1987

UA94/6/1 1986-1987 Athletic Scrapbook

Linda Johnson

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Poll taken before Monday's games

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Poll taken before Monday's games

1. Texas (21-0)

2. Georgia (22-1)

3. Western Kentucky (21-2)

4. Louisiana Tech (20-2)

5. Virginia (19-3)

Western men, women join NCAA's elite
Western joins UK, Louisville and IU on successful team list

The Bermuda Triangle of basketball has been transformed into a square.

For the past decade, Kentucky, Indiana and Louisville have been among the most successful college basketball programs in the nation. Four NCAA titles attest to the success of the three.

All three teams are solid again this year, but you can add Coach Clem Haskins’ Western Kentucky team to the list.

The record of the four teams is 22-6. Three of those losses came against one of the other three. All three of those games were decided by five or fewer points. One could argue any of the four is the best team.

Having had a good look at all four, here are some observations:

Indiana

The Hoosiers are 0-2 against Louisville and UK, but both losses were close and on the road.

With junior college transfer Andre Harris, freshman Ricky Calloway and the improvement of Daryl Thomas, Coach Bobby Knight’s team has more quickness and athletic ability than in recent years.

Knight’s guard talent will match that of any team. Steve Alford is the nation’s smoothest guard. Winston Morgan is solid and the multi-dimensional Calloway plays both guard and forward. Then you have Stew Robinson, a senior who started as a freshman.

I believe Knight is one of the game’s best strategists but I’ve never been convinced he gets the most out of the talent available, as opposed to some other coaches.

Example: Guard Delray Brooks was the national prep player of the year two years ago; now he’s averaging 10 minutes a game for Knight.

See ABELL/6B

Every player seems to go through this benching process with Knight and it will be interesting to watch if Calloway experiences the same.

Summary: Great guard play, improved frontline. With Knight, you never know what to expect because the lineup could completely change in the next two months. This could be a very good Indiana team, although I’m not sure how it will hold up under the pounding of the Big 10.

Kentucky

As strange as it may sound, UK might have less firepower and depth than any of the four teams. Kentucky simply does not have a lot of gifted athletes, especially along the frontline.

Don’t overlook this team, however. They are well-coached, they are playing with emotion, they have experience, and they have Kenny Walker.

Ed Davender’s continued improvement and the progression of Robert Lock and Richard Madison could decide this team’s fate. Injuries to Walker, Davender or Winston Bennett could be fatal.

So far, this is the one of the four teams playing closest to its ability. With new Coach Eddie Sutton and so many off-the-court distractions around the UK program this year, this team has developed into something of a Cinderella story. You’d be surprised how far that can carry a team.

Summary: Good combination play from the guards, forwards that can match up with any team. On the other hand, this team remains unfamiliar to many players.

Summary: Western is rugged and talented. What remains to be seen is whether or not early season success will carry over into tough Sun Belt Conference play. In other words, has Western learned how to win? The first two to three weeks of league play are essential to the Hilltoppers’ success.

Oklahoma State is the team most capable of being in Dallas for the NCAA Final Four. Crum’s dilemma is making all the talent mix and keeping all happy. Will a leader emerge?

Western

Of the four, Western may be playing best to date. The “Toppers only loss was to Louisville and the reason they lost was because it was in Louisville.

Western resembles Louisville in many ways. The frontline is extremely talented and experienced, while depth at guard is a problem.

Western’s success could ride on Clarence Martin’s scarred knees. A grimacing 6-foot-7 center, Martin is Western’s enforcer. Without him to lean on, the team can become average. Consistency by Kannard Johnson would also help.

Of the four teams, Western is the most physical. Western back off from no one and seems to be a mentally tough team. Coaches get excited about that.

So far, guard play has been good. Billy Gordon has given Haskins the outside scoring threat he’s lacked for years, while James McNary is to this team what Roger Harden is to Kentucky. McNary is a little flashier, which has its good and bad points. Western will likely go as far as its guards take it.

Summary: Western is the team most capable of dominating. Pervis Ellison is already good, and his career is eight games old.

Louisville is also the only one of the four teams with a center capable of dominating. Pervis Ellison is already good, and his career is eight games old.

Louisville is somewhat suspect out front. Milt Wagner’s return to the form of old could answer many questions. Crum still does not have a true point guard and he’s trying 6-7 freshman Tony Kimbro at guard to solve a depth problem.

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Western cracks the Top 20 for first time in 15 years

Compiled from AP and Staff Dispatches

The Western Kentucky Hilltoppers were given a spot in a regular-season college basketball poll yesterday for the first time in 15 years when The Associated Press released its weekly rankings.

Western, with a 17-3 record before last night's home game with Jacksonville, were ranked 19th spot by the nationwide panel of sportswriters and broadcasters.

Hilltoppers coach Clem Haskins said the ranking is a tribute to his players' efforts. "We've been rebuilding the last three years, and it's beginning to pay off. Now we need to continue to keep our heads and thoughts in the right direction and stay there."

With the Hilltoppers leading the Sun Belt Conference race and having beaten a former Top 20 club, Alabama-Birmingham, twice, Haskins said he had expected to see his team there earlier. But he wasn't disappointed by his club's absence from the poll.

"That's just the people who make the votes," he said. "We just need to keep preparing for games and not worry about that."

**Associated Press Top 20**

(First-place votes in parentheses)

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<th>Pos.</th>
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<td>Alabama</td>
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**SPORTS BEAT**

14 NOTRE DAME (14-3)

*Last week: 13. Points: 425. Weekend result: Notre Dame beat Marquette 72-70 in overtime as Tim Dolan came off the bench to score a career-high 22 points. Dolan sent the game into overtime when he grabbed an offensive rebound of Donald Royal's shot and scored at the buzzer. In overtime, Tim Kempton put Notre Dame ahead for good 69-68 with 1:07 remaining when he hit the front end of a one-and-one.*

15 VIRGINIA TECH (18-4)

*Last week: 18. Points: 390. Weekend result: Senior guard Dell Curry scored 28 points as Virginia Tech avenged a 81-69 loss to Memphis State with a 76-72 win against the Tigers in Blacksburg. Sophomore guard Johnny Fort led the Hokies with 11 points in the win.*

16 LOUISVILLE (13-6)

*Last week: 16. Points: 355. Weekend result: Louisville's front-line of 6-9 center Pervis Ellison and 6-7 forwards Herb Crook and Billy Thompson helped the Cardinals to a 91-72 victory against UTEP. Ellison finished with 17 points, while Thompson had 16 and Crook had 11. Milt Wagner, who had a team-high 20 points, had seven assists.*

17 TEXAS-EL PASO (18-3)

*Last week: 19. Points: 300. Weekend result: Texas-El Paso beat New Mexico 58-54 in El Paso as Juden Smith and Tim Hardaway led a second-half surge. UTEP was ahead 27-25 at halftime.*

18 INDIANA (14-5)

*Last week: 15. Points: 259. Weekend result: Indiana outscored Minnesota 21-10 in the final 15 minutes of a 85-64 win against the Gophers in Minneapolis. The Hoosiers outscored the Gophers 31-27 in the second half. Ricky Calloway led Indiana with 21 points.*

19 WESTERN KENTUCKY (17-3)

*Last week: 24. Points: 185. Weekend result: Western Kentucky beat South Alabama 69-62 to win the Sun Belt Conference. Old Dominion is 7-2 and Alabama-Birmingham is 6-3 in the Sun Belt.*

20 MICHIGAN STATE (14-5)

*Last week: 25. Points: 135. Weekend result: At East Lansing, senior guard Scott Skiles scored 29 points, including nine consecutive points to help a Northwestern comeback as the Spartans held on to win.*

21 VIRGINIA (14-5)


22 ALABAMA (15-4)


For Hilltoppers, magic number 20 stands for plenty of games yet to play.
Toppers make Top 20

Gordon says farewell, and Tops win 20th

Western beats South Florida for 20th victory

Haskins silents critics, honor

Hilltoppers give their fans flash of Top 20 past

MIDNIGHT MANIA

As a player 20 years ago, Clem Haskins helped put Western Kentucky in college basketball's Top 20. As the Hilltoppers' coach, he has another Top 20 ranking, and aims for 20 wins.
Western wins SBC crown

By DAN HARTLAGE
Daily News Sports Writer

After Western’s Lady Toppers did away with Old Dominion Saturday night to win the Sun Belt Conference Tournament 69-61, Lady Topper coach Paul Sanderford said, “I’m as proud of this team tonight as I have been any team I’ve ever coached in my 12 years as a coach.”

A Diddle Arena crowd of 2,200 was mighty proud of their Lady Tops as well, and most of them stayed after the game to participate in the post game festivities, including the announcement that Lillie Mason was the tournament’s most valuable player.

Mason scored 26 points against ODU, hitting 12 of 16 shots, and she pulled down a team-high nine rebounds. She was unstoppable.

After the Senior banquet, Mason and the rest of the Lady Toppers were given a hero’s welcome back to the locker room like a star in order to avoid a mob of fans that awaited them. The banquet included programs, pens, and a career mark of 1,000 points.

Mason player of the year, Sanderford coach of year

By STEVE GIVAN

Last night in the ballroom of Garrett Center, the Sun Belt’s best shined their brightest.

The conference coaches had marked their ballots for player of the year, coach of the year, first, second and honorable mention all-conference teams during the pre-tournament banquet.

This time, a 6-3 senior forward from Olmstead, Ky., Lillie Mason, captured player of the year honors. Western’s Paul Sanderford was also voted coach of the year by his peers after guiding the fifth-ranked Lady Toppers to a 27-3 record. That record includes a perfect 6-0 record in the Sun Belt to give the Toppers their first-ever regular season crown.

This marked the second time that Sanderford has been given the award. In his first season here four years ago, and Western’s first in the Sun Belt, Sanderford also received the most votes.

Sanderford has a career mark of

WKU’s Lillie Mason -- An All-American Going for it All in 1986
Western Lillie Mason was a Parade All-American as a high school senior.
Tangle

LILLIE MASON of Western and Old Dominion's Adrienne Goodson fight for the ball as other players move in Sunday afternoon during the Sun Belt Conference game at Diddle Arena. Western won 74-64, and the Lady Tops set a state attendance record of 12,951 for the game. It was the second largest crowd ever to see a women's basketball game.
Lillie "Magic" Mason

December 6 & 7 - E.A. Diddle Arena - Bowling Green, Kentucky
Auburn’s Chris Morris grabs a rebound over Kannard Johnson during the final game of the Wendy’s Classic. Johnson got the better of the battle in the contest, however, leading the Toppers with 24 points in Western’s 71-58 win over 19th-ranked Auburn. (Right) Johnson was congratulated by Auburn All-American Chuck Person, who poured in 25 points, after Johnson was selected the tournament’s MVP.
Because of the caliber of competition, the Wendy's Classic has attracted some of the largest crowds in recent seasons to Diddle Arena.
Western rolls over 19th-rated Auburn

Haskins credits fans for first Wendy’s title

Special to The Courier-Journal

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — The celebrated “sixth man” came to Western Kentucky University’s rescue Saturday night as the Hilltoppers upended 19th-ranked Auburn 71-58 in the Wendy’s Classic final. It was the first Wendy’s Classic title for the host team in its six-year history.

“You have to give our crowd a lot of the credit tonight,” winning coach Clem Haskins said of the 9,000 faithful. “We’re becoming a better club.”

All-tournament team member Kannard Johnson powered the Hilltoppers, who won their fifth game without a defeat. Johnson, a 6-foot-9 junior forward, scored 24 points and grabbed 10 rebounds. He fouled out with 16 seconds to go, but “played like an All-American,” Haskins said, later adding, “I’m walking on air. I want all the credit to go to the players and I’ll take the losses.”

Auburn forward Chuck Person, one of the Southeastern Conference’s top players, was the game’s leading scorer with 25 points, but he was the only Auburn player to double figures.

“I want to congratulate the Hilltoppers,” Auburn coach Sonny Smith said. “They deserve it. We knew we had to take away their inside game. We didn’t do that and they won. They mixed defenses well and had good overall team play. And, with the way they rebounded tonight, they compare favorably with any team we play.”

Auburn, a preseason favorite in the SEC, slipped to 3-2.

The 5-0 start is the best for Western since the 1973-74 season, and it was made possible, in part, by the Hilltoppers outrebounding the Tigers 32-28 and the winners hitting 29 of 55 field-goal attempts for 52.7 percent.

Auburn made just 24 of 53 floor shots (45.3 percent).

For Western, James McNary had 10 assists while Clarence Martin added 11 rebounds and three blocked shots and Billy Gordon 17 points. Tellis Frank also made the all-tournament team, as did Person, Chaminade’s Francis Fletcher and Wesleyan’s David Bennett.

Western led from start to finish.

The Hilltoppers had built a 14-point lead at 65-51 with 48 seconds left in the game, after holding just a 32-30 lead at intermission.

The key spurt for Western was a 10-3 run, with Johnson scoring six points and Gordon four. Western went from a 36-33 lead to a 46-36 advantage with 11:14 to play.
**Hilltoppers were made in Japan, with major import for Louisville**

**BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — The Western Kentucky University basketball players were born in the USA, as Bruce Springsteen has it, but their team was made in Japan.**

And, so far, even Ralph Nader would have to give the product a top-of-the-line rating. The Hilltoppers' record is 7-0 heading into Saturday night's game against Louisville in Freedom Hall.

"The Japan trip made the difference," coach Clem Haskins said. "People don't understand what that can mean to a team. We wouldn't be .500 now if it wasn't for that."

The story really begins a couple of years ago, when Western assistant coach Dwayne Casey went to Japan to work with the national team.

One invitation led to another, and in the fall of 1984 the Hilltoppers accepted an invitation to make a six-game, 15-day tour of Japan last August.

The only problem was that the university refused to cough up the $40,000 necessary for expenses, leaving that up to Haskins and fundraiser Gary West, the executive director of the Hilltopper Hundred Club.

By the end of last season, when the Hilltoppers wrapped up a disappointing 14-14 campaign by dropping a 64-56 decision to Alabama-Birmingham in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament, the trip was the last thing on anybody's mind.

Under fire from the administration and the fans, Haskins barely was able to keep his job. And many of the players were as disappointed and disenchanted as point guard James McNary.

"My attitude was terrible," McNary recalled in an interview this week. "I was overweight and out of shape, but I still felt like I was being cheated out of playing time."

It was the darkest time of Haskins' five years as head coach at the university where he was a consensus All-American by the time he graduated in 1967.

But then came a ray of hope from the Land of the Rising Sun.

"As I went around trying to help raise the $40,000, I got new life," said McNary, "I learned that people still cared about us and were willing to support us. And I'm talking about the people who really count."

Taking their cue from Haskins, the players also rededicated themselves. Consider McNary, who dropped 17 pounds during the summer by running three times a day, clear around the Western campus.

"When people were in bed at 1 o'clock in the morning, I'd be out running all the way around campus," McNary said. "When I first started, it took me 26 minutes. By the end of the summer, my fastest time was 17 minutes and something."

The Hilltoppers left Aug. 3 and returned Aug. 18. In the six games, their only loss was by 74-72 to the Japanese national team. They later beat the same team by 18, six and 15 points.

The national team's pivot was filled by Yashutaka Okayaha. At 7 feet 6 and 375 pounds, he dwarfed Western's Clarence Martin, who's a mere 6-8 and 225. For that matter, he would dwarf William "the Refrigerator" Perry.

"That dude was wide," said Western's Billy Gordon, a 6-1 senior guard. "Clarence next to him looked like me next to Clarence. But his agility wasn't that good."

So what did the Toppers do when Okayaha decided to take it to the hoop?

"Well," said Gordon, "nobody took any charges, I'll tell you that."

Martin led the Hilltoppers in rebounding with a 7.8 average for the six games, while 6-8 forward Karen Johnson was the leading scorer with a 16.0 average.

But neither the statistics nor the record were nearly as important as what Haskins was able to accomplish from a coaching standpoint.

"We worked every day, even on game days, and there were times when the players didn't like me too much," Haskins said. "But we got a lot of things accomplished, believe me."

Tellis Frank, a 6-10½ junior forward, agrees.

"When you play basketball at a foreign country, it's different," he said. "People there are not used to American basketball."

And in Japan, the land of raw fish, eating basketball may be easier than digesting some of the native cuisine.

"Oh, they had a lot of fast-food restaurants over there," Frank said. "The Colonel was over there. I ate more chicken than I ever have in my life."

But eating a lot of chicken in Japan is much better than eating crow in the United States. In retrospect, the trip was a catalyst for Haskins and his players that may carry over into the NCAA Tournament.

**Hilltoppers hitched their star to the Rising Sun**

Continued from Page B 8

"It was in Japan that Frank, a native of Gary, Ind., began consistently to show the all-around skills that make Haskins believe he's destined for a career in the National Basketball Association."

McNary, an Owensboro Catholic product who was a reserve last season as a freshman, developed into a point guard that Western needs to run the offense and get the ball inside to the big front line.

"Gordon, who comes from Jackson, Miss., developed so much confidence in himself and his outside shot that now, said Haskins, "Billy feels insulted when he doesn't score much or play or score well."

Martin, the pride of Alexander City, Ala., proved he finally was completely recovered from the knee surgery of December 1983 that earned him a redshirt year but made him a rather tentative player last season.

And, perhaps most important, the trip fostered the feeling of togetherness that so far has been this Western team's biggest asset.

"We talked a lot this summer," McNary said. "We stuck together over there because we had to. Where were we going to go? So we played with a lot of enthusiasm and emotion, just like we were playing in Diddle Arena. The trip was a success in every aspect."

Haskins agrees.

"For every dollar we spent," he said, "it's going to pay us back 10. That trip enabled me to move into this season with confidence."

So maybe Haskins ought to have Saturday's pre-game meal at Benihana of Tokyo. After all, the Hilltoppers will need every gimmick possible to put the chopsticks on coach Denny Crum's Cardinals.

Even though they're 7-0, the Toppers haven't played on the road since they hung a 73-58 defeat on the Japanese national team Aug. 15 in Maebashi. That's not exactly the same as playing U of L in Freedom Hall.

Indeed, imposing as was the monster Okayaha, he wasn't as scary as U of L's front line of 6-10 freshman Pervis Ellison, 6-7 sophomore Herbert Crook and 6-8 senior Billy Thompson.

Speaking of Thompson, Western's Frank is eager to meet U of L's star. Frank fancies himself an all-around big forward in the mold of Thompson, Kentucky's Kenny Walker and Auburn's Chuck Person.

In fact, although Frank was 6-9 last season, he insisted he be listed at 6-8 in the Western media guide so he would be the same height as his all-time hero, Earvin "Magic" Johnson of the Los Angeles Lakers.

Take it from Haskins, don't laugh.

"His potential is unlimited," Haskins said. "We may not be able to tap it before he leaves here. He can pass, shoot, dribble. He has so many things going for a guy his size -- and he's still growing."

So is Western, of course. Still growing. Still trying to scramble back into the Top 20 in the weekly wire-service ratings.

In a week when the Toyota Motor Co. gave an immeasurable boost to Kentucky's economy by announcing plans for an $800 million plant near Georgetown, a team made in Japan will try to make an Impact of its own.

"We can play with anybody in the country," said Frank, and "we intend to prove it Saturday night."

And the country in question, of course, wasn't Japan.
Sky-high defense

BILLY GORDON of Western jumps high to try to distract Louisville's Milt Wagner (with ball) during Saturday night's basketball game at Freedom Hall. Gordon had a career-high 28 points, but the Toppers suffered their first loss of the season to the Cardinals, 73-70.
Western makes the grade, but U of L wins the game

By RUSS BROWN
Staff Writer

Denny Crum exhaled and took a sip of a soft drink. "Well, just another routine day at the office," said the University of Louisville basketball coach.

But no one ever experienced a day at the office like the one Western Kentucky and U of L put Crum through last night. The 15th-ranked Cardinals (5-2) charged from 12 points behind in the second half to edge the previously unbeaten Hilltoppers 73-70 before a Freedom Hall gathering of 19,308.

"I'm really proud of this team," Western Kentucky coach Clem Haskins said. "We proved we can go on the road and play with anybody in the country. We had some really, really tough calls go against us and we were still within three with a chance to win."

U of L rallies to nip Western

Continued from Page One

eight minutes to claim a 55-54 lead with 10:44 left.

The Cards were trailing 54-49 when Ellison hit from in close, then Hall sank two free throws and put back a rebound after a steal by Crook.

The lead then changed hands five times before U of L eased in front to stay at 63-62 on two free throws by Crook with 3:16 remaining.

But the Cards couldn't gain more than a three-point edge and the victory wasn't assured until Hall sank two free throws at 0:01.

Western built a nine-point lead late in the first half, saw it quickly disappear in a bizarre series of plays, then proceeded to open its 11-point halftime lead.

The Hilltoppers appeared to have taken control of the contest when they ripped off 12 straight points in 2 1/2 minutes to turn a 23-20 deficit into a 32-23 advantage.

Gordon started the run with an 18-footer from the baseline and Asberry sank two free throws.

Driving down the outside of the lane following a U of L turnover, McNary flipped up a 10-foot semi-hook that rolled in.

After another U of L error, McNary penetrated and found Asberry underneath. Two U of L misses and fouls resulted in two free throws each by McNary and Gordon for a 32-23 lead.

"It was a great test for us and I think we passed with an 'A,'" sophomore forward Herbert Crook sparkled. U of L with a career-high 20 points and nine rebounds and also came up with a key steal in the waning moments.

"Herb's a tough competitor," Crum said. "He always seems to play good against the good teams. He works hard and goes after the ball."

U of L placed four other players in double figures, with guard Milt Wagner getting 14 points, four assists and three steals, guard Jeff Hall contributing 12 points and forward Billy Thompson and center Pervis Ellison adding 10 points each.

The Cards' balanced attack over­came a superb 28-point performance by Western senior guard Billy Gordon, the brother of former Lou­ isville guard Lancaster Gordon. He hit 13 of 18 shots.

The Hilltoppers also got 15 points off the bench from junior forward Bryan Asberry — all in the first half.

Louisville trailed 45-34 at halftime and 48-36 early in the second half before sending upset-minded Western to its first defeat in eight games.

"I'm really pleased with our comeback and playing the way we did in the second half," Crum said. "I'm proud of our second half; I think we played an excellent half."

Western Kentucky led 48-38 after a free throw by Clarence Martin and a length-of-the-court drive for a layup by guard James McNary at the start of the second half.

But Louisville charged back to outscore its visitors 18-6 in the next eight minutes to claim a 55-54 lead with 10:44 left.

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The lead then changed hands five times before U of L eased in front to stay at 63-62 on two free throws by Crook with 3:16 remaining.

But the Cards couldn't gain more than a three-point edge and the victory wasn't assured until Hall sank two free throws at 0:01.

Western built a nine-point lead late in the first half, saw it quickly disappear in a bizarre series of plays, then proceeded to open its 11-point halftime lead.

The Hilltoppers appeared to have taken control of the contest when they ripped off 12 straight points in 2 1/2 minutes to turn a 23-20 deficit into a 32-23 advantage.

Gordon started the run with an 18-footer from the baseline and Asberry sank two free throws.

Driving down the outside of the lane following a U of L turnover, McNary flipped up a 10-foot semi-hook that rolled in.

After another U of L error, McNary penetrated and found Asberry underneath. Two U of L misses and fouls resulted in two free throws each by McNary and Gordon for a 32-23 lead.
Lancaster's brother hampers Cards

Gordon a player in own right

He loves his brother, make no mistake, so don't take it wrong when Billy Gordon talks about his overwhelming desire to be his own man, establish his own identity, break free of the tiresome comparisons.

He took a big step last night as his Western Kentucky University Hilltoppers played the University of Louisville in Freedom Hall, the arena where Lancaster Gordon honed the game that would take him into the National Basketball Association.

But last night the only Gordon on the floor was Billy, the little brother who's finally coming into his own as the Hilltoppers' only senior starter and designated zone-buster.

"Once Lancaster graduated and left the state, that kind made it easier for me," Billy says. "I'm trying to get that off my back. I want to establish myself as an individual and not live off his name."

Billy and his twin sister, Johna, were born on March 19, 1964, when Lancaster was almost 2. Johna now plays volleyball for Jackson State in their hometown of Jackson, Miss.

When Lancaster was a senior at Jim Hill High, he averaged 26.5 points and 12 rebounds for a 22-3 team that included Billy, then a sophomore.

After Lancaster went to U of L, Billy sort of stepped into his sneakers at Jim Hill, where he averaged 26.4 points, eight rebounds and 5.1 assists as a senior in 1981-82.

He also decided to pursue his career and his education in Kentucky, but stopped at Bowling Green instead of journeying farther up Interstate-65 to Louisville.

Alas, however, Billy's college career — until now, at least — hasn't nearly measured up to that of his older brother, who broke into U of L's starting lineup midway through his freshman season and started on two teams that made it to the NCAA Final Four.

A check of the Cardinals record book shows that Lancaster ranks fifth all-time in scoring (1,614 points), third in field goals (682), and fifth in assists (363). He averaged an even 12 points for 134 games and also was recognized as an outstanding defender.

So far, however, Lancaster has encountered the same kind of frustration in the NBA that was Billy's fate in his first three years at Western. A first-round draft pick of the...
Standing senior year not only for himself, but for Haskins, who is in his sixth season as coach at the university where he was a consensus All-American in 1986-87.

The Western players are well aware that their coach's job may be in jeopardy if they don't have a winning season and go to a postseason tournament.

“We all understand what coach has on his back,” Gordon said. “But it’s been on us, too, because we haven’t played up to our capabilities for three years. We want to show that coach does a good job. The pressure is on him, but he doesn’t take the jump shot or make the pass.”

It’s interesting that when Haskins talks about this Western team, he mentions Gordon as one of his most dependable performers under pressure.

“Good coaches get you close, but good players win the close games,” Haskins said. “Now, for the first time, we’ve got key people who can make the key plays. Gordon will get you the bucket, McNary will make the pass or (Tellis) Frank will get the rebound.”

Of all the Hilltoppers, Gordon was perhaps the most excited about coming to Louisville to play the Cardinals in Freedom Hall.

In 1982-83, when Billy was a freshman at Western and Lancaster a junior at U of L, the Cards scored a 73-62 victory in Bowling Green. Lancaster had 14 points in 34 minutes, Billy two points in nine. The brothers never guarded each other.

The next season, the Cards took a 69-60 win when the Hilltoppers visited Freedom Hall. In that game, Lancaster outscored Billy 21-2.

But last night there was only one Gordon on the floor, and even their mother, Mrs. Mary Gordon, finally had to do something that she hadn’t done for years: root against the Cards.

“My mother still has a little Cardinal blood in her,” Billy said, laughing. “Oh, she hopes we win and everything, but she still asks how U of L is doing when I call home. I understand. Louisville’s almost like a second home to me, too.”

He played like Freedom Hall was a second home, too, from the moment he hit a soft jumper for Western’s first basket in a game in which the Hilltoppers were to take the Cardinals to the limit before dropping a 73-70 decision.

So hot was Gordon against U of L’s guards that Cardinals coach Denny Crum tried to stop him with taller players such as 6-7 Herbert Crook.

It didn’t make any difference. Gordon would only change the angle of his shot and swish another one. For the game, he connected on 13 of 17 from the floor and scored 28 points, high for both the game and his career.

“I shot the ball well,” Gordon said, “but I’d feel a lot better if we had won. Scoring isn’t everything. I came up here to win, not just to play well.”

With point guard McNary running the show, the Hilltoppers beat the Cards at their own game in the first half — pushing the ball up the floor, pressing all over the floor, pounding the boards at both ends.

With Gordon scoring 18, the Top- pers went to the locker room with a rather stunning 45-34 advantage. Once, when Haskins gave Gordon a breather, a teammate on the bench told him that he had overheard this comment from a U of L fan after one of Gordon’s hoops: “He got that from Lancaster.”

It was meant to be a compliment, of course, but Billy didn’t take it that way.

“I thought, ‘No, that’s not right,’” Gordon said. “I’ve worked hard to develop in my own right, and I think I deserve to be recognized for that.”

In the second half, after the Cards clawed back into it, Gordon hung tough.

He swished a jumper over U of L’s Billy Thompson to give Western a 56-55 lead with 9:56 to go. Moments later, he slid off a pick and drilled another one for a 60-59 lead.

Inside the final two minutes, with the Cards desperate to protect their lead, Gordon kept the Hilltoppers within one by hitting a baseline jumper at the 2:19 mark and a long one over Crook with 1:13 to go.

After the final buzzer, Crum and his staff made it a point to catch Gordon on the floor and shake his hand.

“Gordon had a great game,” Crum said. “I’m pleased for him, but he made it hard on us. If he had missed six or eight of those shots, it would have made it a lot easier.”

High praise, indeed, from the man who coached Billy Gordon’s big brother.
STEVE MILLER of Western does a reverse dunk during Wednesday night's game against Columbus College at Diddle Arena. The Toppers take a 7-6 record into Saturday's game at Louisville.

AP puts Lady Toppers a great team?

SLAMMIN'

TOP 25

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Poll taken before Monday's games

1 TEXAS (19-0)

2 GEORGIA (19-1)

3 VIRGINIA (20-0)

4 WESTERN KENTUCKY (19-1)
KAMI THOMAS (22) of Western's Lady Toppers passes the ball to a teammate as Memphis State's Yevette Blue defends during the game at Diddle Arena. The Lady Tops won for a team record 13th straight time with a 95-71 triumph Tuesday night. (See story, Page 1B.)
Western scores big upset
Win over UAB biggest in decade

By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor
BIRMINGHAM, Ala. - Alabama-Birmingham coach Gene Bartow said it was "one of the most sickening losses I've ever been associated with."

For Western — a team struggling to find itself the past three years in the Sun Belt Conference — the 75-72 overtime win Thursday night over Alabama-Birmingham was the biggest upset of this decade.

It was the first win over a team ranked as highly as UAB since 1978, when the Hilltoppers upset Syracuse in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

The Blazers were ranked No. 12 coming into the SBC clash at the Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center Coliseum. They fell to 16-3 overall and it was their first loss in five conference games.

Western lifted its record to 12-3 and 2-1 in league play.

"We didn't lose our composure," said Western coach Clem Haskins. "We hit the big buckets and executed. UAB played a great game. We've got to play this way all the time to compete in this conference."

Western's biggest bucket was a tough 15-foot jumper by Billy Gordon with five seconds left in the extra period that gave it a 74-72 lead and only its second-ever win over the Blazers. Western had never beaten UAB at the BJCCC until Thursday.

It didn't seem likely the Toppers would do it this time either, considering starting point guard James McNary and forward Steve Miller were back in Bowling Green. McNary nursing the flu, Miller a bad back.

The quartet of Kurk Lee, Keith Licklitter, Brett McNeal and Ray

On the move

JEROME MINCY (40) of Alabama-Birmingham drives around Western's Fred Tisdale in Thursday night's game at Birmingham. The Hilltoppers upset the Blazers 75-72 in overtime. UAB is the Sun Belt Conference favorite and the Blazers are ranked No. 12 in the nation.

The game was won by a 15-foot jumper by Billy Gordon with five seconds left in the extra period.

UAB
Player Min FG FG% FT FT% Reb A Pts
K Johnson 41 9 65.6 1 1 0 18
Tisdale 13 5 62.5 1 1 0 32
Martin 11 2 50.0 0 0 0 8
Lee 11 1 100.0 0 0 0 2
B Gordon 41 9 65.6 0 0 0 15
Licklitter 24 4 62.5 1 1 0 12
McNeal 10 2 66.6 4 3 0 14
Swupper 20 4 50.0 1 1 0 10
Frank 14 4 50.0 1 1 1 12
Asberry 12 3 57.1 1 1 0 8
Total 225 84 34.7 18 16 16 227

WKU
Player Min FG FG% FT FT% Reb A Pts
K Johnson 41 9 65.6 1 1 0 18
Tisdale 13 5 62.5 1 1 0 32
Martin 11 2 50.0 0 0 0 8
Lee 11 1 100.0 0 0 0 2
B Gordon 41 9 65.6 0 0 0 15
Licklitter 24 4 62.5 1 1 0 12
McNeal 10 2 66.6 4 3 0 14
Swupper 20 4 50.0 1 1 0 10
Frank 14 4 50.0 1 1 1 12
Asberry 12 3 57.1 1 1 0 8
Total 225 84 34.7 18 16 16 227

Campbell hit two three-pointers to put Mexico ahead 70-69. As he was about to shoot, Campbell missed, but the referee gave him a second shot.

Western win

Swogger filled in with 17 points, 10 rebounds, 8 assists and solid leadership from the point. A sometimes thunderous crowd of 10,017 witnessed the classic, and it saw UAB All-American Steve Mitchell become the Blazers' all-time leading scorer. He was the game's leader with 24 points; he fired in 8 of 19 from the floor and made all eight of his free-throw attempts.

The scoring record was held by Oliver Robinson with 1,577 points. What set up the fabulous finish was a red-hot rally by Western, which found itself down 50-41 after Archie Johnson slammed down an alley oop pass from Mitchell with 12:27 left in regulation.

Western had jumped out to a 12-4 lead in the opening minutes as Gordon scored eight of his team-high 20 points in the first 5:24 of the contest. Gordon then went cold until the second half.

"I was aiming the ball instead of just shooting it," Gordon said of his short slump. "I got on the wing and just shot the ball. If they came out and got me, then Kannard (Johnson) flashed to the high post. He got a lot of shots like that."

UAB fought back into the game by the 10 minute mark, and took its first lead at 27-26 on two bonus free throws by Mitchell. A 2-3 zone helped UAB to a 33-32 lead at the half.

The Blazers opened the second half with an 8-2 run to put them up 41-34 with 17:34 to go in regulation.

Western got back into the game on the strength of a lineup that included all scorers: Tellis Frank, Gordon, Johnson, McNeal and Swogger.

McNeal came in and immediately canned a jump shot from the foul line with 10:52 to go, making it 50-43.

"Yeah, yeah, coach told me to start shooting. We needed some points on the board," said McNeal, who had a wide smile plastered on his face after his seven-point performance in nine minutes of play.

Johnson, who was next in scoring for Western with 18 points in 41 minutes, scored from the foul line with 8:33 to go. The Toppers had a couple of turnovers to work with before then, but couldn't convert. Western forced UAB into 22 turnovers for the game.

"Once I get started I can usually keep going," Johnson said. The Cincinnati native scored a couple of baskets early on the way to a 7 for 11 night from the field. "I knew this was one of the games we needed to win, and we felt we could beat them."

The last five-point lead UAB would hold in the game came at 56-51 with 5:16 to go on a Mitchell drive.

Western tied the game 49 seconds later on a Johnson free throw.

From there things went back and forth until the last minute. Mitchell hit the last shot of regulation with 1:24 to go. That tied it at 66.

Gordon missed and Clarence Martin fell on the follow with 55 seconds left. After Jerome Minch missed with 28 seconds left, UAB took a timeout.

Western had the ball and Johnson missed a short jumper in the lane with 10 seconds left. A wild scramble for the ball ended in a jump ball with five seconds to go. Western got the ball on the alternate possession.

Lickliter, who took the ball in for Western on the ensuing possession, said he hit the ball off a UAB player, but the referee called a five-second violation.

Following another timeout by Western, Mitchell took the ball the length of the floor and fired a decent 10-foot shot that rolled off the rim at the buzzer.

After Martin hit a pair of bonus free throws to put Western up 68-66 in the first minute of overtime, UAB scored four points to retake the lead on Mitchell and Tracy Foster scores.

Two more Martin free throws tied it with 3:03 left. A pair of Minch free throws with 2:07 to go made it 72-70 with 2:07 left. Following a Western turnover and a miss by James Ponder, Johnson hit a turn around jumper with 33 seconds left.

Lickliter made up for his problem getting the ball in with a great defensive play on Foster with 18 seconds left. Foster got spun around and was called for walking after Lickliter almost made a steal.

"I was trying to go for him because I played against him in high school, and I knew I could get him. He's from Fort Wayne," Lickliter said.

Western worked the ball until Gordon put up the winning shot from the right side.

Johnson hit a bonus free throw for the final margin. Foster threw the ball away on the inbounds play after Gordon's bucket to give the ball back to Western.

"Turnovers when we had the lead killed us," Bartow said. "Western kept coming at us. They got things done."

On this night, they did it in a big way.
Western gains sweep over UAB with win

**Western’s reserves unnerve UAB 81-75**

*By TONY MOTON*

Staff Writer

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Reserves Tellis Frank and Ray Swogger were unexpected guests during a party held by Western Kentucky’s Hilltoppers last night at Diddle Arena.

Frank, a 6-foot-10 junior center, and Swogger, a 6-3 transfer out of Erie (N.Y.) Community College, came dressed to kill while helping Western execute Alabama-Birmingham in heart-stopping style, 81-75.

Frank scored 17 points and pulled down a career-high 12 rebounds. Swogger, meanwhile, added 12 points and eight rebounds as Western swept the two-game regular-season series.

“Swogger is a money player,” said Western Kentucky coach Clem Haskins. “He’s one of the finest clutch players in the nation. You ask me how he plays in the land of the giants? He just raises his game.”

About Frank, Haskins said: “He’s 6-10 and he played 7-10 tonight.”

Their performances supported the 20-point effort of senior guard Billy Gordon and offset a game-high showing by UAB’s sensational Steve Mitchell, who had 27.

The Hilltoppers beat the host Blazers 75-72 in overtime on Jan. 16, with Gordon scoring 20 points and hitting a jumper with five seconds left in OT to secure the win.

UAB coach Gene Bartow had criticized his then 12th-ranked team after last night’s contest, which was the Hilltoppers’ reserves played a big part in establishing Western’s 44-36 halftime lead. Frank and Swogger combined for 26 minutes, 10 points and 10 rebounds. Their biggest contribution came on the offensive glass, where each grabbed two rebounds apiece.

