1988

UA94/6/1 1987-1988 Athletic Scrapbook

Linda Johnson

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Lights bring out fans for Western

Hilltoppers get big lift from crowd

What’s this, having to fight your way through a crowd after a Western football game? Surely it couldn’t have been so.

But, yes, that was the case late Saturday night following the Hilltoppers’ 21-17 upset of Murray, the No. 3 team in NCAA Division I-AA, in the first game ever under the lights at Smith Stadium.

Lights, fans help Tops

Continued From Page 10

with seven receptions — mostly over the middle — for 77 yards, both game highs. “It felt great. When the crowd is in the game it really motivates the players,” Quarterback Jeff Cesaree, who started getting his season together by hitting 16 of 28 passes for 187 yards and no interceptions, noticed the crowd at the beginning and the end of the game, but not much in the middle.

“When we first came out, it made you feel better to see all those people, but after the first couple of plays you don’t notice them,” Cesaree said. “But, it was the first time I ever had to yell signals.”

And it was the first time Sports Ed had to fight to get through the crowd at the end of the game.

Continued on Page 12

Column 2, This Section

Enlightened people

WESTERN FANS flooded Smith Stadium for the first night game in the stadium’s history Saturday to the tune of about 19,250. Western didn’t disappoint its supporters, upsetting Division I-AA’s third-ranked Murray Racers in a come-from-behind 21-17 victory to go to 1-1 on the season.

After Dan Maher’s 32-yard field goal made it 17-6, Murray, the visitors from the Ohio Valley Conference coughed the ball up three times, two of which led to Western scores.

Pete Mangold’s 2-yard run and Joe Arnold’s dive over the top from one yard out put Western in the lead for good.

Mangold was still excited about his first collegiate touchdown in the giddy Western locker room after the contest.

“It’s the best feeling I’ve ever had,” Mangold said.

Many of Western’s players had good feelings about the crowd and how it stayed with them.

“In the second half it was unbelievable,” Mangold said. “The crowd never got down on us. They pushed us over the top.”

The comeback win was a thank you to all the fans, and especially the supporters who donated money to the lighting project fund, according to Robert Coates.

“We had to show our appreciation to the people who got us those lights,” said Coates, who was instrumental in keeping several Western drives alive over the place.

Record

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(Staff Photo by LaMar Weaver)

Mark C. Mathis
Daily News
Sports Editor
Commentary

Trying to get to the locker room, for the first time in Sports Ed’s memory, was indeed a chore.

It was like a real football game had been played at the stadium, with a genuine, yelling crowd there to enjoy it.

Since there are no turnstiles at the stadium, the closest attendance count had to come from an estimate. The first crowd estimate was 18,500 in the first half. Security personnel then told officials in the press box fans were still coming in. So the estimate was adjusted again, this time to 19,250, capacity of the 20-year-old stadium.

That estimate was the biggest since Nov. 8, 1980, when Western beat Middle Tennessee 36-15 in front of 20,100 at Smith Stadium.

Now, photographs of Saturday’s event show some sitting space in the top corners of the upper deck. But let’s not get picky. The crowd that turned out for Western’s first win of the year after a season-opening disappointment at the hands of Gardner-Webb was a nice surprise.

After seeing barely a thousand brave souls turn out on cold November afternoons earlier in this decade for some of the poorest gridiron displays ever, it was never thought a crowd such as the one Saturday night could be in the offing again.

And after the Gardner-Webb debacle, questions arose as to how many folks would actually come out for the Murray game.

But what was billed as a happening beforehand turned into just that.

At 7 p.m., it looked like there might be the 12,000-15,000 expected for the battle for the Red Belt. But the longer the game rolled on, the more people flowed into the stadium. A good crowd was on hand by the end of the first quarter, but wagers were being taken on how many would stay after a 4-yard pass from Michael Proctor to Derrick Pencher made it 17-0, Murray 44 seconds before halftime.

Amazingly enough, almost all did. And those who stayed got more of a show than they bargained for.

Western’s defense, which was softer than a baby’s bottom in the first half against the extraordinary talents of the 6-4, 193-pound Proctor, came out hitting in the second half, and the football became popcorn, popping out of Racer hands all over the place.

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“We had to show our appreciation to the people who got us those lights,” said Coates, who was instrumental in keeping several Western drives alive over the place.
A CROWD estimated at 19,250 nearly filled Smith Stadium for Saturday's first night football game ever there and the first night game at Western in 22 years. The Hilltoppers beat Murray 21-17. (See story on Page 10.)

"When it came time to buckle down, it was tough. Give credit to them," said Cesarone, who completed half of his 42 tosses.
Continued from Page 15

Eastern coach Roy Kidd called Harris’ 161-yard performance tremendous. “A wet field is his cup of tea,” Kidd said.

Western’s early woes were many. Todd Davis, who had a punt blocked in the October loss, had one deflected that led to the first Colonel score, and Eastern led 13-0 after nine minutes.

After a score by each team, Western had a chance to climb back into the thick of it at the end of the half.

On third and inches at the goal line, Western senior quarterback Jeff Cesarone tried to sneak across for six — he was stopped. Roberts opted for the field goal on fourth down to put the score at 20-10 at the half.

“We needed points,” Roberts said. “I didn’t want to come out in the second half without points.”

The game was all but over after the officials call, but Cesarone said he was disappointed with himself.

“We said going into the game I was going to pass,” said the senior, who completed 21 of 42 passes with three interceptions. “I just didn’t deliver today, and it cost us.”

“It really hurts … it’s my last game forever. I really like to win. I don’t like to go out a loser.”

Yet, Feix said, “It was very exciting the way it went. I told the team they had enjoyed a fine experience.”

They “had been through so much hard criticism this year and had such an outstanding season.”

Western free safety James Edwards has been named to the Kodak I-AA All-American team. Edwards earned the honor after a season of seven interceptions and 65 tackles, including six tackles in Saturday’s 40-17 season-ending loss to Eastern.

The 6-1 senior from Jacksonville, Fla., has played in all 44 games since coming to Western, picking off 13 interceptions for his career.

His seven interceptions this season ranked him among the nation’s leaders in I-AA.
McNeal wants to shed one-dimensional label

Junior's forte might be scoring, but coach says guard does it all

By ERIC WOEHLER

In an exhibition loss to the Fort Hooi Tankers three weeks ago, the Minneapolis native punched in 29 points, and then in Western's regular season-opening win against Kentucky State, McNeal scored 18. Last night he had 23.

But Coach Murray Arnold said his money man is more than just an attendance inflator.

"Brett's a very good shooter — he's one of the best collegiate shooters I've ever coached," said Western's second-year. "But he does many things well. He's one of the smartest players I've coached. And because he's so quick and smart, his defense is tough, too."

But the other Sun Belt Conference's apparently didn't agree with Arnold because they snubbed McNeal when picking the preseason all-league team.

But that's okay, McNeal said. "I don't try to live up to other folks' expectations," he said. "We had good players who were in the limelight last year, and whether I'm there or not now doesn't really matter to me."

McNeal hasn't always been out of the public eye.

After a less-than-auspicious start as a kid who "wasn't that tall and really only played because they needed the players," McNeal was named Minnesota's "Mr. Basketball" as a high school senior in 1985.

He averaged 26.3 points and seven assists per game in his final year at North Community High School and was named to the Converse and McDonald's prep All-America teams.

But that's okay. McNeal said. "I liked it down here and I signed early."

So the lanky guard brought his impressive numbers to Western and with it, his flamboyant style — chewing gum on fast breaks, pulling up for smooth left-handed jumpshots and then flashing a broad smile as the ball falls through the cords.

He first grabbed the attention of Western fans when at Alabama-Birmingham his freshman year. McNeal entered the game with the Tops trailing the nationally-ranked Blazers by nine. He scored seven in an 18-8 surge that gave Western the upset.

Topper fans were reminded of McNeal's ability against North Carolina-Charlotte in the Sun Belt Tournament last year in Diddle Arena when the guard notched a career-high 34 points.

But Arnold didn't need his memory jogged.

"I saw what kind of player he was in the very first game he played for me," Arnold said. "By the end of last season, sometimes we were looking for ways to use his skills specifically. Western almost lost those skills during the offseason. McNeal said in the spring that he would return home to Minnesota to play for Haskins.

"We had a lot of problems at the end of last season," McNeal said. Guard James McNary had just been dismissed from the squad by Arnold, and another backcourter, Kurt Lee, announced he was transferring.

"And I thought I wanted to leave then," McNeal said. "But I got to thinking about it over the offseason and decided I was just running away. I decided to look at this season as a challenge and accept it and tackle it."

He did, and became the only returning starter from last season's 29-9 and National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament team.

Still, McNeal said he feels no pressure to carry his squad.

