

Derek Abney

Catch Me ...If You Can

Records Fall as Foes Chase Derek

You can see it in how he runs: forward, straight into 11 menacing men who all are intent upon his destruction. Wait. Now he's skipping left, right. Back left. Teasing his adversaries with his field vision and quickness. Spider-Man in shoulder pads. Now patient. Patient.... He sets up his blockers like a server at a fine French restaurant lays out a new set of flatware. Then he spies an opening and bursts through—similar to the skin diver who, just before running out of oxygen, notices an underwater cave with an air pocket just large enough to squeeze his head into and snatch a breath of air.

Whooooosshhhhhhh.

Touchdown. Point. Smile.

You can see that DA loves this game.

And you love him for that.

Of course, you can find

a whole warehouse full of reasons other than on-the-field exploits to love Derek Abney.

His #12 UK jersey honors his best boyhood friend, Ezra Hartinger, who died when they were middle-schoolers.

He admires country-style restaurants colossal-ly, particularly their green beans and country ham.

He'll have both his civil engineering bachelor's and business administration master's no later than December 2004. (DA actually enjoys physics!)

He'd be

most devastated by this: if he were unable to have kids someday. But if that nightmare came true, he'd adopt. He's a believer in America's political system and can picture himself running for office someday. In Kentucky. Imagine the fun Abney's campaign manager could have with sports-related slogans, the best one coming if DA runs as an incumbent: "Abney Returns!"

But Abney nearly wound up, not as an aspiring Kentucky candidate, but as a potential Indiana politico. He was recruited by, among others, Ohio State, Michigan, and two schools from the Hoosier state: Purdue and Notre Dame. On his junior year spring break, he and his parents, Larry and Sylvia, paid unofficial visits to all four institutions. While in West Lafayette, Ind., they decided to drive down to Kentucky to shop with Derek's grandmother in

Frankfort. That shopping sojourn proved bad for Purdue, the renowned engineering school that Derek would have attended if not for...

... the Abneys calling the UK football office to ask if they could simply swing by to grab a university catalog since they were in the area. The three arrived on campus at 9 a.m. and left promptly at 4:30 p.m. By then, Derek had secured a scholarship offer from the University of Kentucky.

Says Derek's father, Larry: "On school visits, when asked, 'What's the most important thing to you?' he said first, 'Education. Preparing myself for life.' Then he said, 'Social development. Working with a team.' The third thing he said was, 'To help a program win a national championship.'" "Derek found out very early that he could roll anywhere he wanted to go," laughs mother Sylvia, discussing DA's infancy. "The minute he learned to turn over, he started rolling. He rolled all over and got into all kinds of stuff. Couldn't keep him on a blanket."

Abney never crawled. He learned to walk at 8 1/2 months. Ran at 9 months. Fore-shadowing.

Some of his more prolific running occurred in seventh grade. That year, Abney qualified for national Junior Olympics. In four events. The 100, 200,

100 hurdles, and pentathlon. That's when Larry says he truly realized Derek possessed incredible athletic gifts.

And thankfully, Derek had such gifts, because, according to Sylvia, he was "doomed" to compete.

Abney's older sister Dawn, a UK alum and current resident of Lawrenceburg, Ky., pushed her baby brother in athletics—beginning when he was literally a baby.

"Dawn loves soccer," says Sylvia, "and after Derek learned to walk, she'd roll the ball and make me put my right hand on his leg and help him kick with his right foot. Then I'd have to use my left hand to help him kick with his left foot. She made him play sports whether he wanted to or not."

Derek did want to. *Really* wanted to. In his first-ever T-ball game, Abney played first base because he could catch well (more foreshadowing). The leadoff batter promptly lined a one-hopper off Abney's right eyebrow, knocking him down. However, Derek jumped up, alertly snagged the ball, and put the batter out at first.

"But his right eyebrow was swelling up," recalls Larry. "I could see the stitch marks of the ball in it. The coach called me over to talk. Then the coach said, 'Well, Derek, that's okay; you can go sit on the bench.' To which Derek replied, 'I didn't come here to sit the bench.'"

"He's always been courageous. Always been a performer." Anyone following Wildcats football since 2000 knows well



Abney's performances. Going into his senior season, he had caught 146 balls (13 touchdowns) for 1,723 yards. As a returner, he had taken five punts and two kickoffs to the end zone.

Last year alone he had six touchdown returns, an NCAA single-season record. His returning ability also earned him four other NCAA records, nine SEC records, and 10 UK records.

In the second game of this season, he broke UK career records for all-purpose yardage (surpassing Craig Yeast) and for kickoff return yardage (surpassing Kio Sanford).