Swogger canned a short bank shot off a miss, giving the Hilltoppers a 34-31 lead at 3:26. From that point, Western outscored UAB 10-5 for the halftime margin.

Gordon continued his devilment against the Blazers early in the first half, but Mitchell, too, was at his demon best.

By hitting five of his first six shots on an array of long-range and driving jumpers, Gordon staked Western to a 24-20 lead midway through the period.

Mitchell, however, was more than up to the task of answering Gordon. His 17 first-half points included a feather-soft baseline jumper that dropped after bouncing on the rim four times. He was fouled on the play by James McNary, but missed the free throw.

Mitchell later sank a reverse layup on a fast break, spinning the ball high off the glass while gliding from left to right. That basket pulled the Blazers within three points, 32-29, at 4:28. Second later, he hit a 15-footer to bring his team within one and culminate a second series lapses by the Hilltoppers.

After going ahead 14-8 in the first seven minutes, Western surrendered six straight points — four following turnovers — for a 14-14 tie. UAB then slipped behind 32-25 at 6:25, but recovered with two more turnovers — and six consecutive points — to make it 32-31 before Western mounted its late scoring run.

“It was a great basketball game, and we were fortunate to beat a top 20 team,” Haskins said. “I’m thrilled with the performance, and the crowd was the sixth man tonight.”

Several fans in the standing-room-only crowd of 12,370 had let the game’s excitement level reach dangerous proportions in the second half when they flung candy bars toward the UAB bench and Bartow, who attempted to pull his players off the floor with 12:39 remaining.

The spectators apparently were protesting a fifth foul called on Western center Clarence Martin, who had just nailed his second rebound dunk of the game. Play was stopped momentarily as Haskins took the announcer’s microphone and asked fans to refrain from such gestures.

The attendance was Diddle’s largest since the arena capacity was reduced to 12,370 in 1980. “We’ve got ‘em sitting everywhere,” said Paul Just, Western’s sports information director.

The Hilltoppers’ reserves played a big part in establishing Western’s 44-36 halftime lead. Frank and Swogger combined for 26 minutes, 10 points and 10 rebounds. Their biggest contribution came on the offensive glass, where each grabbed two rebounds apiece.

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**Western clinches SBC title**

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**

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**OLD DOMINION (64)**
- Goddin 5-10 0-1 10, Harrington 4-10 2-4 10, Christian 1-2 0-1 2, McQuarter 7-15 6-6 20, Jenkins 6-11 0-0 12, Garner 0-0 0-0 0, Pont 0-4 0-0 0, Ellison 0-0 0-0 0, Connahan 3-4 0-0 6, Lacy 0-0 0-0 0.
- Totals 25-57 23-36 64.

**W. KENTUCKY (76)**
- Mason 6-11 2-5 14, James 1-2 0-0 2, Ogles 4-7 3-3 11, Haskins 3-4 4-4 12, O'Connell 8-13 3-10, Cunningham 0-0 0-0 0, Jones 2-3 0-0 4, Starks 3-4 0-0 8, Ottens 0-0 0-0 0, Carlson 3-5 0-0 10, Patton 0-0 0-0 0.
- Totals 27-56 13-20 76.

Halftime—W. Kentucky 30, Old Dominion 30.

Rebounds—Western Kentucky (Mason 14) 11, Old Dominion (Goodson 12) 13. Assists—Western Kentucky (Haskins, O'Connell 3) 11, Old Dominion (McQuarter 3) 8.

Fouled out—Harrington, Thomas.

Total fouls—Western Kentucky 17, Old Dominion 26. A—13,000.

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**Fans come out to help make history**

Ladies draw second largest crowd ever

(Lefl) Letters in the windows of Central Hall spell victory for the Lady Toppers, residents of the dorm. (Above) A more-than-capacity crowd fills Diddle Arena Sunday afternoon, setting the second highest attendance record in the nation for a women's basketball game.

Photos by Steve Hanks, Jeff, and Tim Broekema
Hilltoppers Top Nebraska By 8

MARCH 15, 1986

Three-guard offense helps Western dump Nebraska

Tonight's lineups

Western Kentucky (22-7)
F - Kannard Johnson 6-6 200 Jr.
F - Ray Swogger 6-6 200 Jr.
C - Clarence Martin 6-10 220 Sr.
G - Billy Gordon 6-1 180 Sr.

Reserves - Frank, 6-10, fr.; Tisdale, 6-7, so.; Tellts, 6-10, sr.; Johnson, 6-1, fr.; Tisdale, 6-7, so.; GalM, 6-1, sr.; Miller, 6-7, fr.; McNeal, 6-3, fr.; Asberry, 6-7, jr.; Lickliter, 6-1, fr.; Taylor, 6-2, so.

Nebraska (29-9)
F - Bernard Day 6-8 200 Jr.
F - John Matzke 6-8 190 Sr.
C - Chris Logan 6-10 220 Sr.
G - Brian Carr 6-1 180 Fr.

Reserves - Ballou, 6-4, fr.; Brown, 6-7, so.; Jackman, 6-9, jr.; McNeal, 6-4, jr.; Neubert, 6-7, so.; Sealer, 6-2, so.

The big news yesterday for basketball fans in Bowling Green wasn't only that the Western Kentucky University Hilltoppers were included in the 64-team NCAA Tournament field.

If coach Clem Haskins’ team survives its opening-round Southeast Regional game against Nebraska Friday night in Charlotte, N.C., it could set up a sort of mini-dream game for the Hilltopper faithful.

For in all likelihood, Western would get to meet its famed intra-state non-rival — the Big Blue from the University of Kentucky — on Sunday afternoon for the right to advance to the Southeast semifinals in the Omni at Atlanta.

Coach Eddie Sutton’s Wildcats, given the region’s No. 1 seed by virtue of their brilliant 29-3 record and Southeastern Conference championship, meet lowly Davidson Friday in their first game.

The only other meeting in history between the ‘Toppers and Cats came in the 1971 Mideast Regional in Athens, Ga., when Jim McDaniels, Clarence Glover & Co. clobbered UK 107-83 on their way to the Final Four.

Call them the Quarter-final Four — two of whom will retain a chance to make the NCAA Final Four after today's Southeast Regional double-header. Meeting the press at Charlotte, N.C., yesterday were (from left) Alabama's Wimp Sanderson, Clem Haskins of Western Kentucky, Illinois' Lou Henson and Eddie Sutton of Kentucky.

Associated Press
Kentucky played as well as it has in a while, maybe all season, in the first half of its 71-64 win against Western Kentucky, coach Eddie Sutton said.

And the Wildcats needed all of the 12-point halftime lead they built to hold off the Hilltoppers' second-half rally.

The Hilltoppers, down by 14 points midway through the second half, cut the margin to four points with just under four minutes left.

"It was a matter of just a couple of situations going the other way," WKU Clem Haskins said. "We had the opportunities and didn't cash in. Then they went back down and got the ball inside to (Kenny) Walker."

Walker scored 32 points and hit all 11 of his field goal attempts. But guard Roger Harden pulled the Wildcats out of their stickiest situation in the second half.

"It was a matter of just a couple of situations going the other way," Haskins said. "We got pretty good shots and didn't hit them," Haskins said.

"We hit the shots we normally make and it's a four or five point game."

"That just killed us, because we got pretty good shots and didn't hit them," Haskins said.

"We hit the shots we normally make and it's a four or five point game."

"It's kind of like baseball," Sutton said. "You have .250 hitters and .350 hitters. But, sometimes in the bottom of the ninth, it's better to have the .250 guy (Harden averages 6.8 points) at the plate."

"It's just the kind of guy that's he's a great competitor, he's got great bloodlines and he knows the game."

Haskins said the Hilltoppers' philosophy was to "let Walker have his 20 to 25, because nobody's going to stop him anyway," and concentrate on shutting down the rest of the Kentucky offense.

It might have worked, except for a breakdown in Western's offense. The Hilltoppers did not score in the final five minutes of the first half.

Today's lineups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kentucky (23-7)</th>
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<th>Western Kentucky (23-7)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F-Kennard Johnson</td>
<td>6-9 235 Jr. 15.6</td>
<td>F-Kennard Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>F-Ray Swoffer</td>
<td>6-3 185 Sr. 14.1</td>
<td>F-Ray Swoffer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G-Clarence Martin</td>
<td>6-6 245 Jr. 16.2</td>
<td>G-Clarence Martin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G-Billy Garden</td>
<td>6-7 180 Sr. 14.1</td>
<td>G-Billy Garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G-James Mckay</td>
<td>6-10 180 So. 7.6</td>
<td>G-James Mckay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserves - Tallas Frank, f, 6-6, fr, 3.7</td>
<td>Reserves - Tallas Frank, f, 6-6, fr, 3.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun, Charlotte</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kentucky (30-3)</th>
<th></th>
<th>Western Kentucky (23-7)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F-Kenny Walker</td>
<td>6-7 210 Jr. 13.8</td>
<td>F-Edwards Walker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F-Winston Bennett</td>
<td>6-7 210 Jr. 13.8</td>
<td>F-Winston Bennett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G-James Blackman</td>
<td>6-7 210 Jr. 13.8</td>
<td>G-James Blackman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G-Davon Henson</td>
<td>6-6 190 Jr. 12.7</td>
<td>G-Davon Henson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserves - Richard Madison, f, 6-7, so, 3.1; Cedric Jenkins, g, 6-7, so, 3.6; Todd Ziegler, f, 6-7, so, 3.6; Leroy Byrd, g, 6-5, sr, 2.8; Paul Andrews, g, 6-4, fr, 2.7; Irvin Thomas, f, 6-7, fr, 3.2.</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kentucky 24 40 64
Western Kentucky 14 18 32

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**Today's lineup**

**Game:** 2:40 p.m. BST, Charlotte, N.C.

**Television:** WHRL-Channel 11

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- **F-Ray Swoffer** | 6-3 185 Sr. 14.1
- **G-Clarence Martin** | 6-6 245 Jr. 16.2
- **G-Billy Garden** | 6-7 180 Sr. 14.1
- **G-James Mckay** | 6-10 180 So. 7.6
- **Reserves - Tallas Frank, f, 6-6, fr, 3.7
- **Sun, Charlotte**

**Western Kentucky (23-7)**

- **F-Kennard Johnson** | 6-9 200 Jr. 13.8
- **F-Ray Swoffer** | 6-3 185 Jr. 13.7
- **G-Clarence Martin** | 6-6 245 Jr. 16.2
- **G-Billy Garden** | 6-7 180 Sr. 14.1
- **G-James Mckay** | 6-10 180 So. 7.6
- **Reserves - Tallas Frank, f, 6-6, fr, 3.7
- **Sun, Charlotte**

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**Statistics**

**Kentucky**

- **FG-52/2 (60.5) vs. 49/17 (29.4)**
- **FT-.667 vs. .625**
- **Rebounds: 36 vs. 33**
- **Blocks: 3 vs. 2**
- **Turnovers: 16 vs. 22**
- **Totals: 77, 24.4, 23.5**

**Western Kentucky**

- **FG-41/15 (27.3) vs. 46/17 (27.1)**
- **FT-.667 vs. .625**
- **Rebounds: 36 vs. 33**
- **Blocks: 3 vs. 2**
- **Turnovers: 16 vs. 22**
- **Totals: 77, 24.4, 23.5**

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**Reserves**

- **Tallas Frank, f, 6-6, fr, 3.7
- **Cedric Jenkins, g, 6-7, so, 3.6
- **Todd Ziegler, f, 6-7, so, 3.6
- **Leroy Byrd, g, 6-5, sr, 2.8
- **Paul Andrews, g, 6-4, fr, 2.7
- **Irvin Thomas, f, 6-7, fr, 3.2**
HERE IS the 1985-86 edition of the Western Kentucky University men's basketball team, which won a bid to the NCAA Tournament. The Hilltoppers (22-7) open Southeast Region play Friday in Charlotte, N.C. against Nebraska. Front row, (left to right): Trainer Randy Deere, Assistant Coach Dave Farrar, Head Coach Clem Haskins, Athletic Director John Oldham, Assistant Coaches Dwane Casey and Don Evans. Second row: Manager John Wethington, Billy Gordon, Bryan Ashberry, Steve Miller, Kannard Johnson, Tellis Frank, Clarence Martin, Fred Tisdale, Ray Swogger, Managers Alan King and James Hogan. Third row: James McNary, Keith Lickliter, Kurk Lee, Brett McNeal and Chuckie Taylor.
Clarence Martin (55) skies over Kentucky's Kenny Walker, as Winston Bennett and Tellis Frank look on, in NCAA tournament action in Charlotte, N.C., Sunday afternoon.
Westward says experience will get it to Final Four

Today's lineups

Eastern University — Little Mason scored 18 points and Kami Thomas had 14 as Western Kentucky defeated James Madison 72-51.

Western Kentucky (31-3) will play Rutgers Saturday for the East championship and a berth in the NCAA Final Four March 28 and 30 in Lexington, Ky.

James Madison (31) — Franken 3-7 2-2 10, Harris 5-4 4-4 14, O. D. Budd 2-3 0-0 6, Jackson 2-6 0-0 4, D. L. Budd 1-4 0-0 2, Dudley 5-10 3-13, Tuff 3-0 0-0 6, Broughton 9-8 0-0 5, Flynn 0-0 0-0 2, Mason 0-0 0-0 0, Hinton 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 20-19 11-11 50.

Western Kentucky (32) — Jones 3-5 2-2 8, Mason 4-9 10-11-18, Carlson 5-7 1-2 11, Haskins 3-9 4-4 11-12, Haskins 2-9 1-4-5, Thomas 3-7 0-0 11-14, O’Connell 3-2 4-4 8, Tayloe 5-0 0-0 5, Cunningham 6-4 0-0 10, Combs 0-0 0-0 0, Stark 1-1 1-1 3, Ottens 8-8 0-0 16, Craig 2-2 0-0 4, James 2-0 0-0 4, Patton 0-0 1-1 1. Totals 34-44 20-20 74.


Final Four is next for WKU

Lady Tops win second straight trip to Final 4

SPORTSTALK

BEHIND THE SCENES IN THE WORLD OF SPORTS

Getting WKU in, that’s the ticket

If Western Kentucky makes it to the Final Four of the NCAA women’s basketball tournament, it could solve a lot of problems.

Advance ticket sales for the tournament, March 28 and 30 in Lexington, Ky., have been slower than expected.

Only 2,000 tickets have been sold for the games, to be played in Kentucky’s 23,000-seat Rupp Arena.

But Western Kentucky is only three hours away by car.

“The tournament would do better financially if we were in it,” said Paul Just of Western Kentucky. “There could be a significant increase in crowd numbers.”

Georgia’s Tim Hicks agrees and says that may explain why Western Kentucky was seeded in the relatively weak East Region.

“Western has an excellent chance of making the Final Four based on their draw alone,” said Hicks. “The prospect of an additional two or three thousand tickets may have gone into that decision.”

Officials of top-ranked University of Texas also expect strong fan support if the Lady Longhorns advance.

“The last time we went to the finals, we had approximately 400 to 500 fans make the trip,” said Texas’ Chris Plonsky.

Claudette Wakefield of Accent Travel in Austin, Texas, said “about 180 people have expressed interest in a charter plan” for Lexington, and, should the Longhorns qualify, she expects about 250 people to make the trip.

Lady Tops’ fans greet Final-4-bound women

W. KENTUCKY (35)

Judy James 16 5-10, Mason 3-4 0-0 3, Tuff 3-0 0-0 3, Haskins 5-7 0-0 3, O’Connell 1-0 0-0 1, Cunningham 0-0 0-0 0, Stark 0-0 0-0 0, Ottens 0-0 0-0 0, Craig 2-2 0-0 4, James 1-0 0-0 0, Franklin 1-0 0-0 0, Franklin 0-0 0-0 0, Haskins 2-0 0-0 2, Thomas 7-0 0-0 1.

RUTGERS (42)

Wicks 3-3 1-1, Foley 4-7 1-2 9, Howard 4-7 1-2 9, Malouf 1-0 0-0 1, Watts 7-0 1-0 5, Shilling 1-0 0-0 1, Lender 1-0 0-0 1, Berry 1-0 0-0 1.

Halftime — W. Kentucky 34, Rutgers 28. Fouled out — Mason, Wicks, Foley, Howard.

Rebounds — W. Kentucky 35 (Mason 16), Rutgers 17 (Howard 11). Assists — W. Kentucky 23 (Haskins 11), Rutgers 24 (Malouf 8). Total Fouls — W. Kentucky 24, Rutgers 24. Technical — Malouf 1-2, 12.

Lady Tops’ fans greet Final-4-bound women

Clemette Haskins: Has Western Kentucky on roll.

Everything’s first class in the Western locker room. This is junior point guard Clemette Haskins’ special place.
Western Kentucky seeks replay of 'miracle'

By Debbie Becker
USA TODAY

Western Kentucky coach Paul Sanderford knows exactly what to do to prepare for Friday's national semifinal game against No. 1 Texas. "Pray," said Sanderford. The Lady Hilltoppers were the last team to beat Texas. That victory came in last year's Mideast Regional final on a last-second shot before a home crowd in Bowling Green, Ky. "It was a miracle last year," said Sanderford. "I hope the good Lord pulls another off because that's what it will take." That win against Texas sent Western Kentucky to the NCAA semifinals where it lost to Georgia 91-78.

Western Kentucky is the only team from last year's Final Four to return. Defending national champion Old Dominion failed to make the 40-team field; Georgia was upset by Tennessee in the Mideast Regional, and Northeast Louisiana is on probation and ineligible for postseason play.

Texas coach Jody Conradt said revenge isn't on her team's mind — a national title is. "We want to win. It looks to me like they stand in the way of a national championship. So if that's our goal, we need to beat them," she said.

No. 4 Western Kentucky (32-3) plays undefeated Texas (32-0) in Friday's first game, at 7:10 p.m. EST, in Lexington, Ky. No. 3 Southern California (30-4) plays No. 16 Tennessee (24-9) in the second semifinal.

"Texas is not unbeatable," said Sanderford. "But it's going to take a great deal. Having accomplished that feat one time could be an advantage. But it could be a deterrent in the same way since Texas might have taken us lightly before. I'm sure Jody would like to win by 30."

"I'd rather be in our shoes than Texas' shoes. Basically, everyone expects them to win. We're just going to line up, play hard and see what happens."

The Hilltoppers are expected to bring anywhere from 5,000 to 8,000 fans on the three-hour trip from Bowling Green. "I'm sure you'll see some red towels," said Sanderford. "We're hoping the state of Kentucky will realize that we're a home-grown basketball team. We start four players from Kentucky. We hope the people in the state, even if they aren't Western fans, we'll come out and support us."

The key to Friday's game, Sanderford says, is limiting turnovers, shooting accurately and keeping the team's top players — Lillie Mason, Clemette Haskins and Kami Thomas — out of foul trouble. "Basically, we're a man-to-man basketball team. We're not going to change for Texas or anyone else. Their balance and depth create a problem. "We're not feeling any pressure. We're just going to go to Lexington, play hard and do the best job we can."
Mason sets scoring mark in win

The Lady Knights cut the margin to six, 34-28, by intermission, but Western went on a 6-2 run the first two minutes of the second period, forcing Grentz to call a timeout with Western leading 40-30.

"We made a couple of runs at them," Grentz said, "but we couldn't nail a shot that would get us over the hump. Their tournament experience helped them, and our inexperience really hurt us."

The veteran guard combination of Thomas and Haskins forced Rutgers' freshman backcourt into six turnovers and held them to only six points.

Senior Annette "Cookie" Jones was also a factor, finishing the game with 11 points, three assists and two steals.

Jones, who was in the right place at the right time, sank two free throws and stole the inbound pass for a layup that put Western up 40-30.

Mason was voted the tournament's most valuable player, while Haskins and Thomas were named to the all-tournament team.

"A lot of people didn't think we'd get this far," Sanderford said. "But these kids wanted it, and we're the only 1985 Final Four team making a repeat appearance."

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Coach Steve Small, Coach Paul Sanderford and the Topper bench congratulate Melinda Carlson at Saturday's game. The Tops play in the Final Four this weekend.

See MASON, Page 10
Mason named to Kodak team

By DAN HARTLAGE
Daily News Sports Writer
LEXINGTON, Ky. — Western Lady Topper Lillie Mason spent a lot of time surrounded by reporters Thursday afternoon after she was named to the Kodak All-America Team.

The 10-member team is compiled by the Women’s Basketball Coaches Association.

Mason admitted that she was not surprised at the announcement, but added, “This is a real honor because I’m on the same list as some of the great players in the country.”

Southern California’s Cheryl Mason also made the team. It was the fourth straight year for the 6-3 senior.

Mason, a 6-2 senior from Russellville, Ky., is averaging 20.1 points per game and 8.6 rebounds. She hits 56.8 percent of her field-goal attempts and is accurate from the charity stripe 78 percent of the time.

She is a major reason why Western has reached the NCAA’s Final Four in Lexington. The Lady Toppers, who play Texas tonight at 6:05 CST, are 32-2.

All of the players named to the All-America team were present in Lexington to accept their award.

The other eight players selected were Cindy Brown, a 6-2 junior center from California State-Long Beach; Wanda Ford who just completed her senior year at Drake; Jennifer Gilom of Mississippi, a 6-foot senior center; North Carolina’s Pam Leake, a 5-7 four-year starter; 6-2 junior Katrina McClain of Georgia; Teresa Edwards, also of Georgia, a 5-foot junior guard; Rutgers’ sophomore center Sue Wicks, and Kamilie Ethridge of Texas.

Miller is only the third player to make the All-America team four consecutive years. The others were Ann Meyers, formerly of UCLA, and Annette Woodard, currently with the Harlem Globetrotters.

Miller, whose Women of Troy play Tennessee in tonight’s second game at Rupp Arena, is averaging 26 points and 12 rebounds per game. She is hitting 62 percent from the floor.

Edwards said that “it feels a little strange to be here (Lexington) but not playing. I thought we would be playing here.”

Her Lady Bulldogs, who won the Southeastern Conference and spent most of the season in the top five of the Associated Press Poll, fell to Tennessee by three points in the Mideast Regional Final. Their season ended with a 30-2 record.

Georgia defeated Western by 33 points in February.

“But I think the teams that are here are the best,” Edwards said. “We can beat them, but we didn’t when it counted. That’s fair.”

Ethridge, whose Lady Longhorns are in the Final Four for the first time, had some interesting thoughts on women’s basketball.

“It’s funny,” she said, “people think of us (college players) as competitors, and I guess we are. But we also know that this sport can’t survive if we kill each other off.

“It’s almost like a club and we want more members. Someday, maybe you kids will see how women’s basketball will be in demand like women’s tennis or golf. That is when I can look at this plague and be proud.

“Right now, this award is for me, but in 15 years I’ll know that it was for an entire group of players that did their part for their sport.”

Love Those Lady Topppers!

Snyder congratulates the Western Kentucky Lady Hilltoppers for reaching the NCAA Final Four. Your skill, character, hard work & determination plus a touch of magic have carried you to the top!

Thanks to both the men’s & women’s 1985-86 basketball teams, Western's tradition of excellence & winning attitude have exemplified for all to see.

We are proud of your accomplishments and wish the Lady Hilltoppers luck in their continued quest for the National Championship!

WOMEN’S NCAA FINAL FOUR LINEUPS

At Rupp Arena, Lexington. First game: 7:10 p.m. Television: ESPN

Western Kentucky (32-3)

Texas (32-9)

F-Andrea Lloyd 6-2 Jr. 17.1
C-Annette Smith 5-11 Sr. 16.6
G-Brenda Simmons 5-9 Jr. 11.4
G-Kami Ethridge 5-5 So. 5.2
Reserves – Chantiss Davis 6-1 Fr., f, 12.4
Gay Humphrey, 5-11, fr., c, 7.3, Cara Pridy, 5-6, fr., c, 6.0, Audrey Smith, 5-9, sr., 4.4, Yekonda Wilkinson, 5-14, so., 7.8, C.J. Jones, 6-1, so., 1, 3.3, Paulette Mool. 5-10, so. 2.2.

F-Fran Harris 6-0 Sr. 13.6
F-Andrea Lloyd 6-2 Jr. 9.1
C-Annette Smith 5-11 Sr. 10.6
G-Brenda Simmons 5-9 Jr. 11.4
G-Kami Ethridge 5-5 So. 5.2
Reserves – Chantiss Davis 6-1 Fr., f, 12.4
Gay Humphrey, 5-11, fr., c, 7.3, Cara Pridy, 5-6, fr., c, 6.0, Audrey Smith, 5-9, sr., 4.4, Yekonda Wilkinson, 5-14, so., 7.8, C.J. Jones, 6-1, so., 1, 3.3, Paulette Mool. 5-10, so. 2.2.

Texas (32-9)

F–Gooden Gordon 6-0 Fr. 14.1
F–Karla Horton 6-2 So. 10.3
F–Shayna Floyd 5-8 Fr. 12.7
G–Dawn Marsh 5-6 So. 5.9
G–Shawna Saxton 5-7 Jr. 12.5
Reserves – Pam Mazy, 5-6, sr., 13.6, Karen Seatridge, 5-8, so., 1.8, Jody Smith, 5-5, so., 1.1, Jenny Gieger, 5-10, so., 1.1, Cherie Leishman, 5-5, fr. 1.8, Kim Taylor, 5-10, fr., 1.9.

F–Stephanie Gooden 6-0 Fr. 14.1
F–Cheryl Miller 5-11 Fr. 10.9
F–Shayna Floyd 5-8 Fr. 12.7
G–Dawn Marsh 5-6 So. 5.9
G–Shawna Saxton 5-7 Jr. 12.5
Reserves – Pam Mazy, 5-6, sr., 13.6, Karen Seatridge, 5-8, so., 1.8, Jody Smith, 5-5, so., 1.1, Jenny Gieger, 5-10, so., 1.1, Cherie Leishman, 5-5, fr. 1.8, Kim Taylor, 5-10, fr., 1.9.

Southern Cal (30-4)

F–Carrie Driver 5-10 So. 7.9
F–Holly Ford 5-8 Sr. 7.4
F–Cheryl Miller 5-11 Fr. 10.9
F–Shayna Floyd 5-8 Fr. 12.7
G–Dawn Marsh 5-6 So. 5.9
G–Shawna Saxton 5-7 Jr. 12.5
Reserves – Karon Howell, 5-8, fr., g, 5.5, Kaelen Wright, 5-7, so., g, 4.1, Paula Pryor, 5-4, so., 1.0, Melissa McCray, 5-9, fr., 1.7, Cheryl Littlejohn, 6-2, fr., c, 3.2, Lisa Cecil, 5-9, fr., g, 5.8.

F–Courtney Building 5-8 Sr. 17.0
F–Carrie Driver 5-10 So. 7.9
F–Holly Ford 5-8 Sr. 7.4
F–Cheryl Miller 5-11 Fr. 10.9
F–Shayna Floyd 5-8 Fr. 12.7
G–Dawn Marsh 5-6 So. 5.9
G–Shawna Saxton 5-7 Jr. 12.5
Reserves – Karon Howell, 5-8, fr., g, 5.5, Kaelen Wright, 5-7, so., g, 4.1, Paula Pryor, 5-4, so., 1.0, Melissa McCray, 5-9, fr., 1.7, Cheryl Littlejohn, 6-2, fr., c, 3.2, Lisa Cecil, 5-9, fr., g, 5.8.
The Western Kentucky University Lady Toppers — led by Logan Countian Lillie Mason — made it to the NCAA Final Four for the second straight year, won 32 games and played before a great many Logan Countians in a national record crowd of 13,000. Mason was an All-American, became a candidate for player of the year, was named MVP of both the conference regular season and its tournament and established herself as the all-time leading scorer — men or women — in WKU history.

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Final Four Magic

(Staff Color Photo by Bob Skipper)
Texas-WKU is whole show in Final Four

By DAN HARTLAGE
Daily News Sports Writer
LEXINGTON, Ky. — Sorry Tennessee. You too, Southern California. But, like it or not, your teams are going to be taking a backseat Friday night while the Western Lady Toppers and the Lady Longhorns of Texas settle an old score (ESPN, WDNS-FM).

All four teams are Involved in the Final Four of the women's NCAA Tournament at Rupp Arena, and the winners will play Sunday for the national championship.

But for now, the talk of the town is riding on the Western-Texas game. And why not? It should be a great one.

Texas has not lost a game since last season when the Lady Tops knocked the Lady Longhorns out of the NCAA Mideast Regional in Diddle Arena.

Texas is 32-0 this year and Western is 32-3. Members of the media from throughout the nation are concentrating on this game as if it was for the national championship.

Traditionally in a double-header situation, the big drawing card is the last game of the evening, but for some unknown reason ESPN insisted that Western lock horns with Texas in the early game.

When a national television network speaks, women's basketball reacts. Therefore, Western will tipoff at 6:05 CST and Tennessee will challenge USC at about 8:30.

Texas coach Jody Conradt spent a lot of time Wednesday teasing the press about its "pursuit of an angle."

"You all are looking for any slant on a story that you can find aren't you?" she said at a press conference Wednesday. "Well this is one game that you won't have to look very far for an angle."

The coach is right about that.

One of the big discussions of the week has to do with pressure. Is Western the team facing the heat? Afterall, the Lady Toppers are the only team in the Final Four who was there last season. So they should be the favorite, right?

Western coach Paul Sanderford insists that he feels no pressure to win. "Texas is the team that has been rated at the top all season," he explains.

But Conradt responds, "Western was here last year, and they are playing in their own state, so I think they should be the favorites."

That type of friendly bantering went on for quite awhile Wednesday, but when the coaches talked in private, away from the lights and cameras, they had a more realistic approach.

Sanderford, for example, said that his team will have to play its best game of the season, "If we are to have a chance at winning."

Last Saturday, Western defeated Rutgers 89-74 in the finals of the East Regional in Philadelphia. Sanderford said that it was the best game his team has put together all season.

"But we'll have to play even better than that Friday," he said.

Standing outside of her hotel room a couple of hours after the press conference, Conradt admitted that her team may be facing a pressure situation.

"We have some seniors on this team that have set their minds on this day for four years," she said. "I'm not sure how they feel about finally getting the chance. Since they have never been to a Final Four before, I hope they don't think of this as their first and last chance."

Several things have to happen if Western is going to have a chance Friday.

"First of all," Sanderford said, "we have to make Texas take a lot..."
of shots from 15 to 18 feet out. If they get a lot of layups, we're through.

The Lady Toppers must stay out of foul trouble. Especially the big three: Lillie Mason 20 points per game), Kami Thomas (17 ppg), and Clemette Haskins (12.6 ppg).

Mason is also the team's leading rebounder with an average of 8.7 per game.

Haskins is the top Lady Topper passer. She has 225 assists on the season and has reached double figures in assists in five of her last six games.

Finally, one of two freshmen guards must play 15 minutes of quality basketball for Western.

"We'll need Susie Starks or Debbie O'Connell to relieve Clemette," Sanderford said.

Then he added, "If we don't accomplish all of those goals, we could lose by 20 points."

Conradt said that she learned a few things from last year's game with Western. "They forced our defense to spread out," she explained. "Then they drove on defense to spread out," she explained. "Then they drove one-on-one against us.

I realized after the game that my team wasn't flexible on defense. All we did last year was play transition ball. But after that game I learned that sometimes you have to play half-court ball."

Conradt said that this time she is prepared for Western's spread offense.

The game could be won or lost on the bench. Sanderford said, "We have to do something during the course of the game to make them change. We can't let them do whatever they want. Our coaching staff needs force them into making adjustments, make them do something that they didn't plan on."

Conradt agreed. "We think we are prepared this time. When the game starts it's important for us to not worry about what Western is doing. Let's just worry about our game plan.

The leading scorer for Texas is senior forward Fran Harris. She is getting 13.6 ppg and is good for 3.7 rebounds per contest. Harris is a 6-6 Dallas native.

Clarissa Davis has been scoring 12.6 ppg from the low post position for Texas. The 6-1 freshman is also the team's second leading rebounder with a 7.2 average.

One of the hard luck stories of the Final Four is Lady Longhorn Annette Smith. Before suffering a knee injury last season, she was one of the best players in the nation.

However, 17 months ago, she damaged some cartilage in her knee and has been rehabilitating it ever since.

The 5-11 senior center-forward has still managed to average 10.6 points and 4.1 rebounds per game.

Texas was also staggered by the injury to Andrea Lloyd (7.7 rebounds per game). A 6-2 junior and earlier this season she suffered an injury similar to Smith.

Lloyd, who is averaging 9.5 points per game, will probably require surgery at the end of the year. In fact, some doctors have told her that she is playing on borrowed time. As a result, Lloyd isn't required to practice. As long as she shows up for the games.

Texas' floor general is 5-5 senior guard Kamie Ethridge. She is averaging 5.2 points and 5.5 assists per game.

Western and Texas are two of the most offensive teams in the country. Texas is averaging 83.3 points per game and Western is hitting for 68 ppg.

The Lady Toppers have scored 100 or more points in five different times and the Lady Longhorns have hit the century mark five times.

How they match up

GUARDS: Texas has an outstanding point guard in Kamie Ethridge. Ethridge is an excellent passer and is capable of changing the momentum if Texas hits a dry spell. Texas' other guard, Beverly Williams, has been playing exceptionally well during the NCAA tournament, and kept the Lady Longhorns in the Mideast Regional final against Ole Miss. But Western has a talented backcourt of its own in Kamie Smith and Clemette Haskins. These veterans guards possess quickness and Haskins is an exceptional ball handler. Thomas is capable of scoring from a long range.

FORWARDS: Texas has the edge here in Andrea Lloyd. Rebounding is crucial in winning this game and that's what Lloyd does best. A physical player, she's a tremendous asset on defense and is capable of getting inside on offense. Western will be relying on forward Lillie Mason — the player whose shot as the buzzer sounded knocked off LSU last season — to do the damage against the bigger Texas forwards.

CENTERS: Texas has the edge here in Annette Smith over Western's Melinda Carlson. Smith is one of the top defensive players in the country and will cause trouble for Western's inside players.

BENCH STRENGTH: Texas has the most depth of any team in the country. Opposing coaches have said that Texas' second team could beat a number of ranked teams. Audrey Smith is back for Texas after a knee injury, making the team even deeper. Western has been hurt by the loss of starter Charlene James, who has been out since February with a knee injury. Briquette Combs injured an ankle late in the season, but is expected to play.

ANALYSIS: The only undefeated team in Division I, Texas has dreamed of a national title for three years. This should be the year the Lady Longhorns win it all, but they'll have to avoid a poor first half like the one they played in the Mideast Regional final against Mississippi. For Western to stay in the game, it will have to keep pace with Texas' fast break and full-court press.
Texas knocks Western out of NCAA tourney

By Jim Turner

America learned Friday night what many Kentuckians had known for a long time: the Lady Toppers of Western Kentucky University could not beat a good team without Lillie Mason.

Coach Paul Sanderford's Lady Toppers were not playing a good team Friday; they were facing a great one, perhaps the most talented women's team of all time.

And with Lillie Mason sidelined most of the second half with fouls, the University of Texas Lady Longhorns turned a close game into a romp in the semifinals of the NCAA Women's Tournament.

Half of the record-setting crowd turned from WKU red to depressed blue at Lexington's Rupp Arena when Mason quickly drew her fourth and fifth fouls against Texas. Mason and guard Clemette Haskins had led a Western charge that tied the game in the second half, but without Mason, Texas stampeded to a 90-65 victory.

Two days later, Texas got women's basketball's most famous player ever, Cheryl Miller of Southern Cal, into similar foul trouble and romped to an un-

(Continued from Page 11)

realized that I hadn't made the transition to defend against players like Haskins and Mason." For the first time in her coaching career, Conradt did not open in a fullcourt press. She knew her team couldn't stop point guard Haskins that way.

Instead she threw a halfcourt trap at the Lady Toppers, a trap the Lady Longhorns had worked on all year just in case they met Western again.

"I really wanted them to press," Sanderford said. "We thought we could beat it again."

To stop Mason, the former Miss Kentucky Basketball from Olmstead, Conradt had her players wear tape on their left hands to remind them to overguard her in that direction.

With three of the best players in the country taking turns guarding her, Mason started slowly. She had only one basket at the 2:13 mark in the half. At that point she took a defensive rebound and went the length of the court with it for a 6-foot shot in the lane. That reduced what had been a 13-point Texas lead to nine. Quickly she hit two more goals.

When Haskins hit from 14 feet with three seconds, Western trailed by only five at halftime. Mason had a game-high seven rebounds at the intermission.

Lillie's free throw tied the game at 39-39 with 17:14, but Western went cold, Mason started being called for fouls, and Texas was on the move.

Mason drew her fourth foul at 11:47 blocking a shot. She sat down for only two minutes but that let Texas build a lead. She tried not to foul upon re-entering, but at the 7:18 mark she was whistled for her fifth personal trying to stop Texas' brilliant freshman, Clarissa Davis, from driving the baseline.

A basketball career that began at Olmstead in the fall of 1974 when she was a sixth grader may have ended at 7:41 p.m. in Lexington on March 28, 1986. In that marvelous career she became Western's all-time leading scorer and rebounder and was named most valuable player of two regional NCAA tournaments along with being a member of the Final Four honor team as a junior.

"I think this was one of my worst games ever," Mason told the press afterwards. That statement may have cost her a second All-Final Four berth. The honor went to Haskins, who scored 21 points (Mason had 15) but made 10 turnovers.

Davis, who said she felt like she had played in that loss to Western last year while still a high school student, was named MVP of the Final Four. She scored 32 points and grabbed 18 rebounds in the game.

Western fans left Lexington convinced that Lillie Mason is as good or better than the highly-acclaimed Miller. But Clarissa Davis — that may be a different story.
Haskins’ leaving a surprise but program in great shape

Say it ain’t so, Clem.
I must admit that I never thought that Clem Haskins, a born and bred Western Kentucky University man, would leave the hill to coach basketball at another school.

