

# Pitino to return to Rupp for 1996 title anniversary

BY KEITH TAYLOR  
KENTUCKY TODAY

LEXINGTON — Rick Pitino will soon be coming back to Rupp Arena.

The St. John's coach will bring the Red Storm to Lexington during the 2025-26 season, Pitino said Monday night.

"For our 30th anniversary next year we will go to Rupp and they will return to MSG the following year (2026-27)," Pitino told NJ Advance Media and Adam Zagoria on Monday night.

"Contracts haven't been signed, but we have agreed."

Kentucky coach Mark Pope is eager to face his former coach in the building where the two achieved much success nearly three decades ago.

"It's gonna happen, we've just got to work through all those little pieces that get complicated," Pope told Jon Rothstein of CBS Sports. "I just think so much about the basketball world would be right

with Coach having at least one more chance to walk back into this building and let Big Blue Nation show how grateful they are for him and how much they love him."

Pope admitted at the time both were in favor of the home-and-home series between the two teams.

"We both want it," he added "Scheduling is sometimes so complicated, so we're both trying to navigate that. What I really want is, I real-

ly want Coach to walk back into Rupp Arena because, if there's anything I've learned in the three weeks I've been here, (it is) could there be a fanbase that loves a coach more than Big Blue Nation loves Coach (Pitino)?"

During his introductory press conference, Pope said Pitino made a big impact on him during his playing career at Kentucky.

"Every coach that has coached here has done amazing things,

contributed to Big Blue Nation, but Coach Pitino changed me," Pope said. "I will tell you, like he changed me to my soul, changed my DNA as a human being. He allowed me to be someone who feels they can walk into any room and take on any impossible task. I will love him forever. So I say St. John's because I have so much admiration for him. He is the best that did it. I love him so much."

Pitino praised the hiring of Pope in a video

posted on social media last month.

"You have one of the premier coaches in the game," Pitino said. "Relish it, because he will do you proud. I sit here today at St. John's and I couldn't be any more proud than to see Mark Pope lead the Kentucky Wildcats to another championship. He will get it done. ... he loves, absolutely loves Kentucky across his chest. Get it done, Mark. I love ya. You will do a fabulous job."

## TRACK

FROM PAGE B1

third-place finishes with Hoover in the 300-meter hurdles (57.67) and Ashlyn Swartzell (14:28.00) in the 3200-meter run. Hines finished fifth in the 800-meter run in 2:49.26, while McCoy was seventh in 2:53.19 and Ashtyn Swartzell ninth in 2:53.93.

Other results were:

6th 4x200-meter relay (Kiaira Sellers, Hailey Oldham, Alyssa Allison, Miley Lowe) 2:21.71

6th 4x100-meter relay (Bryson Coggins, Caydin Riley, Jaxen Thomas, Ethan Pacheco) 1:01.92

7th 4x100-meter relay (Alyssa Allison, Hailey Oldham, Madeline Oldham, Victoria Renfro) 1:10.12

9th Samarah Coggins — 400-meter dash 1:17.10; 13th Miley Lowe 1:27.19; 14th Kiaira Sellers 1:29.57

9th Summer Stone — shotput 24-01.00; 13th Brileigh Hunter 22-05.00

9th Alexis Hunter — discus 61-08.50; 13th Mackenzie Creekmur 56-06; 18th Eryn Sizemore 50-07.50

12th Miley Lowe — 100-meter dash 15.72; 18th Madeline Oldham 17.95; 19th Victoria Renfro 18.66

12th Samarah Coggins — long jump 10-00.50

15th Jaxen Thomas — 200-meter dash 28.04

15th Riley Buntin — 400-meter dash 1:07.60

## MAROONS

FROM PAGE B1

Martin. Sandidge moved Martin to third with a single, and Martin stole home before AJ Hogart's grounder forced a Tiger error, allowing Sandidge to score.

Caldwell County got out of the inning with an 11-9 lead heading into the last frame. After Hogart caught a fly ball in right field, Ari Wells came up with a single. Faulk then fielded the grounder from Colin Whittington, getting the throw to Martin at second. Martin's throw to Gossett at first completed the double play and brought the Maroons to the plate a final time.

Martin came up with a one-out single and stole second base, but was stranded there as Sandidge popped out to first and Hogart lined out to left field to end the game.

Madisonville (12-16) host Union County at 5:30 p.m. today before wrapping up the regular season at noon Saturday at McLean County.

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## JOHNSON

FROM PAGE B1

evidenced by state titles alone.

"Cam holds the record at Brentwood Academy for the most state championships won," Fox said. "He won four in basketball, three in football, and four in track for a total of 11 rings. I was there for every single one of those."

And the three friends were all drawing Division I opportunities. But the interest in Johnson and Schoenwald had shifted to football.

While the plan to reach the highest level in sports was still intact, they had to pick where to continue working towards their ultimate goal which would certainly separate the trio, or not.

"I mean we all three

ended up at Vanderbilt, which is crazy because none of us swayed the others," Johnson said. "It just happened naturally. So I got to play with Gavin for another four years, which was amazing. And of course, he had his chance to go to the NFL. He got to do a mini camp and things like that. So he's content with where he was in his college career, and he's got a great job that he's loving now."

While they may not have swayed one another in their choice, they didn't have to.

"I loved that all three boys went to Vanderbilt," Fox said. "Darius could've went anywhere, but he chose to stick with Gavin and Cam. They truly have so much love for one another."

After his time at Vanderbilt, Johnson played a season of football at Arizona State University

before spending his final year of eligibility at Northwestern. He led the Wildcats in catches, yards and touchdowns.