"Living up to other people's expectations is impossible," he said. "and if you can get away from that, you've eliminated half of your problems."

"You have to have your own priorities, own goals. And I think if you reach those, there's a greater sense of satisfaction."

BRETT MCNEAL
HILTOPPER BASKETBALL

OFFENSE SELLS THE TICKET'S
DEFENSE WINS THE GAMES

(Above) Coach Murray Arnold said Brett McNeal has no trouble understanding the sign on his locker despite scoring figures that suggest the junior guard is offensive-minded. (Left) The Minneapolis native drives around Butler guard Thad Matta in last night's Western win in Diddle Arena.
Arnold builds on McNeal, fresh roster
By ERIC WOEHLER

About this time last year, Coach Murray Arnold was one of the few unfamiliar names on Western's roster.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

The portly coach was preparing for his first season on the Hill after taking over for the departed Clem Haskins.

Seniors Kannard Johnson, Clarence Martin, Bryan Asberry and Tellis Frank had muscled around the Diddle Arena baselines for three seasons.

Backcourters Kerk Lee, James McNary, Ray Swogger and Brett McNeal had become recognizable blurs, running the floor for the Hilltoppers.

But with graduation, dismissals, transfers and quirks taking a toll — the roster is just a little more than a laundry list of puzzling names a year later.


Not exactly common names around Hilltopper households.

Maybe not, but Arnold says that doesn't mean Western is ready to write off this season as a rebuilding one.

"I think it's a transition year," he said. "We're really having to work hard to get ready. But the attitude is.

Continued from Page 13

and effort are certainly things that we've been happy with.

The second-year coach will get his first chance to see his new team against hostile competition Saturday when Western faces the Fort Hood Tankers in an exhibition at 7:30 p.m. in Diddle Arena.

Arnold will have a couple of less-than-mysterious men as a foundation for this team — the most formidable of whom is 6-3 guard Brett McNeal.

"Brett is a proven player, and certainly someone we can build around," Arnold said. "He leads by example. He plays hard, and he's a good person. He certainly makes the job of coaching a lot easier.

The Minneapolis junior chipped in 15.5 points a game last year — second best on the Topper squad and seventh in the Sun Belt Conference.

Also returning is 6-7 junior forward Steve Miller, redshirted last season because of an injury. He and senior Fred Tisdale are the only forwards with experience in a Hilltopper uniform.

Tisdale, a Russellville native, was runner-up to Miller for Kentucky Mr. Basketball honors in 1984.

Also competing for playing time at forward will be 6-8 sophomore and former-Fort Hood Tanker Anthony Smith, 6-8 sophomore Rodney Ross and 6-4 junior college transfer Brad Smith.

Ziegler, a 6-7 junior who transferred from Kentucky, will be eligible at the end of the semester.

The only true center on the team is Peets, a 6-8 junior. But Arnold said the lack of depth in the middle doesn't worry him, because Western will often play with a three-guard offense. "We basically play three out and two in, so we should be all right," he said.

In the backcourt, McNeal and 6-4 sophomore Roland Shelton are the only returnees. Junior college transfers Brown and Caldwell and freshman Birdsong will also play.

Things have changed.

Last year at this time, talk was that the Hilltoppers would roll through the Sun Belt Conference and far into the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament.

But Terri Mann has arrived from San Diego. Hailed as "Baby Moses," in the National Basketball Association star Malone, she brings a 32 points-per-game average along with plenty of bulk on her 6-6, 250-pound frame. Mann's accolades include being named USA Today's best female high school athlete of the year.

"Mann is going to be the great player if I've got anything to say about it," Sanderford said. "But right now she just has a lot of potential. You don't replace a seasoned veteran with a freshman.

Freshman or not, Mann has the makings to become one of the top players in the country her first year. Against the Soviet National Team Sunday, Mann scored 16 first-half points while Western suffered a glimpse of what's to come.

Soviet coach Leonid Yachmenen marveled at her potential.

"She has excellent physical condition," Yachmenen said through an interpreter. "She's not so experienced, but she has great potential."

Last year's freshman phenom.
The Lady Toppers vs. The Soviet Union National Team

E.A. Diddle Arena
Western Kentucky University
Sunday, November 8, 1987 • 3 p.m.
Lady Toppers Once Again Rank High in Preseason Polls

Western Kentucky University's women's basketball team once again finds itself in a familiar position — the nation's top 20. Every major preseason publication released so far this fall has placed the Lady Toppers in that elite group.

The Women's Basketball News Service has picked the Lady Toppers number six, Off The Glass magazine tabbed the Toppers eighth, Street and Smith's selected WKU as its number 13 team and Dick Vitale's Basketball Magazine chose Western as its number 16 team.

WKU's high ranking comes despite the loss of last year's three leading scorers, including All-American Clemette Haskins, one of Western's best players ever. The optimism prevails because the Lady Toppers return a solid nucleus of experienced players along with a recruiting class ranked as one of the best in the country.

Here's a look at the preseason polls released so far this fall:

Women's Basketball

Street and Smith's
1. Tennessee
2. Texas*
3. Texas
4. Auburn
5. Southern California
6. Long Beach State
7. Texas
8. Mississippi
9. Long Beach State
10. Tennessee
11. LSU
12. Auburn
13. UCLA
14. Georgia
15. LSU
16. Duke
17. LSU
18. Ohio State
19. Stanford
20. Stanford

Off The Glass
1. Tennessee
2. Auburn
3. Long Beach State
4. Texas
5. Mississippi
6. LSU
7. Long Beach State
8. LSU
9. Iowa
10. Virginia
11. Southern Illinois
12. Vanderbilt
13. St. Joseph's
14. James Madison
15. St. Joseph's
16. Old Dominion
17. James Madison
18. Duke
19. LSU
20. Washington

Dick Vitale's Basketball Magazine
1. Tennessee
2. Texas*
3. Auburn
4. Long Beach State
5. Southern California
6. Virginia
7. LSU
8. Iowa
9. Missouri
10. Rutgers
11. Virginia
12. Ohio State
13. Georgia
14. Iowa
15. LSU
16. Western Kentucky
17. Florida State
18. Stanford
19. LSU
20. LSU

*Teams on WKU's 1987-88 schedule

Soviet Union National Women's Team

1987 U.S. Tour Schedule

Tuesday, Nov. 3 ........................ Old Dominion*
Thursday, Nov. 5 ........................ Vanderbilt*
Saturday, Nov. 7 ........................ North Carolina
Sunday, Nov. 8 ........................ Western Kentucky

Tuesday, Nov. 12 ........................ Louisiana State
Thursday, Nov. 13 ........................ Nevada-Las Vegas
Saturday, Nov. 15 ........................ LSU
Sunday, Nov. 16 ........................ Long Beach State

*Teams on WKU's 1987-88 home schedule

#WKU could meet Nevada-Las Vegas in the Northern Lights Invitational

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The Leading Edge

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Leader of Delegation – Lidia Kostikova
Head Coach – Leonid Yachmenev
Assistant Coach – Evgeny Gomelsky
Doctor – Polina Sudakova
Interpreter – Mikhail Davydov

### Western Kentucky Lady Toppers

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Head Coach – Paul Sanderford
Assistant Coaches – Steve Small, Cristy McKinney
Graduate Assistant Coaches – Wooly Hatchell, Christy Cruise

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**Support the Lady Toppers!**

Bowling Green Bank Invitational

**Holiday Inn**

**Women’s Basketball Tournament**

**Sunday, November 29**
**Monday, November 30**

University of Alabama
University of Arizona
University of Evansville
Western Kentucky University
Russians bomb Western late

Mann gets standing ovation

By JOE MEDLEY
Daily News Sports Writer

Terri Mann has a split personality.
Off the court, the freshman from San Diego is funny and somewhat shy.

Lady Toppers

"I'm mean on the court," Mann said after scoring 20 points for Western in Sunday's 87-62 loss to the Russian National Team in Diddle Arena before 5,000 fans.

She's mean, and she was just plain awesome in her first college show. She hit two 3-pointers, and she pounded the boards and Russian players for strong inside moves to draw a standing ovation from the home crowd and raves from Russian coach Leonid Yachmenev.

"She has excellent physical conditioning," Yachmenev said through an interpreter. "She can beat you inside and outside. She has good potential to be on the Olympic Team."

Mann grabbed 13 rebounds, hit seven of 20 shots and dished out three assists in 32 minutes of playing time. And she was a force in a first half that saw Western lead the world's best women's team for the first 11:16 and stay within 38-35 at halftime.

"They were undoubtedly the best team we've played," said Yachmenev, who has coached scorching wins over Vanderbilt, North Carolina and Western's Sun Belt foe, Old Dominion.

