1988

UA11/2 Lady Toppers Basketball Press Releases

WKU Public Affairs

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LADY TOPPER CAGERS TO AGAIN FACE STRONG NATIONAL SCHEDULE

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Western Kentucky University's women's basketball team will once again face a strong national schedule, including appearances in four invitational tournaments and a home contest against Texas, a team which spent most of the 1986-87 season ranked number one in the nation.

"This is the best schedule we've had since I've been here," sixth-year Head Coach Paul Sanderford said. "I'm especially pleased with our home games this season, and I think our fans will feel the same way."

The Lady Toppers ranked sixth in the country in home attendance last year, and this year's schedule should keep WKU in the upper echelon again. Highlights of the home schedule include:

*The Russian National Team - The Lady Toppers go international when they host the Soviet women in an exhibition game, Nov. 8.

*The Bowling Green Bank Invitational - WKU's women officially tip off the season (Nov. 29-30) when they try to defend their BGBI title against Arizona, Alabama and Evansville.

*Kentucky - The Lady Toppers and the Lady Cats renew an intra-state rivalry last played in the 1980-81 season.

*Old Dominion - The traditionally powerful Lady Monarchs visit Bowling Green Jan. 12 for WKU's first Sun Belt Conference game of the season.

*Vanderbilt - Western hosts the Lady Commodores Feb. 15 and will try to avenge two losses to Vandy in the 86-87 campaign.

*Texas - The Lady Toppers will try to even the series with the Lady Longhorns at two games each in a Feb. 20 matchup.

The road will also be a challenge for the Lady Toppers, featuring three invitational tournaments. Dec. 4-5 finds WKU at the Lady Ute Classic in Salt Lake City with host Utah, Southwest Texas State and Texas El Paso. The Cahill Invitational (Dec. 29-30) includes host St. John's along with Oregon and Cheyney State.

- more -

WKU's women will play at least nine teams that went to the NCAA Tournament last season, and could play an even ten if they meet with UNLV in the Northern Lights Tourney.

The 1987-88 season will be the 26th in the women's sport at WKU. Through those years, Lady Topper cagers have won 289 and lost 174 for an impressive winning percentage of .624. In Sanderford's five seasons on the Hill, Western's women have rolled up a 127-37 mark for an even more impressive .774 success ratio. That includes five 20-win seasons and four straight post-season appearances. WKU placed fourth in the National Women's Invitational Tournament (NWIT) in 1984 and earned semi-finalist honors in both the 1985 and '86 NCAA Championships. The Lady Toppers made their third straight NCAA appearance last year, bowing out in the second round to powerful Southern California.

For ticket information on the '87-88 Lady Topper home games, contact the Western Ticket Office, E.A. Diddle Arena, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Ky. 42101 (Telephone: (502) 745-5222).

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Opponent ('86-87 Record; Tourney)</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Time(CST)</th>
<th>Series Record</th>
<th>Last Year</th>
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<td>RUSSIAN NATIONAL TEAM (exhibition)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>vs Alabama (19-10)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>vs Evansville (19-9)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Western Kentucky (24-9; NCAA)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Championship</td>
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<td>Dec. 4</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>SW Texas State (15-13) vs Western Kentucky</td>
<td>Salt Lake City, Utah</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>Wed</td>
<td>MIDDLE TENNESSEE (19-8)</td>
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<td>MTSU 17-10</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>KENTUCKY (17-11)</td>
<td>Bowling Green, Ky.</td>
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<td>UK 11-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>WEST VIRGINIA (14-15)</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>at Southern Illinois (28-3; NCAA)</td>
<td>Carbondale, Ill.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>at Cahill Invitational</td>
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<td>Jan. 3</td>
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<td>WKU 75-69**</td>
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<td>MEMPHIS STATE (20-9; NCAA)</td>
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<td>2-2</td>
<td>WKU 83-75</td>
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<td>Sat</td>
<td>at Ohio University (10-16)</td>
<td>Athens, Ohio</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>WKU 1-0</td>
<td>WKU 85-63**</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
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<td>OLD DOMINION* (18-13; NCAA)</td>
<td>Bowling Green, Ky.</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>ODU 5-3</td>
<td>ODU 73-68</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>at Alabama at Birmingham* (12-19)</td>
<td>Birmingham, Ala.</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>WKU 7-1</td>
<td>WKU 88-56**</td>
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<td>Cookeville, Tenn.</td>
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<td>WKU 94-63**</td>
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<td>SOUTH FLORIDA* (11-16)</td>
<td>Bowling Green, Ky.</td>
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<td>WKU 68-53</td>
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<td>Wed</td>
<td>at Morehead State (13-15)</td>
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<td>WKU 14-10</td>
<td>WKU 83-43**</td>
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<td>30</td>
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<td>at South Alabama* (24-6; NCAA)</td>
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<td>WKU 6-2</td>
<td>WKU 75-62**</td>
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<td>over</td>
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<td>USA 80-75</td>
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<td>Time (CST)</td>
<td>Series Record</td>
<td>Last Year</td>
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<td>Feb. 4</td>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>at Eastern Kentucky (19-11)</td>
<td>Richmond, Ky.</td>
<td>6:30 pm</td>
<td>WKU 21-7</td>
<td>WKU 107-57**</td>
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<td>Sat</td>
<td>DAYTON (11-17) (dh)</td>
<td>Bowling Green, Ky.</td>
<td>5:15 pm</td>
<td>WKU 6-1</td>
<td>WKU 75-62</td>
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<td>Tue</td>
<td>at Illinois State (12-15)</td>
<td>Normal, Ill.</td>
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<td>WKU 1-0</td>
<td>WKU 63-60**</td>
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<td>Feb. 13</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH* (21-8)</td>
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<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>WKU 4-1</td>
<td>VCU 81-73</td>
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<td>Mon</td>
<td>VANDERBILT (23-10; NCAA)</td>
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<td>VU 8-6</td>
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<td>TEXAS (32-2; NCAA)</td>
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<td>UT 63-41</td>
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<td>Feb. 26</td>
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<td>Arkansas St. (18-9); Baylor (8-20); Fordham (7-22);</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 28</td>
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<td>Mar. 3</td>
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<td>MURRAY STATE (17-11)</td>
<td>Bowling Green, Ky.</td>
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<td>WKU 20-9</td>
<td>WKU 82-61</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 5</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>at UNC Charlotte* (18-9)</td>
<td>Charlotte, N.C.</td>
<td>1:30 pm</td>
<td>WKU</td>
<td>WKU 91-69**</td>
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</tbody>
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10-12 Wed- at Sun Belt Conference Tournament ...... Tampa, Fla. tba

