1991

UA11/2 Lady Toppers Basketball Press Releases

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Sept. 14, 1990
Women's Basketball / Contact: Sally Raque

LADY TOPPERS FACE TOUGH SCHEDULE IN '90-91

Bowling Green, Ky. --- Western Kentucky University's Lady Topper basketball team will undertake a tough schedule in '90-91, squaring off with 10 teams that participated in the NCAA tournament and one team that saw action in NWIT post-season play.

"Our schedule presents a challenge at every turn," commented WKU Head Coach Paul Sanderford, who begins his ninth year at the Lady Topper helm. "But, we've always had tough schedules and I wouldn't have it any other way," he continued. "It was the strength of our schedule last year that got us an NCAA bid (WKU's sixth straight)."

Western opens the regular season in "Paradise," participating in the eight-team Wahine Invitational in Honolulu, Hawaii over the Thanksgiving holidays (Nov. 23-25). The Wahine Invitational will feature the strongest field of any tip-off tournament, with six of the eight teams seeing action in last season's NCAA tournament. Five teams (host Hawaii 26-4; N.C. State 25-6; South Carolina 24-9; Utah 20-11 and Texas Tech 20-11) posted twenty or more wins, including the Toppers first round opponent, Utah.

"We're excited to be opening the season in Hawaii," Sanderford said. "This is the most prestigious tip-off tournament in the country this year and you can bet the pollsters will be taking a close look at the results. It will definitely be a tough way to open the season, but it will also be a great opportunity to turn some heads and climb up in the rankings."

The Lady Toppers go almost non-stop from Hawaii to Illinois, where they will compete in the Illini Invitational. WKU will take on Miami of Ohio in the first round, a team that posted an impressive 23-5 mark last season.
The other tournament on the Topper schedule is the eighth annual Bowling Green Bank Invitational, played this season over the Christmas holidays (Dec. 29-30) in lieu of its traditional tip-off scheduling in November. The 1990 BGBI field includes national power Stephen F. Austin (28-3, NCAA), Minnesota and Western Carolina. Western will take on the Carolina Catamounts in the first round, while S.F. Austin meets the Golden Gophers of Minnesota.

Western fans can get an early look at the Lady Toppers in two pre-season exhibition games. The women's team from Ft. Hood will be in town on Nov. 10 for a 7:30 exhibition, and the Canadian National Team will play in Diddle Arena Nov. 17th at 7:30 pm. Indiana State will provide the competition for Western's first official home game, set for December 4th.

Other highlights on the '90-91 slate include home games with Long Beach State (25-9, NCAA) and long-time rivals Tennessee Tech (26-5, NCAA) and Southern Illinois (21-10, NCAA). Exciting road matches include the annual showdown with Vanderbilt (23-11, NCAA), Sun Belt Conference foe Old Dominion (21-10, NCAA) and West Virginia (19-10).

In all, the Lady Toppers could face 13 teams that recorded 20 or more victories in '89-90, and 16 that won 19 or more games! The 33 teams on the WKU schedule accounted for nearly 500 wins last season, an average of over 16 per team.

Western winds up the regular season with the women's Sun Belt Conference Tournament, played for the first time in Birmingham, Ala., March 7-9. Sanderford and crew will be after their fourth SBC crown and a seventh straight trip to the NCAA Tournament.
### Western Kentucky University 1990-91 Lady Topper Schedule

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Hawaii (26-4; NCAA), North Carolina State (25-6; NCAA), South Carolina (24-9; NCAA), Utah (20-10; NCAA), Texas Tech (20-11; NCAA), Arizona (12-17); Drake (10-16), and WKU (17-12; NCAA))</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Thur</td>
<td>Alabama State (10-16)</td>
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<td>Tues</td>
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<td>Sun</td>
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<td>UNC Charlotte (24-8; NWIT) (dh) *</td>
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<tr>
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<td>24</td>
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<td>Alabama at Birmingham (19-11) *</td>
<td>2:30 pm / Bowling Green, Ky.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 1</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>at Old Dominion (21-10; NCAA) *</td>
<td>6:35 pm / Norfolk, Va.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sun</td>
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<td>1:30 pm / Richmond, Va.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7-9</td>
<td>Th-Sat</td>
<td>at Sun Belt Conference Tournament...Birmingham, Ala.</td>
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* Sun Belt Conference Game  
(dh) Doubleheader with Men's Varsity
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Sept. 20, 1990
Women's Basketball / Contact: Sally Raque

DATE SET FOR SECOND ANNUAL LADY TOPPER PICNIC

Bowling Green, Ky. --- The second annual Lady Topper Picnic is set for Thursday, October 11th on the South Lawn next to the WKU Downing Center, and promises to be another evening of fun, food and fellowship.

Last year's event was a huge success and enjoyed by young and old alike. It's a great opportunity for fans to meet and mix with the 1990-91 Lady Toppers and the coaching staff. Big Red will be there too, along with many former Lady Toppers, including Brigette Combs, Melinda "Bird" Carlson, Sharon Ottens, Kami Thomas, Traci Patton, Laura Ogles and many other "old favorites."

