

Voted Kentucky's best weekly Sports Column



"Big Red Bird Flies toward Eastern Kentucky"

"Sorry Folks, Parks Closed For Cleaning"

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Syracuse's Naithan George looks for an opening



Florida's Isaiah Brown, blocks the 3-point shot

Cards win! Finally, after six years of road troubles, the Cards get a win over a ranked team on the road. Louisville defeated the No. 22 Miami Hurricanes on Saturday afternoon 92-89 at the Watsco Center in Coral Gables, Fl. With **Mikel Brown Jr.** still out with a reoccurring back injury, **Ryan Conwell** led the Cardinals in the win with 24 points. Louisville was 0-15 vs ranked teams on the road in true hostile environments, (the win over ranked Indiana earlier this season was on a neutral court), making this the first true road win over a top-25 opponent since January 18, 2020. With that monkey off their back, lets now look at the ACC Tournament this week.

Louisville is the No. 6 seed in the ACC Tournament and will play Wednesday facing the winner of Syracuse and SMU. These conference tournaments will be interesting, but mainly for the bubble teams and hopefuls trying to find their way into the NCAA Tournament or even NIT for that matter. For the teams that are solidly in, its sometimes better to lose early in these conference tournaments to be more rested and prepared for



the big dance.

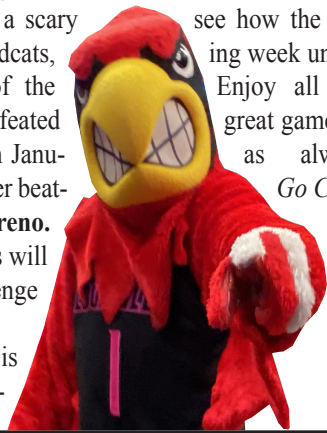
The most intriguing match-ups I enjoy in all of these conference tournaments are the bubble teams that seem to just need that one more win to get in. I enjoyed watching Santa Clara defeat Saint Mary's last night in what was a very good match-up in the WCC all the way to the finish. Santa Clara happened to be one of the teams bracketologists had right on the bubble. It just makes for a very entertaining game when teams have to win to keep their tournament hopes alive.

By the time you're reading this, both Kentucky and Louisville will have played their first games. Kentucky is opening the SEC Tournament against LSU, a position the Wildcats have never been in, playing on the first day. This is a scary game for the Wildcats, simply because of the way the Cats defeated the Tigers back on January 14 with a buzzer beating by **Malachi Moreno**. I'm sure the Tigers will be looking for revenge in Nashville.

Louisville is awaiting the win-

ner of Syracuse and SMU which play Tuesday. Louisville could also have a tough match-up with either one of these teams. SMU is a bubble team that really needs wins, and will most likely be out of the field with a loss to the Orange. Syracuse only played Louisville once this year and the game was played at *The KFC Yum! Center*. Although the Cardinals got the win, they did get a few crucial calls go their way. Syracuse still dominated inside the paint, a place Louisville has had a hard time defending all season. Either team would provide a great match-up with the Cardinals.

So by the time you'll be reading next weeks edition of *House Divided*, the brackets will already be set, and we'll catch up to see how the opening week unfolds. Enjoy all these great games and as always... *Go Cards!*



shock of losing a game in the opening round, games considered opening acts for the big attractions to come, would be akin to hearing the security guard at Wal-Mart (John Candy) telling Clark Griswold (Chevy Chase), "Sorry folks, park's closed for cleaning," after travelling across country to get there. Nonetheless, it ended well for the Griswold Family, which enjoyed the rides and even got a personal visit from Wally himself, but that won't be the case for Kentucky and BBN, should they lose Wednesday.

If Kentucky can get by LSU, it'd face Missouri in the first game Thursday. You might recall it was Missouri which uncharacteristically came from behind to defeat the Wildcats in Rupp earlier this year. A win over Missouri would see the Wildcats going against top-seeded Florida for the third time this season. And then a win over the Gators would find Kentucky where it most often finds itself in SEC Tournament play, primed for a huge weekend of basketball

culminating with Selection Sunday when the field of 68 is finally released. And speaking of the field of 68, where will the Wildcats find themselves? Can they expect anything higher than an eight or nine-seed? What would happen should the Wildcats shock the college basketball world with five consecutive wins in the SEC Tournament, claiming the championship in the process, a feat never accomplished by any SEC team since the conference has expanded? Four teams have won four consecutive games, Auburn, Arkansas, Georgia, and Mississippi State; but no one has won five in a row.

Kentucky has the chance to do what no other SEC team has ever done, win five in a row; when if accomplished, would surely prompt many superlatives, none more appropriate than, "never heard that before."



LEGALS

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