

KENTUCKY ATHLETICS

Strack could be best superstar Brooks has coached

By Larry Vaught
For the Daily News

With the way she plays, Clara Strack is going to win awards.

Kentucky women's basketball coach Kenny Brooks believes his 6-foot-5 junior is the nation's best center and she has the numbers to back up her coach's belief.

"Obviously, you want to be the best you can be and live up to your potential, but awards are never on my mind," Strack said. "I love every single one of my teammates. I think that we have an outstanding group of people that I get to spend every day with, and I honestly wouldn't want another group of people to be with."

"I think that what we have and what we can be is really special. Everyone is on the same page, and I think that we can make a long run, and I'm excited to do it with these people around me."

Strack was the 2025 Southeastern

Conference Defensive Player of the Year after transferring from Virginia Tech to Kentucky when Brooks left Tech for UK. She has broken the UK single season blocks record two straight years

and should be UK's all-time leading shot blocker when her career ends. She's already on the verge of joining UK's top 10 list in career rebounds after two seasons with 661. She is already in the top 10 in single season scoring (563 points, ninth) and rebounding (331 rebounds, sixth).

"Clara is developing into a leader. Knowing her and knowing just her personality, she's the type of player that does not want to disappoint me. Doesn't want to disappoint anyone," Brooks said. "I know we go through different stages with athletics and whatnot, but because I know her and because our relationship is so strong, I know what buttons to push with her."

"She's a coach's dream because you can coach that way because she knows everything that I'm doing to her is for her, and it's going to come from a place of love. Before it's over with, she probably will be the best superstar that I ever coached."

Kentucky point guard Tonie Morgan, a Georgia Tech transfer, broke the UK single-season assists record set by Georgia Amore last season. Many of Morgan's assists were scores by Strack.

"She makes my life a lot easier. She makes my job very easy. I think everybody says it in the locker room. She's the best player — best post player in the country," Morgan said.

Opposing teams have tried double or even triple teaming Strack to disrupt her with physical play. Brooks feels some games she has been "mauled," but Strack has not let the extra attention impact the way she plays. She is averaging 17.1 points, 10 rebounds and 2.5 blocks per game.

"You just have to play through stuff like that. I think probably the scout on me is I am not as big as some people (so be physical). I have to use my advantages against their advantages," Strack said. "They might be able to push me around, but I have length and touch. I have to rely on those and not worry too much about what teams are doing to me and beat them with my strengths."

Her strengths were on full display in the SEC Tournament last week when she hit five 3-pointers in a 33-point performance against Georgia. She became the first SEC player 6-foot-5 or taller ever to hit that many 3s in

a game. Strack is also only the second SEC player — Tennessee superstar Candace Parker was first — to have at least 1,000 points, 600 rebounds, 150 blocks, 125 assists and 50 steals in their first two seasons in the SEC. If that's not enough, she is the only Division I women's player in the last 23 years to have 64 points, 26 rebounds, eight blocks, six made 3s and 57% shooting from the field in a conference tournament.

Kentucky is now waiting to see what the NCAA Tournament selection committee will do when pairings are announced Sunday. Kentucky hosted NCAA games last year, but Brooks said no matter where UK is seeded or plays, he's confident he has a team that can do well in March Madness with Strack anchoring the offense and defense.

"We are tough. Clara is one of the toughest players in the country, She will battle anybody," Brooks said. "Teonni Key will battle anybody. Amelia Hasset will battle anybody. We are a tough team. We have the best center in the country. We will go rebound and that is what gives us an opportunity to play with

anybody." Strack feels the same way about Kentucky's postseason chances.

"Obviously we had a few different things that we've been through. We had to re-identify ourselves a few times now, but I think that just makes you stronger, makes you better," Strack said. "Getting through adversity makes you better prepared for life. I definitely think the goal is to just be playing our best basketball in March because that is when it matters. Knowing that we have the people and pieces to play with anybody, I think our best basketball is ahead of us."

...
New Kentucky defensive coordinator Jay Bateman has coached at Texas A&M, Florida, North Carolina and Army in the last 10 years but he got his introduction to Kentucky football in 2023. That's when he was at Florida and the Gators lost at Kentucky 33-24 in 2023 when Ray Davis ran for 280 yards and four touchdowns.

"The place was awesome and Kentucky just killed us," Bateman said. "We had just beat Tennessee and I thought we had a really good team,

and we came up here the next week and got beat. I thought that the fans were awesome, the environment was awesome, and I remember thinking, 'Man, you can win a lot of games at this place,' and I think now more than ever. This is a place where you can have a lot of success."

There are some off-the-field perks for Bateman also.

"Lexington is a lot better, a lot bigger, a lot more options to go eat dinner than the last few places I have been at," Bateman said. "The people have been awesome, so it has all been great so far."