Coach Sanderford and the Lady Toppers will be serving up a sumptuous feast of steaks, grilled chicken breasts and all the fixins! There will be hot dogs and burgers for the kids, too.

Children under 12 eat free and the first 300 little Lady Topper fans will receive red and white basketballs, suitable for autographs. And, the popular dunking booth will be back in action, so warm up your pitching arms!

Student ticket prices are just $15.00 and adult tickets can be had with a $25.00 tax-deductible contribution.

Free valet parking will be available, beginning at 4:30 pm. Dinner will be served from 5:00-8:00 pm.

Tickets may be purchased by contacting the women's basketball office (745-2133) or the Hilltopper Athletic Foundation (745-5321).

-30-

Athletics-Basketball, women
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 9, 1990

LADY TOPPERS TO PLAY TWO RED-WHITE SCRIMMAGES

Bowling Green, Ky. --- Western Kentucky University's 1990-91 Lady Topper basketball squad will play two pre-season Red-White intrasquad scrimmages, Head Coach Paul Sanderford announced.

Fans can get their first pre-season look at the Western women on Sunday, October 28th in a Red-White game scheduled at Scottsburg High School in Scottsburg, Indiana - the alma mater of sophomore guard Renee Westmoreland, Scottsburg High's all-time leading scorer.

The scrimmage is set for 2:00 pm (CST), and is sponsored by the Scottsburg Kiwanians. Admission is $3.00 per person.

Western will play the second intrasquad matchup on Sunday, November 4th at Clay County High School in Manchester, Ky., just minutes away from senior guard Kelly Smith's hometown of London.

That game is set for 2:00 pm Eastern/1:00 pm Central, and is sponsored by the Younger Women Club of Manchester. Admission is just $1.00 per person and door prizes will be given away throughout the afternoon.

Western makes its Diddle Arena debut on Sunday, November 11th at 2:30 pm, in the first of two exhibition games. The Lady Toppers take on the Derby City Demons, an AAU team out of Louisville, in that one and then face the Canadian National Team in another exhibition set for Saturday, November 17th at 7:30 pm in Diddle Arena.

Sanderford and company open the '90-91 season in Honolulu, HI November 23rd, participating in the eight-team Wahine Invitational.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 29, 1990

BIG THINGS PLANNED FOR LADY TOPS FIRST SCRIMMAGE

Bowling Green, Ky. --- The Western Kentucky University Lady Toppers will make their official hardwood debut this week, and big things are planned for the Red-White scrimmage that will tip-off the '90-91 season.

Fans can get their first look at the Lady Tops on Sunday, November 4th at Clay County High School in Manchester, Ky., just minutes away from senior guard Kelly Smith's hometown of London. The scrimmage gets underway at 2:00 pm, and admission is just $1.00 per person.

That dollar may buy quite a bit on Sunday. Ticketholders will be eligible for a host of prizes, including a week's vacation in Florida, $100 savings bonds, $100 shopping sprees, tickets to a Kentucky Wildcats basketball game or free dinners. "I just may have to buy a ticket myself," joked WKU Head Coach Paul Sanderford. "Those folks have done a super job of promoting our Red-White game and we're excited to have the opportunity to go over to Manchester and play before a big crowd of fans from that area of the state. I know Kelly Smith's father, Cliff, has been the ringleader in getting this all organized and we appreciate all he's done to roll out the red carpet for us."

Following Sunday's scrimmage, the Lady Tops will play two exhibition games in Diddle Arena. Western will take on the Derby City Demons, an AAU team out of Louisville that includes several former Lady Toppers, at 2:30 pm next Sunday, Nov. 11. The Lady Tops will face the Canadian National team on Saturday, Nov. 17th at 7:30 pm, following the Hilltoppers final home football game of the season (vs. UT-Chattanooga, 1:30 pm in LT Smith Stadium). Western tips-off the regular season in Honolulu, Hawaii over Thanksgiving week, participating in the Wahine Invitational.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / December 6, 1990
Women's Basketball / Contact: Sally Raque

LADY TOPPERS OFF TO FAST START

Bowling Green, Ky. --- Western Kentucky University's women's basketball team is off to its best start in three years, but finds itself in unfamiliar territory at this point in the young season.

Despite a respectable 5-1 record, the Lady Toppers have been overlooked by the pollsters and find themselves unranked, a position uncommon to a program that has been a consistent Top 25 team over the past several years.

"I think our kids feel somewhat slighted by the polls, and I tend to agree with them," commented WKU veteran Coach Paul Sanderford, who in his ninth year on the Hill is just three victories away from his 200th Western win. "We went 4-1 on the road against some good basketball teams, that have since beaten ranked teams."

