1989

UA11/2 Lady Toppers Basketball Press Releases

WKU Public Affairs

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## 1988-89 Women's Basketball Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Opponent (87-88 Record; Tournament)</th>
<th>Site (Time - CST)</th>
<th>Series Record</th>
<th>Last Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 26 Sat</td>
<td></td>
<td>BOWLING GREEN BANK INVITATIONAL ...... Bowling Green, Ky.</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>CU 1-0</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>CLEMSON (21-8; NCAA) --- vs. ---</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>LOUISIANA STATE (18-10; NCAA) --- vs. ---</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TEXAS TECH (15-12) --- vs. ---</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>WESTERN KENTUCKY (26-8; NCAA)</td>
<td></td>
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<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 27 Sun</td>
<td></td>
<td>CONSERVATION CHAMPIONSHIP</td>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td>WKU 1-0</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 30 Wed</td>
<td></td>
<td>ILLINOIS STATE (20-11; NWIT) .......... Bowling Green, Ky. (8:00 pm)</td>
<td></td>
<td>WKU 1-0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 4 Sun</td>
<td></td>
<td>SOUTHERN ILLINOIS (16-11) ............ Bowling Green, Ky. (2:30 pm)</td>
<td></td>
<td>SIU 5-4</td>
<td>SIU 76-58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 8 Thu</td>
<td></td>
<td>AUSTIN PEAY (7-17) ................. Bowling Green, Ky. (7:30 pm)</td>
<td></td>
<td>WKU 10-7</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 10 Sat</td>
<td></td>
<td>at Vanderbilt (18-10) ............... Nashville, Tenn. (tba)</td>
<td></td>
<td>VU 8-7</td>
<td>WKU 89-64#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 18 Sun</td>
<td></td>
<td>at West Virginia (14-14) ............ Morgantown, W. Va. (1:00 pm)</td>
<td></td>
<td>WKU 3-0</td>
<td>WKU 88-60#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 29 Thu</td>
<td></td>
<td>at Long Beach State (27-6; NCAA) ..... Long Beach, Calif. (5:00 pm)</td>
<td></td>
<td>0-0</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 3 Tue</td>
<td></td>
<td>at Nevada-Las Vegas (25-9; NWIT) ...... Las Vegas, Nev. (3:00 pm)</td>
<td></td>
<td>0-0</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 7 Sat</td>
<td></td>
<td>TENNESSEE STATE (0-25) .............. Bowling Green, Ky. (7:30 pm)</td>
<td></td>
<td>WKU 2-1</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 9 Mon</td>
<td></td>
<td>UNC CHARLOTTE (10-17)* ............. Bowling Green, Ky. (7:30 pm)</td>
<td></td>
<td>WKU 5-1</td>
<td>WKU 79-64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 13 Fri</td>
<td></td>
<td>at Old Dominion (17-12; NCAA)* ...... Norfolk, Va. (6:30 pm)</td>
<td></td>
<td>ODU 5-4</td>
<td>ODU 77-63</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 15 Sun</td>
<td></td>
<td>at Virginia Commonwealth (13-15)* ...... Richmond, Va. (12:30 pm)</td>
<td></td>
<td>WKU 5-1</td>
<td>WKU 82-49#</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 18 Wed</td>
<td></td>
<td>at Murray State (21-7) ................ Murray, Ky. (7:30 pm)</td>
<td></td>
<td>WKU 21-9</td>
<td>WKU 78-70#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 21 Sat</td>
<td></td>
<td>at Texas (32-3; NCAA) ............... Austin, Tex. (7:30 pm)</td>
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<td>UT 3-1</td>
<td>UT 71-52#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 24 Tue</td>
<td></td>
<td>at Kentucky (14-15) ................ Lexington, Ky. (6:30 pm)</td>
<td></td>
<td>UK 11-7</td>
<td>UK 80-56#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 28 Sat</td>
<td></td>
<td>at South Florida (11-16)* ............ Tampa, Fla. (4:00 pm)</td>
<td></td>
<td>WKU 8-0</td>
<td>WKU 79-44#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 30 Mon</td>
<td></td>
<td>OHIO UNIVERSITY (10-16) ............. Bowling Green, Ky. (7:30 pm)</td>
<td></td>
<td>WKU 2-0</td>
<td>WKU 87-58</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Opponent (*87-88 Records)</th>
<th>Site (Time - CST)</th>
<th>Series Record</th>
<th>Last Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 1</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>at Dayton (15-13)</td>
<td>Dayton, Ohio (6:00 pm)</td>
<td>WKU 7-1</td>
<td>WKU 73-46#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM (15-14)*</td>
<td>Bowling Green, Ky. (2:30 pm)</td>
<td>WKU 8-1</td>
<td>WKU 78-62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>SOUTH ALABAMA (22-9; NVIT)*</td>
<td>Bowling Green, Ky. (7:30 pm)</td>
<td>WKU 7-3</td>
<td>USA 76-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>MOREHEAD STATE (5-14)</td>
<td>Bowling Green, Ky. (7:30 pm)</td>
<td>WKU 15-10</td>
<td>WKU 80-62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>EASTERN KENTUCKY (6-20)</td>
<td>Bowling Green, Ky. (7:30 pm)</td>
<td>WKU 22-7</td>
<td>WKU 103-64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>TENNESSEE (30-3; NCAA)</td>
<td>Bowling Green, Ky. (7:30 pm)</td>
<td>UT 2-0</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>MIDDLE TENNESSEE (22-3; NCAA)</td>
<td>Bowling Green, Ky. (7:30 pm)</td>
<td>MTSU 12-11</td>
<td>WKU 83-51#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 2</td>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>TENNESSEE TECH (19-10)</td>
<td>Bowling Green, Ky. (7:30 pm)</td>
<td>TTU 12-8</td>
<td>TTU 67-58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>NORTHEAST LOUISIANA (19-10)</td>
<td>Bowling Green, Ky. (2:30 pm)</td>
<td>NLU 2-1</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-11</td>
<td>Thu-Sat</td>
<td>SUN BELT CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT</td>
<td>Bowling Green, Ky. (tba)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Sun Belt Conference Game  #1987-88 Home Game  ##Sun Belt Tourney Game, Tampa, Fla.

6/17/88
Western Kentucky University
Office of Public Information • Bowling Green, KY 42101 • (502) 745-4295

REEBOK-LADY TOPPER COACHES CLINIC SLATED FOR OCT. 1

Bowling Green, Ky. -- With the start of basketball season only about two months away, Western Kentucky University and Reebok, Inc., are sponsoring the pre-season Reebok-Lady Topper Coaches Clinic Saturday, Oct. 1, from 8 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. (CDT), at WKU's E.A. Diddle Arena.

The clinic will include presentations from Van Chancellor, head coach of the Mississippi Lady Rebels and Steve Small, assistant coach at Western. Another highlight of the clinic will be lectures by WKU Lady Topper Head Coach Paul Sanderford, the winningest coach in WKU women's basketball history who has guided his teams to six straight 20-win seasons, including two appearances in the NCAA Final Four.

Hosted by the Lady Topper basketball staff, clinic registration will be from 8-9 a.m. in Diddle Arena's main lobby. Following registration, the clinic will commence with Coach Small lecturing on pre-season conditioning techniques. The agenda will also include presentations by Sanderford on attacking zone defenses and drills on the fundamentals of the game. Situation basketball will be discussed by Ole Miss' Chancellor along with tips on building a half court defense. In addition, NAIA Division I women's teams will be on hand for on-the-floor demonstrations.

At the conclusion of the clinic, a coaches party will take place. For those participating in the clinic, two complimentary passes will be available for the Western-Austin Peay football game that night (game time is 7 p.m.).

The cost (per person) for attending the one-day clinic is $25 and each coach receiving a Reebok polo shirt and clinic notebook. Additionally, Ramada Inn is offering a special rate with a $32 double room rate (responsibility of the individual). Registration forms should be sent in by Sept. 19, although late registration will be permitted as space allows. Checks should be made payable to Lady Topper Basketball.

For further information and registration forms, contact the WKU Lady Topper Basketball Office at (502) 745-2133 or write REEBOK-LADY TOPPER COACHES CLINIC, 232 Diddle Arena, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Ky. 42101.

-- over --
LADY TOPPERS CONTINUE TO RANK HIGH AMONG NATION'S ATTENDANCE LEADERS

Bowling Green, Ky. -- The Western Kentucky University women's basketball team ranked eighth in the nation in attendance for the 1987-88 season, marking the fifth consecutive year that the Lady Toppers have been among the nation's elite top ten.

Last season, 32,600 fans attended 12 single Lady Topper contests at E.A. Diddle Arena, a 2,717 average per game. The largest crowd to watch a Lady Topper home contest last season was 6,100 against Texas, which established a national record in attendance this past year with 122,613 fans (7,663 average) attending 16 Lady Longhorn contests.

In 1986-87, the Lady Toppers had the highest average attendance ever for WKU women's basketball as 42,500 spectators (3,272) placed Western sixth in the nation. The Topper women also ranked sixth nationally in 1985-86 by drawing 52,000 for an average of 3,062 per game.

Additionally, the 1984-85 squad was fifth in the country with a 2,766 average and Western's '83-84 team placed fourth in the nation, averaging 2,514 a game.

Listed below are the Top Ten schools in women's basketball attendance for the 1987-88 season:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Games</th>
<th>Net Attendance</th>
<th>Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Texas</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>122,613</td>
<td>7,663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Tennessee</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>58,651</td>
<td>6,517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Iowa</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>83,868</td>
<td>5,991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Ohio State</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>69,727</td>
<td>4,648</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Rutgers</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>38,391</td>
<td>3,199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Montana</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>41,084</td>
<td>3,160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Washington</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>38,574</td>
<td>2,967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. WESTERN KENTUCKY</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>32,600</td>
<td>2,717</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Louisiana Tech</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>28,480</td>
<td>2,191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. S.F. Austin State</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>28,822</td>
<td>1,921</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Western Kentucky University
Office of Public Information • Bowling Green, KY 42101 • (502) 745-4295

STATEMENT OF WOMEN’S BASKETBALL COACH PAUL SANDERFORD CONCERNING TERRI MANN’S WITHDRAWAL FROM WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

"Sophomore forward Terri Mann withdrew from Western Kentucky University this afternoon after declining to accept team disciplinary measures.

"We have established team rules and regulations that all of our athletes are expected to abide by. Terri has been inconsistent in dealing with these, particularly in the areas of class attendance, curfew and participation in team study halls and pre-season conditioning.

"In the Lady Topper basketball program, we take great pride in our contributions to the academic goals of our University. Our athletes must take class attendance seriously and work toward their college degrees.

"I regret that she declined to accept my disciplinary action and elected to withdraw from the University. The coaching staff and I wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors."

-- 30 --
GREENWOOD OPTIMIST/WKU BASKETBALL COUNTRY HAM BREAKFAST SET FOR OCT. 15

Bowling Green, Ky. -- The Greenwood Optimist Club is sponsoring its ninth annual Country Ham Breakfast Oct. 15, honoring the kickoff of the Western Kentucky University men's and women's basketball seasons.