*Sun Belt Conference game **'86-87 home game (dh) doubleheader with men's team
Western Kentucky University
Office of Public Information • Bowling Green, KY 42101 • (502) 745-4295

LADY TOPPERS ARE READY FOR THE OFFICIAL START OF PRACTICE

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Western Kentucky University's women's basketball team is ready to start playing basketball, with the official start of practice almost here (Thursday, Oct. 15).

"Everybody is excited about starting practice," Lady Topper Head Coach Paul Sanderford said. "Once again, Coach (Steve) Small has prepared the girls both physically and mentally in our pre-season conditioning program."

The Lady Toppers have high hopes for the 1987-88 campaign, and have been picked as a top 20 team in virtually every pre-season publication. Western will be shooting for its sixth straight 20-win season and fourth straight NCAA post-season appearance this year.

Lady Topper fans will have a chance to see the team in action Sunday, Nov. 8, in an exhibition game with the Russian National Team at E. A. Diddle Arena at 3:00 p.m. (CST). The season officially gets underway with the Bowling Green Bank Invitational (Nov. 29-30). For ticket information, contact the Western Ticket Office, E. A. Diddle Arena, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Ky. 42101 (Telephone: 502-745-5222).

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

LADY TOPPERS TO HOST RUSSIAN NATIONAL TEAM IN PRESEASON EXHIBITION GAME

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Western Kentucky University's women's basketball team will play the Russian National Team in a preseason exhibition contest Sunday, Nov. 8, at 3:00 p.m. (CST) in Diddle Arena.

"This is a great opportunity for our team and our entire program," Lady Topper Head Coach Paul Sanderford said. "We'll be playing their number one national team, one of the best in the world."

The game is being sponsored by The Hilltopper Athletic Foundation, and tickets will be available to the public beginning Monday, Oct. 19. Reserved chair seats are $4, general admission seats $3, and full-time Western students with a valid ID will be admitted free.

Western is one of just eight teams in the country that will have the opportunity to play the Russian team. Three of those other teams are on WKU's home schedule this year, including Old Dominion, Vanderbilt and Texas. The Russian team will also play Nevada-Las Vegas, a team the Lady Toppers could meet in the Northern Lights Invitational.

The Lady Toppers' season officially gets underway with the Bowling Green Bank Invitational (Nov. 29-30). For ticket information, contact the Western Ticket Office, E.A. Diddle Arena, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Ky. 42101 (Telephone: 502-745-5222).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 19, 1987

MEN'S/WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

CONTACT: Paul Just, SID

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

WESTERN BASKETBALL TEAMS ANNOUNCE PRESEASON RED-WHITE GAMES

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Western Kentucky University's men's and women's
basketball teams will each play two pre-season intrasquad Red-White games in
preparation for the 1987-88 season, including a doubleheader at Marshall County
High School with both squads participating.

The men will play the first Red-White game of the season when the Hilltoppers
travel to Owensboro, Sunday, Nov. 8, for a 4:00 p.m. (CST) contest at Daviess County
High School. There will be a coaches' clinic conducted by WKU Head Coach Murray
Arnold at 2:30 p.m., that afternoon. General admission tickets are $2 and
children under 12 will be admitted free. The game is being sponsored by the WKU
Owensboro Alumni Association and WOHI Radio. For additional information, contact
Dan Lanham at (502) 683-4591.

The Lady Topper's first Red-White game is Saturday, Nov. 14, at 6:00 p.m.,
at Ballard High School in Louisville. Tickets are $2 for adults and $1 for students.
The game is being sponsored by Coca-Cola. For additional information, contact
Ballard women's basketball Coach Wayne Walker at (502) 454-8615.

