10 over Denver. The Bengals went 3-11 and Stofa returned to to the Dolphins in 1969.

That inaugural year, Paul Robinson was a candidate for AFL Rookie of the Year after rushing for 1,023 yards in the then-shorter 14-game NFL season. Cook took over at QB in 1969, and got to continue playing on a familiar field since the Bengals' home games their first two years were played at the University of Cincinnati's Nippert Stadium. Cook had a shortened career with the Bengals because of a recurring torn rotator cuff injury that was difficult to diagnose and treat then. Surgery advances were developed and decades later a surgery saved the career of Drew Brees who had sustained a similar injury. In 1969, Cook was the fifth overall pick in the AFL draft and the AFL Rookie of the Year.

Legendary Bill Walsh was an assistant coach for the Bengals the first eight years before winning three Super Bowls as coach of the San Francisco 49ers, two which bring back exciting but also disappointing memories for Bengals fans. In Cincinnati, Walsh developed what became known as the West Coast Offense. It was very suitable to the type of ability Carter had as QB. Walsh called Paul Brown "the father of modern offense."

Future Bengals head coach Sam Wyche was a backup QB for the Bengals first three seasons, and started three games each year in 1968, 1969 and 1970. In Cincinnati's first NFL year in 1970, the Bengals became part of the AFC Central Division. The Battle for Ohio kicked off with the Bengals beating the Browns in their first ever face-off, 31-24, in a preseason teaser at Riverfront Stadium on Aug. 29, 1970.

Cincinnati lost in its first regular season contest against the Browns in Cleveland Municipal Stadium on Oct. 11, 1970 in a tight game, 30-27. On Nov. 15, in front of 60.000 fans, the Bengals slipped past the Browns in Riverfront Stadium, 14-10.

Collier retired as head coach of the Browns after the 1970 season. Brown wouldn't shake hands with him at the first game in Cleveland. Collier, from Millersburg, was a talented player for Paris High School and Georgetown College, along with being an assistant coach for the Browns, Kentucky Wildcats, and head coach of the Wildcats after Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant left UK. Collier's daughter, Kay Collier, married a man from Ashland. Collier succeeded Brown as head coach of the Browns and coached Cleveland to their last NFL championship in 1964.

In just their third season, the Bengals had an 8-6 regular season record and were crowned AFC Central Division Champions. They lost in the first round of the playoffs in Baltimore to the Colts, 17-0.

Fifty-two years later, the Bengals are playing in their third Super Bowl — against the Los Angeles Rams in Super Bowl LVI Sunday at 6:30 p.m. at SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles. The game will air on NBC with announcers Al Michaels and former Bengal All-Pro receiver Cris Collinsworth, nephew of longtime Ashland resident William "Tim" Collinsworth.

Cincinnati will try to capture its first Lombardi Trophy.

**Article 3:**

Bryant's Unexpected Departure Left UK Reeling for Years. By Mark Story. (October 12, 1990). Lexington Herald-Leader. Retrieved from the NewsBank database.

Thursday, Feb. 4, 1954.

The day Bear Bryant said he was resigning as Kentucky's football coach.

The day of infamy because UK's football program has never been the same.

The commonwealth was stunned late that Thursday when Bryant announced he was accepting a six-year contract as football coach and athletics director at Texas A&M.

Up until the day before, Wildcat fans were confident Bryant didn't have leaving Lexington on his mind.

After all, he had nine years left on a 12-year contract, and he had said he would be Kentucky's coach for life.

From his autobiography, Bear, written with John Underwood in 1974, Bryant said the presence of basketball coach Adolph Rupp finally forced his hand.

Led to believe that Rupp planned to retire in the aftermath of the point- shaving scandal, Bryant figured he soon would be top dog at Kentucky. But when Rupp signed a new contract, Bryant felt he had to leave.

In Bear, Bryant wrote: "I don't think I would ever have left if I hadn't gotten pigheaded. It was probably the most stupid thing I ever did."

Before he left for Texas A&M, and later glory at his alma mater, Alabama, Bryant had taken Kentucky to four bowl games and had an eight-year record of 60-23-5.

It has never been the same at Kentucky.

From the record book, consider:

Since Bryant departed, Kentucky has had only four winning records in the Southeastern Conference -- none since 1977.

Kentucky hasn't received a bid to one of the major bowls -- the Sugar, Cotton and Orange -- since Bryant took Wildcat teams to them three years in a row.

Kentucky has had at least three losses every autumn except for the 1977 Cats. That team was 10-1 and on NCAA probation.

What might have happened if Bryant had stayed has fueled many gridiron fires over the years. His destiny, of course, was at Alabama, but the training ground was in the Bluegrass.