Western reached the championship game in two early-season tournaments, beating Illinois to win the Illini Classic and losing out to #3 North Carolina State in the finals of the highly-touted Wahine Invitational in Hawaii. "We were up by seven at the half against N.C. State, but I realize people only look at the final score and we didn't win that one," Sanderford admitted. "But, the very next week, N.C. State beats Tennessee in Knoxville by 23! We may not be ranked yet, but I guarantee you, this team is going to make people sit up and take notice. We are a good basketball team, and by March I think we could be a great basketball team."

One reason for the Toppers' early success has been the play of senior forward Mary Taylor, MVP of the Illini Classic and a member of the All-Tournament team in Hawaii. The 1987 Kentucky "Miss Basketball" is shooting 61% from the field, second in the Sun Belt Conference, and is scoring at a 15.2 clip to go along with 6.5 boards per game. "Mary Taylor is playing consistent basketball," Sanderford said. "We'll get 15 points and 10 rebounds from her every night, and that's what it will take for us to keep winning."

However, Sanderford is quick to point out that Taylor is not a solo act. Nine Lady Toppers average double digits in minutes played, and liberal substitution has also played a part in WKU's 5-1 mark.
"We probably have more depth this year than we've had since I've been coaching, and the bench has responded well," Sanderford noted. "With the kind of pressure defense we play, we have to be able to play a lot of people, and I feel I can do that."

Western takes its road show to Morgantown, West Virginia this Saturday, (Dec. 8), taking on a tough Mountaineer team in a 12:30 p.m. (CDT) game. After a week off for final exams, Western hosts Ohio University December 14th and has a Sunday showdown with #11 Long Beach State December 16th in Diddle Arena. "Our goal is to be 7-1 when Long Beach comes to town," Sanderford said, "but, we'll have to take them one at a time." The Lady Toppers are 114-10 (.919) in Diddle Arena in the Sanderford era.
WKU's Mary Taylor - Consistency is the Key
by: Buddy Shacklette, Senior Journalism major

Bowling Green, Ky. --- Western Kentucky women's basketball coach Paul Sanderford will tell you that it takes three constants and two variables to be successful night in and night out in college basketball.

He'll also tell you that senior forward Mary Taylor has been one of those constants for the 5-1 Lady Toppers.

"This year Mary's played very consistent basketball. It's not been a matter of doing good one night, and not so good the next night," the veteran coach said. "She's been good every night, and not just offensively, but at both ends of the floor. Right now, I can tell you that Mary Taylor is going to give us 15 points and 10 rebounds if she plays 25 minutes. We're going to get those numbers out of her."

The 6-1, 155-pound accounting major from Benton, Ky., has been Western's leading scorer in four out of six contests this season, including a career-high 22-point, 11-rebound performance against Utah at the Wahine Invitational in Honolulu, Hawaii.

And it's not just the coach that's noticed her efforts. Taylor was named to the All-Tournament team at the Hawaii tourney and was honored as the Illini Classic's Most Valuable Player after averaging 16.5 points in wins over Miami (Ohio) and Illinois.

"Mary Taylor is playing with a tremendous amount of confidence," Sanderford said. "I think that's something that she's lacked in the past. Mary has had spurts of being a great player, but the consistency has been something that really hasn't been there throughout her career. If she can stay at this level, we're going to be a good basketball team."

Taylor, Kentucky's "Miss Basketball" out of Marshall County High in 1987, averaged 9.3 points and 5.5 rebounds as a junior last year and has improved her marks this season to 15.2 points and 6.3 rebounds an outing.

"Everytime I go out on the floor there's something in the back of my mind that I want to get accomplished; some type of goal I want to reach," Taylor said. "I like being a leader and showing people that I can handle responsibilities. Coach Sanderford has let me know that he expects that out of me, and that means a lot, too. You can't
sit around and say 'well, if I can't do it, somebody else will,' because then the job will never get done. Somebody's got to get the job done."

Kentucky's Female-Athlete-of-the-Year in 1987 has not only gotten the job done on the floor, but as one of three seniors on this year's squad, she's taken charge off the floor as well. Taylor and fellow senior Kelly Smith suggested a team retreat in the pre-season, a "players-only" weekend at a cabin on the lake so that the team with seven newcomers could get to know each other better and encourage team unity. It has paid off in a big way, as the "new kids on the block" have blended in well, and the team is a close-knit group, playing solid, unselfish basketball.

"Mary's just a super young lady and represents what I want our program to be perceived as...class," Sanderford added. "She's a great role model for women's basketball."

The coaching staff has given Taylor a new role on the court this season - they've asked her to be a shooter. In fact, the coaching staff is so confident of Taylor's shooting skills, they have adopted a "Mary Taylor Rule." If the 50% career field goal shooter has an open shot and doesn't take it, she's on the bench.

"I don't know why I haven't looked for my shot in the last three years," Taylor admitted, "maybe because we had other people on the team that we depended on heavily for offense."