From 7 a.m. until 11 a.m. (CDT) at Andrew's Restaurant on Scottsville Road breakfastgoers can meet and talk with men's Head Coach Murray Arnold and his staff, Lady Topper Head Coach Paul Sanderford and his staff and athletes from both teams.

Tickets are $5 and all proceeds go to the Greenwood Optimist College Heights Scholarship Foundation for deserving Warren County students and to Western athletics through the Hilltopper Athletic Foundation.

The breakfast is co-sponsored by K-Mart, J.C. Kirby & Son Funeral Chapel, American National Bank and Andrew's Restaurant.

-- 30 --
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 11, 1988
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
By: Joe Gorby
Graduate Assistant
CONTACT: Paul Just, SID

**Western Kentucky University**
Office of Public Information • Bowling Green, KY 42101 • (502) 745-4295

**LADY TOPPER CAGERS MOTIVATED FOR OFFICIAL START OF PRACTICE**

Bowling Green, Ky. -- With the official start of practice set for Saturday, Oct. 15, the Western Kentucky University women's basketball team is approaching the 1988-89 season highly motivated.

Hoping to improve on last season's 26-8 record, the Lady Toppers will start the season this weekend and have two practices per day for a week. For those fans desiring to catch a glimpse of this year's team, the Lady Toppers will practice twice Saturday (Noon-2:30 p.m. and 6-8 p.m., CDT) at WKU's E.A. Diddle Arena. The practice sessions are open to the public.

"Everybody is looking forward to starting practice," Lady Topper Head Coach Paul Sanderford said. "I believe we have a lot to prove this year, in terms of being better than most people are giving us credit for."

Emphasizing team loyalty and unity, Sanderford's squad enters this season with high aspirations after being picked among the top 10 in several pre-season basketball publications. Western will be shooting for its seventh straight 20-win season and fifth consecutive NCAA post-season appearance this year.

For those Lady Topper fans unable to attend Saturday's season-opening practice, Western will host the Swedish National Team in an exhibition contest Sunday, Nov. 20 (2:30 p.m.), at Diddle Arena. Following the exhibition game, the Lady Topper season will officially get underway Nov. 26-27 with the sixth annual Bowling Green Bank Invitational. Ticket information is available by contacting the Western Kentucky Ticket Office, E.A. Diddle Arena, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101 (Telephone: 502-745-5222).

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Athletics-Basketball,Women
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 25, 1988

MEN'S/WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

By: Joe Corby
Graduate Assistant

CONTACT: Paul Just, SID

Western Kentucky University
Office of Public Information • Bowling Green, KY 42101 • (502) 745-4295

WESTERN BASKETBALL TEAMS ANNOUNCE PRE-SEASON RED-WHITE CONTESTS

Bowling Green, Ky. -- The Western Kentucky University men's and women's basketball teams will each play two pre-season intrasquad Red-White games in preparation for the 1988-89 season at various locations throughout the state.

The Lady Toppers are slated to begin the first Red-White action of the season when Western travels to Greensburg, Ky., Tuesday, Nov. 1, for a 7 p.m. (CST) contest at Green County High School. There will be an autograph session by WKU Head Coach Paul Sanderford and the Lady Topper players following the contest. General admission tickets are $1 at the door and children under 12 will be admitted free. The game is being sponsored by the Green County Jaycees. For further information, contact David Ryan at (502) 932-7773.

Western's women hoopsters will wrap up pre-season play Sunday, Nov. 13, with a 1 p.m. game at Louisville Southern High School. Sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Okolona, tickets for the contest are $2 for adults and $1 for students. As a special offer, any high school girl's basketball coach and team attending the game together will be admitted free. For additional information, contact the Southern girl's basketball Coach Bill Brown at (502) 968-9534.

The men's basketball team will begin Red-White play with a 1 p.m. (CST) contest Sunday, Nov. 6, at LaRue County High School in Hodgenville. Admission is $3 for all. The game is being sponsored by Dairy Queen, Bank of Magnolia and Houchen's Market of Hodgenville. After the contest, there will be an autograph session with the Hilltopper squad. Additional information is available by contacting Steve Smith at (502) 358-8131.

WKU Head Coach Murray Arnold's team concludes pre-season action Saturday, Nov. 19, with a 4:30 p.m. contest at Apollo High School in Owensboro. General admission tickets are $2 and children under 12 will be admitted free. Sponsoring the game is the Owensboro-Daviess County WKU Alumni Association. Contact Dan Lanham at (502) 648-9797 for further information.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 4, 1988
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
By: Joe Gorby
Graduate Assistant
CONTACT: Paul Just, SID

Western Kentucky University
Office of Public Information • Bowling Green, KY 42101 • (502) 745-4295

LADY TOPPERS TO HOST SWEDISH NATIONAL TEAM IN PRE-SEASON EXHIBITION

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Serving as a tune-up in preparation for the start of the 1988-89 regular season, the Western Kentucky University women's basketball team will play the Swedish National Team in a pre-season exhibition contest Sunday, Nov. 20, at 2:30 p.m. (CST) in E.A. Diddle Arena.

Sponsored by the Hilltopper Athletic Foundation and Hardee's of Bowling Green, tickets for the game will be available to the public beginning Monday, Nov. 7, at the WKU Athletic Ticket Office. Ticket prices are $5 (reserved chair) and $3 (general admission). Full-time Western students with a valid ID will be admitted free.

If the Lady Toppers can duplicate the laudable performance shown in their first pre-season Red-White game at Greensburg, then the matchup with the Swedish National team could prove to be an exciting one for Western fans.

While fans will have to wait two weeks to see this year's Lady Toppers in action at Diddle Arena, the spectators at Green County High School last Tuesday (Nov. 1) watched with enthusiasm throughout the contest as the Red team withstood a second-half rally to win 67-60.

The Red team, paced by junior Michelle Clark's 18 points, held only a three-point lead (34-31) at halftime despite shooting a sizzling .586 from the floor in the first half. After going scoreless in the first four minutes of the second half, the White team rallied behind sophomore Mary Taylor's 10 second-half points to make it relatively close for the remainder of the contest. Featuring a balanced scoring attack, the Red team managed to place all five starters in double-figures with Tandreia Green and Brigette Combs scoring 12 points apiece while guards Kim Pehlke and Debbie O'Connell each had 11 and 10 points, respectively. Green performed admirably at the defensive end as well, hauling in 13 rebounds to take game-high honors while Clark had nine.

-- over --

Athletics-Basketball,Women
Turning in a fine all-around effort, Taylor led the White team in both scoring (18) and rebounding (11) while teammate Susie Starks supported the White team's scoring attack with 15.

Lady Topper Head Coach Paul Sanderford was pleased with the overall performance of both teams at this early stage in the season.

"The coaching staff and I basically saw what we expected," Sanderford said. "I thought Mary Taylor played a solid game at both ends and Tan (Green) showed the type of player she can be when she plays under control. Defensively, we're way ahead of our offense, but I'm confident our players will adjust to each other with time."

For further ticket information concerning the exhibition game with Sweden, contact the Western Athletic Ticket Office, E.A. Diddle Arena, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Ky. 42101 (Telephone: 502-745-5222).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 10, 1988
WOMEN’S BASKETBALL
By: Joe Gorby
Graduate Assistant
CONTACT: Paul Just, SID

Western Kentucky University
Office of Public Information • Bowling Green, KY 42101 • (502) 745-4295

PRE-SEASON POLLS PLACE LADY TOPPERS HIGH AMONG NATION’S BEST

Bowling Green, Ky. -- If the 1988-89 pre-season women’s basketball polls are any indication of the Western Kentucky University-women's basketball team's success this year, the Lady Toppers will be highly motivated to prove the basketball writers and analysts’ predictions correct.

Virtually every major pre-season college hoop publication released so far has picked the Lady Toppers among the Top 20 in the nation. The Women's Basketball News Service has ranked the Lady Toppers the highest (fifth) while Street & Smith's tabbed Western as the number six team in the country. WKU Head Coach Paul Sanderford's squad is ranked eighth by Dick Vitale's Basketball and 16th by Sports Illustrated. The Women's Basketball Yearbook has chosen the Toppers 20th among its Top 100 teams.

With four starters and nine letterwinners returning from last year's 26-8 squad that made it to the second round of the NCAA Tournament, the Lady Toppers will be challenged this year by a tough schedule which boasts seven games against 1988 NCAA Tourney teams, including semi-finalists Tennessee and Long Beach State.

Despite the loss of standout performers Teri Mann and Traci Patton, optimism is prevalent in the Lady Topper camp as a solid nucleus of experienced players return to combine with a cast of talented newcomers accustomed to winning on the high school level.

An important aspect in Sanderford's favor is that the bulk of last year's scoring output (80.5 of Western's point total last year) returns, led by junior Tandreia Green (14.0 ppg, 6.9 rpg). Green, a 6-0 forward from Washington, D.C., has been named to several pre-season All-America teams, including Street & Smith's (honorable mention), Women's Basketball News Service (fourth team) and Women's Basketball Yearbook (honorable mention). Additionally, senior guard Brigette Combs (10.4 ppg, 6.6 rpg) was selected to the Women's Basketball News Service's honorable mention team.

Although this year's recruiting class will have difficulty matching the publicity of the one a year ago, the talent level could be equally as impressive with freshman Kim Pehlke (1988 Kentucky "Miss Basketball") highlighting the list. The 5-7 guard from Louisville has been named to Women's Basketball News Service's All-Freshman first-team and is ranked ninth by Dick Vitale's Basketball among its Top 20 freshman recruits nationally.

-- Pre-Season Polls on Back --

LADY TOPPERS TO PLAY FINAL RED-WHITE GAME AT LOUISVILLE THIS WEEKEND

Bowling Green, Ky. -- The Western Kentucky University women's basketball team will wrap up pre-season intrasquad play this Sunday, Nov. 13, with a 1 p.m. (CST) game at Louisville Southern High School.

Sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Okolona, tickets for the contest are $2 for adults and $1 for high school students.

As a special offer, any high school girl’s basketball coach and team attending the game together will be admitted free. For additional information concerning the game, contact the Southern girl's basketball Coach Bill Brown at (502) 968-9534.