In his book, Bryant wrote that he could have had about anything he wanted at

Kentucky. Yet he chose to leave suddenly.

On the morning of Feb. 4, Lexington Herald sports editor Ed Ashford wrote that Associated Press dispatches from College Station, Texas, mentioned Bryant's name in connection with the Aggies' coaching vacancy for the first time.

"But those close to the Kentucky mentor are inclined to pooh-pooh the idea that Bryant might seriously consider the Texas job," Ashford wrote.

But that Thursday morning Bryant was talking to Kentucky Gov. Lawrence Wetherby -- "old X-1," the coach called the governor in his book.

"I anticipated Dr. (Herman) Donovan's (UK's president) refusal (to release the coach from his contract)," Bryant wrote, "so I went to Governor Wetherby to have him intercede."

Bryant got his release although Donovan expressed his displeasure in a statement on the coach's resignation.

Donovan noted: "I reminded Mr. Bryant that he was quoted in the press recently as being very happy with the situation here at the University of Kentucky and expressing the wish and desire to spend the rest of his life here."

Donovan also said that Bryant consulted no one at the university before making his decision.

By Sunday, however, directors of the UK Athletics Association voted to release Bryant from the long-term contract.

"This is what going off half-cocked will do for you," Bryant wrote. "My timing was bad. It was during the semester break, and my boys weren't there. If they were, they wouldn't have let me go.

"I'd dealt myself into a corner. The only offer I had left, the only one still open, was Texas A&M. I had to take it."

Bryant wrote that the Kentucky program faded after his departure, but he didn't mean his comment as a reflection on Blanton Collier, his successor. He called Collier more of a pro-style coach, and indeed Collier soon won the NFL championship with the Cleveland Browns.

"It takes a special kind of guy to win at Kentucky," Bryant wrote. "There aren't enough high schools to draw from, so you have to recruit like crazy out of state.

"Secondly, you have to be a mean sonofagun and not mind stepping on toes because there are a lot of people who will get in your way."

They still haven't found that "special guy" at Kentucky.

**Article 4:**

Old Cardinal Stadium- A part of Louisville Sports History. By the Louisville Examiner. (April 18, 2012). Louisville Examiner.Retrieved from the NewsBank database.

Cardinal Stadium (Originally Fairgrounds Stadium and now referred to as Old Cardinal Stadium) was home to Louisville’s minor league baseball teams as well as the University of Louisville football and baseball teams. The stadium was built on the grounds of the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center in 1957.

Along with the Louisville Redbirds baseball, the Kentucky Colonel baseball team played there from 1968-1972. The University of Louisville baseball team competed at Cardinal Stadium from 1998 to 2004 before moving to the on campus site of Jim Patterson Stadium in 2005. The University of Louisville football team ended their run at the stadium starting in 1957 before leaving for Papa John’s Cardinal Stadium in 1997. Several defunct minor league football teams called the stadium home. The Louisville Raiders played from 1960 to 1962 for the United Football League and the Kentucky Trackers of the American Football Association from 1979 to 1982.High school football also was played at the stadium. From 1964-2002 the stadium was host to the annual state championship games, as well as the annual St Xavier-Trinity football game (the most heated high school football rivalry in Louisville).

With the movement of the various sports teams from the stadium, the site has been mostly vacant. Today it is mostly used for outdoor concerts for the Kentucky State Fair. There were plans of demolishing the site to create a new indoor arena before the opening of the KFC Yum! Center in 2010 and the continued use of Freedom Hall for concerts and sporting events. A proposal is in effect currently to replace the site with an outdoor amphitheater. Time will tell what the future of the historic site will be.

**Article 5:**

Not Just a 1-Horse Town: The Biggest Heroes in Louisville Usually Wear Shorts or Saddles, but the Football Team Has Recently Put Helmets In Vogue Series: The Contenders. By Thomas Stinson. (November 2, 2006). Retrieved from the ProQuest database.

Louisville, Ky. --- Born into a misguided family, Brian Brohm was raised by the teachings of an obscure sect that believed that Louisville, a town sustained by hoops and horses, could become something different.

In his world, there would come a new zeal, as it had in the Big Ten to his north and the SEC to his south. It would be college football, and it would be big-time, baby, captivating a city where the season had traditionally ended Oct. 15, the day the University of Louisville's basketball team began to practice.

Brian Brohm also knew that he was a heretic.

"I think I was a little naive," he said. "Being a Louisville fan, I always believed that they could do it."

This is a week like no other in northern Kentucky. Wednesday night, the usual 19,000 jammed Freedom Hall for UL's first basketball exhibition game, caring not a whit that the opponent was NAIA midget Georgetown College.

