

Voted Kentucky's best weekly Sports Column

LOUISVILLE SIX SEED HOUSE DIVIDED KENTUCKY SEVEN SEED

"Big Red Bird Flies Toward Buffalo, New York"

By Derek Fugate
Times-Voice Sports
Photos: Derek Fugate



A healthy Mikel Brown Jr. with a fast break dunk

The time is finally here... We've waited all season, and at 6pm Sunday, the brackets were finally revealed. I got comfortable on the couch and tuned into CBS awaiting with goose bumps for the Big Ten Championship game to finish up and the annual Selection Show to begin and brackets to be revealed! What seed would Louisville be? Where would they be playing? And more importantly, who would they be playing?

So much of the brackets are determined by the matchups, not the actual seeding in my opinion. Louisville is a six-seed, and matched up with an old Big East rival, the 11-seeded South Florida Bulls. And they're playing in... Buffalo New York? All bracketologist had Louisville predicted to go to St. Louis, along with Kentucky, which would've made perfect sense being within four hours away. However, this wasn't the case for the Cardinals.

I remember vividly covering Louisville when the Cardinals lost to South Florida in February 2012 at the *KFC Yum! Center* 58-51. South Florida was never a huge threat. I never recall the program being ranked in the top-25, but they were always really big with a very tough inside presence, not an easy win to say the least. As that same year, Louisville was really good, and went on to the Final Four in New Orleans the year Kentucky won its last Championship to date.

Well, just like the matchup with the Bulls of South Florida in 2012, this will not

be an easy one for the Cardinals. A lot of this game depends on the health of **Mikel Brown Jr.** I really fell if Brown is not good to go, the Cardinals could be seeing an early exit in the NCAA Tournament, just as they did last year to Creighton. It really is a toss up, but I do feel that Louisville will play well, make a lot of threes, and advance past the Bulls in their first game. The next game potential matchup with Michigan St. would be a must-see game with a lot of NCAA Tournament history between the programs over the years.

Kentucky, however, gets to go to St. Louis, where the Wildcats have had great success over the years. The seven seeded Wildcats matchup with 10-seed Santa Clara is an interesting one. Santa Clara is led by standout sophomore point guard **Christian Hammond**, averaging 15.8 points per game. Hammond is a very dynamic three-level scorer and 40% from three-pointers. This will be a big problem for the Wildcats, who are without a true point guard due to injury. If **Otega Oweh** and **Denzel Aberdeen** can take over the game, Kentucky's skilled players may have enough momentum to move those Cats on to the Sweet-16, but it will be tough, no doubt.

Well, I've filled out my brackets for the ESPN's Tournament Challenge, as most of you all may be doing this week. My surprise team predictions for a deep run would start off with Clemson to knock off Florida, and possibly advance to the Elite-8 if not further. I also think VCU will defeat North Carolina and give Illinois a good run. When making all my brackets online, I usually found Arkansas and St. John's both in the Final Four numerous times, no matter what scenario. I really feel that **John Calipari** and **Rick Pitino** will both have a great NCAA Tournament run this season, quite possibly meeting in the Championship for a re-match of last year's classic, but I feel St. John's would get the win this time. I also look for either of the 11-seed SMU or Texas to make a potential deep run, just as NC State did as an 11-seed a couple years ago when the Wolf Pack went to the Final Four.

I hope everyone enjoys the tournament this week and we'll catch up next week to see what upsets are bound to happen. Don't forget to fill out your brackets on *ESPN's Bracket Challenge*, as they will allow brackets to be filled right up to the first games even after the First Four play-in games Tuesday and Wednesday night. Go Cards!

"Buyers' Regret?"

