Wildcats Prepare for Rematch with South Carolina; Face Border Rival Vols

Kentucky returns home this week for a rematch with the Gamecocks on Wednesday before taking on Tennessee for the first time this season on Friday. The match will be played prior to Big Blue Madness, UK’s celebration of the first day of collegiate basketball practice.

The Wildcats are coming off a disappointing loss last weekend to Arkansas in Fayetteville. UK played well, but came up short in the 3-1 loss to fall to 1-3 in Southeastern Conference play. The loss also places added importance on this week’s schedule, as Kentucky needs to add league wins to qualify for the SEC Tournament, Nov. 22-24, in Fayetteville. Only eight teams qualify for the single-elimination tourney, making each conference win an important one.

Scouting the Gamecocks

After USC won the first meeting of the season, 3-0, in Columbia last month, the series record is tied at 13. Kentucky dominated the series from its origination in 1979 until 1994, winning nine straight matches. However, the Gamecocks have taken the last five meetings, leaving UK without a series victory since 1999.

South Carolina enters the match with a perfect 5-0 conference record after beating LSU and Arkansas on the road last weekend. The Gamecocks are 12-3 overall and haven’t lost a match since Sept. 14, a 3-1 loss to Long Beach State in Long Beach, Calif.

Niece Curry leads South Carolina this season, averaging 3.46 kills per game, while hitting an astounding .412 on the year. She leads the league with that percentage. Berna Dwyer is close behind with 3.43 kpg and a .367 hitting percentage, which ranks fourth in the conference. Setter Megan Hosp averages 12.15 assists per game for the Gamecocks.

Coach Kim Christopher is in her 10th season at South Carolina, holding a 192-96 record in Columbia. She’s 362-140 in her 16th season as a head coach, including four seasons at West Texas State and two at Northern Arizona. Her 1990 WTSU team claimed the NCAA Division II title.

Scouting the Volunteers

Kentucky is 34-16 all-time against border rival Tennessee, but has dropped the last two matches in the series. Kentucky’s last win came on Nov. 12, 2000, a 3-1 victory in Lexington. Last season, UT took a 3-1 decision in Lexington before sweeping...
UK, 3-0, in Knoxville. The Vols enter the contest with an 11-5 record, but hold an identical conference record as the Cats, 1-3. Last weekend, Tennessee fell to No. 3 Florida, 3-0, at home before defeating Georgia in five on Sunday.

Janelle Hester leads the Volunteers in kills per game, averaging 4.98, which ranks second in the SEC. Teammate Michelle Piantadosi averages 3.88 kpg, while both are hitting .217 this year. In his sixth season as UT’s head coach, Rob Patrick is 103-68. In 2000, Patrick guided UT to its first NCAA Tournament appearance since 1993.

Katy Bright, a middle blocker on the Wildcat squad, will compete against some former teammates this year. Both Gamecock Niece Curry went to Portage Northern, graduating a year before Bright. Both are hitting .217 this year. Both are hitting .217 this year.

Aces per game 1.8 2.6 1.5
Assists per game 13.1 14.4 14.0
Blocks per game 2.2 2.5 2.0

Comparing the Teams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>UK</th>
<th>USC</th>
<th>UT</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Record</td>
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<td>12-3</td>
<td>11-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEC Record</td>
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<td>Assists per game</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aces per game</td>
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<tr>
<td>Digs per game</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>15.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ace in the Hole

Kentucky ranks second in the SEC in service aces per game in league play, averaging 2.21 aces per game. Kristi Kelley is fifth in that category with 0.71 per game.

Sarah Spinner leads the team overall, averaging 0.42 aces per game, while Kelley sends over 0.33 aces per game in all games.

Block Party

Kentucky is posting a successful defensive wall this season, out-blocking its opponents 2.2 per game to 1.9. UK has 111.5 total blocks to 99.0 for the opponents this year.

Anne Koester leads the “Big Blue Blockers,” averaging 1.12 stops per game. Sissy Canfield averages 0.94 per game, while freshman Amy Kaplan has gotten off to a quick start, recording 0.88 blocks per game. Koester also has eight solo blocks in 2002, while Sarah Spinner and Kaplan have five each.

Tournament Honors

At the Kentucky Conference Challenge, Sept. 13-14, two Wildcats were named to the All-Tournament team. Sissy Canfield earned her second such honor of the season, while Anne Koester was recognized for the first time. Canfield was named to the Hofstra Asics Invitational team in UK’s opening weekend as well.

UK was highly successful at the Outback Steakhouse Wolfpack Classic in Raleigh, N.C., Sept. 6-7, as the team not only swept the tournament, but landed two players on the all-tournament team. Setter Kristi Kelley and hitter Kristen Batt were honored after three strong matches.