I thought that he was just using Minnesota to get a new and longer contract out of Western. But Clem fooled everyone by taking the Minnesota job, where he starts out behind everyone in the Big Ten but Northwestern and maybe Wisconsin.

I feel the same way about Clem that I did when I told former Kentucky assistant Leonard Hamilton, “If Oklahoma State is what you want, fine, but there are better places. Why beat your head up against the wall?”

But Clem likes the challenge and he got tired of being taken for granted at Western. I think he would have felt more respected if he had been from someplace else. He could never totally satisfy anybody. He’s honest, and he often spoke his mind — and he was constantly criticized for expressing his opinions.

And, frankly, it was short-sighted on Western’s part to stick to a three-year contract. Four- and five-year contracts are the norm at Division I schools. If a longer contract and a little more money were all that separated Western and Haskins, it will be an expensive move on the school’s part.

Dr. Kern Alexander, Western’s new president, inherits a handful of athletic problems.

In addition to having to replace Haskins, Western now is interviewing for a successor to John Oldham, who is retiring this summer as athletic director.

In view of what has happened to Western’s football program since the school left the Ohio Valley Conference and entered the Sun Belt, Alexander also must decide whether to leave football a virtual orphan or get in a conference that also plays football.

It wouldn’t surprise long-time Western supporters if Jim Feix, former football coach and now the university’s director of alumni affairs, is asked to shoulder the athletic directorship.

Haskins leaves the Hilltoppers’ basketball program in excellent shape. The Big Red should be a better club next season than it was this past season, when it gave Kentucky all the Wildcats wanted in the NCAA Tournament.

Oldham said that he was “privileged to coach Clem as a player at Western. He and I have had a close personal and professional relationship.”

See PULASKIS PAGE 11, col. 1, this section

The Gem’ puts end to bittersweet reign

Haskins accepts Minnesota job offer

Clem Haskins throws in the red towel
New coach

MURRAY ARNOLD, an assistant basketball coach for the NBA’s Chicago Bulls, waves a red towel while seated next to Big Red after being named Western Kentucky University’s new head men’s basketball coach this morning on campus. Arnold replaces the head coaching spot at Murray State.

Arnold believes in a “firm, consistent” approach to discipline. “I’ve never seen a player who could be a loser from 8 to 3, then be a winner from 3:30 to game time,” he said. “If they’re going to be winners, they’re going to be total winners.”

It’s now official
Arnold WKU coach

By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

After almost two weeks of intense speculation, Murray Arnold, assistant coach of the Chicago Bulls professional basketball team, today was named the eighth head basketball coach in the history of Western Kentucky University.

Arnold and his wife, Ann Conn, were introduced at a mid-morning press conference at Downing University Center. Arnold’s wife is a native of Russellville.

“It’s an exciting moment. I’ve really been impressed with the people at Western,” Arnold said. “I’m excited about the players and winning tradition. I’m also looking forward to coaching in what is probably the most exciting basketball conference in the nation.”

The 48-year-old Arnold replaces Clem Haskins, who resigned earlier this month to take the head coaching job at the University of Minnesota.

The selection of Arnold brought to a close a two-week process that had seen two other well-known coaches pull their names from consideration for the job.

Talk of a financial package for Arnold’s Sonny Smith was squashed when he said he wanted to finish his career at Auburn. And, Virginia Commonwealth’s Mike Polio withdrew his name when it seemed he was ready to take the post.

Even through all the speculation, though, Western President Kern Alexander said Arnold was the top choice for the post. “We had tried to initiate discussions with the others, but when we got the pool of applicants together, he (Arnold) was absolutely our first choice,” Alexander said.

Executive Vice President Paul Cook, chairman of the screening committee, said there were about 80 applicants from across the country for the position.

The new coach may be an unknown to some, but he has been highly successful as a college coach during his 14 seasons before joining the Bulls’ staff. Arnold had a 135-46 record at Tennessee-Chattanooga in his six years there. He was at Auburn for eight years before joining UTC in 1979.

Arnold had three NCAA Tournament teams and two National Invitation Tournament squads during his run at UTC.

Arnold said his quick return to the college ranks after just one season in the pros wasn’t because of dissatisfaction. “Me going to the Bulls and coming here were both selective opportunities,” Arnold said. “New management came in at Chicago and they came to me and made me an offer. The same thing is true of Western Kentucky.”

Arnold’s program at UTC was highly structured, but his teams are known to be fast breaking on offense and pressure playing on defense. “We’re as much uptempo as we can possibly be,” he said.

Arnold believes in a “firm, consistent” approach to discipline. “I’ve never seen a player who could be a loser from 8 to 3, then be a winner from 3:30 to game time,” he said. “If they’re going to be winners, they’re going to be total winners.”

Arnold was picked from six interviewees, including Western assistants Dwane Casey and David Farrar. Casey was rumored to have resigned this morning, but he said he will wait and talk with Arnold more.

Casey is reportedly in line for a new coach the Boston Celtics in the first round of the NBA playoffs.

Arnold said he would be back in Bowling Green after the five-game series, but he would talk with Western players and potential recruits by telephone this weekend.

Arnold also said he would talk with Western’s early signees Shaun Vandiver and Rodney Ross to see if they would still come to school here.
Arnold named head coach

Continued from Front Page

Chattanooga posted the fourth-best Division I record in the nation (122-32)—exceeded only by North Carolina, DePaul and Georgetown.

In 1985, Arnold took his Southern Conference champions to the third round of the National Invitation Tournament. The team finished with a 24-8 record.

His teams won four Southern Conference championships and played in the NCAA tournament three times and the NIT twice.

Arnold spent a year as assistant at Mississippi State before taking the head coaching job at Tennessee-Chattanooga.

Before taking the job at Mississippi, Arnold built his coaching credentials at the same time he built Birmingham-Southern into a small-college power. He was head coach there eight years and compiled a 160-74 record.

“Building championship programs at Birmingham-Southern College and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga would seem to be excellent preparation for coaching at Western Kentucky,” Arnold wrote in a letter dated April 2—the day after Clem Haskins announced his resignation as Western’s head coach.

Just as Haskins was apparently the No. 2 choice for the head coaching job at Minnesota, Arnold moved up to the top position here only after Auburn’s Sonny Smith turned down the job last week.

Arnold took the job for the same offer Haskins turned down—a three-year contract for $48,000 a year.

President Kern Alexander met with Arnold, who was recommended by the search committee Tuesday, to finalize the deal.

“T have never met a head coach who is going to become our head coach,” said Alexander last night. Arnold said he is committed to “qualify student-athletes who would represent the University and the community in a positive manner.”

Besides Arnold’s excellent coaching record at Chattanooga for six years, President Kern Alexander met with Arnold, who was recommended by the search committee Tuesday, to finalize the deal.

Arnold, 48, has a masters degree in mathematics education and completed all the coursework for a doctorate in educational administration at Florida State University.

Arnold said he is committed to “building a winning tradition that is built on hard work, integrity and excellence.”

The new coach

MURRAY ARNOLD, the new coach of the Western Hilltoppers, talked about his decision to come to Western during Thursday’s press conference at the Downing University Center on Western’s campus.
Arnold’s Western era waits on NBA

Haskins’ successor involved in playoffs

By STAN SUTTON
Staff Writer

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — How soon Western Kentucky has a full-time basketball coach could depend upon Michael Jordan.

Western officially named Chicago Bulls assistant coach Murray Arnold to replace Clem Haskins as the Hilltoppers’ coach yesterday. But before he settles into his Diddle Arena office, Arnold must conclude the National Basketball Association season.

The Bulls opened NBA playoff action last night in Boston against the Celtics. The Celtics will be favored in the best-of-five series, but as Arnold said: “I will finish my duties with the Bulls. How long I’ll be there, you can get various odds... I’ll probably be back shortly.”

But since the Bulls have Jordan back in the lineup and the team is generally healthy for the first time this season, they could possibly weed their way through the playoffs and not finish until June 13.

Meanwhile, the 48-year-old Arnold will attempt to recruit, study his personnel through films and talk one-on-one with his players on a long-distance basis until the Bulls end play.

Arnold’s chores will be eased by the fact that most of next year’s Western team will be veterans, but the new coach said he will attempt to talk shortly with incoming recruits Rodney Ross of Atlanta and Shun Vandiver of Romeoville, Ill. Both are 6 feet 9 and were recruited by Haskins before he left to coach the University of Minnesota.

While Arnold is with the Bulls, recruiting will remain in the hands of Dave Farrar and Dwane Casey, both Haskins’ assistants who were among six finalists for the head position. Arnold spoke highly of both yesterday, and said he would talk in detail with them later about their future, specifically at Western.

“IT will be a direction we will look at and pursue,” he said. “They have done everything they can to make me feel comfortable.”

Arnold is best known for his 135-48 record at Tennessee-Chattanooga from 1980 through 1985, after which he left to become an assistant to Stan Albeck with the Bulls. He denied being dissatisfied with his professional job.

“I’ve enjoyed the season I’ve had with the Chicago Bulls. It’s been an outstanding opportunity for me,” he said. “And I consider this a very selective opportunity.”

Dr. Paul Cook, who was chairman of a four-person selection committee, said the committee was unanimous in its choice of Arnold. There were about 40 to 50 serious applicants, he reported.

Arnold agreed to a three-year contract, a sticky point in the departure of Haskins after six seasons as coach of his alma mater. Haskins had sought a five-year pact, but the university never has issued one for more than three years.

During Arnold’s tenure in Chattanooga, in which he took his last five teams to postseason tournaments, the only schools exceeding his winning percentage were North Carolina, DePaul and Georgetown.

Western ended a long association with the Ohio Valley Conference in 1982 to join the Sun Belt. The Hilltoppers then struggled through two losing seasons before improving to 14-14 in 1984-85 and then going 23-8 last season. Guard Billy Gordon will be the only starter lost.

Arnold said he wouldn’t have disregarded an offer from Western had it still been an OVC school, but said the change of conferences was a big boost for the Hilltoppers.

“The Sun Belt is an outstanding league that has made more strides forward than any league in the country,” he said.

Arnold said he wanted his team
Arnold expects to play up-tempo game

Continued from Page B 8
to play as much of an up-tempo offense as possible and use full-court defensive pressure. To do this, he said, would require using eight or nine players extensively, which is similar to Haskins' approach. “You just can't play 40 minutes with the style I want to play, so I definitely believe in going to the bench,” Arnold said.

The new Western coach said he likes to recruit versatile players rather than those who specialize. “If you say a kid is a good shooter that probably means he can't play defense,” Arnold said.

“I do believe there's a fine corps of players on the team right now. There has to be to have had the record they had last year,” he said. “I think the possibility of doing extremely well is there. But one of the keys I've learned very acutely is health. An injury in basketball is so much more devastating than in any other game.”

“And there's such parity in major college basketball today. Potentially you can do very well, but that's never very far from doing very well.”

Arnold said he hoped to make Western's non-conference schedule as tough as possible, and is delighted that defending NCAA champion Louisville will visit Diddle Arena next season. “To have an opportunity to play them here is great. Around the country, anytime anyone talks about basketball, this state is in their vocabulary. You identify the state with basketball,” he said.

Arnold’s style is to keep things simple

Continued From Page 1-B

Hyattsville, Md., for three seasons and then at Deland High School in Florida for another six.

Arnold remained in Florida to coach at Lyman High for two seasons. His collegiate coaching career was launched at Florida State, where he served as Hugh Durham’s assistant for two seasons. Arnold was head coach of Birmingham Southern from 1970-78 and was chosen twice as the Alabama Small College Coach of the Year. He left to serve as an assistant to Jim Hatfield at Mississippi State before taking the head coaching job at UT-Chattanooga.

UTC isn’t exactly a household word in the basketball world, and even though Arnold might have been unknown to many when he was named head coach, he seems to be the right man for the job.

Money didn’t seem to be the object it was to Haskins. Arnold is getting a $49,880 per year salary on a three-year contract. That's the word in the basketball world, and was chosen twice as the American West, his alma mater, for another six.

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Arnold is what WKU needed

Continued from Page 3

Column 3, This Section

Mark C. Mathis

Daily News Sports Editor

It's no secret that basketball is a big thing in basketball, and with the recent success of the Western Kentucky University basketball team, it's no surprise that the school is looking for a coach who can take the program to the next level. Arnold, who has spent the past three years as an assistant coach at the University of Tennessee, is a strong candidate.
RESERVED SEAT

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SEC. ROW SEAT

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RESERVED SEAT

1986 Hilltopper Football
All-America Candidate KEITH PASKETT
"Get the Spirit!"
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WOMEN'S
ALL-AMERICAN

[Images of basketball players in action]
NOW PREMIERING
THE 86-87 SUNBELT TOUR
THE FOUR TOPS
Notre Dame looks 'holey' as Western opens Arnold era

By STAN SUTTON

NIT AT A GLANCE

TONIGHT
Western at Notre Dame, 7:30 EST.
Bradley at Michigan, 7:30.
Temple at Virginia, 7:30.
Howard at Villanova, 7:30.
Texas Christian at LSU, 8:30.
Brigham Young at Oklahoma, 8:30.
Arizona at Nevada-Las Vegas, 11:05.

SATURDAY NIGHT
Quarterfinals at campus sites.
FRIDAY, NOV. 28
Semifinals at 7 and 9 p.m., Madison Square Garden.
SATURDAY, NOV. 29
Championship game, 9 p.m.

Go fetch' is Western battle cry in the NIT
Arnold's Hilltoppers own the backboards

Continued from Page B 9

then we've got a couple more weeks at the drawing board."

If beaten tonight, the Hilltoppers wouldn't play again until their Dec. 2 opener in Bowling Green against Kentucky State.

If the Hilltoppers survive in the noisy 11,345-seat Athletic and Convention Center, they will meet a yet-undetermined opponent Monday night at one of the campus sites. A victory there would be worth a trip to New York's Madison Square Garden, where the semifinals and final are next Friday and Saturday.

Other NIT Classic matchups tonight are Bradley at Michigan, Arizona at Nevada-Las Vegas, Temple at Virginia, Texas Christian at Louisiana State, Brigham Young at Oklahoma and Howard at Villanova. Cleveland State plays at Memphis State on Saturday night.

The dapper Phelps, starting his 15th year as Notre Dame coach, is well-versed about Western's strengths.

"They've got probably as good a front line as we're going to see all year," Phelps said, referring to 6-10 Tellis Frank, 6-9 Kannard Johnson and 6-8 Clarence Martin. "I'm impressed with Kannard Johnson. In fact, the NBA scouts are coming here Friday to see him already, so he's got to be something to go up against. Tellis Frank is another outstanding player.

"As you take a look at Martin, he's as big and strong as anybody we're going to play all year. And he's a great shot-blocker, so that has us concerned with what we can do on penetration."

The Irish front line will have 6-9 Gary Voce in the middle, flanked by 6-8 Donald Royal and 6-7 Sean Connor. Royal started 26 games last season, but Voce and Connor each averaged less than four points a game.

Senior guard Scott Hicks will direct the offense, with Mark Stevenson at the second guard.

Besides Rivers, who will play an undetermined amount, Notre Dame has only sophomore Michael Smith (1.4-point average), Steve Niegorski (0.8), walk-on Chris Nanni and freshmen on its bench.

Rivers suffered deep abdominal wounds while riding in a van driven by former teammate Barlow and didn't undergo any contact until last Sunday.

"He's been practicing the last two weeks. He's made great strides trying to put himself in position to play," Phelps said. "Rivers does so much for us and makes the other players better because of his presence on the floor."

Western, which retains 12 letter-men, has no problems with depth. Sophomore Brett McNeal is expected to have a slight edge in the battle to replace Gordon at a starting guard spot, but 6-3 Ray Swogger will play a major role if he doesn't start.

"The guy I really like is Swogger. He's an excellent shooter, a streak shooter," Phelps said. "They've got game experience, they've got rebounding, they've got size. And Murray Arnold is somebody I've always respected. He's an excellent coach, and now he has the talent to pick up wherever he left off."

Phelps said Western is a potential final-16 team in the NCAA Tournament.

"They've got the depth to come out and play anybody. They're going to be a very tough team to beat," he said.

"There are some questions right now that we've got to answer, because I think basketball is played on the boards and that's one of the questions we have to have answered."
Frank leads Toppers past ND

By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Telling Frank Always knew he could start, he just never wanted to rock the boat.

“I’ve always liked the feeling of starting,” Frank said Friday night. “I felt last year if you’re one of the best players, you deserve to start. I felt I could’ve started last year, but I didn’t want to rock the boat. I kept my cool and played hard.”

Toppers’ basketball

The 6-11 senior from nearby Gary, Ind., continued that hard play here against Notre Dame in the first round of the Coca-Cola NIT, scoring 17 points to lead Western to a 80-63 clubbing of the Irish in front of 5,320 fans.

“I grew up watching Notre Dame and DePaul play, and I kind of had chills before the game started. I got pretty comfortable once I got out on the floor,” Frank said.

The total attendance included some 1,000 Big Red fans who made the 7-hour journey to see if the Hilltoppers could live up to their preseason billing, which has seen them ranked in several polls.

Western did that — and then some — by completely outclassing the Irish in every phase of the game.

“I wasn’t satisfied with anything we did,” said ND coach Digger Phelps. “I was impressed with the way Western Kentucky pounded us on the boards. They got a lot of the key rebounding situations, and we put ourselves in a hole early.”

And the Toppers put themselves in a 7:30 Monday night game at Diddle Arena against Texas Christian University in the second round Monday night.

Darryl Rivers scored eight points and handed out eight assists in a long 34-minute appearance, but he was never the real wizard that ripped opposing defenses last year.

“We had to go to him earlier than we wanted to, and David was overanxious,” Phelps said.

“James McNary and Kurk Lee were a good tandem on him,” Arnold said. “We were working him hard on defense and we were trying to keep fresh people on him at all times. In all fairness to David, he was put in a situation where he had to make a catch-up offense go. I’m thankful we don’t have to play him again.”

Controlling Rivers allowed Western to dictate the tempo in the game.

“We wanted to slow them down on defense, and we wanted to run on offense,” said Kannard Johnson, who was one of five double-figure scorers for Western with 10 points.

Western’s control became even more evident late in the game when it slowed things down to protect its double-digit lead.

The Toppers used two and sometimes three guards late in the game.

The Irish made a token run at the Toppers early in the second half, cutting the margin to 44-44 on a Donald Royal turnaround with 11:56 left, but that was as close as ND would get the rest of the way.

McNary had 12 points, mostly on the strength of eight perfect trips to the free-throw line.

Brett McNeal scored 13 before going out of the contest in the second half with a sprained ankle. McNeal is questionable for the TCU game.

Bryan Asberry had a good effort off the bench, scoring 10 points and collecting a game-high eight rebounds.

Asberry logged 17 minutes because Clarence Martin got into early foul trouble. Martin fouled out of the game with 4:48 to go.

Royal paced the Irish with 17 points.

“It means a lot to me, personally. Winning my first game at Western is certainly gratifying, especially in a place reeking with tradition,” Arnold said, in a voice left hoarse from constant yelling from the sidelines.

Arnold’s yelling was the encouraging kind, though, because Western ran out to an 8-2 lead and withstood several challenges in the first half before settling on a 43-25 halftime advantage.

David Rivers, ND’s talented All-America guard, made his much-celebrated first appearance of the season after a serious August car crash with 15:16 to go in the half.

Rivers scored eight points and handed out eight assists in a long 34-minute appearance, but he was never the real wizard that ripped opposing defenses last year.

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Royal paced the Irish with 17 points.
There's statewide interest in Tops

Mark C. Mathis
Daily News
Sports Editor
Commentary

That's going to be rough," one Cardinal was heard saying about the matchup. Now, Sutton was probably blowing smoke about Western, just in case his team has to meet the Hilltoppers again this year in the NCAA Tournament. But one fact that isn't being fogged is the interest in Western. Everything to do with reputation, but not with talent.

Former UK coach Joe Hall was in town last week to speak to a banking group. While he was watching the Toppers practice he said that for the first time in his recollection, Kentucky will have three schools vying for national exposure compared to the usual "powers." Western will move into that exclusive neighborhood after a virtual 15-year absence.

"Man, we've got to go down there and play them this year."

State interest grows in WKU basketball

Continued From Page 10

What kind of coach is Arnold? Do the players like him? Will Kannard Johnson produce like an All-America? Is Roland Shelton really that good?

Those are the kinds of questions they are asking now. The last two seasons the questions centered around Clem Haskins' job security.

It's nice to be talking basketball again.

The reasons for all the curiosity are fairly obvious.

While U of L is the defending national champion, it has some big shoes to fill, and Crum even admits it will be extremely hard to defend the title.

And UK will be looking for someone to replace the "Sky."

Both teams are on their usual high seats in the preseason Top Twenty polls. That comes from reputation.

Western's rankings don't have anything to do with reputation, but with talent.

Most of my colleagues believe Western should be in the No. 8-No. 15 range of teams in the country. One reason is because Western has an abundance of talent this year compared to the usual "powers" in college basketball.

Others, like myself, feel the team is in the No. 15-No. 20 range of the poll — for now at least.

That could very well be true with the likes of Johnson, Tellis Frank and Clarence Martin roaming the paint.

Shelton is considered the key to the team by many. The silky smooth 6-3 transfer from Clemson is looking to step into Billy Gordon's shooting role, but he'll be pushed by Brett McNeal, insiders say.

Both have been burning the nets from beyond the three-point line in practice.

The point guard spot may be contested between last year's starter James McNary and sophomore Kurt Lee.

Depth both inside and out shouldn't be a problem with Bryan Isom, Keith Lickliter, Steve Miller, Ray Swogger and Fred Tisdale on the bench. Walk-on David Garmon and signee Anthony Smith have also been practicing with the team. Smith isn't eligible to play this year but can practice with the squad.

Those players are why there is so much interest in Western this preseason. And if things go as expected this year, the Toppers will do more than steal headlines from the "other" two basketball schools in the state.

REED'S TOP 20

1. Purdue
2. Louisville
3. Indiana
4. North Carolina
5. Georgia Tech
6. Oklahoma
7. UNLV
8. Auburn
9. Iowa
10. Western Kentucky
11. Pittsburgh
12. Kentucky
13. Florida
14. Navy
15. Notre Dame
16. Alabama
17. Kansas
18. Illinois
19. Syracuse
20. Arizona

WOMEN'S TOP 20

1. Texas
2. Louisiana Tech
3. USC
4. Auburn
5. Tennessee
6. Rutgers
7. Virginia
8. W. Kentucky
9. Georgia
10. Long Beach State
11. Iowa
12. Penn State
13. Old Dominion
14. Ohio State
15. LSU
16. Mississippi
17. Maryland
18. San Diego State
19. James Madison
20. Texas Tech
MURRAY ARNOLD (center) makes his point at Diddle Arena in Monday's practice. The first-year Western men's coach was going over some instructions with Fred Tisdale (right), Kannard Johnson (33), and Clarence Martin.

Setting is perfect.

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Here, in the shadow of the Golden Dome and the Chicago press, Western has an early chance to make a name for itself. Actually, the Hilltoppers have already made a name for themselves, at least in the vast sea of preseason Top Twenty ratings.

Or is it Top Twenty-Five, or Top Forty? No, that's music. But, anyway, Western has received mention this preseason in such worthy sports publications as Sports Illustrated and The Sporting News as one of the best 25 teams in the land.

Now, tonight at 6:30 CST, in the hallowed Athletic and Convocation Center at Notre Dame, Western will see if it is deserving of such early praise in the first round of the Coca-Cola NIT.

The men who make up these polls look at Kannard Johnson and say "Gee, this guy has an NBA body and some better than average stats. He's got to be able to score 20 points a game." Well, fellas, that's what everybody in Bowling Green thinks this year, too.

Then the rating guys look at Tellis Frank and Clarence Martin. "Frank has got it all. A real sleeper. And Martin, shouldn't he be playing football?"

Maybe both accounts are right. Frank could be the biggest sleeper in the NBA draft this year. And Martin might be playing professional football after his days on the Hill are over. The Dallas Cowboys have already called.

But the business tonight involves a team with as much tradition and...
Setting is perfect for a Western victory

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Maybe both accounts are right.

Frank could be the biggest sleeper in the NBA draft this year. And Martin might be the biggest sleeper in the Peach Bowl this year. The Dallas Cowboys have already called.

But the business tonight involves a team with as much tradition and success as any in the last 16 years and a coach who is an undertaker's son.

Basketball takes the rumble seat to football in this land of Leahy and Rockne. But be sure, the game is played here with as much skill as you would see in Bloomington or Lexington.

Remember, the ACC is where UCLA's first longest winning streak ever came to a halt in the early 1970s. The Bruins had another longest winning streak ever that was stopped by North Carolina State a couple of years later.

Digger Phelps was here then, and he'll be on the sideline tonight, opposite Murray Arnold, who makes his debut as the eighth coach in Western's 68 years on the hardwood.

Phelps is an imposing man, much bigger than he looks on television. And his personality seems that way, too, at least over the phone.

Notre Dame is fairly confident of this game. You get the impression that the Irish are sitting around saying "Western who?"

That is precisely the point of this rambling. Notre Dame is saying that, and seemingly, several of those rating guys are too.

How else could you explain Alabama-Birmingham being included in Street & Smith's Top Twenty-Five and Western not be.

Folks, the Hilltoppers just don't have that national recognition yet.

Here and now is the chance to get it.

Chicago media people will be all over this place tonight, as will several NBA scouts who have come specifically to see Johnson, Frank and David Rivers.

If the Toppers lose tonight, not much harm will be done. Western will simply go back to Bowling Green and get ready for the start of the regular season on Dec. 2 against Kentucky State.

There won't be any big time newspaper people at that game, though. Not like there will be tonight.

If Western wins this game, then it's probably Monday night at Diddle Arena against the winner of the Cleveland State-Memphis contest.

But more importantly, a win here gives Western instant credibility and national exposure. The Toppers would be in Tuesday's Associated Press Top Twenty poll, no problem.

So, in this town where legends have been made and tradition is revered, Western has its chance to start a little of both. And it'll take a little more than the luck of the Irish to stop it.
Western beats luck of Irish 80-63

By DOUG GOTT

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Western fans have been known to travel to all ends of the earth to root for the Hilltoppers.

Folks traveling Friday night to the Athletic and Convocation Center in Indiana bypassed such places as Mexico, Miami, Peru, Denver and Bunker Hill to get to the game.

Western’s 80-63 thumping of Notre Dame left Topper fans just one win away from a trip to the big time — New York and the semifinal round of the Coca-Cola National Invitation Tournament.

Continued from Page 14

Western wins

playmaker couldn’t stop the Topper avalanche.

Rivers, who never left the game after that, finished with eight points and eight rebounds, including a couple of nifty moves — one being a behind-the-back pass for a layup while looking the other way.

"David is 100 percent now, but I just wanted him to see the game before I put him in," Phelps said. "But I had to put him in quicker than I expected to."

Rivers was impressive, but the night belonged to Coach Murray Arnold and Western. Arnold’s first Topper win was one to be remembered, he said.

"It means a lot to me personally for my first win," he said. "But it was these kids that won the ball game. They came out and showed confidence and composure. They’re a great group to have."

Seniors Frank and Asberry, both

Martin each picked up two fouls early, but Western’s depth — Bryan Asberry, Fred Tisdale and Ray Swogger — solved that problem.

When the score reached 10-3, Notre Dame coach Digger Phelps realized he had to make a move much quicker than he had expected.

All-America guard David Rivers, seriously injured in an August van crash, entered the lineup when things got out of hand. The crowd roared when Rivers approached the scorers’ table, but even the popular

See WESTERN, Page 15

MENTS

MEN’S BASKETBALL

Tournament.

Before only 5,320 fans, including about 1,000 from Western, the Topper fans just one win away from a trip to the big time — New York and the semifinal round of the Coca-Cola National Invitation Tournament.

Tournament.

Frank scored when they wanted to...They’re going a long way this year.

Digger Phelps

Questions about Western’s guard play were answered early. Sophomore Brett McNeal showed the confidence to hit the big shots much like his predecessor, Billy Gordon, who graduated. McNeal had 13 points before leaving the game early in the second half with a badly sprained ankle.

Sophomore Kurk Lee gave Arnold 18 quality minutes off the bench with eight points and four assists. Neither McNeal or Lee had any turnovers. James McNary hit all eight free throws and finished with 12 points.

An unbelievable Western first half culminated as Lee hit a shot at the buzzer that gave Western a 43-25 lead.

Phelps hopes the loss won’t be indicative of the entire season.

"We didn’t do much right tonight," he said. "But Western was impressive in the way they pounded us on the boards and getting the key rebounds and shots. The rebounding edge doesn’t look that dominating (34-29), but look at the offensive rebounds (16-8 for the Topper)."

Phelps said even when the Irish pressed to catch up, "Western scored when they wanted to.

"They’re going to go a long way this year."

But Western fans don’t mind. Just look at where they’ve been already this season.

See WESTERN, Page 15
First Round
Friday, November 21, 1986 • Time: Check Local Listing
Texas Christian University at Louisiana State University—Assembly Center
Bradley University at University of Michigan—Crisler Arena
Western Kentucky University at University of Notre Dame—A&C Center
Brigham Young University at University of Oklahoma—Noble Center
University of Arizona at University of Nevada (Las Vegas)—Thomas Mack Center
Howard University at Villanova University—John E. duPont Pavilion
Temple University at University of Virginia—University Hall

Saturday, November 22, 1986 • Time: Check Local Listing
Cleveland State University at Memphis State University—Mid-South Coliseum

Second Round
Monday, November 24, 1986
Site: To Be Determined
Time: Check Local Listing

Semi-Finals
Friday, November 28, 1986
Site: Madison Square Garden
Time: 7:00 PM and 9:00 PM

Finals
Saturday, November 29, 1986
Site: Madison Square Garden
Time: Third Place Game—7:00 PM. Final Game—9:00 PM

Get ready, Hilltoppers will be in the Big Apple
Big Apple next for WKU

It wasn't easy. And it wasn't expected to be.

But Western did beat Texas Christian University 96-90 Monday night to advance to this weekend's semifinals of the Coca-Cola NIT in New York City.

Western did it by gritting its teeth at the most tense moments and chomping down on the Horned Frogs like a Cajun down in Louisiana would so many frog legs.

"We were scrambling for our lives," said Western coach Murray Arnold. "We had to do it with man-to-man defense. It was our survival defense in the second half.

What that defense did in front of 7,800 screaming fans in Diddle Arena was send Western against Memphis State Friday at 8 p.m. CST. Nevada-Las Vegas will play Temple in the 6 o'clock game at Madison Square Garden.

What the Hilltoppers had to survive was a torrid shooting TCU ballclub, which hit 66.8 percent from the field in the half. The Horned Frogs took a 53-49 lead into the locker room at halftime mostly because of Jamie Dixon's sharp-shooting.

The North Hollywood, Calif., senior struck for 20 of his game-high 31 points in that half, hitting 7 of 11 and 3 of 3 from the three-point line.

Western was playing a zone at times in the first half, and TCU took the green light at every opportunity. The Horned Frogs hit 5 of 6 from the three-point line in the half, and they had four of those during a 24-9 streak that put them up 51-45.

Western had led 36-27 with 7:41 to go in the first, but two straight three-pointers by Dixon trimmed the margin.

Things changed after halftime, though.

The charge was led, once again, by Tellis Frank, who scored 18 of his career-high 25 points after the break and also contributed a game-high 12 rebounds.

"They liked to go after the ball and mix it up. That was to our advantage," Coach Arnold told us to keep playing hard. We kept our heads," Frank said.

Keeping its head is perhaps the biggest difference in this team and previous ones.

Western shot right back into the game, tying it 57-57 with 17:34 to go, and from there on it was a dogfight.

The Toppers, who had a 47-28 rebounding advantage in the game, started controlling the boards in the second half.

And they did it with their three big men — Frank, Kannard Johnson and Clarence Martin — all in foul trouble.

Johnson threw in 22 points and had nine rebounds. Martin really asserted himself in the second half, and had 19 points and 10 boards. Both Martin and Frank had four fouls, while Johnson finished the game with three.

"The thing that turned the game was when we started going to the boards and getting those second, third and fourth shots," said James McNary, who had 10 points and six assists before fouling out with two seconds left. "When we're rebounding, they can't run and we can. I just loved seeing those big guys beating and banging. We didn't give up, and we wouldn't have folded last year."

Indeed, the Toppers had their chances to do just that this time.

TCU kept close, occasionally grabbing a 1- or 2-point lead until the game went under the four minute mark.

"They were very physical, and they didn't roll over and play dead. It was a great test for us," McNary said.

"James is very courageous. If you're going to guard him, you'd better bring a big weapon," Arnold said. "It looked like TCU had some weapons after him tonight."

Arnold was referring to a small blowup with 44 seconds to play when McNary and Carl Lott had some words, and Lott slapped McNary after a finger-pointing session.

That was after the matter had been decided. But it took two plays by Frank with Western up 83-81 to eventually put the team in control.

After hitting an 8-footer that made it 85-81, Frank stole the ball and was fouled. He missed the first shot in the bonus, but Ray Swogger grabbed the rebound. Frank missed once, but tipped the ball in for a 6-point lead with 2:54 left. Western would never trail again.

"We had a big problem on the boards and at the free-throw line. They (Western) were excellent in both areas," said TCU coach Jim Killingsworth after his team fell to 1-1. "That was the difference in the ballgame. We didn't play enough people in the second half. We got tired and didn't shoot as well."

TCU did make 14 of 30 from the field in the second half, and its three-point efficiency went way down.

"They got out on me more. We tried to get to the other guys," Dixon said. "I wasn't looking as much for my shot in the second half."

Brett McNeal, who was doubtful because of a sprained ankle, scored 10 points, including 2 of 4 three-point shots, in his 26 minutes.

Free throw shooting was a big lift for Western, as it hit 32 of 37 for 86.4 percent.

Lott had 21 points and Carven Holcombe 17 to help Dixon.

Now, it's on to Madison Square Garden for the semifinals.

"This is the kind of moment you cherish. No matter what happens the rest of the season, we're going to be eating turkey dinner in New York," Arnold said.

And, be sure, the Toppers won't be a turkey when they get there.

WESTERN KENTUCKY (21)

Richard 2-0 1, 5, Anderson 5-7 0-1, 10, Papa 2-3 0-0
0-0, Lott 7-14 5-10, Holcombe 8-14 1-12, Dinin
11-19 4-3, Stinchcomb 0-0 0-0, Minnis 0-0 0-2
2-2, Jacques 0-0 0-0, Parker 0-2 0-0, Mortimer
0-0 0-0. Totals 35-63 12-22 90.

TEXAS CHRISTIAN (90)

Johnson 7-14 8-22, Frank 8-10 9-10 25, Martin
4-7 8-9, McNary 3-4 4-4 10, Swogger 2-7 2-3 8
McNeal 4-10 0-0 10, Lee 1-3 1-2, Tisdale 0-1 0-2
1, Axtley 0-0 0-0, Shippert 0-0 0-0. Totals 31-66
32-37 45.

Halftime score - Texas Christian 43, Western
77-77 77-77 96.

Frogs would so many frog legs. with two seconds left. "When we're

And, be sure, the Toppers won't be a turkey when they get there.
Tellis Frank charges down court against pressure applied by Notre Dame's Mark Stevenson (24). Western beat the Fighting Irish, 80-63, Friday night, in the first round of the NIT.

NEW YORK — From the hotel it is staying in here in midtown Manhattan, Western's men's team can look out onto Broadway, where a thousand dreams have been born — and a thousand more have died.

Last week, the Hilltoppers took their first big step toward national notoriety when they beat Notre Dame on its homecourt.

Now, the Toppers are ready to step out onto one of the biggest stages in college basketball. They will take the floor tonight at 8 p.m. CST in Madison Square Garden, where some of the greatest players ever to pick up the roundball have ran, dribbled and shot.

They will be playing in the semifinals of the Coca-Cola NIT. And they will go against Memphis State — a program that has had great success on the court in recent years, but has also suffered under the weight of a federal grand jury investigation that cost Dana Kirk his job.

Much has happened to basketball at Western since that time. It went through some lean, lean years. And later, it continued the success that made it the gem of the Ohio Valley Conference.

Last year was the first one of four in the Sun Belt Conference that the Toppers returned to the preeminence that was almost a given everytime they went out on the court in the OVC.

That success in the SBC is almost assured to continue this season.

Now, in the largest media center

Toppers will take dream to Garden floor

in the world, Western is getting ready to start working on that resurgence of national attention. "We're starting to climb that mountain," said Tellis Frank after Western beat Texas Christian Monday night to get here.

Frank, whose average is at 21 points after two games, has been one of the early reasons why Western is climbing that mountain, as he has been the leading scorer in its first two wins.

If you think that Western has been thrust into the national eye, though, then maybe you should look again.

An announcer on CNN said that Northern Kentucky beat Texas Christian the other night, not Western Kentucky.

Get the picture?

One win here can change that.

"That big front line. That poses a problem we haven't had, yet."

The Tigers don't have anyone to really offset that height since All-America seven-footer William Bedford took the hardship route to the NBA.

MSU's main offensive weapon is Vincent Askew, who is listed as a forward for this game.

The 6-6 junior is averaging 17.5 points and nine rebounds in the two MSU wins.

Junior guard Dwight Boyd is good for 15 points and sophomore center Marvin Alexander is getting 14 points and 8.5 rebounds.

All five of tonight's starters for Western are averaging in double figures.

Kannard Johnson has 16 points, Martin has 11 and guards James McNary and Brett McNeal are both hitting for 11 points per game.

The Toppers have hit 50 of 59 free throws in two games for 84.7 percent.

McNary is 12 of 12, Frank 12 of 14, Johnson 10 of 11 and Martin 7 of 8.