Saturday, another 80,000 will gather at Churchill Downs, barely a half-mile southwest of campus, for the Breeders' Cup, thoroughbred racing's season-ending bacchanalia.

But tonight, blotting out all else, Brian Brohm quarterbacks Louisville in the biggest football game the university has ever witnessed. The No. 5 Cardinals play No. 3 West Virginia, culminating UL's 20 years of smart coaching hires, league-jumping, fund- raising, stadium-building and, foremost, nurturing of players such as Brohm, who always believed they could do it.

"Maybe a few years ago, people would be more excited now about the basketball season. That's not the way it is anymore," said Rick Bozich, who for three decades has written a sports column for The (Louisville) Courier-Journal. "The old man with the pipe used to talk about the collision course with a national championship. This is that time."

That old man was Howard Schnellenberger, who came to town in the mid-1980s pledging to revive Cardinals football just as he had revived a slumbering program at Miami. And though he left after 10 fledgling years, disappointed that the school would be joining the mid-major Conference USA, what he started has been carried forth by coach Bobby Petrino, who has not only brought unforeseen credibility to UL's new league, the Big East.

Beyond that, with a win tonight, the path to the Jan. 8 BCS championship game is wide open.

"I don't think you could ask for a bigger or better stage," Petrino said.

The bad old days

Louisville football was for years the school's redheaded stepchild. In Johnny Unitas' day (1951-54), when the players all lived in an old navy barracks, the university considered disbanding the program after two players were killed in an alcohol-related car wreck. Once down to 19 players, UL went 12-22 during Unitas' time, in what could have been some of the program's best years.

After Lee Corso coached UL to a couple of Missouri Valley Conference titles in the early 1970s --- and then fled north to Indiana and the Big Ten --- Louisville endured 10 losing seasons in the following 12 years, at which point the school began to debate the dropping of all pretense and demoting the program to Division I- AA.

"We went to the games now and then, but the teams were bad and the stadium was worse," said Alex Hendrix, 47, a UL graduate who confesses to a basketball bias. "It got to be a waste of time."

Old Fairgrounds Stadium was a converted baseball park with a press box that swung in the breeze like a hammock. Once the university determined to rekindle the program and hired Schnellenberger, he targeted a new stadium as a first priority.

Furthermore, before it became common, the new coach also agreed to play any day of the week if TV would air it, better to reintroduce the product. Since 1991, UL has appeared in televised games 54 times, and only 29 of those were played on Saturdays.

Today, though it might be somewhat inelegantly named Papa John's Cardinal Stadium, the nine-year-old, 42,000-seat facility is witness to progress. Its $63 million cost all privately funded, the wait list for season tickets stands at nearly 2,500, and just this week, athletics director Tom Jurich, an unreconstructed football man, floated a proposal for expansion of another 21,000 seats by 2009.

But maintaining on-field performance has been just as dramatic, for UL has recorded two 11-win seasons in the past five years. This reintroduces the Brohms, a neat sidebar to the program's advancement.

Oscar Brohm, Corso's quarterback in 1968, sent three sons to UL, including Jeff, also a quarterback and two-time team MVP.

Jeff is now the Cards' quarterback coach, where he oversees his brother, while their father, an assistant coach here at Trinity High School, at times cannot believe what raising a family of UL fans has wrought.

"It is amazing," Oscar Brohm said. "To actually have a game like this, this big a game nationwide, biggest game of the week, could be the biggest of the year, you do have to pinch yourself a little bit."

A long time coming

In truth, Louisville has been waiting 382 days for this night, ever since West Virginia came from 17 points down in the fourth quarter on Oct. 15 last year in Morgantown, W. Va., and beat UL 46- 44 in triple overtime.

"It was a real, real, real bad taste. It was very bitter," UL senior defensive tackle Amobi Okoye said. "But it's been a motivation factor for us this year."

Petrino, who had never been a head coach at any level before coming on in 2003, has had to work around the absence of star running back Michael Bush, the nation's leading scorer in 2005 who was lost for the year to a broken leg in the opener. Brohm tore a thumb ligament in his right (passing) hand during a 31-7 win over Miami, and though estimates suggested he might miss six to seven weeks, he returned to beat Cincinnati in four.

Opening the season at No. 13 in the Associated Press poll, the Cards have now risen as high as they've ever been; never have such two highly ranked teams played on UL's campus. Scalpers were fetching $400 a seat this week.

An unexpected benefactor of all this is some 920 miles away. The Big East Conference, disparaged by the ACC defections of Miami, Boston College and Virginia Tech, needed new blood fast and, in truth, the lure of Rick Pitino's UL basketball program made sense first at the league's Rhode Island headquarters.

