

Cats still searching for signature win

By Keith Taylor
Kentucky Today

LEXINGTON — Kentucky is still looking for its first signature win of the season after dropping a 67-64 decision to No. 16 North Carolina on Tuesday night. The setback was the 18th-ranked Wildcats’ first home loss of the season and dropped them to 0-3 against ranked foes a year after Mark Pope’s first squad developed a reputation for defeating teams ranked in the Top 25. In their previous two contests against ranked teams, Kentucky came up short in a 96-88 loss at No. 6 Louisville and dropped a disappointing 83-66 setback to No. 7 Michigan State in the State Farm Champions Classic at Madison Square Garden.

In what turned into a defensive showdown between two of the highest-scoring teams in the country, North Carolina held the Wildcats to just one 3-pointer and limited the hosts to just eight offensive rebounds and five second-chance points. Neither team led by more than six in a game that featured nine ties and 14 lead changes, but North Carolina stood tall on the glass.

The Tar Heels (7-1) outrebounded Kentucky 41-30 and claimed 20 offensive rebounds, which resulted in 22 second-chance points.

“That was a huge part of the game,” Kentucky coach Mark Pope said. “We’re



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Kentucky's Jasper Johnson drives to the basket in a 67-64 loss to North Carolina on Tuesday.

actually, actually one of the best percentage defensive rebound teams in the country, and credit to North Carolina. They have size and length, and their front line really dominates. They had 12 offensive rebounds with just their starting three, four and five. And we were really poor at our second hit and that was really frustrating. It's hard to win a game when you

give up 20 offensive rebounds.”

Kentucky (5-3) struggled behind the arc, making just one 3-pointer on 13 attempts. The Wildcats missed their first eight treys and didn’t make a field goal for more than 10 minutes in the second half. In addition, Kentucky finished with just eight assists.

“It’s uncommon for us to be 1-for-13 from three,”

Pope said. “That’s not really who we are. More disappointing is, that is the eight assists. That’s really frustrating. In the second half, our decision-making was poor and we got caught up in the moment.”

Despite the struggles, Kentucky still had its chances and tied the score at 64-64 on Collin Chandler’s driving layup. The Wildcats tried a similar play

down by two, but Chandler missed a layup attempt, while the Tar Heels made one of two free throws and stole a desperate inbounds pass for their first road win of the year and first win in Rupp Arena since 2007.

Chandler finished with 12 points, while Otega Oweh led Kentucky with 16 points. Denzel Aberdeen rounded out three players in double figures with 10

points. In the first half, Kentucky was the aggressor and scored 10 points off six turnovers and took advantage of the Tar Heels’ miscues, but the guests turned the tables in the second half.

“We weren’t from a defensive standpoint, we weren’t making mistakes,” North Carolina coach Hubert Davis said. “Kentucky is an unbelievable team, but I felt like, especially in the first half, they were scoring off of our mistakes, and I felt like we were sound and simple on the defensive end. We were standing between them in the basket.

"We were giving them one contested look, and then we were boxing out and rebounding. You always go back and say that rebounding is the most important factor in the outcome of a game, and we got 20 offensive rebounds. We outrebounded them by nine. To me, that's the ball game.”

Malachi Moreno, who led the hosts with nine rebounds and finished with eight points, said North Carolina got most of the breaks on the offensive and defensive glass.

"I think there were a lot of 50-50 rebounds," he said. “We tried to come up with a lot of them, but I think they just came up with more. That was kind of deciding factor.”

KENTUCKY

Continued from A12

- Amend 301 KAR 4:090 - Taxidermy and the buying and selling of inedible wildlife parts to incorporate by reference applications and reporting forms for Resident Fur Buyer, Resident Fur Processor, Non-Resident Fur Buyer, and Non-Resident 3-Day Fur Buyer licenses.
- Amend 301 KAR 5:210 - Special agency fundraising permits to update the special fundraising permits drawing regulation to modify definitions and re-order permit drawing sequence. Also, amend 301 KAR 5:022 – License, tag, registration, and permit fees for conformity.
- Consider commission member request to allow for the formation of a limited number of Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission committees.

Several Discussion Items and New Business Items will also be presented, but action on those items is anticipated at future meetings of the commission. The full meeting agenda can be found on the department’s Commission Meeting Dates webpage on our website at fw.ky.gov or search "Commission Meeting Dates" on the homepage.

Public comments for the meeting will be handled as follows:
In Person:

•In-person attendees who would like to comment on “New Business Items” or “Discussion Items” on the agenda will be asked to sign up on the public comment request form on the table at the meeting room entrance by 9 a.m. (EST) on the day of the meeting, and specify their county and state of residence, organization represented and position held if applicable, and the specific agenda items they intend to address in their comments.

•During the “Public Comments” time on the agenda, attendees who have signed up to comment will each have up to three minutes (total time per person) to offer comments about the “New Business” or “Discussion Items” that they have specified to address on the sign-up sheet.

Email:
•People may email comments about “New Business Items” and “Discussion Items” on the agenda to FW.PublicAffairs@ky.gov through 5 p.m. (EST) on Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2025. Please include “commission meeting” in the

email's subject line. In the email, commenters should include their first and last name, county and state of residence, and organization represented with position held in the organization, if applicable.

•Emailed comments will be distributed to all commission members at least 24 hours prior to the meeting for their review individually. Time permitting and at the discretion of the commission chair, emailed comments will be read by department staff for up to three minutes total per commenter during the “Public Comments” time on the agenda, provided the commenter does not speak during the public comments time during the meeting.

•Anonymous comments submitted via email will be distributed to the commission members but may not be read during the meeting.

•The commission will review all emailed comments, and questions will receive an email response.

•Contact information is not required for emailed comments but will be necessary if information is requested, and other than name and affiliation that information will not be publicly disclosed if provided.

•The commission chair reserves the right to not read publicly or allow any comments that are considered libelous, profane, derogatory of others, repetitive or not relevant to the new business or discussion items on the meeting agenda.

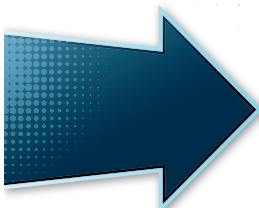
The commission is a nine-member board, comprised of volunteers who serve four-year terms. Commission members are nominated by active hunters and anglers at public meetings, appointed by the governor, and confirmed by the Kentucky Senate. The commission recommends hunting, fishing and boating regulations to conserve fish and wildlife and support related outdoor recreation opportunities in the commonwealth.

The next quarterly meeting date following the December meeting is to be determined.

The Salato Wildlife Education Center is located on the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife main campus at 1 Sportsman's Lane (formerly 1 Game Farm Road) in Frankfort, and the center is a one-story building located at the end of the drive. The main entrance is located off U.S. 60, approximately 1½ miles west of U.S. 127.



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