Kentucky Connection

Katie Bright, a middle blocker on the Wildcat squad, will compete against some former teammates when South Carolina comes to town. Gamecock Niece Curry went to Portage Northern, graduating a year before Bright. Both women played club volleyball at Dead Frogs, with USC senior Sam Alban.
2002 UK Trends

Overall Record 7-7
Home Record 3-2
Road Record 1-3
Neutral Record 3-2
SEC Record 1-3
SEC Home Record 1-1
SEC Road Record 0-2
In August 1-2
In September 6-4
In October 0-1
In November 0-0
In December 0-0
In Three Game Matches 2-4
In Four Game Matches 4-3
In Five Game Matches 1-0
On Monday 0-0
On Tuesday 0-0
On Wednesday 0-0
On Thursday 0-0
On Friday 2-3
On Saturday 4-3
On Sunday 1-1
In daytime matches 4-4
In nighttime matches 3-3
In white uniforms 4-5
In blue uniforms 3-2
When winning first game 4-1
When losing first game 3-6
When winning second game 5-2
When losing second game 2-5
When winning third game 6-0
When losing third game 1-7
When winning fourth game 5-0
When losing fourth game 0-3
Game 1 record 5-9
Game 2 record 7-7
Game 3 record 6-8
Game 4 record 5-3
Game 5 record 1-0
When hitting at or above .200 5-1
When hitting below .200 2-6
When outhitting opponent 5-0
When opponent outhits UK 2-7
More kills than opponent 6-1
Equal or fewer kills than opponent 1-6
More assists than opponent 6-2
Equal or fewer assists than opponent 1-5
More aces than opponent 4-2
Equal or fewer aces than opponent 3-5
More digs than opponent 5-2
Equal or fewer digs than opponent 2-5
More blocks than opponent 6-1
Equal or fewer blocks than opponent 1-6

and will be aired on Fox Sports South. The match, which was originally scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 3, has been moved to Friday, Nov. 1 at 7 p.m. UK will now play Ole Miss on Sunday at 2 p.m.

The broadcast marks UK's first appearance on television since the Nov. 12, 2000, a 3-1 UK win.

Alumni Reunion Nearing
UK will host an alumni reunion the weekend of Oct. 25-27 in Lexington. The Cats take on Florida and Georgia over the university’s Homecoming weekend.

Nearly 30 former players are expected to attend, including UGA coaches Mary Jones Buczek and Jane Belanger Thomas. Alums will be recognized at both volleyball matches.

Speelman Leaves Team
Sophomore defensive specialist Lauren Speelman left the volleyball team for personal reasons on Sept. 23. The Findlay, Ohio, native played in nine matches this season, averaging 1.1 digs per game. She appeared in 15 matches as a freshman, after spraining her ankle, which forced her to miss nearly a month of action. Her departure leaves the Cats with just two defensive specialists, senior Aleisha Craven and junior Toni Lee. However, sophomore setter Leigh M arcum has been seeing quite a bit of action in the back row this year when Kristi Kelley performs the setting duties.

What’s New in ’02?
After many rule changes in 2001, the collegiate volleyball scene went through additional modifications this season with the addition of the libero (pronounced LEE-ber-oh) position.

The libero is a designated back-row player intended to be used as a ball-control specialist. The person must be designated at the beginning of each game and does not have to be the same person from game-to-game. The libero does not count against the team’s substitutions, but the limit of 18 substitutions has been lowered to 12 this year.

Point Taken
With the switch to rally scoring in 2001, teams are now able to attach match points to a particular player. By determining a player’s kills, blocks and service aces, a coach can attribute a point-total to each person. The coach can also use errors to determine how many points the player scored for the opposing team as well.

For example, in UK’s win over Wichita State this year, Sarah Spinner accounted for 25 of UK’s points in the match, nearly an entire game-win for

USA Today/AVCA Coaches Poll
(10-7-02)

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<tr>
<td>2. Hawai’i (6)</td>
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<td>3. Florida</td>
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<td>6. Minnesota</td>
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<td>7. UC Santa Barbara</td>
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<td>25. Texas A&amp;M</td>
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Volleyball Magazine
Top 20 (10-7-02)

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<td>2. Hawai’i (6)</td>
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<td>7. Long Beach State</td>
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<td>18. Washington State</td>
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<td>19. Utah</td>
<td>11-4</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Arizona</td>
<td>7-6</td>
<td>16</td>
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Dear Diary

Fans can get all the inside information on the UK volleyball season by logging in to the Wildcats’ web home at ukathletics.com. A new feature this season is diary by junior Sissy Canfield.

The diary allows fans to get inside the volleyball family by tracking the team’s progress from the student-athlete standpoint.

Coaching Milestone

Coach Jona Braden recorded her 200th career win last season. Braden now holds a career record of 218-187 in her 13th year as a head coach. The Cats’ leader holds a 58-72 record in her fifth season at Kentucky after compiling a 160-115 record in eight years at Butler.

Kentucky in Openers

The Cats fell to 19-7 all-time in season openers after losing to Hofstra on Aug. 30. UK is 3-2 in Jona Braden’s tenure as head coach. UK improved to 18-8 all-time record in home openers after beating Wake Forest, 3-1, in the Kentucky Conference Challenge on Sept. 13. UK is 3-2 under Braden in home openers.

Start Your Engines

Freshman Amy Kaplan wasted no time making an impact at UK, putting down four kills in her first collegiate match against Texas Tech on Aug. 31. The newcomer welcomed the chance to step-up her role last weekend when she was called upon to start in place of the injured Katie Bright.

Kaplan earned the start against Wichita State after Bright suffered an ankle injury in the final moments of UK’s win over Charlotte. While the match wasn’t Kaplan’s best hitting performance, she was a defensive stopper, recording six blocks, including her first block solo at UK.

Fellow frosh Danielle Wallace earned starting honors for the first time in her career against Oral Roberts. She recorded eight kills and five digs in the match.

Florida Picked to Win Conference

The Florida Gators have once again been selected to win the Southeastern Conference title in a preseason vote by the league’s 11 head coaches.

The Gators have won 11 consecutive SEC crowns and have taken nine of the last 10 tournament titles.

Arkansas was chosen first in the Western division with 59 points, while Florida was tops in the East with 50 points. Kentucky was predicted to finish fourth in the East with 21 points.