Yet this week, the Sagarin Ratings, which are included in the BCS formula, rank the Big East as nation's third-strongest football conference, behind the Pac-10 and SEC and well ahead of the Big Ten and ACC. Louisville takes a hit for having played only two winning teams --- Miami (5-3) and Middle Tennessee (5-3) --- but the schedule after West Virginia includes Rutgers (8-0) and Pitt (6-2).

The BCS places Louisville fifth. A win over WVU can move the Cards into the top three. The No. 1 Ohio State-vs.-No. 2 Michigan game on Nov. 18 will create upward mobility, and while once-beaten Florida and Auburn have a strong lobby, Louisville is swooning. The school hasn't had an unbeaten team this late in the season since 1925.

"I followed the polls before, but not like this," said UL fan Chet Doyle of Owensboro, Ky. "I'm following a lot of things I never gave much thought about before."

Not so over at the Brohms' house.

True to his rearing, Brian Brohm stated his designs on a national title when he shunned Notre Dame, Tennessee and just about every other program and committed to Louisville. Just three years later, he is a heretic no more. Hoops, horses and hope.

"There are a lot of football fans in this state and this city, but in the past there really hasn't been a great team for them to come watch," Brohm said.

"We're trying to be that team now for them."

> West Virginia at Louisville: 7:30 p.m. today, ESPN

THE CONTENDERS

Between now and the end of the season, the AJC will swing by the campuses of college football's top contenders to capture the fan frenzy.

Third in the occasional series: LOUISVILLE

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**Article 6:**

Pikeville Has Chance to Take Football Title Back to Mountains. By Mike Fields. (November 27, 1987). Lexington Herald-Leader. Retrieved from the NewsBank database.

It's been a long time since a high school team from the far reaches of Eastern Kentucky won a state football championship. Pikeville has a chance to end that 23-year drought today when it plays Russellville in the Class A finals in Louisville's Cardinal Stadium. Kickoff is set for 1 o'clock.

"We like to think of Corbin as a mountain team, and they've won some state titles the last few years," Pikeville coach Hillard Howard said. "But they're not really from up here in our section of the state.

"I guess you have to go all the way back to 1964 when Elkhorn City won a (Class A) title that a team from our area did it. We'd certainly like to do it, and we'd like to do it for the mountains. We feel like we're representing all the folks in Pike County, Johnson County, Floyd County . . . this whole area. I think they're all behind us."

Every team Pikeville has played this year has been behind the Panthers . . . on the scoreboard. Top-ranked in Class A all season, Pikeville has scorched 13 straight opponents with an offense that must rank as one of the most explosive in the history of Kentucky high school football.

The Panthers have scored a staggering 667 points this season, an average of better than 50 per game.

Coach Hillard Howard keeps saying his team can't score that much against the good teams in the playoffs, but Pikeville put 63 on the board against Pineville and routed highly regarded Beechwood with 52 points last week.

Even though the Panthers are considered a heavy favorite against Russellville, 11-3, Howard is wary.

The team from the West features halfback Darwin Washington, who has rushed for 1,819 yards and 25 TDs this season.

"Russellville is a big ol' strong team with a lot of speed," he said. "They've lost three games but they were to real good teams."

Russellville lost to Franklin-Simpson, a 3A playoff team, and to Glasgow and Fort Campbell, a pair of 2A playoff teams.

"And everybody knows how the teams from that (Class A, First Region) win the state year in and year out," Howard said. "Here lately almost all the state champs have come out of Western Kentucky, so we know it's going to be tough."

Howard's memory is correct. In 1983 Cumberland went to Louisville looking for a Class A crown, but lost to Russellville. In 1985 Paintsville was knocked off by Crittenden County in the finals. And last year Cumberland came up short again, losing to Heath in the championship game. Beechwood interrupted the Western Kentucky streak by taking the 1984 title.

"We like to think we play pretty good football down here," said Russellville coach Ken Barrett, whose Panthers also won the 1980 championship. "We may not get as much publicity as teams in other parts of the state, but whoever comes out of here and gets to Louisville thinks they've got a chance."

Russellville needed a minor miracle to get past Paris in the playoff semifinals last week. The Panthers trailed 20-6 midway through the fourth quarter but rallied for a 24-20 victory.

"Obviously, we never gave up," Barrett said. "But we know we'll have to play a lot better against Pikeville. I can see why they've been No. 1 all year."

The Panthers have two of the state's leading rushers in junior halfbacks Greg Hackney (1,531 yards) and Bobby Deramus (1,440 yards). Both are quick, elusive runners who find plenty of room behind Pikeville's big offensive line.