Take away Mann and the first half, and the Russians enjoyed their day in Diddle. They chuckled at Western mascot Big Red, and Western cheerleaders delighted the Russian bench with their centipede cheer.

After the game, Russian players snatched photos of Big Red.

"The crowd was very good," Yachmenev said. "It was very pleasant to play before this crowd."

And it was just as pleasant for Western's star freshman crew.

"It was very exciting," said Mary Taylor, last year's Miss Basketball from Marshall County. "Taylor came on and sank her first collegiate shot. "It was just incredible. I was really nervous, and I think hitting that shot made a big difference."

Mann grabbed 13 rebounds, hit seven of 20 shots and dished out three assists in 32 minutes of playing time. And she was a force in a first half that saw Western lead the world's best women's team for the first 11:16 and stay within 38-35 at halftime.

STACI PAYNE goes for a rebound against Yanina Perkarasaya of the Russian National Team in their scrimmage Sunday in Diddle Arena. Western led as much as seven in the first half, but the Russians came back to win 87-62 before 5,000 people.

Hands in the air

PHOTO BY JAMES BORCHUCK

STACI PAYNE goes for a rebound against Yanina Perkarasaya of the Russian National Team in their scrimmage Sunday in Diddle Arena. Western led as much as seven in the first half, but the Russians came back to win 87-62 before 5,000 people.

"We looked like a talented team that had been practicing," Western coach Paul Sanderford was happy with his team's showing.

Continued On Page 9
Column 1, This Section
The Russians were led in scoring by Minkh and Tuomaite, with 16 points apiece. Yakovleva added 13, and Irina Gerlipz had 11.

Western led by as much by 147 in the first half, but Minkh hit two straight three-pointers to help the Russians to a 15-14 lead at 11:16 in the half. They led as much as 33-35 on two Irina Sumnikova free throws, but Mann’s three-pointer and Smith’s jumper brought Western back to within 33-30.

“I think the crowd and the band playing got us pretty excited in the first half,” said Debbie O’Connell, who had five points and four assists. “They really pulled us through a lot.”

Tuomaite’s baseline shot gave the Russians a 45-35 lead early in the second half. Western went the first seven minutes of the half without a field goal until Tanderia Green swished an 18-footer to make it 55-39.

Green finished with 16 points to become Western’s second leading scorer.

The Lady Toppers showed numerous mini runs throughout the second half, but could come only as close at 14 points twice. But the Russians were impressed with Western.

“This team is very strong and physical,” Yakovleva said. “They have a lot of very strong players. No. 52 (Mann) could play for the Olympic Team.”

Mann’s teammates echoed that sentiment.

“Tanderia and I are good friends,” said Brigette Combs, who added four points and 12 rebounds. “I don’t think you can compare her with anyone we’ve had. She’s going to hold her own and make a place for herself.”

Continued From Page 7

for two weeks,” Sanderford said. “At halftime, I shouldn’t have reminded our girls about what happened at Vanderbilt.”

where the Russians spread out a 37-33 halftime advantage to a 90-56 win.

“We did a good job in the first half for about the first eight or nine minutes,” Sanderford said. “But their coach made a nice adjustment, and we just couldn’t handle their zone. When you get those big trees in there spreading their arms out, it’s hard to do anything. I’d like to play them again in March.”

That zone was good enough to make Western struggle inside in the second half, and the guards had trouble shooting over and passing around it from the outside.

The Russians commenced bombing in the second half from the three-point line. They hit 10 of 21 of the bombs, with Irina Minkh and Olga Yakovleva burying three apiece.

And though the visitors lost the physical rebounding war 43-38, they picked a lot of ground in the second half. Vitalia Tuomaite had eight boards to lead her team.

The Lady Toppers showed numerous mini runs throughout the second half, but could come only as close at 14 points twice. But the Russians were impressed with Western.

“This team is very strong and physical,” Yakovleva said. “They have a lot of very strong players. No. 52 (Mann) could play for the Olympic Team.”

Mann’s teammates echoed that sentiment.

“I’m glad to have her here,” said Brigette Combs, who added four points and 12 rebounds. “I don’t think you can compare her with anyone we’ve had. She’s going to hold her own and make a place for herself.”

By Jim Turner

When Big Red met the real Reds of an Iron Curtain cast Sunday afternoon, two collegiate women who have traded in their blue and white for red were mingling in the crowd.

Former Logan County Lady Cougars Truice Mason and Cindy Huffines were among a crowd of 5,000 who turned out not only to see the Soviet Union National Team meet the Lady Toppers of Western Kentucky University but also for the Coming Out Party of Terri Mann.

Mann was billed as the nation’s outstanding high school girl’s basketball player last year. She enhanced that image Sunday by competing on equal footing with the world’s best permanent women’s team.

The 6-2 freshman from San Diego repeatedly got second and third shots against the 6-4 Russians, but she kept them confused by floating outside for 3-pointers. Despite good bulk on a solid frame, Mann did indeed “float” on the way to 20 points, 10 rebounds, and 3 assists.

Everyone from WKU coach Paul Sanderford to Women’s Basketball News Service director Joe Smith to Soviet coach Leonid Yachmenev sang the praises of Olympic-candidate Mann.

Western’s recruiting of Mann is the equivalent of Virginia’s getting Ralph Sampson or Indiana State’s picking up Larry Bird, although the Lady Toppers already have an established program, thanks to Sanderford and former stars Lillie Mason and Clemette Haskins.

For a half, Western played on even terms with the Soviets that fell 87-62 to the powerful Reds. The large crowd and the play of the Lady Toppers were the best the Russians have seen so far on their American tour, which will eventually take them to the University of Texas.
This Mann Has a Mission

Terri Mann arrives at Western Kentucky with the best credentials and the brightest future the women's game has seen in a while. They call her Baby Moses, and all she has to do now is fulfill the prophecy.

BY GINA MARANTO
the country. Indeed, before she had so much as set foot on a college court, those who knew her talents had already favorably compared her to USC's Cheryl Miller, the dominant force in the women's game in recent years.

In her four years at Point Loma High in San Diego, Mann led the Lady Pointers to a 122-1 record and four straight state high school championships. She scored 3,188 points to finish second to Miller on the state's alltime list for girls. She holds the California girls' high school record for steals in a season with 250 and set a national record with 2,256 rebounds in her high school career.

For all her other skills, Mann's forte is rebounding, a fact that prompted a high school teammate to nickname her Baby Moses after the NBA's Moses Malone. Says her coach at Point Loma, Lee Trepanier, "In high school, 75 percent of girls can't even play at net level. Of the rest of them, 20 percent play at the net and 5 percent at the rim. Then there was Terri, who by the time she was a sophomore was playing above the rim."

Before she became Baby Moses, Terri was just the baby in a family of nine children in Detroit, where she played basketball with her five older brothers from the time she was eight years old. "They used to block my shots all the time and make me cry," she says. "I told them, 'I'm going to get big and beat you.' And they would tell me, 'You can't. You're a girl, and girls don't play basketball.'"

Before she started eighth grade, Terri moved to San Diego with her mother, Willie, and the following summer she showed up at the municipal gym in downtown Balboa Park. Phillip Thompson, father of Mann's high school teammate Beth, remembers that Terri's skills were already prodigious: "The first thing I saw her do was rebound one-handed, something no girl I'd ever seen could do."

At Point Loma, Mann was sometimes frustrated because opponents played like, well, girls. "Only in the middle of her junior year did her intensity during games increase," says Trepanier. "By the time she was a senior, she had left the rest of the girls in the nation behind. There was nothing anyone could do to stop her."

Coaches who have seen her play say that when this Moses comes down off the mount, she could be carrying tableis engraved with stats even better than Miller's. "I'd be totally surprised if Terri isn't a dominating player in college," says UCLA coach Billie Moore. "She has all the tools." Moore has only one reservation: "What you can't ever measure is the size of a player's heart. That you always question." In high school, Mann was motivated by Miller's records. But can she do it all over again, this time at a higher level? At the end of her four years, will she have matched Miller's profound impact on women's basketball? And if she's so good, then what in the world is she doing at Western Kentucky instead of a women's powerhouse like USC or Texas or Tennessee?

Dozens of colleges came after Mann, and in the end it was a toss-up between Southern Cal and Western Kentucky. "Lord have mercy, why does this girl want to go to the country?" cried her mother when Terri picked Western Kentucky. But Mann has since learned that Bowling Green isn't the basketball boondocks—WKU is a power in its own right. The Lady Toppers have made the NCAA Final Four two out of the last three years. In fact, it was while watching the Tops in the 1986 East Regional championships against Rutgers on TV that Mann took a liking to coach Paul Sanderford's fast-break style.