Follow the Leader

Redshirt junior Liz McCaslin has spent three years at Kentucky growing, not only as a player, but as a leader. In April, that growth was recognized by the NCAA when McCaslin was selected to represent Kentucky at the NCAA Foundation Leadership Conference in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., in late May.

The Libertyville, Ill., native was one of 300 student-athletes selected out of 1,183 nominees from 296 institutions. In conjunction with the CHAMPS/Life Skills program, the NCAA Foundation created the NCAA Foundation Leadership Conference in 1996. The mission of the conference is to offer a diverse group of the nation’s top student-athletes an opportunity to participate actively in challenging and thought-provoking activities that will enable them to become better leaders on their campuses and in their communities.

McCaslin was also named one of the Southeastern Conference’s student-athlete representative to the NCAA this summer. After sitting out last season with an injury, McCaslin returns as a junior on this year’s squad.

Staff Changes

The UK volleyball staff went through some off-season changes as assistant coach Reita Clanton left coaching in December to pursue other interests, creating a vacancy on Braden’s staff.

Braden chose to fill the hole with a former player, Katie Eiserman, who completed her eligibility in ’99. Eiserman is UK’s all-time dig leader and finished her career fourth on the school’s career kill list. The Lake Bluff, Ill., native began her duties in April, but has some familiarity with Braden after playing under the coach for the final two years of her career.

Eiserman served as a student assistant on UK’s staff in 2000 while completing her degree before coaching Lexington’s Tates Creek High School in 2001.

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### Cats at a Glance

**By Class**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Seniors</th>
<th>Juniors</th>
<th>Sophomores</th>
<th>Freshmen</th>
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<tr>
<td>(Batt, Craven, Koester)</td>
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**By Position**

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<tr>
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<th>Middle Blockers</th>
<th>Outside Hitters</th>
<th>Defensive Specialists</th>
<th>Setters</th>
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### 2002 SEC Standings

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<td>SEC</td>
<td>Overall</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>2. Florida</td>
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<td>5. Tennessee</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Auburn</td>
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</table>
Double Trouble

The Wildcats have recorded 15 double-doubles on the season, with Kristen Batt grabbing nine, Sarah Spinner recording five and Kristi Kelley earning one. Kelley, in fact, was two digs away from a triple-double against Charlotte with 11 kills, 45 assists and eight digs.

Last season, the two led UK in double-doubles as Batt had 11 and Spinner recorded 10. Kentucky players totaled 37 double-doubles in 2001.

Fresh Faces

Two new faces grace the Kentucky lineup this season as the Cats welcome freshmen Amy Kaplan and Danielle Wallace.

Kaplan saw her first action as a Wildcat on Aug. 31 against Texas Tech. The frosh made a quick impression, putting down four kills and earning one assist and one block assist in the match. She returned later in the day to make perfect on her only attack attempt against Fairfield. Kaplan has played in five matches so far this year.

Wallace, a Port Charlotte, Fla. native, saw her first action at UK against Western Michigan, knocking down two kills, while recording four digs and three blocks in four games.
#13 Kristen Batt  
6-0 • OH • Sr. • Venice, Fla.

A starter at outside hitter for the Cats, has played in 13 matches this season, sitting out against Oral Roberts... Hitting .231 through 13 matches in 2002... Recorded 21 kills and 16 digs against Alabama, while hitting .429 against Auburn for a solid weekend... Was named to the Outback Steakhouse Wolfpack Classic All-Tournament team after totaling 58 kills on the weekend and a career-high .467 hitting percentage against N.C. State... Sits at fifth on UK’s career kill list with 1,222... Also has 917 career digs, placing her sixth on the career list... Now has 3,374 career attacks, placing her fifth on the all-time list at UK.

#11 Katie Bright  
6-1 • MB • So. • Kalamazoo, Mich.

Earned a starting role in UK's opening weekend at Hofstra... Missed seven matches after suffering a sprained ankle against Charlotte, but returned against Auburn, playing in one game... Had a career-high six blocks against Charlotte before leaving with an injury... Missed the Wichita State match... Lists teammate Leigh Marcum, an air conditioner and an ice cream machine as the three things she'd take to a deserted island.

#7 Sissy Canfield  
6-1 • MB • Jr. • Blue Springs, Mo.

Had 13 kills against Auburn, while hitting .526 to lead her team... Earned All-Tournament team honors at the Kentucky Conference Challenge... Named to the Hofstra Asics Invitational All-Tournament team... Had a career-high four service aces against Wichita State and a career-best seven digs against Charlotte... Leads UK in hitting percentage and is second on the team in kills per game and second in blocking... Is posting a periodic diary of the 2002 season on UK's athletics website, ukathletics.com.
**#6 Aleisha Craven**  
5-6 • DS • Sr. • Louisville, Ky.

Serves as UK's primary libero in 2002... Was named team captain... Needs just 23 digs to crack UK's career list... Has posted double-figure digs in eight matches this season, including 16 against N.C. State and Arkansas... Lists her favorite pizza topping as tomatoes.

**#15 Julie Davis**  
6-2 • MB • RS-So. • Allentown, Pa.

Missed the 2001 season after tearing part of her right quadriceps tendon while conditioning in the summer after sitting out the year before as a red-shirt... Will apply for a sixth year of eligibility for medical hardship following her senior season... Has yet to see action in 2002.