"Concentration has been the key," McNary said. "We've been more relaxed when we go to the line. That's the added maturity and experience we have."
Western Kentucky's Tellis Frank (left) had to contend with Memphis State's Vincent Askew as he went up for a shot in Friday's NIT Classic game, won by Western 68-67.
Johnson’s free throw nudges Western past Memphis State

Toppers tip Memphis State
Hilltoppers unable to stop Vegas bombs, lose in 2 OTs

By STAN SUTTON
Staff Writer
NEW YORK — The first half was almost over and James McNary could keep his poker face no longer.

As Western Kentucky teammate Kurk Lee prepared to shoot a free throw that would give the Hilltoppers a 44-24 lead over No. 5 Nevada-Las Vegas Saturday night, McNary sauntered slowly into the backcourt.

Suddenly his grin was out of control, expanding with each step. McNary finally gave up, clenched his fists and shouted to the rafters.

"I loooove it!" he screamed.

But, as fate would have it, Western's high rollers would be like a million others who went up against Las Vegas. By night's end — and it ended after two overtimes — the Hilltoppers had thrown the dice too many times and the crap game was won by Las Vegas 86-85.

It was a bitter defeat for the Hilltoppers, giving the Running Rebels the championship of the Coca-Cola National Invitation Tournament Classic. It also was the first true evidence that the new three-point shot in collegiate ball means no lead ever again will be in the bank.

Nevada-Las Vegas was down 21 points in the first half, 20 with 18 1/2 minutes left in regulation. But the Rebels made 10 of 27 from three-point range, catching Western 65-65 with 6:50 left to play and building a five-point point edge that the Kentuckians had to overcome to force the first overtime.

"I think it's a bad rule. I feel for the health of our sport," said Western coach Murray Arnold, whose team got only one three-point shot.

"We were lucky tonight. There's no question about it," admitted UNLV coach Jerry Tarkanian. "It was a big comeback for us. I can't recall a better one."

Western trailed 75-70 with 2:18 left in regulation and 77-75 with 28 seconds left, but Clarence Martin followed up misses by Brett McNeal and Tellis Frank to tie the score with 10 seconds left.

Western (3-1) twice trailed by three in the first overtime, but Frank's driving basket at :14 tied it at 84. The Hilltoppers again were down by three in the second overtime, only to have Kannard Johnson give them a 94-93 lead with a follow-up shot and two free throws.

Western led 95-93 at :49 as Johnson hit 1 of 2 free throws, but Vegas got the winning basket when guard Freddie Banks scored a three-pointer with :13 to play. That gave Banks 31 points for the night, including 5 of 16 from three-point range.

Besides Banks, the NIT's Most Valuable Player, Gary Graham hit 3 of 3 three-pointers in the second half as UNLV shot 59 percent in the period after only 21 percent in the first half.

Western was led by Frank's 25 points and Johnson's 23. Martin and Johnson had 12, 11 and 10 rebounds, respectively, as the Topppers won the battle of the boards 53-48.

Frank and Martin made all-

See WESTERN PAGE 11, col. 1, this section

Western falls to Vegas in NIT final in 2 OTs

Continued from Page B 7

"They're real strong inside," said Tarkanian. "We could not defend them inside with our man to man. They were punishing us inside. I think we were very fortunate to have only been 16 down at halftime. If we had been 20 or 21 down, I don't know what would have happened."

UNLV (4-0) lost four players on fouls as Western made 36 of 52 at the line, shooting twice as many as the Rebels.

Tarkanian moved his Rebels into a zone, which they infrequently use, and that cut down a lot of Western's inside game.

"Sometimes when a team does something you don't have your mind on, it's especially effective," Arnold said of UNLV's zone.

The Runnin' Rebs had been down 10 points to Temple, only to rebound for a win Friday night. But a mere 10 minutes into Saturday night's fray, Western had built an 18-point lead over the team picked by Inside Sports magazine as the nation's best.

Nevada-Las Vegas missed its first 10 shots and paid the price as the Hilltoppers raced ahead 10-0.

Western was led by Frank's 25 points and Johnson's 23. Martin and Johnson had 12, 11 and 10 rebounds, respectively, as the Topppers won the battle of the boards 53-48.

Frank and Martin made all-

See WESTERN PAGE 11, col. 1, this section

Nevada Las Vegas 86, Western Kentucky 85

Time \n\Player \n\Gilliam \n\Paddio \n\Sawigent \n\Banks \n\Yade \n\Robinson \n\Hudson \n\Graham \n\Willard \n\Team \n\Total \n\\min \ng \nfga \nfts \nreb \na \npf \n\min \ng \nfga \nfts \nreb \na \npf \n\min \ng \nfga \nfts \nreb \na \npf \n\min \ng \nfga \nfts \nreb \na \npf \n\min \ng \nfga \nfts \nreb \na \npf \n\min \ng \nfga \nfts \nreb \na \npf \n\min \ng \nfga \nfts \nreb \na \npf \n\min \ng \nfga \nfts \nreb \na \npf \n\min \ng \nfga \nfts \nreb \na \npf
\91 \8 \14 \7 \10 \14 \3 \4 \23 \25 \3 \13 \0 \3 \0 \5 \8 \27 \4 \5 \1 \2 \2 \9 \6 \49 \10 \30 \6 \6 \3 \7 \3 \31 \25 \1 \4 \0 \4 \7 \5 \22 \10 \0 \0 \0 \0 \2 \0 \5 \6 \23 \5 \5 \0 \4 \8 \2 \1 \17 \39 \5 \5 \0 \3 \3 \1 \17 \14 \2 \4 \4 \3 \1 \5 \8
\89 \16 \7 \10 \14 \3 \4 \23
\16 \7 \10 \8 \5 \23
\16 \7 \10 \8 \5 \23
\49 \10 \30 \6 \6 \3 \7 \3 \31
\25 \1 \4 \0 \4 \7 \5 \22
\10 \0 \0 \0 \0 \2 \0 \5 \6
\23 \5 \5 \0 \4 \8 \2 \1 \17
\39 \5 \5 \0 \3 \3 \1 \17
\14 \2 \4 \4 \3 \1 \5 \8
\250 \34 \82 \18 \26 \48 \25 \32 \96
\250 \34 \82 \18 \26 \48 \25 \32 \96
\250 \34 \82 \18 \26 \48 \25 \32 \96
\250 \34 \82 \18 \26 \48 \25 \32 \96
\250 \34 \82 \18 \26 \48 \25 \32 \96
\250 \34 \82 \18 \26 \48 \25 \32 \96

Player \n\Johnson \n\Frank \n\Martin \n\McNary \n\Swenger \n\Ashberry \n\Lee \n\Shelton \n\\min \ng \nfga \nfts \nreb \na \npf \n\min \ng \nfga \nfts \nreb \na \npf \n\min \ng \nfga \nfts \nreb \na \npf \n\min \ng \nfga \nfts \nreb \na \npf \n\min \ng \nfga \nfts \nreb \na \npf \n\min \ng \nfga \nfts \nreb \na \npf
\38 \8 \11 \7 \9 \10 \3 \5 \23
\47 \9 \13 \19 \11 \5 \4 \25
\43 \9 \5 \9 \12 \1 \3 \13
\49 \4 \8 \3 \4 \5 \34 \11
\16 \1 \3 \3 \0 \0 \1 \2
\5 \1 \7 \3 \4 \2 \9 \2 \5
\9 \1 \1 \1 \3 \2 \1 \0 \3
\4 \1 \0 \0 \0 \0 \0 \0
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Halftime - Western Kentucky 45, Nevada Las Vegas 29. Regulation — Western Kentucky 77, Nevada Las Vegas 77. First overtime — Western Kentucky 80, Nevada Las Vegas 77. Three-point goals — Nevada Las Vegas 10-27 (Paddio 7), Banks 5-16, Wade 6-8, Graham 3-3. Western Kentucky 5-14 (McNary 2), McNally 1-3. Shooting percentages — Nevada Las Vegas 45.1, Western Kentucky 43.3. Errors — Nevada Las Vegas 18, Western Kentucky 15. Attendance — 4,163.
*Tops play ‘Heartbreak Hotel’ in Saturday’s final*

**Tark’s Rebels take NIT crown in 96-95 victory over Toppers**

By DOUG GOTT

NEW YORK — Basketball is a funny game.

Western played well-below normal in its National Invitational Tournament semifinal matchup with Memphis State Friday night, but still won, 68-67.

In the championship game with the No. 2-ranked team in the country, Nevada-Las Vegas, the Toppers played flawlessly and ran the Runnin’ Rebels out of the gym in the first half.

However, they fell victim in what many believed to be one of the best comeback wins in college basketball. UNLV won the title with a dramatic come-from-behind 96-95 win in double-overtime.

"That was the best basketball game I've ever seen," said UNLV coach Jerry Tarkanian, who's been in the business for 18 years.

Rebel center Jarvis Basnight called the game the "best game I've ever played or seen."

Western must have stunned the 10,000 fans in Madison Square Garden and the nationally televised audience by jumping out on top of the Rebels 16-0.

With Tellis Frank pacing the way with 15 first-half points, Western padded what seemed to be an unsurmountable lead to 21 points with just :35 left in the half.

But the Rebels came back with five straight points before the half, including a three-pointer shot from Gene Banks, which turned out to be a prelude of his second half performance.

"I didn't get mad at the team at half," Tarkanian said. "I told them we were lucky to be down by only 16. If we were down by 20 or 21 points, I don't know that we would've been able to come back.

"Our kids froze up in the half. Their defense took us out of the game," he said. "But our kids work so hard in practice, and when you play hard, you get tougher mentally. I guess that paid off. But hey... we were very lucky."

With the Rebels only making a small dent in the deficit in the second period, Tarkanian left playmaker Mark Wade in the game with four fouls, figuring he had nothing to lose.

Wade fouled out with :37 remaining, but that turned out to be a blessing for UNLV. With the Rebels being down by 12, Banks took over at point guard and began an assault from the three-point line.

Banks finished the game with five three-pointers and a game-high 31 points.

UNLV stormed back and took a 75-70 lead with :22 to go, but two Western onbo nts lifted the Rebels into the first overtime.

A short, baseline jumper by Frank tied the game at 84-84 for the second overtime.

After Johnson sank two free throws to give Western a 95-93 lead, Banks nailed a three-pointer with :13 left.

Western called timeout and worked a shot to Martin, but the 10-foot bank shot was too strong.

JERRY TARKANIAN

**That was the best basketball game I've ever seen.**

**Kannard Johnson baskets lifted Western into the first overtime.**

"After they came back, I was proud of the kids for doing the right things in the clutch to put us in position to win," Western coach Murray Arnold said.

"We're disappointed that we lost," he said, "but we're proud of the kids for playing hard and for representing Western Kentucky so well."

The two-point loss probably left Frank a bucket away from tournament MVP honors. In the two games, Frank put his name in the nation's limelight with 42 points and 19 rebounds. Joining Frank on the all-tournament team were Martin, UNLV's Armon Gilliam and Temple's Mike Vreeswyk.

Western had another one-point game the night before with the surprise team of the tournament, Memphis State.

The Tigers, who defeated Michigan to reach the semi-finals, hung tough with the Toppers. They tied the score at 67-67 with less than a minute remaining on a Vincent Askew jumper.

Western worked the ball to Johnson in the lane where he was fouled with :05 to go. His first shot bounced off, but he hit the second for the winning margin.

Brett McNeal and Frank knocked the ball away from Dwight Boyd as he was pulling up for the last-second shot to preserve the Western's win.

Arnold said "relieved" best described his team after the game.

"We were very fortunate to get out of here with a win," Arnold said. "Memphis State proved they were no fluke by being here."

Arnold said the atmosphere surrounding New York and Madison Square Garden didn't affect his team adversely.

"We weren't nervous but just a little tight," he said. "The refs called the game tight, and we lost some of our aggressiveness."

"I've been saying all along that they keep getting tougher. Every step further you're going to have to play better," he said. Western beat Notre Dame 83-60 in the first round and Texas Christian 96-90 in the second round.

"We won big the first game, then it was closer against TCU and this was a one-pointer," Arnold said. "We don't have any more room to give away for tomorrow night. We can just hope for the same one-point game."

That it was, but Western was on the wrong end this time.
NEW YORK — A freak called the three-point field goal gave the Western Kentucky basketball team a ride wilder than any New York cab driver could imagine Saturday night in Madison Square Garden.

From exhilaration to exasperation, the Hilltoppers experienced every emotion the game could offer in the National Invitation Tournament Classic final.

Ahead of Nevada-Las Vegas by 21 points late in the first half, the Hilltoppers found themselves behind by two with 28 seconds to play. They forced an overtime. Behind by three points in the first overtime, the Hilltoppers found themselves even at the end of the second overtime.

And then ahead again, 95-93, with 45 seconds to play, the Hilltoppers found themselves behind — to stay — when Freddie Banks dropped a floating, twisting 20-footer worth three points through the nets with 13 seconds left in the second overtime.

This was Banks’ fifth basket from three-point range. It was the Rebels’ eighth in 16 tries after halftime.

It was also more than Western could overcome. Clarence Martin, the Hilltoppers’ burly center, missed an eight-foot bank shot that left Western behind 96-95.

If the game proved anything, it wasn’t that UNLV has a better team. Instead it was this: Love it or hate it, you won’t be able to ignore the three-point shot this season.

By shooting it successfully, Las Vegas was able to overcome a first half when it couldn’t throw the ball into a casino pit. Shooting 21 percent, UNLV trailed 45-29 at the half.

And then Banks (5 for 16), Gerald Paddio (2 of 7) and Gary Graham (3 of 3), Vegas’ three long-range shooters, started fading, fading and fading into Central Park and coming up looking like three points.

“I love the rule,” said Banks. “It’s great for shooters like me. We’ve played with it for four years so we have a little advantage. We know how to use it. On that last shot, I just saw the line and let it fly.”

That is a fact losing coach Murray Arnold admitted as he gathered his team around him on the court after the game to analyze the defeat.

One thing turned this game: The three-point goal, college basketball’s 19-foot, 9-inch chip shot. Vegas made more (10 of 27) than Western attempted (1 for 4).

“If the idea of college basketball is to make it a shooting contest from more than 20 feet, then it’s a great rule,” said Arnold. “But I don’t think that’s why we play the game. It distorts the way the game of basketball is supposed to be played.”

A frown from the coach, whose

See TOPPERS’ PAGE 11, col. 1, this section

NEVADA-LAS VEGAS 96, WESTERN KENTUCKY 95 — While Nevada-Las Vegas received their NIT championship trophy, Western’s bench sits dejected.

CLARENCE MARTIN
Toppers’ start stirs memories

Continued from Page B 7

team defeated Notre Dame, Texas Christian and Memphis State to get here.

“Hey, you’ve got to give Las Vegas the credit,” said Arnold. “I don’t like the-foul, but they used it to their advantage. That’s the fourth straight game in this tournament they came from 10 points behind. And every time they did it with the three-point shot.”

“But that shot is a farce, and I said that even when my teams (at Tennessee-Chattanooga) used it successfully in the Southern Conference.”

Despite the defeat, remember, please, that great things happened to three of the teams — Duke, Kansas and Louisville — that made the semifinals of this tournament last season. All of them showed up in Dallas for the NCAA Final Four.

This was not Montana State, Northern Iowa or Austin Peay that defeated Western Saturday night. Sports Illustrated ranked UNLV third nationally in its preseason issue, while The Associate Press placed it fifth. To lose to the Rebels by one point in double overtime is to prove you deserve a Top 10 ranking, too.

“Western Kentucky,” said Scotty Stirling, general manager of the New Yorks Knicks, “is a very talented basketball team. Everybody talks about Kannard Johnson. Hey, I like Tellis Frank. He showed some people he can play up here.”

And now that the NIT is history, it is history that Western can continue chasing. Despite the cruel defeat, people in Bowling Green will tell you that the similarities between this team and the Hilltoppers’ team that went to the Final Four in 1971 are amazing.

The seniors on the 1971 team were mediocre as sophomores, winning only 16 of 26 games. This team finished 14-14 two years ago.

The 1971 team featured a rugged forward named Clarence Glover. This team features a rugged 6-8 forward named Clarence Martin.

The 1971 team visited Madison Square Garden for the Holiday Festival, where it defeated St. John’s before losing to South Carolina when a tip-in basket at the buzzer was not allowed. This is the first Western team to return to the Garden.

“There’s been more anticipation for this season than there’s been for any season since 1971,” said Jim Richards. Richards was an assistant coach with that team who now serves as the school’s director of alumni affairs.

“Even the styles of play are similar,” said Richards. “That was a big, strong, powerful, physical team that just beat people to death on the boards. So is this one.”

Excitement reigns in Bowling Green. The Hilltoppers have sold more than 8,000 season tickets. About 250 people made the short-notice trip to New York. Another hundred Kentuckians living in the New York area also showed up.

Western, remember, has not defeated Louisville since 1961. That means, of course, it has never happened during the Denny Crum Era.

Last year in Freedom Hall the Hilltoppers blew a large lead and lost 73-70.

Strangely, it was a game reminiscent of the NIT Classic Final played at Madison Square Garden Saturday night.

Will the Louisville game be a special occasion in Bowling Green?

“Right now,” said James McNary, Western’s point guard, “we can’t worry about Louisville. We just have to worry about getting back to our winning ways.”

And worry about surviving in a world with the three-point shot.

Western Kentucky forward Tellis Frank went high above the crowd for a rebound during a 96-95 double-overtime loss to Nevada-Las Vegas Saturday night in Madison Square Garden.
Toppers' start stirs memories

Continued from Page B 7

team defeated Notre Dame, Texas Christian and Memphis State to get here.

"Hey, you've got to give Las Vegas the credit," said Arnold. "I don't like the-cute, but they used it to their advantage. That's the fourth straight game in this tournament they came from 10 points behind. And every time they did it with the three-point shot.

"But that shot is a farce," and I said that even when my teams (at Tennessee-Chattanooga) used it successfully in the Southern Conference."

Despite the defeat, remember, please, that great things happened to three of the teams -- Duke, Kansas and Louisville -- that made the semifinals of this tournament last season. All of them showed up in Dallas for the NCAA Final Four.

This was not Montana State, Northern Iowa or Austin Peay that defeated Western Saturday night.

Sports Illustrated ranked UNLV third nationally in its preseason issue, while The Associated Press placed it fifth. To lose to the Rebels by one point in double overtime is to prove you deserve a Top 10 ranking, too.

"Western Kentucky," said Scotty Stirling, general manager of the New York Knicks, "is a very talented basketball team. Everybody talks about Kannard Johnson. Hey, I like Tellis Frank. He showed some people he can play up here."

And now that the NIT is history, it is history that Western can continue chasing. Despite the cruel defeat, people in Bowling Green will tell you that the similarities between this team and the Hilltoppers' team that went to the Final Four in 1971 are amazing.

The seniors on the 1971 team were mediocre as sophomores, winning only 16 of 26 games. This team finished 14-14 two years ago.

The 1971 team featured a rugged forward named Clarence Glover. This team features a rugged 6-8 forward named Clarence Martin.

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Excitement reigns in Bowling Green. The Hilltoppers have sold more than 8,000 season tickets. About 250 people made the short-distance trip to New York. Another hundred Kentuckians living in the New York area also showed up.

And make a note of this: About 5,000 tickets for Louisville's Dec. 10 visit to Diddle Arena went on sale last Wednesday. Within an hour they were gone.

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And worry about surviving in a world with the three-point shot.
**Commentary**

Western's enforcer. He's the Toppers' all-time leader in blocked shots, with 135 rejections; he does the things it takes to win — rebound, play defense, push the other guys around. He's likely to be drafted higher by the NFL than by the NBA.

McNeal, a 6-2, 167-pound sophomore, looks like he'd wilt at the sight of a Martin elbow. He enjoyed a 22-8 record his freshman season and will probably see better this year. He's the Toppers' flashiest player and Western's only legitimate three-point shooter. He'll likely be an all-Sun Belt performer before his career is over.

And it's doubtful he'd be enjoying any of this success if it weren't for the

- **It's like a mini-NCAA (Final Four). The talent level is the same.**

  **Brett McNeal**

likes of Martin and seniors Kannard Johnson, Tellis Frank and Bryan Asberry, who fought with mediocrity until their highly-acclaimed talents blossomed to attract the likes of McNeal, Minnesota's Player of the Year in 1965.

The meshing of the old and new talent has been remarkable, considering they all had to adjust to a new coach, Murray Arnold, and his philosophies.

The talent was put on a stage for all the college basketball world to see in Saturday's final of the National Invitation Tournament in Madison Square Garden in New York against Nevada Las Vegas before a nationwide television audience.

There was Martin taking a feed from McNeal to give Western an 86-84 lead in the first possession in the second overtime. McNeal had 13 points, but he was passing it off to the guy who had been in the pressure situations before.

And with Western down 96-95 with five seconds left, there was McNeal again passing up a 17-foot jumper to dish it inside to Martin for the last-second shot. This time Martin missed, and the title and a 21-point lead had disappeared.

The early assault on the nation's elite basketball teams meant a lot to both players. Playing in the finals of the pinnacle of early-season tournaments is an experience both players say they will cherish. And they hope that their success will breed success.

It's easy to understand why it would mean a little more to the team's elder statesman.

"Every night since then I've prayed," Martin said after the win over Memphis State on Friday. "I knew something like this would happen. I just didn't know how.

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**NIT experience means a great deal**

Continued from Page 17

His prayers paid off with a trip to the Big Apple, complete with all its distractions.

"It was hard to get my mind on the basketball game, and it's easy to understand why," he said.

But when it was time to get serious, Martin was all business. He had to make sure the younger players — like McNeal — knew when it was time to get their minds on basketball.

"Somebody has to take charge," he said. "The guys came in the locker room tonight (Friday) playing around and I had to take the responsibility and say, 'Hey, let's be quiet and get serious.'"

"I think the guys like having me around. I'm just thankful I can be here this year. I want to help the guys out the best I can. I guess the injury has worked out for the best in the long run. It's been a long time coming.

McNeal said the atmosphere surrounding the NIT was "wild.

"It's like a mini-NCAA (Final Four)," he said. "The talent level is the same.

McNeal said Martin and the other seniors were a big help in his play early in the tournament, where he was averaging over 12 points per game.

"They take a big load off me," he said. "It's easier to relax with them out there. And they make me want to play as hard as I can because this is their last go-round — we all want them to do well and go out on top."

Martin and McNeal both said that they hope Western's success in the NIT will prove valuable in exposure and recruiting for Western.

"I had to take the responsibility and say 'Hey, let's be quiet and get serious.'"

**Clarence Martin**

"I'm not looking for any exposure for myself," said Martin, whose play nonetheless earned him a spot on the all-tournament team. "I want the school to get some recognition, and be able to bring in the players and play with these teams every year.

"Don't let anybody think that the NIT is weak this year. It's as strong as it has been. We just proved that we can play with the best teams in the country. We hope everybody will realize that now."

Polsters are getting the message. UNLV moved up to No. 2 in this week's Associated Press poll.

The Toppers vaulted to No. 14, their highest rating since 1971.

Of course, Western would have liked to have won the game, but the Tops chalked up the loss as a "learning experience."

"Every game you play close with a good ball team makes you improve," Martin said. "We know now we can play in the pressure situations and with anybody. The only negative thing about it is we lost. Everything else was positive. Everything we saw can only make us better."

McNeal agreed. "I just wish we didn't have to learn by losing."

The experience can only prove valuable this season as well as future years. Martin had to work to get a team to the top; McNeal stepped in at the height of success. Two years from now, he'll not only have Martin's experience, but he'll be better because he played in the spotlight more as a younger player.

Maybe passing off to the senior for the final shot in the NIT championship will pay off for McNeal. Maybe he'll be the one to receive the pass and make the shot sometime.

And somewhere in the back of his mind, he'll know that the confidence to take that shot came from Clarence Martin, whose dedication to Western's basketball program was the link from the frustrations of the past to the hope of the future.
Here's a look at the pre-season polls released thus far this year:

**Off the Glass Magazine**
1. Texas
2. Louisiana Tech
3. Southern California
4. Auburn
5. Tennessee
6. Rutgers
7. Virginia
8. **WESTERN KENTUCKY**
9. Georgia
10. Long Beach State
11. Iowa
12. Penn State
13. Old Dominion
14. Ohio State
15. Louisiana State
16. Mississippi
17. Maryland
18. San Diego State
19. James Madison
20. Texas Tech

**Women's Basketball News Service**
1. Texas
2. Louisiana Tech
3. Auburn
4. Rutgers
5. Southern California
6. Tennessee
7. Virginia
8. **WESTERN KENTUCKY**
9. Old Dominion
10. Georgia
11. Iowa
12. Louisiana State
13. Long Beach State
14. Texas Tech
15. James Madison
16. Penn State
17. Mississippi
18. Duke
19. Stanford
20. Ohio State/St. Joseph's

**Street & Smith's**
1. Texas
2. Southern California
3. Louisiana Tech
4. Auburn
5. Tennessee
6. Rutgers
7. Old Dominion
8. Iowa
9. Virginia
10. Long Beach State
11. San Diego State
12. Louisiana State
13. **WESTERN KENTUCKY**
14. Georgia
15. Mississippi
16. Penn State
17. Maryland
18. Ohio State
19. Texas Tech
20. James Madison

**Dick Vitale's Basketball Yearbook**
1. Texas
2. Louisiana Tech
3. Auburn
4. Tennessee
5. Southern California
6. Virginia
7. Rutgers
8. Iowa
9. Long Beach State
10. Old Dominion
11. Louisiana State
12. Georgia
13. San Diego State
14. **WESTERN KENTUCKY**
15. Maryland
16. Mississippi
17. Ohio State
18. Penn State
19. Missouri
20. James Madison

**Associated Press Top 20**
1. North Carolina (33)
2. Louisiana Tech (1)
3. Southern California
4. Auburn
5. Tennessee
6. Rutgers
7. Southern California
8. Iowa
9. Virginia
10. Long Beach State
11. San Diego State
12. Louisiana State
13. **WESTERN KENTUCKY**
14. Georgia
15. Mississippi
16. Penn State
17. Maryland
18. Ohio State
19. Texas Tech
20. James Madison
### BASKETBALL POLL
Poll taken before Monday’s games

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Last Week</th>
<th>Votes</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Next Game</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>NORTH CAROLINA (2-1)</td>
<td>Last week: 795 (28 No. 1 votes). Monday's result: Lost to UCLA, 84-89. Next game: Wednesday vs. Stetson.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>NEVADA-LAS VEGAS (4-0)</td>
<td>Last week: 5. Poll points: 747 (3 No. 1 votes). Next game: Friday vs. Memphis State.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>INDIANA (1-0)</td>
<td>Last week: 3. Poll points: 719 (1 No. 1 vote). Next game: Tonight at Notre Dame.</td>
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### WOMEN’S POLL

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<th>Last Week</th>
<th>Votes</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Next Game</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>TEXAS (2-0)</td>
<td>Last week: 1. Poll points: 549 (1 No. 1 votes). Next game: Friday vs. Notre Dame in Dr. Pepper Classic.</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>OHIO STATE (0-0)</td>
<td>Last week: 15. Poll points: 238. First game: Friday vs. Colorado at Dr. Pepper Classic, Austin, Texas.</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>NORTH CAROLINA STATE (2-0)</td>
<td>Last week: NR. Poll points: 76. Next game: Thursday vs. South Carolina.</td>
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By STAN SUTTON
Staff Writer

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Western Kentucky, which may have the only movable weight room in college basketball, outmuscled another opponent last night. The victim was Southern California, the score 82-52.

Western's front line, which outweighs former hamburger shill Clare Fuller by about 600 pounds, successfully defended its Wendy's Classic championship and ran its coach Murray Arnold.

The next task for the Anvils of the Western Front — namely 6-foot-9 center Donald Murray, 6-8 Clarence Martin and 6-10 Tellis Frank — will be here Wednesday night against Louisville, a real heavyweight.

Southern Cal, young but full of potential, did an amazing imitation of Buddy Martin, obviously referring to Frank, Martin and Johnson. Frank, who scored 11, was the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

"They'll go a long, long way," Raveling said of the Toppers. "They outplayed us almost the entire second half. I was pleased with the effort, but not the execution," Arnold said of the second period.

"You don't relax, but if a 6-9 guy is pounding on a 6-10 guy, eventually the 6-9 guy is going to wear down a little," said Western guard James McNary.

For most of the last 20 minutes, Western simply carried the fight. Had there been a ring pheasant in the first half, mostly through gut-wrenching defensive play, the Hilltoppers built a 30-point lead on the Trojans by halftime.

"They're not only physical individuals, but they're good athletes," he said. "I think Tellis and Johnson serve a dual role in (that) they both can play with their backs to the basket and they can both pass the ball on the floor well, they both can pass it well.

"I certainly would put them on a par with teams in the Big Ten. If they were in the Big Ten they would compete with Indiana, Purdue and Iowa for the championship."

Western had some astounding first halves this season, leading Notre Dame by 18 and Nevada-Las Vegas by 21. But last night's outpost was the best than the 58-point run the Trojans threw at Mercer in the second half Friday night.

The Hilltoppers so tightened the screws on their defense that in the first half USC was called for violating the 45-second clock, the five-second count and the 10-second mid-court count. The Trojans also were so shocked that they shot two air balls, missed two unimpared layups and traveled a step before a wide-open dunk shot.

"Everything fell into place," Arnold said. "We played well, but I don't think we played 30 points better."

The Toppers' defense didn't allow a field goal until Derrick Dowell scored from in close at the 12:45 mark, before which Western had sailed in from 11-1. It took more than nine minutes for Southern Cal to get its second field goal, again by Dowell. That so infuriated the hosts that they scored the next six points, running the lead to 25-8.

Dowell had seven of USC's first eight points before Rich Grandt threw in a jumper from the corner. But Martin hit 1 of 2 foul shots, the second being followed in by Frank. Frank then scored four more points before Dowell made a foul shot, that being answered by Kurk Lee's fielder for a 34-11 Western lead.

That came 14 minutes into the action, at which time the Trojans were shooting 23 percent and happy to have the. Frank further insulted his pride with a steal at his end and a long-legged sprint to the far goal for a dunk and subsequent three-point play. With two minutes left until intermission, the Hilltoppers were soaring 42-11.

Even with late baskets by Grande and Brad Winslow, USC trailed 46-16 at halftime.

At halftime, Raveling set three goals: outscore them, outrebound them and regain your self-respect. The Trojans did two of the three, but were outrebounded 46-25 for the game.

"They outplayed us almost the entire second half. I was pleased with the effort, but not the execution," Arnold said of the second period.

"You don't relax, but if a 6-9 guy is pounding on a 6-10 guy, eventually the 6-9 guy is going to wear down a little," said Western guard James McNary.

For most of the last 20 minutes, Western simply carried the fight. Had there been a ring pheasant, he wouldn't have allowed USC to come out for the second round.

Southern Cal's only spurt of the night came with the three opening baskets of the second half, but Western blew it back out to 30 with two baskets by Bryan Asberry and a layup by Brett McNeal after stealing the inbounds pass. The Trojans never again got closer than 23.

Martin's 16 points in 26 minutes led Western, which also forced 26 turnovers. Frank had 11 points, McNeal 20 as the Toppers shot 48 percent to USC's 37 percent.

Scouts from four National Basketball Association teams, the New York Knicks, Detroit Pistons, Milwaukee Bucks and Washington Bullets, scouted the tournament.

Dowell, who scored 18, made the all-tournament team along with Frank, Johnson, Mercer's Chris Moore and Murray State's Don Mann.
Trojans bombed by Hilltoppers 82-52

By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

A Trojan horse couldn't have saved Southern California in the finals of the Wendy's Classic.
A Trojan tank, a Trojan missile or a Trojan nuclear bomb, maybe, but it was going to take more than the visitors from Los Angeles could muster against No. 14 Western.

No, all the horses in this one belonged to the Hilltoppers as they disposed of USC 82-52 in front of 6,200 somewhat quiet fans at Diddle Arena.

It was the second straight Wendy's championship for the Toppers after going the first five tournaments as the bridesmaid.

It was also Coach Murray Arnold's 300th career victory, and the sixth in seven games for the Hilltoppers.

Arnold was happy with the win, but by no means was he jumping up and down.

"I'm excited that it was in the Wendy's, and I'm happy it came at Western Kentucky, but the biggest thing to me is what it means to the kids," Arnold said after running his career mark to 300-121.

Maybe one reason the Topper faithful were so subdued was because of the nature of the game itself.

Take the first half — please.

It was close for about seven minutes. That's how long it took for the Hilltoppers to run out to a double-figure lead of 11-1.

It got worse, much worse, for the Trojans.

"Both games we won were won defensively," Arnold said. "We've played extremely well defensively in parts of games. We wanted an up tempo game. We want to get full court man-to-man pressure."

By the time the siege, uh, the first half was over, Western had USC down 46-16 and asking for life support.

The noise level reached roaring only when Tellis Frank stole the ball and broke away for a monster slam to make it 36-11 with 6:30 to go.

The Trojans never got the life support, either.

The Toppers didn't score their first bucket of the second half until a little more than five minutes were gone, but the Trojans had only added six points to their total.

All the while, Arnold coached himself into a tizzy.

USC's George Raveling, meanwhile, sat as if he were attending a funeral.

The Trojans were, after all, ready for last rights in falling to 2-2.

Clarence Martin put on a power clinic in the first half, scoring 14 points — all from eight feet and closer. The senior center could've had even more if he had hit better than 4 of 7 free throws.

Frank also had his usual contribution, netting 11 points.

Martin ended up as Western's leading scorer with 16 points. Frank kept his halftime total.

Bryan Asberry scored 11 points, all in the second half, and Brett McNeal added 10.

"We were taking what they would give us. They were in a 1-2-2 and I was open," Martin said.

Kannard Johnson only scored four points, but had a game-high 11 rebounds.

Frank was the Most Valuable Player in the Classic. Johnson and McNeal made the all-tournament team, but Martin was left off.

That didn't sit well with James McNary, who was primarily responsible for getting the ball to Martin in the first half.

"I was looking for him. He was working hard for the ball. He should've been on the all-tournament team," McNary said.

"Sometimes people forget about blocking shots and defense. Sometimes people on all-tournament teams shouldn't be the ones who score the most points, but the ones who do the best job."

The one who did the best job for the Trojans was Evansville, Ind., senior Derrick Dowell.

Dowell, who was also on the all-tournament team, had a game-high 18 points.

Brad Winslow was the only other double-figure scorer for USC with

Continued On Page 20
Column 3. This Section

CLASSIC WIN — Southern Cal's Chris Munk tries to block Western's Kannard Johnson during last Saturday's 82-52 Hilltopper victory in the Wendy's Classic Championship game.
CLARENCE MARTIN (55) hauls in a rebound as a Southern California player tries to take it away. Martin and his Western Hilltoppers defeated USC 82-52 in the finals of the Wendy's Classic Saturday night at Diddle Arena.

Clearing for Clarence
Poll taken before Monday's games

1 NEVADA-LAS VEGAS (5-0)

2 INDIANA (3-0)

3 PURDUE (4-0)

4 NORTH CAROLINA (4-1)
Last week: 1. Poll points: 695. Next game: Saturday at Jackson

5 IOWA (6-0)

6 ILLINOIS (5-0)

7 OKLAHOMA (3-1)

8 NAVY (4-1)

9 UCLA (3-0)

10 WESTERN KENTUCKY (6-1)

11 NORTH CAROLINA STATE (5-1)

12 PITTSBURGH (3-1)

13 SYRACUSE (5-0)

14 GEORGETOWN (4-0)

15 AUBURN (2-0)

16 KANSAS (3-1)

17 GEORGIA TECH (3-1)

18 KENTUCKY (2-1)

19 ARKANSAS (4-0)

20 ALABAMA (2-1)

Associated Press Top 20
(First-place votes in parentheses)

1. Nevada-Las Vegas (38) 5-0 1236 2
2. Indiana (14) 4-0 1144 3
3. Purdue (7) 3-0 1176 4
4. Iowa 3-0 1029 5
5. North Carolina (1) 2-0 1013 1
6. Illinois (1) 2-0 857 9
7. Auburn (1) 2-0 779 7
8. Western Kentucky 2-1 643 14
9. Oklahoma 2-1 637 11
10. Navy 2-1 547 10
11. UCLA (1) 2-0 517 17
12. Syracuse 2-0 510 17
13. Georgetown 2-0 497 16
14. Kansas 2-1 485 4
15. No. Carolina St. 2-1 360 18
16. Georgia Tech 2-1 334 15
17. Pittsburgh 2-1 310 12
18. Alabama 2-1 306 8
19. Kentucky 2-1 225 13
20. Arkansas 2-1 184

Others receiving votes:
Temple 135; Florida State 86; Wyoming 76; St. John's 73; Tulsa 41; Louisville 48; Arizona 37; Villanova 33; Iowa State 26; Creighton 14; Cleveland State 14; DePaul 14; Northeastern 13; Ohio State 13; California 12; Oregon State 12; Georgia 9; Duke 7; Memphis State 6; Utah 6; Houston 5; Marquette 3; New Orleans 3; Florida 2; Idaho 2; New Mexico State 2; St. Louis 2; Michigan 1; Notre Dame 1; S. Mississippi 1.

‘Four Tops’ a hit

Best college basketball nickname belongs to four Western Kentucky seniors. The Hilltoppers' 6-10 Tellis Frank, 6-9 Kannard Johnson, 6-8 Clarence Martin and 6-5 Bryan Asberry call themselves The Four Tops. Look for this 10th-ranked team to drop a fourth In$ on defending national Champion Louisville Wednesday. Pity of their schedule is Kentucky won't play them.

UNLV No. 1; Western moves up to eighth
No. 24 Louisville holds off No. 10 W. Kentucky 60-58

Pervis Ellison scored 18 points and grabbed 13 rebounds as No. 24 Louisville used a strong inside attack to defeat 10th-ranked Western Kentucky 60-58 at Bowling Green, Ky.

Coach Denny Crum and his Louisville team are not ready to move up in the polls after the Cardinals evened their record at 3-3.