A doubleheader featuring both Western teams will be staged Saturday, Nov. 21
at Marshall County High School beginning at 6:30 p.m. Hilltopper Head Coach
Murray Arnold will conduct a coaches' clinic that day at 1:30 p.m. The games
are being sponsored by the Benton Optimist Club. For further information,
contact Marshall County High School men's basketball Coach Alan Hatcher at
(502) 527-1453.

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Athletics-Basketball,Women
LADY TOPPERS ONCE AGAIN RANK HIGH IN PRESEASON POLLS

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

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

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

Those returnees include senior Traci Patton (7.8 ppg, 6.6 rpg); juniors Brigette Combs (7.7 ppg, 6.5 rpg), Susie Starks (8.4 ppg) and Debbie O'Connell (5.5 ppg); and sophomores Tandreia Green (8.4 ppg, 5.2 rpg) and Michelle Clark (3.6 ppg).

The recruiting class, ranked by Dick Vitale's Basketball as the fourth best in the country, includes freshman Terri Mann (USA Today's 1987 High School Player-of-the-Year), Mary Taylor (the 1987 Kentucky "Miss Basketball"), Kelly Smith (10 ppg, 7 rpg), Staci Payne (19.4 ppg, 11.3 rpg) and Rachel Hall (9.8 ppg, 3 rpg); and junior college transfer Wendy Milner (11.9 ppg, 5.8 rpg).

Head Coach Paul Sanderford, rated eighth among women's basketball coaches in the country by Off The Glass magazine this fall, enters his sixth season on the Hill looking for a sixth straight 20-win season and fourth straight NCAA postseason appearance.

Western will get a great test of its abilities when the Lady Toppers take on the Soviet Union National Women's team Sunday, Nov. 8, at 3:00 p.m. (CST) in an exhibition game in Diddle Arena. The Soviets, considered one of the best teams in the world, feature eight players who are 6-2 or bigger, and the average age on the team is 24.4 years. On the other hand, WKU's three biggest players are 6-2 and senior Traci Patton is the "old lady" of the Lady Toppers at the age of 21.

The game is being sponsored by the Hilltopper Athletic Foundation and tickets are available at the Diddle Arena Ticket Office. Reserved chair seats are priced at $4, general admission seats are $3, and full-time Western students with a valid ID will be admitted free.

The Lady Toppers' season officially gets underway with the Bowling Green Bank Invitational (Nov. 29-30). For further ticket information, contact the Western Ticket Office, E.A. Diddle Arena, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Ky. 42101 (Telephone: 502-745-5222).

-- Preseason Polls on Back --
Here's a look at the preseason polls released so far this year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Women's Basketball News Service</th>
<th>Off The Class</th>
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<tr>
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<td>1. Tennessee</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Auburn</td>
<td>2. Auburn</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Long Beach State</td>
<td>3. Texas*</td>
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<td>5. Mississippi</td>
<td>5. Georgia</td>
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<td>18. Duke</td>
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<td>12. Old Dominion*</td>
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<td>17. Southern Illinois*</td>
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<tr>
<td>19. Old Dominion*</td>
<td>19. Stanford</td>
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*Teams on WKU's 1987-88 schedule.

#WKU could meet Nevada-Las Vegas in the Northern Lights Invitational.
Western Kentucky University
Office of Public Information • Bowling Green, KY 42101 • (502) 745-4295

LADY TOPPERS PLAY RED-WHITE GAME AT BALLARD HIGH SCHOOL SATURDAY

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Western Kentucky University's women's basketball team will play its first Red-White game of the preseason Saturday, Nov. 14, at 6:00 p.m. (CST) at Ballard High School in Louisville. Tickets are $2 for adults and $1 for students. The game is being sponsored by Coca-Cola. For additional information, contact Ballard women's basketball Coach Wayne Walker at (502) 454-8615.

The Lady Toppers got their 1987-88 preseason schedule off to an exciting start last Sunday when the squad hosted the Soviet Union National Women's Team before 5,000 fans at E.A. Diddle Arena. WKU trailed by just three points at the intermission (38-35), before eventually falling to the Soviets, 87-62. Lady Topper Head Coach Paul Sanderford was pleased with his team's performance despite the loss.

"We're a talented, inexperienced team that has practiced for three weeks," Sanderford said. "I thought we played very well, especially in the first half. We were intense and really hit the boards, and that's a good sign early in the year. I'd like to play the Soviets again in March, but this game was a great experience."

Lady Topper forwards Terri Mann and Tandreia Green led the way in scoring against the Soviets, tallying 20 and 16 points, respectively. Both players displayed outside shooting touch, hitting two three-point goals apiece. Mann, a freshman, also led the team in rebounds (13).

A doubleheader featuring both Western teams will be held Saturday, Nov. 21, at Marshall County High School beginning at 6:30 p.m. The games will be a homecoming for Lady Topper freshman Mary Taylor and Hilltopper freshman Terry Birdsong. Taylor, the 1987 Kentucky "Miss Basketball", led her Marshall County Marshals to an incredible 117-11 record during her tenure. Birdsong, a 6-3 guard, led the Marshals to a 27-6 record as a senior, and earned second-team All-State honors. For ticket information, contact Marshall County High School men's basketball Coach Alan Hatcher at (502) 527-1453.