Athletics-Basketball,Women
Various 1988-89 pre-season polls released to date:

Women's Basketball News Service

1. Tennessee*
2. Georgia
3. Long Beach State*
4. Auburn
5. WESTERN KENTUCKY
6. Stanford
7. Louisiana Tech
8. Texas*
9. Iowa
10. North Carolina State
11. Mississippi
12. Wake Forest
13. Virginia
14. South Alabama*
15. Maryland
16. Rutgers
17. San Diego State
18. Washington
19. St. Joseph's (Pa.)
20. Ohio State
21. James Madison
22. Penn State
23. Nevada-Las Vegas*
24. New Orleans
25. LaSalle

Dick Vitale's Basketball

1. Tennessee*
2. Long Beach State*
3. Georgia
4. Iowa
5. Texas*
6. Louisiana Tech
7. Mississippi
8. WESTERN KENTUCKY
9. Maryland
10. Auburn
11. Washington
12. Stanford
13. Virginia
14. Ohio State
15. Rutgers
16. St. Joseph's (Pa.)
17. North Carolina State
18. Wake Forest
19. Clemson*
20. James Madison

Sports Illustrated

1. Long Beach State*
2. Tennessee*
3. Georgia
4. Ohio State
5. Texas*
6. Stanford
7. Iowa
8. Auburn
9. Rutgers
10. Louisiana Tech
11. Washington
12. Mississippi
13. Maryland
14. Virginia
15. Southern California
16. WESTERN KENTUCKY
17. St. Joseph's (Pa.)
18. Texas A&M
19. Wake Forest
20. North Carolina State* 

Women's Basketball Yearbook

1. Tennessee*
2. Long Beach State*
3. Iowa
4. Texas
5. Stanford
6. Georgia
7. Louisi ana Tech
8. Virginia
9. Maryland
10. Auburn
11. Mississippi
12. Washington
13. Ohio State
14. Wake Forest
15. Rutgers
16. South Carolina
17. San Diego State
18. Nevada-Las Vegas*
19. Colorado
20. WESTERN KENTUCKY
21. St. Joseph's (Pa.)
22. Clemson*
23. North Carolina State
24. Notre Dame
25. Vanderbilt*

Street and Smith's

1. Tennessee*
2. Long Beach State
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6. WESTERN KENTUCKY
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13. Virginia
14. Washington
15. North Carolina State
16. Rutgers
17. St. Joseph's (Pa.)
18. Southern California
19. San Diego State
20. Louisiana State*

* Teams on WKU's 1988-89 schedule
* WKU could play in the Bowling Green Bank Invitational
SPORTS from Red Towel Territory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 15, 1988
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
By: Joe Gorby
Graduate Assistant
CONTACT: Paul Just, SID

Western Kentucky University
Office of Public Information • Bowling Green, KY 42101 • (502) 745-4295

WESTERN KENTUCKY SIGNS INDIANA STAR GUARD RENEE WESTMORELAND

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Western Kentucky University inked its first signee today (Nov. 15) when 5-10 guard Renee Westmoreland from Scottsburg (Ind.) High School announced her intentions to play college basketball for the Lady Toppers next season.

A first-team Indiana All-State selection last year, Westmoreland averaged 18.8 points, 5.4 rebounds, 4.7 assists and 4.3 steals per contest while connecting on 53.7 percent from the floor and 77.4 at the free throw line. Under her leadership, the Warriorettes posted a 27-1 record last year with that lone setback coming in the state semi-finals.

She garnered all-state honors in her previous last two season. She is listed as pre-season honorable mention All-American by USA Today and Street and Smith's. The point guard has also earned All-State recognition by Hoosier Basketball Magazine and is considered a prime candidate for the state's "Miss Basketball" award.

"I wanted to go to a program where I can contribute and help make the program successful. Western Kentucky is that place," Westmoreland explained. "Not only is Western a top-notch program, but it has a good academic program as well."

The signing of Westmoreland is a historic one for Lady Topper Head Coach Paul Sanderford as she is the first player from the Hoosier state to ink with the Lady Toppers in his seven-year tenure at Western.

"I'm tremendously excited to get a top-notch player like Renee from the state of Indiana," Sanderford said. "We lose four perimeter players next season, so her fine abilities and quality high school experience will make that loss less severe. She's an outstanding shooter and passer who could have immediate impact on our program."

A three-year starter, Westmoreland enters her senior campaign as the school's third all-time leading scorer (1,158 points) and currently ranks second in career steals (120) in helping lead Scottsburg High to an impressive 71-7 mark during her prep career. She is the first player at the school to surpass the career 1,000-point total during her junior year. As a sophomore, she averaged 17.1 points, 4.9 rebounds, 3.5 assists and 3.8 steals per game in leading her team to a 20-3 record and a berth in the state tourney.

Athletics-Basketball,Women -- over
"Renee is a complete player at both ends of the court," Scottsburg Coach Donna Cheatham stated. "She has the type of attributes you can't teach a player. Her size is deceptive because her long arms and quick moves make her comparable to someone who's taller. She's a coaches' dream and an opponent's nightmare."

Besides earning All-State recognition, she has gained All-Semi-State, All-Region, All-Sectional and All-Conference (two-time MVP recipient) honors in her career. She was also named to the All-Tourney Team at the prestigious Indiana High School Hall of Fame Classic last season after leading her team to the tournament championship.

The daughter of Mrs. Roxanne Westmoreland of Scottsburg, she is an excellent student (ranks in the Top 20 percent of her class) and hopes to pursue a course of study in business and advertising at Western.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 16, 1988
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
By: Joe Corby
Graduate Assistant
CONTACT: Paul Just, SID

Western Kentucky University
Office of Public Information • Bowling Green, KY 42101 • (502) 745-4295

WESTERN KENTUCKY PREPARING FOR EXHIBITION CONTEST WITH SWEDEN THIS WEEKEND

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Western Kentucky University's women's basketball team will host the Swedish National Team in a pre-season exhibition contest this Sunday (Nov. 20) at 2:30 p.m. (CST) in E.A. Diddle Arena.

Sponsored by the Hilltopper Athletic Foundation and Hardee's of Bowling Green, tickets for the game are currently available at the WKU Athletic Ticket Office. Admission is $5 (reserved chair) and $3 (general admission). Full-time Western students with a valid ID will be admitted free.

Western is just one of nine teams in the country which will have the opportunity to play against the Swedish team. Two of those other teams are on the Lady Topper's schedule this year -- Alabama at Birmingham and Kentucky. And, the Swedish squad will conclude their American college tour against Clemson, a team Western could play in the finals of the Bowling Green Bank Invitational next week.

Coming off an 89-69 win over Alabama at Birmingham last Monday (Nov. 14), the Swedish team will take its current 2-1 record to Southeast Louisiana Wednesday (Nov. 16). Following that contest, Sweden will play Mississippi State Thursday and Kentucky Saturday. The Swedes, under Head Coach Paul Larsson, have been impressive with a 78-67 triumph against Florida State and a one-point (60-59) loss to Alabama.

The Swedish team is led in scoring by 5-8 forward Christina Johansson, who's compiled 63 points in only three games. Featuring a balanced scoring attack, Sweden has also received commendable performances from center Hilda Hassler (6-3) and Ingea Oestman (5-11).

For Lady Topper Head Coach Paul Sanderford, the opportunity to play a fast-breaking team like Sweden is a plus.

"I'm very anxious to see how far we've come in a month," Sanderford said. "Our (fast-breaking) style of play is similar, so it should be an exciting game for the fans. The key for us will be how well we control the boards."

The Lady Toppers concluded pre-season Red-White action last Sunday (Nov. 13) at Louisville Southern High School. Behind senior guard Susie Starks' 22 second-half points, the White squad won 80-54 over the Red team. The White team paced four players in double figures, led by Starks' 25 points. Starks shared game-high scoring...
honors with freshman guard Kim Pehlke of the Red squad. Junior center Michelle Clark was the game's top rebounder with 12 boards.

Western will officially open the 1988-89 regular season versus Texas Tech in the first round of the Bowling Green Bank Invitational (Nov. 26-27). Clemson and Louisiana State square off in the other opening night game.

For ticket information, contact the Western Ticket Office, E.A. Diddle Arena, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Ky. 42101 (Telephone: 502-745-5222).
Western Kentucky University
Office of Public Information • Bowling Green, KY 42101 • (502) 745-4295
LADY TOPPERS TIP OFF SEASON WITH 6TH ANNUAL BOWLING GREEN BANK INVITATIONAL

Bowling Green, Ky. -- With hopes of improving on last year's 26-8 record, the Western Kentucky University women's basketball team will officially begin the 1988-89 regular season by hosting the sixth annual Bowling Green Bank Invitational this weekend (Nov. 26-27) at E.A. Diddle Arena.

The opening round of the BGBI will get underway Saturday, Nov. 26 at 6 p.m. (CST) with last year's NCAA Tournament representatives Clemson (21-9) and Louisiana State (18-11) battling one another in the opening game. In the nightcap, the Lady Toppers will try to start the new season on a positive note, taking on Texas Tech (17-13) at about 8 p.m. Tournament action concludes Sunday with the consolation game slated for 1 p.m., followed by the championship contest at 3 p.m.

With aspirations of winning its third consecutive BGBI title and fourth in the tourney's history, Western Head Coach Paul Sanderford realizes his team must play well in all phases of the game this weekend if the Lady Toppers are to repeat as tourney champions.

"We'll have to shoot the ball well and create some problems for them defensively in transition," Sanderford said. "This is probably the most evenly balanced we've had. Any team has the ability to win it all."

In last year's BGBI championship game, Western had that capability, defeating Alabama 66-63 as junior Tandreia Green was named the tourney's Most Valuable Player.

Despite failing to earn an NCAA bid last season, Texas Tech did manage to finish runner-up to perennial power Texas in the Southwest Conference Tournament. The Red Raiders are approaching this season with renewed optimism and experience. Coach Marsha Sharp's squad returns four starters, led by junior forward Reena Lynch. A second-team All-SWC pick last year, Lynch paced the team in scoring (15.6 ppg) and rebounding (8.2 rpg). In the front line with Lynch is 6-3 center Stacey Siebert, who came on strong the latter part of last season to average 10.9 points and 5.8 rebounds per game.

-- over --
Accepting challenges was the motto for the Clemson Lady Tigers last season as Coach Jim Davis' squad posted 14 more wins and 12 fewer losses, marking the best turn-around in the Atlantic Coast Conference women's basketball history. With an experienced squad similar to Texas Tech's, the Lady Tigers will rely on veteran leadership as four of the team's top five scorers return for their final season.

Highlighting the list of veteran returnees are forwards Karen Ann Jenkins and Michelle Bryant (12.3 ppg, 7.0 rpg) along with 6-3 center Louise Greenwood (12.1 ppg, 7.2 rpg). An All-ACC second-team selection, Jenkins is the standout of the group after averaging 13.9 points last season to become the team's top scorer for the second straight season.

Like their counterparts, Louisiana State has a veteran lineup back for this season, spearheaded by 6-0 senior forward Patricia Woods. The Lady Tigers' leading scorer a year ago, Woods averaged 14.7 points and 4.4 boards per contest in earning All-Southeastern Conference first-team honors. Lending support to Coach Sue Gunter's team are 6-3 junior center April Delley (13.2 ppg, 7.4 rpg) and 5-5 sophomore point guard Dana Chatman (10.0 ppg).

Western concluded the pre-season portion of its 1988-89 schedule on a disappointing note last Sunday (Nov. 20) as the Lady Toppers dropped a 76-52 decision to the Swedish National Team in an exhibition contest at Diddle Arena. The Lady Toppers had only two players score in double figures. Sophomore forward Mary Taylor and senior guard Susie Starks paved the way with 14 and 10 points, respectively. Green claimed game-high rebounding honors with 11 boards as Western shot only 26.9 percent from the field compared to Sweden's 55.6 percent.

As a promotional gift, the first 1,000 fans at Sunday's season opener will receive a full-color 1988-89 Lady Topper calendar. For ticket information, contact the WKU Athletic Ticket Office in Diddle Arena (502-745-5222) or any Bowling Green Bank branch (502-782-1000). WKU students with a valid ID will be admitted free.
Western Kentucky University
Office of Public Information • Bowling Green, KY 42101 • (502) 745-4295

WESTERN HOPING "LADY LUCK" IS ON ITS SIDE IN ILLINOIS STATE GAME WEDNESDAY

Bowling Green, Ky. -- After winning its third consecutive Bowling Green Bank Invitational championship, the Western Kentucky University women's basketball team will put its undefeated (2-0) record on the line Wednesday (Nov. 30), when the Lady Toppers host Illinois State in an 8 p.m. (CST) contest at Diddle Arena.