"I don't really think we've arrived or anything like that," Crum said. "The fact that we beat them doesn't mean we're a Top 10 team."

The defending national champs came to Western with a losing record. Although Louisville committed 27 turnovers compared to Western's 21, the taller Cardinals managed to get inside shots.

"Louisville did a masterful job of taking advantage of the height," Western coach Murray Arnold said.

Western (6-2) was plagued by poor shooting and foul trouble. Leading scorer Tellis Frank was sidelined in the second period with four fouls and center Clarence Martin fouled out with 8:14 left in the game.

Frank, who averages 18.4 points a game, scored just eight in 29 minutes. "It really became a very physical war out there," Arnold said.

LOUISVILLE (6-0) — McSwain 4-10 0-0 8, Crook 4-10 0-0 8, Ellison 7-14 4-4 18, Haughey 1-2 0-0 2, Kimbro 5-13 2-3 12, Wale 3-2 3-3 9, Payne 0-0 0-0, Spencer 1-1 1-2 3. Totals 23-51 14-22 60.

WESTERN KENTUCKY (5-6-1) — Johnson 2-7 0-0 4, Frank 3-8 2-2 8, Martin 3-5 5-11, McKae 3-10 1-2 7, McNeal 7-10 0-0 15, Lee 0-1 1-2 2, Shelton 0-0 0-0, Swogger 4-10 0-0 10, Asberry 0-1 0-0, Totals 22-42 11-20 58.


Strength in numbers

Pervis Ellison (42) and Herbert Crook of the University of Louisville fight for a rebound Wednesday night as Western's Tellis Frank (left) and Clarence Martin (55) look on during the Cardinals 60-58 win at Diddle Arena. (See story Page 1-B.)
Chaminade's party is 'parity' to Arnold

By JIM EASTERWOOD
Gannett News Service

HONOLULU — Parity may be an overused word in collegiate basketball these days, but Western Kentucky coach Murray Arnold said there is good reason for it.

"Parity is a true word," said Arnold after his Hilltoppers held off tough Chaminade University of Honolulu Silverswords 71-70 to win the fourth annual Chaminade Basketball Classic Friday night.

You will have a hard time convincing Arnold that Division I powers of the NCAA are any tougher than the Silverswords of the NAIA.

"We played the No. 1 NCAA Division I team in the country in Nevada Las Vegas and we lost by a point in double overtime," said Arnold. "So then we beat Chaminade by one point. I know there's a tendency to simplify things in cliches but there is an awful lot of parity in college basketball."

The giant-killing Silverswords almost lived up to their reputation Friday night, and Arnold wouldn't have it any other way.

"We had huge foul trouble, and Asberry gave us big lift in both games," said Arnold. "He deserved the distinction of being selected to an All-Tournament team as a reserve. He scored 20 points and grabbed 20 rebounds in the two games."

Also named All-Tournament were Western Kentucky's Tellis Frank, a 6-10 forward who had 16 points Friday night, and center Clarence Martin, who had 10 points and was the tournament MVP.

Asberry had scored eight points in the last 3:36 of the first half to give the Hilltoppers a 35-29 margin.

The Hilltoppers (16-5) also had guard Brett McNary in double figures with 12 points, his 13th straight game in double figures.

Chaminade coach Merv Lopes said Asberry reminds him of the Chicago Bears' William "The Refrigerator" Perry. "He throws his weight around pretty good," said Lopes. "We couldn't stop him."

Arnold, of course, was delighted to see his reserves in general and Asberry in particular come through.

"We had huge foul trouble, and Asberry gave us big lift in both games," said Arnold. "He deserved it. Anytime a kid can come off the bench and make it, that has to give a team a big lift."

McNeal bombs in 26 as Tops destroy Tech

By JOE MEDLEY

When Western entered its conference schedule against Alabama-Birmingham in Diddle Arena on Saturday night, some of the preseason optimism for the 1986-87 Sun Belt season seemed dead.

Western, 13-4, had dropped a 68-66 decision to Eastern Kentucky just a few days before.

But unlike last year, when Western dropped a 62-59 decision to eventual conference champ Old Dominion, the Toppers' home Sun Belt opener was a rousing success.

Awaking the intensity of the first half of the Nevada-Las Vegas game in a preseason national invitational tournament, the Tops kept it going for two halves, blasting UAB 85-67 before 10,300 fans.

"I'm extremely proud of the effort," Western coach Murray Arnold said. "It was a moment of truth for us. We had to play better and more consistently."

Kannard Johnson, who dunked, tipped and cheered his way to 22 points and 14 rebounds, said the beginning of the Sun Belt schedule turned up the Tops' intensity level.

"We were ready to play," he said. "We're coming down to where it counts now, so there's no half speed."

"When conference time comes around, we know we have to be ready to play. UAB is a big rival. You know
Johnson a juggernaut as Western rips UAB 85-67

By STAN SUTTON
Staff Writer

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Moments after Alabama-Birmingham had capped off an Imperfect 10 — missing its first 10 shots of the game — Western Kentucky's Kannard Johnson went to work.

And do did Western, burying one of the Sun Belt Conference's better teams 85-67 in the Hilltoppers' league opener last night.

Johnson, a force lately, was the catalyst. Plucking a missed 15-footer by Tellis Frank out of the air, Johnson smashed the ball through the cords with both hands.

Then, when Brett McNeal mis-fired on a 17-footer, Johnson again was above the rim to pick up the ball on a delicate touch as he came down.

Again, as his man tried to pass to the pivot, the 6-foot-9 Johnson stuck out his big hand and stole the pass, sort of like a defensive tackle making a one-handed interception from short range.

All this in a couple of minutes, from which the blitized Blazers never recovered.

Not that they didn't try — even after trailing 42-24 at halftime.

With 6-4 guard Tracy Foster firing in four three-pointers in the second half, the Blazers closed within 12 points. But Alabama-Birmingham had too many things to overcome — things like starting guard James Ponder missing all 13 of his shots.

Coming into the game, Johnson had made 41 of his last 68 shots and 15 of his last 18. In scoring 22 points, he was 5 of 10 from the field and 12 of 13 at the line. He also had 14 rebounds, as the Hilltoppers won the backboards 53-54.

UAB closed a 21-point deficit, 54-33, to 58-46 with 11:31 left, benefitting from three consecutive three-pointers by Foster, a transfer from Indiana. But the Hilltoppers (13-4) ran their lead out to 72-51 in the next five minutes, capping that run on a fast-break, three-point layup and free throw by Johnson.

Two minutes later, Johnson had a dunk and a free throw on a similar play to run the lead to 78-52, and seconds later Frank stuffed in another basket on a fast break for a 29-point edge that delighted the Hilltoppers crowd of 10,300.

Western shot 49 percent for the game, UAB only 34. And the Topper's slight use of the three-pointer got them nine points in six shots, while UAB hit only 4 of 18.

Foster led the losers with 23 points. Frank had 18, McNeal 14 for the Hilltoppers, with McNeal getting nine of his points in six of his 10 attempts from three-point range.

See WESTERN'S PAGE 6, col. 4, this section.

Western's Johnson rules the air, UAB fires air balls in 85-67 loss

Continued from Page One

nine rebounds from the backcourt.

"We had to turn a corner tonight," said winning coach Murray Arnold, noting an overtime victory at Butler and an overtime loss at Eastern Kentucky in his team's last two games.

"We were fortunate to catch UAB in a shooting slump," Arnold said.

Alabama-Birmingham needed three minutes to even get off a shot against a spirited Western defense, and Clarence Martin blocked that one, an inside attempt by Eddie Collins.

The Hilltoppers scored the game's first eight points, with four different players sharing the honors. UAB used five free throws to get on the scoreboard before Foster finally scored a field goal eight minutes into the action.

Scoring six straight to close the margin to 29-18, but the Blazers then went more than two empty minutes, during which the Toppers shot eight free throws and made five of them. And when McNeal hit a three-pointer at 2:47, the hosts were up 38-22.

By halftime it was a comfortable 42-24, with Western hitting 50 percent from the floor and UAB 24 percent.

Johnson's outstanding first half produced 12 points and nine rebounds, with the entire UAB team getting but 14 rebounds in the period to Western's 27.

Western plays Virginia Commonwealth Monday night in Richmond, Va., then goes to Jacksonville for a Wednesday meeting with the Dolphins. Virginia Commonwealth will be here next Saturday night for a rematch.
Western’s Frank alters his game: waistline error to baseline terror

By STAN Sutton
Staff writer

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — When one watches the fluid motion of 6-10 Tellis Frank slicing along the baseline, he is hard to realize that most of his knife work used to be through pans of brownies.

For sure, there isn’t an ounce of baby fat left on his 225-pound frame. Nobody calls him Pudge McFudge. His current diet is as delicate as his jump shot.

Not so during his formative years, admits the Western Kentucky senator, who has been a force behind the 7-3 start of the Hilltoppers, who play host to Armstrong State at 8:30 p.m. EST.

“I was a little bit overweight. I ate a whole lot,” he confessed.

Those days began when Frank was a freshman at Lew Wallace High in Gary, Ind. First, his father died, which led to his mother’s quitting her job.

Frank’s mother, or more specifically her culinary talent, was the second hitch.

“When she quit working she starting cooking everything,” he said.

“I’d come home from school and she’d have brownies and all kinds of stuff, and I’d just sit there, eat and watch TV. I had a lot of baby fat on me.”

These were the years when most healthy Hoosier boys were shooting hoops. But although his height was rising faster than yeast doughnuts in a hot oven, most of Frank’s energy toward a basketball future was diverted into dunking cookies in his milk.

“Mom would cook fried chicken, macaroni and cheese, apple cobbler. She just loved to cook,” said Frank, his mouth almost watering.

“I’d have sweets, cookies and all kinds of stuff. I’d get out of school at 3 o’clock and I’d be the only one home.”

Probably it was basketball that rescued the young man from such torture. Early Smith, the coach at Lew Wallace, watched Frank grow from 5-10 as a freshman to 6-2 as a sophomore, 6-7 as a junior and 6-9 as a senior. Coaches tend to notice such things, and Smith urged Tellis to fork over his digestive habit and to play.

Continued from Page B 8

Frank making those NBA predictions look good

In fact, a source close to the preseason National Invitation Tournament told Western officials that Frank would have been the NIT’s Most Valuable Player had Western beaten Nevada-Las Vegas in the final. That was a double-overtime loss that left NBA scouts raving about Frank as possibly the sleeper of next year’s draft.

One reason Frank became adept at handling the ball had to do with the multitalented Fort at Lew Wallace.

“I got overlooked a lot with me and him and Asberry on the same team. They progressed so early in their career and got a lot of exposure,” Frank said. “But what helped me a lot was the fact that I could put it on the floor. If I thought Johnny was shooting the ball too much, I’d just get the rebound, bring it up the floor by myself and do what I wanted to do with it.”

When Haskins left to coach at Minnesota after last season, all of Bowling Green held its breath until a new coach was named. It turned out to be Murray Arnold, a bespectacled 48-year-old who used to play high school basketball for Billy Packer’s father.

“I’d never heard anything about coach Arnold. They said they’d hire the assistant coach of the Chicago Bulls, and I was looking for some guy at least 6 feet tall,” Frank said. “The coach came in ... a little guy, black suit on, looked like a schoolteacher. But we knew we would be able to get along because he was very low-key, just different than most other coaches.”

Arnold has given the Hilltoppers a certain amount of freedom on the court, while Haskins’ offense was more structured, Frank says.

“That’s helped me a whole lot. You can be a little more creative with the ball,” he said.
Merry Christmas from the Lady Toppers!
Johnson sizzles in crisp 79-70 win at Richmond

By JOE MEDLEY

There seems to be a new being living in Kannard Johnson's 6-9, 220-pound frame — a creature possessed with scoring points and yanking rebounds.

Johnson has scored 41 points and yanked 22 rebounds in the last two games, including 19 points and eight rebounds in Western's 79-70 win over Virginia Commonwealth in Richmond, Va., last night.

"It's just that this is my last year," Johnson said. "I want to go out a winner. I want everyone to remember that Kannard Johnson was a great player."

The win at VCU was Western's first over a Division I school in Virginia ever.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

The Tops moved to 14-4 overall and second place at 2-0 in the Sun Belt going into Wednesday night's showdown with conference-leader Jacksonville. The 6 p.m. game against the Dolphins, who are 3-0 in conference play, will be televised on ESPN.

"Jacksonville is the hottest team in the conference right now," coach Murray Arnold said. "In order for us to catch them we have to go get them."

Johnson seems confident in Western's chances against the Dolphins. "If we just continue to play hard every night, we're going to win," he said.

As a pattern of late, Western jumped on VCU early, not allowing the Rams any easy shots and holding them for long periods without a basket.

Turning loose balls into baskets, Johnson scored 12 points in the first half to pick up the slack for Clarence Martin, who quickly drew three fouls and had to sit down.

Johnson blocked shots by Pete Strayhorn and Tim McGee within 30 seconds of each other. He broke free for one of his patented one-hand dunks for his 12th point just before the intermission.

"We had to pick up the slack," Johnson said. "Clarence is a big part of our starting five. But we just kept playing and things went well."

Brett McNeal hit three straight baskets late in the first period to give him 10 points going into the locker room. The first of those three shots gave Western a 23-13 lead.

McNeal finished with 18 points. His backcourt counterpart, James McNary, pumped in 16 points, and forward Tellis Frank hit for 18 points and grabbed five boards.

But the Tops had to survive some anxious moments in the second half.

Martin picked up his fourth and fifth fouls within 30 seconds of each other and left the game with no points with nearly 15 minutes remaining.

The Rams slowly worked the lead down to 59-49 on Phil Stinnie's two free throws with less than 10 minutes to go.

Frank sank some big baskets to keep VCU at arm's length, but the Rams closed to within eight at 67-59 on a Stinnie tip-in.

But a minute later, Frank swished a shot as he fell to the hardwood, drawing a foul. He hit the free throw to increase Western's lead to 11 with 1:24 left.

"That was a mountain man's move," Arnold said of Frank's shot.

Western held off the Rams by hitting free throws in the remaining minute.

VCU was led by Stinnie and Alvin Hicks, who each scored 16 points.

"We're tickled to death with the win," Arnold said. "We had to do some smart things against a good basketball team on the road and did."
Western's Johnson, no longer a reluctant star, is for real

Kannard Johnson had a love-hate relationship with basketball as a high school sophomore, but he's now regarded as a likely first-round National Basketball Association pick.
LSU rejects Western prospects 67-62

By STAN SUTTON
staff writer

Baton Rouge, La. — Press row looked like a National Basketball Association convention. And, according to Louisiana State coach Dale Brown, so did Western Kentucky's front line.

"They can beat anybody in the country, there's no question about that," Brown said of Western.

Yesterday, however, the Hilltoppers couldn't beat LSU, falling 67-62 in a non-conference game. It was, at least in Brown's opinion, "a big upset for us, a really big, big win."

Besides CBS television viewers from 24 percent of the country, LSU's win was witnessed by scouts from seven NBA teams, including Los Angeles Lakers general manager Jerry West. The objects of their attention were Western's front line of 6-foot-10 Tellis Frank, 6-8 Kannard Johnson and 6-8 Clarence Martin.

"Jack Schalow of the Portland Trail Blazers told me that all three of them could go in the first round, but that all three will go in the first or second rounds," Brown said, recalling a conversation with the former Morehead State coach. "Stu Inman of the Milwaukee Bucks told me about the same thing."

"That's one of the most talented teams that's played here since I've been at LSU."

Nonetheless, LSU did a solid job against the Western threesome, which combined for 30 points and 21 rebounds. Johnson, hitting 7 of 13 shots, scored 16 points and Frank, on 8-of-19 shooting, had 18.

But except for guard Brett McNeal, LSU played all year," said Anthony Wilson. "They were some big, strong, healthy guys. They boarded well and had a strong inside game."

"Our game plan today," Brown said, "was to try to play a straight 2-3 matchup (zone) the whole game. We finally put it together today." Brown said, "I thought we did a good job containing him the first half." Western coach Murray Arnold said of Anthony Wilson, who erupted for consecutive baseline drives that gave LSU a 54-52 lead with 3:45 left to play. After Woodside made a three-pointer at 3:02 for a 57-52 margin, the Hilltoppers never got closer than three points again.

Western, which led 29-27 at halftime, appeared to be taking charge when it built a 34-27 edge three minutes into the second half. McNeal had started the surge with two outside jumpers and he went on to hit his first four shots of the half.

But the Toppers' seven-point edge was wiped away on an LSU roll started by Woodside's jumper just inside the three-point line, followed by his bucket from just outside it. Anthony Wilson then followed up Nikita Wilson's miss to tie the score with 15:23 left.

Western held narrow leads most of the next four minutes before freshman Fess Irvin's 17-footer gave the Tigers a 43-42 edge. Irvin later hit a three-pointer at 10:07 to tie things at 46, and LSU quickly went up by four.

"I took a calculated risk when I yelled at Fess, but he went in and hit that key three-pointer. He held us together late in the game," said Brown.

However, Western got the next six points, on a field goal by McNeal and two by Frank, one of those following a McNeal steal.

"McNeal hurt us a little. He's a pretty good player," Brown said.

Then came Anthony Wilson's two baseline drives that left the Kentuckians between a rock and a hard place.

The Tigers — ending an erratic week in which they beat Kentucky in Lexington by 36 and lost to Florida at home by 24 — took the early initiative, leading 11-5 after five minutes. The margin reached 18-11 before the Hilltoppers scratched back within 20-19.

Western then took the lead when Kurt Lee stole the ball and fed McNeal for an eight-footer. When Nikita Wilson fouled, the Western guard's foul shot left the Toppers up 23-20. They would not trail again for nearly 15 minutes.

"It's one of the best defensive games we've played all year," Brown said. "We had very little chance, we thought, of matching up with their big size and talent on the inside."

"It was a defensive war out there," agreed Arnold. "The fact that we didn't have a good shooting game certainly is not a coincidence."

"They did a fine job playing defense," said Western's Martin. "But I think the key was that they got so many loose balls."

"We finally put it together today," said Anthony Wilson. "They were some big, strong, healthy guys. They boarded well and had a strong inside game."

"Our game plan today," Brown said, "was to try to go inside early and draw fouls. It was very successful. Oliver (Brown) attempted 14 free throws. We had 31, so that game plan worked."

The Tigers' 31 free throws were 20 more than Western shot, the Hilltoppers outscoring LSU by six field goals. Western made 8 of 11 at the line, LSU 22 of 31 with Brown sinking 9 of his 14.

Western gets back into Sun Belt Conference play at 8:35 EST Monday night at South Alabama before playing host to South Florida Thursday and North Carolina Charlotte Saturday.

Sun Belt standings

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Western Kentucky rallies in overtime, tops UNC Charlotte

Western becomes 3rd team in nation to gain 20th victory

WESTERN KENTUCKY (74) — Johnson 8-13 6-9 22, Frank 11-22 5-6 27, Martin 3-4 0-0 6, Lee 0-2 0-0 0, McNally 5-10 0-0 10, McNally 3-4 0-0 8, Ashburn 1-2 0-0 2, Totals 35-59 13-18 74.

NORTH CAROLINA-CHARLOTTE (71)

Milling 6-14 0-1, Bellamy 3-12 1-1 3, Houndke 9-13 1-0 10, Williams 0-3 2-2, West 5-8 2-2 14, Dinkins 8-13 1-0 18, Barnes 1-1 0-0 2, Gromolczewicz 2-4 2-2 6, Washington 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 29-68 8-16 71.

TELLIS FRANK (42) and James McNary (15) trap South Florida’s Arthur Caldwell Thursday night in Diddle Arena. Western’s defense shut down USF and the Hilltoppers rolled to a 76-59 win.
Western is third team to get 20th victory

By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor
Western became only the third team in Division I basketball to join the 20-win club Tuesday night. The Hilltoppers also moved into a half-game lead in the Sun Belt Conference.

And, they didn't even forget to wipe their feet on the doormat before entering either place.

That doormat is Old Dominion, the farthest falling team in the SBC this season, with a 5-16 overall and 0-8 conference record.

The Hilltoppers left their feet prints all over the Monarchs in a 94-53 drubbing in front of 6,500 fans at Diddle Arena.

Western struggled in the first half, leading only 33-24 at the break. But a 15-point outburst in the second half left no doubt as to

Continued From Page 1-B

Kannard Johnson, who led all scorers with 19 points and opened the game with four straight baskets for Western, missed only two of the 11 shots he took from the field.

"I had to pick myself up from the terrible shooting night I had against (UNC) Charlotte," said Johnson, who hit 5 of 14 against UNCC last Saturday. "We just went to work, came down and went inside."

Tellis Frank followed Johnson with 18 points and was also the game-high rebounder with nine.

Brett McNeal continued his scoring resurgence with 15 points on 7 of 11 shooting from the field.

"It was a very productive performance," said Arnold, after his

Continued On Page 4
Column 4, This Section
Western dunks South Alabama 85-70 as Frank, Johnson slam

By BRUCE W. BRANCH
Staff Writer

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Western Kentucky was looking for a good effort in its final tune-up for Jacksonville Monday night at home.

And the Hilltoppers got it.

Pounding the ball inside for easy baskets, firing in 53.8 percent from the field and getting outstanding efforts from seniors Tel-liss Frank and Kannard Johnson, Western prepared for its Sun Belt Conference championship showdown by frolicking to an 85-70 league victory over outmanned South Alabama before a crowd of 7,600 last night at E.A. Diddle Arena.

Johnson and Frank, a pair of 6-foot-9 towers of strength inside, combined for 48 points and 24 rebounds as they maneuvered their way over and around their smaller Jaguar opponents for short jumpers and slam dunks.

"That's two pretty good basketball players," said WKU coach Murray Arnold. "Our two seniors did another great job. We rely on them a lot. An obvious key to the success we've had this season is we try to get the ball to them so we can win."

Frank knocked in 25 points, grabbed a career-high 15 rebounds and dished off seven assists in one of his best efforts of the season. Johnson, who had seven of the Top-6ers' 11 dunks, came through with 23 points and nine rebounds.

Sophomore guard Brett McNeal added eight points and nine assists.

"I saw a lot of good things from them tonight," said South Alabama coach Mike Hanks. "They went to the boards extremely hard on both ends. Their flying to the boards led to a lot of transition opportunities for their teammates."

"Western is a very talented team. They played within their offense and they attacked us as hard defensively as anybody has attacked us this year."

The victory kept Western Kentucky, 23-6 overall, one game ahead of Jacksonville in the race for first place with an 11-1 conference mark. Jacksonville, which handed the Toppers their only league loss earlier, de-
Western wins on the stuffs that screams are made of

Continued from Page One
feasted South Florida 94-85 last night to improve record to 10-2.

"We were extremely pleased to win," said Arnold. "It was a big game for us. We earned the right to play for the league championship Monday."

It was Western's second win over South Alabama this season. The Toppers took a 68-60 decision earlier.

"They are the type of team that never folds," said Arnold.

After Western had built a 14-point halftime lead, South Alabama rallied to pull within 62-56 on a jumper by Junie Lewis with 9:51 remaining.

Western then went on a 15-8 tear that allowed it to open up a 77-64 bulge with 4:52 left to play. The Hilltoppers breezed home after that.

South Alabama (13-13, 5-8), which dressed only eight players and was without 6-10 starting center Alan Kortokrax, who has an injured hand, was led in scoring by Lewis with 15 points. Guard Jeff Hodge finished with 13.

Spurred by its powerful inside game, 61.3 percent field-goal accuracy and a late spurt, Western enjoyed a 48-34 advantage at intermission.

Johnson, who had five of the Toppers' seven first-half dunks, including a whirling-backward effort on a breakaway that brought the crowd to its feet, led the way with 17 points on 7-of-9 shooting from the field.

Frank added 14, mostly on soft jumpers over smaller defenders from around the key.

Western got its halftime cushion after South Alabama had cut a 32-24 deficit to 33-31 with 4:31 to go on an 18-footer by Jonathan Watts and a free throw by Rodney Butts.

Following Butts' score, Western's Frank hit a pair of free throws and a 15-footer. Reserve guard Kurk Lee followed with the first three-point basket of the game to make it 40-31. Dunks by Frank and Johnson ended a string of 11 straight points, giving Western a 44-31 lead with 2:08 left in the period.

South Alabama, which managed to tie the score four different times despite shooting only 36.1 percent in the first half, was able to stay close early on the strength of some good shooting. Hitting eight of their first 12 attempts, the Jaguars led 18-16 following a layup and jumper by forward John Jimmerson at the 13:10 mark.

Western went back on top for good at 19-18 on a basket and free throw by Johnson.

Western had opened the contest by taking leads of 10-6 and 16-12.

With its floor leader Lewis on the bench for most of the final eight minutes, South Alabama never regained the spark it had early in the contest.

Sun Belt standings

Western ..... 11 1 23 I NC Charlotte
South Alabama ..... 5 1 15 I Ala.-Birm.
Jack'ville ..... 9 2 15 I NC Charlotte
Va. Common.7 6 17 I Old Domin.
Va. Common.7 6 17 I Old Domin.

Mean streak is McNary's way of pushing Western toward its peak
Because Western's front line of 6-10 Tellis Frank, 6-9 Kannard Johnson and 6-8 Clarence Martin has impressed most observers, the remark occasionally is heard that the Hilltoppers will go as far this year as guards McNary and Brett McNeal can take them. McNeal, the only newcomer in the lineup, is averaging about 15 points a game, McNary about six.

"I think they're good enough," Pollio said. "McNeal looked a lot better than I expected him to; he's the one who surprised me. They've got everything it takes to be a Final Four team."

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — To some college basketball fans, James McNary is the player Western Kentucky can't win without."

In the eyes of others he's the guy they can't win with.

McNary, Western's 6-foot, 180-pound junior guard, is within 46 assists of the school record going into tonight's Sun Belt Conference game against Jacksonville (7 p.m., ESPN). Yet, everywhere he goes, two shadows of opinion follow him.

They range from those of Virginia Commonwealth coach Mike Pollio — "To me, he's the best point guard in the conference" — to the loudmouth VCU fan who yelled, "No. 15, you're a jerk!"

More than anything else, perhaps, McNary is visible. His court demeanor ranges from cockiness, in Pollio's words, to confidence, in McNary's. He does, by his own admission, sometimes play out of control, yet he controls an offense that has won 14 of 18 games.

Louisiana State guard Anthony Wilson cleared a path for himself at the expense of Western Kentucky's James McNary in LSU's 67-62 win yesterday at Baton Rouge. Wilson was the Tigers' main man, getting 15 of his 17 points in the second half.
TELLIS FRANK (42) of Western tries to get a shot off against several Old Dominion defenders Tuesday night at Diddle Arena. The Hilltoppers won the Sun Belt Conference game 94-53.
Hilltoppers no longer taking back seat in Kentucky

"If they were in the Big Ten they would compete with Indiana, Purdue and Iowa for the championship."

—GEORGE RAVELING, USC head coach on Western Kentucky

By Stan Sutton

SPECIAL TO BASKETBALL WEEKLY

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Throughout most of the school's basketball history, Western Kentucky has been cast in a huge shadow.

There have been years when fans have left Western games in the second half in order to get home and listen to Kentucky Wildcat games on the radio. And when Louisville posted two NCAA championships in seven years, Western's program appeared to be cast even deeper into the darkness.

None of this appeared to bother Murray Arnold when he became head coach of the Hilltoppers last spring. "I don't think there's any doubt they're the best team in Kentucky," said Arnold.

The Hilltoppers are eighth in the Associated Press poll, but Western Kentucky took a pratfall in the ratings when it was upset by Central Michigan, 73-65, the night after the loss to Louisville.

"The potential was there for it happening and it did," said Arnold.

Those early December slips wiped much of the edge off Western's prior accomplishments. Besides the NIT standoff with UNLV, Western Kentucky had blitzed Notre Dame at South Bend, 86-63, beating defending Southwest Conference co-champion Texas Christian, 96-90, stopped Memphis State, 68-67, in the NIT semifinal and crushed Southern California, 82-71, for the Wendy's Classic crown.

The Hilltoppers left the raves of opponents in their wake.

"I think he's got three NBA prospects," said USC's George Raveling.

But the long line of NBA scouts who have flocked to Bowling Green look longest at Frank, 6-9 Kannard Johnson and 6-8 Clarence Martin. "They'll go a long, long way. A jump shot for them is like a pass to the post. They shoot it, and then they just get it back and stick it in."

Noting Sutton's remark about Western Kentucky being the state's best, Miami Coach Bill Bell added his thoughts: "I don't know how serious Eddie was, but I don't have a doubt in my mind that they're the best team in Kentucky."

"They're real strong inside. We couldn't defend them inside," said UNLV's Jerry Tarkanian after the three-point rule bailed out the NIT final. "They were punishing us inside. We were very lucky."

The general consensus about the Hilltoppers is that the NCAA's Final Four is not out of the picture providing Western gets adequate defense from its guards, junior James McNary and sophomore Brett McNeal, but McNeal, a former Minnesota Mr. Basketball, has been in double figures in every game and is the team's most effective three-point shooter. Point guard McNary provides much support that doesn't show up in the box score, Arnold claims.

Haskins was a proponent of the three-point rule and it did, said Arnold.

"We were as tight the last 30 seconds of the game as we were at the start."

The early NIT successes had lifted the Hilltoppers to eighth in the Associated Press poll, but Western Kentucky took a pratfall in the ratings when it was upset by Central Michigan, 73-65, the night after the loss to Louisville.

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But the long line of NBA scouts who have flocked to Bowling Green look longest at Frank, 6-9 Kannard Johnson and 6-8 Clarence Martin. "They'll go a long, long way. A jump shot for them is like a pass to the post. They shoot it, and then they just get it back and stick it in."

Noting Sutton's remark about Western Kentucky being the state's best, Miami Coach Bill Bell added his thoughts: "I don't know how serious Eddie was, but I don't have a doubt in my mind that they're the best team in Kentucky."

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Frank, Johnson, McNeal push Toppers to title

By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

It was a scene that hadn’t been
witnessed since the prehistoric days of
the Ohio Valley Conference.
Western players, cutting down the
nets, in celebration of a
conference championship.

Following three years of not being
close enough to smell a title, and
another year of coming close, Western
climbed the mountain in the
fifth year, winning the school’s
first Sun Belt Conference regular
season championship.

The Hilltoppers did it in grand
style Monday night, with a
powerful 87-74 victory over Jacksonville,
the only team to have beaten
Western in conference play, in front of
a very vocal 11,500 fans at Diddle
Arena and a regional television
audience.

"From the very beginning, when
we first got together in October, we
set as our No. 1 goal to win the Sun
Belt Conference regular season
championship," said Western
coach Murray Arnold. "When we
left Jacksonville, we knew our
backs were to the wall and we had
to win nine consecutive conference
games to get this opportunity
tonight."

And, instead of turning its back
on the opportunity, as it had in a
couple of other big games this
year, Western took Jacksonville by
the throat and shook the life out of
it.

But, it did take some shaking.

Led by Tellis Frank’s 27 points
and 22 each from Kannard Johnson
and Brett McNeal, the Hilltoppers
put on a display that hadn’t been
seen since, well, Nevada-Las Vegas.

"It took a great effort," said
Arnold, after his squad went to 24-6
and clinched the SBC title with a
12-1 mark.

Efforts like the 9-point run by
Frank late in the first half that put
the Toppers up 33-28. Frank was
foiled by Ronnie Murphy, who was
then assessed a technical foul.
Frank hit the free throws, the
technical, a base line jumper on the
ensuing possession and then a 15-
foot, falling down jumper on
Western’s next possession.

"Tellis Frank was again a giant.
And there was another giant out
there, Kannard Johnson was absolutely
terrific," Arnold said of
Johnson, who also had 11 rebounds
and went 40 minutes, the last 6:48
with four fouls.

"It was a very special game," said
Frank. "I thought this team
would go down in history, and we
made a little history tonight."

To make that history, though, the
Toppers had to overcome a 28-point
night by Murphy and a 20-point
night by Danny Pearson. Willie
McDuffie added 12 for the Dolphins
(16-9, 10-3).

"Murphy and Pearson can go inside
and outside," said Johnson.
"They were hurting us, but we
stayed with it, started rebounding,
getting good shots and playing
tougher defense on them, and that
got them frustrated."

No time could have been more
frustrating for Jacksonville than
the first five minutes of the second
half, when it watched a 43-41 deficit
ballon to 53-41, effectively break-
ing the game open.

Nine of those points were scored by
Frank and Bryan Asberry, who
got 10 points and 10 rebounds after
being pressed into service for
Clarence Martin, who suffered back
spasms before the start of the con-
test and didn’t play. Martin will be
put in traction and will also miss
the trip Wednesday to Southern
Illinois.

"They told me Clarence had
back spasms, I came in and saw
him on the floor and started getting
little butterflies. Then I saw my
name on the starting list and got
big butterflies," Asberry said.

The effectiveness of Western’s
inside game gave Jacksonville
coach Bob Wenzel butterflies of his
own.

"We tried zone for a while, and
we tried our big line-up for a while,
but Western still beat us inside,"
Wenzel said. "When your inside

Continued On Page 11

Column 4, This Section
Seniors blaze path as Toppers claim first Sun Belt title

By JOE MEDLEY

The student section began cheering, "Sun Belt Champs."

Kannard Johnson cradled the basketball with one hand, waved the other in the air and swung his hips.

The last seconds ticked off the clock, and the Toppers began cutting down the Diddle Arena nets.

The story of Western's 87-74 Sun Belt Championship victory over Jacksonville read like a movie script.

It's the story of a first-year coach who turned transition into a championship.

It's the story of 11,500 screaming Western fans who were hungry for one of the great moments in Western history they hadn't seen since Western entered the conference in 1982.

It was a story of a team that in recent years had a knack for losing big games.

And it's the story of five seniors — Tellis Frank, Kannard Johnson, Clarence Martin, Ray Swogger and Bryan Asberry — who remember Western's lean beginnings in the conference four years ago.

"It's a great feeling," said Frank, who equalled his career-high of 27 points against the Dolphins.

"I can say it was me, the Swoggers, the Kannards, the Clarence Martins and the Bryan Asberrys who came in at a time when Western had lost some of its tradition and put some tradition back into the program."

Johnson, who had 22 points and a game-high 11 rebounds, agreed that it was a special night. "I've been waiting for this for four years."

"This was a most important win for us to get for us to be a part of history at Western," Coach Murray Arnold said.

Asberry, who started in place of Martin, responded with 10 points, including three monster dunks, and 10 rebounds. Martin sat out because of back spasms.

James McNary fed the high scorers with a career-high 13 assists, and his running mate, Brett McNeal, connected for 22 points.

And for the sixth straight game, Western shot over 50 percent at 58 percent. Jacksonville hit for 39 percent, reversing the shooting percentages from Western's 80-71 loss against the Dolphins on Jan. 14.

"The story of the game was we just couldn't hold them in the paint," said Dolphins' coach Bob Wenzel, whose team dropped to 10-3 in the conference and 16-9 overall. "They just outdid us."

Western moved to 23-6 and 12-1 in conference.

"It's the story of a team that in the first half by hitting eight of 19 shots for 20 second-half points to finish with a game-high 28. He and Danny Pearson, who netted 20 points, helped the Dolphins back to within 73-65 with 6:48 left.

McNeal had nailed shots of 18, 16 and 18 feet to keep the Tops ahead during the Jacksonville run.

"We had better shot selection," Arnold said. "We got good shots and made them."

McNeal hit on a bonus free-throw situation to push the Tops back out to a 77-65 lead, and Johnson's baseline jumper with 6:12 left gave the Tops a 12-point cushion.

Asberry finished the game's scoring fittingly with a jam with 1:46 left.

His dunks helped inspire the Toppers run that blew Western out to a double-digit lead.

"We've obviously totally thrilled with winning the Sun Belt Conference championship," Arnold said. "It was our biggest goal of the year."

See WITH, Page 18

Continued from Page 15

Western's Tellis Frank goes after the ball in the first half of last night's game in Diddle Arena. Frank led the Tops with 27 points in the win.

It's the most significant championship we can win.

"With a 14-game conference schedule, we were able to win it in 13. We knew we had to get nine consecutive conference wins after we lost to them in Jacksonville."

Jacksonville (74) — Pearson 6-17 5-6 25, Murphy 10-25 5-6 28, McDuffie 6-10 0-0 12, Murdine 0-0 0-0 0, Boydin 0-2 0-0 0, Laguerre 1-7 1-6-3, Stocum 1-2 0-1 2, Williams 1-2 0-1 2, Smith 3-10 1-1 6. Totals 28-71 10-15 74.

Western (87) — Johnson 10-15 2-2 22, Frank 11-17 5-6 27, McNary 3-5 0-0 6, McNaly 10-16 2-2 22, Lee 0-1 0-0 0, Shelton 0-3 0-0 0, Swogger 0-0 0-0 0, Tisdale 0-2 0-0, Asberry 5-8 0-2 10. Totals 39-67 9-18 87.

Three-point goals — Jacksonville 8-21 (Pearson 3-5, Murphy 3-8, Murdine 0-1, Laguerre 1-6, and Williams 1-1), Western 0-0. Rebounds — Jacksonville 29 (Murphy and McDuffie 6), Western 38 (Johnson 11). Assists — Jacksonville 13 (Pearson 4), Western 24 (McNary 13). A — 11,500.
Western humbles Jacksonville in clincher for Sun Belt crown

By STAN SUTTON
Staff Writer

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — With 11,500 of its faithful primed for a "happening" at Diddle Arena, Western Kentucky flexed its muscles Monday night and blew Jacksonville halfway back to a warmer climate 87-74.

The victory, an answer to the Dolphins' 80-71 victory last month in Florida, clinched Western's first Sun Belt Conference championship in its fifth season in the league.

Even without starting center Clarence Martin, sidelined at the last minute by back spasms, the Hilltoppers dominated the Dolphins. Western ran its league record to 12-1, its overall mark to 24-6.

