

Voted Kentucky's best weekly Sports Column



HOUSE DIVIDED

"Big Red Bird Flies toward Eastern Kentucky"

By Derek Fugate
Times-Voice Sports
Photos: Derek Fugate



Ryan Conwell strips the ball from Virginias' Thijs De Ridder at the KFC Yum! Center

If Louisville falls to SMU, it would be difficult for the Cardinals to actually make the NCAA Tournament, unless the Cards have a remarkable run in the ACC Tournament.

A lot of this is to blame on the ACC still being down, which really isn't Louisville's fault. There just aren't enough Quad-1 opportunities for resume building wins with only three teams ranked in the ACC. The Duke game was pretty much a (must win) scenario for the Cardinals, especially with Brown Jr. back in the lineup. That just leaves North Carolina and Clemson left as mar-quee wins, which are barely hanging on to a Top-25 ranking as of writing this.

Many of you may think I'm being a bit *over-the-top* here with Louisville's stock plummeting like the Titanic, but it's reality. It's very disheartening for a team with an NBA Lottery

Pick on its roster to spiral out of control this way. It will be more clear when the Cards drop out of the Top-25 rankings next week, and I do think you'll hear the words "bubble team" very soon.

So looking on the bright side, Louisville should be favored in all but two of its remaining games. This will be a nice way for Louisville to look great against many of the Quad-3 teams remaining on its schedule. Put it this way, at least this will be a nice way for the red clad faithful to feel good about their bubble team. When selection Sunday comes around, don't be surprised you heard it here first. Then again, you just never know. When you live and die by the three, it's pretty much like playing a slot machine, and anything can happen, so lets get lucky in Kentucky and hit some jackpots. Go Cards!

"Point of concern"

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



Collin Chandler takes it to the hoop

Once again I'm writing this week's offering without the benefit of knowing how Kentucky fared against Vanderbilt in Nashville Tuesday night. I don't know if the Cats were able to extend their SEC five-game winning streak, the longest in the Mark Pope Era at UK, or if the fat lady took the stage in Music City.

Either way, the five-game win streak was an incredible accomplishment, considering it was achieved without a true point guard on the floor running Kentucky's offense. If there's one thing BBN became accustomed to during the Calipari Era, it was Cal's knack for bringing five-star point guards, the best in the country, to Lexington year after year in the likes of, and in no particular order: John Wall, Andrew Harrison, Brandon Knight, De'Aaron Fox, Marquis Teague, Ashton Hagans, Isaiah Briscoe, Immanuel Quickley, Tyler Ulis, Quade Green, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander and Eric Bledsoe, to name only a few. Of course Cal's ability to bring them to Lexington proved to be his bane as well, as BBN had grown tired of the one-and-done talents opting for the NBA.

Kentucky's most recent wins have not been necessarily harmonious productions, as one would normally see from a well-oiled machine; nonetheless, Pope's Cats found a way to win, despite not having an experienced point guard running the offense, especially in late-game situations. I'm just not convinced Kentucky

can successfully continue its arduous trek through the conference, especially on the road, without a true point guard. Furthermore, looking ahead, the jury is still out as to whether or not Pope will be able to coax such talent to Lexington in the future, even with one of college basketball's deepest NIL pockets.

No one could've predicted that Jaland Lowe would go down with a shoulder injury, or that Lowe's presence in Lexington might've been the reason Kentucky couldn't land the nation's top point guard in Mikel Brown, Jr., who opted for Louisville instead. Furthermore, no point guards have committed to Kentucky for next year, either. It's a point of concern on the recruiting front for those in BBN who are looking ahead.

Ten more games remain on Kentucky's schedule before postseason play begins, eight of which are against Quad-One teams giving Kentucky the opportunity to further build its resume before Selection Sunday. There are two sides to those coins as well, as the unranked Cats

can't afford blow-out losses, such as the one suffered against Gonzaga earlier this season.

Going to Arkansas, Florida, Auburn, South Carolina and Texas A&M will be tough challenges, and home dates against Oklahoma, Tennessee, Georgia, Vanderbilt and Florida will not be wins BBN would typically pencil in, either. Keep in mind, the Cats might not have gotten by Ole Miss in Rupp, a team with only two wins ever in Lexington, if not for a Chandler three-pointer in the game's final seconds.

The measure of Kentucky's success going forward this season could very well rest with the continued development of freshman Jasper Johnson who's being asked to assume the duties of a point guard. It's a lot to ask of a freshman, especially one who's buttered his bread as a shooting guard. Undoubtedly, it's a point of concern for all of BBN.



LEGALS

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed Bids for the construction of the Prison Pump Station Screen Project will be received, by the City of Beattyville, at City Hall, 28 Railroad Street, Suite A, Beattyville, KY 41311, until 1:00 PM local time on February 6, 2026 at which time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Work for this Contract shall include Provide and install screen at the Prison Pump Station facility.

Bids will be received for a single prime Contract for each contract. Bids shall be on a lump sum price basis.

This contract is not subject to wage rates.

The owner reserves the right to waive any informality or to reject any or all bids. No bidder may withdraw his bid within 90 days after the actual date of the opening thereof. Bid award will be made to the lowest, responsive, responsible bidder.

Edward Scott Jackson
Mayor, City of Beattyville

Legal Notice

Please take notice that the undersigned, Vickie Roberts, was on the 22nd day of January 2026, duly qualified to serve as Administrator of the estate of the deceased, Harold Roberts., late in Owsley County, Kentucky. Any person having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present same, verified according to law, to said, Vickie Roberts or Henley McIntosh, attorney for the estate on or before the 23rd day of July 2026, and any person indebted to said estate are hereby requested to make payment to either of the above listed person.

Henley McIntosh
PO 848
Booneville, KY 41314

Vickie Roberts
1875 KY 846
Booneville, KY 41314

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
KY 11 RECONSTRUCTION
LEE COUNTY
ITEM NO. 10-292.40

THURSDAY, FEB. 5, 2026
5-7 P.M.

LEE COUNTY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
1665 HIGHWAY 11 SOUTH
BEATTYVILLE, KY 41311

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) has scheduled a Public Information Meeting to present plans for the proposed KY 11 reconstruction project in Lee County. The project corridor extends from approximately 0.5 mile north of the KY 587 intersection to approximately 0.65 mile north of KY 52 in Beattyville and is part of a larger corridor improvement extending from Interstate 75 to the Mountain Parkway.

The purpose of this meeting is to share project information with the public and gather written input during the design and environmental phase of development. The project is intended to improve safety, upgrade roadway geometrics, and enhance regional connectivity along the KY 11 corridor.

This meeting will be informal and held in an open-house format. No formal presentation will be given, and participants may attend at any time between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Attendees will be able to review maps and displays, obtain project information, and discuss the proposed improvements with members of the project team. Handouts and written comment forms will be available at the meeting.

Written comments may be submitted at the meeting or by mail or email through Feb. 19, 2026. All comments received will be reviewed and considered as the project continues through the design and environmental process. Right-of-way acquisition and construction schedules have not yet been established.

Questions or written statements may be addressed to:

Darren Back, P.E.
Project Manager
Kentucky Transportation Cabinet
District 10 Office
P.O. Box 621
Jackson, KY 41339
Phone: (606) 666-8841
Email: darren.back@ky.gov

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you have a disability for which the Transportation Cabinet needs to provide accommodations, please notify Darren Back, P.E. by calling (606) 666-8841. This request does not need to be in writing.

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