The only real difficulty Mann has encountered in leaving California for Bowling Green is Mexican food withdrawal—Kentucky tacos don't make the grade, she says. Before each high school game, Mann would eat about eight tacos. "I have to play on a full stomach," she explains. "If I don't, I get cramps." A more worrisome pain for Mann is caused by a chronic lower back strain, which has kept her out of some of the Lady Toppers' preseason training. However, she figures to be able to go full-time once the games get under way.

Even then, Sanderford knows that Mann, as good as she seems, won't be a sure thing: "Terri is a tremendous athlete, but the high school game and the college game are different. We're going to be asking her to play for 40 minutes without a letup in intensity." Is Sanderford really worried? "Terri has all the skill that Miller had," he says, "and I know she can rise to the challenge." If she does, that's it for anonymity.
Miller has seen it all

By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

Steve Miller has been at the top of the high school basketball game. He's been numero uno, the main man, state tournament Most Valuable Player, prep All-American, Mr. Basketball.

Miller has been at the bottom. He's been knocked on his back, flat on his back. Miller has felt the pain of going from top to bottom. He's felt other kinds of pain, too.

"It felt like there were 1,000 needles sticking me in the spine," Miller said of the ruptured disk he suffered during his sophomore year at Western.

Miller, one of the top recruits in the country in 1984, hasn't had near the success with the Hilltoppers that he did during a magical high school career at Lexington Henry Clay. Injuries have haunted him since he left Lexington, the 1983 state tournament championship and the Mr. Basketball award.

Only recently has Miller lived up to his All-Star billing. The 6-foot-7, 210-pound forward scored 22 points against Centre in the Wendy's Classic, and he led Western to a 57-52 win over Tennessee Tech with 21 points last Saturday.

His freshman and sophomore seasons saw him scoring only 3.9 points a game—a far cry from the 21.4 points he logged as a senior at Henry Clay. He suffered a fallen arch during his freshman year at Western. In his sophomore year, Miller developed chronic back problems. At first, it was diagnosed as muscle spasms.

"But if it was muscle spasms, then I wasn't going to play anymore. I would take me 30 minutes to stand up after a game. I could only play one half, because once I got loosened up and played some, my back would get so tight I couldn't get loose again," Miller said.

Miller first injured his back in a scrimmage with Louisville Male before his junior year. He was going up for a rebound against Winston Bennett and was undercut.

"It was just kind of stiff then," Miller said. "But the pain never got to a peak until I came to college."

By the time his sophomore year was over, the pain was unbearable. He had surgery to remove the ruptured disk.

"Dr. (Bob) Goodwin said it was the worst disk he'd ever seen," Miller said. "He performed a miracle."

The "miracle" didn't get him back on the court last year, though.

"What took awhile to overcome was the psychological part of it, like when I'd post up and have to put my lower back into somebody," Miller said. "I knew I'd have to redshirt."

So Miller sat out last year as Western played out a 29-9 season.

He came back this fall with a desire to prove to himself that he could play college basketball.

"It all started in the preseason," Miller said. "It was my most productive preseason ever. I had been consistent in the scrimmages. The Fort Hood game was kind of rough. It had been a long time since I played. But from there I went on."

He started slow, but has gotten progressively better as Coach Murray Arnold's club has built a 5-1 record.

"I wanted to be consistent and do things to help the team win, like be in the game in the final minutes," Miller said.

And he's done that. The sleepy-eyed junior got a clutch follow-up shot in the closing minutes in Western's 77-73 win at Central Michigan.

Being consistent. It used to be Miller was the best. And it was so easy in high school.

"In high school basketball was fun. Now, it's kind of like a job. It can be fun. There's nothing like being out on the court playing ball. But there's more pressure to win," Miller said.

Pressure to win wasn't really there at Henry Clay. Miller and his teammates just did it. Henry Clay went 32-2 in the 1983 state champi-
Fred Tisdale's first three years at Western haven't been easy.

On the court, an average of just 12 minutes a game hasn't allowed the seventh-year forward to meet the expectations hung on Tisdale out of high school when he was runner-up for the 1984 Kentucky "Mr. Basketball."

Off the court, two theft charges — one conviction and one dismissal — haven't made the Russellville native one of the more popular Hilltoppers among Westerners.

So when Coach Murray Arnold mentioned him before tipoff, "He kept the season began, the 6-7, 215-pound forward felt as though he had something to prove.

"I've let down this team, the community and myself in the past," Tisdale said. "So I felt like I had to prove I belonged on this team."

He presented evidence for that case last night, scoring 14 points and grabbing nine rebounds in Western's 85-68 win over Butler in Diddle Arena.

It was Tisdale's second-straight strong game. He had 12 points and 10 rebounds in last week's 83-76 win over Kentucky State in Diddle.
Taylor leads Lady Tops to title

By BUDDY SHACKLETTE

Alabama put up a fight but freshman Mary Taylor led the Lady Toppers to their third Bowling Green Bank Invitational title Monday night, 66-63.

The Marshall County graduate and former Kentucky "Miss Basketball" poured in 12 second-half points, accounting for Western's final eight points of the game.

"I have a lot of faith in Mary Taylor," Coach Paul Sanderson said, "and it's come because her teammates played well.

"She's going head-to-head with Terri Mann everyday and I knew that it was just a matter of time before she realized that she can play at this level."

With 11 seconds remaining and Western holding a one-point edge, Taylor was fouled by Alabama's Laura Heard as the 6-1 freshman was sent to the line for one-and-one.

I knew when I stepped to the free throw line I was doing pretty good, because Tan (teammate Tandreia Green) looked at me and said, 'Ah, you got it.'" Taylor said.

Taylor took a deep breath and sank both shots to give Western the three-point margin and its second win of the season.

Western reached the final by knocking off Evansville on Sunday, 86-56, and Alabama beat Arizona, 80-74.

Western, 24-0, travels tomorrow to play in the Lady Ute Classic in Salt Lake City, Utah. Western faces Northwest Texas State tomorrow night with the winner to play either Texas-El Paso or Utah.

In Monday's final, Western got off to a slow start as Alabama took a quick nine-point margin over the 12th-ranked Lady Tops.

Susie Stark turned things around for Western when she connected on a 15-footer from the baseline. Western then scored 14 unanswered points to go up 16-11.

Starks posted solid numbers off the bench for Western, finishing the game with 14 points, four assists, and two rebounds.

Brigette Combs saw action for the first time after being sidelined with an injury. Combs pumped in six points in the first half and sent them into intermission with a 34-33 lead.

"It felt good just to go in again after not practicing for four or five days," Combs said.

Western held a slight margin over the Tide for the first nine minutes of the second half but Alabama rallied ahead at the 11-minute mark and kept it tight the rest of the way.

Taylor came off the bench and came alive in the second half when she was fouled and connected on her first two of eight free throws on the night.

Alabama's Tracey Rutledge kept it close with her seven second-half points, but her last-second attempt was blocked by Green, the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

"We were going to take the three-pointer, and it surprised us because she (Rutledge) was so open," said Mary Taylor.

By JOE MEDLEY

Dally News Sports Writer

Mike Wilson, considered the top high school basketball player in the rich Atlanta market, has turned away Auburn and Tennessee and will play his college basketball at Western.

Coach Murray Arnold confirmed the early signing of the Redan High School star Wednesday afternoon, the first day of early signing. And Wilson has passed his Proposition 48 requirements.

Wilson is a 6-fooot-5, 200-pound shooter who has been picked as one of the top high school prospects in the nation by major publications. He is rated as high as 37th by Rick Bolus Cage Scope.

Wilson was also invited to the elite Nike Basketball Camp in Princeton, N.J.

"Mike is a very talented perimeter type player," Arnold said. "He's not good size and good scoring ability from outside and inside if needed. We're very happy and excited to have him."

In a telephone interview, Wilson said he's excited about coming to the Hill. "I wish I could go right now."

Western steals Atlanta’s Wilson from UT, Auburn

By JOE MEDLEY

Daily News Sports Writer

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In a telephone interview, Wilson said he's excited about coming to the Hill. "I wish I could go right now."

Wilson hit for 14.8 points and grabbed six rebounds a game as a junior. He also hit 44 percent of his shots and 68 percent of his free throws while leading his team to a 17-10 mark. As a sophomore, he netted 17.6 points and 6.4 rebounds a game.

By BUDDY SHACKLETTE

The fourth Kentucky "Miss Basketball" to sign with the Lady Toppers in the last seven years, Taylor was also named Kentucky's 1987 Female Athlete-of-the-Year. She averaged 18.2 points and nine rebounds per contest as a senior and was honorary captain of her squad in the annual Kentucky-Indiana All-Star series last summer.
By JOE MEDLEY
Daily News Sports Writer

Picture Mr. T's face as the movie Rocky III went into slow motion and he pondered the blow that would ruin Rocky Balboa's evening.

