

Stoops expects Cats to show improvement against Akron

BY KEITH TAYLOR
KENTUCKY TODAY

LEXINGTON — Kentucky coach Mark Stoops won't change his message going into his team's final tuneup before the Wildcats open the Southeastern Conference portion of the schedule.

Stoops expects Kentucky (2-0) to build on a strong second half in last week's 28-17 win over Eastern Kentucky. The Wildcats will host Akron in the second meeting between the two programs in a 7:30 p.m. kickoff Saturday at Kroger Field.

"I expect our team to respond," Stoops said. "They did last week, they did in practice, there were certain things on film that did show up. The drive-stalling things cannot happen, we know that. We got to get those things cleaned up, they're going to jump up and hurt us if we don't get them corrected. But I'm confident that we will continue to grow and get better in certain areas."

Kentucky offensive coordinator Liam Coen is expected to be back on the sidelines following a medical episode that kept hospitalized for two days this week.



KEITH TAYLOR/Kentucky Today

Trevin Wallace recorded a sack in last week's win over EKV as Kentucky's defense has played well in its first two games of the season.

"It was a little bit eventful, obviously," Coen said. "I want to thank the people, treatment staff here, athletic department, everybody for their support at the hospital. Just acting quickly."

"There's not a ton I remember from the situation. Probably need to sleep better, need to eat better, need to be a better version of myself in terms of doing the things that we ask our players to do."

Stoops added the Wild-

cats can't be perfect, but can strive toward the mark.

"We're striving for perfection, knowing you're probably not going to get it, but in the meantime, you may find excellence. Exactly what I said to them and used it a week ago. It wasn't mine. I'm not original on that."

Akron (1-1) will be led by a familiar face when it makes its first visit to Kroger Field since the 2010 season when the Wildcats defeated the

Zips 47-10. Former Mississippi State coach Joe Moorhead, who went 1-1 against the Bulldogs, is the head coach.

"(His teams are) always tough, physical, and hard-nosed," he said. "He is very creative offensively. They have been very multiple. We will go back and look at quite a few things when he was at Mississippi State and we will look at things (from) when he was at Akron and try to put together a very good plan on both sides of the ball to go compete and try to go 3-0, right before conference play the following week. We have some things we need to improve on and looking forward to getting back out there."

The school will celebrate the 50th anniversary of Kroger Field, which opened on Sept. 15, 1973, as Commonwealth Stadium on land that previously served as the UK Experimental Station Farm Grounds. Kentucky is 184-141-4 in games played at Kroger Field, including a 48-25 mark under Stoops.

Gametracker: Akron at UK, 7:30 p.m., Saturday. TV/Radio: ESPN, UK Radio Network.

Cards' non-conference schedule features UK in Yum!, trip to NYC

BY RUSS BROWN
KENTUCKY TODAY

LOUISVILLE — As Louisville basketball coach Kenny Payne embarks on the second year of his rebuilding job, the Cardinals non-conference slate that includes three likely Top 25 teams — Texas, UConn or Indiana plus Kentucky — and a total of eight games in the KFC Yum! Center.

The eight newcomers and four returning scholarship players will have time to get acquainted with each other before taking on the most challenging part of their schedule, opening with three straight home games against low major teams.

The highlights of the 10-game non-conference schedule, plus two exhibitions, are the annual rivalry matchup with Kentucky and a trip to Madison Square Garden to play in the 28th annual Empire Classic, where they will face Texas on Nov. 19 and then either defending national champion UConn or Indiana on Nov. 20. The event benefits the Wounded Warrior Project.

U of L faces Kentucky in the Yum! on Dec. 21. In ESPN's Way Too Early Top 25 rankings, Texas is rated No. 24, UK No. 17 and UConn is No. 5. The Hoosiers aren't listed, but are considered a threat to play their way into the rankings early in the season.

Besides the Wildcats, Louisville will host the University of Maryland Baltimore County) in its home opener Nov. 6, UT-Chattanooga, Coppin State, New Mexico State, Bellarmine, Arkansas State and

Pepperdine. The Cards also play two exhibition games in the Yum!, Simmons College on Oct. 18 and Kentucky Wesleyan on Oct. 30.

Simmons is coached by Tony Branch and its athletic director is Jerry Eaves, both members of Louisville's 1980 national championship team and U of L Athletics Hall of Fame inductees.