By James David Fugate
Times-Voice Sports
Photos: Derek Fugate



Kentucky enters the NCAA's field of 68 with the lowest expectation from its fan base in many years, which is understandable, considering it doesn't have a true point guard, which has long proven to be a necessity, not a luxury, in tournament play. Those of BBN who witnessed Arkansas's championship run in the SEC Tournament were reminded of the importance of a true point guard, as demonstrated by SEC Player of the Year, Darius Acuff Jr., whose 30 point-11 assist output against Vanderbilt Sunday afternoon in Nashville, was instrumental in the Hog's long awaited SEC Tournament victory.

Kentucky fans had grown accustomed to superior athletes, especially at the point guard position, as the many former Wildcats starring now in the NBA continue to attest. Acuff could very well have been at Kentucky this year had Coach Cal remained at the helm of the Wildcats' program, of course it was the repeated practice of recruiting such one-and-done athletes that BBN had grown weary of, desiring instead, homegrown players more interested in playing for the name on the front of the jersey instead of the one on the back. The few months such superstars were in Lexington were barely enough time for their names to be etched in the memories of BBN.

In a sense, Arkansas has become the new Kentucky, a program the Hog fan base had long envied since first coming into the league for the 1991-1992 season. Ar-

kansas had vowed at that time to take the place of Kentucky and appeared as if they may do it after winning the National Championship in 1994 and finishing as a runner-up in 1995; however, Kentucky's two National Championships in 1996 and 1998, with a runner-up sandwiched in between, sent a clear message that Kentucky was still the flagship of the SEC.

Kentucky's having grown tired of Coach Cal, fueled by his continual parade of top-rated recruiting classes falling short of anticipated deep tournament runs more often than not (Oakland, Saint Peters), has thus far proven to be the big break for which Arkansas had long been searching. Having garnered a 10-seed last year, Arkansas has earned a four-seed this year and appears to be a program on the rise, while Kentucky's trajectory is going in the opposite direction, further exasperating BBN by not having signed a single player for next season.

On the other side of the page, hopes are running a little higher as tournament play gets underway Thursday. With an expected healthy, Mikel Brown Jr., the Cardinals are capable of making a deep run. As a six-seed, Louisville will be tested in its opener against South Florida, but should move on to face Izzo's Michigan State in the second round, a team, the Cards are very capable of overtaking.

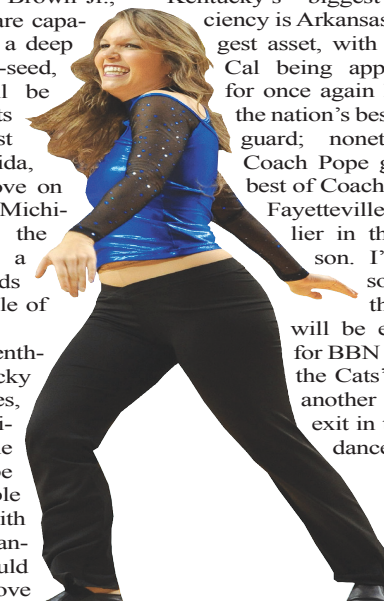
As for seventh-seeded Kentucky and its chances, most prognosticators sense the Wildcats to be quite vulnerable in its opener with 10th-seeded Santa Clara. Should the wildcats move

on to the second round, their chances of knocking off Iowa State are even smaller. Vegas odds give Kentucky only a 15% chance of making it to the Sweet 16, where its tourney journey ended last year.

On the bright side, BBN will not have to hear Coach Cal's annual excuses for not making the Final Four, despite having superior talent. It probably won't have to worry about those NBA-bound five-stars making their way to Lexington, either; albeit, some of BBN are suffering from 'buyers' regret,' desiring to return to the good ole days when Kentucky was the envy of the SEC.

While both Calipari and Kentucky's administration apparently agreed it was time for a change, a change which has seemed to reinvigorate the Hall-of-Fame coach, much to Arkansas's advantage, one shouldn't denigrate Coach Pope, whose two-year tenure in Lexington has thus far been plagued with unforeseen injuries effectively seeing his team play without a true point guard.