Time stopped, and then Mr. T's character, Clubber Lang, curled his Lady Kats out midway through the corner of Diddle Arena's basketball court, on the verge of running the W. Kentucky out of the game.

That was my whole purpose for being out there — to fire the team up," said Starks, a Scottsville native. "I was mentally ready to play, and I wanted this game."

So did the 4,800 screaming Western fans who watched Western freshmen Terri Mann pile up 26 points, 10 rebounds and only two personal fouls in her top college performance.

"I heard so many people say they were coming out to this game, and it made me a little nervous," said Mann, a Californian caught up in the hoopla of basketball mania in Kentucky. "I'm made up to go out and play harder."

She scored 14 of her points and grabbed seven rebounds in the second half as Western delivered the killing blow to Kentucky (5-1).

"I told the kids at halftime that the key to the game would be the first five minutes of the second half," Western coach Paul Sanderford said. "We got a 11-point lead on them (45-34), and they hit a couple of shots to cut it back down to nine, but they never came any closer."

Western continued to dominate in rebounding, taking a 51-37 edge. Five Lady Toppers had at least six rebounds, with Mann leading as Western cut Kentucky's series lead down to 11-7.

But first-year Kentucky coach Sharon Fanning said the rivalry wasn't her concern.

"Sure, it was something for the kids," she said, "but I was most concerned about what we wanted this basketball team to accomplish in this game. We wanted to learn."

"I was more disappointed in the ledetdown of effort we showed in the second half. If you do that against a team like Western, it could mean 20 quick points."

The adenalin flowed as the Lady Toppers smelled blood, and the run fed on itself. Western came up with 19 second-half steals.

Kentucky fell apart, as it hit 10 of 13 shots in the final half.

"There were about three or four minutes there when we didn't handle the pressure very well," said B.B. Croley, who led Kentucky with 21 points. "We just let our fundamentals slide. We were close with them in the first half, but we just let the game get away from us."

Croley burned Western on a back-door play for nine points in the first half.

The Lady Toppers started with a back-door play for nine points in the first half, then with a 24-20 lead, the Lady Cats to within 21-26 at halftime.

Neither team shot well in the first half, as Kentucky hit 40 percent and Western hit only 34.3.

The Lady Cats tied the score at 33-33 with 9:31 left in the game. Both coaches expressed an interest in continuing the series.

The present contract runs through a game in Lexington's Memorial Coliseum next year.

But Sanderford feels Western is ahead of Kentucky.

"I definitely feel our program is ahead of their's right now," Sanderford said. "We've got better athletes. But I've been here six years, and Coach Fanning has been at Kentucky six months. I'm sure she has a lot of goals for them, and she can accomplish them."

HILLTOPPERS ATOP THE EAST
Western Kentucky No.1 in the East

By Joe Smith

Here's a look at what promises to be the top 15 teams in a very strong region — the East.

1) WESTERN KENTUCKY: The Hilltoppers deal from strength. They have one of the best coaches and recruiters in the game in Paul Sanderford. Sanderford brought in four top freshmen, the USA's top prep star, power forward Terri Mann from San Diego; Kentucky's Miss Basketball, forward Mary Taylor; shooting guard Nancy Crutcher, and point guard Kelly Smith. These four freshmen give Western Kentucky the third best recruiting class in the country, as rated by OFF THE GLASS.

The Toppers have quality depth at every position. At center, the battle should be between senior Traci Patton and sophomore Michelle Clark. Patton has the experience and is an Olympic Festival veteran while Clark was the top prepster in Kentucky her senior year in high school and probably has more potential.

The small-forward spot has been held by Brigette Combs, but this year Combs might yield that spot to soph Tangie Green. Green played power forward and center last year, but with WKU's added strength inside, Sanderford will likely move her.

The shooting-guard spot seems wide open. Combs could surface there or Nancy Crutcher might take the spot. Junior Susie Sparks also will be in the running.

2) VIRGINIA: The top team in the Atlantic Coast Conference is the Cavaliers. UVA's been the regular-season champ three of the last four years but has never won the ACC Tournament. The problem has always been the imbalance in their attack — the Wahoos have been a perimeter team. This year the Cavs will have to be significantly better inside.

There is quality inside and it begins with senior center Laurie Carter and senior power forward Kristen Anderson. The Cavaliers' greatest strength, as always, is their backcourt. UVA returns seniors Donna Holt, a Kodak All American, and Daphne Hawkins, an off guard. They give the Cavs just about as good a rebound combination as their is in the game. Joining Holt and Hawkins on the perimeter is soph Tonya Cardoza.

3) ST. JOSEPH'S: The Hawks, with excellent coaching, a fine group of returning players, and some outstanding newcomers, are favorites in the Atlantic 10. Coach Jim Foster has taken the Hawks to the NCAA Tourney three years in a row and this year should be no exception.

Senior point guard Debbie Black was in the red for the rest of the night.

"We weren't surprised at how good a team they were," said Croley, whom Sanderford recruited heavily. "We felt like we could be competitive with them, and we still feel like we can beat them on another night."

Both coaches expressed an interest in continuing the series. The present contract runs through a game in Lexington's Memorial Coliseum next year.

But Sanderford feels Western is ahead of Kentucky.

"I definitely feel our program is ahead of their's right now," Sanderford said. "We've got better athletes. But I've been here six years, and Coach Fanning has been at Kentucky six months. I'm sure she has a lot of goals for them, and she can accomplish them."

Continued From Page 11-A
WINNINGEST ACTIVE COACHES

Through 1986-87. Minimum 5 years in Division I; record at 4-year colleges.

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There's Tellis

Smith nabs 21 rebounds to lead Tops to blowout

By JOE MEDLEY
Daily News Sports Writer

Anthony Smith rules the boards with authority.

Or at least he did in Western's 85-64 win over Alabama State Saturday night in Diddle Arena.

Anthony Smith nabs 21 rebounds to lead Tops to blowout

By JOE MEDLEY
Daily News Sports Writer

Western Kentucky

Smith dominates the boards, and Western (6-1) dominated the game. Alabama State (3-4) came within 19-14 with 11:33 left in the first half, but Western blew back out to as much as an 18-point lead before halftime.

Brett McNeal, who finished with a game-high 25 points, paced the Hilltoppers in the first half with 15.

"Brett played an extremely good game for us tonight," Western coach Murray Arnold said. "He shot the ball well and had a lot of ball-handling responsibilities. I thought he handled their pressure..."
1987
Sun Belt
Champions
Murray Arnold – Coach of the Year
Tellis Frank – Player of the Year

1987
East Regionals
Participated
in 13 NCAA
Tournaments
(1971 Final Four)

3 Players
Selected in
1987
NBA Draft
Tellis Frank – 1st Round
Kannard Johnson – 2nd Round
Clarence Martin – 3rd Round

Larry –
Keep following the Hilltoppers!

1987 NIT
Classic Finalist
New York, NY
10 NIT
Appearances
Another Miss Basketball, another Lady Topper signee.

Kim Pehlke became the fifth Miss Basketball in the last eight years to sign a national letter of intent to play for Western women's team.

She joins some elite company, and has the credentials to become as elite as any of her predecessors.

"Kim Pehlke is the best player to come out of Kentucky since Clemette Haskins," Coach Paul Sanderford said Monday at Pehlke's signing party, held in front of the whole student body of Louisville Doss, where Pehlke scored a school-record 2,073 points.

"She will be an impact player immediately at Western.

To be mentioned in the same breath as Haskins, perhaps one of the best women's passers ever to play the game, is some vote of confidence.

Haskins, who played her high school ball at Warren Central, is one of those Miss Basketballs Pehlke is following to the Hill.

It all started with Lillie Mason out of now defunct Olmstead, then came Haskins, then Bridgett Combs from Whitesburg, then Mary Taylor last year from Marshall County.

Pehlke was surprised at how many Miss Basketballs have played at Western.

"I knew Mary Taylor was one, and I knew Clemette was, but I had no idea there were four or five," said Pehlke, a dark-haired beauty who started playing pickup games as a youngster at Iroquois Park in Louisville.

Pehlke knows how to play, that's for sure, but she doesn't waste much time watching it on television, or reading a lot about the numerous all-star teams she's on.

She didn't even know about Miss Basketball until her coach told her about it after Doss finished second in the State Tournament her junior year.

"After my junior year, Coach (Terri) Keown told me I had a good chance to be Miss Basketball, and I asked her 'What is it?' I didn't know I could go to college on it (basketball) until after my sophomore year in high school.

Coaches certainly knew plenty about Pehlke after her outstanding passing, shooting and court awareness made her Sanderford's next signing target following her performance in the 1987 State Tournament at Diddle Arena. Doss lost by two points to Laurel County in the final that year.