With love for each of the three schools where he played, it gave him a unique opportunity to experience football in the SEC, PAC-12, and Big Ten, something certainly experienced by "not very many, I can tell you that much," Johnson said.

College behind him, Johnson knew he wasn't likely to be drafted, saying there was a small chance he could have gone in the sixth or seventh round. But as soon as the draft had passed, he received a call from his agent.

Johnson was going to be signed by an NFL team, but now he had a choice to join his hometown Tennessee Titans and stay in Nashville or head to Dallas and "America's team." After



AP Photo/David Becker

Northwestern tight end Charlie Mangieri (89) and wide receiver Cam Johnson (14) celebrate after Johnson's touchdown against Utah during the first half of the Las Vegas Bowl NCAA college football game on Dec. 23, 2023, in Las Vegas.

thinking it over, he told his agent he'd prefer to go to Dallas.

"Then eventually the position coach and the director of scouting for Dallas called me to sort of confirm everything," Johnson explained.

And with that, Johnson completed an unlikely journey for three young teammates with big

dreams.

"For me getting to make it to the NFL after six years of college is definitely not the way we probably would have written it," Johnson said. "But for all of us to be able to go to college together and reach the heights we wanted to reach, I think we couldn't have written it better."

## LEGAL NOTICE

### EARLY IN-PERSON VOTING

Thursday, MAY 15, 2024  
8am - 4pm

Friday, MAY 17, 2024  
8am - 4pm

Saturday, MAY 18, 2024  
8am - 4pm

Ballard Convention Center  
605 E. Arch St., Madisonville, KY

**NO IN-PERSON VOTING ON MONDAY, MAY 20**

**YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE**

#### Voter Process for All In-Person Voting:

(Election Day, Early Voting and Excused Absentee)

- Bring your required identification.
- Have your ID ready. Driver's Licenses are the most efficient method to scan.
- Election Officers verify your identity and you will be issued a paper ballot. Voters with disabilities may use an ADA ballot making device which prints a paper ballot to be scanned.
- You will mark your ballot and cast your vote!

### IN-PERSON VOTING

Election Day  
Tuesday, MAY 21, 2024  
Polls Open 6am - 6pm

Voters may vote at ANY LOCATION:

- Ballard Convention Center  
605 E. Arch St., Madisonville
- White Plains Community Center  
112 NE Railroad St., White Plains
- Nortonville City Hall  
199 S. Main St., Nortonville
- Mortons Gap City Hall  
131 Cross St., Mortons Gap
- Immaculate Conception Parish Hall  
112 S. Day St., Earlington
- Archery Complex  
3100 Grapevine Rd., Madisonville
- James Madison Middle School  
510 Brown Rd., Madisonville
- Rizpah Temple  
3300 Hanson Rd., Madisonville
- Hanson Baptist Church Hall  
130 Sunset Rd., Hanson
- Pride Elementary School  
861 Pride Ave., Madisonville
- Nebo Community Center  
100 S. Bernard St., Nebo
- West Hopkins School  
2695 Rabbit Ridge Rd., Nebo
- Dawson Springs Library  
103 W. Ramsey St., Dawson Springs
- Elks Lodge  
875 Princeton Rd., Madisonville
- West Broadway Elementary School  
127 W. Broadway, Madisonville

PURSUANT TO KRS 424.290, "MATTERS REQUIRED TO BE PUBLISHED," THE FOLLOWING RACES WILL APPEAR ON THE VOTING MACHINES AND PAPER BALLOTS IN THE PRECINCTS LISTED IN HOPKINS COUNTY FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION, MAY 21, 2024.

REPUBLICAN PARTY PRIMARY ELECTION

1st CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES  
(Vote for One)

Ryan L. BINKLEY  
 Vivek RAMASWAMY  
 Ron DeSANTIS  
 Donald J. TRUMP  
 Chris CHRISTIE  
 Nikki R. HALEY  
 "UNCOMMITTED"

COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY  
4th Judicial Circuit  
(Vote for One)

Kathryn Hibbs SENTER  
 James Franklin GREENE

ALL PRECINCTS

DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRIMARY ELECTION

1st CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES  
(Vote for One)

Joseph R. BIDEN JR.  
 Marianne WILLIAMSON  
 Dean PHILLIPS  
 "UNCOMMITTED"

ALL PRECINCTS

NONPARTISAN CITY BALLOT

CITY COUNCIL  
City of Madisonville  
Ward 1  
(Vote for up to One)

Misty Lee CAVANAUGH  
 James C. DANIELS  
 Charles A. KINGTON

WEST BROADWAY 35;  
PART OF PRIDE 25,  
RIZPAH TEMPLE 27, WEST  
BROADWAY 34 & 47M,  
AND ELKS 43

CITY COUNCIL  
City of Madisonville  
Ward 2  
(Vote for up to One)

Marvin HIGHTOWER  
 Amy S. SHERMAN  
 Jimmy YOUNG

JAMES MADISON 21 AND  
RIZPAH TEMPLE 28 & 29;  
PART OF JAMES  
MADISON 20 AND  
RIZPAH TEMPLE 27

CITY COUNCIL  
City of Madisonville  
Ward 4  
(Vote for up to One)

Chris "CP" PRICE SR.  
 Larry W. NOFFSINGER  
 Timothy TRICE

JAMES MADISON 19;  
PART OF JAMES  
MADISON 12 & 20,  
FAIRGROUNDS 14,  
ARCHERY 45, WEST  
BROADWAY 46 & 47M,  
AND ELKS 48M