The fifth annual Bowling Green Bank Invitational (Nov. 29-30) officially tips off the Lady Toppers' 1987-88 campaign, as Alabama, Arizona and Evansville come to Diddle Arena for the two-day tourney. For ticket information, contact either the Western Ticket Office or any branch of Bowling Green Bank.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 17, 1987

MEN'S/WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

By: Paul Looney
Graduate Assistant

CONTACT: Paul Just, SID

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

WESTERN BASKETBALL TEAMS SET TO PLAY RED-WHITE GAMES AT MARSHALL COUNTY HIGH SATURDAY

Bowling Green, Ky. -- The Western Kentucky University men's and women's basketball teams will both wrap up the 1987 preseason Red-White schedule this Saturday, Nov. 21, with a doubleheader at Marshall County High School, set to begin at 6:30 p.m. (CST).

Hilltopper Head Coach Murray Arnold will conduct a coaches clinic that day at 1:30 p.m. The two games are being sponsored by the Benton Optimist Club. For further information, contact Marshall County High School men's basketball Coach Alan Hatcher at (502) 527-1453.

The games will be a homecoming of sorts for Topper freshmen Mary Taylor and Terry Birdsong. Taylor, the 1987 Kentucky "Miss Basketball," led her Marshall County Marshals to an incredible 117-11 record during her tenure there. Birdsong, a 6-3 guard, led the Marshals to a 27-6 record as a senior, earning All-State honors in the process.

The Hilltoppers are coming off a 79-76 loss last Saturday night to the U.S. Army Fort Hood Tankers. WKU junior Brett McNeal was the game's high scorer with 29 points, including three three-pointers. Sophomore Roland Shelton also added a trio of three-pointers, finishing with 17 points.

The Lady Toppers played a Red-White game last Saturday night and the White team won the contest 86-53. The Red team, led by Debbie O'Connell's 23 points, played even with the White in the first half (32-32). But, in the second half, it was the White squad all the way, with Terri Mann (27 points) and Tandreia Green (21 points) leading the way.

Western's men officially begin the 1987-88 campaign at home Friday, Nov. 27, against Kentucky State at 7:30 p.m. The fifth annual Bowling Green Bank Invitational (Nov. 29-30) officially tips off the 1987-88 Lady Topper season at Diddle Arena. WKU will defend its crown against Alabama, Arizona and Evansville.

For ticket information on Western's home games, contact the Diddle Arena Ticket Office. BGBl ticket information can also be obtained at any office of Bowling Green Bank.
Western Kentucky University

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

LADY TOPPERS TIP OFF SEASON WITH FIFTH ANNUAL BOWLING GREEN BANK INVITATIONAL

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Western Kentucky University's women's basketball team officially tips off its 1987-88 season with the fifth annual Bowling Green Bank Invitational Tournament, Nov. 29-30 at E.A. Diddle Arena. The Lady Toppers will be defending their crown against Alabama, Arizona and Evansville.

The tournament gets underway Sunday, Nov. 29 at 1:00 p.m. (CST) with Alabama and Arizona tangling in the opening game. The Lady Toppers take on Evansville in the second contest at 3:00 p.m. Monday's consolation game starts at 6:00 p.m. and the championship match will be played at 8:00 p.m.

"This year's tournament will definitely be a challenge," Lady Topper Head Coach Paul Sanderford said. "As usual, we have a great field and I can't think of a better way to start a season. Defending our title will be tough, but we're ready to go."

Evansville was 19-9 last year and has almost everyone back. Its record last year was a complete turnaround from 1985-86 when the team struggled to a 6-22 season. Alabama went 19-10 last season playing in the Southeastern Conference, generally regarded as the best women's conference in the country. Arizona will try to improve on last year's 11-18 mark under new coach June Olkowski, a former Kodak All-American at Rutgers University.

The Lady Toppers have once again been picked as a preseason Top 20 team, and the squad returns some familiar faces in addition to a promising group of newcomers. Returnees include senior Traci Patton (7.8 ppg, 6.6 rpg); juniors Brigette Combs (7.7 ppg, 6.5 rpg), Susie Starks (8.4 ppg) and Debbie O'Connell (5.5 ppg); and sophomores Tandreia Green (8.4 ppg, 5.2 rpg) and Michelle Clark (3.6 ppg).

The newcomers, ranked by Dick Vitale's Basketball as the fourth best recruiting class in the country, include freshmen Terri Mann (USA Today's 1987 High School Player-of-the-Year), Mary Taylor (the 1987 Kentucky "Miss Basketball"), Kelly Smith (10 ppg, 7 rpg), Staci Payne (19.4 ppg, 11.3 rpg), Rachel Hall (9.8 ppg, 3 rpg) and LaDonna Trowell (9 ppg, 7 rpg); and junior college transfer Wendy Milner (11.9 ppg, 5.8 rpg).

