

Voted Kentucky's best weekly Sports Column

LOUISVILLE No. 21

# HOUSE DIVIDED

KENTUCKY No. 30



## "Big Red Bird Flies toward Eastern Kentucky"

By Derek Fugate  
Times-Voice Sports  
Photos: Derek Fugate



Aly Khalifa defends the jump shot

Louisville survived its road test with Baylor Saturday and takes to the road again tonight to face SMU for a re-match from earlier this season. This will be a very interesting game as I figured SMU could possibly defeat Louisville at the *KFC Yum! Center* without **Mikel Brown Jr.**, but now that he's back and healthy again, this should be a great game.

**Brown** was named the *ACC Player of the Week* after breaking the ACC single-game freshman scoring record with 45 points in the big 118-77 win over NC State last Monday. **Brown** followed up that record breaking performance in the 82-71 win over Baylor with another huge game consisting of 29 points and going 4-of-5 from three-pointers.

If Louisville can get the win over SMU tonight, Saturday's home match-up against Georgia Tech should be much easier. Hard to believe only two home games remain for the Cardinals as

the season is sure winding down fast. Louisville should be okay with its six Quad-1 victories and four Quad-2; the rest of the season should pretty much be for seeding.

Speaking of seeding, this Saturday at noon is when CBS will reveal the Top-16 teams in the bracket as of now. This is always exciting as there will be a lot of bubble teams with similar records trying to play their

way into the NCAA Tournament field. Even though Louisville has Quad-1 opportunities with North Carolina and Clemson, the potential ranking of these teams may be nonexistent by the time Louisville plays them. Clemson has already fallen from the AP Top-25 this week and with **Caleb Wilson** out with a broken hand, the Tar Heels may be falling out as well.

This is the best part of the season watching the bubble teams in the power conferences try and play their way in, and there will be some great games played in the next couple weeks with still a bit of movement that can shake things up. Take No. 18 Saint Louis and No. 22 Miami of Ohio for instance, if either of these teams lose in their conference tournaments, then two teams will get in from each of these conferences and steal an at large bid. Hopefully Louisville can keep it up and we'll catch back up again next week. Go Cards!



Louisville with its tremendous defense

## "Horse Power"

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



Kentucky Cheerleaders take the floor

"I can put you on the free throw line, but I can't make them for you," said the parent-turned referee to his son at a local elementary basketball game many years ago. Such was the case way back in those days when each school was responsible for supplying the referees, which responsibility, more often than not, ultimately fell on the shoulders of the players' parents. It's akin to the old adage in regards to being able to lead a horse to water, but not being able to make it drink.

I was reminded of that incident a couple of days ago when a member of Big Blue Nation, one who was a bit concerned about Coach Mark Pope's seemingly inability to woo topflight high school recruits to Lexington, uttered his woeful lament, "I believe he's a really good coach and could have great success at Kentucky, if he could only get the players." The faithful fan's observation came on the heels of the news of Calipari's most recent display of recruiting prowess at Arkansas, having stolen away one of the nation's better point guards, a five-star athlete at that, from Coach Pope, who, as many other coaches, were actively seeking the young fellow's talent.

Coach Cal presently has the No. 5 recruiting class for next season with a bevy of superior prep athletes comprised of five-star and four-star talent. As of this writing, and to the best of my knowledge, Pope has zero high school commitments for the 2026 season, after having lost out last year on players which have played significant roles in defeating him this year, such as the play of Mikel Brown Jr. at Louisville

and Caleb Wilson at North Carolina, both of whom many believed would be in a Kentucky uniform.

My BBN friend, the one worried about the lack of commitments, chimed in, "I believe Pope is relying on the portal to fill his roster," to which I reminded him, "Well, he's going after these high school kids too, but he's not getting them." After all, a healthy mixture of the two, young talent and older, experienced players, appears to be the formula for success, at least for the time being.

It's been a long time, if ever, since Kentucky has found itself with no commitments this late in the recruiting war, but that doesn't mean all is lost. As far as I know, which admittedly is not much, there are a number of high profile high school targets in which Coach Pope is showing considerable interest, the list of which follows: Tyran Stokes (PF/SF), the nation's No. 1 overall recruit; Caleb Holt (SG/SF), ranked No. 4 nationally; Miikka Muurinen (PF/SF), and Tajh Ariza (SF), to name only a few.

It appears that Stokes, a Louisville native, once favored UK, but now seems to be leaning toward Kansas. Holt lists UK as a potential landing spot, but Arizona and Alabama currently are

viewed ahead of Lexington. The trend has already been well established with the loss of Jordan Smith Jr. (#2) to Arkansas, Deron Rippey Jr. (#10) to Duke, Taylen Kinney (#18) to Kansas, Jason Crowe Jr. (#4) to Missouri, and Ikenna Alozie (#32) to Houston. BBN will be anxious to see how Pope fares with the spring signing period beginning April 15.

My BBN friend reminded me that Cal's ability to recruit the best failed to hang equivalent banners in Rupp's rafters, recognizing his ability to get the players, while insinuating his inability to get results... as in leading a horse to water, but not being able to make it drink.