When Central girls' coach Vanous Lloyd, the coach of the Kentucky All-Stars, for which Pehlke will be wearing the No. 1 jersey, was asked who came to mind first when thinking about the 5-foot-7 guard, Haskins' name sprang up once again. The two are a lot alike.

Lloyd said:

"Especially in passing ability. She can look one way and pass the ball back the other way. There's not many kids who can do that in high school. But she's also an excellent point guard, or two-guard.

She can run your offense, or shoot the ball. Kim can be an immediate success at Western," Lloyd said last Saturday at the Mr. and Miss Basketball announcement ceremony in Lexington. "That was one of the reasons Paul (Sanderford) wanted her -- to play next year, not the following year."

Pehlke decided on Western after Doss was beaten in the Sixth Region Tournament this year. And, like many other Western signees, she knew early on that she would be playing for the Lady Toppers.

"I just had a gut feeling. Every time I was on campus I felt at home. I sat in on an astronomy class; it was interesting," Pehlke said.

As evidenced with the numerous Miss Basketball signees, Western gets what it wants in this state, much like Kentucky does in men's basketball.

The comparisons are inevitable, and the common thread is this: Kentucky has the top men's program in the state, and one of the best in the nation; the Lady Top­pers have the best women's program in the state, and one of the best in the nation.

"It's comparable to Kentucky's men's team," Pehlke said. "I've always thought Western was a great school."

Pehlke's huge signing party denotes how famous she is at Doss, but in Jefferson County, Southern's Lisa Harrison, surely Sanderford's next recruiting project, is the major media star in the newspapers and on television. Pehlke says there's competition between the two, but no comparisons, because they play different positions.

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'Baby Moses' is growing up

Mann accepts attention

By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

A black letterman's jacket decorated with four sew-on emblems of the state of California, each signifying a girls' state basketball championship. Across the top of the back of the jacket is "Baby Moses".

Those who didn't know Terri Mann is really Baby Moses from her appearances in a national newspaper and sports magazine could identify her now.

She's just finished her first weekend of collegiate basketball for Western's Lady Toppers. She fouled out of the Bowling Green Bank Invitational final against Alabama with 2:10 remaining, but still scored 14 points and pulled down 10 rebounds.

"They didn't let me play," Mann would say later, giving a pout, letting the baby part of "Baby Moses" come out.

Moses led his people to the promised land in the Bible. Moses Malone has led only one team to the promised land of an NBA championship, but his rebounding prowess is mimicked by Mann, and she could lead the Lady Toppers to a promised land of their own. At least that's what Western fans are expecting her to do.

As Coach Paul Sandersford puts it, with Mann's impressive credentials, the most prominent of which is last season's national high school Player of the Year honor from USA Today, people are likening her to another Biblical character.

"People have been led to believe she can walk on water. People expect miracles, including me," he said. "But she knows where a lot of the stumps are."

Mann found out about a few of them in that BGBI final. The big-name players are watched by officials. Those with a physical reputation are watched closer.

But inside her 6-foot-2, 185-pound body is the heart of an 18-year-old. She's still a kid, albeit a kid who's picture and story was there, big as life in Sports Illustrated's preseason college basketball issue.

"She's maturing a little bit, adjusting well," Sandersford said. "But she's still a big baby."

Baby Moses is under the looking glass as much as any top male recruit. Strangers come up and talk to her at school, like the guy who said he was going to bring his Sports Illustrated to school for her autograph, but she doesn't mind. Reporters ask for her autograph and picture, and she signs it.

Mann accepts attention

"Baby Moses" is growing up.

Maturing Mann

TERRI MANN looks thoughtful as she watches a recent Lady Toppers' practice at Diddle Arena. Mann was the top-rated girls' high school player in the nation last year.
Mann not shy where it counts the most

Continued From Page 1-B

thoughts constantly, which she does mind, but tolerates cheerfully.

"You put a microphone in Mary's (Taylor) face, and she
loves to talk. I'm just the opposite," Mann said. "But what I like most is the people here. They're always talking to me."

And, as long as there's not a notebook or a tape recorder
around, she's talking back. Mann greets each teammate coming into Diddle for practice with a smile and a yell "hello." As she watches the men practice, Mann lets out several loud chuckles as guards go through rebounding drills.

"She's extremely warm and very interested in her teammates," said Steve Small, a Lady Toppers' assistant. "She's a typical 18-year-old freshman who's been given an unbelievable amount of hype and attention. It's kind of a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde thing. On the floor she does her thing. Everywhere else it's like she's on show. She likes people, but she's shy and withdrawn around people who don't know her."

She hasn't earned her nickname by being shy around the basket.

"When she was about 12 years old, she would play with the big boys, one on one," said Cyrus Mann, Terri's father who lives in Tennessee. "They would always say 'That Mann girl's coming, that Mann girl's coming.'"

"When I first started playing with girls, I was a freshman. They used to cry all the time," Terri said. "She wasn't playing like a baby even then."

And she's not awed by the attention now.

"It's not big to me right now. But when I get older it will be," Mann said of the articles and pleiers.

Recently when a reporter told her what time would be good for him to interview her, she replied lightheartedly, "You know what I'll be doing then, I'll be sleeping."

If she slept at Point Loma High School in San Diego, it wasn't noticeable. Mann is second to former Southern California star Cheryl Miller on California's all-time girls' high school scoring list with 3,188 points. Mann set a national record with 2,926 rebounds in her career. She once scored 65 points grabbed 38 rebounds on Coach Lee Trepanier's team.

Comparisons to Miller are inevitable, but Sanderford won't use them, and Mann feels she isn't a Miller prototype.

"We're totally different players. She's a shooter. I'm more of an inside player," Mann said. "I'm more physical and stronger than anybody else."

Early in her high school career, she thought about quitting a couple of times. Her mother, Willie, would have nothing of it.

"Many times she said she was going to quit," said Willie, a delightful lady who laughs easily. "I told her that man (Trepanier) doesn't have to take his time to help you, and if you quit, I'll break your legs. But she didn't quit, and I respect her for that."

For being stronger than anybody else in California girls' basketball and probably the nation, Mann was the No. 1-rated player in the country by most.

And she was the kind of player Sanderford said after losing his second Final Four game in 1986 at Rupp Arena he needed to win a national championship.

"To compete for a national championship, we have to be bigger and stronger," Sanderford said. "We were on the lookout for anybody with the build and size of a Terri Mann. The added dimension to Terri is her quickness and agility."

The sixth-year coach thought his chances were "slim to none" to sign Mann. Tonight she suits up for her biggest test yet, against intransigent rival Kentucky, probably in front of a large crowd at Diddle Arena.

"The first time I went out there she picked me up at the airport," Sanderford said. "She took me to her school to meet her coach. She was real personable and very relaxed."

Sanderford did a lot of the recruiting of Mann.

"With a player of her caliber, we felt the head coach would have to do the recruiting," Sanderford said.

Several factors brought Mann across the country to the country, compared to San Diego, anyway.

"It was more relaxed here than at USC," Mann said.

"She fell in love with the coach. He's a fine man," Willie said. "Then, she visited the school, and fell in love with the players."

Her father also lives close enough to see her play. She says he wasn't a factor in her coming. Sanderford disagrees.

"Having family around here helped," he said.

Her brothers also played and live in the area.

"There was a better environment here than out West," Cyrus said. "We said one day she'd have to get out on her own, and she might as well try it now."

Sanderford was glad she did, and he emphatically denies he cried when she signed. But Mann is good enough to bring tears to the eyes of many opponents before she's through.

The kind of caliber she is has strangers wandering into Diddle Arena during a women's practice asking, "Who is the super player they're supposed to have?"

She is a tenacious rebounder, averaging 10 a game to go with 13.6 points. Her passing skills are also excellent. Although she hasn't produced any megapoint nights yet, Mann is providing ample help for one so young.

She and Sanderford talk about her pressing too much.

"I've been sort of scared. I just get nervous," Mann said.

Small says she will be a dominant force in the women's game before she graduates. Sanderford maintains she will be very good, probably great, but not yet.

"It's different from earlier eras in women's basketball," Sanderford said. "She's going to run into some of the best in the women's game. There are more good athletes now. She's got a long way to go to be the best, but God gave her the ability. She's trying so hard now. She just needs to relax, go out and play hard."

There've been a lot of messages left on Willie Mann's answering machine for Baby Moses lately. Her friends are calling to coordinate their arrival times with Terri's on Dec. 20, when she returns home for Christmas break.

Willie didn't want her daughter, a celebrity back in California and a near superstar here, to go so far away from home.