**#12 Amy Kaplan**  
6-0 • MB • Fr. • Cary, Ill.

Has played in 13 matches this season with nine starts... Played well against Arkansas, totaling a career-best eight kills, five digs and five blocks while hitting .400... Had six blocks against WSU... Made her debut as a Wildcat against Texas Tech, recording four kills and a .375 hitting percentage... Ended high-school career as Cary-Grove's all-time leading blocker... Also played basketball and softball and ran track for Cary-Grove where she was a four-year varsity letter winner and two-time captain for the basketball squad... Is most proud of her 11 high-school varsity letters.

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**2002 Highs**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kills</th>
<th>vs. N.C. State (9/6)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attacks</td>
<td>vs. South Carolina (9/20)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hit %: 1.000</td>
<td>vs. N.C. State (9/6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Digs: 16</td>
<td>Twice - Last vs. Arkansas (10/4)</td>
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**Career Highs**

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<tr>
<td>Attacks</td>
<td>9, vs. Alabama (10/1/99)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hit %: 1.000, Twice</td>
<td>vs. N.C. State (9/6/02)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aces: 5, twice</td>
<td>vs. Mississippi St. (9/22/00)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Digs: 23</td>
<td>vs. North Carolina St. (10/1/00)</td>
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**2002 Highs**

<table>
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<tr>
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<td>Hit %: 1.000</td>
<td>vs. Fairfield (8/31)</td>
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<td>Aces: 3</td>
<td>vs. N.C. State (9/6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blocks: 6</td>
<td>vs. Wichita State (9/7)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Digs: 5, Twice</td>
<td>Last vs. Arkansas (10/4)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
#10 Kristi Kelley  
**6-0 • S • Jr. • Corona, Calif.**

Has played in 13 matches this season with 13 starts... Had a solid match against Auburn, with five kills in five attempts for a perfect 1.000 hitting percentage... Did not play against Oral Roberts per coaches' decision... Averaging 11.6 assists per game early in the season, up from 9.4 in 2001... Had a career performance against Charlotte, just missing a triple-double with 11 kills, 45 assists and eight digs... Totaled eight kills in UK's opening weekend of play, including a .600 hitting performance against Hofstra... Dream job is to work at Sea World with Shamu.

### 2002 Highs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assists</th>
<th>Kills</th>
<th>Attacks</th>
<th>Aces</th>
<th>Blocks</th>
<th>Digs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>55, Twice</td>
<td>11, vs. Charlotte</td>
<td>15, vs. Arkansas</td>
<td>4, vs. Alabama</td>
<td>4, vs. Charlotte</td>
<td>9, Twice - Last vs. Western Michigan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Career Highs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assists</th>
<th>Kills</th>
<th>Attacks</th>
<th>Aces</th>
<th>Blocks</th>
<th>Digs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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#5 Anne Koester  
**6-4 • OH • Sr. • Muncie, Ind.**

A reliable starter at outside hitter... Leads the team in blocking, averaging 1.12 bpg... Was named to the Kentucky Conference Challenge All-Tournament team after an impressive weekend, finishing with 32 kills, 19 blocks, including a career-high 11 blocks against Wake Forest... Recorded 13 kills on .310 hitting against Hofstra while tallying five digs... Has worked on a jump serve during the offseason to increase her serving skills... Owns the longest full name of any Wildcat - Anne Michael Carpenter Gauker Koester.

### 2002 Highs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kills</th>
<th>Attacks</th>
<th>Aces</th>
<th>Blocks</th>
<th>Digs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19, vs. Western Michigan</td>
<td>31, vs. Western Michigan</td>
<td>2, Three times</td>
<td>11 vs. Wake Forest</td>
<td>5, Twice - Last vs. Oral Roberts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Career Highs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kills</th>
<th>Attacks</th>
<th>Aces</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25 vs. Indiana</td>
<td>50 vs. Indiana</td>
<td>2, Four times</td>
<td>11 vs. Wake Forest</td>
<td>13 vs. Notre Dame</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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#3 Toni Lee  
**5-5 • DS • Jr. • Louisville, Ky.**

Has played in 10 matches this season, averaging 1.04 digs per game... Was a valuable backup at defensive specialist, playing in 19 matches in 2001... A walk-on, is listed as a junior in eligibility, but is a senior academically... Lists her hidden talent as singing and talking with her mouth closed.

### 2002 Highs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kills</th>
<th>Attacks</th>
<th>Hit %</th>
<th>Aces</th>
<th>Blocks</th>
<th>Digs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>1, Three times</td>
<td>.000</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>8, vs. Alabama</td>
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### Career Highs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kills</th>
<th>Attacks</th>
<th>Hit %</th>
<th>Aces</th>
<th>Blocks</th>
<th>Digs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 vs. Southern Methodist</td>
<td>3, Twice - Last vs. Clemson</td>
<td>1.000 vs. Southern Methodist</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>12 vs. Morehead State</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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#4 Leigh Marcum
5-8 • S • RS-Fr. • Noblesville, Ind.

Has played in eight matches this season, averaging 1.6 digs per game in her defensive role... Saw her first playing time as a Wildcat against Texas Tech on Aug. 31, recording eight assists, one kill and two digs in two games played... Sat out the 2001 season as a redshirt... Received second-team All-State honors in Indiana her senior season in leading Noblesville to a 24-10 record... Was a four-time all-conference and all-county selection and two-time county player of the year.

#9 Liz McCaslin
5-11 • OH-MB • RS-Jr. • Libertyville, Ill.

Has played in five matches with one start this season... Averaging 2.1 kill per game and 1.4 digs per game... Returned to the court for the first time in nearly a year against Texas Tech... Played in one game against Dayton, connecting on two kills... Is the Southeastern Conference's student-athlete advisory committee representative to the NCAA... Represented UK at the NCAA Leadership Conference in Florida this summer... Is most proud of her GPA.