Bateman was at Texas A&M last year and will bring his 4-2-5 defense to UK. Senior safety Ty Bryant was immediately impressed by Bateman and bypassed the transfer portal after Bateman's hiring to stay at UK.

"How hard we play, the physicality we play with, that's going to be where we're going to try to hang our hat, and that's what a defensive coordinator wants to be known for," Bateman said. "If you don't have that, what do you have? Playing with effort, playing with physicality is what you have to have."

To Advertise, Call
270-783-3232



CLASSIFIEDS

Real Estate

Wanted: Real Estate

I can buy your house! Cash!
Any condition, price or foreclosure problems. Call 615-216-4197.

Rentals

Houses For Rent

House for Rent
3 bd/1 bath 2 story house with privacy. Warren East district. \$1,000/month w/\$1,000 deposit. Call 270-792-3563

Office & Commercial Rental

Office/Retail Space
Located in the alley off the square between Insomnia Cookies & Alley Pub. First floor, 2,300 sq ft. \$2,300/month- water included, 2 yr lease minimum. Call Alma at 859-312-8333 for more information.

ITS A RUSH
Late in the week!
Please Call Early-
You Can Cancel
Your Ad Before It
Runs At No Charge
If Necessary!

Merchandise

Deals & Bargains

Rocking Chair- Wood White
25 dollars pick up in Plano
270 842 0746

Beautiful, traditional headboard, cherry, heavy. Can send pictures. \$125. Call 270 535 4933

Large Dog Cage 42L X 28W X 31 H. Black, Excellent condition. Can deliver. Cost \$45. Call 270 597 3940

Complete King sheet set in medium taupe color. Fitted sheet has super deep pockets. Used once. \$25 for the set. Pls text 270 776 5357.

Custom Snare Drum, hand hammered steel cover over Gretsch shell -mix of vintage and new hardware \$200 Call 270 799 3307 leave a message

For sale: king size boxed springs (no mattress). Excellent condition . We ordered lower profile. Bring truck and \$100 in cash and help to load. 270 776 5357

Hotpoint Freezer, 6ft tall and 31in. wide, four shelves and a basket inside, and six shelves on the door—the door gasket needs replacing. \$95 dollars or OBO Call 270-781-5452(10AM-9PM)

DAILY NEWS ACCEPTS VISA DISCOVER MASTERCARD

Machinery & Tools

power washer-troy bilt power washer 3100 psi used a few times no longer need great for washing patio / driveway good condition \$100.00 270-392-1541

LOOKING TO BUY
4-wheelers, Utv's, side by sides, Lawnmowers, golf carts, trailers of all types,- farm tractors and more. Call text 270-766-9940

Miscellaneous For Sale

Exercise Equipment stationary bike by Rodamaster with exercise computer. Instructions included. Great condition. \$35 Call 270-843-9456

Miscellaneous For Sale

1940's Wooden high chair with play tray, Sturdy. \$25. Call 270-843-9456

1960's Disney Souvenirs Hardback book, 4 plastic bookmarks Mickey and Donald Duck. -Sm. Dish, post cards, brochures \$12. Call 270-843-9456

Men's XL Red and Gray Heavy winter coat, fully lined with a removable hood. Great for cold weather and in very good condition. \$20 call 270 842 6205

Three sets of Jr. Golf Clubs and one adult set. (4 sets in all). Excellent condition- All for \$100. Call 270-784-0555. If no answer, please leave a message.

Employment

Job Opportunities

PAID LEGAL FOCUS GROUP
ELPO Law seeks diverse participants for a confidential focus group on a real legal case. No experience required—just your honest opinion.
Date: Wed, April 1, 2026

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
(Lunch included) Pay: \$100.00
Requirements: Age 18+, local resident, comfortable speaking in a group. Confidentiality agreement required.

TO APPLY: Email your name, address, and phone number to dcarver@elpolaw.com (Subject: ELPO Focus Group) or call 270-781-6500 and ask for Kyle Roby.

Public Notices

Public Notices

Use QR Code to Search Kentucky Public Notices or go to kypublicnotice.com

NEED IT?
Run a Daily News Classified "Wanted to Buy" Call 783-3232

King Classic Sudoku

		6			5		4	
1		2	4		9		8	
								2
			8		1			
	6			9				7
5				6				
9			6	8	4			
		5					7	
6		1		5		9	2	

Difficulty: ★★★

INSTRUCTIONS: Sudoku is a number placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the King Classic Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

6	1	8	3	4	7	2	9	5
2	4	5	1	9	6	8	7	3
3	9	7	5	2	8	4	6	1
7	8	9	6	1	2	5	3	4
5	2	3	9	7	4	1	8	6
4	6	1	8	5	3	9	2	7
1	5	2	7	3	9	6	4	8
9	3	6	4	8	5	7	1	2
8	7	4	2	6	1	3	5	9

Difficulty: ★

©2026 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

©2026 King Features Syndicate, Inc.