While the game with Illinois State could be an exciting one, it could hardly be more thrilling than Western's 55-54 victory over Clemson in the championship game of the sixth annual Bowling Green Bank Invitational this last weekend (Nov. 26-27). In what might go down in Lady Topper annals as one of the most memorable contests in years, senior forward Brigette Combs made a last-second layup at the buzzer to give the Lady Toppers the BGBI trophy. The triumph not only represented the Lady Topper's third straight BGBI tournament title, but marked the fourth time WKU has emerged the victor in the tourney's six-year history. Junior Tandreia Green and Combs were named to the five-member All-Tourney team and Green earned Most Valuable Player honors for the second year in a row with a two-game effort of 31 points and 20 rebounds.

"I've said many times I'd rather be lucky than good," Sanderford said. "That last shot (by Combs) isn't the kind you like to diagram, but it was one of those situations where things fortunately happened in a positive way.

"Now, we need to go out Wednesday and continue to play aggressive team defense and control the boards," Sanderford continued. "We'll find five players that are ready to play because it's going to take an all-out effort against Illinois State if we're going to come away with the win."

With an experienced squad (eight letterwinners) returning, ISU is 1-1 heading into Wednesday night's matchup with the Lady Toppers. The Redbirds, under Coach Jill Hutchinson, finished second at this past weekend's Colorado Coors Classic in Boulder, Colo., losing to host Colorado (74-60) after disposing of Michigan State (61-54) in the tourney opener.

Despite the loss of '87-'88 Gateway Conference Player-of-the-Year Susan Wellman from last year's 20-11 team, the Redbirds are relying on team balance in hopes of earning an NCAA post-season tourney berth this season.

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Athletics-Basketball,Women
Going into this season, Hutchinson's primary concern was filling the vacancy in the post position created by Wellman's departure. However, junior Leslie Ferrell (15.0 ppg, 7.5 rpg) has shown early signs of patching up the void at the pivot position. Ferrell hasn't been the only scoring threat in the Redbird's offense as sophomore forward Cindy Kaufmann (15.0 ppg, 6.0 rpg) and senior guard Pam Tanner (14.0 ppg, 2.5 rpg) have lent support as well.

Western owns a 2-0 series edge over ISU, after coming away with an 83-64 victory in Normal, Ill., last year. In that game, Green scored 30 points to rank in a tie for 16th place among WKU's single-game scoring leaders.

The contest will also feature "Group Spirit Night/Free Throw Shoot Off," where the most enthusiastic WKU group will win $100 and the top two free throw shooters (one from a fraternity/sorority and the other from an independent organization) will win a pair of Reebok shoes and $75.

Following the Illinois State contest, the Lady Toppers will host Southern Illinois Sunday (Dec. 4) at 2:30 p.m. Western closes out its five-game, season-opening homestand the following week when Austin Peay comes to Diddle Arena Thursday, Dec. 8, for a 5 p.m. match, which is the opener in a doubleheader with the Hilltopper men's basketball team. The men host Louisville at 8 p.m.

-- 30' --
THE 1988 WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY LADY TOPPER CHEERLEADERS WILL be at all Lady Topper home games throughout the basketball season. The group includes, from left to right: Julie Sampson, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. John Sampson, from Louisville, a communications major and 1988 graduate of Ballard High School; Kevin Peveler, son of Mr. & Mrs. John D. Peveler Jr., from Philpot, Ky., a biology major and graduate of Daviess County High School; Amy Rush, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Mike Rush, from Louisville, a sophomore elementary education major and 1987 graduate of Bowling Green High School; Brian O'Neil, son of Robert J. O'Neil of Louisville, a junior health care administration major; Julia Tyler, daughter of James L. & Judy Tyler from Owensboro, a freshman and 1988 graduate of Daviess County High School; Michael Humphrey, son of Jean Scott from Summersville, Ky., a sophomore physical education major and 1986 graduate of Green County High School; Terri Wooten, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. James F. Wooten from Hendersonville, Tenn., a senior accounting major and 1985 graduate of Hendersonville Senior High School; Todd Davis, son of Mr. & Mrs. James B. Davis from Harrodsburg, Ky., a sophomore physical education major and 1986 graduate of Mercer County High School; Lavonda Burton, daughter of Mrs. Seestella Burton Wilson and Mr. Leon Wilson from Louisville, a sophomore speech therapy major and 1987 graduate of Western High School; and Wayne Kraus, son of Dr. & Mrs. Wayne Kraus Sr., from Louisville, a senior economics major, and 1985 graduate of Trinity High School. Not pictured are Lauri Martray of Bowling Green, 1988 graduate of Bowling Green High School and an elementary education major and the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Carl Martray, and Chris Heavrin, a 1986 graduate of Oldham County Senior High School from Crestwood, majoring agriculture.

-30-

SD/ceb
Student Life

Athletics-Basketball, Women
UNDEFEATED LADY TOPPERS VISIT REGIONAL-RIVAL VANDERBILT THIS SATURDAY

Bowling Green, Ky. -- The Western Kentucky University women's basketball team will embark on a four-game road swing beginning this Saturday (Dec. 10) against Vanderbilt. Tipoff for the non-conference contest is slated for 7 p.m. (CST) at Vandy's Memorial Gym.

For WKU Head Coach Paul Sanderford whose Lady Toppers were 4-0 going into a Thursday (Dec. 8) home date with Austin Peay, a victory over Vanderbilt not only means tying the series record between the teams at eight wins apiece, but something of greater importance.

"There are three games on our schedule we need to win to help our chances for the NCAA Tournament and this is one of them," Sanderford stated. "I think Vandy will be a good test for us and it's one we're really looking forward to."

Like the Lady Toppers, the 3-1 Lady Commodores are looking forward to Saturday night's contest with hopes of avenging last year's 89-64 setback to Western in Diddle Arena. Despite suffering its first defeat of the '88-89 season to Middle Tennessee (81-73) last Tuesday (Dec. 6), Vandy is a talented team sure to create problems for the opposition throughout the season.

Anchoring a strong frontline are Vandy's "twin towers," 6-3 junior Renae Sallquist (12.0 ppg, 8.3 rpg) and 6-4 sophomore Wendy Scholtens (23.5 ppg, 9.3 rpg). A pre-season All-America fourth-team selection by Women's Basketball News Service, Scholtens was Vandy's leading scorer and rebounder last year, en route to Southeastern Conference Freshman-of-the-Year honors. Seniors Deborah Denton (14.8 ppg, 3.0 rpg) and Jill Goldberg (11.8 ppg, 3.8 rpg) anchor an experienced backcourt for Coach Phil Lee's Commodores.

If the Lady Toppers are to prove their current national rankings (10th, Associated Press; 11th, USA Today) justifiable, Sanderford's squad will need the continued fine all-around play of senior guard Susie Starks (17.5 ppg, 2.5 rpg) and junior forward Tandreia Green (13.2 ppg, 9.2 rpg). The team's top scorer, Starks sparked the Lady Toppers to a 80-59 win over Southern Illinois with a career-high 28 points. Green also played extremely well in that contest, scoring 12 points and hauling down a game-high 10 rebounds.

Athletics-Basketball,Women
Following Saturday night's game, the Toppers will take a break for final exams before venturing to Morgantown, West Virginia, to take on the West Virginia Mountaineers Sunday, Dec. 18, at 1 p.m. (CST).
Western Kentucky University
Office of Public Information • Bowling Green, KY 42101 • (502) 745-4295

LADY TOPPERS HOPE TO GET BACK ON WINNING TRACK AT WEST VIRGINIA SUNDAY

Bowling Green, Ky. -- The Western Kentucky University women's basketball team will try to rebound from defeat and resume its winning ways when the Lady Toppers take on West Virginia Sunday (Dec. 18) in Morgantown, W. Va.

Featuring two quality teams with identical records (5-1), the non-conference contest is slated for a 1 p.m. (CST) tipoff at the WVU Coliseum. Like Western, the Mountaineers are coming off their first loss of the season -- 74-65 at Akron last Saturday (Dec. 10).

The primary reason for WVU's early-season success has been the fine all-around play and veteran leadership provided by a pair of seniors -- 5-10 forward Judy Eaton (19.5 ppg, 2.2 rpg) and 5-6 guard Jenny Hillen (17.5 ppg, 3.2 rpg). The team's top scorer this season, Eaton has proved to be a legitimate scoring threat from three-point range by connecting on 43 percent (19-44) of her long-range attempts. A pre-season honorable mention All-America selection by Women's Basketball News Service, Hillen is shooting 52 percent from the field and leads the Mountaineers in steals with 25.

While the duo has made the co-head coaching duties of Kittie Blakemore and Scott Harrelson a pleasant one so far this year, unexpected contributions from the other three starters has the WVU coaching staff elated. They are freshman guard Rosemary Kosiorek (14.5 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 6.5 apg), 6-5 junior center Tracey Slogik (9.7 ppg, 5.8 rpg) and 6-0 freshman forward Lori Wilson (6.5 ppg, 6.3 rpg). And, senior guard Dionne Morris (4.5 ppg, 6.8 rpg) has made the most of her part-time starting role in the WVU line-up with 32 assists and 18 steals.

This weekend's contest will mark the fourth meeting between the schools and the Lady Toppers lead the series 3-0 after last year's 88-60 win in E.A. Diddle Arena. Balanced scoring highlighted last season's game as the Toppers placed six players in double figures en route to shooting 54 percent from the floor. In the previous meeting at WVU two years ago ('86-'87), Western escaped victorious with a narrow 70-67 decision.

Athletics-Basketball, Women
The Lady Toppers suffered their first defeat of the '88-89 season at Vanderbilt (100-89) last Saturday (Dec. 10) in a contest which saw 63 fouls called. Despite having a 12-point lead (48-36) at intermission, WKU Head Coach Paul Sanderford's squad was hampered by poor shooting (35 percent) and excessive fouls (23) in the second half as the Lady Commodores came back to record 64 points in the final stanza for their third straight win over Western in Memorial Gym.

Vandy's 100-point total marked the first time an opponent has reached the century mark against Western since the '83-84 season when Clemson registered a 110-106 overtime win in the National Women's Invitational Tournament. Interestingly, Vandy and Clemson are the only two teams to have reached that point total in Sanderford's seven years at WKU.

In the Sun Belt Conference this week (Dec. 12-18), Western holds the top position in three team statistical categories (3-pt shooting pct., scoring margin and rebounding margin) while claiming second in scoring. Individually, junior forward Tandreia Green leads the SBC's shot blockers with 2.5 per contest and is fourth in rebounding with an 8.3 average. Kim Pehlke and Susie Starks are the conference's top three-point shooting specialists while senior forward Brigette Combs' 3.2 steals per game ranks second in that category. In the scoring department, Starks and Green are tied for sixth with averages of 16.0 points per contest.