#14 Sarah Spinner
5-8 • OH • So. • Melbourne, Fla.

Had a career-high 23 kills against Alabama, while hitting .347... Has totaled 158 kills early in the season, including double-figure put-downs in nine of the last 12 matches... Is accountable for 188.5 Kentucky points this season... Had a career best .444 hitting percentage against Fairfield... Started all 28 matches as a freshman, making an immediate impact... Recorded 349 kills in 2001, the most by a UK freshman since Krista Robinson in 1991... Had 10 double-doubles during her freshman season and recorded double-figure kills in 19 matches.
#8 Danielle Wallace
6-2 • OH • Fr. • Port Charlotte, Fla.

Has played in three matches this season with one start... Saw her first action as a Wildcat against Western Michigan, recording two kills, four digs and three blocks in four games... A two-year letter winner at Out of Door after lettering her freshman and sophomore seasons at Charlotte... Was a member of district championships squad at both schools and was named team MVP at ODA in both her junior and senior years... Named to the Herald-Tribune All-County team and Team Florida, comprised of the top-12 players from the state... Also was an AAU All-American for the 17-under division in 2000.

2002 Highs

Kills: 2, vs. Western Michigan (9/14)
Attacks: 9, vs. Western Michigan (9/14)
Hit %: -.222, vs. Western Michigan (9/14)
Aces: None
Blocks: 3, vs. Western Michigan (9/14)
Digs: 4, vs. Western Michigan (9/14)
Game One
at Hofstra • 8-30-02 • Hempstead, N.Y.
Hofstra Asics Invitational

Kentucky opened the 2002 season with a heartbreaking 3-1 loss to host Hofstra.

Senior Kristen Batt led Kentucky with 21 kills and 14 digs for her first double-double of the season. Sophomore Katie Bright had a career night, knocking down nine kills for a career high. Fellow sophomore Sarah Spinner also played well, recording 14 kills and 15 digs for her 11th career double-double.

"We played well enough to stay in the match, but we didn't play well enough to win tonight," Braden said. "Hofstra took advantage of the places where we weren't taking care of the ball. It's disappointing. We didn't bring our "A" game."

Bright and Batt led UK's attack in game one with five kills apiece. After losing the first point to the Dutchwomen, the Cats made up for lost time, taking its first lead at 4-3 on a Sarah Spinner kill. After a two-hits call on UK, the score was tied for the final time before the Wildcats took the lead for good, winning the game 30-23.

Game two saw the teams fight through eight early ties before Hofstra took control of the match, going on a 17-8 run with the help of very solid blocking. The Cats managed to pull within eight at 28-20 on a Sissy Canfield put down, but after a service error by Canfield, the match was HU's for the taking, 30-20.

Hofstra returned from the break continuing to build on their momentum as the Pride took an early 4-0 lead. The Cats managed to chip the lead away to one at 6-5 on a Spinner kill, but HU made another four-point pad. UK was able to take its first lead in more than a game at 15-14, but would never lead again as Hofstra went on a 15-6 run to close the game and take the 2-1 advantage.

Hofstra opened up an early 4-0 lead in the second game, knocking down nine kills for a career high. Fellow sophomore Sarah Spinner also played well, recording 14 kills and 15 digs for her 11th career double-double.

"We executed our game," Coach Jona Braden said. "We took advantage of opportunities that Fairfield game us, but it was an overall team effort. We played so much better than they had during the past two matches. The players are very proud of themselves, and they have learned a lot.

After Fairfield tied the first game early at 1-1, Kentucky went on a 13-0 run to set themselves in position for a win. After the Stags grabbed several points, the Cats used scrappy defense and impressive attacking power to seal the game-one win, 30-14.

Canfield set the tone for the second game, collecting five kills while having her hands in four of the five final plays en route to the 30-23 wins. Fairfield was able to force four ties in the early going, but a 6-2 UK run forced a Stag timeout with the Cats leading 24-18. The Wildcats were able to dominate the stretch with Canfield putting down three kills and assisting on the game-winning block.

The Wildcats took a 1-0 lead to start the third game and never looked back, stretching their lead to as many as 14, the final margin of victory. UK took the match with the 30-16 game win.

Game Four
at N.C. State • 9-6-02 • Raleigh, N.C.
Outback Steakhouse Wolfpack Classic

Kentucky used a commanding performance against North Carolina State to take a 3-1 win on the opening night of the Outback Steakhouse Wolfpack Classic in Raleigh, N.C.

Senior Kristen Batt led the Wildcats (2-2) with 25 kills and a .467 hitting percentage, a career best. Freshman Amy Kaplan was a sparkplug in two games, recording four kills while hitting .800. Also hitting well for UK was senior Kristi Kelley (.714) with five kills and no errors in seven attempts. The Wildcats hit .381 on the night to N.C. State's .180.

"We executed our game," Coach Jona Braden said. "We put together some solid strings of points throughout the rest of the match. We got great defensive play from Aleisha Craven, our backcourt libero, but I still want more offensive execution."

The Wolfpack opened up an early 4-1 lead
in the first game before UK came back to tie the score at six with a Kristen Batt kill. The teams battled through six more ties before the Cats took a 20-15 lead, forcing an NC State timeout. The Wolfpack sparked a run out of the timeout, taking three quick points and causing the Wildcats to call their second timeout of the game. Katie Bright put the Cats up 29-26, poised for a win. The Cats, however, had another plan and took the next five points to shock Kentucky and take the game win, 31-29.