Jacksonville, scoring 27 after a 17-point first half, fell to 16-9 and 10-3.

Martin sat on the bench and is expected to miss at least one more game.

"It doesn't seem serious," said his coach, Murray Arnold.

Tellis Frank carried the torch for Western, scoring 27 after a 17-point first half. Guard Brett McNeal and forward Kannard Johnson added 22 and 20, respectively, as Western's eighth in a row.

But even Kentucky flexed its muscles overall mark to 24-6. Jacksonville still has at least one more game to go.

Western humbles Jacksonville in clincher for Sun Belt crown

The Hilltoppers play a non-conference game at Southern Illinois tonight, prior to playing host to the Sun Belt Tournament next week.

"Our No. 1 goal back in October was to win the Sun Belt Conference regular-season championship," said Arnold. "When we left Jacksonville, we knew our backs were to the wall and we had to win nine straight in the conference."

Last night marked Western's 10th straight Sun Belt win. Its only loss in 11 games was a 67-62 showing at LSU.

Murphy hit 10 of 25 shots and 3 of 8 three-pointers.

"Murphy is absolutely incredible," Arnold said. "Not good, not amazing. He's incredible."

Jacksonville probably would have been hopelessly behind at halftime without the benefit of seven three-pointers.

Regardless, the Hilltoppers clung to a 41-36 halftime lead, and Jacksonville went 1 of 12 from the three-point line in the second period.

Wound like a clock at the top of the key, Western burst out to an 8-0 edge. There was an eight-footer by Johnson, a 10-footer by McNeal, a 15-footer by Frank and a follow-up shot by Asberry, who replaced Martin.

Frank said he felt relaxed going into the game, but when it started "I had a fire in my eyes. I was ready to go."

But Jacksonville took the opening punch and held on to the ropes, trailing 18-9 after eight minutes. Five of the Hilltoppers' first 18 points came on fast-break baskets.

The win was Western's eighth in a row, and made Saturday's Sun Belt game at Alabama-Birmingham a non-factor in the race. Before that, when Pearson made his first three-pointer, the visitors took their first lead, 23-22.

Frank was the saving grace, scoring the Hilltoppers' next nine points.

With 8:09 left in the half, Murphy fouled Frank and then protested in expletives. A technical was whistled and Frank made three straight foul shots. Then when Western took the ball inbounds, he scored on a falling 10-footer nine seconds later.

"I guess I might have taken over for a little while," Frank admitted, grinning.

Curt Slocum answered for Jacksonville, but Frank hit a 17-footer from the corner and then a 12-footer that gave the Toppers a 33-28 edge.

Frank touched off a key Western spurt two minutes into the second half by making 1 of 2 foul shots. Johnson hit from in close, and the 240-pound Asberry nearly destroyed the goal standard with a fast-break dunk, leaving the Toppers ahead 48-41.

Then, only 3½ minutes into the half, Frank hit a falling 17-footer on which Murphy collected his third personal. The free throw made it 51-41. The lead reached 12 when McNary stole the ball and fed Asberry for another breakaway stuff.

The largest lead was 15 points, and Jacksonville's last run closed the Dolphins to an 81-72 deficit with 4:40 left. "We could not hold them inside defensively," said losing coach Bobby Wenzel.

JACKSONVILLE 74 — Pearson 5-17 5-6, 20, Murphy 10-25 5-6-20, McNary 8-8 0-1 12, Mundine 6-4 0-0, Boykin 0-2 0-0, Laguerre 1-7 0-0 3, Shelton 0-3 0-0, Swogger 0-0 0-0, Tisdale 0-2 0-0. Totals 39-67 9-12 97.

WASHINGTON 87 — Johnson 15-15 2-2 39, Franklin 13-17 5-5 27, Asberry 5-8 0-2 10, McNary 3-5 0-0 6, McNeal 15-15 2-2 22, Lee 0-0 0-0, Shelton 0-3 0-0, 0. Total 30-67 11-16 78.

Halftime — Western Kentucky 41, Jacksonville 36.

Big Red and Bryan Asberry celebrate Western's first Sun Belt regular season crown last night.
Toppers take time to visit friend

The Hilltoppers face a battle tonight for the Sun Belt Conference championship with Jacksonville. But they have a much more important place to be Sunday night — at the bedside of a good friend.

You see, it's Troy Liscumb's 18th birthday Tuesday, and members of the men's basketball team dropped in on the Liscumb's Sunday night for a surprise visit. Troy's brother, Terry, had his 13th birthday a couple of weeks ago, so this was a belated surprise for him, also.

The Liscombs have been longtime supporters of the men’s basketball team. For many years, both Troy and Terry were fixtures in the Diddle Arena end zone, their wheelchairs decorated with various Western memorabilia, and Big Red puppets sitting on their feet.

Lately, Troy's muscular dystrophy has kept him from attending games, although Terry is still in his familiar end zone spot for every game, with his father, Bill, hovering around, shooting pictures of everything.

And, while Troy hasn't been able to come to the games, that certainly hasn't kept the games from coming to him.

As the surprise party went on around his bed Sunday night, Troy kept firm hands on the two remote control sets, each with a Big Red sticker on it, and had two of his three television sets going, tapping ballgames.

It's a ritual around the Liscumb house nowadays to have televisions and VCRs running almost constantly. Or, at least as long as there are basketball games on.

But Troy can almost always find one on the giant satellite dish in the backyard.

"We have three televisions and 10 VCRs. If it's in the sky, Troy can find it," Bill said.

Troy has taped all of the potential NCAA Tournament teams for Western's coaching staff. Plus, he has more than 20 Hilltopper games on tape from this season.

And then there are the photo albums, filled with pictures of Western games and players. And the wheelchair ramp, painted bright red, with big, white WKU letters painted on it.

The Liscombs' love Western's basketball teams. And the team returned some of that love Sunday night with its visit and its gifts, like a shirt and picture autographed by each member of the team and the coaching staff.

Taking time out of a busy schedule to surprise a sick youngster might not mean that much to me or you, but it's the world to people like Troy and Terry. And it brings the real world into focus for a group that spends so much time under a microscope, in almost a surreal environment.

How many people can imagine Bryan Asberry, a giant if there ever was one, kneeling down beside Troy, talking with him in whispers, tying a balloon to his bed?

"I was so excited last night I couldn't even sleep," Bill said of Troy's impending surprise. "We were trying so hard to keep it a secret.

"He'll never forget this." Neither will we.

U of L never had a chance

By DAN HARTLAGE

Lady Toppers' basketball

Clemette Haskins seemed a little embarrassed by all of the attention, but she might as well get used to it.

The senior guard put on one of her best shows ever Tuesday night in Diddle Arena, scoring a career-high 50 points, to lead Western to a 98-53 rout over Louisville.

And now she needs just 65 points to out score her dad, Clem, who was an All-America forward at Western and a member of the 1967 graduating class. Clem scored 1,680 points in three years on the Hill.

"People are making a big deal out of it," she said after Tuesday's win. "But I didn't know anything about the record until somebody told me I was within about 100 points."

Western put U of L away in the first 16 minutes of the game, pulling out to a 24-5 lead when Susie Starks pulled up for a layup. By that time Haskins, who seems to be fully recovered from a strained knee, had already scored eight points and U of L coach Peggy Fiehler knew it would be a long bus ride back to Louisville.

"Shooting was the difference," she said. "If we wouldn't have hit our normal percentage, we would have been right with them in the first half. But we couldn't hit one and Western shot pretty well. We played aggressive defense but I thought we still should have been able to hit some of those shots."

U of L was shooting as low as 8 percent midway through the first half before going 39.6 percent for the game. Western coasted along with 33.8 percent shooting.

But statistics weren't really the issue Monday night. Sure, Haskins' 30 points look impressive in the box score. "But she couldn't have scored 50," said her coach, Paul Sanderson.

The issue, instead, seems to be time — or the lack of time.

Continued From Page 1-B

Renee Jones led U of L with 11 points and Tanya Coller was the top rebounder for the Lady Cards, pulling down seven.

Western is 19-7 overall and 2-1 in the Sun Belt Conference. The Lady Toppers will host SBC rival North Carolina Charlotte Saturday night and they will play their last game at home Monday night when South Alabama visits. South Alabama is the first-place team in the SBC.
### Jacksonville vs. Western Kentucky

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**Team Rebounds Totals**
- 39 67 2 9 12 6 32 38 16 87
- 24 13 3 6 200

**Total FG %**
- 1st Half 406 2nd Half 385
- 3PT FG %
- 1st Half 778 2nd Half 83
- FT %
- 1st Half 500 2nd Half 778

**Officials**
- J Clougherty
- R Foxcroft
- JD Ferguson

**Technical Fouls**
- MURPHY-JACKSONVILLE: AIUW DWKU

**Attendance**
- 11,500
McNeal keeps smiling

By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

If someone doesn't see Brett McNeal on the basketball court, the first thing they notice about him is his smile.

He always seems to have one. Sometimes, even in the heat of battle, McNeal blows a bubble with his gum and lets loose with a toothy grin.

"A lot of people tell me I'm a nonchalant person, but in a way, I'm not. I like to keep a smile on my face, it rubs off. If somebody is down and they see that you're happy, they'll hang around you a lot more. And once it gets going, you can't stop it," McNeal said, punctuating his point with a big smile.

The Minneapolis sophomore is a happy person.

"He's very upbeat and stable. You know what you're going to get from Brett every day. He can handle the ups and downs," said Western coach Murray Arnold.

Now, for the person who sees McNeal on the basketball court, it's a different story.

The person sees a wiry, cat-quick Tops' basketball guard with a textbook jump shot. In the lane under pressure, no problem. Swish. Wide open from 20 feet out, no problem. Swish.

McNeal has had plenty of reasons to smile this year. And his ups have far outnumbered his downs.

With the Beasts of the Baseline, or Four Tops, if you will, getting most of the headlines this year, McNeal has gone about his work in a steady, consistent manner.

The 6-2, 112 second guard has had a couple of 25-point nights and a career-high of 26. The games where he hasn't scored in double figures can be counted on one hand.

Steady, consistent and, most of the time, deadly.

McNeal is third on the team in scoring at 15.1 points per game, second in assists with 84 and tops in minutes played with 33.8.

"Brett can run all night and not work up a sweat," Arnold said earlier this year.

He can also pull unusual duty — like guarding Jacksonville's Ronnie Murphy, a 6-5 power forward and uncanny shooter.

"McNeal did a good job on Murphy in the first half," said JU coach Bob Wenzel, following his team's Monday night loss to Western.

What led to McNeal's emergence this year was a need Arnold had to find someone to take some of the scoring heat off inside players Tellis Frank, Kannard Johnson and Clarence Martin.

"His outside shooting has been so important for us. We needed that dimension to help the inside game," Arnold said. "He's anchored that fine shooting by becoming a better ballhandler and a much improved defender."

Billy Gordon, the outside bomber that McNeal replaced, helped his heir apparent get ready for the switch from being a 3-minute per game player to a 32-minute per game player.

"He told me I had a lot of things to learn as a freshman. He said don't be scared to shoot the ball, but don't be a hotdog, either. I learned by sitting on the bench, watching him play. When I came in for two or three minutes while he rested, it was satisfying enough," McNeal said.

This season, the senior leaders on the team have helped McNeal. In fact, his main goals this year centered around them.

"I want to do the best I can for the seniors, so they can go out in style. I've always been that way with the people ahead of me," McNeal said. "I get a lot of feedback from them."

He got a lot of feedback this summer, after former Western coach Clem Haskins left to take over the Minnesota program. Minnesota had recruited McNeal out of high school, but he wasn't impressed. Some of McNeal's friends wanted him to go back to his state school this year, with Haskins there, but he declined.

"They said it was my decision, and if I could make it away from home to go for it, but it would be nice to see me play at home," McNeal said.

Playing here has been just as nice, though.

"Everything that's happened to me, so far, I haven't regretted. My mother told me if things get rough, keep a smile on my face," McNeal said. "With that type of attitude, it's been so far, so good. I'm looking forward to growing."

If he keeps growing like he has this year, Western fans will, too.
Western Kentucky was 6-1 and riding high early in December, but guard Brett McNeal had a warning for the folks in Bowling Green, Ky, who might start feeling a touch too optimistic.

"We would be getting way ahead of ourselves if we started Final Four talk at this time of the season," McNeal said.

Sure enough, Western Kentucky ran into back-to-back defeats to Louisville and Central Michigan - the first by two points in a frantic game featuring nearly 50 turnovers, the second when WKU came up flat after the disappointment of the Louisville loss.

There's nothing particularly catastrophic about an early-season flat spot for a college basketball team. Louisville, the team that started WKU's two-game losing streak, proves that on an annual basis.

Western Kentucky remains a team worthy of attention, and McNeal - the guard who almost followed his former coach, Clem Haskins, to Minnesota - has become one of several reasons for that.

McNeal played at Minneapolis North High School and was the star guard on two consecutive teams that lost in the championship game of the state's large-school playoffs.

Minnesota, then coached by Jim Dutcher, didn't make a push for McNeal until well into his senior season. By then, McNeal had written off the Gophers and was waiting to sign with Haskins at Western Kentucky.

"For two years in a row, I was invited to the B.C. Summer Camp in Indiana, and that's where coach Haskins and Western Kentucky found out about me," McNeal said.

"When I visited here, I liked the coaches and the players who were already on the team. I also liked the smaller setting, instead of the huge campus they have at Minnesota."

Yet, when Haskins became Minnesota's head coach after last season, McNeal almost joined him. Although Haskins never said anything public about McNeal transferring, the invitation was obviously there.

"When you have a chance to come back, it's something you consider," McNeal said. "I thought about it for a long time."

Playing in his hometown and for the coach who had successfully recruited him were two of the temptations for McNeal. Another was playing time.

As a freshman at Western Kentucky, he had been the fourth or fifth guard and his contribution was minimal. McNeal would have had to sit out a transfer season at Minnesota, but with the Gophers going through a manpower crisis, McNeal would have been a hot item for Haskins when he became eligible for the 1987-88 season.

At Western Kentucky, the outlook for McNeal wasn't clear. The expectation was that Roland Shelton, an incoming freshman, would move into the lineup at the second guard spot, along with playmaker James McNary. Swigman Ray Swogger also was back to cut into McNeal's playing time.

Shelton had been one of the nation's top recruits in 1984. He signed at Clemson, but never enrolled because of an academic problem. Shelton then contacted Haskins, was told to get his academics in order and he was more than welcome at Western Kentucky.

"There was a lot of anticipation about Shelton, but a couple of things happened," Paul Just, a WKU official, said. "The year off hurt Shelton more than people thought it would, and McNeal showed great improvement. Even when Roland gets things together, as everyone expects he will, he's going to have a tough time moving out McNeal. Brett has taken charge."

Indeed.

With WKU at 6-3, McNeal was the second-leading scorer at 14.7 points per game. He was shooting close to 50 percent from the field and 90 percent from the line. McNeal had committed only 16 turnovers in nine games. McNeal had emerged as his team's only threat from 3-point range - hitting 10 of 21. No one else had more than two 3-pointers.

"That doesn't make any difference," McNeal said. "I think it is a terrible rule. The line is too close. It's a farce. It cost us the NIT championship." Western Kentucky lost to No. 1-rated Nevada-Las Vegas in overtime in the final of the NIT tournament. Freddie Banks' three-pointer gunning led Las Vegas back from a 20-point deficit.

"I guess you call my position shooting guard, but the first option is to look inside," McNeal said. "I don't know of many teams in the country that have three players with as much talent on the front line as us. We have three tall, husky guys and they all can move."

The three horses across the front are Tellis Franks, Kannard Johnson and Clarence Martin. With McNary's playmaking and McNeal's emergence, Haskins' replacement, Murray Arnold, has a starting lineup worth envying.

As for his former coach and Minnesota, McNary said, "Clem Haskins is a good coach and a good guy, but he's hard-nosed on the practice floor. If you don't play hard and practice hard for him, you won't play at all."

"Coach Haskins is going to do the job there. In a couple of years, the Gophers will be very good."

The difference is, Western Kentucky is very good right now, and Brett McNeal's glad he stayed.

"Delighted," McNeal said.
DREAM SEASON
OR A
NIGHTMARE?
Western Crashes To
Earth After
Soaring Start

The things dreams are made of all seemed together this year in Bowling Green, Ky.

Western Kentucky's Hilltoppers lost only Billy Gordon from last year's No. 2 team in the Sun Belt Conference.

And among the top challengers, only Jacksonville came away from graduation with veteran troops for the 86-87 campaign, making Western's edge even keener.

The conference tournament will be in Western's friendly Diddle arena at season's end, and the red towels were already waving wildly at midnight on the night of Oct. 14 - the morning of Oct. 15 - when practice started.

Adding to the dream was the fact that the coach who had recruited Western's tall, talented Toppers was the holder of most Western scoring records, a member of the family.

But Clem Haskins, the coach who could recruit, could also read the handwriting on the wall. Reportedly just a whisker from the firing squad before he started winning last season, the former Hilltopper's superstar headed North at season's end.

Haskins took over at Minnesota, leaving someone else to live the dream at Western Kentucky.

Enter Murray Arnold, an unlikely Cinderella who is in a habit of making dreams come true for basketball fans.

And he stepped into a situation probably few coaches have faced when a coaching change was made. Instead of having three years to build his program, Arnold has a ready-made dream team.

"It started out like a real dream season," Arnold said. "Imagine coming within a point of winning the NIT, and heading into the scheduled part of our season ranked in the top 10!"

The super start was nothing more than a lot of fans expected. Western's strength was the fact that it seemed to have no weaknesses.

A strong, talented front of seniors Tellis Frank (6-10), Clarence Martin (6-8) and Kannard Johnson (6-9) returned. The trio has earned a total of nine basketball letters at Western, and Johnson came into the season as the preseason Player of the Year pick in the Sun Belt.

But there was more.

Also back was guard James McNary, and soph Bret McNeal was helping to take the place of Gordon.

There's also depth with Fred 'Tisdale, Ray Swagger and Bryan Asberry leading the way.

The world was rosy when Western went to the finals of the preseason NIT, losing to Nevada-Las Vegas by a point in double overtime.

Western moved all the way up to eighth in one wire service poll, and dead ahead was cross-state rival Louisville, the defending national champion that had lost three in the Great Alaska Shootout.

"Everything is going great," Johnson said, "for me and the team. "We're working hard. We're looking forward to Louisville."

But that's when the dream changed into something of a nightmare.

Louisville came into packed Diddle Arena and beat the Hilltoppers by two points.

Then the next night, again in Bowling Green, Western fell to Central Michigan.

"That just shows in basketball it's not very far from the penthouse to the outhouse," Arnold said. "But just like the season wasn't over when we were ranked eighth with a 6-1 record, the season isn't over when we lose two."

"We'll regroup. We'll work hard, and we'll be back."

Western, something of a stepchild in Kentucky basketball, to the Kentucky and Louisville, went into the Louisville game with something to prove. But they wanted it too much.

"They wanted Louisville
so badly they just didn't play well," Arnold said. "It happens. It's just a shame we had to come back and play the next night, and one thing people might not realize is that Central Michigan has a pretty good basketball team."

Television intervened in the scheduling that forced back-to-back games with Louisville and Central Michigan. "I knew it would be tough," Arnold said, "but I felt we could still have a chance to beat them. I felt losing to Louisville would have made it better for us against Central, but we came out flat against a good team."

"We'll have a solid team by then," Arnold said. "We'll be somewhere between eighth in the nation, and where we should be. We were not a top 10 team, not that early in the year."

"We knew when the season started we were going to do well," Johnson said. "We had five seniors coming back, and then we got a big boost by the way we played in the NIT."

Johnson said he and his teammates have had no complaints about the new coach.

"Coach Haskins liked to run, but Coach Arnold likes to run more," he said. "We're having fun. We're looking forward to the conference schedule, but we're in no rush. We're having too much fun getting there."

The front line has been pointing to this season since they all reported to Bowling Green as freshmen.

"All three of our big people have been playing well," Arnold said. "Tellis Frank had played extremely well until he had an off night against Louisville. Clarence Martin and Kannard Johnson have contributed. When you have a start like we had, it's not just one person that does it."

"We're all excited about what's ahead. You're disappointed any time you lose, but we're determined to work harder to make this dream have a happy ending."

NOTES:
The biggest surprise of the early season on the downside was Jacksonville, a team with four starters back that won last year's Sun Belt tournament.

The Dolphins lost to North Carolina as expected. But they also lost to several other people, like Armstrong State at home.

The biggest surprise on the upside was North Carolina-Charlotte. The team that finished 1-13 in the league last year opened 6-2, including a win in Hawaii over league foe Virginia Commonwealth.

Full houses seem to bring out the worst in Bowling Green crowds. Last year a candy-throwing incident against UAB brought a reprimand from the league office when opposing players, coaches and fans had to keep one eye on the court and the other peeled for flying missiles.

This year against Louisville, the game was stopped several times when fans showered the court with debris after unpopular calls by the officials.

UAB is having trouble with injuries. Junior Bruce Baker, who had knee surgery after last season, has slightly injured the knee again. Rest was ordered for three games. Baker was scheduled to have been one of the Blazers' top 3-point shooters.

In addition, starting guard James Ponder went down in the Auburn game, didn't dress for the next game and was still limping when the team returned from a swing to California and Hawaii.
A PROMISING DEBUT AT WKU
Murray Arnold Emerges as a National Presence

Murray Arnold is short and a little bit overweight. He wears glasses and speaks with a hoarse rasp most of the time. His appearance wouldn't cause heads to turn anywhere.

But strange as it may appear, Arnold has something in common with Larry Bird, Magic Johnson, Michael Jordan and Dominique Wilkins. The thread that ties them all together is an enjoyment of the game of basketball.

Arnold's not a player, but a coach, and he's becoming recognized as one of the better basketball minds in the country. This year he is one of two new coaches in the Sun Belt Conference, taking over for Clem Haskins at Western Kentucky after a year as an assistant with the Chicago Bulls.

"I found, after a year in the NBA," Arnold said, "that one thing is true of all great players.

"It's true of great high school players and small college players. It's true of major college players, and it's true of the greatest players in the world, the players in the NBA. They all truly enjoy basketball.

"I believe that Larry Bird, Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson and Dominique Wilkins would be playing basketball somewhere if there was no such thing as the NBA."

And Arnold confesses he'd be coaching somewhere if he had never started the move up the ladder. The trip that carried him from high school coaching to a graduate assistant job under Hugh Durham at Florida State and on to a head coaching job at tiny Birmingham-Southern College.

From there he coached Tennessee-Chattanooga into the NCAA tournament and the NIT, and from there he spent a season with the Chicago Bulls.

But now Arnold is back with the college game and his re-entry is a bit unusual. Bobby Paschal is the other new Sun Belt coach, replacing Lee Rose at South Florida. But Paschal's situation is what's usually expected of a new coach.

Paschal steps into a situation filled with all the things South Florida doesn't have.

There's a wealth of basketball tradition in Bowling Green, giving the Sun Belt Conference its only traditional campus with fans who actually follow the team on the road. The urban campuses around the rest of the league are still struggling to build a following.

In addition, Western has a wealth of talent and is the unanimous choice of coaches to win this year's championship.

So priorities for Arnold aren't really what you would expect for a first year coach.

"The first priority, usually the biggest priority," he said, "is to establish positive relationships with the members of the team.

"We must always remember that this is a game the kids are playing, and
they must have fun playing the game."

But the next priority isn’t recruiting, or laying a foundation on which to build a championship in the future. It’s not trying to develop fan support create interest in the corporate community.

The new Western coach’s big priority is deciding who gets playing time.

"This ball club we have right now," Arnold said, "is a club with every guy on it a pretty good basketball player."

"One of my biggest challenges is to make those right, tough decisions about who is to play, when they will play, and how much.

And the decisions I make might not even be the right decision. There’s that much competition. We have a chance to have fine depth."

So added to a lot of returning starters at the Kentucky school is a lot of returning quality substitutes from last year.

The only loss was guard Billy Gordon, meaning the biggest front line in the league is back together. That’s 6-10 Tellis Frank, a big man with a soft touch from outside, 6-8, 230-pound bruiser Clarence Martin, and pre-season Player of the Year in the league, 6-9 Kannard Johnson.

But Arnold looks beyond those three, to players like Fred Tisdale, sophomore Brett McNeal and James McNary.

"I’m enthused," Arnold said. "I’m enthused about being at Western Kentucky, and I’m enthused about the players. They’re good on paper, but that’s on paper. Now we have to play the game."

SUNBELT NOTES

The Sun Belt’s only entry in the Coca-Cola NIT this year was Western Kentucky. The Hilltoppers opened at Notre Dame Dec. 21. "By being sent to South Bend," said Coach Murray Arnold, "it shows me the committee would rather have them advance than us. We’ll have to see what we can do about that.

South Alabama continues to be the transfer capital of the Sun Belt Conference. Only two on the roster came to USA as freshmen. This year’s list of five transfers include Eugene (Junie) Lewis, a regular at Pittsburgh two years ago, John Jimmerson from Marquette, and three junior college transfers.

Sun Belt coaches picked Western Kentucky as No. 1 in its pre-season ranking, and that’s a pretty good sign for the Hilltoppers. The coaches have been right nine times in 10 years. The only miss was last year when UAB was picked, but finished third behind Old Dominion and Western Kentucky.

Murray Arnold, getting his point across
SUCCESS ON THE HILL
Paul Sanderford Leads West Ky. To The Top

Western Kentucky has a great tradition of basketball success. But until the arrival of Paul Sanderford for the 1983-84 season, success meant men's basketball. After all, the Hill was the home of the legendary Ed Diddle, the fourth-winningest coach of all-time (.759) and a member of the College Basketball Hall of Fame.

But all that changed with Sanderford's arrival to coach the Hilltoppers women. In the four years preceding Sanderford, the best the women could do was 15-14. But under Sanderford, Western became a 20-plus-win team. His first year, Western was a spectacular 22-7 and on the road to national prominence. From then on, the women have resided with the nation's elite and they are the only team to have reached the NCAA Final Four the last two seasons.

Sanderford was born in Durham, N.C., and in high school lettered for four years in both baseball and basketball. For awhile it looked as if baseball might be Sanderford's sport, because at Methodist College he was a small-college all-America catcher. But an injury ended his playing career, and Sanderford turned to coaching.

From 1973 to 1976 he was an assistant men's coach in both baseball and basketball at Methodist College. In 1976, Sanderford took over the women's basketball team at Louisburg Junior College and led them to a 163-19 (.900) record over six seasons. His coaching skills produced one national championship, five state titles and four Regional titles. While at Louisburg, Sanderford won the Wade Trophy as the top JUCO coach in the country in 1981-82.

Sanderford has continued that success at the NCAA Division I level at Western Kentucky. His record is 103-28 in four seasons. And those four years have seen one Sun Belt Conference championship and two Final Four appearances. The Hilltoppers are always among the best-prepared teams in the game.

Perhaps Sanderford's greatest coaching triumph came in the 1985 NCAA Mideast Regional semifinals against the heavily favored Texas Longhorns, coached by Jody Conradt.

By Joe Smith

Sanderford directed his forces to spread the Horns vaunted man-to-man pressure defense to its breaking point. And break it did. Western beat the odds and the Longhorns, 92-90 on a buzzer shot by Lillie Mason. In fact, that play exemplified Sanderford's ability. The Hilltoppers suckered the Texas defense toward Clemette Haskins, leaving Mason an uncontested shot.

What probably seemed like luck to the unsuspecting fan, was the result of long hours of practice. No team works on situation plays more than WKU.

Sanderford has developed three all-Americans at Western: Kami Thomas and Mason, both of whom finished last season, and Haskins, who now a senior. His teams show imagination on both offense and defense. WKU probably plays more defenses in one game than most teams play in an entire season.

Sanderford also hires top-flight assistants. The number one assistant, entering his third year at Western, is Steve Small. Sanderford has made WKU women's basketball an event that must be seen. Western's attendance is among the best in the country. Last season, in
a victory over Old Dominion, the Western women drew to Diddle Arena a record crowd of 12,900. Sanderford realizes that in women's basketball, a successful coach must do more than win - he must promote the sport. And Sanderford does just that. He has his own radio and television shows, and has made the Western Kentucky women's program the center of media interest and fan support.

Sanderford's success can also be measured in two other key areas: the players' respect and the players' academic results. In the academic area, Sanderford bats .100. Everyone who has played for WKU has graduated with a degree. Sanderford is committed to insuring that his players succeed in the classroom, just as they succeed on the basketball court.

As for getting the respect of his players, Sanderford succeeds by respecting the players as people, and treating them as such.

Sanderford will have to succeed without Mason and Thomas this year. But Haskins remains to lead this year's edition of the Hilltoppers. Haskins is a local product, hailing from Bowling Green. She is the daughter of WKU's three-time all-American Clem Haskins. Her father coached the Western men and now is head coach at Minnesota.

Haskins is a "do-it-all" player. She is great at three positions, having played the point and off guard as well as small forward. This season she will see more time at the second-guard spot, after playing point most of the time in past. Haskins has received many honors in the past, and starts this year as an OffThe Glass, Women's Basketball News Service, Street and Smith, and AP first-team all-American. Haskins should provide the leadership that should help WKU stay at the top of the Sun Belt Conference.

Sanderford has already made a great start for the future. During the early signing period in November the 'Toppers signed four in-state products, including two preseason all-Americans - Nancy Crutcher and Mary Taylor. And the coach is looking to sign at least two more top players in the spring.

This season started off fine for the 'Toppers as they defeated Arkansas, 86-76, and James Madison, 54-53, to win the tournament in Bowling Green. The tournament may have seen the emergence of a new star for the Hilltoppers, 5-9 sophomore wing Bridget Combs from Whitesburg, Ky. Combs played two outstanding games and was the key in Western's come-from-behind win in the championship game.

The road to Austin and the Final Four has begun with Texas winning a tournament in Los Angeles and Western Kentucky winning in Bowling Green. And with Paul Sanderford as coach, the Hilltoppers should have clear sailing.
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VS. JACKSONVILLE

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TOP SCORER

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WESTERN KENTUCKY vs. SOUTH ALABAMA
Souvenir Program
LILLIE MASON'S JERSEY RETIREMENT
FEBRUARY 23, 1987 — 50 Cents — E.A. DIDDLE ARENA
The queen of the Hill

LILLIE MASON (left) accepts an enshrined jersey from Western Athletic Director Jimmy Feix (right) and Athletic Committee Chairman Paul Cook. Mason, the all-time leading scorer in Western basketball history with 2,262 points, attended Monday night's game between the Lady Toppers and South Alabama at Diddle Arena.
Let's Blow the Top off Attendance at Diddle Arena

"Senior Break-A-Record Night"
Lady Topper seniors have left their mark

I don't want to see Clemette Haskins and Melinda Carlson leave. But tonight at 7:30 they will be saying goodbye to basketball on the Hill before what may be a record crowd of 9,500 or more at Diddle Arena.

I want to thank them for making my job so fun. But how do you say thank you to a pair of athletes who have done as much for women's basketball and as much for Bowling Green, as these two?

It may be impossible, but we can try.

I will probably never forget the first time I saw Haskins play. It was against South Alabama last year in the Bowling Green Bank Invitational. I remember she had a good game and Western won. I don't remember the final score or how many points Haskins scored.

What I do remember, however, is the magic she possessed over the basketball. And how she made all of the other Lady Toppers better players. And I remember how humble she was after that game.

As I found out later, it was a typical night for Haskins.

And I remember the first time I had a long conversation with Carlson - something more than your postgame interview. It was about a year ago and the Lady Toppers were preparing for their trip to the NCAA.

Carlson was glad to be in the tournament, but she was tired of playing basketball. "I'll be glad when this is all over," she said.

What Carlson was really wanting was some time to herself. A few weekends of private time. She was looking forward to taking her dog, Precious, for walks. And she had plans to go to the movies - alone - "just so I can forget about all of this stuff."

What Carlson was saying is that there is a lot more to her life than basketball. She has always played the game with an incredible zest, but that's the way she does everything. She will have no trouble adjusting to life after basketball.

I have never been around a pair of athletes with as much class and dignity as Haskins and Carlson — two players who have been in the public eye since their state championship days at Warren Central.

It doesn't seem fair for Carlson to sit out tonight's game against South Alabama with a sprained ankle.

Everywhere Western has traveled, Haskins and Carlson have left their mark. It was in Lexington last year, at the NCAA Final Four, where Southern California's pompous Cheryl Miller dominated the headlines.

But it was Western that left Lexington with the genuine admiration of the media. A USA Today writer told me during halftime of the championship game between USC and Texas, "(Western coach) Paul Sanderford has a great bunch of girls."

Last year when the Lady Toppers traveled to Freedom Hall to play Louisville, my alma mater, a close friend dropped in to watch the game. At halftime he rushed down to the press table and gushed for 15 minutes about the way Haskins runs the court.


After the game, he hung around and listened in on some interviews. Though he was hardly a women's basketball fan, he ended up talking to four or five Lady Toppers about the 43-point Western win.

Then as Western prepared to board the bus, my friend grabbed the pen from my hand and ran Haskins and Carlson down for autographs.

My friend called me Sunday and said that obligations in Louisville will keep him from making the trip to Diddle tonight. But he asked me to wish the Lady Toppers, especially the seniors, luck.

I'm not sure that we really need to wish these girls luck. Winners don't need luck.

But I do think we need to thank them. Being at Diddle Arena tonight to see them off to the Sun Belt Conference Tournament may be the best way. It may not sound like much, but the seniors have told me it would mean a lot to see a season-record 1,452 fans in the stands.

There is life after basketball. Just ask Western's seniors.

Dana Cunningham, for example: "Everybody is asking me if I'm going to miss Western and I am. But I've got big plans."

Big plans? That's an understatement. She plans on getting married June 20th. "I've got my whole life ahead of me," she said recently.

Allen County-Scottsville native Laura Ogles, a broadcasting major, plans on pursuing a career "hopefully on the sports side of broadcasting. If not, as long as it's some type of broadcasting."

Charelene James, a junior college transfer from Dublin, Ga., hasn't decided for sure if she'll look for a job or stay in school after this semester. "I think I'll go where ever the good Lord will lead me."

Asked what she remembers most about her two years at Western, James said, "Just coming to practice everyday. Everyday was a highlight being with my friends."

Walk-on Finley Baird, a walk-on from Russellville, remembers her first days of the preseason. "I didn't know if everybody would accept me, being a walk-on and everything. I was so nervous. But these people are all my friends now."

Baird is hoping to find a job working with computers after she gets her degree in information systems.

It's generally considered unprofessional for members of the media to applaud while covering a story. But tonight is different.

Along with the fairwell to the seniors, the greatest Lady Topper of all time will have her jersey retired.

Lillie Mason will be there tonight as her No. 32 is enshrined in a special halftime ceremony.

Mason, who scored 2,262 in her years at Western, is a primary reason Western is one of the best women's programs in the nation. I don't think the boss will mind if I applaud.
THE LADY IS A CHAMP

There's a lot more to All-America guard Clemette Haskins than just basketball

By Lynn Hoppes

When the alarm clock goes off each morning in her dorm room, Clemette Haskins wakes up to the realization that she's facing another long day.

Besides being the leader of the talented Western Kentucky women's basketball team, the 20-year-old senior must keep her grades up, worry about her broadcasting future and still try and maintain some type of normal social life.

"I'm persistent. I won't stop until I get what I want," says the Bowling Green, Ky. native. "It might take five or 10 years, but I'll be a success and happy in my career."

To reach her goal of earning a degree in Communications, Haskins crams 15 hours of classwork into her already busy schedule in order to graduate in May. Walking to class, doing her laundry or eating in the university center, she appears to be a typical college student.

But on the basketball court, this 5-8 ballhandling wizard is transformed into one of the nation's finest players.

She has competed for the United States in international competition. She collects statistical records like some collect autographs. Her name is included on every consensus All-America team this season.

She claims not to feel any pressure.

"I just go out and do the best that Clemette can do," she says. "I do what I can for the team, and if those honors come, well, that's great!"

Heralded as a tremendous prospect out of high school, Haskins signed with Western Kentucky where her father was the men's basketball coach. She is a three-time All-Sun Belt selection, and owns virtually every assist record at Western.

Perhaps her most valuable contribution to the Lady Toppers is quarter-backing the team to two consecutive Final Four appearances and a Sun Belt title last season.

This year's Lady Toppers, while a sound ballclub, don't appear to be of the same caliber as the past two teams. "We knew we'd lose a few more games this year than last," Haskins says. "Maybe we'll come on and surprise some people in March at the Sun Belt Tournament."

There's little doubt that the Lady Toppers look to Haskins for on-court poise and direction. After all, she's been playing this game for a long time.

As the daughter of Clem (The Gem) Haskins, it would have been hard for Clemette not to take an interest in basketball. One of the greatest players in Kentucky high school history, Clem Haskins went on to a stellar career at Western Kentucky before becoming a pro in the NBA.

Tagging along with her father at practices, Clemette started playing around with a basketball and was soon hooked on the game.

"He never pushed me to play," says Clemette of her father. "The only advice he game me was to give 110 percent if I decided to take it seriously."

She did just that, often attending boys' camps to compete against better players and learn the intricacies of the sport. She improved enough to become an outstanding high school ballplayer, leading Warren Central High in Bowling Green to the state championship her senior year.

When it came time to choose a college, Haskins was flooded with scholarship offers. She visited Arkansas, Southern Cal, Georgia and, of course, Western Kentucky.

"It came down to USC and Western," recalls Haskins. "USC was already established. They had just won an NCAA championship with the McGee twins and Cheryl Miller. But I wanted to be part of something that was growing."

So she signed with Western, treating Hilltopper fans to the sight of yet another Haskins running up and down the hardwood floor of E.A. Diddle Arena.

During her first three years with the Lady Toppers, Haskins had solid support from All-America forward Lillie Mason and Sun Belt career scoring leader Kami Thomas. Both have
graduated, leaving the mantle of leadership squarely on Haskins' shoulders.