As for Cal's seemingly inability to win the big prize more often while at UK with arguably the nation's best talent in his arsenal, I'm once again reminded of the many missed opportunities at the charity stripe, which cost Kentucky more than one championship... as in, "I can put you on the free throw line, but I can't make them for you."

BBN can only hope Pope can get the horses, lead them to water and coax them to drink, in that order; otherwise, next year's prospects won't look much better than this year's.

# LEGALS

Mahadev 2026 LLC dba Booneville Hometown Liquor hereby declares its intention(s) to apply for a Quota Retail Package license, NQ Retail Malt Beverage Package license, tobacco, nicotine, or vapor product license and transitional licenses no later than February 6, 2026. The licensed premises will be located at 1865 KY-11, Booneville, KY 41314. The owner is Vipulbhai Patel, 86 Lou Court, London, KY 40744. Any person, association, corporation, or body politic may protest the granting of the license(s) by writing the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, 500 Mero St 2NE33, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601, within thirty (30) days of the date of legal publication.

Lee County District Court  
Case# 26-P-002

LEGAL NOTICE

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF: Von Campbell

Please take notice that Coonie Campbell, was on the 27th day of January, 2026 appointed and qualified as the Executor or Executrix/Administrator of the estate of Von Campbell deceased, of Beattyville, Kentucky, and any all persons having claims against said Estate are hereby notified to present same, verified according to law, to said Thomas K. Hollon, Attorney for the

Estate of Connie Campbell the Executor or Executrix/Administrator, within six (6) months from the above date and all persons indebted to said Estate are hereby requested to make payment to either the reverence person(s) within six (6) from the above date.

Thomas K Hollon  
PO Box 116  
BEATTYVILLE, KY 41311

OR

Connie Campbell  
574 Primrose Lane  
Beattyville, KY 41311

Lee County District Court  
Case# 26-P-003

LEGAL NOTICE

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF: Paul Wayne Wathen

Please take notice that Judy Wathan, was on the 13th day of January, 2026 appointed and qualified as the Executor or Executrix/Administrator of the estate of Paul Wayne Wathen deceased, of Beattyville, Kentucky, and any all persons having claims against said Estate are hereby notified to present same, verified according to law, to said Thomas K. Hollon, Attorney for the Estate

or Judy Wathan the Executor or Executrix/Administrator, within six (6) months from the above date and all persons indebted to said Estate are hereby requested to make payment to either the reverence person(s) within six (6) from the above date.

Thomas K Hollon  
PO Box 116  
BEATTYVILLE, KY 41311

OR

Judy Wathan  
1261 Bell Point Road  
Beattyville, KY 41311

LEE DISTRICT COURT  
Case #24-P-00084

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Herbert Gentry Jr

ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF Herbert Gentry HAS FILED A FINAL SETTLEMENT WITH THE LEE DISTRICT COURT. A HEARING IS SCHEDULED IN

LEE DISTRICT ON 2-10-26 AND ANY EXCEPTIONS TO THE FINAL SETTLEMENT MUST BE FILED BEFORE THAT DATE.

Herbert Gentry Jr  
Administrator

Thomas Hollon - Attorney  
PO Box 116  
Beattyville, KY 41311

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed Bids for the construction of the Telemetry Improvement Project will be received, by the City of Booneville, at City Hall, 46 South Mulberry St, Booneville, KY 41314, until 3:00 pm local time on Wednesday March 11, 2026. Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the City Hall.

Work is to include Upgrading the existing MicroComm SCADA system countywide with equipment and software. Expand the SCADA system to include Telemetry at (17) remote flow meter sites and (11) Sewer Lift Station Sites.

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is Nesbitt Engineering, Inc. Lexington, KY 40507. Prospective Bidders may obtain digital copies of the Bidding Documents from Nesbitt Engineering, Inc. by contacting Matt Steen (msteen@nei-ky.com). Bidding documents will be made available through a shared file transfer site in a PDF format at no cost.

Questions regarding this project must be received by Matt Steen at Nesbitt Engineering, Inc. (msteen@nei-ky.com) in writing no later than 12:00 pm (noon) on March 4, 2026.

Bids will be received for a single prime contractor. Bids shall be on a unit price basis. A 5% bid bond is required.

Bidders must comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Anti-Kickback Act, Non segregated facilities order 32FR 7439, and the Contract Work Hours Standard Act.

This project will be in compliance with, and bidders must comply with Executive Order No. 11246 (EEO) as amended, prohibiting discrimination in employment regarding race, creed, color, sex or national origin. Contractors & subcontractors will comply with 41 CFR 60-4, (affirmative action), to ensure equal opportunity to females and minorities and will apply the timetables and goal set forth in 41 CFR 60-4. Bidders will make positive efforts to use small, minority, women owned and disadvantaged businesses. DBE's are encouraged to bid.

This project is NOT subject to Build America, Buy American Act.

Davis Bacon Wage Rates are NOT applicable.

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. The owner reserves the right to waive any informality or to reject any or all bids

Nelson Bobrowski, Mayor

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