So far, the Mary Taylor rule has paid off for the Lady Tops, whose only loss came at the hands of third-ranked North Carolina State. Through six games, Taylor has taken more shots (59) than anyone else on the team, and is shooting a scorching 61% from the field and a respectable 76% from the free throw line. "We forced this role on her to be a scorer, but that's what she has to do for us to win," Sanderford said.

Taylor claims she hasn't made any drastic changes. "I've just decided that this is it, this is my last year," Taylor said. "I might as well go out there, have fun and do what I can do. If I can shoot above 50%, I think that leans toward consistency and that's all I want to be this year...a consistent player. He's (Sanderford) done a lot for me throughout my college years, the least I can do for him, in my senior year, is be consistent."
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / December 11, 1990  
Women's Basketball / Contact: Sally Raque

LADY TOPS BEGIN HOMESTAND; SANDERFORD CHASING #200

Bowling Green, Ky. --- Finally, the Lady Toppers are home. After playing six of its first seven games on the road, the Western women will host five straight in E. A. Diddle Arena and hope to hand ninth-year Head Coach Paul Sanderford his 200th career win in front of the home folks.

Sanderford has 198 Western wins to his credit going into Friday (Dec. 14th) evening's game with Ohio University (7:30 pm CST). If the 6-1 Lady Toppers get by the 2-3 Bobcats, Sanderford will be staring at win #200 when Western hosts #11 Long Beach State Sunday afternoon (Dec. 16th, 2:30 pm CST). Long Beach is 4-1 going into tomorrow's game at Southern California.

"I'm really not thinking of any game as win #200," Sanderford admitted. "I'm focusing on one game at a time, and getting this team focused on playing one game at a time."

"Sure, I'd like to be in a position to win my 200th against a great team like Long Beach," the North Carolina native continued, "but what is more important to me is that we capitalize on the opportunity to play a Top 10 team. Certainly, if we can be successful against Long Beach, we deserve to be ranked. If not, then we're not there yet and we'll know better what we need to do to be a Top 25 team."

Following the Long Beach showdown, the Toppers break for the holidays and return to host the eighth annual Bowling Green Bank Invitational, featuring nationally-ranked Stephen F. Austin, Minnesota and Western Carolina. The Toppers face Western Carolina in the opening round December 28th at 8:00 pm. Sunday's consolation and championship rounds are at 1:00 and 3:00 pm. The fifth game of the homestand is a January 6th date with St. Louis (2:30 pm).
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / December 18, 1990
Women's Basketball / Contact: Sally Raque

LADY TOPS ON A ROLL: BREAK INTO TOP 25 POLL

Bowling Green, Ky. --- Western Kentucky University's Lady Topper basketball team will break for the holidays and try to recover from a big week.

The Western women, winners in six of their last seven outings, capped off a week of final exams by winning two games in Diddle Arena, both with a bit of dramatic flair. The 8-1 Lady Toppers overcame an hour's delay in Friday night's 99-77 win over Ohio University -- you could say they shot the lights out. A power outage caused the delay, as Diddle Arena was engulfed in total darkness.

On Sunday, the dramatic Lady Toppers overcame a late eight-point second half deficit to force an overtime with #11 Long Beach State. Western dominated the extra period, posting an 83-79 upset to give ninth-year Head Coach Paul Sanderford his 200th career win on the Hill. Oh yes, the win also vaulted the Western women into this week's Associated Press and USA Today Top 25 polls, too. Western goes home for Christmas with a #25 national ranking.

"What a week," commented a tired Sanderford. "Our kids came out of final exams mentally ready to play basketball, and its a good thing too, because both games were mentally and physically tough."

Senior forward Mary Taylor was named the Sun Belt Conference's Player-of-the-Week for her efforts in the two wins. The 6-1 native of Benton, Ky. tallied 20 points and 13 rebounds against Long Beach, and recorded 12 points and seven boards in a limited role against Ohio. Taylor leads the Tops in scoring, with a 14.6 average to go with her 6.9 rebounding average.

Western returns from the holidays to host the eighth annual Bowling Green Bank Invitational, featuring Stephen F. Austin, Minnesota and Western Carolina. Western takes on Western Carolina Saturday (Dec. 28th) in the opening round. Game time is 8:00 pm (CST).
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / January 3, 1990
Women's Basketball / Contact: Sally Raque

Lady Toppers Continue Streak: Move Up in Polls

Bowling Green, Ky. --- Western Kentucky University's Lady Topper basketball team extended its home winning streak to 13 games, and is moving up the national polls.

The Toppers own the 10th-best home court winning streak in the nation. Western last lost at home in December of 1989 to 6th-ranked Nevada Las Vegas. This year's list of victims include 15th-ranked Long Beach State and highly-regarded Stephen F. Austin.

Western is 10-1 on the year and off to its best start since the '85-86 season that concluded at the NCAA Final Four. The lone loss came at the hands of No. 2 North Carolina State in the finals of the Wahine Invitational in November. Western led the Wolfpack by seven points at the half.

"This team is beginning to make a believer out of me," commented ninth-year Head Coach Paul Sanderford. "They keep finding a way to win and that is the mark of a good basketball team."