After the West Virginia game, the Lady Toppers take a short break for the Christmas holidays before venturing to the West Coast where Sanderford's squad will go up against nationally-ranked Long Beach State (Dec. 29) and Nevada-Las Vegas (Jan. 3).
Resurgent Lady Toppers Continue Sun Belt Conference Play On The Road This Weekend

Bowling Green, Ky. -- With a two-game winning streak, the Western Kentucky University women's basketball team hopes to continue the climb to the top of the Sun Belt Conference this weekend (Jan. 13 and 15) when the Lady Toppers visit Old Dominion and Virginia Commonwealth.

The Lady Toppers, 7-4 overall and 1-0 in the Sun Belt Conference, begin a six-game road swing this Friday (Jan. 13) against Old Dominion at 6:30 p.m. (CST) in Norfolk, Va., before venturing to Richmond, Va., Sunday (Jan. 15) to take on Virginia Commonwealth at 1 p.m. With both SBC teams making the most of the homecourt advantage in the early part of this season, Western will need to continue its recent aggressive style of play this weekend if the Lady Toppers are to end their four-game losing streak on the road.

A legitimate contender for the SBC title this year, Old Dominion (8-2 overall and 7-1 at home) opens conference play versus Western with hopes of continuing its unbeaten (5-0 vs. WKU) home-winning string over the SBC's opposition. Featuring a balanced scoring attack, the Lady Monarchs have been led in scoring by 6-2 junior forward Kelly Lyons and 6-4 sophomore Leslie Davis. The third-leading scorer in the SBC this week, Lyons (19.3 ppg, 6.9 rpg) is on her way to achieving Sun Belt first-team honors once again this season by leading the conference in field goal percentage (.611) while ranking second in blocked shots with 2.0 per contest. Complementing Lyons in the paint, Davis (13.7 ppg, 10.4 rpg) ranks second individually in rebounding and field goal percentage among SBC players. Old Dominion was in action Tuesday (Jan. 10) with a non-conference contest at Notre Dame. ODU holds a 6-4 series edge in the 10 meetings with WKU Head Coach Paul Sanderford's Lady Toppers.

Like ODU, Virginia Commonwealth is off to a fine start with a 9-3 overall mark heading into a Friday (Jan. 13) home contest against Appalachian State. Senior forward Kelly Hoover (15.4 ppg, 3.9 rpg) is the Lady Rams' top scorer and currently ranks seventh in the SBC in that category. Senior forward Lisa Stielper (11.9 ppg, 6.1 rpg) and 6-1 senior forward Carroll Ann Clements (11.3 ppg, 6.0 rpg) are also averaging double figures for VCU which begins conference play against Western as well.
The Lady Toppers will be out to avenge an 81-73 loss to VCU at Richmond two years ago and improve on its 5-1 series edge over the Lady Rams.

Surprisingly, Western is still ranked in USA Today's Top 25 women's basketball poll this week holding down the 22nd position for the second straight week. Despite the four consecutive losses which was the longest in Sanderford's seven-year tenure at WKU, the Lady Toppers have rebounded well from adversity with back-to-back wins over Tennessee State (81-44) and UNC Charlotte (86-59) this last weekend (Jan. 6 and 8).

Improving their home mark to 7-0, the two victories have been a long awaited sight to Sanderford as the Lady Toppers shot a combined .470 percent from the floor in the two games. Junior forward Tandreia Green was the Lady Toppers' high scorer in both contests, scoring 22 points in the Tennessee State game and 21 against UNC Charlotte. The Lady Toppers' leading scorer and rebounder, Green has scored in double figures in all 11 of WKU's contests while recording double digits in rebounding six times. The 6-0 forward from Washington, D.C., went over the 900 career-point mark in the win over Tennessee State and eclipsed 500 rebounds in a career with 11 boards against UNC Charlotte. Besides Green, noteworthy performances over the weekend included Jennifer Berryman's season-high 13 points in the UNCC game while Brigette Combs' 14 points in that contest equalled her season high.
Bowling Green, Ky. -- With a 75-60 win at Virginia Commonwealth last Sunday (Jan. 15), the Western Kentucky University women's basketball team managed to accomplish a feat for the first time this season - win a game on the road. Western (8-5 overall and 2-1 in the Sun Belt Conference) hopes to extend its road-winning streak this week against non-conference foes Murray State and Texas.

Part of its current six-game road swing, the Lady Toppers take on Murray State this Thursday (Jan. 19) at 7:30 p.m. (CST) in Murray, Ky. Sporting a 5-0 record at Racer Arena, the Lady Racers are currently 11-4 overall and 2-1 in the Ohio Valley Conference following a 64-63 overtime win at Eastern Kentucky Monday (Jan. 16). Despite dropping three of its last five decisions, the Lady Toppers have performed like seasoned thoroughbreds in the early part of this season winning its first eight contests. The primary reason behind the early season success of MSU Coach Bud Childers' team can be attributed to the play of 5-10 senior guard Sheila Smith (20.9 ppg and 5.9 rpg) and 6-2 sophomore forward Michelle Wenning (11.7 ppg and 8.8 rpg). A scoring machine, Smith has paced the Lady Racers in scoring nine times, including matching her career high with 38 points in a 94-70 win over Ohio University. Additionally, Childers is elated with the return of 5-11 junior forward Karen Johnson (14.1 ppg and 6.4 rpg) from a severe injury suffered earlier this season. After missing six games, Johnson returned to the hardwood at EKU to score six points in the Racers' conference win.

The Lady Toppers hold a 21-9 series edge over Murray State, winning the past nine contests.

Despite registering a disappointing 3-4 mark at the beginning of the season, national-power Texas (9-4 overall and 5-0 in the Southwest Conference) has rebounded well from numerous injuries to record victories in its last six games. A major reason for the Lady Longhorns recent winning surge is due largely to the return of 6-1 senior forward Clarissa Davis. A pre-season All-American selection in virtually every women's basketball publication this year, Davis (25.5 ppg and 9.9 rpg) was chosen pre-season Player of the Year by Street & Smith's magazine and has repeatedly illustrated her dominance at both ends of the floor. The nation's third-leading scorer in Division I (thru Jan. 9), Texas'
"Miss Everything" has been just that as she has paced the team in scoring on 10 occasions. Although Davis has played a vital role in UT’s recent climb in the polls (ranked 11th Associated Press and 12th USA Today), the Texas star hasn’t been the only factor in the Lady Longhorn’s success. Contributing to UT Coach Jody Conradt’s run and press game has been 6-1 freshman forward Vicki Hall (11.4 ppg and 6.0 rpg) and 6-4 junior center Susan Anderson (11.4 ppg and 8.3 rpg). Making their presence known on the court this season as well are junior guard Lysea McBride (10.9 ppg and 2.4 rpg) and 6-8 junior post player Ellen Bayer (5.5 ppg and 8.1 rpg). Another standout frosh, 5-10 guard Johnna Pointer (9.5 ppg and 2.4 rpg) has been a pleasant surprise for Conradt.

The Lady Toppers fell out of the USA Today’s Top 25 rankings this week after gaining a split on the road in Sun Belt Conference action this last weekend. Poor shooting was Western’s downfall in a 66-56 loss to Old Dominion last Friday (Jan. 13) as WKU Coach Paul Sanderford’s team managed to connect on a season-low 25.8 percent from the floor. However, the Lady Toppers came back strong two days later to register a 75-60 victory at Virginia Commonwealth. The victory was a significant one for Sanderford as the Lady Toppers snapped a five-game losing skid on the road – the longest in Sanderford’s seven-year tenure at WKU. Western regained its lost shooting touch by making good on 48.1 percent of its shots from the field. Junior forward Tandreia Green had a season high 24 points and six steals in the VCU game while senior guard Brigette Combs tallied 12 points to go along with three assists and four steals.

LADY TOPPER TANCREA GREEN SELECTED SUN BELT PLAYER-OF-THE-WEEK

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Junior forward Tandreia Green has been chosen Sun Belt Conference Player-of-the-Week for her performance this week (Jan. 15). A first-team All-SBC selection last year, Green scored a combined 45 points in the two conference contests with a 21-point performance versus Old Dominion and a season-high 24 points against Virginia Commonwealth. In addition, "Tan" claimed 16 rebounds, three blocks and 10 assists in the two games.

The pre-season honorable mention All-America candidate has scored in double figures in all 13 of WKU’s games and has recorded double figures in rebounding on seven occasions this season. She has paced the Lady Toppers in scoring eight times and 10 times in rebounding.

A 6-0 standout from Washington, D.C., currently leads the conference in blocked shots with 2.6 per game and her 3.1 steals per contest is second in the SBC. The fourth-leading scorer in the SBC this week with a 18.2 average, Green also ranks high (fourth) among the conference’s top rebounders, averaging 9.3 per contest.

Green’s selection marks the first time this season that a Western Kentucky player has received the weekly honor.
LADY TOPPERS GAIN MOMENTUM FOR "MUST WIN" GAMES AGAINST SOUTH FLORIDA AND OHIO

Bowling Green, Ky. -- With a much-needed 79-75 victory over Kentucky Tuesday (Jan. 24), the Western Kentucky University women's basketball team received an important confidence booster heading into the South Florida and Ohio University contests.

With the non-conference win on the road, WKU Coach Paul Sanderford's squad must now prepare for Sun Belt Conference foe South Florida this Saturday (Jan. 28) in Tampa, Fla. Tipoff for the game is slated for 4:30 p.m. (CST) in what is the first part of a doubleheader with the USF men's basketball team. Following the conference contest, the Lady Toppers return to Diddle Arena (for the first time in three weeks) to take on Ohio University Monday (Jan. 30) at 7:30 p.m. (CST).

Concluding a six-game road swing this weekend, Western will enter Saturday's game with a 9-7 overall mark (2-1 in SBC action). Presently, the Lady Toppers are third in the conference while South Florida holds down the fourth spot with a 1-1 record. With the triumph at Kentucky, the Toppers recorded only their second win in nine games on the road this season. Although the road hasn't been to Sanderford's liking this season, the seventh-year mentor realizes winning the last three road games of the season is important.

"Our kids know now is the time to put it together," Sanderford stated. "The stretch run (February) is just around the corner and we need to play it on the road as well as at home. These next two games could be the keys to our season."

If the Lady Toppers are to attain the 325-win mark in 27 seasons of women's hoops on the Hill this weekend, Western will have to beat a much-improved South Florida outfit. Currently, USF is off to its best home start ever (6-2) under the first-year Coach Trudi Lacey. The Lady Bulls were 8-5 overall and 1-1 in Sun Belt action going into a non-conference contest at Florida State Wednesday (Jan. 25).

Leading the charge for the Lady Bulls this season has been standout Wanda Guyton, the nation's top rebounder. A 6-2 senior center from Tampa, Guyton leads USF in scoring with 21.5 points per contest (second in the SBC) and leads the Sun Belt in two categories -- rebounding (15.4) and steals (4.2). The school's all-time leading scorer, she needs only two more rebounds to become USF's career leader in that category.

While Guyton has been a force in the paint, 5-10 junior forward Ginger Bennett (15.3 ppg and 5.8 rpg) and 5-8 sophomore guard Jackie Eisenhauer (14.4 ppg and 4.9 rpg) have also been factors.