A 2002 All-American, Abney doesn't downplay the records—that would be false humility. Instead, he credits his teammates for his successes—that would be leadership.

"Last season, our special teams thought every time that we could score. Every time. And with that effort and mentality, it was there every time. I'd say that in five out of the six TD returns, I never got touched. You can imagine the blocking that was going on there," Abney remarks.

"I'm very proud of the fact that he recognizes the contribution of others. He won't remember what he did, but he'll remember

" He's always been courageous. Always been a performer. "

— Larry Abney

the block that somebody made," affirms Larry. "In fact, the first thing he said after the Mississippi State game [two punt returns for scores] when he called us from the locker room was, 'Did you see the block Tayo (Agboke) made!?!?' "

Abney isn't resting on his pile of laurels.

"I just wanted to prepare for this year like I did last year...in the best way I could. And if it"—more touchdown returns, more records—"happens; if I deserve it again, if our team is that kind of team, then it will happen. I'm not a luck guy."

In a Nutter Training Center film room, the S-VHS reel rolls round and round. Abney rolls over.

He's built a bridge—he's a civil engineer, after all—of 10 chairs, 5 on each side; a makeshift bed of sorts. He dozes in the middle of the bridge, across the seats of the 10 chairs.

"If there're 30 minutes off, I try to catch a quick snooze...though I should probably be studying film," he concedes, with a little mischief in his color-of-the-ocean-off-the-coast-of-Cozumel-blue eyes. "I sleep a lot—maybe because I get so tired from football and school."

Football and school can indeed make a man tired. Especially the way Abney attacks each.

Declares Larry: "He loves to learn, whether about price comparisons in a grocery store. Whether about animals on The Learning Channel. Whether about WWII on the History Channel. He just has a passion for learning. And I think that's one of the things that makes him such a good football player: He's a student of the game."

Except, maybe, during naptime.

Derek Abney's mashed potatoes are cold. And it's my fault.



Before a 2 p.m. session of fall camp—and after all his teammates have left—DA and a writer sit in the Commons Market dining hall on UK's south campus, chatting like old friends who've never met.

But that's what you get with Derek Abney—time, attention. People, to him, are more important than potatoes. Even pre-practice, carbohydrate-laced, brown-gravy-covered potatoes.

Example: While in high school, Abney was not only a stud athlete but also a mentor to grade school students. Also a member of the National Honor Society. And also a top soloist in the Wisconsin all-state chorus (but, mind you, no choir boy).

Right now, the group he most enjoys associating with is his fellow boys in Blue. What he likes most about the game is with whom he plays.

"The biggest joy about football is that you work so hard as a group. You get torn down and you fail. But when you actually succeed—when you accomplish it together with your friends and teammates—the feeling is unbelievable," beams Abney.

Another something unbelievable: the well-thrown-spiral tightness of the Abney clan. They're so connected that they sound similar in interviews, in word choice and tone; all three delivering, in pleasant manner, a Wisconsin-tinted Bluegrass accent. (Both of Derek's parents have Kentucky roots.)

Larry finishes his discussion on Derek like this: "In a lot of ways, I wish I could be more like him. I really do."

Big-time compliment—especially since Derek, in a separate conversation, asserts:

"My family plays a big part in my life. Specifically, I think my dad has been instrumental in who I am. If I end up being as dedicated and articulate as he, I'm pretty blessed."

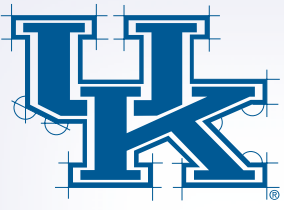
Wow. But is it father-wants-to-be-like-son-who-wants-to-be-like-father? Or is it son-wants-to-be-like-father-who-wants-to-be-like-son?

Yes.

You can see it in how he lives—in his affection for down-home cooking; in his lust for learning; in his well-timed catnaps; in his plethora of personal relationships; in his genuineness; and in his swift, full-bodied smile.

You can see that DA loves this life.

And you love him for that, too.



As football and many other UK sports begin their 2003-2004 competitive seasons, there will be many recruits visiting the UK campus. Some of these high school student-athletes will be on their official visit to the University of Kentucky while others will be visiting unofficially to attend a home athletics event. Therefore, it seems like an appropriate time to review the NCAA rules that govern these visits.

An official visit is one in which the collegiate institution is permitted to pay travel, lodging and meal expenses for the prospect and the prospect's parents. If the prospect plays a sport other than men's basketball, such a visit may not occur prior to the prospect's first day of their senior year in high school. Men's basketball recruits may not visit prior to January 1 of their junior year in high school.