The key to the Lady Toppers' fast start has been a balanced scoring attack. Four Lady Toppers average double digits: Mary Taylor (15.2 ppg), Renee Westmoreland (13.0 ppg), Kim Pehlke (12.3 ppg) and Kim Norman (10.2 ppg), with junior forward Lisa Lang not far behind (9.0 ppg) in scoring and leading the way in rebounding (7.7 rpg). Norman (7.7 rpg) and Taylor (7.0 rpg) are also sharing board duty.

In fact, the Toppers are playing so well they broke or tied 20 records in the opening round of the Bowling Green Bank Invitational last week, beating Western Carolina 126-48, enroute to winning its fifth consecutive BGBI title.

Western concludes a five-game homestand on Sunday (Jan. 6), hosting St. Louis University, before embarking on three straight games away from Diddle Arena. Western is at Murray State January 9th, at South Florida for the Sun Belt season-opener January 12th and at rival Vanderbilt January 16th.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / January 17, 1991
Women's Basketball/Contact: Sally Raque

LADY TOPS EXTEND STREAK: HOME FOR FIVE STRAIGHT

Bowling Green, Ky. --- Western Kentucky's Lady Topper basketball team extended its winning streak to 12 straight after a three-game road sweep and now returns to Diddle Arena for a five-game homestand.

The Lady Tops, ranked 15th in the USA Today poll and #16 in the Associated Press Top 25 rankings, welcome Sun Belt Conference rival South Alabama Sunday afternoon (Jan. 20, 2:30 pm) in the first home conference game of the season. Western's home stand continues for five games through a February 9th showdown with UNC Charlotte, the second-place team in the league.

Western raised its record to 14-1 with a big road win at Vanderbilt Wednesday night, and is undefeated on an opponent's court. The lone loss of the season came at the hands of #4 North Carolina State in the championship game of the Wahine Classic in Hawaii in November.

In the Vandy win, WKU's backcourt duo of Kim Pehlke (Junior, Louisville, Ky.) and Renee Westmoreland (Sophomore, Scottsburg, Ind.) combined to connect on nine of ten from long distance, including a perfect 6-6 performance from Pehlke that set new school and league records. The two former "Miss Basketball" products (Pehlke, Kentucky '88; Westmoreland, Indiana '89) have propelled the Toppers to the top of the national statistics for three point accuracy, as Western is shooting better from long distance (645-126 for 51%) than from the field (448-902 for 50%)

"We are playing with a lot of confidence right now," Pehlke commented. "This is a balanced team. It seems like a different person picks us up each game."
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / FEBRUARY 5, 1991
Women's Basketball / Contact: Sally Raque

LADY TOPS CONTINUE STREAK: MOVE INTO TOP TEN

Bowling Green, Ky. --- Western Kentucky University's Lady Topper basketball team broke into the Top Ten in the national polls this week after extending the nation's longest winning streak to 16 games.

The Toppers, now 18-1 overall and 2-0 in Sun Belt Conference play, will conclude a five-game homestand this Saturday (Feb. 9th), when they host SBC foe North Carolina Charlotte in a Diddle Arena Doubleheader. Ralph Willard's Hilltoppers take on the 49ers in the nightcap. Tip-off for the women's game is 5:15 pm (CST).

The Western women received its highest national ranking since 1986 after beating Southern Illinois 66-58 Sunday for its 18th consecutive win in Diddle Arena. The Lady 49ers of UNCC, with a respectable 6-3 road record this season, will try and snap that WKU home streak. Charlotte is 15-4 overall (prior to a 2/6 home game with UNC-Greensboro) and 2-1 in conference action.

"Charlotte will come ready to play, no doubt about that," commented WKU Head Coach Paul Sanderford. "But, we'll be ready for them. We are playing with a lot of confidence right now, but we also know that when you are #10 in the country and on a hot streak, every team you play is gunning for you."

The Lady Toppers balanced scoring attack has six players averaging 9.5 or more points -- junior guard Kim Pehlke (14.3 ppg), sophomore guard Renee Westmoreland (12.7 ppg), senior forward Mary Taylor (12.4 ppg), senior center Kim Norman (11.5), sophomore post player Paulette Monroe (9.8 ppg) and junior forward Lisa Lang (9.5 ppg). Western is averaging 85.6 points per game as a team, and owns an impressive +18.7 scoring margin over its opponents. Lang and Norman lead the way in the rebounding department, with 7.6 and 7.4 boards per game, respectively.

Following the Charlotte showdown, Western will go on a three-game road swing, beginning at Dayton Feb. 11th, then on to Eastern Kentucky (Feb. 16) and Morehead State (Feb. 18).
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / February 5, 1991
Basketball / Contact: Sally Raque

LANGS MAKING AN IMPACT IN THE SUN BELT

By: Chris Adams, Senior Public Relations major

Bowling Green, Ky. --- Dynamic duos in college basketball are nothing new, and "relatively" speaking, even superstars from the same family are not totally unusual. The brother-sister duo of Reggie and Cheryl Miller certainly made the Pac-10 famous in the 80's.