Hackney and Deramus have combined for 48 TDs this season.

Quarterback Matt Blair has also thrown for more than 1,000 yards and 20 TDs.

Overshadowed by the Panthers' scoring machine is a defense that is especially tough against the run. Pikeville shut out five opponents this season, including Cumberland in the playoffs. Last week at Beechwood, the Panthers surrendered a bunch of passing yards to all-state quarterback candidate Rob Whitten, but they also held Beechwood to minus rushing yards until midway through the fourth quarter.

Deramus, a 6-0, 190-pound nose guard, anchors the defense. He's had a school-record 25 sacks this season.

"I've said all along I thought he was the best defensive lineman in the state," Howard said. "He's extremely strong and aggressive."

Even though Pikeville is on the threshold of the biggest moment in the school's football history, the players are keeping their emotions in check.

"This is a different type of group," Howard said. "We never know if they're ready to play or not because they don't go in for all that hollering and rah- rah stuff. They're kind of laid back, and handle things in a mature way.

"But we definitely have winning on our minds. We're not going to Louisville just to have a big time. Since early in the season we've taken this whole thing like being on a mission. We wanted to get in there and have a chance to win it. We've got that chance now and we want to finish the job."

**Article 7:**

Cards win Sugar Bowl in 33-23 upset over Gators. By the Louisville Examiner. (January 3, 2013). Louisville Examiner. Retrieved from the NewsBank database.

College football history was made last night, as the Louisville Cardinals defeated the Florida Gators to win the the 2013 Allstate Sugar Bowl in New Orleans. The number 3 ranked Gators were the heavy favorites, but the 31 ranked Cardinals surprised fans across the country winning 33-23, the biggest upset in BCS history.

Louisville had their work cut out for them, with many experts stating that the team had an easy season and would be dominated by the SEC's most dominate defensive line. However, the Cards showed early they came to play with a fumble recovery for a touchdown in the first minutes of the game; they are the only team to score a touchdown within the first 15 seconds of each half. Led by quarterback Teddy Bridgewater the Cards continued to dominate the first half, as Florida struggled with bad play calling and penalties. Even though Florida attempted to rally in the 4th quarter, it was too little too late and the Cards will be taking home the Sugar Bowl championship.

**Article 8:**

Breaking the color barrier. By Anthony Cloud. (August 6, 2014). The Harlan Daily Enterprise. Retrieved from the NewsBank database.

Not only was he a local star at Middlesboro High School in the mid-1960s, but Greg Page was a pioneer for black athletes all across the south. He was the first of two black players to receive a scholarship to play football at the University of Kentucky and in the Southeastern Conference during a time of racial unrest in the region. He tragically died prior to the 1967 season due to what many have called a “freak accident.”

“Greg was an exceptional athlete,” said Dana Greene, a childhood friend of Page.

During the mid-1960s, Page played football at Middlesboro High School. He was a member of the team that advanced to the state championship game against Hopkinsville in 1966.

Following his senior year in high school, Page received a scholarship to play football at the University of Kentucky, an act unheard of at the time for black players.

“He was chronicled as being one of the star freshmen on the UK football team, and a lot of sports writers felt like UK was on their way to great things in football,” said Mel Page, Greg’s brother.

Mel Page explained many of the white fans in the south during that time did not want the south integrated.

“This was right during the beginning of the civil rights movement,” he said. “There was a lot of racial unrest during that time. Not only did a lot of white people not want football integrated, a lot of black people were skeptical.”

Even with all the racial tension going on in the south, Page followed his heart and signed to play football with Kentucky.

“Greg chose to go to the University of Kentucky, not to be a pioneer or to integrate sports…He just wanted to play for his home state,” said Mel Page.

During Page’s first year at UK, 1966, freshmen were not allowed to play on the varsity squad, so he had to wait until the following season to get a chance to play.

“By all accounts, Greg was going to be a starter or a key player that year because of his athleticism, skill and leadership,” said Greene.

But he would never get the opportunity to play in a game. During a practice prior to the 1967 season, Page suffered a spinal cord injury during a low contact drill. The injury left him paralyzed from the neck down. The injury was described by many as a “freak accident.”

“Greg never recuperated from that injury,” said Mel Page. “He passed away 38 days later.”

Mel Page said following his brother’s death many speculated on what had occurred. He said there were mixed reactions to the situation.

“Some people thought that his injury was caused intentionally,” said Mel Page. “More felt that way than not, but there’s nothing that I know of that would indicate that.”

Mel believes the injury and ultimate death of his brother was something the Lord wanted to happen for a reason. He explained that now when a person watches SEC teams play there are a mixture of races on the teams.