Only UK coaches and athletics department staff members are permitted by the NCAA to be involved in the recruiting process. All boosters of the University of Kentucky are prohibited from contacting a prospect by telephone, letter, e-mail, chat room, message board, instant messenger or in person. It is important to note that neither a verbal commitment by a recruit nor the signing of a National Letter-of-Intent removes these prohibitions concerning booster contact. Prospects remain prospects until they begin their first class in a regular term (fall or spring) at the University of Kentucky.

If a booster regularly attends high school games in their area and becomes aware of an outstanding student-athlete, they are encouraged to contact the UK coach for that sport and make them aware of this prospect. However, it is not permissible for the booster to have any contact



Sandy Bell

with the student-athlete, their family members or their coach while attending the athletics event. A booster also may not pick up a high school transcript or a film of the prospect for the purpose of evaluating them academically or athletically. Securing these items is considered by the NCAA to be a coaching activity and may only be performed by a UK coach certified to recruit off-campus for that sport.

An unofficial visit is one during which the collegiate institution is not permitted to provide the prospect or the prospect's family with any benefit other than three tickets to a home athletics event. These visits may be made at any time dur-

ing the prospect's high school career. All transportation, meals and lodging must be at the expense of the prospect and his or her family.

When a prospect is visiting our campus on an unofficial visit and requires overnight housing, it is not permissible for a hotel or a booster to provide that lodging at no cost or at a reduced rate. If a hotel provides a special rate to the families of all prospective UK students, then a prospective student-athlete and their family could take advantage of that discount. The same rules would apply to meals in transit and in the Lexington area. Neither a local restaurant nor a booster could provide the prospect or the prospect's family with a free or discounted meal or transportation.

Hopefully, the information provided above will clarify the differences between official and unofficial visits which may be taken by prospective student-athletes to NCAA campuses. The one rule which always remains the same, regardless of whether the prospect is on an official or an unofficial visit, is that boosters are prohibited from having any contact with the prospect or their family.

The University of Kentucky Athletics Department greatly appreciates the interest and support of our boosters. However, the NCAA does not permit such a booster to become involved in the recruiting process in any way beyond recommending a prospect to a member of our coaching staff. Recent activities by some UK boosters which involved e-mailing prospects or

The one rule which always remains the same, regardless of whether the prospect is on an official or an unofficial visit, is that boosters are prohibited from having any contact with the prospect or their family.

contacting them in other ways, has resulted in UK being required to declare those prospects ineligible for intercollegiate competition. We ask that you assist us in protecting the eligibility of our future student-athletes by carefully following the rules explained in this column.

If you have any questions concerning this information or any other compliance issue, please do not hesitate to contact the UKAA Compliance Office at (859) 257-6482. Thank you very much for your cooperation and GO CATS!!

Sandy Bell, Associate AD for Compliance, is in her 16th year with UK Athletics. A Lexington native, Sandy is married to Stuart Bell and has two daughters, Deana and Lori.

Former Cat Jeff Zurcher

1998 Football Team Captain Now a Contributing Writer

Jeff Zurcher, considered one of the top scholar-athletes in UK history, is a new contributor to *The Blueprint*. The Derek Abney feature on pages 8-9 of this issue was written by Jeff, as was the Coach John Cohen story on page 4. Jeff played football at Kentucky from 1996-98. A safety, Jeff played in 32 games, started in eight and led the 1999 Outback Bowl team in tackles.

"Somebody had to be the last to get run over," Jeff says jokingly.

More spectacularly, Jeff graduated in May of 1998 with a 4.0 grade-point average and a double major in English and advertising. He later received his master's degree in diplomacy from UK's Patterson School of Diplomacy. He was one of

"Somebody had to be the last to get run over."

— Jeff Zurcher

two 1997 UK nominees for the Rhodes Scholarship, and was a finalist for that most prestigious of academic honors. An Academic All-American, Jeff was also the recipient of the coveted H. Boyd McWhorter \$10,000 Post-Graduate Scholarship as the SEC Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year in 1998.

A native of Berne, Ind., Jeff played football at South Adams High School and hoped to continue playing the sport in college. But he was offered a basketball scholarship and played guard for one year at Bethel (Ind.) College, where the squad won the NAIA Basketball Championship in 1995. The following year, Jeff joined the UK football squad as a walk-on, and the next season he accepted a scholarship from the Wildcats.



Jeff and Christie Zurcher

The former UK Football team captain now handles grants and applications for the Arlington Foundation, a non-profit family charity that focuses on impacting the value systems of youth.