The 90's have brought a brother-sister tandem to the Sun Belt Conference in Western Kentucky's Lisa Lang and UNC Charlotte's Jarvis Lang, and the impact has been immediate. Fans will get a chance to see both Langs in action this Saturday (Feb. 9th), when Western hosts UNC Charlotte in a doubleheader (women at 5:15, men at 7:30, CST).

Lisa, a 5-11 forward, is in her first year with Western Kentucky and has helped the #10 Lady Toppers post an 18-1 record and the nation's longest winning streak (16 games). Though slowed with an ankle injury last week, she leads the team in rebounding (7.5 per game) and field goal shooting (54%).

Younger brother Jarvis, a 6-6, 220-lb. forward, is a freshman at UNC Charlotte, and leads the nation's rookies in both scoring (19.7 ppg) and rebounding (10.7 rpg). He totaled 30 points and 12 rebounds in a game at Duke earlier this season, and got 22 points and 10 boards at Syracuse.

Both have injected intensity into the conference and their respective programs, with Lisa's hustle and work ethic and Jarvis' reputation for shattering backboards (he took seven stitches in the head after smashing a backboard in an AAU championship game in Jacksonville this summer).

Their all out effort and love for the game are rooted in the family tree. Growing up in a family of 12 in the small town of Farmville, North Carolina, there was always a game in progress.
In fact, older sister Rose was the first Lang to play college basketball, (North Carolina Wesleyan) but for Jarvis, it took some nudging to join in the backyard games. Jarvis admitted that he didn't necessarily like the game at first, but Lisa convinced him to play. "Lisa is my hero," he was quoted as saying in an article in the Charlotte Observer. "She made me play and she has made me a tougher player."

Two of the most sought-after recruits in the basketball-crazy state of North Carolina last year, Jarvis was the first to sign, inking with the 49ers during the early signing period. Western Coach Paul Sanderford was worried that UNCC might also land Lisa, an All-American at nearby Louisburg Junior College, but Western won her over.

"The whole system at Western really impressed me," Lisa said. "The coaches are friends off the court, there is great crowd support and I like the academics here. My family really didn't pressure me to go with Jarvis - they left the decision up to me."

Sanderford is certainly glad they did. "Lisa works harder than any athlete I've ever coached," said the Lady Topper head man, now in his ninth year on the Hill. "She is a coach's dream. There is nobody I'd rather see with the ball at crunch time than Lisa. Our fans have come to expect 125% from her and she delivers."

The Lang family will be among the fans in Diddle Arena for Saturday's doubleheader, and while most everyone will have their eyes on the basketball court, Sun Belt coaches may want to keep one eye on the stands -- "little" brother Tony, a 6-1 junior high school standout, will be there....
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE/March 28, 1991
Women's Basketball/Contact: Sally Raque

A RECORD-SETTING SEASON FOR LADY TOPPER BASKETBALL

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Western Kentucky University's Lady Topper basketball team enjoyed a record-setting season in 1990-91, winding up the year with a 29-3 record and a seventh straight trip to the NCAA Tournament.

The season was highlighted by a school-record 21-game winning streak, as Coach Paul Sanderford's troops went undefeated for nearly three months (November 26th through February 23rd). Sanderford's ninth year on the Hill resulted in his eighth 20-win season, his fourth Sun Belt Conference title and his third Sun Belt Conference Coach-of-the-Year honor. And, Sanderford picked up his 200th career win at Western, knocking off nationally-ranked Long Beach State in an overtime contest in Diddle Arena.

The '90-91 Lady Tops won their fifth consecutive Bowling Green Bank Invitational, the 1991 Illini Classic and played in the title game of the season-opening Wahine Invitational in Hawaii, losing out to North Carolina State. Western defeated Florida State in the second round of the NCAA MidEast Region, advancing to the Sweet 16 for the third time in the past seven years. The Tops ended the season with a 68-61 loss to Tennessee in the MidEast semi-final game in Knoxville, Tn.

"I've very proud of this basketball team and what we accomplished," commented Sanderford. "Our motto was to 'get it done in '91' and we did that. We played team basketball and found a way to win."

Balance was a key all season, as six Lady Toppers finished the season averaging double digits in scoring, led by junior guard Kim Pehlke (13.6 ppg). And, four Lady Tops averaged six or more rebounds per game, led by junior forward Lisa Lang (7.4 rpg). Western shot 49% from the field and an impressive 43% from the three point stripe, averaging 83.5 points per game, the second-best scoring average in school history. Western ranked first in the nation in three point shooting for much of the season, paced by Pehlke (45.5%) and sophomore backcourt mate Renee Westmoreland (44.6%).