"She has carried a lot of teams since the eighth grade," says her coach, Paul Sanderford. "She just has that reputation. It's remarkable that Clemette can be under all that scrutiny and pressure and still perform at the level she does!"

Last season as a junior, Haskins handed out a school-record 232 assists and averaged nearly 13 points per game. For some critics, that wasn't enough.

"People always wonder why she doesn't do more," Sanderford says, slowly shaking his head. "But Clemette isn't playing for Clemette Haskins' statistics. She's playing for Western Kentucky University. "She does what it takes to be successful. She's the epitome of a team player.'

Off the court, Haskins leads a typical college student's life. She spends a large portion of her time and energy preparing for what she hopes will be a career in broadcasting.

"I'd like to get into some type of sports broadcasting," she says. "My favorite class is TV Production. If that doesn't come about, I've talked with people about what it's like working as a sales representative for a shoe company.'

Haskins is also active in the Delta Sigma Theta social sorority. "It's time consuming trying to play basketball and belong to a sorority," she admits, "but I like being around people other than basketball players. Talking with my sorority sisters is a release from the game.'

Regardless of the notoriety she has received for her abilities on the court (such as the feature CBS-TV ran on her and her family last season), Haskins is conscious of maintaining an even disposition.

"I'm just Clemette whether I'm talking with basketball players or with everyday friends," she says. "I just try to be myself. My personality doesn't change when I'm with my sorority sisters, then change again when I go to practice.'

Allyson Massie is a Western Kentucky senior who has roomed with Haskins for the past two years.

"I don't know anything about basketball," says Massie. "When we go to the men's games together and she starts cheering, I cheer along. We're almost like night and day. Maybe that's why we get along so well.'

One thing that has been difficult for Haskins this year is keeping in contact with her family, who moved from Bowling Green to Minnetonka, Minn., when Clemette's father accepted the head coaching position at Minnesota last spring.

She heard the talk that her father had taken a tough negotiating stance with Western and forced a confrontation because of greed. It wounded her, perhaps more than she'll admit.

"It got under my skin a few times when people brought that up," she says. "I don't particularly think he was treated fairly, but I'm here for the women's program and to get my degree.'

\[\text{Haskins hopes to use her education at Western Kentucky to land a broadcasting position.}\]

"But he's still my father.'

Haskins talks to her parents, brother Brent and sister Lori about once a week, "It's different this year," she says. "Now I can't run home to get a good meal when I want to. And I miss beating up my little brother. But it makes me feel more independent, more my own person.'

She says she briefly considered transferring when her father left, but realized she only had one more year to graduate and finish her career with the Lady Toppers.

"Plus, not all my credits would have been transferable. I'd never graduate. I'd be in school forever,' she says with a laugh.

Sometimes when the stress and demands of major college basketball pile up on her, Clemette Haskins wonders what it would be like not to play basketball.

"It seems easy to just go to a couple of classes a day and then do what you want with your free time,' she sighs. "I've enjoyed playing, but I'd like to see what life is like without the round ball.'

"I guess I'll get my chance when I start out in the real world.'

\[\text{Lynn Hopper is an assistant sports editor for the College Heights Herald in Bowling Green, Ky.}\]
another

Haskins All-American

Clem Haskins
All-American
1965-67

Women's All-American Teams

FIRST TEAM
Katrina McClain—6'3 St., Georgia
Cindy Brown—6'2 Sr., Long Beach State
Sue Wicks—6'2 Jr., Rutgers
Clemette Haskins—5'9 St., Western Kentucky
Andrea Lloyd—6'2 Sr., Texas

the tradition continues
at Western Kentucky University...
**Western Kentucky/UAB**

**PROBABLE STARTING LINEUPS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Western Kentucky</th>
<th>UAB</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F—Tellis Frank 6-10 Sr.</td>
<td>F—Larry Rembert 6-8 Fr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F—Kannard Johnson 6-9 Sr.</td>
<td>F—Reginald Turner 6-8 So.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C—Bryan Asberry 6-6 Sr.</td>
<td>C—Eddie Collins 6-8 Jr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G—Bret McNeal 6-2 So.</td>
<td>G—James Ponder 6-1 Sr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G—James McNary 6-0 Jr.</td>
<td>G—Tracy Foster 6-4 Sr.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TIP OFF** — 7:07 p.m., in the 16,754-seat Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center Coliseum. Tickets will be available at the door.

**RADIO/TV** — The game will be broadcast on AM-690 with Gary Sanders doing the play-by-play. It will also be televised nationally on ESPN cable and on Birmingham station TV-42.

**THE TEAMS** — The Sun Belt Conference regular season champ will be trying to write a successful finish to the 1986-87 season tonight against UAB. Western Kentucky has only one league loss going into the season finale and is 25-6 overall. Western is coached by former Birmingham-Southern Coach Murray Arnold. It's his first trip to the city since being inducted into the Birmingham-Southern Hall of Fame earlier this year.

UAB is 17-10 overall and 9-4 in the league and is fresh from a win at South Florida, keeping alive a slim hope for an NCAA bid. But to get it the Blazers would probably have to win tonight, then make it to the finals of the conference tournament next week in Bowling Green, Ky.

**KEYS TO VICTORY** — Western is tall and talented, but a part of that strength is back in Bowling Green. Center Clarence Martin of Alexander City has a bad back and didn't make the trip. Top performers are forwards Tellis Frank (18.0 points and 7.5 rebounds) and Kannard Johnson (15.9, 8.2). The other double figure scorer is guard Bret McNeal at 14.9 points a game.

UAB's inside people must play the game of their lives to hope to stay close to the Hilltoppers. Probably the most frightening statistic is across the front where Western has senior, senior, senior against freshman, sophomore, junior. Guards James Ponder and Tracy Foster have had trouble getting into the flow of recent games. Ponder got 10 points against South Florida, but Foster, the leading scorer all season, had just one point.

**NEXT GAME** — Western will host the Sun Belt tournament starting Thursday. The Hilltoppers play No. 8 Old Dominion at 8 p.m., Thursday. No. 3 UAB plays the No. 6 team at 6 p.m.

**THE LINE** — Western Kentucky is a 5-point favorite.
1987
SUN BELT
CONFERENCE
TOURNAMENT

$2
Sun Belt Tournament

Western looking to showcase the university's festivities

Bowling Green during this week's festivities

Tournament preparation
Western nabs top coach, player honors in Sun Belt

By JOE MEDLEY

Balloon clusters hovered in the dimmed Garrett Center Ballroom as about 500 people waited to see the Sun Belt Conference's Player of the Year flash onto a large-screen television. Quiet befell the assembly of conference players, coaches, families and supporters — except for the distant clang of an eating utensil striking a plate.

A picture of Western's Tellis Frank flashed onto the screen, and the crowd leaped to its feet in applause.

It was a Red Towel night at the conference tournament kickoff banquet with Frank, a senior forward, winning the league's Player of the Year and Western's Murray Arnold getting Coach of the Year honors.

Video highlights of the 6-10 Frank included a scene where he dribbled behind his back twice and through his legs. Western's Kammad Johnson drew laughter as he said, "Dish it off, babe."

Johnson, the Toppers' 6-9 senior forward, joined Frank on the All-Sun Belt first team. Jacksonville also placed two players on the first team — scoring machine Ronnie Murphy and swingman Danny Pearson. Guard Jeff Hodge of South Alabama grabbed the other spot.

Arnold gained top honors in his first year at Western. He guided the Toppers to their first Sun Belt Conference title with a 12-2 league mark. Western is 25-7 overall.

Alabama-Birmingham was the only team to place three players on the top two teams. Blazers James Ponder, Eddie Collins and Tracy Foster were joined by Phil Stinnie of Virginia Commonwealth and Jumie Lewis of South Alabama on the second team.

Foster won the Jerry D. Young Memorial Trophy, named for the former conference president who died in 1983. Criteria for the award are sportsmanship, scholarship, leadership and athletic ability.

Continued from Page One

Clarence Martin, an Alexander City, Ala., graduate student, was Western's nominee for the award. Frank became the first Western player to win Player of the Year honors.

In Frank's first year as a starter, he led Western in scoring with 18 points per game and averaged 7.5 rebounds. He was the sixth man last year.

"I guess it was really hard to believe," said the Gary, Ind., senior. "I'm really thankful to Coach Arnold for giving me the opportunity to display my skills."

Johnson, making his first appearance on the all-conference first team after two straight years on the second team, said he was happy for Frank.

"I told Tellis it would come down to me, Murphy and him," Johnson said. "Tellis has come a long way."

Arnold, who became the first Western coach to be sole winner of the coaching honor, said, "There hasn't been a day where Tellis Frank didn't learn something new."

Frank named conference’s best

Continued from Page One

Murray Arnold

Arnold credited his players and former coach Clem Haskins, who shared Coach of the Year honors last year with Old Dominion's Tom Young.

"These players did much, much more to make me a great coach," he said.

UAB coach Gene Bartow said he was pleased his team had the most all-conference team selections.

"I thought Tracy and James had real good shots," Bartow said. "For Eddie, it was a nice honor. He has had some real good games for us."

Dr. Paul Cook, Western's executive vice president, said the school's success at the banquet means the basketball program is in "good condition."

"It speaks well for Coach Arnold," Cook said. "It's also a significant tribute to the team."

Tellis Frank

Murray Arnold

Murray Arnold

Murray Arnold

Murray Arnold

Murray Arnold

Murray Arnold

Murray Arnold

Murray Arnold

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Murray Arnold
1987 COACH AND PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COACH OF THE YEAR
Murray Arnold
Western Kentucky

When he took over the head coaching position at Western Kentucky University, Murray Arnold realized that a lot would be expected of him. He was in charge of a talented team picked by conference coaches to rule the Sun Belt.

Despite the inherent pressures in being the favorite, Arnold led his team to a brilliant season that included 25 victories in the regular season, a second-place finish in the pre-season NIT, and 12 conference victories, tying the league record.

For his achievements, Arnold was voted Coach of the Year by his peers.

It would be an understatement to say that Arnold's return to the college ranks has been a success. He spent one year as an assistant coach for the Chicago Bulls after a highly successful stint at Tennessee-Chattanooga.

Before that, he received honors as a head coach at Birmingham Southern and was an assistant at Florida State and Mississippi State.

In his first season in the Sun Belt, Arnold earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues for his work with the Hilltoppers. That respect is shown by the overwhelming support he received for Coach of the Year voting.

Player of the Year
Tellis Frank
Western Kentucky

Last season Tellis Frank was not even in the starting lineup for the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers. This year, he not only starts, but he's been voted Player of the Year in the Sun Belt Conference by a vote of the league coaches.

Last year Frank was named Player of the Week by the league office, including back-to-back weeks in February.

NBA scouts have been most impressed by Frank's ability to handle the ball like a guard at 6-10, and yet rebound like a power forward. He is also an extremely accurate shooter, as evidenced by his .521 mark from the field and his .709 free throw percentage.

Frank has never before been chosen to an all-conference team. He started only 11 games as a freshman, averaged 8.4 ppg in his sophomore year, and 10.2 ppg last season coming off the bench.

He was a prep star at Lew Wallace High in Gary, leading his team to a 21-4 record his senior season.
### 1986-87 ALL-SUN BELT CONFERENCE

#### FIRST TEAM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Team</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tellis Frank</strong></td>
<td>Western Kentucky</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Sun Belt's Player of the Year. Tellis Frank leads the Hilltoppers in scoring (18.0 ppg) and is among the conference's leaders in field goal percentage (.521) and rebounding (7.5 rpg). After spending his junior season as one of the premier sixth men in the league, Frank emerged this year as the conference's top performer, according to league coaches and NBA scouts. They like his size, poise and ballhandling ability, all of which make him a definite prospect.</td>
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| **Jeff Hodge**          | South Alabama |
| Jeff Hodge becomes the first guard in South Alabama history to earn first team all-conference honors. The league's Freshman of the Year in 1985-86, Hodge made short work of the so-called "sophomore jinx," instead having an outstanding season. He currently leads the Sun Belt in free throw percentage (.881), is second in scoring (19.1 ppg) and is among the leaders in assists (4.0). The three-point rule has certainly been to Hodge's advantage this season. |

| **Kannard Johnson**     | Western Kentucky |
| After being selected to the second team the past two years, Western Kentucky's Kannard Johnson has emerged as one of the premier big men in the conference, as well as the nation. The 6-9 lefty shooter was one of the league's hottest players in January and February, helping the Hilltoppers win the regular-season title. Johnson is averaging 15.9 points and 8.5 rebounds per game, and is shooting 55 percent from the field and 80 percent at the foul line. |

| **Ronnie Murphy**       | Jacksonville |
| After being named first team all-conference as a freshman (the only Sun Belt player in history to do so), Ronnie Murphy returns to the first team as a senior. Murphy has been outstanding this season, five times exceeding 30 points for the Dolphins. He showed North Carolina what kind of ability he has when he netted 34 points vs. the Tar Heels. The Sun Belt's leading scorer at 21.7 ppg, Murphy is also ranked among the conference leaders in three-point percentage. |

| **Danny Pearson**       | Jacksonville |
| Danny Pearson has enjoyed an extremely fine season for the Dolphins, stamping himself as one of the Sun Belt's best players. The former Georgia Tech guard transferred to Jacksonville in 1983. His performance has improved each season since then. This year, Pearson is averaging 17.8 points, 7.6 rebounds, hitting 85 percent at the foul line and 52 percent from three-point range. |
WKU’s Frank player of year
Johnson risks bent beak helping Western squeak as lowly ODU falls 60-58

By STAN SUTTON
Staff Writer

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — His nose broken in a Wednesday practice accident, Western Kentucky forward Kannard Johnson started last night’s game against Old Dominion wearing a cumbersome face mask.

Ten minutes later he took it off, risking a crooked nose for life. The heavily favored Hilltoppers were in big trouble and, for Johnson, it was time to sacrifice his body.

Actually, the sacrificial lamb was supposed to have been Old Dominion, given but a miniscule chance of beating Western in the first-round game of the Sun Belt Conference Tournament. But before the Hilltoppers could pull out a 60-58 victory, the 6-22 Monarchs threatened to give Western fans a legitimate reason for carrying those red towels: wiping away tears.

The Virginians built a 14-point lead in the first half and shot 63 percent for the game. The Hilltoppers needed nearly 20 minutes to gain a lead.

“Looking back on the season, we’ll say we should have won this one,” said Old Dominion guard Frank Smith. “But we let it slip away.”

The victory thrust the top-seeded Hilltoppers (26-7) into tonight’s semifinal round against North Carolina Charlotte at 9 p.m. EST. Second-seeded Jacksonville plays Alabama-Birmingham in the 7 p.m. game, with the championship game scheduled for Saturday at 7.

The Toppers, the Sun Belt regular-season champion, fell behind 18-6 when Anthony Carver hit a three-pointer, then trailed by 14 at 9:38 when Bernard Royster broke away for a fast-break basket.

Off came Johnson’s nose guard, and the Hilltoppers slowly mounted a comeback. It got within 20-12 when Bryan Asberry stole the ball and set up a Kurk Lee jumper from the corner. And Western closed within 22-19 after five successive points by Johnson.

The 6-foot-9 forward took a blow on the nose from 6-9 Howard Morgan, but looked through the tears to make two foul shots. Only 18 seconds later, Johnson was fouled by Morgan while scoring, converting the free throw.

Old Dominion tried to regain its advantage, scoring five of the next six points to lead by seven. But Western’s Brett McNeal centered a three-pointer and, after McNeal and Fred Tisdale misfired, Tellis Frank rebounded, scored and was fouled. That three-point play included Frank's only field goal of the half and got the Toppers up 26-23.

“You can panic if you want to, but we didn’t lose our poise,” said Frank. “We just kept digging and digging and got back in the game.”

“Maybe Tellis wasn’t concerned with it was 26-6, but I was a little concerned when it was 20-6,” Arnold said.

Western finally caught up at 29-29 when McNeal made a three-pointer 35 seconds into the second period. With the visitors keeping five of their first six shots, they regained a four-point edge.

Frank got two, and the 6-6, 240-pound Asberry stole a midcourt pass only to mishandle his dribble. But seconds Asberry stole another pass and stuffed to tie the game at 39.

Western’s first lead came at 11:26 on Frank’s 15-footer, 41-39, and 35 seconds later Frank extended it to 43-39. The Hilltoppers’ press resulted in eight steals in the first 10 minutes of the half.

McNeal’s third-three-pointer of the night put the margin at 46-41, and as another shot by McNeal bounced off 20 seconds later, Johnson one-handed the ball and in one motion stuffed it mightily through the rim. There were two more ODU turnovers between the baskets. Still, with the Toppers missing two free throws in the last 30 seconds, and Garrick Davis making a shot at the buzzer, Old Dominion went down fighting.

“We gave it a good shot. We had about seven minutes in the second half where offensively we went dead,” Young said. “We’re not a good catch-up basketball team. We’re not that quick.”
UNCC-Western

By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

McNeal's 34 set up WKU-UAB

Watch Brett McNeal when he doesn't have the ball. Watch him in Western's offensive sets, sliding off picks that leave his defenders imprinted on the chests of men like Bryan Asberry or Kannard Johnson.

Watch McNeal get the ball, pump fake, slip inside a defender and go up for the jumper. Watch the jumper go in.

North Carolina Charlotte watched, chased, defended and did everything but shoot a cannon at McNeal in Friday night's Sun Belt Conference Tournament semifinal.

The 49ers' defense was so close, in fact, that McNeal suffered a cut chin that needed stitches. But for 49 of 50 excruciating and titillating minutes at Diddle Arena, McNeal did more damage to UNCC than it could repair.

The 6-2/4 sophomore from Minneapolis scored 30 points in the second half and two overtimes on the way to a tournament-record and career-high 34 points as Western held off a determined UNCC squad. It's an estimated 10,000 leather lungs. The victory put Western in its first-ever SBC Tournament final Saturday night.

The pacemakers can be restarted now.

"When you're around the game for a long time, there are some of them that you're never going to forget," said Western coach Murray Arnold, sweat still covering his face after his team upped its record to 27-7. "This is a classic that I'll remember forever.

McNeal's performance is what will be etched on UNCC coach Jeff Mullins' mind for some time.

"The thing that is amazing is to realize how hard he was working to get open," Mullins said. "And then how hard it is to shoot when you work that hard to get open for 49 minutes. That was an amazing performance. I would've thought anybody would've lost their legs. He actually got stronger in overtime.

"It's not just what he got, but when he got it," Arnold said. "He makes shots, but it's not just making shots, you've got to get them. When you watch the guy without the ball, that's when he's scoring. He's a brilliant offensive player." McNeal's 17-foot jumper with 57 seconds left in regulation made it 79-77, Western. By then Byron Dinkins hit from 16 on the baseline with 26 seconds left to tie it.

Dinkins stole a Kurk Lee pass with seven seconds left. UNCC took time to set up a last shot, which Dinkins didn't miss by much from more than 20 feet.

"It looked good," said a downtrodden Dinkins, who scored 19 points for UNCC.

Lee hit the front end of a bonus situation with nine seconds left in regulation to put Western in front 86-84. His chance to possibly iced the game bounded off to Dinkins. Lee -- who was starting again for James McNary -- went for a steal, but fouled the 6-1 sophomore with three seconds left.

Dinkins hit both bonus free throws to send the game into a second overtime at 86-86.

McNeal took over in the second overtime, scoring nine of Western's 13 points in the 6-minute period and leaving UNCC at 18-14.

And he said he wasn't even tired.

"I really wasn't. I had a chance to rest up and I had the adrenaline flowing," McNeal said. "I felt good the whole game, but I kind of paced myself where I really didn't have to take charge in the first half. After I hit the first two three-pointers I realized I had it.

"It wasn't tough to get open at first. They collapsed down and weren't worried about what I was doing. After I got hot they locked up real tight. I had to rub off two or three picks at a time."

McNeal was trying to lose either 6-7 Michael Milling, Jeff West or Dinkins during the second half.

Frank missed the front end of two key bonus situations that might have ended the game in regulation, but he contributed 21 points and 11 rebounds. Johnson finished with 16 points and nine rebounds. Asberry came off the bench for another strong performance of 14 points and eight rebounds.

Williams tied Dinkins for UNCC scoring honors with 19 points. Milling had 18 and Dan Plo continuously.

Both teams scored over 50 percent from the field. UNCC hit 39 of 72 for 54.2 percent. Western was good on 35 of 66 for 53 percent. Neither team was strong at the free throw line. Western making 26 of 35 to UNCC's 12 of 22.

Western foes better beware of Hilltoppers' backcourt pair

By STAN SUTTON
Staff Writer

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — The last time Western Kentucky had a basketball team worthy of Final Four consideration, it went into an NCAA Tournament game against Kentucky tagged with a scouting report that said: "Guards can't shoot."

And Jim Rose combined for 34 points as the Kentucky tagged with a scouting report that said: "Guards can't shoot."

By STAN SUTTON
Staff Writer

1971 Hilltoppers buried the Wildcats 107-83.

Once again, Western is looking capable of making some postseason noise, except that some skeptics seem to believe the Hilltoppers' backcourt is the key to Western's success.

Arnold admits that McNeal's play looms large because of the Hilltoppers' 25-7 season, considering that he is the only newcomer to the lineup. A former Minnesota Mr. Basketball, the 6-foot-2 left-hander took the spot vacated by Billy Gordon, last year's leading scorer.

"I think he's had an absolutely terrific year," Arnold said. "We've had several kids who've shown great improvement, but Brett probably is our most improved basketball player. Losing Billy Gordon was our biggest concern, his being our leading scorer and our best outside shooter. We had to fill that gap and Brett has done that for us. Having him fill the gap is one of the biggest reasons for our season."

If McNeal has read criticism of the guards, he certainly doesn't let it bother him. "I don't care," said the soft-spoken sophomore.

McNeal's scoring pace ranks 10th in the conference and third on the team, behind Tellis Frank's 18.9 and Kannard Johnson's 13.9. Picking for a team that gets most of its three-pointers on power moves to the basket, McNeal still ranks ninth among Sun Belt distance shooters.

Since joining the Sun Belt five years ago, Western's recruiting base has spread to the extent that it brought in McNeal from Minneapolis. Among the 10 Toppers who play the most, eight states are represented.

Even more ironic is the manner in which Clem Haskins, McNeal's coach a year ago, continued from Page D 1

McNeal, himself, is a testimony to that interest. As a kid he used to break the ice to play outside.

"Most of the time we played in the dark," he said. "We had a park nearby and we'd go over there and play until we got tired of playing, sometimes until 2 in the morning. We'd start out in jackets and gloves, and after a while the gloves would come off and then the jackets. There had to be a couple of times we played when it was below zero."

McNeal has had eight 20-point games this season, including a 22-point effort nine days ago as Western beat Jacksonville 87-74 to clinch the Sun Belt regular-season championship. He has been in double figures 15 times and led the Hilltoppers in scoring eight times. One game he even led the club in rebounding.

"He's been improving throughout the year," Arnold said. "He's beome a better and better defender. We've played some very critical minutes with him back there as the primary ball-handler, and he's done a good job there.

"I think he'll be an even better player his junior and senior seasons if he continues to strengthen those parts of his game. His ball-handling and defense will get even better with more experience. And he's a smart player, very smart at playing without the ball. It's one thing to make shots, but before you can make them you have to get them. He does a good job at getting them."
Hacked

BRETT McNEAL of Western is hit on the arm by Old Dominion's Steve Trax during Thursday night's Sun Belt Conference Tournament game at Diddle Arena. ODU fought Western to the finish before losing 60-58.

(Staff Color Photo by James Morris)
UAB drills free throws
to nail Western Kentucky
72-60 in Sun Belt final

By STAN SUTTON
Staff Writer

BOWLING GREEN Ky. — The book on beating Western Kentucky this season has been to kill them with the three-point shot. Last night, however, Alabama-Birmingham used a lesser weapon to upset the Hilltoppers 72-60 for the championship of the Sun Belt Conference Tournament. The Blazers used the foul shot. And used it... and used it... and used it.

UAB, which earned the league's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament, had upset Jackson State Friday by making 22 of 24 foul shots. It had beaten the same Dolphins during the season with 24-of-26 foul shooting. And by the time James Ponder missed with 2:45 left in last night's game, the Blazers had made 23 in a row over two games.

Before that miss, they also had Western on the wrong side of a 61-55 score, and nine more successful free throws would make sure the Hilltoppers (27-8) stayed there.

Alabama-Birmingham (21-10) may have needed the win to make the NCAA's 64-team field, while the Hilltoppers' regular-season championship leaves no reasonable doubt that they will be admitted.

"We feel very fortunate. I've felt all along Western Kentucky is one of the best teams in America," said Alabama-Birmingham coach Gene Bartow, whose team will be making its seventh straight NCAA Tournament appearance.

It was the fourth Sun Belt Tournament title for Bartow's team, and marked the first time since joining the league in 1982 that the Hilltoppers had reached the title game.

Bartow admitted the strain of tough victories both Thursday and Friday nights may have worn on the Hilltoppers, who also were hampered this week by center Clarence Martin's back spasms and guard James McNary's flu.

"I think we caught them in a pretty good situation," Bartow said. "They've had some sickness. They had to chase Old Dominion in a keep-away game, which had to take something out of them. Last night they had to play probably the hottest team in the league in Charlotte."

Western had come from 14 points behind to beat Old Dominion 60-58, then needed two overtimes to overcome North Carolina Charlotte 99-98.

"I think fatigue set in," said Hilltoppers guard Brett McNeal, who was held to 11 points after a 34-point game Friday in which he had scored 30 after halftime. "We

Continued From Page 14-A

world against Charlotte," said UAB coach Gene Bartow.

The Hilltoppers' fatigue showed much more in the second half, especially for the big men.

"You could tell it in how Kanard (Johnson) and Tellis (Frank) shot the ball," said James McNary, who didn't start but had five assists in 13 minutes.

Frank finished with 17 points and 10 rebounds. Johnson had six points and seven rebounds.

"We played hard, the breaks just went their way," Frank said.

Bartow knew he was playing Western at a good time for his squad.

"I've felt all along that Western is one of the best teams in America," Bartow said after his squad went to 21-10. "I have a UPI vote and I've voted them in the top 15 every week. I still think they're a great team. We caught them in a pretty good position. They've had some sickness, they had to chase Old Dominion in a keep-away type game, which had to take something out of them. Last night they played maybe the hottest team in the league in UNC Charlotte.

"But I don't want to take anything away from our team. Our guards were brilliant."

Tracy Foster was brilliant for the second straight night. The senior from Fort Wayne, Ind., followed up a 28-point Friday night against Jacksonville with a 23-point effort against Western.

For his feats, Foster was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

"My teammates worked really hard to get me the ball. If it wasn't for them, I wouldn't get open to get the great shots," Foster said after hitting 9 of 13 from the field, including 3 of 4 three-point shots.

Eddie Collins was next for UAB with 12 points. James Ponder and Michael Charles each scored 11 and Reginald Turner was next with 10.

"The first game they kind of beat us real soundly," Ponder said.

"Then the next game we kind of beat them soundly. We had something to prove tonight. We wanted to win the championship and beat them soundly, and we accomplished that."

Even a mouth like Vitale would have a hard time arguing with that.---
Watching it slip away

ROLAND SHELTON (left), Tellis Frank (42) and Kannard Johnson of Western sit on the bench Saturday night at Diddle Arena watching the final seconds of the Sun Belt Conference Tournament. Western lost to Alabama-Birmingham 72-60 in the championship round.
Kannard Johnson takes aim. Johnson is Western's First 1,000-point scorer in Sun Belt play. He ranks among WKU's all-time top 10 scorers.
Orange throng isn’t going to bother WKU

For a team that’s having to travel a great distance to play the first round of a national tournament on a possible opponent’s home floor, Western doesn’t seem that upset or rattled.

The Hilltoppers face the prospect of playing in front of more than 70,000 Orange clad fans over the course of this weekend when they travel to Syracuse to meet West Virginia in the first round of the NCAA Tournament’s East Region.

Yet, they don’t seem worried.

“Playing in the Carrier Dome will be a great experience,” said Tellis Frank, Western’s leading scorer this year and an honorable mention Associated Press All-America pick.

“Playing in front of 40,000 people, I’ll be ready.”

Frank has been the man Western has gone when it needed to win this year. And his performance this weekend will be vital if the Hilltoppers are to advance further than the second round.

Intensity levels seem to rising in practice, too. By several players’ admissions, the last couple of practices have been among the best of the season.

“The bad thing is that you only have one chance to win,” said Clarence Martin, who is perhaps the leading motivator on the club that takes a 28-8 record into the tournament.

“People know about us, but they don’t know,” Frank said.

“When this season started, Western got a chance to play in New York City. It barely lost to a three-point mad Nevada-Las Vegas club in the finals of the preseason tournament. We have to do the little things to win. Our main concern is ourselves. It won’t do us any good to stop somebody if we play terrible.”

Western hasn’t exactly played terrible when it’s been in the national spotlight, as it will be this weekend, but it also hasn’t won. Thus, leading to the season-long lack of national recognition.

“It’s like the season’s starting over again,” said Kannard Johnson, Western’s leading rebounder (8.4 ppg) who has been slowed by a broken nose.

“We’re known but we don’t get any respect. We want to gain respect.”

“When we went to Notre Dame, we were the underdog. They didn’t want us to get to New York. We messed up the NIT by beating Notre Dame. I want to try to mess up the NCAA this time.”

And in a way, Western is still trying to get back to the Big Apple.

The East Regional site is the Meadowlands Arena in East Rutherford, N.J.

That’s just across the Hudson River from Manhattan.

Frank makes honorable list

NEW YORK (AP) — The Associated Press Division I college basketball All-America team for 1986-87:

**First Team**
- Steve Alford, 6-3, senior, Indiana
- Danny Manning, 6-11, junior, Kansas
- David Robinson, 7-1, senior, Navy
- Ronnie Williams, 6-7, senior, Georgetown
- Kenny Smith, 5-10, senior, North Carolina

**Second Team**
- Horace Grant, 6-10, senior, Clemson
- Armond Gilliam, 6-8, senior, Nevada-Las Vegas
- Dennis Hopson, 6-5, senior, Ohio State
- Mark Jackson, 6-2, senior, St. John’s
- Ken Norman, 6-8, senior, Illinois

**Third Team**
- Derrick Chievous, 6-7 junior, Missouri
- Dallas Comegys, 6-9, senior, DePaul
- Jerome Lane, 6-6, sophomore, Pittsburgh
- Derrick McKee, 6-6, junior, Alabama
- Tony White, 6-2, senior, Tennessee

Injuries: Melinda Carlson ankle ligament sprain is expected to play.

Injuries: Reggie Miller, UCLA; Jose Ortiz, Oregon State

Outlook: Lady Toppers not as consistent as last year’s Final Four squad.

Depth questionable due to injuries.

**Western Kentucky**
- Bid: At-large
- Record: 24-8
- Starters: F, Tellis Frank (6-10, Sr.); F, Kannard Johnson (6-9, Sr.); G, Clarence Martin (6-8, Sr.); G, Kurt Lee (6-1, So.); G, Brett McNeal (6-7, Jr.)
- Injuries: None
- Injured: Ken Norman, forward

Western got a chance to play in New York City. It barely lost to a three-point mad Nevada-Las Vegas club in the finals of the preseason NIT at Madison Square Garden.

About nine seeds worth of difference now separate Western, the 10th seed in the East, and Vegas, the top seed in the West Region.

There’s no reason to believe the Hilltoppers will play with any more effectiveness than they did in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament, other than their apparently revived attention to the game.

“We’re getting up like we were for the NIT,” Johnson said.

“We’re going to come out ready to play.”

When Western was invited to the preseason NIT, it was sent to Notre Dame, the site of several big Irish upsets this year. Tournament organizers didn’t think Western could come out of Notre Dame with a win.

Evidently, the NCAA selection committee doesn’t think Western can come out of Syracuse, either.

“It doesn’t matter where we play, just what we do when you get there,” Frank said. “When we went to Notre Dame, we were the underdog. They didn’t want us to get to New York. We messed up the NIT by beating Notre Dame. I want to try to mess up the NCAA this time.”

Injuries: None

Outlook: Lady Toppers not as consistent as last year’s Final Four squad.

Depth questionable due to injuries.

**Western Kentucky**
- Bid: At-large
- Top scorer: Frank (19.7); rebounder: Johnson (8.4); 3-point shooter: McNeal (39-80, 47.5 percent)
- Avg. pts: 78.9; against: 67.2
- FG pct.: 49.3; FT: 71.1; Del. FG: 43.3
- 3-point shots/games: 4; pct.: 34.4
- Outlook: A big and talented front line — Frank has Danny Manning-like versatility — but weak three-point shooting team. Three of the Hilltoppers’ losses due to three-pointers. Winners of nine of last 10 games.
Western has chance to show early promise was on target

By STAN SUTTON
Staff Writer
SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Western Kentucky fans who have been talking Final Four all season would be satisfied for the moment if the Hilltoppers can become a Final 32 team tonight.

To reach that initial goal, the 28-8 Top­pers must avoid an ambush at 7:07 EST when they face West Virginia in the East Regional.

Back in early December, everyone was wondering what Western would do for an encore. Only Nevada Las Vegas started the season on a higher note than Western, which launched the campaign by beating Notre Dame, Texas Christian and Memphis State before losing in two overtime to UNLV in the Coca-Cola NIT Classic. That's when the Final Four talk began.

Few would argue that Western's NIT runner-up finish came against a field second only to the NCAA Tournament's. Of the 16 teams in the preseason event, 11 made the NCAA field and two more made the National Invitation Tournament. Barring proba­bility, Memphis would have been in the NCAA, leaving only Bradley and Howard resting in postseason.

The preseason NIT teams that made the NCAA field combined for a 283-96 record. And the four semifinalists in the Coca-Cola event have gone on to a record of 119-16. UNLV, which had trailed Western by 21 in their game, stands 34-1, Temple 31-3 and Memphis 28-6.

Against West Virginia, the Hilltoppers again will try to prove through tournament competition that they are among the elite. Their coach, Murray Arnold, has insisted that there are at least 40 teams capable of beating each other and luck will be a major factor.

He's got a great ballclub," West Virginia coach Gale Catlett said of Arnold. "They won the Sun Belt Conference. The beat some great clubs. They had a terrific early season."

Until game time, it may be hard to deter­mine whether Western or West Virginia has had the worst luck. While stepping off a bus at the Nashville airport Wednesday, Hilltoppers center Clarence Martin stepped onto a slanted curb and sprained an ankle.

"Clarence is somewhat questionable," said Arnold, although his center was working hard in last night's practice.

West Virginia (23-7) has two players banged up. Starting forward Tyrone Shaw will play with a hairline fracture on his shooting arm. Eric Semisch, whom Catlett calls "the best sixth man he's ever had" at West Virginia, will play with a hairline fracture on his right cheekbone. Arnold said last night he probably will start Kurk Lee at point guard. Lee stepped forth as a starter when James McNary had a week-long bout with the flu.

McNary didn't start three games in the Sun Belt Tournament nor a March 3 game at Dayton but saw reserve service in those games.

"We'll probably play them both. We'll probably need to keep pressure out front," Arnold said.

Although West Virginia dominated most opponents on the boards, the Mountaineers are especially concerned with the Hilltoppers' rebounding.

"They've got a lot of size, a whole lot of size," said Wayne Yearwood, who at 6-8 is a starting guard for Catlett. "We're not as physical as they are, and that's going to present a lot of problems for us."

Arnold claims the Mountaineers have more offensive combinations than a team can logically prepare for, and their nationally ranked defense yields only 60 points a game.

"This has been the best defensive club I've had in my 25 years of coaching. I hope it is tomorrow," Catlett said.

Arnold believes West Virginia's game plan will include some method of slowing the tempo. "Some way we've got to try to get them out of their tempo," he said. "On paper, it looks like it ought to be a tremendous ballgame."

"I would think that if the game got out of hand, if everybody started running up and down the court, it would be to their advantage," Catlett said.

Another major concern of Arnold's is lanky guard Yearwood. The Mountaineers won 10 of 11 games after he was became a starting guard.

"I think the big guard helped us tremendously defensively," Catlett said. "We were able to stop some people. We had been having problems with 'second' guards in our league and couldn't control them as well as I wanted to. Wayne's a good shooter, not a great shooter, but he's a threat from outside.

Catlett also expressed worries about stopping 6-10 forward Tellis Frank. A former college teammate of Los Angeles Lakers general manager Jerry West, Catlett called his old friend this week for a report on Western's front line and was told Frank probably will go in the first round of the professional draft, with Western's Martin and Kannard Johnson also going in no lower than the third round.

**TONIGHT'S LINEUPS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Western Kentucky (28-8)</th>
<th>West Virginia (23-7)</th>
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<td>James McNary</td>
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| **SYRACUSE, N.Y.** — Western Kentucky holds on for another scoreless period against West Virginia in the NCAA East Regional final tonight.

**Western's size worries W. Va.**

Continued from Page D 1
Kannard Johnson (33) put in the winning basket for Western Kentucky in last night's 64-62 victory over West Virginia. Defending on the play was Daryl Pinckney.

Kannard Johnson, who made the winning basket in Western Kentucky's 64-62 victory over West Virginia Friday night in Syracuse, N.Y., enjoyed a hand-slapping celebration with teammates.
Foul play, Johnson slip Western past West Virginia 64-62

STAN SUTTON
Staff Writer

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — If Darryl Prue's ancestors had shot rabbits as accurately as he shoots free throws, they would have starved to death.

Prue has missed 22 of his last 26 free throws, one of those at crunch time last night as his West Virginia basketball team lost to Western Kentucky 64-62 in the first round of the NCAA Tournament's East Regional.

With 51 seconds left and the score tied 62-62, the Mountaineers passed the ball to Prue, which is like handing your infant to a mountain lion. Western's Kannard Johnson was so thrilled to see Prue with the ball that he willingly, and not unwittingly, committed his fourth personal.