Jeff and his wife Christie, whom he met at a Fellowship of Christian Athletes meeting while at UK, live in Milford, Ohio. Christie was a psychology major at Kentucky and is now a counselor in Cincinnati for the Pregnancy Crisis Center, also a non-profit organization.

The Zurchers were married in May 2001. UK fans can hear Jeff on WVLK Radio on Thursday nights during his sports call-in show. He also does pre-game and post-game commentary for the station on UK game days. While not otherwise occupied, Jeff is a freelance writer who has regular features in *The Blueprint*, UK Alumni Magazine and *Ace Weekly Magazine*.

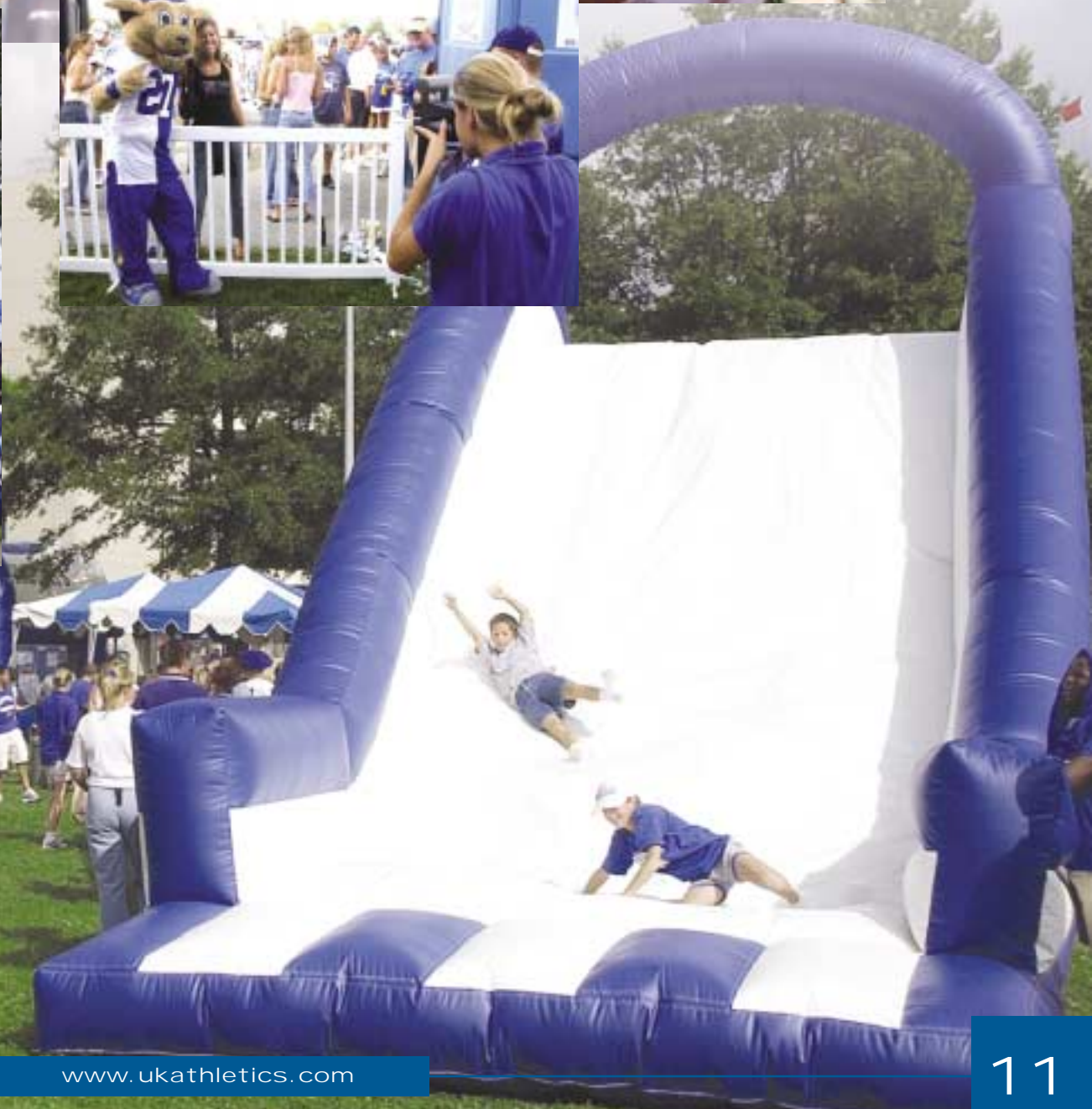
New for the 2003 Wildcats Athletic Events

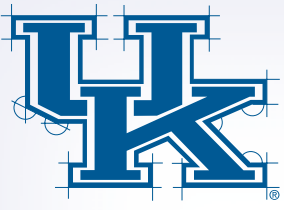
The Wildcat Refuge opens three hours before every home game. There is no admission but concessions and official game-day souvenirs are available for purchase.