After starting the second game with a 2-4 lead, Kentucky again let the Wolfpack back in as the team saw five ties before UK took a five-point lead at 17-15. The Wildcats continued to dominate the game, stretching their lead to 11 with the 30-19 win on a Sissy Canfield kill.

After returning from the break, UK kept possession of a small lead early before NC State came alive, putting together a 4-0 run to take the 13-9 advantage. After the teams traded service errors for several points, the Cats put together a small run to tie the game at 16, forcing an NC State timeout. A 5-0 Kentucky run forced another timeout for the Pack. NC State could only pull out three more points before an Amy Kaplan ace gave the Cats the game win, 30-19, and a 2-1 advantage in the match.

Kaplan continued to set the tone in game four, leading the Cats to an early 10-2 lead with three kills, an ace and a share of a block assist. The Wolfpack wouldn’t go away, though, cutting the lead to four at 17-13. UK found its fire again, taking four consecutive points to force an NC State timeout. The Cats had a spark out of the timeout, taking their first lead at 20-19 after a Kristen Batt kill, a block assist by Katie Bright and Anne Koester, an ace by Kelley and two miseries by the 49ers.

Kentucky capitalized on service errors by Charlotte and made smart offensive choices to take a 21-23 advantage, causing a 49er timeout. After a Sissy Canfield kill, the Cats dropped three quick points to retain a small 24-26 lead. After a timeout for adjustment, UK closed up with a kill by Batt and a strong block by Bright and Batt for the 27-27 win.

Game two provided several early lead changes before two unreturned Charlotte serves put UK at an 11-8 disadvantage. The teams continued to see-saw before the 49ers jutted out to a five-point lead at 21-16 pushing the Cats to talk it over. Charlotte extended the edge to as many as eight before closing out the game with a 30-23 win.

UK couldn’t put plays together to start the third game, falling behind 5-0 early. The Wildcats continued to struggle, with each small run damped by a larger streak on the 49er side. The Kentucky side seemed flustered, losing the game and the match advantage by a score of 30-17.

The Wildcats seemed to find their step early in the fourth game, leading by two at several points. Charlotte, however, kept things close, forcing five ties before pulling out to a 21-16 advantage. After a timeout, Kentucky took three quick points to close the lead to two at 21-19, forcing the 49ers to take a break. A Koester kill tied it at 21, before a solo block by Bright gave UK the lead again at 23-22. Canfield played a role in two huge blocks down the stretch before Sarah Spinner sealed the game at 30-26, forcing a fifth game.

Both teams played scrappy defense to start the game five, seeing five early ties before the Wildcats gained a two-point lead on a Spinner kill to retain an 8-6 edge at the switchover. A Koester ace gave the Cats another point to force a Charlotte timeout. After a 49er point on a Canfield error, Kentucky took two quick put-downs by Spinner and Kelley. Charlotte was able to take the next three points to cut the UK lead to one before the Cats closed out the comeback with a block assist by Kelley and Amy Kaplan for the 15-11 decision.

Game Six
vs. Wichita State • 9-7-02 • Raleigh, N.C.
Outback Steakhouse Wolfpack Classic

Kentucky claimed tournament honors at the Outback Steakhouse Wolfpack Classic with a 3-1 win over Wichita State.

Senior Kristen Batt led the attack from the start, however, completing the match with 15 kills and 15 digs, securing her a spot on the all-tournament team.

"We played gritty and fought for every point in this tournament," Coach Jona Braden said. "We figured out a way to score and that’s what we’ve been working on in practice. Wichita State was a great opponent for us to face this weekend. I have to give a lot of credit to our bench today for great emotional support."

Kentucky took the first point of the afternoon on a Shockers net violation and didn’t look back in game one, cruising to the 30-23 decision to take a 1-0 advantage in the match. Bat led the way with seven kills on 10 attempts in the game for a .700 hitting percentage with three digs.

The Wildcats faced a more uphill battle in game two, playing to seven early ties before WSU went on 9-2 run to take the 17-10 lead and force a Kentucky timeout. With WSU holding another seven-point lead at 22-16, the Cats pulled together a 9-3 run to tie things at 25.

After Wichita State put up two quick points out of a timeout, the teams battled close as a Batt kill tied the game at 29. After a WSU kill, Batt again saved UK from game point with a kill, tying the match at 20. The Shockers held strong, taking the decision at 32-30 after a Spinner hit was ruled out of bounds off the net.

The start of game three saw several swings of momentum with six early ties before UK took...
the lead for good at 12-11 on a Shocker service error. Kentucky stretched the lead to as many as six at 27-21 with a Spinner solo block, but three quick points put WSU back in the game later at 28-25 to force a UK timeout. A Canfield put-down placed her at the service line for the game point, which she aced for the 30-25 win and a 2-1 advantage heading into game four.

The fourth game proved to be a tug 'o war with the two teams battling to a 13th tie at 15, the midpoint of the game. UK was able to keep a minimal lead for a short time before a two-hits call on UK and a block assist by the Shockers gave WSU a 25-24 lead and forced a Kentucky timeout.

Issues by the Cats put them behind the eight ball at 28-25, but the fire wasn't gone for UK as a kill by Spinner and a solo block by Kaplan tied the game at 28. After tying again at 29 and 30, Kentucky took the match on back-to-back kills by Canfield and Spinner, giving them the tournament title.

**Game Seven**

vs. Wake Forest • 9-13-02 • Lexington, Ky.