Prue, who earlier had shot a free throw so wide of the rim that it hit only glass, laid another brick. Western came downcourt, whereupon Tellis Frank snared a rebound in traffic last night against West Virginia. Frank had only four rebounds but he scored a team-high 17 points in WKU's 64-62 victory.

"If you can get the ball downtown, duck in," Arnold had told Johnson during the timeout. But the other option, one Arnold presumed Frank would have to use on the inbounds pass, was to find guard Brett McNeal for a perimeter jumper.

Western never led by more than six nor trailed by more than five in a brutally physical game marked by 37 personal fouls. The match had 14 ties, 12 lead changes and, despite constant defensive pressure, only seven second-half turnovers.

Western center Clarence Martin played but eight minutes before fouling out three minutes into the second half. Johnson, Bryan Asberry and James McNary all finished with four personals and Frank played 31 minutes with three fouls. For those reasons, an overtime period did not fit into Western's game plan.

Asberry's 16-point, six-rebound effort was a godsend for the Toppers, because Frank went the first nine minutes of the second half without a bucket. But Frank came on for a team-high 17, and Johnson had 15.

Frank, a sophomore transfer from George- ia Southern at 4:50 p.m. EST tomorrow, with 13 minutes left to play, but took a 51-50 lead on a three-point play by Frank at 8:14. With six minutes left Western led 57-52, but two foul shots by Tyrone Shaw tied things at 62 with 2:33 left.

"I was really amazed at how physical the game was. It was like a pro game," Catlett said. "It didn't lose the game for us, but it was tough to adjust." Catlett said Western's defense threw off the rhythm of his team, and Arnold agreed that the Mountaineers did the same to his club. West Virginia's defense was ranked sixth nationally.

The game was less than three minutes old when things began to get tense for Western. Frank picked up his second foul at

Continued from Page B 1

17:39 and Martin picked up his second a half minute later. Martin went to the bench for the rest of the half, and Frank sat down the last five minutes of the period.

But Asberry more than picked up the slack with 12 first-half points. The 6-6, 240-pound senior made his last five free throws of the half, although he had missed three in a row before that.

Western opened with a triangle defense that included chasers on Frank and McNeal. That gave Johnson some room to maneuver and he hit three of his four shots to help the Hilltoppers to a 12-9 lead.

After Shaw cut the margin to one, Asberry converted a three-point play and Frank drained a 15-footer to put Western up by six.

Western led 23-21 with seven minutes left in the first half before the Mountaineers scored eight straight points. Western twice trailed by six before switching to a zone that temporarily mystified West Virginia and allowed the Toppers to score seven straight and regain the lead. But Prue powerfully stuffed home a missed shot and Shaw scored to leave Western behind 35-32 at halftime.

Western shot 46 percent to West Virginia's 42, and the Toppers limited their opponent to 29 percent shooting in the second half. Shaw's 18 points tied Prue for team honors.

"We just had to play harder. There wasn't anything tricky," Arnold said. "It was a defensive war."

West Virginia senior Eric Seimsch, sent into the fray with three seconds to go for defensive purposes, spoke softly when the war was over.

"They made a real nice play," he said. "We were just clogging the middle up and he (Johnson) came from the weak side and snuck in there. I don't think anybody saw him."

Staff Photo by Keith William

Western Kentucky's Tellis Frank snared a rebound in traffic last night against West Virginia. Frank had only four rebounds, but he scored a team-high 17 points in WKU's 64-62 victory.
Syracuse breaks loose in the second half, ousts Western 104-86

By STAN SUTTON
Staff Writer

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Western Kentucky ran into a truck yesterday in the second round of the NCAA basketball tournament. The Hilltoppers never saw what hit them, but they know it was orange.

In beating the Hilltoppers 104-86, the Syracuse Orangemen showed enough manpower to overrun a small country. The East Regional’s second-seeded team shot 71 percent during a 62-point second half, had four starters combine for 91 points and cleared a wide path to East Rutherford, N.J., where the Orange plays Florida Thursday.

The crowd in the Carrier Dome — only 10 shy of 20,000 — backed the Orangemen in full voice to help overcome several comeback efforts by the Hilltoppers. But the crowd noise switched to jeers when Western coach Murray Arnold unveiled a legal, but seldom used, strategy in the final 3½ minutes.

The Toppers were called for seven intentional and two technical fouls in a fruitless effort to catch up. Roland Shelton played only two minutes and committed five intentional fouls and both technicals, called when he hacked a Syracuse player before the winners had a chance to throw the ball inbounds.

"It’s a perfectly legal rule," said Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim, whose club is 28-6. "They’ll change it now, because that’s the first time a coach has gone out and done it."

Helped along by Western’s strategy, Syracuse launched 36 foul shots and made 22. The Orangemen shot 12 free throws in 38 seconds, missing their first six attempts after the intentional fouls started and missing 10 before the game ended. Western trailed 87-69 when Arnold issued his order.

After trailing by only two at halftime, Western was totally unprepared for what was to come. Syracuse made 20 of 28 second-half shots after hitting 59 percent in the opening period. Western shot a solid 53 percent itself, and was led by Bryan Asberry’s career-high 22 points.

Guard Brett McNeal, who made 10 of his 12 shots, had 20 for the Hilltoppers (29-9). Four players scored more than 20 points for the Orange, led by Sherman Douglas’ 27. Rony Seikaly had 23, Howard Triche 21 and Greg Monroe 20. The foursome combined to hit 34 of 51 attempts.

"We shot the ball as well as we could ever ask to shoot the ball," Boeheim said.

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**Scoresheet:**

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Clarence Martin (55) and Kannard Johnson of Western tried in vain to stop a dunk by Derrick Coleman of Syracuse during yesterday’s 104-86 loss by the Hilltoppers.

STAFF PHOTO BY BEN VAN HOEK
Continued from Page D 1

“We had to play well to win and we played a hell of a game today.”

“Sherman Douglas is the brains of their whole success,” surmised Western forward Tellis Frank.

Syracuse broke away from the Toppers with seven straight points opening the second half, scoring 15 of 17 to seemingly put a lock on it. But with 11:35 left, Western had closed within 61-57.

But Monroe and Seikaly answered with scores and Syracuse-extended it to 71-61 with 8:53 to play.

Two foul shots by Kannard Johnson closed Western’s deficit to eight points, but the Orangemen spurted back into a 76-63 lead in the next 90 seconds.

The win marked the first time in Boeheim’s 11 seasons as coach that Syracuse had won more than one game in the NCAA Tournament. And as the game ended, the 6-foot-10 Seikaly slam-dunked a bucket of water on his coach, who dodged most of it.

“Tony shoots the water dunk like he shoots free throws. He just got booted when he missed four missed foul shots by his center in a 40-second stretch.

“I owed it to him. That was the least I could do,” Seikaly said. “To get the monkey off his back, we washed it off.”

Triche, a 6-5 forward whose play has been erratic at times, received substantial praise for his performance at both ends of the floor.

He made 7 of 11 shots in the first half and defensively helped hold Frank to 12 points.

“It wasn’t one of my better games,” Frank confessed. “Syracuse played a great game. We felt it was coming away from us a lot of times but we hung tough.”

“Tellis Frank is a great, great player and Howard didn’t let him get the ball, or anything, that I can remember,” Boeheim said.

The last two minutes of the first half were crucial for Western, and the Toppers made the most of them.

Triche’s 17-footer at 2:25 gave the Orangemen a 42-34 edge, their largest of the half. But at 1:55 Frank centered a short jumper. A minute later, some excellent hustle by just-inserted Ray Swogger furthered the comeback.

Swogger missed from the top of the key, but as Syracuse bodies rolled off Asberry going for the rebound, Swogger dashed down the lane to grab the ball and insert it in the net.

Syracuse’s third turnover in the two-minute span then allowed McNeal to drill a 15-footer that closed the Orangemen’s lead at halftime to 42-40.

“I felt very good at the half. We had a very good offensive first half,” Arnold said. “We scored 40 points on 32 possessions. I thought we clawed back into it.”

But, in an attempt to slow Seikaly, Arnold told Johnson to slack off on Triche in the first half.

“Triche just stood out there and filled it up, but we had to make a decision,” Frank said.

Western was on the verge of deep trouble the last 13 minutes of the first half, a period in which it never led. Racing for a ball headed out of bounds at his end of the court, McNeal heaved it into the backcourt where he accidentally set up a fast break for Douglas. Fouled while scoring, Douglas’ three-point play made it 11-8.

Despite McNeal making his first four shots, two outside jumpers by Triche and one from the corner by Monroe ran the margin to 17-12. The lead had reached seven when Western absolutely refused to be denied with 1:55 left. After four offensive rebounds, Asberry got the ball into the hoop.

But when play resumed, Seikaly scored and Monroe collected the Orangemen’s next seven points. The writing on the wall became clearer when McNary stole a Syracuse pass and fouled on his drive, then missed both foul shots.

Derrick Coleman’s tip then gave Syracuse its first 10-point margin.

Southern Cal ousts Western
WKU's recruits may be best ever

He's not quite ready to call it his best ever, but Western Lady Topper coach Paul Sanderford has no problem making some comparisons.

Friday, Sanderford convinced Terri Mann and her family that it would be best if the 6-2 forward took her phenomenal basketball skills to the Hill.

When Mann signed the national letter-of-intent late Friday night, Sanderford probably assured himself of the best recruiting year in the history of Lady Topper basketball. And he's not finished yet.

There are at least two other in-state players considering Western, along with Angela Morehead of Shelbyville, Tenn., 6-5 junior college star Debra Richardson from Texas and Karen Deeken of Montana. Sanderford would like to sign at least three of the five.

Already coming to Western are Oldham County's Nancy Crutcher, Franklin-Simpson guard Kelly Cook, Staci Payne of Mayfield and Kentucky's Miss Basketball, Mary Taylor of Marshall County.

If Deeken, who is 6-5 and considered one of the best prep centers in the nation, signs with Western, the Lady Toppers would probably have the best new class anywhere.

Sanderford compared his newest recruit to the ones he signed four years ago — led Clemette Haskins and Melinda Carlson. "I'd say they compare favorably to that bunch," he said. "They could be similar in ability."

Rarely, if ever, has Sanderford spent so much energy recruiting a player like he did Mann.

"We've been working real hard with her since last summer," Sanderford said. "Real hard."

"And Mann said Sanderford's hard work may have been the difference. "He really seemed interested in me," she said. "And Western Kentucky seemed different from the other schools I looked at."

Mann also considered going to Texas and Southern California. "The difference was the size of the schools," said her coach, Lee Tretanier. "She was impressed with the smallness of Western. Everybody seemed to be closer. After a while you get tired of living in a big city."

Mann, who moved to San Diego from Detroit, said she wasn't interested in living in Los Angeles to attend USC. "And Texas was awful big, too. Western has the basketball tradition, but they aren't as big and crowded."

Sanderford credits the fans of Southcentral Kentucky with helping Mann make up her mind. She made her official visit to Western last November when the Lady Toppers were hosting a Mexican amateur team at Allen County-Scottsville. Mann saw a large, vocal crowd on that cold Sunday afternoon.

And Sanderford said that "probably 50 or so fans" wrote letters to Mann after her visit.

"I think she was impressed with the attention of women's basketball in this part of the country. And she realized that Kentucky means basketball."

Mann's statistics are unbelievable. She averaged 36.7 points per game as a senior and 24.0 per contest.

Her team won the California state championship in each of the four years Mann played, putting together a 122-1 record during that time. Not coincidentally, that one loss was also the one game in Mann's career that she fouled out of.

A sports writer in San Diego said that she is "the best girls' basketball player to ever come out of high school."

"She's different from anybody playing in college right now," said Tretanier. "She will revolutionize the game. She has the rebounding and passing instincts of Bill Russell."

**Continued On Page 11 Column 4, This Section**

Congratulations to WKU cagers

We congratulate both the Hilltoppers and Lady Hilltoppers on fine seasons as they prepare to do battle in their respective NCAA basketball tournaments.

The two Western Kentucky University teams have had their ups and downs this year but being selected to participate in postseason action indicates they are recognized as among the finest teams in the country.

The Hilltoppers start tournament action against West Virginia on Friday in Syracuse, N.Y., while the Lady Toppers will face the University of Southern California on Sunday in Los Angeles.

Neither team will have an easy time in tournament play. If the men's team wins on Friday, they'll likely play Syracuse on the Orangemen's home court Sunday.

The women, meanwhile, face a team playing in its home town in the very first game. USC will be only the first obstacle to clear if the Lady Toppers are to make it to the Final Four for the third year in a row.

Regardless of how the two teams fare, Western Kentucky fans again this year can take pride in one of the nation's finest collegiate basketball programs.

We wish both teams the best of luck.
FIRST TEAM
PLAYER OF THE YEAR
TERRI MANN, Point Loma, San Diego, 6-2, Sr., F: Scored 1,174 points in 32 games (36.7 average) as a senior, 23 points short of California single-season record by Cheryl Miller, 1983. Had 816 rebounds in 32 games (USA state records) and became first USA high school girl to pass 2,000 rebounds (2,256) in career. Had 250 steals (single-season state record) and 652 in career. Also, 120 assists as a senior. Led Point Loma to a 122-1 record — including last 59 in a row and 110-game streak at home — and four state championships in four seasons. Four-time all-state; state player of year as junior and senior. State prep female athlete of year for 1985 and 1986. Had 30 points, 25 rebounds, six blocked shots in 60-44 victory against Sacramento Grant in state title game. Third-team All-USA as a junior. Signed with Western Kentucky University.
Where ‘Baby Moses’ leads, success likely to follow

Terri Mann, USA TODAY's high school girls basketball player of the year, decided long ago she would win as many trophies as her brothers. She doesn't want to follow in anybody's footsteps: 'I want to make prints of my own,' she insists.

Terri Mann is USA TODAY's high school basketball Player of the Year, but she isn't perfect. "The only problem I have with Terri is that she's spoiled rotten when it comes to doing things around the house," said her mother, Willie Mann. "I have to tell her three or four times to wash the dishes."

But nobody has to tell her to clean the glass. The 6-foot-2, 185-pound center earned the nickname "Baby Moses" (as in Malone) by averaging 36.7 points, 25.6 rebounds and 7.8 steals a game last season in leading San Diego's Point Loma High to its fourth straight state title. When she signed with Western Kentucky last Friday, Lady Hilltoppers coach Paul Sanderford couldn't contain himself.

"That man cried," said Willie Mann. "Lord, did that man cry."

He isn't the only coach to gush.

"If she doesn't score a point in college, she'll still be worth everything from a rebounding aspect," said Point Loma coach Lee Trepanier. "She'll make 6-1 and 6-2 girls change their game." "I've seen her jump up, grab an air ball and lay it in just like you see Saturday afternoons on CBS," said Wade Vickery of rival Santana High.

Point Loma can credit its 122-1 record over the past four years to Mann's simple philosophy. "I really don't worry about scoring," she said. "I believe the team that gets the offensive rebounds has a better chance of winning." She's been called the second coming of Cheryl Miller, so one might wonder why she picked Western over her idol's school, Southern Cal.

"I don't want to follow in Cheryl's footsteps," said Mann, whose brother, Allen, played at Murray State in 1978-80. "I want to make prints of my own."

Mann, a prolific scorer who rebounds like the Washington Bullets' Moses Malone, averaged 36.7 points and 24 rebounds per game this past season for Point Loma High School, winner of four consecutive state Division I titles.

Since Mann, a 6-2, 185-pound power forward, arrived on the scene, Point Loma has put together three undefeated seasons, including this year's 34-0 campaign and has lost...
Mann power proves fascinating

Her father Cyrus, 6-4-½, lives in Guy, Tenn. Two older brothers played collegiate basketball—Cyrus Jr., (6-11) at Illinois State (1974-75) and Allen, 6-9, at Murray State (1978-80). A collection of trophies sits on a living-room table in the Mann’s beige house on National Avenue.

"They all belong to Terri," said Willie Mann. "She used to get so excited about her brothers' trophies. She'd look at them and tell her brothers that one day, she would show them how to play basketball."

At 13, Mann won a Pepsi Hot Shot title in Detroit and was going to play with the boys team at Wilson Jr. High before her family decided to move to San Diego.

"Talent-wise, I'd say there's no better kid in the country," he said. "And Mann is doubly devastating because she's so quick.

Mann has always been rebound-minded—"My freshman year at Point Loma, we had girls to do the scoring. We needed somebody to go after the rebounds," she said.

"I really don't worry about scoring," said Mann, who shot about 65 percent from the field. "I believe the team that gets the offensive rebounds has a better chance of winning."

Sanderford says there's only one way to describe Mann. "She's a great one," said the fifth-year head coach. "Mann has the skill and the physical strength and skills to come in and be an impact player."

Mann, who lived in Detroit until 1981, is the youngest of eight children, ranging in age from 34 to 18 and from 6-11 to 5-10 in height.

"It's C-2 • WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 1987 • USA TODAY

When Tyeast Brown, Mann's niece, graduated from junior high last June, "Coach" Mann immediately took her under her wing. On less than a year's experience, Tyeast, 5-10, started at high post for Point Loma midway through the season and grabbed 159 rebounds.

Success has not spoiled Terri Mann. "The thing I like the best about Terri is that she handles all the attention so well," said Point Loma teammate Lisa Carrillo, a good friend.

"The only problem I have with Terri," said Willie Mann, "is that she's spoiled rotten when it comes to doing things around the house. I have to tell her three or four times to wash the dishes. She's gotten to the point where she pays her nieces and nephews to do all her housework."

College scouts, who flocked to Mann, did not get a chance to monopolize her time. Trepanier, trying to shield his star from recruiting pressures, said he didn't give her a single piece of mail until the end of her junior season. After that, I gave her four big boxes with thousands of letters."

Mann narrowed her choices to six. But the decision-making took its toll. "I got headaches, I felt sick," she said. "It got to a point where I had to decide."

Willie Mann wanted her daughter to stay in California, "so I could continue to watch her play," she said. "But I realized that one day, I'd have to let her go."

Says her daughter: "Western Kentucky will be so different from Southern California, but I think I'll fit in. And I feel at peace. If I'm not happy there, I won't have anyone to blame but myself.

Last week, Mann met an idol during her final recruiting trip. "I went out to dinner with Cheryl Miller," she said. "She's such a nice person and gave me some good advice. She told me I could count on her and think of her as a friend, even if I didn't pick USC."

Despite her admiration, Mann doesn't want to be known as Miller's clone. "That's probably the reason I didn't go to USC," she said. "I don't want to follow in Cheryl's footsteps. I want to make prints of my own."
Frank, Johnson waiting for draft

When Tellis Frank was a freshman at Western, Clem Haskins, the former Hilltopper coach, had a prediction.

Haskins said Frank would be a top NBA prospect by the time his career on the Hill was over.

Everybody sort of chuckled then. Especially after watching Frank play his freshman season.

But the only person laughing now is Frank—all the way to the bank.

Frank, Western's leading scorer last year, and Kannard Johnson, who has been touted as an NBA prospect since he stepped foot on Western's campus, are both now finished with the college game.

They left their marks on Western in different ways and, although on the same team, in different time frames.

Frank showed signs of being a dominating player during his junior year, but he bloomed like a flower in spring his senior year. Johnson came to Western with the credentials, and he spent most of his career trying to live up to them.

In the NBA, it is believed Frank will continue to grow. The 6-10 forward has just started dipping out of his talent well. Before this season began, Marty Blake, the NBA's director of scouting, said only Johnson himself could determine how far he would go.

Frank started this past year off strong, then leveled off to an 18 points per game average. Johnson started well, too, and checked in with 15 points per game. Both were spectacular during Sun Belt Conference play, and Frank earned Player of the Year honors. Sometimes Frank would take over games during the year. Seldom did Johnson disappear from them.

Scouts or general managers from almost every NBA franchise saw both Frank and Johnson play this year. And, both big men had good post-season trials. Frank was very impressive in Hawaii in April, being named to the All-Star team of the Aloha Classic, which is the primary showcase for senior talent.

Johnson was named to the All-PIT team for his performances in the Portsmouth Invitational Tournament.

Both also have the opportunity to play at a tryout camp in Chicago before the June 22 draft in New York.

The tryout in Chicago is reserved for the top 52 players from across the country. There are no agents, media or fans involved, just NBA assistant coaches and scouts.

All of this would seem to point to either Frank or Johnson being a first round selection in the draft. But not if you listen to Blake.

"Nobody is assured of being picked in the first round," Blake said this morning in a telephone interview from Atlanta. "This is a puzzling draft. Nobody has any idea where anybody is going. At the first of June we'll know better."

Whispers around press rooms during the season said Frank would be a sho-in first round pick. Johnson, some said, would go around the fourth or fifth round.

"I guess we'll know on June 22," Frank said recently. "You've got to go where they pick you."

"It doesn't really matter who you play for. They've got to pick you first," Johnson said.

While Frank's name was on the lips of every NBA scout and agent when he got to Hawaii, Johnson had to get a couple of good games under him in Portsmouth before his phone started ringing.

"I started getting a lot of calls after the second game," Johnson said.

Frank and Johnson have been fending off the so-called flesh peddlers in the agent business. Neither has picked an agent, yet, but Frank has some ideas of who he wants.

"The big name agents lay back. They are the ones who are going to get the top dollar for you," said Frank, who is looking at the Pro Service, one of the top agencies in the country.

Frank is interested in playing for Chicago because it's close to Gary and his mother. He probably won't play in any other All-Star games before the draft. Johnson said the more he plays, the more his contract will be enhanced.

Western coach Murray Arnold, who sent players to the NBA as a college coach and coached them during his one-year stint with the Bulls, said first round hype is just that—hype.

"You get a little bit extra for going in the first round," Arnold said. "It's amazing the difference in contract negotiations between the first and second rounds. But it doesn't matter whether you go in the first, second or third rounds. The key is making the team."

"If you produce and win, you'll get paid. If you don't, you won't have a job. It's very much a merit system league."

Arnold's most famous NBA addition is Gerald Wilkins, who has become more than Dominique's brother during his time with the New York Knicks.

Gerald, a Tennessee-Chattanooga star, was the last pick in the second round. He has emerged as perhaps the most steady member of the injury-riddled Knicks last two years.

"The number you go is not that important. It's getting with the right team," Arnold said. "You can count the corpses Gerald's climbed over since he's been in the NBA."

Look for Frank, and maybe Johnson, too, to do some climbing before their basketball days are through.
16. WESTERN KENTUCKY
The Hilltoppers have good size and quick men, with a quality baseline that is ready for the NBA. Kanard Johnson, an outstanding rebounder and scorer, keeps the defenses honest while Bryan McMillan, a strong post man, will be hard to move around. It will be tough to stop Keith Lickliter from the 3-point range. New coach Murray Arnold hails from the University of Chattanooga and was an assistant coach with the Chicago Bulls last year. He likes to run with discipline, and changes up his defenses, but prefers man-to-man. Diddle Arena will be S.R.O., red towels will be waving, and Western Kentucky will be one of the Bluegrass State’s three Top-Twenty teams this year.
First Round
NBA Draft Choices—1987

A number of outstanding collegians took the NBA hardship route last year, making the upcoming draft the weakest in over a decade. The following seniors, listed alphabetically, are potentially outstanding pros. Not listed is a player of equal, if not better talent, 5'3 Tyrone Bogues. If Tyrone were to go one-on-one with 5'7 Spud Webb of the Atlanta Hawks, I would back Tyrone; and that's in the world where players are measured from the neck up.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Steve Alford</td>
<td>Indiana</td>
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<td>Doug Altenberger</td>
<td>Illinois</td>
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<td>Tommy Amaker</td>
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<td>Greg Anderson</td>
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<td>Horace Grant</td>
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<td>Dennis Hopson</td>
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<td>Kannard Johnson</td>
<td>Western Kentucky</td>
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<td>Antoine Joubert</td>
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<td>Reggie Lewis</td>
<td>Northeastern</td>
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<td>Tim McCalister</td>
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<td>Reggie Miller</td>
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<td>Joe Wolf</td>
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A Western hero

KANNARD JOHNSON, a Western Kentucky forward, is hugged Friday night by teammate Ray Swogger after Johnson made the game-winning shot at the buzzer to lift the Hilltoppers past West Virginia, 64-62, in a first-round NCAA Tournament game in Syracuse, N.Y. The Hilltoppers play Syracuse in a second-round game at 3:50 p.m. CST today.
Tellis Frank got a lot of camera time Monday at the NBA draft in New York's Felt Forum.

Frank, Western's top scorer last year, was seated roughly in the middle of the first row among the prospective first-round draft choices the league flew to the Big Apple.

Frank was his usual stoic self as the first 13 draft choices were called before him. He didn't really break a grin when his was the 14th name called in the 1987 NBA draft. He just reached for a Golden State Warriors cap, which he wore throughout his television interview, after being the first Hilltopper since Clarence Glover went to the Boston Celtics in 1971 to be drafted in the first round by the NBA. Jim McDaniels, who was a teammate of Glover's on that 1971 Final Four squad, was drafted in the first round by the now defunct American Basketball Association.

Frank keeps a collection of caps lined up in the back window of his car. Let's see, there's a Final Four cap from Dallas, there's a Western cap, and now, there's a Golden State cap to add to the collection.

Frank talked about playing for Chicago, so he could be close to his mother, Izora, in Gary, Ind. And he had been projected as possibly one of the three picks the Los Angeles Clippers would take in the first round. Golden State was something of a surprise.

But, as a reporter from San Francisco who covers the Warriors said Monday afternoon, Frank was no surprise to the NBA franchise by the Bay.

The Warriors had an A and a B list of who they wanted to take on draft day, and Frank was on the A list, just as he probably was for every team in the league.

Kannard Johnson might have been on a lot of those B lists, because he was the 41st pick in the draft, going in the second round to the Cleveland Cavaliers. Clarence Martin, who opted for a playing career in Japan just days after Western's season ended, was the 61st pick in the draft, going in the third round to the Utah Jazz.

Neither Frank nor Johnson could be reached for comment last night or this morning. Frank was on his way back to Gary this morning — but here's one man's guess on how those two and another first-round Sun Belt Conference pick will do in their professional careers.

The Warriors are one of those squads that is struggling for respect. They participated in the first NBA lottery last year — reserved for the worst teams in the league. This year, they made the NBA playoffs, but who didn't other teams? And they are trying to convince people his name really is Tellis Frank, not Frank Tellis.

Frank told writers from the Bay Area Monday in New York that he wanted a tryout. He'll have to work hard to even make the team, and harder to play.

But Johnson has always done better when pushed, so this will be a good experience for him.

Johnson is going to an up-and-coming NBA squad. Brad Daugherty, Melvin Turpin and Keith Lee will give the Cincinnati native plenty to think about while he's trying to make the team.

But Cleveland is the kind of place that will make or break Johnson. He'll have to work hard to even make the team, and harder to play. But Johnson has always done better when pushed, so this will be a good experience for him.

Martin said before leaving the United States that he didn't want to take a chance on not getting drafted. Utah's representatives are anxious to get with Martin to see if he wants a tryout.

Ronnie Murphy of Jacksonville was the 17th pick by Portland in the first round.

Murphy has extraordinary talent, but he's something of a head case. He plays out of control much of the time. There are already plenty of players in the NBA like that.

It'll be a surprise if Murphy makes it past his rookie season — unless he has an attitude transplant.

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It'll be a surprise if Murphy makes it past his rookie season — unless he has an attitude transplant.
Frank enthusiastic about selection by Golden State

By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

Tellis Frank is feeling pretty good about things these days.

Frank woke up Tuesday morning in New York as the 14th player taken in the NBA draft. By the time he'd made it back to Gary, Ind., that afternoon, he was beginning to realize just what that meant.

"I look at it as a blessing," said Frank in a telephone interview. "A year ago, people didn't know who I was. Now, I'm the 14th player taken in America."

Frank was drafted in the first round Monday by the Golden State Warriors at the Felt Forum in Madison Square Garden. The last time he'd be in that building was last November, for the Coca-Cola Classic.

"It's a good shooter and a very good athlete with the ball," said Don Nelson, head coach of the Warriors. Nelson is the general manager of the club. He knows how to put winning teams together. George Karl will be heading into his second year as the head coach in Oakland.

"He's a good rebounder and a very good passer," Karl said in a Tuesday interview with the San Francisco Chronicle. "He's not the great rebounder we're looking for, but with Larry Smith on the team, maybe we need a 6-10 small forward."

Jack McMahon, an executive with the Warriors, said in the same interview: "Where we were picking, Tellis Frank was the best athlete with the best future. He's not a one-dimensional player."

"We probably would've taken him as high as eight or nine, if we'd be picking in that spot," Karl said.

Frank thought he might have gone higher, too. But he's quite pleased with where he was picked and where he's going.

"Some players weren't happy with where they went, or where they were drafted. But I'm glad Golden State picked me. I'll get some playing time. And, depending on how I play, I could get to start later," Frank said.

The NBA Player's Association has placed a moratorium on signing rookies to contracts until October. Frank and his agents are trying to cut their rosters.

Frank said the moratorium won't affect his financial position, but it could hurt players drafted after the first round like his college teammate Kannard Johnson and Clarence Martin, should he decide to come back from Japan for a tryout.

When asked what his contract would probably be worth, Frank would only offer "I'll be making more than most 22-year-olds."

Sources close to the Warriors organization said Frank would probably sign a three-year contract for close to $400,000 a year.

Not bad for somebody who was a nobody a year ago.

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**NBA draft**

NEW YORK (AP) — Round-by-round selections in the 1987 National Basketball Association draft, held Monday at the Felt Forum:

**First Round**

1. San Antonio, David Robinson, 7-1, c, Navy.
2. Phoenix, Armon Gilliam, 6-9, f, Nevada-Las Vegas.
3. New York, Larry Johnson, 6-10, f, Virginia.
4. Milwaukee, Pat Garrity, 6-8, f, SMU.
5. Golden State, Darryl Johnson, 6-8, f, California.
6. Indiana, Darrin Nelson, 6-10, f, LSU.
7. Boston, Joe Dumars, 6-7, f, Michigan State.
8. Portland, Kevin Gamble, 6-6, g, Duke.
10. Portland, Ronnie Murphy, 6-5, g, Jacksonville.
11. New York, Mark Jackson, 6-3, g, St. John's.
12. L.A. Clippers, Eric Dickerson, 6-1, f, UCLA.
13. Dallas, Jim Farmer, 6-9, f, Alabama.
14. Atlanta, Dallas Comeagles, 6-9, f, DePaul.
15. Boston, Reggie Lewis, 6-7, g.
16. Orlando, Flbrick Dunkel, 6-11, g.
17. San Antonio, Greg Anderson, 6-10, f, Houston.
18. Milwaukee, Deshaun Thomas, 6-4, f.
19. Chicago, Tim Hardaway, 6-4, g, Duke.
20. Atlanta, Andrew Duvall, 6-10, f, North Carolina.
21. Golden State, Tellis Frank, 6-10, f, Western Kentucky.
22. Kentucky, Joe Dumars, 6-3, f.
23. Houston, Mike Richmond, 6-9, f, Texas-El Paso.
24. Detroit, Terry Porter, 6-7, g, Arizona State.
25. Milwaukee, Lenny Wilkens, 6-6, g, Tennessee.
26. Cleveland, Chris Ford, 6-10, f, Ohio State.
27. Sacramento, Rick Roberson, 6-9, g, Nevada.
28. Chicago, Mike Washburn, 6-7, g, Long Beach State.
29. Toronto, Mark Price, 6-6, g, Georgia.
30. Portland (from Phoenix), Nikita Wilson, 6-9, f.
31. Milwaukee (from Seattle), Bob McCan, 6-4, f, Marquette.
32. Chicago, Tony White, 6-2, g, Tennessee.
33. Chicago, Larry Bird, 6-7, f, Indiana.
34. Milwaukee, J.J. Redd, 6-6, f, Wisconsin.
35. Detroit, Eric White, 6-9, f, Indiana.
36. Atlanta, Mike Richmond, 6-9, f, Texas-El Paso.
37. Atlanta, Scotty Pippen, 6-7, f, Central Missouri.

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**Second Round**

1. Philadelphia, Darryl Dawkins, 6-9, f, Temple.
2. Chicago, Ricky May, 6-10, f, North Carolina.
3. Dallas, Mike Miller, 6-11, f, Nebraska.
4. Denver, Donny Downer, 6-10, f, Long Beach State.
5. Milwaukee, Alford, 6-2, g, Indiana.
6. Houston, Doug Lee, 6-9, f, Portland.
7. Portland, Kevin Gamble, 6-6, g, Duke.
8. Milwaukee, J.J. Redd, 6-6, f, Wisconsin.
9. Detroit, Eric White, 6-9, f, Indiana.
10. Atlanta, Mike Richmond, 6-9, f, Texas-El Paso.
11. Chicago, Joe Dumars, 6-7, f, Marquette.
12. Portland, Kevin Gamble, 6-6, g, Duke.
13. Milwaukee, Alford, 6-2, g, Indiana.
14. Dallas, Mike Miller, 6-11, f, Nebraska.
15. Denver, Donny Downer, 6-10, f, Long Beach State.
16. Milwaukee, Alford, 6-2, g, Indiana.
17. Portland, Kevin Gamble, 6-6, g, Duke.
18. Milwaukee, Alford, 6-2, g, Indiana.
19. Dallas, Mike Miller, 6-11, f, Nebraska.
20. Denver, Donny Downer, 6-10, f, Long Beach State.
21. Milwaukee, Alford, 6-2, g, Indiana.
22. Portland, Kevin Gamble, 6-6, g, Duke.
23. Milwaukee, Alford, 6-2, g, Indiana.
24. Dallas, Mike Miller, 6-11, f, Nebraska.
25. Denver, Donny Downer, 6-10, f, Long Beach State.
26. Milwaukee, Alford, 6-2, g, Indiana.
27. Portland, Kevin Gamble, 6-6, g, Duke.
28. Milwaukee, Alford, 6-2, g, Indiana.
29. Dallas, Mike Miller, 6-11, f, Nebraska.
30. Denver, Donny Downer, 6-10, f, Long Beach State.
31. Milwaukee, Alford, 6-2, g, Indiana.
32. Portland, Kevin Gamble, 6-6, g, Duke.
33. Milwaukee, Alford, 6-2, g, Indiana.
34. Dallas, Mike Miller, 6-11, f, Nebraska.
35. Denver, Donny Downer, 6-10, f, Long Beach State.
36. Milwaukee, Alford, 6-2, g, Indiana.
FIRST-ROUND PICKS IN NBA DRAFT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Player (College)</th>
<th>Ht.</th>
<th>Pts.</th>
<th>Rebs.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. San Antonio</td>
<td>David Robinson</td>
<td>7-1</td>
<td>28.2</td>
<td>11.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Phoenix</td>
<td>Armon Gilliam</td>
<td>6-9</td>
<td>23.2</td>
<td>9.3</td>
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<td>3. New Jersey</td>
<td>Dennis Hopson</td>
<td>6-5</td>
<td>29.0</td>
<td>8.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. L.A. Clippers</td>
<td>Reggie Williams</td>
<td>6-7</td>
<td>23.6</td>
<td>8.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Seattle (from New York)</td>
<td>Scott Pippen (Central Arkansas)</td>
<td>6-7</td>
<td>23.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Sacramento</td>
<td>Kenny Smith</td>
<td>6-3</td>
<td>16.9</td>
<td>2.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Cleveland</td>
<td>Kevin Johnson</td>
<td>5-1</td>
<td>17.2</td>
<td>3.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Chicago (from Denver)</td>
<td>Olden Polynice (Virginia)</td>
<td>6-11</td>
<td>16.1</td>
<td>8.0</td>
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<td>9. Seattle</td>
<td>Derrick McKey</td>
<td>6-9</td>
<td>18.6</td>
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<td>10. Chicago</td>
<td>Horace Grant</td>
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<td>11. Indiana</td>
<td>Reggie Miller</td>
<td>6-7</td>
<td>22.3</td>
<td>5.4</td>
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<td>12. Washington</td>
<td>Tyrone Bogues</td>
<td>5-3</td>
<td>14.8</td>
<td>3.8</td>
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<td>13. L.A. Clippers (from Houston)</td>
<td>Joe Wolf (North Carolina)</td>
<td>6-11</td>
<td>15.2</td>
<td>7.1</td>
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<td>14. Golden State</td>
<td>Tellis Frank</td>
<td>6-10</td>
<td>18.0</td>
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<td>15. Utah</td>
<td>Jose Ortiz</td>
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<td>16. Philadelphia</td>
<td>Chris Welp</td>
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<td>17. Portland</td>
<td>Ronnie Murphy</td>
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<td>18. New York (from Milwaukee)</td>
<td>Mark Jackson (St. John's)</td>
<td>6-3</td>
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<td>3.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>19. L.A. Clippers (from Detroit)</td>
<td>Ken Norman (Illinois)</td>
<td>6-8</td>
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<tr>
<td>20. Dallas</td>
<td>Jim Farmer</td>
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<tr>
<td>21. Atlanta</td>
<td>Dallas Comeys</td>
<td>6-9</td>
<td>17.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>22. Boston</td>
<td>Reggie Lewis</td>
<td>6-7</td>
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<td>8.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>23. San Antonio</td>
<td>Greg Anderson</td>
<td>6-10</td>
<td>18.2</td>
<td>10.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LATER SELECTIONS: Steve Alford, Indiana (by Dallas, second round, 26th player chosen overall); Bob McCann, Morehead State (Milwaukee, second, 32nd); Kannard Johnson, Western Kentucky (Cleveland, second, 41st); Clarence Martin, Western Kentucky (Utah, third, 61st); Todd May, Pikeville (San Antonio, fourth, 73rd); James Blackmon, Kentucky (New Jersey, fifth, 94th); Daryl Thomas, Indiana (Sacramento, sixth, 120th).
1985-86 Western Kentucky

Lady Toppers