The area was designed for fans eight months to 80-years-old.

The Refuge features:

- Face Painting and Temporary Tattoos
- Meet-and-greet UK sports teams at scheduled times
- Photos taken with the Wildcat Mascots
- WBUL pre-game show live from the refuge and
- Five Inflatable Games: Pop-A-Shot, Bungee Run, Obstacle Course, Accuracy Throw, and the Over/Under Slide, which houses the famous "moonwalk"





From the Gallery

Keep Up the Good Work

Date	Opponent
Aug. 31	at Louisville
Sept. 6	Murray State
Sept. 13	at Alabama
Sept. 20	at Indiana
Sept. 27	Florida
Oct. 4	Open
Oct. 11	at South Carolina
Oct. 18	at Tennessee
Oct. 25	Mississippi State
Nov. 1	Arkansas
Nov. 8	Open
Nov. 15	at Vanderbilt
Nov. 22	at Georgia
Nov. 29	Savannah

The Blueprint is wonderful and I look forward to receiving it every month. I was also tickled to receive a UK football

magnet the other day in the mail. Little things like that make you appreciate UK athletics. Tell Mr. Barnhart to keep up the good job and kudos to the marketing department.

Max Wise
Lexington, Ky.

How Do I Subscribe?

I have just seen your new newsletter, *The Blueprint*, for the first time (Vol. 2), and would love to be added to your mailing list. I think you have produced an extremely informative newsletter of the highest quality. I enjoyed the wide range of profiles and information included in this issue. If there is a charge for the newsletter, please send me details on how to subscribe.

Thanks,
Lynn Tyler
Richmond, Ky.

I am inquiring as to who is receiving *The Blueprint*. I saw a copy of it at my parents' house. They are season ticket holders and UK Fellows. Are regular football season ticket holders supposed to be getting this great publication?

Thanks,
John Sisler Jr.
Lexington, Ky.

Ms. Tyler and Mr. Sisler,

The Blueprint is mailed to season ticket holders and other Wildcats fans at no charge. We are delighted that you enjoy the publication and have added you to the mailing list. Anyone interested in subscribing or changing their address for this newsletter should send their information to theblueprint@lsv.uky.edu.

Thanks for your interest in and support of UK Athletics.

Go Cats!
— The Editor

Civil Response to Hoosier

Pursuant to the offer made in the Editor's response to Anne Miller Carr in the June '03 "From the Gallery" section of *The Blueprint*, I am asking for my information to be put on your "more information" list. I thought you did a wonderful job of responding most civilly to the Hoosier message.

I always want more BIG BLUE information. Dad a '49 grad, Mom there in '48 and '49 (they are UK Fellows), Sister there from '70 through '74, I graduated in '73 (Blue & White Life Member & Fellow). Our family can never get enough. THANKS!

David E. Cecil
Grundy, Va.

And, Now, a Gator Fan

I have been receiving *The Blueprint* as a result of purchasing tickets to last year's NCAA Regional at Rupp Arena. I have to admit that this is a beautiful newsletter and I did find it interesting. HOWEVER, as we are BIG Gator fans, it is a big waste to send it to us!

You may remove my name from your mailing list.

William Clark
Dunnellon, Fla.

Fans' Day Was Great

Thanks, Fans' Day was great. The attendance was great. If the attendance keeps growing, and I think it will when we start going BOWLING every year, some changes may need to be made. If so this would be great. Keep up the excellent work that everyone is doing!

Thanks again,
Donald Ray
Louisville, Ky.

Rupp Sound System Can Improve



Rupp's Big Bertha

My husband and I have really enjoyed *The Blueprint*. It has been a great way for us to stay connected to our first love: UK sports. As season ticket holders, we spend a lot of time in Rupp Arena. The fans and the newly created student section offer an atmosphere that television could never recreate. It is truly electrifying.

One thing that could be improved on however, is the sound system. Our seats are located in the upper arena where the sound seems to simply echo. It is really frustrating not to be able to hear the introduction of the players or any announcements that are being made during the games. Those in the upper arena would love to be able to share in the UK experience. Please consider retiring "Big Bertha" and giving us something that is truly "music to our ears."

Thanks!
Christy Durr
Cynthiana, Ky.

Ms. Durr,

A new sound reinforcement was placed in the upper arena last year.