Overall, the Lady Bulls rank first in four Sun Belt statistical categories -- scoring (80.6 ppg), free throw percentage (.744), rebounding margin (+8.9 ppg) and scoring margin (+10.9 ppg).
The Lady Toppers wouldn't mind if history repeats itself this weekend as Western holds a 8-0 series edge over USF, including two victories last season -- 79-44 at Bowling Green and 75-47 in the first round of the Sun Belt tourney at Tampa.

Although five starters are back from last year's 10-18 team, Coach Amy Prichard's Ohio University squad is 4-10 overall and 2-4 in the Mid-American Conference entering this Wednesday's conference matchup with Bowling Green State in Athens, Ohio. The Lady Bobcats have been plagued throughout the season by inconsistency.

Veteran forward Dawn Heideman, a 6-0 senior, has been the mainstay for Ohio so far, leading the team in scoring (17.3 ppg) and rebounding (10.9). Supporting Heideman at the offensive end has been the guard tandem of 5-9 sophomores Laura Reding (16.6 ppg and 4.6 rpg) and Kristen Holt (12.6 ppg and 4.6 rpg). Western leads the series meeting (2-0) after last year's 87-58 win at Ohio.

Despite losses on the road to Murray State (63-62) and 11th-ranked Texas (90-67), the Lady Toppers claimed state bragging rights with the triumph over Kentucky. Spearheading the WKU scoring assault was senior guard Susie Starks' game-high 26 points, while junior forward Tandreia Green (21 points) and senior guard Debbie O'Connell (10 points) also recorded double figures. A model of consistency, Green has scored in double digits in all but one of Western's 15 games. The 6-0 forward from Washington, D.C., joined WKU's 1,000-point club when she tallied eight points in the loss to Texas, becoming only the 12th Lady Topper to accomplish that career scoring total.

Following the two contests, Sanderford's team will travel to Dayton Thursday (Feb. 2) for a non-conference affair with the Lady Flyers. The Lady Toppers return to Diddle Arena Sunday, Feb. 5, hosting Alabama at Birmingham in Sun Belt play at 2:30 p.m. (CST).
LADY TOPPERS PREPARING FOR SUN BELT CONFERENCE SHOWDOWN WITH SOUTH ALABAMA

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Hoping to secure a three-way tie for first place in the Sun Belt Conference, the Western Kentucky University women's basketball team will play its most important contest to date this season against SBC rival South Alabama.

Marking the first of a regular-season ending six-game homestand, the Lady Toppers square off against South Alabama this Thursday (Feb. 9) at 5 p.m. (CST) in E.A. Diddle Arena. The contest is the first part of a doubleheader with the Hilltopper men's basketball team, which takes on conference foe Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) at 7:30 p.m. (CST) in the nightcap.

The significance of the South Alabama contest is paramount as the Lady Toppers need a win Thursday to finish in a three-way tie for first place with South Alabama and Old Dominion. Having at least one conference game remaining, South Alabama has a road date with UAB (Feb. 18) while Old Dominion takes on UNC Charlotte this Saturday (Feb. 11) and hosts South Florida (Feb. 17) the following weekend. If a three-way tie occurs, a coin flip will be used to determine the highest seed for the Sun Belt Conference Tournament (March 9-11) at Western Kentucky University.

For WKU Head Coach Paul Sanderford, whose Lady Toppers are 13-7 overall and 4-1 in the SBC going into Tuesday's (Feb. 7) non-conference contest at Middle Tennessee, the final regular-season conference game against league-leading South Alabama is sure to provide enough incentive for victory.

"This (South Alabama) is the game we've been playing for all year," Sanderford said. "Playing South Alabama always has been a key game for us. This time around just means a little more and hopefully we'll be ready to play Thursday."

Like Western, South Alabama (14-7 overall and 4-0 in the SBC) is preparing for the contest with hopes of winning the regular season Sun Belt title outright. For the second consecutive year, the Lady Jaguars are off to a 4-0 start due primarily to the efforts of 6-1 junior forward Adrian Vickers and 6-0 senior forward Ella Williams. A pre-season All-American candidate, Vickers is averaging 17.2 points and 10.4 rebounds per contest going into Tuesday's (Feb. 7) game at Murray State.
Her scoring average ranks fifth in the conference and is second among the rebounding leaders. A pre-season All-American selection as well, Williams is the Sun Belt's leading scorer this week (21.4 ppg) and is seventh in rebounding (7.4 rpg).

Having a five-game winning streak going into the Middle Tennessee game, the Lady Toppers improved their home mark to 9-0 with an impressive 79-47 win over Alabama at Birmingham last Sunday (Feb. 5). The impressive win was a welcome sight to Sanderford, who saw his team blow an 18-2 lead at the start of the game and hang on for a narrow 55-53 win at Dayton. Senior guard Susie Starks tallied a game-high 18 points in the contest and needs only 11 more to reach 1,000 points in her career.

In the win over UAB, the Lady Toppers had four players in double figures led by junior Tandreia Green's 23 points and game-high 13 rebounds. Teammate Kim Pehlke broke out of her scoring slump by pumping in 14 points to support the WKU effort. With the point total, the Lady Toppers have outscored the opposition (711-485) by an average of 25 points in nine contests at Diddle Arena.

Following Thursday's game, Western hosts Morehead State (Feb. 13) and then takes on state-rival Eastern Kentucky (Feb. 16) in the first game of a doubleheader with the WKU Hilltoppers. Coach Murray Arnold's team battles South Alabama in the nightcap.
Funtastic Night Slated for This Friday Night's Western-Tennessee Contest

Bowling Green, Ky. -- While the action on the court in this Friday night's (Feb. 24) contest between the Western Kentucky University Lady Toppers and the third-ranked Tennessee Lady Volunteers promises to be thrilling, fans certainly won't want to miss the halftime and post-game activities.

Deemed the "Biggest Show in Women's College Basketball," the 17-7 Lady Toppers will put their 12-0 home mark and nine-game winning streak on the line against national power Tennessee (24-2). Tipoff for the contest is 7:30 p.m. (CST) in WKU's E.A. Diddle Arena. Free tickets will be available on a first-come basis at the door and fans can secure their ticket at the door for numerous door prizes to be awarded that evening.

"Funtastic Wrestling" will be featured as the special halftime show and WKU mascot Big Red will tangle with "The Gruesome Gorilla" in a battle to end all battles.

Organizations and businesses supporting the evening's activities include Associated Student Government, Coldwell Banker-Hunt Realty, Dave & Steve's Super Key Markets, Hardee's Restaurants, Hilltopper Athletic Foundation, Jim & Gil's Men's Shop, Jr. Food Stores, Lady Topper Basketball, Lowe's of Bowling Green, Monarch Environmental, Park Inn-Midtown, Rafferty's, Reebok, Subway Sandwiches & Salads, University Center Board and WKU Food Services.

Don't forget to bring your red towel and support the Lady Toppers in what will be the greatest basketball show at Diddle Arena.

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LADY TOPPERS PUT NINE-GAME WIN STREAK ON LINE AGAINST SECOND-RANKED TENNESSEE

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Hoping to extend its nine-game winning streak will be no easy task for the Western Kentucky University women's basketball team this Friday, Feb. 24, when the Lady Toppers host second-ranked Tennessee at E.A. Diddle Arena.

Featured as the "Biggest Show in College Basketball," the contest between the two nationally recognized teams could be just that when the 7:30 p.m. (CST) tipoff gets things underway. Western, 17-7 overall and 5-1 in the Sun Belt Conference, will put its 12-0 home mark up against a team which won the NCAA National Championship two years ago.

Riding a seven-game winning streak, Tennessee has become a force to be reckoned with as its current record (25-2 overall and 7-1 in the Southeastern Conference) indicates. Marking the final regular season home game for UT Coach Pat Summitt's team, the Lady Vols rolled to a 98-43 triumph over Notre Dame Monday (Feb. 20). With losses to only top-ranked Auburn (67-59) and eighth-ranked Texas (69-67), the Lady Vols are ranked second in the nation this week by both the Associated Press and USA Today.

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Athletic-Basketball,Women
Having a talented lineup from top to bottom, the Lady Vols are led by 6-0 All-American forward Bridgette Gordon. The school's all-time leading scorer, Gordon (18.5 ppg and 6.4 rpg) is having the type of year which could merit this season's Player-of-the-Year honors. She has paced the Lady Vols in scoring five of the last six games and has averaged 21.7 points in that span.

While Gordon is the key figure in the group, 6-4 senior center Sheila Frost (14.2 ppg and 6.5 rpg) and 6-3 sophomore forward Daedra Charles (9.6 ppg and 6.9 rpg) have made their presence known in the paint this season.

For WKU Head Coach Paul Sanderford, playing a nationally-ranked team like Tennessee in Diddle Arena at this point in the season will be a crucial test for his Lady Toppers.

"This is a great opportunity for our fans to see a team (Tennessee) which has a legitimate chance of winning the NCAA title this year," Sanderford said. "For us, this game will tell us how far we've come since January."

With victories over Morehead State (85-64) and Eastern Kentucky (96-68) this past week (Feb. 13 and 16), the Lady Toppers stretched their winning streak to nine games, equalling the third-longest victory streak ever at Western. Junior forward Tandreia Green continues to play like a legitimate candidate for post-season All-America honors, pacing WKU in both scoring (19.1 ppg) and rebounding (8.7 rpg). In the EKU contest, she scored a season-high 29 points (one short of her career-high 30 points vs. Illinois State, 2/9/88) along with 10 rebounds. The 6-0 product of Washington, D.C., is averaging 26.4 points and 10.4 boards per contest in the last five games.

The non-conference contest with UT is "Parent's Appreciation Night," and the parents of the current Lady Toppers will be honored at the game. Friday night's game will also feature several halftime and post-game festivities, including a "funtastic wrestling" match starring WKU mascot Big Red, and numerous door prizes. Admission is free and fans can secure their ticket for prize drawings at the door.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 1, 1989
WOMEN’S BASKETBALL
By: Joe Gorby
Graduate Assistant
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17-8 LADY TOPPERS HOPING TO CONCLUDE REGULAR SEASON ON WINNING NOTE

Bowling Green, Ky. -- With only two regular-season games remaining, the Western Kentucky University women’s basketball team hopes to begin another winning streak and carry momentum into the Sun Belt Conference Tournament (March 9-11).

Western, 17-8 overall and 5-1 in the Sun Belt Conference, takes on Tennessee Tech Thursday (March 2) at 7:30 p.m. (CST) in Diddle Arena. The Lady Toppers wrap up the regular season this Sunday (March 5), hosting Northeast Louisiana in a 2:30 p.m. non-conference contest.

With Sunday’s match-up marking the final regular season, Western seniors Brigette Combs, Debbie O’Connell, and Susie Starks (along with their parents) will be honored and recognized during “Senior Appreciation Day” ceremonies. In appreciation for this group’s efforts, Caster Knotts of Bowling Green is giving away 2,000 free tickets at designated locations throughout the store. As a special souvenir, posters featuring the four Lady Topper seniors will be distributed to the first 500 fans in attendance.

The Lady Toppers could have their hands full this weekend as both Tennessee Tech and Northeast Louisiana come into Diddle Arena with impressive records to merit post-season tourney consideration.