WKU will be looking for its second straight RGBI title and its third crown in the five-year history of the event. The Lady Toppers nipped James Madison last year in the championship game, 54-53. Junior Brigette Combs led the Toppers to victory in that game with 15 points and earned All-Tournament honors.

The first 1,000 fans at Sunday's season opener will receive a full-color 1987-88 Lady Topper calendar. For ticket information, contact the Diddle Arena Ticket Office or any branch of Bowling Green Bank.

Athletics-Basketball, Women
LADY TOPPERS SHOOT FOR NO. 1 IN NATIONAL ATTENDANCE

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Western Kentucky University's women's basketball team has been ranked in the nation's Top 10 in attendance the last four years, and the Lady Toppers are shooting for No. 1 in 1987-88.

"We've set our goal to lead the country in attendance and I know we can do it," Lady Topper Head Coach Paul Sanderford said. "We have a talented, enthusiastic team and a tremendous home schedule. I think fans will love the 'New Look' Lady Toppers."

In addition to seeing great basketball, there will be added incentives for fans this year. Here are some of the exciting plans for the upcoming season:

**EVERY HOME GAME** - A free pair of Reebok sneakers will be given away to the two fans with lucky numbers in the Lady Topper game program.

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<td>Middle Tennessee - &quot;Group Spirit Night&quot; - The campus group that whoops it up the most will receive $200. Runner-up gets $100.</td>
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<td>Dec. 11</td>
<td>Kentucky - &quot;Reebok Night&quot; - The first 1,000 fans will receive a free pair of sports binoculars.</td>
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<td>Feb. 13</td>
<td>Virginia Commonwealth - &quot;St. Valentine's Day Massacre-Revenge Night&quot; - The first 500 students with a valid WKU ID will receive a free commemorative T-shirt. In addition, one lucky fan will have a chance to &quot;Dash for Cash&quot;, picking up as many silver dollars as possible in 30 seconds before the buzzer sounds.</td>
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<td>Feb. 15</td>
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<td>Mar. 3</td>
<td>Murray State - &quot;Senior Appreciation/Sun Belt Fun-in-the-Sun Fantasy Trip Night&quot; - Featuring a trip for two to the Sun Belt Conference Championship Tournament in Tampa, Fla., Mar. 10-12. Includes round-trip airfare, hotel accommodations and tickets to the women's Sun Belt Conference Tournament.</td>
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</table>

****** STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS !!! ******

SCHEDULE TIME CHANGE

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Western Kentucky University's women's basketball game against Old Dominion Jan. 12 has been switched from 7:30 p.m. (CST) to 7:00 p.m.
LADY TOPPERS SEEK SECOND TOURNAMENT TITLE IN UTAH THIS WEEKEND

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Western Kentucky University's women's basketball team will try for its second tournament title of the young basketball season at the Lady Ute Classic in Salt Lake City, Utah, this weekend.

The Lady Toppers take on Southwest Texas State in the tournament's opener Friday, Dec. 4, at 7:00 p.m. (CST). In the opening round's second game, Texas–El Paso will tangle with host Utah at 9:00 p.m. Saturday evening's consolation game is at 7:00 p.m., and the championship battle follows at 9:00 p.m.

The Lady Toppers are 2-0 on the season after escaping with a 66-63 win over Alabama in the championship game of the Bowling Green Bank Invitational Monday (Nov. 30) night. Western was defending its title in the BGBI and Lady Topper freshman forward Mary Taylor came through in the clutch, scoring WKU's last eight points of the game, including two free throws with 11 seconds on the clock which put the Lady Toppers up 66-63, sealing the victory.

Lady Topper Head Coach Paul Sanderford was happy with the win, but sees room for improvement with his young team.

"We rebounded well and played hard, but our shot selection was not good at all," Sanderford said. "We're a young team that should get better as the season progresses."

Southwest Texas will enter the Lady Ute Classic with a clean slate, opening its season against WKU. The Bobcats played the Australian National Team in a preseason exhibition game, falling 101-57 to the Aussies. Southwest Texas State was 15-13 last year.

Looking ahead on the schedule, the Lady Toppers will be back home Wednesday, Dec. 9, hosting Middle Tennessee at 8:00 p.m. in Diddle Arena for "Group Spirit Night." The WKU group which shows the most enthusiasm will receive $200 and the runner-up gets $100. Then, Friday, Dec. 11, the Lady Toppers will host Kentucky on "Reebok Night" in a 7:30 contest. The first 1,000 fans will receive a free pair of sports binoculars, courtesy of Reebok.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 8, 1987  
WOMEN’S BASKETBALL  
By: Paul Looney  
Graduate Assistant  
CONTACT: Paul Just

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

4-0 LADY TOPPERS HOST MIDDLE TENNESSEE, KENTUCKY AND WEST VIRGINIA THIS WEEK

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Western Kentucky University's Lady Topper basketball team takes a 4-0 record into a three-game home stand this week, hosting Middle Tennessee, Kentucky and West Virginia. The Lady Toppers tip off the Wednesday, Dec. 9 game with MTSU at 8:00 p.m. (CST), then play UK Friday night at 7:30, wrapping up the home stand Sunday afternoon at 2:00 against West Virginia.