This has helped audio a great deal both with volume and clarity. We get almost no complaints. However, sound can be tricky in a building the size of Rupp Arena.

As for "Big Bertha", she will be retired in the summer of 2004. We are presently working on plans for a new system. I don't know what will become of "Bertha", she may be sent to the landfill. Do you know of a home for retired sound clusters?

— The Editor

Need Information About Tickets



I just finished reading the June 3 issue of *The Blueprint*. There were lots of good articles in the publication. I don't know if you're the right person to ask but I would like to get information on how to obtain

tickets to the annual UK men's basketball game that they schedule every year in Louisville. I have gone several times but no matter how early I order tickets to this game I can never seem to get a decent seat. I ordered very early last year when Indiana came to Louisville to play the Cats but I was still on the very back row in the corner. These were \$25 tickets. If you have any answers or know the correct person to write to I would be very appreciative.

Thank you.
Dale Cooksey

Mr. Cooksey,

Thank you for following the Cats on the road. Fans like you give a big lift to our squads during away games. Tickets for road games are distributed based on the following criteria: K Fund donors, season ticket holders and general public. You can reach our ticket office by calling 1-800-928-CATS or 859-257-1818 or via the Internet at www.ukathletics.com

— The Editor

Brady Coming to UK



As part of UK's Family Weekend, UK Athletics is partnering with the Student Activities Board to bring comedic superstar Wayne Brady to campus for UK's second annual Family Weekend. Brady, star of ABC's "Whose Line Is It Anyway," will bring his improvisational act to Memorial Coliseum on Friday, October 31st at 8 p.m.

UK Athletics is excited to offer a Wayne Brady ticket and a ticket to the November 1st football game versus Arkansas for \$28. To purchase this incredible ticket package while it lasts, please call the UK Student Ticket Office at 859-257-8427.

Matches Made in **Big Blue** *Heaven*

Couples Who Have Met On and Off the Courts of UK's Hallowed Grounds



Scott and Cynthia Padgett

Cynthia and Scott

Cynthia Dozier (1994-98), a two-time volleyball Academic All-SEC selection and Scott Padgett (1995-99), All-SEC and honorable mention All-American in basketball, were married in August 1999 after Scott was selected in the first round by the Utah Jazz. After completing the 2003 season with the Jazz, Scott applied for free agency and expects to be wearing a new uniform when the NBA season begins this fall. The Padgetts recently sold their house in Utah and are currently living in Scott's hometown, Louisville. They have two children, Logan Anthony (25 months) and Lucas Austin (four months).

Charlie and Lynne

Lynne Segreti (1985-1989) and Charlie Kern (1987-1991) have their names scattered throughout the UK record books after outstanding collegiate careers as distance runners for Coach Don Weber. The two became engaged in July 1991 and were married in November of the same year after Charlie earned his degree from UK. The Kerns live in

Elmhurst, Ill. and have three children: Charlie (3) and twins Ethan and Emma (1).

Charlie teaches history and sociology at York High School, where he is an assistant cross country coach and assistant track coach who works with the distance runners. After eight years teaching at the elementary level and four years coaching cross country, Lynne has decided to stay home and raise her own personal distance squad.

Heather and Rob

Heather Coleman (1990-94) and Rob Manchester (1991-95) met at an SEC basketball tournament when Rob was a UK football player and Heather was a member of the UK dance squad. Rob later would become a graduate assistant football coach and Heather would be the dance squad assistant coach. The two married in August 2002. Rob is now the defensive secondary coach for Georgia Military College in Milledgeville, Ga., and Heather is a Medical Sales Specialist for Elsay Inc.



Rob and Heather Manchester

Kirk and Lyndsey

Kirk Vidra (1992-95) and Lyndsey Dopps (1993-94) both played soccer for Kentucky and married after graduation. Kirk received his accounting degree from UK in 1996 and earned his law degree from St. Louis University in 1999. He currently practices real estate law in St. Louis. Lyndsey was an education major and received her degree from UK in 1998. She is a Special Education teacher for autistic children.

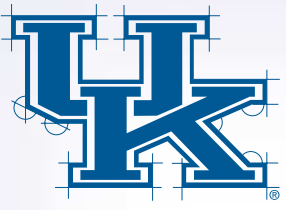


Charlie and Lynne Kern



Kirk and Lyndsey Vidra

Want to Know When the Cats Play?
Log on to ukathletics.com



Where are They Now?