"We are excited to play in front of our passionate fan base," Payne said in a statement. "Our non-conference schedule will allow us to prepare against challenging competition and provide a competitive atmosphere that our team is looking forward to. We're thrilled to show you the high-character and competitive group that will be wearing the Cardinal uniform this season."

The only true road game will be a Dec. 9 trip to Chicago to meet DePaul of the Big East Conference.

Tip-off times and TV information will be released soon as will the ACC 20-game schedule.

U of L is attempting to bounce back from last season's 4-28 record. The only returnees from that team are guard/forward Mike James, forwards Brandon Huntley-Hatfield and J.J. Traynor, and forward/center Emmanuel Okorafor. Payne supplemented that group with a recruiting class ranked in the top 5, but the Cards have since lost arguably their best player from that class, Trentyn Flowers, who decided to sign a pro contract in Australia one week before classes started.

Big Blue Madness set for Oct. 13

BY KEITH TAYLOR
KENTUCKY TODAY

LEXINGTON — Big Blue Madness is set for Oct. 13 at Rupp Arena.

Tickets for the annual event go on sale beginning at 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 29. Big Blue Madness, which will showcase the Kentucky men's and women's basketball teams, will

begin at 7 p.m. and tickets are free. Because of ongoing renovations at Memorial Coliseum, there will be no in-person distribution. This is the 18th year the event will be at Rupp Arena.

According to UK Athletics, all patrons require a ticket for Big Blue Madness, regardless of age. Online orders will have a minimal

service fee attached, and there will be a limit of two tickets per household. All duplicate orders automatically will be canceled. Due to high demand, UK Athletics cannot guarantee that all fans will receive tickets.

Televised coverage of the event will be available on the SEC Network.

Truex Jr. is staring down elimination from playoffs after winning regular-season title

BY JENNA FRYER
AP AUTO RACING WRITER

Martin Truex Jr. has slumped into Bristol Motor Speedway fighting for his season.

Truex won the regular-season title but two bad races to open NASCAR's playoffs has him on the brink of elimination headed into Saturday night's race at Bristol, Tennessee. The bottom four drivers in the 16-driver field will be cut from the championship sprint and Truex, winner of three races this season, is 13th — below the cutline.

A cut tire three laps into last weekend's race at Kansas — and an 18th-place finish in the playoff opener at Darlington — has Truex in serious trouble headed into one of his weaker tracks. In 32 previous starts on Bristol's concrete configuration, a winless Truex has a meager four top-10 finishes.

"It's obviously a terrible spot to be in," Truex said Friday. "Last week we didn't even get a chance to race, which was disappointing. Coming off a tough Darlington race, and then, you know, two laps in (at Kansas) you feel like you're in trouble and a flat tire. Turns out you ran something over. It's just terrible bad luck. We'll do the best we can. But obviously it's a bad spot to be in."

Bubba Wallace, Daytona 500 winner Ricky Stenhouse Jr. and Michael McDowell also are below the cutline. Kevin Harvick, who is retiring at the end of the season, is seven points ahead of Truex above the cutline. Kyle Larson and Tyler Reddick have both advanced to the next round with victories in the opening two playoff races.

"It is what it is, you go race as hard as you can and where it falls, it falls," Harvick said. "I don't worry about those things anymore."

Truex did seem worried — at least subdued — about the task ahead. Weather is already a potential added headache and a forecast of rain for Saturday night led NASCAR to decide more than a day in advance to move the scheduled start up by one hour on the half-mile track.

"I know tomorrow night's a big race, this place hasn't been our best place by any means, but I'm looking forward to the challenge," Truex said. "It's going to be what it's going to be, and we've just got to go do our best."

Christopher Bell made NASCAR playoff history by winning his third consecutive pole — the first driver to win the top starting spot for the first three playoff races since the postseason format began in 2004.

Bell turned a lap at 126.997 mph in his Toyota from Joe Gibbs Racing in

the Friday night qualifying session. He also won the pole at Darlington and Kansas to open the playoffs, but only managed an eighth-place finish last week for his efforts.

He has five poles on the season but only one win.

"If I've learned anything it's that qualifying means nothing for the race," Bell said.

Denny Hamlin nearly knocked his teammate from the top starting spot as the last driver to make a qualifying run. Hamlin came up short at 126.930 mph.