"I'm still not over it yet," Willie said. "But I don't let it show. When she's happy, I'm happy. When she gets ready to sigh, she said she just wanted to grow up, that she could get a little higher. I told her if this is what she wanted, then to do good."

Looks like Baby Moses might not be such a big baby after all.
Western surprises UAB for 53-50 win

By BRUCE W. BRANCH
Staff Writer

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — It wasn’t pretty, but Western Kentucky’s 53-50 upset victory over Alabama-Birmingham was just what the rebuilding Toppers needed to put them back in the Sun Belt Conference race.

Not wanting to go 0-2 following an 80-66 road loss to Old Dominion Monday, the Toppers used some clutch free-throw shooting by guards Roland Shelton and Brett McNeal to hold off the defending league champs and run their record to 9-3 and 1-1.

Shelton, who finished with 16 points, combined with McNeal, who had 19, to score Western’s final seven points.

The 6-foot-4 Shelton iced the game by hitting two free throws with 21 seconds and another with 13 seconds left to give Western a 52-48 cushion.

McNeal scored on a three point play to give Western its first lead of the second half, and, after both teams went scoreless for the next 4:38, the 6-3 McNeal hit a soft jumper over 6-0 Larry Wicksell in the lane to make it 44-41. Two free throws by Miller increased the margin to 46-41 with 2:41 remaining.

Western, which started the game in a spread offense and attempted to take as much time as possible off the 45-second clock on just about every possession, was thoroughly dominated by UAB in the first half.

The Hilltoppers, who shot 57 percent, found themselves behind 30-23 at the half primarily because of the Blazers dominance on the boards, silly fouls and six turnovers.

Meanwhile UAB used some good free-throw shooting (11 of 13), its superior inside strength and the scoring of Howard, who had 10 points, to grab an early advantage.

After Miller hit a pair of free throws for the first points of the game, UAB scored nine of the next 11 points to go up 8-4 on two foul shots by Howard with 15:05 remaining.
From G.I. Joes to Joe College
Ex-Servicemen Now on Campus Pass Muster on Discipline, Maturity

By TOM WHEATLEY

ST. LOUIS—You've heard of the redshirt. Now make way for the red, white and blue shirt.

In their relentless search for scholar-athletes, college basketball coaches have brought new meaning to the term “recruiting.”

These new recruits come courtesy of Uncle Sam. They are veterans of foreign gyms.

They are the few, the proud, the two dozen NCAA Division I players with military service.

Norris Coleman probably would have been the platoon leader of this pack. Instead, he mustered out of Kansas State a year early to become a high draft pick of the Clippers, who released him in early February.

But two of Coleman's former teammates on the all-Army basketball team—Anthony Smith and Richard Coffey—are also headliners for major college teams.

Smith, a 6-7 center at Western Kentucky, has been among the nation's top 10 rebounders most of this season. His 21 rebounds in 30 minutes against Alabama State in December were the most by a player at his school in 13 years.

Coffey, a 6-4 former paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division, has been named captain as a sophomore at Minnesota. He also has a 30-rebound game under his belt.

Other G.I. Joes who have turned into Joe College basketball stars include Tulsa forward Ray Wingard, South Carolina center Darryl Martin and Nebraska guard Henry T. Buchanan.

The 6-7 Martin led the Trojans.

TONIGHT'S LINEUPS

Game time: 8:00 EST Freedom Hall.

Television: WHAS-11.


Western Kentucky (11-3)

F—Steve Miller  6:21     19     13 1-3  6-1  17-26  22
F—Fred Fitzgerald  6:21     10     3 0-0  1-1  12-21  13
F—Paul Brown  6:06     6     3 0-0  0-0  6-9  5-5  11
G—Roland Smith  6:44     11     3 1-3  5-6  16-27  10
G—Keith Williams  6:44     10     2 0-0  4-4  14-21  7
Reserves — Paul Brown, 6-2, Jr., 25. Fred Fitzgerald, 6-7, Jr., 1-3. Tony Zager, 6-7, Jr., 1-3. Dusty Cawthell, 6-5, Jr., 1-1. Tony Johnson, 6-2, Sr., 2-2. Rodney Ross, 6-4, Sr., 6-6.

Louisville (7-5)

F—Sanford Creek  6:45     14     7 1-2  6-2  13-16  11-12  10
F—Keith Payne  6:45     14     7 1-2  6-2  13-16  11-12  9
F—Paul Brown  6:44     10     2 0-0  8-8  10-10  7-7  5
C—Dennis Ellison  6:44     10     2 0-0  8-8  10-10  7-7  4
G—Keith Williams  6:44     10     2 0-0  8-8  10-10  7-7  4
G—Dennis Miller  6:44     10     2 0-0  8-8  10-10  7-7  3
Reserves — Mike Abram, 6-4, Sr., 5-5. Craig Hayes, 6-6, Sr., 2-1. Paton Spanier, 6-6, Sr., 2-2. Tony Zager, 6-5, Jr., 2-2. Mike Oliver, 6-7, Sr., 1-1. David Robinson, 6-7, Jr., 2-7. Shannon Frey, 6-1, Jr., 4-4

Game Story

G.I. Joes who have turned into college basketball stars include: (from left) Anthony Smith, Ric.

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Game Story

Western Kentucky 71

Miller    35     5     3 1-1  3-3  6-6  6
Taylor    36     5     3 1-1  3-3  6-6  6
Smith     33     5     3 1-1  3-3  6-6  6
McNeal    29     5     3 1-1  3-3  6-6  6
Strickland 8     0     0 0-0  0-0  0-0  0
Pits .    11     0     0 0-0  0-0  0-0  0
Cassell   3     0     0 0-0  0-0  0-0  0
Brown     1     0     0 0-0  0-0  0-0  0
Zager     1     0     0 0-0  0-0  0-0  0
Rose      2     0     0 0-0  0-0  0-0  0

TOTALS  200  29  63  10  19  6  22  84

Louisville 84

Payne    29     10    5 3-3  8-8  12-12  10
Crook    32     16    6 5-6  10-10  17-17  10
Elliott  27     5     2 1-1  4-4  10-10  9
Williams 29     4     2 1-1  6-6  11-11  8
Spencer  29     1     0 0-0  2-2  10-10  8
Avery    19     1     0 0-0  1-1  2-2  12
Oliver   18     1     0 0-0  1-1  2-2  12
Hunt     18     1     0 0-0  1-1  2-2  12
Frey     23     2     0 1-1  10-10  12-12  12
Hughes   30     1     0 0-0  1-1  2-2  12

TOTALS  200  29  63  10  19  6  22  84

Henline — Louisville 39, Western Kentucky 25.

Three-point goals — Western Kentucky 9-11 (Culley 2-2, Shelton 1-2, McNeal 1-5, Cassell 0-1, Zager, 0-0). Louisville 7-10 (Culley 2-2, Smith 2-4, Williams 2-5, Zager 0-1).

Shooting percentages — Western Kentucky 44.4%, Louisville 51.5%. Turnovers — Western Kentucky 10, Louisville 12.

Attendance — 19,055.
Knee surgery ‘very smooth,’ Goodwin says

By BUDDY SHACKLETTE

Western’s standout freshman Terri Mann is out for the season after having knee surgery yesterday at HCA Greenview Hospital in Bowling Green.

“It went very smooth,” said Dr. Bob Goodwin after performing the ligament reconstruction on Mann’s left knee. “She’s going to be fine, but she’s going to be a little sore.”

The 6-2 forward had her left knee examined Monday at the Bowling Green Orthopedic Clinic, and her injury was diagnosed as a torn cruciate ligament in her left knee.

Mann said the outcome “didn’t come as a surprise. I already knew what it was.”

After Goodwin confirmed the injury Monday morning, he scheduled her surgery for yesterday afternoon — to give Mann’s mother, Willie, enough time to fly in from San Diego.

“I wanted to get it done as quickly as possible so Terri can get back to playing and work out for the Olympics.” Willie Mann said.

Though Mann said Tuesday that she was scared about going into surgery, she was still in good humor.

“You know how your heart is supposed to beat about 55 beats a minute,” she said. “Well, mine is beating about 90.”

“She was feeling pretty good,” said Mann’s father, Cyrus, who lives in Tennessee. “She was kidding around with all of the doctors and everyone.

She suffered the injury Dec. 19, 1987, against Southern Illinois and has seen limited playing time since.

The ligament was fully torn, but we wanted to give her a chance to rebuild it,” Coach Paul Sanderford said. “What’s the use in having surgery in mid-January?”

Mann said she told Sanderford “nothing was going to stop me, but this stopped me.”

Mann returned to action against Memphis State Jan. 7 and answered with 21 points. But the knee...
"Words never quite express fully the depths of the human heart."