The Lady Toppers have won two invitational tournaments this year, capturing the Bowling Green Bank Invitational and the Lady Ute Classic. WKU won the Lady Ute Classic this past weekend in Salt Lake City over a tough Utah team, 78-61. The game was tied at the half, 39-39, but Western made the necessary adjustments in the second half en route to victory.

"We played great defense and rebounded well in the second half," Lady Topper Head Coach Paul Sanderford said. "Utah is an excellent team and I thought our girls showed a lot of heart in that game."

WKU out-rebounded Utah 50-33, and held the Lady Utes to just 22 points in the second half on 7-27 field goal shooting. Lady Topper sophomore Tandreia Green poured in 36 points and grabbed 14 rebounds in the two games of the tourney to claim her second MVP award of the season. Junior guard Susie Starks added 29 points and six assists in the two games to join Green on the All-Tournament team.

Western's Wednesday game with Middle Tennessee will be a battle of unbeatens, as MTSU has also jumped out to a 4-0 start with two tournament championships. The Lady Raiders have won both the Georgia State Invitational and the Indiana Classic under first-year Head Coach Lewis Bivens. MTSU and WKU are also very young teams, with Lady Topper center Traci Patton the only senior among the two squads.

WKU's game with UK will be the first meeting of the two teams since 1981, and the first time that sixth-year Coach Sanderford has ever faced the Lady Kats. UK was 4-0 heading into its Wednesday, Dec. 9 contest with Indiana.

The Lady Toppers will try to improve its series record against West Virginia to 3-0 Sunday afternoon. WKU beat the Mountaineers 95-49 in Bowling Green two years ago, and struggled to a 70-67 victory last year in Morgantown. West Virginia was 4-1 heading into a Friday, Dec. 11 contest with Vanderbilt.
WKU's Wednesday game with MTSU will be "Group Spirit Night", and the WKU group which shows the best enthusiasm will receive $200, with the runner-up getting $100. Friday night's UK game is Reebok/G-107 Night, and the first 1,000 fans to the arena will receive a free pair of Reebok sports binoculars. In addition, G-107 will be giving away radios and other prizes. Sunday afternoon's game with West Virginia is "Youth Appreciation Day", and any youth group of ten or more can call the Lady Topper basketball office at 502-745-2133 for free tickets.

Looking ahead on the schedule, the Lady Toppers will take off a week for exams (Dec. 14-18), getting back to action against nationally-ranked Southern Illinois Saturday, Dec. 19 in Carbondale, Illinois.

-- 30 --
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7-0 LADY TOPPERS VISIT NATIONALLY-RANKED SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SATURDAY

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Western Kentucky University's Lady Topper basketball team will put its 7-0 record on the line Saturday, Dec. 19 at 7:30 p.m. (CST) against nationally-ranked Southern Illinois. In last week's Associated Press poll, Southern Illinois was ranked 13th and the Lady Toppers held the 11th spot.

The Salukis have struggled in recent games, and are 2-3 heading into a Monday, Dec. 14 home contest with Tennessee Tech. Southern Illinois has lost its last two games by a combined total of five points, falling to Illinois, 61-58 and Indiana, 50-48. Mary Berghuis, a 6-2 senior center, leads the Salukis with 11.6 points and 8.6 rebounds per game.

The Lady Toppers rolled up three victories last week, improving its record to 7-0. WKU beat Middle Tennessee 83-51, Kentucky 80-56 and West Virginia 88-60. The win over Kentucky gave Western its best start ever, eclipsing the 5-0 start in the 1983-84 season.

"We had three big victories and we'll take off a few days for exams (Dec. 14-18) and then get ready for Southern Illinois," Lady Topper Head Coach Paul Sanderford said. "They have an excellent team and playing there is very tough. We have an intense rivalry with the Salukis."

Revenge could be a factor for Western against Southern Illinois. The Salukis were the only team that defeated the Lady Toppers in Diddle Arena last year, handing WKU a bitter 64-63 loss. The Salukis finished the 1986-87 campaign with a sparkling 28-3 record.

WKU freshman Terri Mann currently leads the team in both scoring (14.9 ppg) and rebounding (10.3 rpg). Mann, a 6-2 forward, has been in double figures in both points and rebounds in five games this year.

Lady Topper junior Brigette Combs has made a smooth transition from forward to guard this season, and is averaging 11.2 points and 4.5 rebounds per game. Combs, the 1985 "Miss Kentucky Basketball" from Whitesburg, is shooting 55 percent from the field and 88 percent from the free throw line. She also has 18 steals and 16 assists.

--- OVER ---

Athletics-Basketball, Women
The Lady Toppers have used a balanced attack this season, and 10 different WKU players have scored in double figures at least once. Western is outscoring its opponents by 21.7 points per game and outrebounding its opponents by 16.7 grabs per contest.

Coming up for Western, the Lady Toppers have some time off for the holidays before resuming action December 29-30 at the Very Reverend Joseph T. Cahill, C.M. Invitational at St. John's University in Jamaica, New York.
Western Kentucky University
Office of Public Information • Bowling Green, KY 42101 • (502) 745-4295

WKU'S DEBBIE O'CONNELL GETS THE JOB DONE

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Western Kentucky University's Debbie O'Connell does something special for the Lady Topper basketball team -- she gets the job done!