Debra and LaVon

LaVon Williams (1977-80) and Debra Oden (1976-80) were UK basketball stand-outs in the late 70s. Now the Williams live in Lexington, where LaVon is a renowned artist who travels the country to show the American Urban Folk Art that he produces in his downtown studio. He also is a safe room teacher at Lexington's Morton Middle School, while Debra teaches at Johnson Elementary. The couple has two children, DeVonda, who plays basketball for Morehead State, and Nealy, 11.

Jeff and Stacey

Stacey Reed (1991-95) and Jeff Sheppard (1994-98) played for UK basketball teams that excelled during the 90s. Jeff played on both the 1996 and 1998 Wildcats NCAA Championship squads. Stacey remains No. 5 on the All-Time UK scoring list with 1,482 points. Stacey now is assistant girls basketball coach at North Laurel while Jeff owns and operates 15Inc., which sells officially licensed UK apparel and memorabilia. The Sheppards live in London, Ky. with their 3-year-old daughter, Madison.



Todd and Franci Svoboda

Todd and Franci

Franci Niles competed in gymnastics (1992-95) on the outstanding UK squad that featured

Jenny Hansen while Todd Svoboda (1992-93) played basketball on the Final Four team that boasted Jamal Mashburn. A native of Fairfax, Va., Francie majored in French while Todd, a huge crowd favorite in Rupp Arena after transferring from Northern Kentucky University, was a chemical engineering major who is now in Ink Research and Development at Lexmark. The Svobodas live in Winchester and have two children, 5-year-old daughter Dahlia, 5, and 3-year-old son, T.J.

Jeff and Stacey Sheppard

Alan and Jane

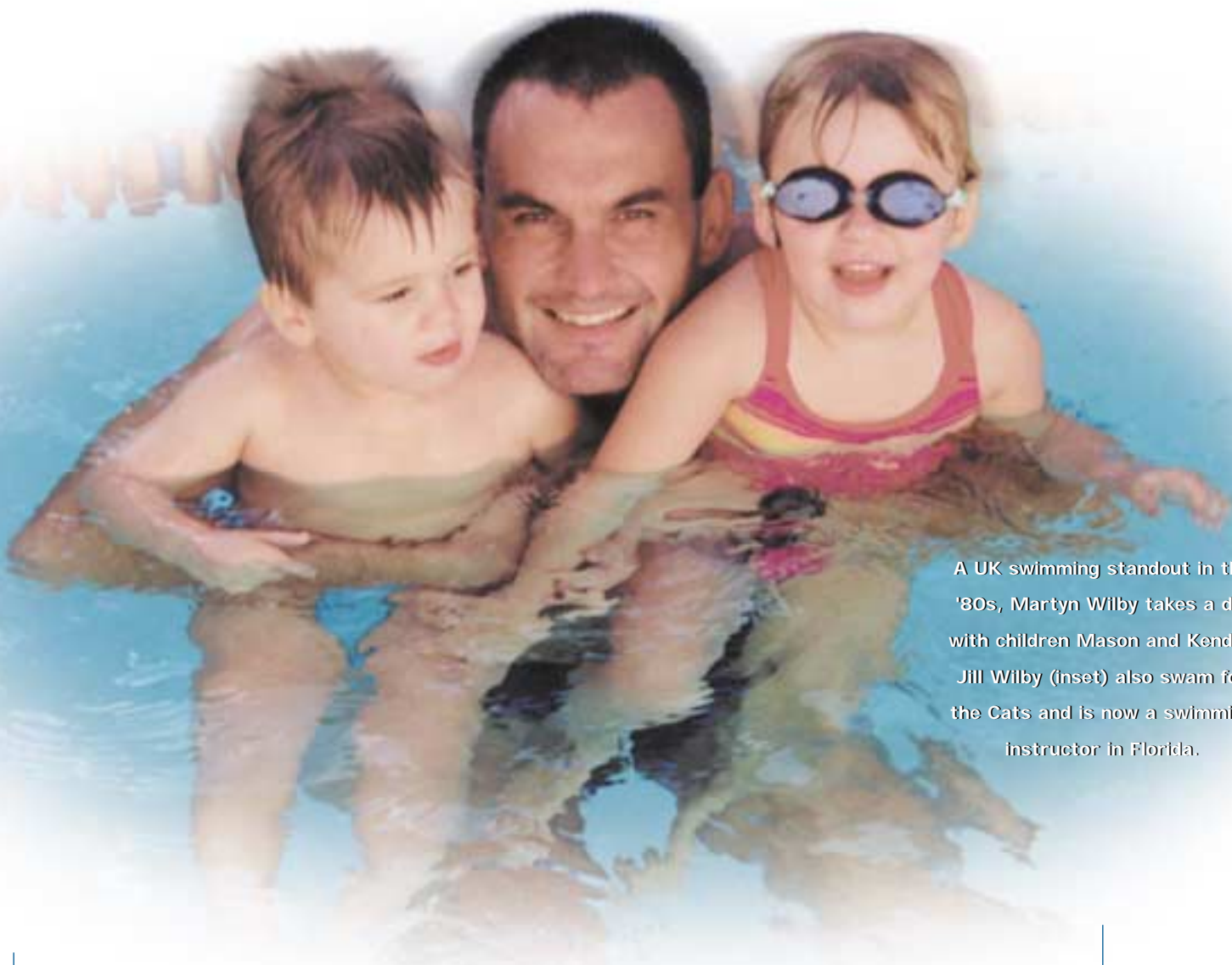
Alan Thomas (1987-92) was a standout distance runner for Kentucky while Jane Belanger (1990-94) will always be remembered as one of the best volleyball players to ever wear the Blue and White. Alan has a secure spot among the top 10 all-time performers in several distance events for UK. Jane was an All-American setter for Kathy DeBoer and current head coach Jona Braden, who was the associate coach when Jane played for UK. She remains the program's career leader in games played and owns the single-season mark for assists. Jane and Alan were married in June 1997. Alan is the Collectibles Product and Brand Manager for Schutt Sports. Jane, who was an assistant volleyball coach for nine years at Auburn and Georgia, is now in her first year as head coach at Blackburn College in Carlinville, Ill. The Thomases live in Litchfield Ill. with their 18-month-old son, Alex.