The Tops will return four starters next year -- Pehlke, Westmoreland, Lang and sophomore center Paulette Monroe. Mary Taylor, who started 28 games at a forward spot, will graduate, along with key reserves Kim Norman (11.7 ppg, 7.2 rpg) and Kelly Smith (3.0 ppg, 2.7 rpg). Taylor averaged 11.9 ppg and 6.0 rpg and became the 14th member of the Lady Topper 1,000-Point Club.

"We will have a strong nucleus coming back next year," Sanderford noted. "And, with the athletes we've signed, we will be looking to make it eight straight in the NCAA!"
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / April 4, 1991
Men's Basketball-Women's Basketball / Contact: Paul Just, SID

JOE LIGHTFOOT, MARY TAYLOR EARN ATHLETE-OF-THE-YEAR HONORS AT WKU

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Basketball players Joe Lightfoot and Mary Taylor have been selected the Male and Female Athletes-of-the-Year for the 1990-91 school year at Western Kentucky University.

Lightfoot, who came to the Hill from Kankakee, Ill., helped lead the Hilltoppers to a 14-14 record on the hardwood and a third place finish in the Sun Belt Conference race (after Western was picked to place last in the league in pre-season polls).

A 6-4 swingman who majors in speech communications, he averaged 15.1 points per game and completed his career as one of the most successful three-point shooters ever on the Hill. He ranked among the Sun Belt Conference's top long range shooters throughout his final collegiate season and he set a new WKU record for three-point accuracy in a single game when he canned all five of his treys in the Toppers victory over Jacksonville at home in February.

He scored a career-high 30 points in a Hilltopper victory over Tennessee Tech in E.A. Diddle Arena back in December.

Taylor, a native of Benton, Ky., lettered four years for the Lady Toppers. She helped lead the '90-91 Toppers to a 29-3 mark, a Sun Belt Conference Tournament championship (the team's third in her four years at Western) and a seventh straight appearance in the NCAA Tournament (where WKU lost out to eventual national champion Tennessee on the Lady Vols' home court).

She was selected to four All-Tournament Teams as a senior, including honors as the Most Valuable Player in both the Illini Classic and the Sun Belt Tournament.

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The 6-1 Taylor, a business education major, was a second-team All-Sun Belt pick and she was honored as the league’s Senior-of-the-Year.

She scored a career-high 25 points in the Toppers’ victory over Alabama at Birmingham in the championship game of the conference tournament. That effort made her just the 14th Lady Topper ever to score 1,000 career points. She averaged 11.9 points and 6.0 rebounds as a senior and led her team in blocked shots with 22.

Lightfoot and Taylor will be formally honored at the University’s annual Awards Convocation, set for 4:00 p.m. (CDT), Sunday, April 24 in the Garrett Conference Center on campus.

In addition, their names will be permanently added to the plaque in the E.A. Diddle Arena lobby that recognizes the young men and women who have been honored as Western’s male and female athletes-of-the-year.

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY ATHLETE-OF-THE-YEAR AWARD WINNERS

1972-73 -- Jack Glasser, Baseball
1973-74 -- Mike McCoy, Football
1974-75 -- Virgil Livers, Football
1975-76 -- Nick Rose, Track/Cross-Country
1976-77 -- David Carter, Football
1977-78 -- Chip Carpenter, Football
1978-79 -- Donald Douglas, Track
1979-80 -- Chuck Delacey, Football
1980-81 -- Alicia Polson, Basketball
1981-82 -- Barry Bumm, Football
1982-83 -- Bobby Peck, Swimming
1983-84 -- Dienne Depp, Basketball
1984-85 -- Steve Crocker, Swimming
1985-86 -- Mark Fatkin, Football
1986-87 -- Clem Haskins, Basketball
1987-88 -- Dan Powell, Swimming
1988-89 -- Brett McNeal, Basketball
1989-90 -- Traci Patton, Basketball
1990-91 -- Joe Lightfoot, Basketball
1991-92 -- Barbara Ann Shields, Gymnastics
1992-93 -- Ashley Johnson, Track/Cross-Country
1993-94 -- Camille Forrester, Track/Cross-Country
1994-95 -- Mark Thomas, Basketball
1995-96 -- Cecit Koydellir, Soccer
1996-97 -- Don Palmer, Swimming
1997-98 -- Traci Patton, Basketball
1998-99 -- Roland Shelton, Basketball
1999-00 -- Stacie Crocker, Swimming
2000-01 -- Mary Taylor, Basketball
2001-02 -- Dwayne Carter, Football
2002-03 -- Monica Fritsch, Soccer
2003-04 -- Mary Taylor, Basketball
2004-05 -- Ashley Johnson, Track/Cross-Country
1991 Lady Topper Basketball Banquet
April 18, 1991
Downing University Center
Master of Ceremonies - Barry Williams

PROGRAM

Invocation .................... Senior Kelly Smith

Awards Presentations

Offensive Player-of-the-Year..........Assistant Coach Cristy McKinney
Sponsored by: Southern Kentucky Bus Lines

Defensive Player-of-the-Year..........Assistant Coach Cristy McKinney
Sponsored by: Burns Bait & Tackle