“A bad situation, as far as my brother losing his life, has resulted into something positive,” he said.

Since Greg Page’s death, apartments were built in his name (Greg Page Apartments, located just off Alumni Drive near Commonwealth Stadium). A scholarship is given away in his name in Middlesboro as well. Mel Page is also working on a book entitled, “First Down: The Short Life of Greg Page.”

Page’s story also caught the eye of independent filmmaker Paul Wagner, who was recently in Middlesboro shooting footage for an upcoming documentary. His documentary is focused on Greg Page and three other African American football players who helped break the color boundaries in the SEC (Nate Northington, Wilber Hackett and Houston Hogg).

Like Page, the other three players signed with UK. Northington signed to play the same year Page did. Hackett and Hogg were signed the following year. Wagner said the documentary is still in the planning stages and he hopes to have the film finished in a year. A title has not yet been decided.

“Greg would be proud of what is finally happening after 47 years, where he and the others are being recognized for their contribution to the sport of football,” Mel Page added. “I’m proud of my brother.”

**Article 9:**

Eastern's Coach Keeps Building Enviable Record As A Winner. By Mark Story. (July 25, 1999). Lexington Herald-Leader. Retrieved from the NewsBank database.

Roy Kidd

Two-time NCAA Division I-AA national championship football coach at Eastern Kentucky University

\* Birthdate: Dec. 4, 1931, in Corbin

\* Where he is now: Preparing to begin his 36th year as head football coach at Eastern Kentucky

During Roy Kidd's tenure as head football coach at Eastern Kentucky, seven men have served as President of the United States, nine people have served as Governor of Kentucky and five men have coached men's basketball at the University of Kentucky.

In sports, you stand the test of time one way: winning. Few have won more than Kidd.

In 35 years at Eastern, Kidd's teams have gone 286-108-8. Of his 35 teams, 24 have won eight games or more during a season; nine have won 10 or more games during a season.

Kidd has won two NCAA Division I-AA national titles. His 1979 squad went 11-2 and won the school's first national title; the '82 team won championship No. 2 and went undefeated (13-0).

Kidd's 286 wins make him the third-winningest active coach in NCAA Division I (behind Joe Paterno and Bobby Bowden). They are the third-most wins ever recorded by a coach at a single school (behind Grambling legend Eddie Robinson and Penn State's Paterno).

Kidd's is a Kentucky story to the core. He grew up in Corbin and became a three-sport star at Corbin High. He turned down a football scholarship to Kentucky because Coach Bear Bryant was not going to let him play baseball, too.

He cast his lot with Eastern, where he eventually became a Little All-American as a quarterback.

Many forever will wonder how Kidd would have fared at the Division I-A level of college football. Twice, in 1981 and in 1989, he applied to become head coach at Kentucky.

Both times the job went to others (Jerry Claiborne, then Bill Curry).

Kidd remained at Eastern. And won and won and won and ...

Research by Mark Story and Linda Minch

**Article 11:**

Kentucky's Lasting Images. By Mark Story. (July 25, 1999). Lexington Herald-Leader. Retrieved from the NewsBank database.

Imagine if Bear Bryant had never left Kentucky.

Imagine if Denny Crum had left Louisville.

Remember where you were when Christian Laettner's shot went in?

In the same way, your great-grandparents may remember where they were when the news came that Centre had beaten Harvard in football.

What is your favorite team of all-time?

In the commonwealth, this has been an amazing sports century.

And after spending two months working on the 50 Most Significant Sports Figures (1900-1999) in Kentucky special section, I am over-running with opinions on the people, events and games that made it amazing.

Below are my views on 10 games that had lasting signficance; 10 teams worth remembering; and 10 turning points in the history of sports in this state.

Ten teams

Ten teams that deserve to be remembered (in chronological order):

In Kentucky, we are addicted to catchy team nicknames (Fabulous Five through Rupp's Runts right on up to the Unforgettables). Those nickname teams are easily remembered. Here are some other teams that don't have catchy nicknames but deserve to be every bit as well thought of (and, yeah, there are a lot of high school basketball teams on this list - I like the lore of high school basketball in this state).

\* Carr Creek, 1928. Know how Kentucky basketball fans have a love affair with those small, rural basketball teams in the Sweet Sixteen? This state runner-up team - which according to legend played some games in bib overalls - started it all.

\* Brewers, 1948. Fifty-one years now since Coach McCoy Tarry led Brewers to the boys' basketball state championship without losing a game. No one has done it since.

\* UK's 1951 NCAA champions. They didn't have a nickname. They did have two future Hall of Famers (Cliff Hagan and Frank Ramsey) and a Hall of Fame caliber player (Bill Spivey) on one team. I challenge you to name a more talented team in UK history.