"It doesn't get much closer than that at Bristol," said Bell. "That's crazy tight."

William Byron of Hendrick Motorsports qualified third in a Chevrolet and was followed by McDowell in a Ford, Truex in a Toyota and Brad Keselowski in a Ford.

Chase Elliott and Ty Gibbs, who are not racing for the championship, qualified seventh and eighth and posted the exact same speed. Wal-

lace was ninth and Corey LaJoie, another non-playoff driver, rounded out the top 10.

first win than right now."

Kyle Busch in his first season driving for Richard Childress Racing with a strong shot at advancing. He is seventh in the standings.

He won three races early to start his new career endeavor, but was inconsistent leading into the playoffs. He finished 11th at Darlington and seventh at Kansas to give him some breathing room ahead of one of Busch's best tracks. Busch has eight career Cup Series wins on the Bristol concrete, including three wins in the last nine Bristol races.

His 16 short-track wins are the most among active drivers, and, RCR this week made a crew swap between Busch and teammate Austin Dillon. The swap moved all pit crew members except for the fuelers because Dillon's crew has been faster and more consistent throughout the season.

NOTICE

Due to Purchased Water Cost increases from the Louisville Water Company, notice is hereby given that Hardin County Water District No. 1 has filed an application for a Purchased Water Adjustment with the Kentucky Public Service Commission for the purpose of adjusting its Retail and Wholesale water rates. Customer rates will increase by \$0.04 per 1,000 gallons used. The proposed change will be effective for service rendered on or after October 1, 2023.

| Volume Charge | Current | Proposal | % Increase |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| First 15,000 gallons | \$7.50 Per 1,000 gal | \$7.54 Per 1,000 gal | \$0.04 (.53%) |
| All Above 15,000 gallons | \$5.39 Per 1,000 gal | \$5.43 Per 1,000 gal | \$0.04 (.74%) |
| Wholesale Rate: All Water Used | \$3.33 Per 1,000 gal | \$3.37 Per 1,000 gal | \$0.04 (1.20%) |

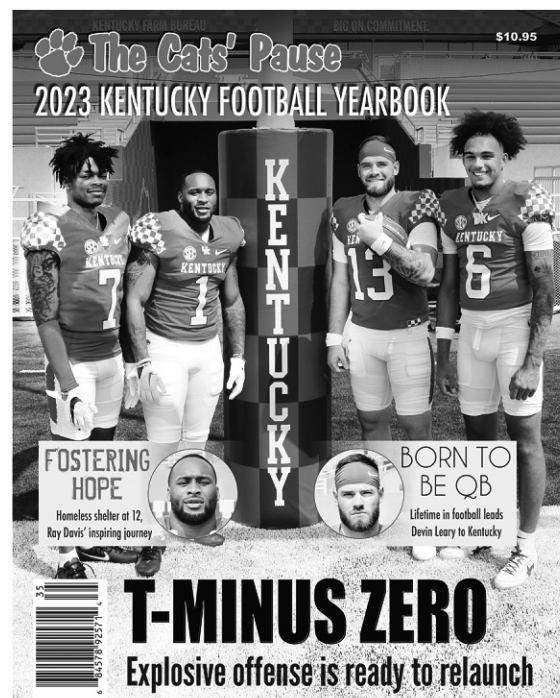
The monthly bill for a customer using an average of 4,500 gallons per month will increase \$.18 from \$42.11 to \$42.29 or .43%.

The rates contained in this notice are the rates proposed by Hardin County Water District No. 1. However, the Public Service Commission may order rates to be charged that differ from these proposed rates. Such action may result in rates for consumers other than the rates in this notice.

Any corporation, association, body politic or person may request to intervene, by motion within thirty (30) days after notice of the proposed rate change is given. A motion to intervene shall be in writing and submitted to the Executive Director, Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 615, Frankfort, KY 40602, and shall set forth the grounds for the motion, including the status and interest of the party movant.

Copies of the application may be obtained at no charge from the District office located at 1400 Rogersville Road, Radcliff, KY 40160, 270-351-3222. Upon request from an intervener, the District shall furnish to the intervener a copy of the application and supporting documents. This application may also be examined at the Public Service Commission located at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM or on the PSC website at <https://psc.ky.gov>; telephone (502) 564-3940.

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