—an excerpt from a letter written by Henry and Pearl Smith upon the deaths of their son and daughter in the spring of 1967.

By TODD TURNER and LOIS WOHLER

Henry and Pearl Smith had so much to be proud of as they watched three of their children leave for Bowling Green that Mother's Day, 1967. Kay had nearly finished her first year at Western, and Greg was a junior there. A professional basketball career certainly awaited him upon graduation. And then there was Dwight. Dwight was the eldest, 21. He had just completed a wonderful basketball career at Western. He was a few weeks away from becoming the family's first college graduate. And in a few days, he was going to fly to Los Angeles to sign a contract to play in the National Basketball Association with the Lakers.

They had come home to Princeton because Greg and Dwight were to be honored at Stillman Chapel Methodist Church and to see their mother, dad, sister Sheila and brother Tony.

But with finals exams coming up, there was studying to be done. So after church, they decided not to stay for Sunday dinner and drove back to Bowling Green.

Most parents worry when their children make long drives—especially when it's raining like it was that day. But Henry remembered that this was worse than typical parental nervousness.

"My wife and I were running into each other in the house," he said. "It seemed like a premonition, and I said to myself, 'Something's not right.'"
McNeal, work push Toppers

By MARK C. MATHIS

Daily News Sports Editor

Working hard often isn't a pretty sight. But the results can be nice to look at.

That's the way it went for the Hilltoppers in their 78-69 victory Monday night over North Carolina Charlotte in front of 6,000 fans at Diddle Arena.

WESTERN 78
UNCC 69

W. CHARLOTTE (18)
1 K.онт 0 12-2, Persley 4-17-8 16, Plonkoe
2 6.17, Dinkins 6.10-9, West 12 3.2 10, 2
4 11.7, Dinkins 9-10 3 9, West 12 3.2 10,
5 Robin 2-9 0-4, Pulley 1-5

W. KENTUCKY (17)
1 Miller 4 3.3 1.2, Tisdale 5 1.4 4.4, Smith
2 9 1.2, Sherman 2 1.2 3, McNeal 3 1.2 3
3 11 1.3 3 3, Dinkins 1 1.3 2, Ross 1 1.1 2, 0
4 Tisdale 5 1.2 4 4, Washington 4 1.3 6
5 Tisdale 5 1.2 4 4, Sherman 2 1.2 3, 0

Western won at getting good shots; defense and the boards bore fruit.

The Hilltoppers are in a three-way tie for the lead at 5-1 and 12-4 overall in the league. Western didn't shoot all that well. But may be that's because UNCC was without Byron Dinkins, its leading scorer and creator at point guard. Oh, Dinkins started and played 23 minutes before aggravating his already strained right knee. He only scored nine points and didn't get an assist.

"It was 50 percent, if that," Dinkins said. "The year started out with a groin injury and I missed about 20 practices. Then I hyperextended my knee. Now I've got a strained knee and ankle. I'll practice a day and sit out a day. That's why I'm not playing as well."

Frank Persley, a sophomore forward from Scott County, led UNCC with 16 points and 10 rebounds.

"We were getting in the flow of the offense. But we weren't hitting the open jumpers," Persley said. "Western's still pretty strong inside."

The Hilltoppers need to be after getting slaughtered on the boards by a big, physical VCU ballclub. They outrebounded UNCC 47-41, and Anthony Smith joined Miller in double-figures with 11 rebounds. Smith also scored 12 points. Fred Tisdale added 14 points and nine boards.

Western didn't shoot all that great. But with its defense and renewed strength on the boards, 38 of 59 for 47.5 percent was enough to stymie UNCC.

That, along with a little hard, ugly work.

BRETT McNEAL of Western stars down North Carolina Charlotte's Michael Pulley during their game Monday night at Diddle Arena. McNeal scored 26 points, and his 1,000th career point, in Western's 78-69 win.

Continued From Page 1-B

we couldn't get the ball in the basket, which we've been able to do," Mullins said.

And all three were right. UNCC played the kind of in-your-face defense that gets teams into the big time. The parties involved are probably counting the bruises today. UNCC pressed in halfcourt and used 10 players in a revolving door system that left the Hilltoppers winced. But none of those 10 49ers could get the ball to go in very much, as 26 of 71 shooting from the field (36.6 percent) indicated.

Another strange occurrence was Western using its bench. And the bench contributing.

Guard Durey Cadwell had eight points and a couple of assists in 19 minutes. Forward Rodney Ross hit a jumper right before the half that gave Western a 39-33 lead, and he grabbed four rebounds.

The pattern of the game was easy to follow. Western sprinted out early. UNCC caught up. Western sprinted out again. UNCC caught up again. The Hilltoppers got up by 20 in the second half, but a late run by UNCC got it back within single digits.

Western played pretty well. UNCC played pretty poorly.

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EAKIN, a sophomore forward from Scott County, led UNCC with 16 points and 10 rebounds.

"We were getting in the flow of the offense. But we weren't hitting the open jumpers," Persley said. "Western's still pretty strong inside."

The Hilltoppers need to be after getting slaughtered on the boards by a big, physical VCU ballclub. They outrebounded UNCC 47-41, and Anthony Smith joined Miller in double-figures with 11 rebounds. Smith also scored 12 points. Fred Tisdale added 14 points and nine boards.

Western didn't shoot all that great. But with its defense and renewed strength on the boards, 38 of 59 for 47.5 percent was enough to stymie UNCC.

That, along with a little hard, ugly work.
Slam

FRED TISDALE (34) slams home a dunk Wednesday night in Diddle Arena as Western's Colin Peets (50) looks on. Dayton, however, slammed home an 82-81 win in overtime to give Western its fourth straight loss.

WKU wins Sun Belt, NCAA berth

Western Kentucky rallied in the second half to win the Sun Belt Conference women's tournament final 74-69 and earn an automatic berth in the NCAA Tournament.

The NCAA draw will be announced today.

Old Dominion (17-11) led 32-29 at halftime before Western (26-7) outscored the losers 45-37 in the second half.

Susie Starks scored 21 points, Mary Taylor and Tandrea Green each added 12, and Adrienne Goodson led Old Dominion with 21 points.

Western shot 48 percent from the field (28 of 58) and sank 17 of 20 free throws. Old Dominion hit 49 percent of its shots (23 of 47) and was 22 for 30 at the foul line.

Special to The Courier-Journal

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PRESIDENT REAGAN waved to reporters and a small crowd of onlookers Friday as he arrived at Bowling Green-Warren County Airport. The president was welcomed by a small delegation headed by former Gov. Louie Nunn, partially visible at left behind Reagan. (Other stories and photographs on Page 2-A.)

WESTERN STUDENTS and others at the rally hooped it up as balloons fell from the rafters at Diddle Arena after the president's speech.
Reagan's values are important.

Bush's values are important.

Page 8-A

Daily News

YEAR 134—NO. 252
BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1988
222 PAGES  18 SECTIONS  75 CENTS

Good morning

SOUTHCENTRAL KENTUCKY
— Today, thundershowers likely. Breezy and mild. High in the mid 60s. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low around 40. Monday, breezy and warm with a high 65 to 70. (See Page 12-A.)

By PAUL RAUPP
Daily News Staff Writer

President Ronald Reagan gave the people what they wanted Friday, delighting a highly partisan crowd at a political rally in Bowling Green with a combination of rhetoric and charm.

The 13,000-plus people jammed into Diddle Arena on Western Kentucky University's campus hooped, hollered, waved flags and did nearly everything short of singing "Gimme That Old Time Religion."

Reagan — driving home proven themes of God, patriotism, strong national defense and the flag — name dropped shamelessly at the rally for Vice President George Bush, but never directly mentioned Bush's opponent, Democrat Michael Dukakis.

Reagan was at his rhetorical best, rarely varying from a prepared text in which he linked Dukakis with the Democratic Party's liberal past and painted Bush as a competent vice president who handled his job well.

"I have seen him keep a cool head in hot crises," Reagan said of his vice president. "... I have given him some of the most sensitive and difficult tasks that we've had, and he's never let me or the country down."

Reagan portrayed Bush as a man accustomed to command, praising him for graciously and enthusiastically accepting the post which may propel him to the White House.

"He made it fit, and he served with a distinction no one has ever matched," Reagan said.

Dukakis and the Democrats weren't ignored, however, as Reagan devoted part of his 25-minute address to denouncing what he called the failures of past Democrat presidents and blasted the party for trying to mask its 1988 platform.

"You miss me," Reagan said less than a second after a nearby balloon burst.

In encouraging the audience to sweep not only Bush but a slew of Republican state legislators and congressmen into office on Nov. 8, he effectively played to both the crowd and his former acting career.

"I just ask you to take history into your own hands and win one for the Gipper," Reagan said.