\* Cuba, 1952. The Cuba Cubs were so flashy they took the floor to Sweet Georgia Brown. They were so popular that, 47 years after they won the Sweet Sixteen, a woman wrote a book about the team.

\* The Thin Thirty, UK football 1962. OK, I included one nickname team. In 1962, Charlie Bradshaw became UK's football coach. He inherited 88 players from the team that went 5-5 for Blanton Collier in 1961. Bradshaw implemented a harsh conditioning program. Really harsh. By the time the '62 season began, only 30 players were left. The "Thin Thirty" went 3-5-2, including a 12-10 upset of Tennessee.

\* Central, 1969. The first all-black team to win the integrated Sweet Sixteen. It was an angry time, and Coach Bob Graves' team played with stone, cold fury.

\* 1971 Western Kentucky men's basketball team. As Kentucky got its comeuppance from Louisville in 1983, so the Cats got it from Western in 1971. Haughty UK wouldn't deign to play the Hilltoppers, either. Jim McDaniels, Clarence Glover and Co. took a hunk out of UK's hide (107-83) when the Toppers got the chance in the '71 NCAA Tournament.

\* 1975 Louisville Cardinals. For my money, this is still the best Louisville team of the Denny Crum era. The Junior Bridgeman/Allan Murphy-led Cardinals let UCLA off the mat twice and lost a heart-breaking 75-74 overtime game in the Final Four.

\* 1975 Kentucky Colonels. In their entire college and professional basketball careers combined, Louie Dampier, Dan Issel and Artis Gilmore played on one championship team. It was in 1975 when the trio led the Colonels to the only American Basketball Association title in franchise history.

\* Edmonson County, 1976. By 1976, Louisville schools were dominating the boys' Sweet Sixteen. The big city boys had won six of the previous seven. In a state in love with the idea of the rural underdog, this was a lethal threat to the tradition of one-class basketball. Then came Edmonson, the little team from the little school that won one of the most improbable state titles ever. Three months after Edmonson won, the state's high schools voted 119-110 to preserve one-class basketball.

Ten games

Ten games of lasting significance (in chronological order):

\* Centre 6, Harvard 0, 1921 Oct. 29, 1921, Cambridge, Mass. The so-called upset of the century. Imagine Centre College having a football team good enough to beat Florida State. In 1921, Harvard was Florida State.

\* Ashland 13, Carr Creek 11 (4OT), March 17, 1928, boys' Sweet Sixteen finals, Alumni Gym, Lexington. The state championship, two undefeated teams, a wonderful contrast between established power Ashland and the first darling from the mountains in Kentucky basketball history. Then it turns out to be a great game. The moment that really launched the legend of Kentucky high school basketball.

\* Loyola (Ill.) 67, Kentucky 56, March 14, 1949, NIT first round, Madison Square Garden. Kentucky was so good, Adolph Rupp decided to try to win both the NIT and the NCAA. Instead, the Cats suffered a shocking loss. Later it was discovered that UK players had accepted money from gamblers to shave points in the game.

\* Kentucky 13, Oklahoma 7, Jan. 1, 1951, Sugar Bowl, New Orleans. Bear Bryant's Wildcats snap Oklahoma's 31-game winning streak in what is still the greatest football win in school history.

\* Texas Western 72, Kentucky 65. March 19, 1966, NCAA finals in College Park, Md. Adolph Rupp and an all-white Kentucky team lose to a Texas Western team with an all-black starting lineup. Rupp, and to some extent Kentucky, have been perceived as being on the wrong side of history ever since.

\* UCLA 75, Louisville 74 (OT). March 29, 1975, NCAA Final Four semifinals in San Diego. Imagine Kentucky and Louisville playing for the national title. In 1975, it was 20 seconds from happening. Louisville, nursing a one-point lead, needed Terry Howard to hit both ends of the bonus from the foul line to ice the game. Howard had not missed a foul shot all year (28 tries). He missed the front end of the bonus. UCLA's Richard Washington hit a 12-foot jumper with the clock running out to deny the All-Bluegrass State final.

\* Kentucky 80, Old Dominion 66, Feb. 5, 1983, in women's basketball at Memorial Coliseum. The eventual growth in the popularity of women's basketball nationally is foreshadowed locally when 10,622 turn out to see Valerie Still, Lea Wise, Patty Jo Hedges and Kentucky bury traditional power ODU.

\* Louisville 80, Kentucky 68 (OT). March 26, 1983, NCAA Tournament Mideast Region finals in Knoxville. For the first time since 1959, the in-state rivals play. The game is hyped to the moon. And lives up to it.