Fate would have it that Kentucky's biggest deficiency is Arkansas's biggest asset, with Coach Cal being applauded for once again having the nation's best point guard; nonetheless, Coach Pope got the best of Coach Cal in Fayetteville earlier in the season. I'm not so sure that win will be enough for BBN should the Cats' suffer another early exit in the big dance.



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

OWSLEY CIRCUIT COURT CIVIL ACTION NO. 25-CI-00089
VANDERBILT MORTGAGE AND FINANCE, INC. VS. BRITTANY SUE BURNS, et al.
PLAINTIFF DEFENDANTS

NOTICE OF SALE

Pursuant to and in compliance with the Judgment and Order of Sale of the Owsley Circuit Court, the Master Commissioner will offer for Sale at public outcry the following property located in Owsley County, Kentucky: Property Address: 1060 Veneable School Rd, Booneville Kentucky 41314 PVA Parcel No: 030-00-00-012.03 Said sale shall take place on the following date and at the following location:

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2026, at 12:00 noon
AT THE FRONT DOOR OF THE OWSLEY COUNTY COURTHOUSE
20 MAIN STREET,
BOONEVILLE, KENTUCKY

Said property shall be sold to raise the amounts hereinafter set forth, together with interest and the costs of the action, and the following terms and conditions:

- At the time of the sale, the successful bidder shall either pay cash or make a deposit of at least ten (10%) percent of the purchase price with the balance on credit for thirty (30) days. In the event of default by the purchaser the ten percent (10%) deposit made by the purchaser shall be applied to any costs and/or expenses of this action. In the event the successful bidder elects to credit the balance, he or she will be required to post bond and furnish an acceptable surety or sureties thereon. Said bond shall be for the unpaid purchase price and bear the interest rate of six percent (6.0%) per annum from the date of sale until paid. Any purchaser or purchasers shall have the privilege of paying said bond before maturity by paying the principal together with all accrued interest. The bond shall have the force and effect of a judgment in order to secure the payment of the balance of the purchase price and said bond shall constitute a prior and superior lien on the property until paid. No bond or earnest money shall be required if the Plaintiffs are the purchasers and the bid is less than their adjudged lien.
- All delinquent property taxes shall be paid from the proceeds of the sale. The purchaser shall be required to assume and pay all ad valorem taxes assessed by the County of Owsley and State of Kentucky for the current year and all subsequent years. The property shall further be sold subject to any delinquent State, County and/or city real estate taxes sold pursuant to the provisions of KRS Chapter 134 to any private purchaser during the pendency of this action.
- The property shall otherwise be sold free and clear of any right, title, and interest of all parties to the action and of their liens and encumbrances thereon, and all existing liens recorded after the recording of the Plaintiff's Lis Pendens Notice, excepting and subject to, however, easements, restrictions, stipulations and covenants of record in the Owsley County Clerk's office, any facts which an inspection and accurate survey of the property may disclose and any assessments for public improvements levied against the property. 4. The risk of loss and the right of possession of the real estate and any improvements thereon shall pass to the purchaser upon confirmation of sale by the Owsley Circuit Court.

FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THE PROPERTY AND/OR SALES THEREOF CAN BE FOUND IN THE OWSLEY CIRCUIT COURT CLERK'S OFFICE BY THE FILE NAME AND NUMBER FOR EACH SALE, THE OWSLEY COUNTY PROPERTY VALUATION ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE, AND THE OWSLEY COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE. PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS ARE ADVISED AND ENCOURAGED TO REVIEW ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE AT THESE LOCATIONS FOR MORE DETAILS OF THE PROPERTY OR SALE, AS THE MASTER COMMISSIONER HAS NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND DOES NOT WARRANT TITLE TO THE PROPERTY TO BE SOLD. THE PROPERTY SALES, IF MORE THAN ONE IS SCHEDULED FOR A PARTICULAR DAY, WILL OCCUR SEQUENTIALLY AT THE APPOINTED HOUR.