Kentucky Conference Challenge

Kentucky opened its home schedule with a strong win over Wake Forest on the opening night of the Kentucky Conference Challenge.

Kentucky didn't have an easy time with the Demon Deacons, as both teams hit under .200 on the night. UK had a trio of heavy hitters on the night, as Kristen Batt, Sissy Canfield and Sarah Spinner each put down 16 kills. Spinner, who drove in the match-winner, also had 16 digs for her third double-double of the season, while Batt was close behind with 15 digs for her fifth double-double this year.

"Wake Forest started solid and found its rhythm," Coach Jona Braden said. "Our execution struggled, but our fight stayed with us tonight. We found a way to be productive with an aggressive, gritty fight."

Wake Forest came out strong in game one, hitting .297 to UK's .025. The Demon Deacons looked tough to beat as they cruised to the 30-19 win. But the Cats found their mark in game two, capitalizing on WFU errors to jump out to a five-point lead at 14-9. Wake was able to chip away at the UK lead, cutting it to one at 25-24 and forcing a Kentucky timeout. Kentucky came back strong, closing out with five straight points for a 30-24 win.

Kentucky trailed 4-2 early in game three, but tied things up at four with a Spinner kill and held the lead until the Demon Deacons took over at 25-24, forcing a UK timeout. Wake was on game point at 29-28 but Kentucky got another breath of life, by tying it 29 before taking the advantage at 30-29 on a block by Spinner and Canfield. Canfield then gave UK the 2-1 match-advantage with a kill to win the game, 31-29.

Game four was tight as the teams battled through several ties before the Cats closed out strong down the stretch. The team hit just .159 on the game, but it was enough to slip by Wake Forest, 30-24.

**Game Eight**

vs. Dayton • 9-14-02 • Lexington, Ky.

Kentucky Conference Challenge

UK saw a five-match win streak come to an end after the Wildcats were swept by Dayton, 3-0.

Kentucky played flat in the match, hitting just .091 on the day while totaling only four team blocks to Dayton's .333 hitting and eight team blocks. Three Wildcats hit in the negative column, including setter Kristi Kelley and Sarah Spinner, who have both been reliable offensive weapons to this point in the season.

UK jumped out to an early 5-1 lead in game one before the Flyers tied it at seven. After another tie at 10, UD took control, busting out an 8-2 run to take a 17-12 lead and force a timeout. It was all Dayton from there as they dominated the rest of the game and capitalized on Kentucky errors to take the 30-22 win.

The Cats seemed to regroup for game two, building another early lead at 10-5. They maintained their distance for most of the game until Dayton began chipping away and used an 11-3 run to gain the match advantage with the 30-25 game-two win.

UK had one last chance to make its move in game three, and looked poised to do so after an early 8-3 lead. Leigh M arcum was inserted in the lineup replacing Kelley at setter and tallied a huge block assist to give the Cats a 10-4 edge. But UD seemed unstoppable, tying the game at 11 before taking the lead for good at 19-18. UK was able to get within two at 27-25 with a Kristen Batt kill, but couldn't score again as the Flyers earned their sixth win of the year with the 30-25 decision.

Highlights for UK included a 10-kill, 10-dig performance by Batt and a .368 hitting percentage by Sissy Canfield.

**Game Nine**

vs. Western Michigan • 9-14-02 • Lexington, Ky.

Kentucky Conference Challenge

UK got back on the winning track with a 3-1 win over Western Michigan. Senior Anne Koester was unstoppable for UK, hammering in 19 kills and hitting .452 on the night.

Kentucky bounced back from a loss to Dayton early in the day with the help of Koester and Sissy Canfield, whose .417 hitting helped the Cats to a team .262 hitting percentage. The duo each had six blocks for the match, helping UK to a team total of 15 blocks.

"Our matches today were as different as day and night,“ Coach Jona Braden said. "Our players knew they had a job to do. We explained to them that they had a choice. We brought our "A" game. I have to compliment Anne Koester for a fine performance and Aleisha Craven. She ran the backcourt with confidence and really served as a floor general for us all weekend."

Kentucky found itself behind early after surrendering game one to Western Michigan, 30-27. WMU advanced to a 7-3 lead early, before UK tied things at 14. The squads battled closely throughout the match before the Broncos put together several five-point swings. UK held the opponent at game point four three rallies before allowing the Broncos to walk away with it after a service error.

UK allowed a quick start by WMU in game two before taking control and building a seven-point lead at 17-10. The Cats continued to build and after going up 24-16, Western Michigan was forced to take a timeout. UK finished up the match-tying win with a 6-2 run for the 30-18 win.

After WMU opened up an 11-7 lead in game three, Braden and the Cats took a timeout. Returning strong, UK tied the match at 12 before taking the lead for good at 15-14. UK closed out at the game with a 5-1 run to gain the advantage with a 30-22 win.

Kentucky was in familiar territory to start the fourth game, finding itself at a deficit several times before gaining a 9-8 lead on an Amy Kaplan kill. A block assist by Kaplan and Kristi Kelley forced WMU to take it over. UK continued to build on its lead and closed out the match with a Kelley kill for the 30-20 victory.

Kaplan had a solid game for UK with a career-high six kills and five digs, while adding...
five blocks. Canfield's blocking was a season high, while senior Kristen Batt had yet another double-double with 13 kills and 10 digs. Freshman Danielle Wallace saw her first action at UK in the match, grabbing two kills, four digs and three blocks in the four games.