\* Louisville 34, Alabama 7, Jan. 1, 1991, Fiesta Bowl in Tempe, Ariz. The mind still boggles. Louisville just spanking Alabama in a New Year's Day Bowl. Louisville just spanking Alabama in a New Year's Day Bowl. Louisville just spanking Alabama in a New Year's Day Bowl.

\* Duke 104, Kentucky 103 (OT) March 28, 1992, NCAA Tournament East Region finals in Philadelphia. Kentucky in the rare role of prohibitive underdog. A game that keeps getting better and better as it goes. Woods. Laettner. The greatest game ever.

Ten turning points

Ten turning points in Kentucky sports history in this century (in chronological order):

\* 1930. Out of 71 applicants to replace John Mauer as head men's basketball coach at the University of Kentucky, the school settles on a high school coach from Freeport, Ill.

What kind of sports state does this become if UK doesn't pick Adolph Rupp?

\* 1949-52. What if Ralph Beard, Alex Groza and Bill Spivey hadn't gotten swept up in the college basketball point-shaving scandals? Beard and Groza, who both admitted accepting money from gamblers, were banned from the NBA and forced to sell their ownership shares in the team they played for, the Indianapolis Olympians. Spivey, who always denied being involved, was nonetheless banned from the NBA. All three probably lost spots in the Basketball Hall of Fame.

\* 1953. Apparently upset that UK hasn't fired Adolph Rupp as a result of the point-shaving scandal that afflicted the men's basketball program, Paul "Bear" Bryant resigns as UK football coach and goes to Texas A&M. What would've happened to UK football if Bryant had stayed?

\* 1962. What if UK had integrated its basketball program in this year instead of 1969. From 1962-69, the state of Kentucky produced such outstanding black basketball players as Tom Thacker, Clem Haskins, Wes Unseld, Butch Beard, Dwight and Greg Smith and several others. If they'd had the chance, how many would have gone to UK, the state school? If most had gone to Kentucky, would there have been a UCLA dynasty as we came to know it?

\* 1975. When John Wooden retired in 1975, Denny Crum was the obvious replacement. He had played for Wooden. He had coached for him. He had already taken Louisville to two Final Fours. And, at that time, he would've taken the job. Instead, UCLA hired Gene Bartow. Crum stayed at U of L and led the Cardinals to two national titles. What would've happened to Louisville basketball if Crum had left?

\* 1976. Kentucky had an opening for a women's basketball coach. An interested candidate was a woman who grew up in East Tennessee fascinated with Adolph Rupp and UK's men's teams. She reasoned that any type of basketball at Kentucky would be a big deal. Kentucky offered her the job for $9,000 a year. Pat Head was making $8,900 a year to coach at Tennessee. She did not think she could afford to move for $100 a year. How would women's basketball have been different if UK had offered Pat Summitt, oh, $11,000 a year?

\* 1976. Did Kentucky have to be a major-league sports wasteland? The moment of truth came in the summer of 1976. The long-discussed NBA-ABA merger was finally going through. For $3.2 million plus the promise not to get any national TV money for three years, four ABA teams - Denver, San Antonio, the Nets and Indiana - went into the NBA. Colonels owners John Y. and Ellie Brown - who were looking to sell the Colonels because they were losing money anyway - decided the price was too high and folded the team. Was that decision inevitable? Might Kentucky have an NBA franchise today if the Browns or some other Louisville financial big-wig had been willing to take the risk?

\* 1984. What if the upstart United States Football League had not promised to put an expansion team in Miami? Chances are, Howard Schnellenberger, who had just led the Miami Hurricanes to the college national title, wouldn't have agreed to become head coach of the new pro team. And if that USFL team had ever gotten off the ground, he would not have been available to take the head coaching job at Louisville in 1985. And if Schnellenberger doesn't come to Louisville at that time, is there any guarantee that U of L would even be playing Division I football now?

\* 1988. What if the famous Emery package hadn't popped open? You remember the package. Mailed from the UK basketball office to the home of recruit Chris Mills. It allegedly popped open in Los Angeles, revealing $1,000 in cash. That set off a major investigation of UK basketball that ended in probation and the resignations of Coach Eddie Sutton and his entire staff. It also ushered in the Rick Pitino era. As it turned out, did the package incident benefit UK in the long run?

\* 1989. When Jerry Claiborne retired as UK football coach, C.M. Newton first offered the job to Mike Shanahan, then offensive coordinator for the Denver Broncos. Shanahan seemed tempted, but turned him down. Newton then hired Alabama Coach Bill Curry. That didn't turn out too well; you may have heard, things turned out swimmingly for Shanahan. How is UK football history different if Shanahan takes the job?