"Debbie has taken on a leadership role for us this year," Lady Topper Head Coach Paul Sanderford said. "She's making the right decisions and getting the ball to the people who need it. We've given her a job and she's getting it done."

O'Connell, a 5-6 junior point guard from Ridgewood, N.J., has helped the Lady Toppers to a 7-1 start this season. She leads both the team and the Sun Belt Conference in assists with a 5.1 per game average, including a career-high nine assists in WKU's first win of the season (86-56) over Evansville.

WKU's next action of the season is in the Reverend Joseph T. Cahill Invitational December 29-30 at St. John's University, just a short drive from O'Connell's hometown. In fact, it's such a short drive that Debbie's mother is planning a bus trip to the game, giving Debbie's hometown fans a chance to see her play.

"My entire family is really supportive," O'Connell said. "I'm really excited about playing so close to home."

O'Connell's leadership position this year comes after a two-year apprenticeship under former WKU All-American Clemette Haskins, an experience O'Connell treasures.

"Just being on the team with someone of Clemette's ability was a great opportunity," O'Connell said. "She taught me a lot in two years."

O'Connell didn't spend all of her time just watching Haskins. In fact, "OC" has played in all but two contests in her three seasons at WKU, missing those games last year due to a broken finger. Despite playing several games with a metal pin in her finger, O'Connell went on to have a fine sophomore season. She started 15 contests, averaging 5.1 points and three assists per game.

O'Connell came to Western after a stellar career at Ridgewood High School, where she earned All-America honors as a senior under Coach Richard Bennett. She was Ridgewood's first female basketball player to score 1,000 points and finished her career as the school's all-time leading scorer, male or female.

-- OVER --
She signed early with WKU and was thrilled later that year when the Lady Toppers made their first-ever Final Four appearance. She had an even bigger thrill just a year later when she played on WKU's second Final Four team as a freshman.

O'Connell is also an excellent student and has done well in the classroom at Western. She is looking beyond her playing days.

"I definitely want to graduate with at least a 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale)," O'Connell said. "I know that academics are important to my future. I might go on to be a graduate assistant coach and see if I want to get into coaching as a career."

Whatever O'Connell decides to do, her employer can be assured of one thing. She'll get the job done.

-- 30 --
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7-1 LADY TOPPERS BREAK FOR HOLIDAYS; THEN HEAD TO NEW YORK

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Western Kentucky University's Lady Topper basketball team will take several days off for the holidays, resuming action Dec. 29-30 at the Very Reverend Joseph T. Cahill, C.M. Invitational at St. John's University in Jamaica, N.Y.

WKU will square off against Oregon Tuesday, Dec. 29, at 7:00 p.m. (CST), in the second game of the opening round. Cheyney State plays host St. John's in the opening game at 5:00 p.m. The consolation and championship games are set for Wednesday, Dec. 30, at 12:00 and 2:00 p.m., respectively.

WKU's first loss of the season came Saturday, Dec. 19 at Southern Illinois. Lady Topper freshman forward Terri Mann, who entered the game with team-leading figures in both scoring (14.9 ppg) and rebounding (10.3 rpg), twisted her knee early in the first half and played just nine minutes. The Lady Toppers still managed to come back from a 29-10 deficit to take its first lead of the game at 38-37 early in the second half. But, the Salukis got hot in the second half, shooting 70 percent from the field in the final 20 minutes en route to a 76-58 victory.

"It was a tough loss, but Southern Illinois is an excellent team," Lady Topper Head Coach Paul Sanderford said. "Hopefully, Terri will be able to come right back and the team can regroup and get ready for the trip east. We have the whole season still ahead of us."

WKU sophomore forward Tandreia Green gave the Lady Toppers a solid effort against the Salukis, pouring in 20 points and grabbing five rebounds in 35 minutes of work. She is now tied with Mann as the team's leading scorer at 13.8 points per outing.

Following the Cahill Invitational, the Lady Toppers will travel to Penn State for a Sunday, Jan. 3, contest. The Lady Toppers will finally be back at home Thursday, Jan. 7, against Memphis State.

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Athletics-Basketball, Women
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 6, 1988

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

By: Paul Looney
Graduate Assistant

CONTACT: Paul Just, SID

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

9-2 LADY TOPPERS TO PLAY FOUR GAMES IN EIGHT DAYS

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Western Kentucky University's Lady Toppers will play four games in eight days, opening that busy stretch with a Thursday (Jan. 7) home contest with Memphis State at 7:30 p.m. (CST). WKU then travels to Ohio University Saturday, Jan. 9, for a 6:00 p.m. game. Western returns to Diddle Arena Tuesday, Jan. 12, at 7:00 p.m., for its Sun Belt Conference opener against Old Dominion and then heads to Alabama at Birmingham Thursday, Jan. 14, for a 7:00 p.m. matchup with the Lady Blazers.