The Cats shut down Western Michigan's main weapon, Carman Malonc, forcing the junior to hit -.414 on the match, while earning only one kill. The Broncos hit just .089 on the evening and fell to 2-7 with the loss.

**Game Ten**

at South Carolina • 9-20-02

Columbia, S.C.

Kentucky dropped its Southeastern Conference opener to South Carolina, 3-0. The Wildcats hit just .125 on the night to USC's .347 as a team, for its third highest percentage of the season. The Gamecocks hit with great accuracy in the opening segment, getting a career-high 23 kills on .347 hitting, while senior Anne Koester also had 12 kills on the day. Setter Leigh Marcum recorded four kills on the match.

Freshman Danielle Wallace earned her first career start.

Oral Roberts took the first three points to start the match before UK got into the swing of things. UK managed to cut the Eagles' lead to three several times but would get no closer, dropping the first game, 30-25. Neither team hit with great accuracy in the opening segment, with ORU edging out UK, .194 to .158.

Kentucky's Anne Koester led the Cats with three kills on .600 hitting.

The teams battled closely in game two, cutting an ORU lead to one at 14-13 before the Eagles used a 6-3 run to force a UK timeout. The Eagles used UK miscues to extend their lead to six at 24-18, forcing another UK timeout down the stretch. The Wildcats were unable to overcome the deficit, dropping the game, 30-22, and handing Oral Roberts the 2-0 advantage in the match.

The third game was back-and-forth as the teams played through an injury timeout before ORU took the 13-7 lead to force Kentucky to talk it over. Kentucky cut it to three at 16-13, but couldn't overcome a potent ORU offense, losing the game, 30-22.

**Game Twelve**

Alabama • 9-27-02

Lexington, Ky.

The Wildcats lost a close match with Alabama, 3-1.

The Cats used primarily two offensive weapons in the contest, getting a career-high 23 kills from Sarah Spinner to go with 13 digs and a .347 hitting percentage. Kristen Batt was close behind, driving in 21 kills while countering with 16 digs on the defensive side. Both players missed Kentucky's last match against Oral Roberts after a coaches' decision to change the lineup.

"We made too many mistakes tonight," Coach Jona Braden said. "We were in it in every game, but our execution was on and off. I think both teams had similar matches as far as ups and downs go. Kristen and Sarah took care of the ball extremely well. We just let this one get away."

Kentucky took an early 4-1 lead in game one, but the Tide was able to tie it at four after a UK ball handling error. The teams remained close throughout the course of the game, tying things as late as 26 all. But, a UK error gave the first go-around to Alabama, 30-27.

The second game was a thriller as the squads fought through 18 ties en route to a 32-30 Wildcat win. Batt and Spinner each had six kills in the game, which saw UK hit .262 to Bama's close .250. Erin Heffner led the Crimson Tide with seven kills in the game.

The Cats found themselves on the losing end of the third game by the familiar tally of 32-30. The Cats again dropped the match on an error, after seeing Sarah Spinner put down nine kills on .471 hitting. The final game was another nail biter starting with a Kentucky service ace. UK was able to build an 8-5 lead before the Tide tied it on three straight points. The Cats took a five-point advantage at 15-10, but couldn't maintain its distance, letting a 6-0 UA run put them behind the eight ball at 28-22. Kentucky was able to rack up three more points before a Heffner kill sealed the win for Alabama.

Heffner finished the match with 26 kills on .296 hitting for UA. The Tide hit .228 for the evening to UK's .169. Batt and Spinner's 44 kills accounted for 77.2% of the team's total.
well for UK was sophomore Sarah Spinner with 17 kills on .400 hitting.

"I think we did a good job in the first two games of taking care of the ball and we definitely put ourselves in a position win," Coach Jona Braden said. "We faded in game three, though, and we didn't execute. To Auburn's credit, they came out and did the things they needed to and we didn't match that. What I need from this team now is more mental and emotional intensity."

UK opened the match with 4-1 run which included two Sarah Spinner kills. Auburn kept close by, tying things at 14. However, a 16-5 Kentucky run closed out the game for the 30-19 win. Batt recorded 10 kills in the opening game alone, hitting .643 in the first period. Kentucky's .514 team hitting percentage outdid Auburn's .233.

Several Kentucky miscues helped Auburn tie the second game three times early before UK used a 6-1 run to take a 9-4 lead. The Cats were able to stretch their lead to eight at 19-11 before the Tigers began chipping away. AU then closed the lead to three at 22-19, forcing a UK timeout. As the Tigers continued to threaten, Katie Bright helped distance the Cats with two consecutive aces in her first match back from an ankle injury. The Wildcats took the close game, 30-25, on an Auburn net violation.

The two teams battled through 15 ties in the third game before an Amy Kaplan miscue gave Auburn the lead at 20-19 and forced a UK timeout. An Auburn service error and a Kristi Kelley ace gave Kentucky the lead again at 21-20. A Spinner kill gave UK the 23-21 advantage. The close match ended with a Auburn service error to give UK the 30-27 game win and the match victory.

Game Fourteen
at Arkansas • 10-6-02
Fayetteville, Ark.

Kentucky lost a tough match to Southeastern Conference foe Arkansas, 3-1, in Fayetteville, Ark. Kentucky was able to tie the match at one game apiece, but couldn't put together a run in the fourth game, falling to the Lady Razorbacks for the eighth consecutive time.

Leading Kentucky on the afternoon was freshman Amy Kaplan with eight kills on .400 hitting. Senior Aleisha Craven led the defensive corps with 16 digs, while Kristen Batt and Sarah Spinner each recorded double-doubles on the