Alan and Jane Thomas

Want to Know What Your Favorite Ex-Cat's Are Doing?

Write to the Editor
rvicini@uky.edu



A UK swimming standout in the '80s, Martyn Wilby takes a dip with children Mason and Kendal. Jill Wilby (inset) also swam for the Cats and is now a swimming instructor in Florida.



Jill Wilby

Something in the Water?

Martyn and Jill

Martyn Wilby (1982-86) and Jill Abercrombie (1986-90) met when both were UK swimmers. Martyn then took a Graduate Assistant position with the Cats and became Jill's coach. The two married in August of 1994. Martyn is now assistant swimming and diving coach at the University of Florida and Jill runs a Swim America program in Gainesville. The Wilbys have two children, five-year-old Kendal and three-year-old Mason.

Kelly and Jeff

Kelly Augustus (1986-90) and Jeff Smith (1981-85) met when Jeff was a Graduate Assistant coach and recruited Kelly to swim for the Cats. They got married in the fall of 1990. Jeff still swims and competes in triathlons but Kelly tries to avoid the water as much as possible. Their children, Jessica (10) and Jacob (7) are both in USA Swimming. The Smiths live in Danville, where Jeff is a Chemical Engineer Manager for Corning Inc.



Former UK swimmers Sandra and Scott Street were married in 1991.

Scott and Sandra

Scott Street (1982-86) and Sandra Bohorquez (1986-90) got engaged when Sandra was a senior at UK and the two were married in May 1991. Both still swim to keep in shape and they are teaching their children Scotty (5) and Matthew (2) to swim. The Streets live in Alexandria but will soon be moving to Lexington. Sandra is a homemaker and Scott is Director of Sales for Valvoline.

Brian and Marge

Marge Sumrall and Brian Van Horn swam at UK from 1986-90 and were married in August 1991. The two now live in Waukesha, Wisc., and have three children, Eileen (9), Jamie (7) and Mary (3). Both Marge and Brian were named to the Southeastern Conference All-Academic squad when they were students. Marge is a homemaker and Brian work for GE Medical Systems.

Pam and P.J.

Pam Gordon (1987-91) and P.J. Priester (1989-90) live in Dover, N.H. and have two children, Megan and Jack.

Andrew and Mandy

Andrew Aitken (1992-95) and Mandy Swift (1994-97) both remain among the top 10 all-time lists in several events at Kentucky. They were also both two-time Southeastern Conference All-Academic selections. The Aitkens live in Hoboken, N.J.

UK Swimmers and Divers Reunite

This fall the Wildcats will celebrate 20 years of women's swimming and diving and more than 60 years of men's aquatics as all former letter winners are invited back to campus on Oct. 24 and 25. The weekend springs into action in the Lancaster Aquatic Center as the men's and women's squads open their season against Tennessee at 5 p.m. on Friday (Oct. 24). A brunch is scheduled for the next morning, followed by an outing at Keeneland and the UK vs. Mississippi State football game at Commonwealth Stadium at 7.

To register for the event or to find out more about it, log on to ukathletics.com and click on swimming and diving; or call staff support associate Margo Lynch at 859-257-7944