Seventh-year WKU Head Coach Paul Sanderford is impressed with the high calibre of the opposition and realizes his team must have a top-notch performance if the Lady Lady Toppers are to add another mark in its victory column.

“Ther (Tennessee Tech and Northeast Louisiana) records are certainly not a fluke,” Sanderford said. “Both are very solid basketball teams and we’ll have to play well if we’re going to win. I don’t know if we’re expected to win both of these games, but I think we’re going to beat somebody this season we shouldn’t.”

The Lady Toppers had their nine-game winning streak snapped with a 76-57 loss to second-ranked Tennessee last Friday (Feb. 24) in Diddle Arena. Despite being tagged with
its first home defeat in 13 games, Western is approaching both contests with the intent of re-establishing its inspired team play.

Team play has been vital for the Golden Eaglettes of Tennessee Tech this season as Coach Bill Worrell’s squad is 19-6 overall with a second-place 9-3 record in the Ohio Valley Conference after posting a 85-64 win at Tennessee State Monday (Feb. 27). Winning four of its last five contests to date, Tech is paced by sophomore forward Angela Brown (18.8 ppg and 9.1 rpg). She is supported along the frontline by 6-1 junior center Melinda Clayton (13.7 ppg and 7.9 rpg) and sophomore forward Cecilia Ramsey (11.2 ppg and 4.7 rpg). Tennessee Tech holds the series edge (12-7) after last season’s 67-58 upset of the then nationally ranked Lady Toppers at Cookeville, Tenn.

Winning nine of its last 10 contests, Northeast Louisiana (18-7 overall and 10-3 in the Southland Conference) has played impressively throughout the 1988-89 season. With six of the seven losses coming against Top 20 teams in the nation, the Lady Indians return five starters from last year’s 19-10 squad. Spearheading the list of returnees is 6-2 junior center Jab Johnson. The SLC’s “Newcomer of the Year” last season, Johnson is the team’s top scorer (19.6 ppg) and ranks among the national rebounding leaders with 13.2 boards per contest. Providing the leadership for Coach Linda Harper’s Lady Indians are a pair of seniors - 5-7 guard Veronica Ridgell (15.6 ppg and 4.0 rpg) and 6-1 forward Renee Woodfin (14.2 ppg and 6.6 rpg). The last time the two teams met was back in the ’85-86 season, when the Lady Toppers dropped an 88-84 decision to NLU in the Northern Lights Invitational at Anchorage, Alaska.

“They (Northeast Louisiana) might be the best basketball team we’ve faced in Diddle Arena this season, besides Tennessee,” Sanderford stated. “It should be an exciting game and hopefully, our fans will come out and show their appreciation for this outstanding group of seniors.”

Following this weekend’s games, the Lady Toppers will be idle for a couple of days before preparing to host the Sun Belt Conference Women’s Basketball Tournament (March 9-11). Tickets for the three-day tourney may be purchased by contacting the WKU Athletic Ticket Office (502-745-5222).
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 6, 1989
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
By: Joe Gorby
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19-8 LADY TOPPERS HOST UNC CHARLOTTE IN OPENING ROUND OF SUN BELT TOURENY

Bowling Green, Ky. -- With the start of post-season tournament action, Western Kentucky University's Lady Toppers are preparing to open play in the Sun Belt Conference Women's Tournament this weekend (March 9-11) at Bowling Green, Ky.

Coach Paul Sanderford's Lady Toppers, seeded third in the seven-team field, will take on number six seed UNC Charlotte this Thursday (March 9) at 7:30 p.m. (CST) in the final game of the opening round play. The seventh annual SBC Tourney will be played at WKU's 12,370-seat Diddle Arena for the second time since the post-season event began in 1983.

In other first-round action, second seeded Old Dominion takes on seventh seed Alabama at Birmingham at 3:30 p.m. in the tournament opener. Following that contest, fourth-seeded Virginia Commonwealth faces fifth seed South Florida at 5:30 p.m. With the three-way tie for first place in regular season standings, South Alabama won the coin flip and received a first-round bye. The Lady Jaguars play the winner of the Virginia Commonwealth-South Florida contest Friday (March 10) at 5:30 p.m. in semifinal action.

"This is what our team has been pointing to all season long," Sanderford said. "Although we didn't recieve the first-round bye, I think getting the jitters out in the opening round is good. After what's happened in the men's tournament (WKU upsetting host UNC Charlotte), anything is possible in tournament basketball and we're attempting to prepare our players for one game at a time. Charlotte is the type of team that can surprise you, so we need to go out and play aggressive basketball for 40 minutes."

Host for the
1989 Sun Belt Conference Women's Basketball Tournament
March 9-11
and 1989 NCAA Women's East Regional
March 23 & 25

Sports
from Red Towel Territory
Hoping to defend last year's SBC Tourney title, the Lady Toppers enter tournament play with a 19-8 record after posting a 73-65 win over visiting Northeast Louisiana in the regular season finale last Sunday (March 5). The triumph marked Western's 11th victory in its last 12 contests.

UNCC's Lady 49ers under first-year Coach Ed Baldwin concluded regular season action with a 76-71 loss at UNC-Wilmington last Friday (March 3). Going 3-3 in its last six regular season contests, UNC Charlotte finished 12-15 overall and 1-5 in the Sun Belt Conference.

The Lady 49ers are paced by guard Micah Bingeman, center Barbara Reedus and forward Tolonda Rose. The team's top scorer to date, the 5-11 Bingeman is averaging 13.3 points and 3.3 rebounds per game while registering 5.3 assists per outing. A 6-1 senior post player, Reedus (13.6 ppg and 7.0) has paced the Lady 49ers in scoring two of the past three contests. The only other double-figure scorer, Rose (10.2 ppg and 7.4 rpg) leads the team in steals with 2.1 per contest.

With a two-game winning streak, Western heads into the game with some momentum after posting a key win over a talented Northeast Louisiana squad. Despite shooting a lowly 32 percent from the floor, the Lady Toppers placed four players in double-digit scoring, led by Tandreia Green's 19 points. Spearheading the WKU effort in Sunday's contest was 6-1 junior center Michelle Clark, who claimed a team-leading 12 rebounds along with 11 points.

A model of consistency throughout the season, Green (18.9 ppg and 8.3 rpg) continues to display her talents on the court in hopes of achieving post-season All-American honors. In the last eight games, the 6-0 forward is averaging 23 points and 8.4 rebounds along with 2.9 blocks during that span.

The supporting cast is a talented one, led by 5-10 senior guard Susie Starka (13.7 ppg and 2.8 rpg), 5-7 freshman guard Kim Pehlke (9.0 ppg and 2.2) and Michelle Clark (7.4 ppg and 6.7 rpg). Senior Brigette Combs (7.1 ppg and 6.1 rpg) and sophomore forward Mary Taylor (6.6 ppg and 4.4) have also turned in notable performances down the stretch of the regular season.

This Thursday's contest marks the second meeting between the two teams this season and the eighth in the overall rivalry. Western holds a 6-1 series edge after claiming a 86-59 decision from the Lady 49ers earlier this season (Jan. 8) in Diddle Arena.

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Bowling Green, Ky. -- After clinching the Sun Belt Conference Tournament title with a 67-54 victory over South Alabama last Saturday (March 11), the Western Kentucky University women's basketball team has received its fifth straight bid to the NCAA National Championship Tournament and will host West Virginia in a first-round contest Wednesday, March 15, at 8 p.m. (CST) in WKU's E.A. Diddle Arena.

The winner of the WKU-West Virginia contest will advance to the second round in the East Region taking on the Virginia Cavaliers (20-9 overall and 9-7 in Atlantic Coast Conference) Sunday, March 19, at 1 p.m. (CST) in Charlottesville, Va. Virginia holds the top seed of the three teams (fourth) while Western is fifth and West Virginia is seeded 12th.

For Western, winning its second consecutive Sun Belt crown and earning the league's automatic berth to the NCAA Tournament is what the Lady Toppers have strived for throughout the season.

"We're thrilled to be in the tournament again this year," WKU Head Coach Paul Sanderford said. "I like the idea of playing at home, but I have tremendous respect for West Virginia. They (West Virginia) have to be one of the best teams in the country right now after winning their conference tournament championship in impressive fashion."

Victorious in its last seven games, West Virginia enters Wednesday's post-season game with an impressive 23-7 overall record and 15-6 mark in the Atlantic 10 Conference. Like Western, the Mountaineers received an automatic bid after defeating Temple (63-54) in the conference championship game. Attaining its first 20-win season since 1985, West Virginia is led by a pair of seniors -- 5-6 guard Jenny Hillen (16.0 ppg and 8.3 rpg) and 5-10 forward Judy Eaton (13.9 ppg and 3.2 rpg). A pre-season honorable mention All-America selection this year, Hillen is living up to that billing, pacing WVU in steals (3.5 spg) to go along with her 49 percent field goal shooting. A four-year starter, Eaton has proved to be a legitimate threat from three-point range, connecting on 36 percent (61-168) of her long-range attempts.
West Virginia's inside game has been the primary strength for the Mountaineers this season as the unexpected contributions of several newcomers has co-head coaches Kittie Blakemore and Scott Harrelson elated. The play of freshman forwards Donna Abbott (13.1 ppg and 7.4 rpg) and Lori Wilson (8.8 ppg and 6.4 rpg), along with 6-5 junior center Tracey Slogik (7.1 ppg and 5.3 rpg), have played an integral role in WVU's success.

The guard position has also been another strong point this season due primarily to the efforts of freshman point-guard Rosemary Kosiorek (11.5 ppg and 3.1 rpg), who leads the team in assists with 3.4 per contest. Senior guard Dionne Morris (7.3 ppg and 4.2 rpg) has also provided support in the backcourt.

Despite holding a 3-1 series advantage over the Mountaineers, the Lady Toppers will be out to avenge a 69-67 overtime loss to WVU earlier this season (Dec. 18) at Morgantown, W.Va. Western managed to connect on only 29 percent of its shots while the Mountaineers did slightly better, making 36 percent from the floor. In that game, Western placed three players in double figures led by senior guard Susie Starks' 15 points and junior forward Tandreia Green's 14.

The Lady Toppers earned their automatic berth by winning the Sun Belt tournament for the second consecutive year this past weekend at home in Diddle Arena. Sanderford's squad played inspired ball throughout the tourney, starting with a 81-50 win over UNC Charlotte in the opening round. A 45-17 scoring spurt in the first half proved to be all the cushion the Lady Toppers would need for the win as Tandreia Green scored a game-high 18 points. In the semifinal round, WKU defeated Old Dominion (93-58) to avenge an earlier 66-56 loss to the Lady Monarchs in Norfolk, Va. In the SBC championship game, Western led the entire game to defeat South Alabama (67-54) and record its third SBC Tournament title in the tourney's seven-year history. WKU's Green was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player, averaging 18.3 points and 11.7 rebounds per contest in the three games. The 6-0 standout excelled in the title game, pulling down 19 rebounds to tie the SBC tourney mark for single game performance on the boards.