This the 16th day of March, 2026.

/s/ Patrick E. O'Neill
PATRICK E. O'NEILL
MASTER COMMISSIONER

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

LEE CIRCUIT COURT CIVIL ACTION NO. 21-CI-00097
MIDSOUTH CAPITAL PARTNERS, LP VS. UNKNOWN HEIRS, LEGATEES, and DEVI-
SEES of TROY FARMER, et al. PLAINTIFF DEFENDANTS

NOTICE OF SALE

Pursuant to and in compliance with the Judgment and Order of Sale of the Lee Circuit Court, the Master Commissioner will offer for Sale at public outcry the following property located in Lee County, Kentucky: Property Address: 8027 Hwy 587, Beattyville, Kentucky 41311 PVA Parcel No: 016-00-00-028 Said sale shall take place on the following date and at the following location:

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.
AT THE FRONT DOOR OF THE LEE COUNTY COURTHOUSE
256 MAIN STREET,
BEATTYVILLE, KENTUCKY

Said property shall be sold to raise the amounts hereinafter set forth, together with interest and the costs of the action, and the following terms and conditions:

- At the time of the sale, the successful bidder shall either pay cash or make a deposit of at least ten (10%) percent of the purchase price with the balance on credit for thirty (30) days. In the event of default by the purchaser the ten percent (10%) deposit made by the purchaser shall be applied to any costs and/or expenses of this action. In the event the successful bidder elects to credit the balance, he or she will be required to post bond and furnish an acceptable surety or sureties thereon. Said bond shall be for the unpaid purchase price and bear the interest rate of six percent (6.0%) per annum from the date of sale until paid. Any purchaser or purchasers shall have the privilege of paying said bond before maturity by paying the principal together with all accrued interest. The bond shall have the force and effect of a judgment in order to secure the payment of the balance of the purchase price and said bond shall constitute a prior and superior lien on the property until paid. No bond or earnest money shall be required if the Plaintiffs are the purchasers and the bid is less than their adjudged lien.
- All delinquent property taxes shall be paid from the proceeds of the sale. The purchaser shall be required to assume and pay all ad valorem taxes assessed by the County of Lee and State of Kentucky for the current year and all subsequent years. The property shall further be sold subject to any delinquent State, County and/or city real estate taxes sold pursuant to the provisions of KRS Chapter 134 to any private purchaser during the pendency of this action.
- The property shall otherwise be sold free and clear of any right, title, and interest of all parties to the action and of their liens and encumbrances thereon, and all existing liens recorded after the recording of the Plaintiff's Lis Pendens Notice, excepting and subject to, however, easements, restrictions, stipulations and covenants of record in the Lee County Clerk's office, any facts which an inspection and accurate survey of the property may disclose and any assessments for public improvements levied against the property. 4. The risk of loss and the right of possession of the real estate and any improvements thereon shall pass to the purchaser upon confirmation of sale by the Lee Circuit Court.

FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THE PROPERTY AND/OR SALES THEREOF CAN BE FOUND IN THE LEE CIRCUIT COURT CLERK'S OFFICE BY THE FILE NAME AND NUMBER FOR EACH SALE, THE LEE COUNTY PROPERTY VALUATION ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE, AND THE LEE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE. PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS ARE ADVISED AND ENCOURAGED TO REVIEW ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE AT THESE LOCATIONS FOR MORE DETAILS OF THE PROPERTY OR SALE, AS THE MASTER COMMISSIONER HAS NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND DOES NOT WARRANT TITLE TO THE PROPERTY TO BE SOLD. THE PROPERTY SALES, IF MORE THAN ONE IS SCHEDULED FOR A PARTICULAR DAY, WILL OCCUR SEQUENTIALLY AT THE APPOINTED HOUR.

This the 16th day of March, 2026.

/s/ Patrick E. O'Neill
PATRICK E. O'NEILL
MASTER COMMISSIONER