Hustle Award ........................Assistant Coach Steve Small
Sponsored by: Trans Financial Bank

Rookie-of-the-Year ..................Assistant Coach Steve Small
Sponsored by: Sports Center

Most Improved Player ...............Head Coach Paul Sanderford
Sponsored by: Bowling Green Turck & Trailer

Coaches Award ......................Head Coach Paul Sanderford
Sponsored by: Bowling Green Bank

MVP ..................................................Head Coach Paul Sanderford
Sponsored by: Mastercare Incorporated

Special Awards ..................... Coach Paul Sanderford

Slide Show
Highlight Film

Closing Remarks .................... Coach Paul Sanderford
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / May 13, 1991
Women's Basketball / Contact: Sally Raque.

WEST HOPKINS BASKETBALL STAR STEPHANIE MINOR SIGNS WITH WESTERN KENTUCKY

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Stephanie Minor, a 5-11 All-State forward from West Hopkins High School in Nebo, Ky., has signed to play her college basketball at Western Kentucky University.

"We feel like Stephanie will help us tremendously," commented veteran Lady Topper Head Coach Paul Sandford. "She's probably the best high school rebounder in the state of Kentucky. She's big, strong and she plays a very physical game. And, Stephanie is an outstanding young lady who should be a real asset to our program."

The all-time leading scorer (girls or boys) at West Hopkins, Minor led her Rebelettes to 100 victories against only 16 defeats in her four years as a starter, totaling 2,218 points (474 more than the previous school record) and averaging 19.1 points a game for her career.

As a senior, she led Coach Nancy Oldham's WHHS squad to a sparkling 30-4 record, district and regional championships and a berth in the state tournament, the Rebelettes' third straight trip to the "Sweet Sixteen." That team was also the state runner-up in the "All-A Classic" after winning regional and sectional titles in that Kentucky event for smaller schools.

In her final prep campaign, Minor averaged 16.8 points (hitting a very impressive 63 percent from the floor) and 9.4 rebounds an outing while coming up with 42 blocked shots and 81 steals -- all in less than 23 minutes of play a game!

Her junior year, the Rebelettes reached the quarter-finals of the state tournament before bowing out to finish 28-3. Minor contributed to that team's successes at the rate of 21.2 points and 10.4 rebounds a contest. She also came up with 56 blocks and 92 steals. An outstanding shooter, she made good on 55.4 percent of her field goal attempts.

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Athletics-Basketball, women
As a sophomore, she averaged 19.5 points for her regional championship team that posted a 23-5 mark. And, her freshman year, she tallied 19.3 points a game for her 19-4 squad.

"Stephanie's best years of basketball are yet to come," said West Hopkins Coach Nancy Oldham. "She will work hard and earn her playing time at Western."

Minor was a second-team All-State selection as a senior. And, she earned All-Region honors three times and All-District laurels four straight years. She earned berths on the "Sweet Sixteen" All-Tournament Team her junior year and on the "All-A Classic" All-Tournament Team as a senior.

And, she was a member of the undefeated 1990 Kentucky Junior All-Star Team that toured Europe last summer.

A solid student who is interested in a course of study in early childhood education at Western, Minor is the daughter of James and Tracy Civils of Earlington, Ky.

She is the fourth outstanding prospect to sign with Western. Kentucky's "Miss Basketball," Ida Bowen, a 6-2 guard-forward from Sheldon Clark High School in Inez, and Veronica Cook, a 6-0 guard-forward from Franklin-Simpson High School in Franklin, Ky., took advantage of the November signing period to ink with the Lady Toppers. And, 5-10 guard Kristie Jordan from Sullivan Junior College in Louisville signed with WKU in early April.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / May 17, 1991
Women's Basketball / Contact: Sally Raque

WKU'S KELLY SMITH CHOSEN TO NCAA COMMITTEE

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Former Western Kentucky University student-athlete Kelly Smith has been selected to serve on the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Student Advisory Committee.

Smith, who was a senior on this year's 29-3 Lady Topper basketball team, was one of only 16 students chosen from across the nation to serve on this prestigious committee. The London, Ky., native received her bachelor's degree in Biology from WKU this spring and will enter the University of Kentucky's School of Pharmacy in the fall.

"I'm very excited to have been chosen," Smith said. "I'm looking forward to sharing ideas with the NCAA from a student-athletes' perspective and having the opportunity to help shape future NCAA policy."

The Student Advisory Committee is made up of male and female student-athletes, from sophomores to post-graduate students, representing geographical regions as well as NCAA Divisions (I, II, and III). Smith's two-year term begins in September.

"Institutions sent in nominations, and Kelly was chosen from the many candidates by the NCAA Council," explained NCAA representative Meri Lee Baker. "The Student Advisory Committee has the challenge of representing some 300,000 student-athletes across the country. They deal with issues especially pertinent to athletes and act as a sounding board to many NCAA committees," Baker continued. "It's a very prestigious honor."