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WESTERN KENTUCKY LADY TOPPERS SIGN JUNIOR COLLEGE FORWARD KIM NORMAN

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Western Kentucky University Head Coach Paul Sanderford inked his first signee of the spring signing period today -- 5-10 forward Kim Norman of Lees Junior College in Jackson, Ky.

Norman averaged 13.3 points and a team-leading 9.8 rebounds per game this season in leading the Lees Lady Generals to a 28-5 record and the championship of the Kentucky Junior College Athletic Conference (KJCAC) for the second consecutive year.

"Kim Norman is a great addition to our basketball team," said Sanderford, who guided the Lady Toppers to a 22-9 record and a second straight Sun Belt Conference Tournament title. "She has tremendous athletic ability and is the type of player who excels at both ends of the court. With her two years of experience in a great JuCo program at Lees College, she could contribute immediately for us next season."

A streak shooter, she connected on 43.2 percent from the floor and 44.6 percent from the free throw line this season. She also averaged 1.6 assists and 2.8 steals per outing while appearing in 22 contests during the 1988-89 campaign. For her efforts this season, Norman was named the KJCAC's Most Valuable Player while also earning All-Conference honors. The two-year starter was also selected to the National Junior College Athletic Association's (NJCAA) All-Region VII team.

As a freshman, she played a vital role in helping the Lady Generals through an impressive 33-3 campaign which featured KJCAC and NJCAA Region VII Championships. A member of the nation's highest scoring JuCo team (94.7 points per game) that season, Norman averaged 11.5 points and 7.6 rebounds a game while hitting 46.8 percent from the floor and
51.2 percent at the line in 35 games. That season, she earned honorable mention recognition on the NJCAA's National Tournament team.

For her career, Norman has averaged 12.2 points and 8.4 rebounds per contest while posting a 45.2 field goal percentage and 49.2 percent accuracy rate from the charity stripe.

"Kim is an explosive-type player, who's extremely quick and gets out on the fast break," Lees College Coach Laura Litter commented. "She's a superb rebounder for her size because of her tremendous leaping ability. The combination of her natural ability and unselfish team attitude has been instrumental in our team's success the last two years. Kim possesses that competitive attitude it takes to be successful and I have no doubts she will succeed at the Division I level."

A prep standout at Princeton High School in Cincinnati, Ohio, Norman led her team to the Ohio AAA State Championship in 1987 en route to being named the team's Most Valuable Player. She played her high school ball for Coach Jerry Stein at Princeton.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Mitchell of Cincinnati, Norman is the second outstanding prospect to ink with the Lady Toppers this year. Renee Westmoreland (5-10, Scottsburg, Ind., High School) Indiana's 1988-89 "Miss Basketball" honoree, signed with WKU during the November signing period.
KODAK DISTRICT IX ALL-AMERICA TEAM ANNOUNCED; INCLUDES WKU'S TANCREA GREEN

Bowling Green, Ky. -- All-America seniors Vickie Orr of Auburn and Bridgette Gordon from Tennessee highlight the five-member 1988-89 Kodak District IX All-America Team as selected by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association.

This year's district squad also includes senior Sheila Frost of Tennessee, sophomore Wendy Scholtens from Vanderbilt and junior Tandreia Green of Western Kentucky.

Comprised of a 34-member Division I coaches' panel, District IX includes collegiate women's basketball programs in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee.

A three-time Kodak All-American selection, Orr earned the national laurels once again this season and earned the distinction of being the only three-time honoree on this season's national team. The 6-2 center from Decatur, Ala., averaged a team-leading 15.9 points and 8.6 rebounds per contest in helping the Lady Tigers to a 32-2 record and an appearance in the NCAA Final Four this season. An NCAA Championship All-Tournament member, she was also named the Most Valuable Player of the Mideast Regional this season.

Playing major roles in helping Tennessee secure the NCAA National Championship this season, Gordon (20.4 ppg and 7.0 rpg) and Frost (13.7 ppg and 6.7 rpg) paced the Lady Volunteers to a 35-2 mark. A two-time Kodak All-American pick, Gordon was named the 1989 NCAA Final Four's Most Valuable Player and was the recipient of the Scripps Howard All-American Award. She was also selected the Southeastern Conference Player-of-the-Year and was a finalist for the Naismith Award. The 6-0 forward from DeLand, Fla., concluded her brilliant four-year career by becoming the all-time leading scorer (men and women) in UT history. The first UT player to surpass the 2,000-point career mark, she became the NCAA Championship's all-time scoring leader this season.
The Lady Vols' all-time leading rebounder and shot blocker, the 6-4 Frost was named to the NCAA's Final Four All-Tourney team and tied an NCAA post-season mark for most blocks (five) in a title game. A native of Pulaski, Tenn., she was named first-team All-SEC for the third consecutive year and finished her career as the school's second all-time career scoring leader.

An All-SEC first-team selection, Scholtens led the conference in scoring (22.5 ppg), rebounding (10.9) and free throw percentage (.876). The 6-4 center from Ft. Smith, Ark., led the Lady Commodores to a 21-8 season. A standout performer on the court, Scholtens was also named to the Academic All-SEC squad for her accomplishments in the classroom.

A first-team All-Sun Belt Conference pick, Green was the mainstay for Western Kentucky this season. The 6-0 forward from Washington, D.C., led the 22-9 Lady Toppers in scoring (18.8) and rebounding (9.0). The Most Valuable Player of the Bowling Green Bank Invitational and Sun Belt Tournament, she scored in double figures in 30 of WKU's 31 contests while registering double digits in rebounding on 14 occasions. And, she became only the 12th Western player to surpass the 1,000-point career mark. She currently ranks seventh on the Toppers' all-time scoring list. "Tan" also established several school marks, including most points scored in a junior season (582) and most rebounds in a contest (20).
WKU LADY TOPPER BASKETBALL AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED AT BANQUET

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Western Kentucky University junior Tandreia Green, who led the 1988-89 Lady Toppers in scoring and rebounding, was selected the squad's Most Valuable Player at the annual Lady Topper Awards Banquet Sunday (Apr. 16).

Green, a first-team All-Sun Belt Conference pick and the Sun Belt Tournament's Most Valuable Player, recorded the third highest scoring average by a Lady Topper in a season, averaging 18.8 points per game to go along with 9.0 rebounds an outing.

The 6-0 forward from Washington, D.C., is currently seventh among the school's all-time career scoring leaders with 1,326 points. She is only the 12th Western player to surpass the 1,000-point career mark. Green has also established several school marks, including most points scored in a junior season (582) and most rebounds in a contest (20). For her outstanding efforts this season, "Tan" was selected to the Division I Kodak District IX All-America team.

Senior guard Debbie O'Connell (Ridgewood, N.J.) was the recipient of the Free Throw Percentage Award and the Coaches Award. Fellow senior forward Brigette Combs (Whitesburg) capped off a fine four-year career on the Hill by receiving the Outstanding Defensive Player Award along with the Hustle Award for the second consecutive year.

Sophomore forward Mary Taylor (Benton) earned the Field Goal Percentage Award for having the team's highest shooting average from the floor while junior center Michelle Clark (Louisville) was the recipient of the Most Improved Free Throw Shooter Award. Freshman guard Kim Pehlke (Louisville) was honored as WKU's Most Improved Player. Freshman guard Nancy Crutcher (LaGrange) received a "special" award for courage and determination after appearing in 15 games this season following reconstructive knee surgery that forced her to miss the entire past two hoop campaigns.

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Athletics-Basketball, Women
Senior Awards were presented to O'Connell, Combs, guard Susie Starks (Scottsville) and forward Wendy Milner (Columbus, Ohio).

The Lady Topper awards were sponsored by the Sports Center (Free Throw Percentage Award); Bowling Green Bank (Field Goal Percentage Award); Shelton and Heller Associates (Hustle Award); Burns Bait and Tackle (Outstanding Defensive Player Award); The Hilltopper Network (Most Improved Player Award); Hart County Bank (Coaches Award); and Southern Kentucky Bus Lines (Most Valuable Player Award).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 25, 1989
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KANSAS CITY PREP STAR INKS WITH LADY TOPPERS

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Paulette "Nikki" Monroe, a 6-4 center from Central High School in Kansas City, Mo., has signed to play her college basketball at Western Kentucky University.

"Nikki is recognized as one of the best players in the nation," said WKU Head Coach Paul Sanderford. "She could give us the offensive punch inside to help put us back in the hunt. She's a big girl with guard skills, a real athlete. We're looking forward to having her with us."

An All-State, All-Metro, All-Conference and All-District selection each of the past two seasons, Monroe averaged 28 points, 17 rebounds, six blocked shots and five assists an outing as a senior, leading her Lady Eagles to a 19-3 record. An outstanding shooter, she connected 70 percent of her shots from three-point distance, including a very impressive 5-7 in one game.

A three-year starter and four-year letterwinner for Coach Nolan Smith at Central High, she led her team to the Missouri state tournament as a junior.

"Nikki can get even better," said Smith. "She has developed as a player because she really loves to play the game."

The daughter of Mrs. Paulette Monroe of Kansas City, she is interested in a course of study in communications at Western.

Monroe is the third outstanding prospect to sign with the Lady Toppers. Renee Westmoreland (5-10, Scottsburg, Ind., High School), Indiana's 1988-89 "Miss Basketball" honoree, inked with WKU during the November signing period. And, Kim Norman (5-10, Cincinnati, Ohio), who comes to the Hill from Lee's Junior College in Jackson, Ky., cast her lot with the Toppers earlier this month.

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Bowling Green, Ky. -- Paul Sanderford and his Lady Topper coaching staff have signed their fourth player for next season, Maria Teal, a 5-11 forward from Florida Community College in Jacksonville, Fla.

Teal, of St. Petersburg, Fla., averaged 16 points, nine rebounds and seven assists last season in helping the Lady Stars to a 33-2 record last season and a third-place finish in the National Junior College tournament in Tyler, Tex.

"Signing Maria adds yet another dimension to our team for next season, and that can only be positive," said Sanderford. "We're looking forward to welcoming her to Western."

Florida Community College had a record of 61-10 during Teal's two seasons there. In Teal's senior season, she received All-Conference, All-State and All-Region accolades. And, she was on the All-Tournament teams in all five tournaments the Lady Stars competed in, including the National Junior College tourney.

"Maria has been a leader and a central figure in the program here the last two years," said Florida Community College Coach Lyndall Worth. "We like to say there are three things she does well -- score points, get rebounds and play defense."

At 5-11, Teal was a swing player for the Lady Stars, but Worth said Teal plays best with her back to the basket.

"She can take anybody to the hoop," Worth said. "She is strong and makes power moves, but she's got a lot of finesse about her."
Teal played her prep basketball at Gibbs High School in St Petersburg, Fla., and took her team to the State AAA Championship her senior year.

Worth said Teal's experience with winning programs can only help her in the transfer to the Hill. "That tradition and reputation of winning is a real attribute to her coming to Western," Worth said. "Western doesn't have to teach her how to win."

Western's other three outstanding prospects are Paulette "Nikki" Monroe, a 6-4 center from Central High School in Kansas City, Mo.; Renee Westmoreland, Indiana's "Miss Basketball" and a graduate of Indiana State Champion Scottsburg High School; and Kim Norman, a 5-10 forward from Cincinnati who played at Lees Junior College in Jackson, Ky.

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