Following that contest, the Lady Toppers finally get a well-earned break, returning to action a week later at Tennessee Tech (Jan. 21).

The Toppers are 9-2 heading into the Memphis State game, and are currently ranked 14th in the nation by the Associated Press and they are number 18 in the USA Today poll. WKU is coming off a four-game road trip which produced a 2-2 record. Both victories came at the Reverend Cahill Invitational (Dec. 29-30) at St. John's University in New York, where Western captured its third tournament championship of the season. The victories at the Cahill Invitational were sandwiched by losses at Southern Illinois and Penn State.

"I was proud of our performance in New York," Lady Topper Head Coach Paul Sanderford said. "We played good, hard basketball. Our losses to Southern Illinois and Penn State were tough, but we're a young team that is still learning. These rough games on the road will get us ready for later in the year. We need to play consistent basketball every day to reach our potential."

Lady Topper freshman Terri Mann might see action in the Memphis State game for the first time since she injured her knee at Southern Illinois (Dec. 19). Mann, a 6-2 forward, leads the team in both scoring (13.8 ppg) and rebounding (9.1 rpg).

With Mann out of the lineup, Lady Topper Brigette Combs switched from her new guard position back to the small forward position she played last year and never missed a beat. In the last three games, the 5-10 junior piled up 49 points, 27 rebounds, eight assists and six steals. She earned the MVP award at the Cahill Invitational as well as Sun Belt Conference Player-of-the-Week honors for her efforts.

Western's Sun Belt Conference season-opener (Jan. 12) against Old Dominion has been switched from 7:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to accommodate television in Norfolk. It is also "Minit Mart Night," and area Minit Marts are providing tickets to interested fans.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 19, 1988  
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL  
By: Paul Looney  
Graduate Assistant  
CONTACT: Paul Just, SID

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

RESTED LADY TOPPERS READY TO START SECOND HALF OF THE SEASON

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Western Kentucky University's Lady Toppers have used a much needed week off to regroup and get ready for the second half of the season.

WKU will take its 12-3 record to Tennessee Tech Thursday, Jan. 21, for a 7:30 p.m. (CST) contest. The Lady Toppers then return to Diddle Arena Sunday, Jan. 24, at 2:30 p.m. to battle Sun Belt Conference foe South Florida.

"We've used this week off to get back to basics," Lady Topper Head Coach Paul Sanderford said. "We've got to be fundamentally sound down the stretch to be successful."

The Lady Toppers are ranked number 17 in the nation this week by both the Associated Press and USA Today. WKU dropped two spots after splitting a pair of Sun Belt Conference games last week. Western dropped its conference opener to Old Dominion, 77-69, snapping an 18-game winning streak at home. The Lady Toppers came back and beat Alabama at Birmingham two days later in Birmingham, 78-62.

Tennessee Tech is off to a slow start this season, sporting a 6-8 record. The Golden Eagles finished last year with a sparkling 24-7 mark, advancing to the second round of the NCAA tournament. Tech leads the series against WKU 11-7, but the Lady Toppers have won the last five games.

Western owns a perfect 6-0 series record against South Florida. Sunday's game with USF is "High School Appreciation Day," and any high school group of 10 or more can get free tickets by contacting the Lady Topper basketball office at 502-745-2133.

Following the South Florida contest, WKU hits the road for three games against Morehead State (Jan. 27), South Alabama (Jan. 30) and Eastern Kentucky (Feb. 4).

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WENDY'S AND G107 OFFER "SUPER DEAL" ON TEXAS GAME

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Bowling Green's Wendy's Restaurants and WBLG-FM (G107) have announced plans to offer a "Super Deal" on the Lady Topper-Texas game Saturday, Feb. 20, at 7:30 p.m. (CST) at Diddle Arena. All $3.00 General Admission tickets to that contest will be sold exclusively at the three area Wendy's for a special low price of only $1. Tickets to this battle of national powers go on sale at Wendy's Feb. 1.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 25, 1988

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

By: Paul Looney
Graduate Assistant

CONTACT: Paul Just, SID

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

LADY TOPPERS VISIT MOREHEAD STATE; SOUTH ALABAMA THIS WEEK

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Western Kentucky University's Lady Toppers hit the road this week for games at Morehead State (Wednesday, Jan. 27, 6:30 p.m. CST) and South Alabama (Saturday, Jan. 30, 7:30 p.m.). WKU is currently 13-4 overall and 2-1 in the Sun Belt Conference.

The Lady Eagles of Morehead State were 9-4 overall and 3-2 in the Ohio Valley Conference heading into a Monday (Jan. 25) home contest with Tennessee State. MSU is led by guards Kelly Downs (15.8 ppg) and Sophia Renfro (13.6 ppg). The sharp shooting duo had five three-pointers each in a 77-73 victory over Youngstown State last Saturday night. WKU leads the series with MSU 14-10 after winning the last eight meetings.

South Alabama is 9-5 overall and 1-0, in the Sun Belt heading into a Wednesday (Jan. 27) home game with Tulane. All-America candidate Adrian Vickers leads the Lady Jaguars in both scoring (19.5 ppg) and rebounding (12.2 rpg). WKU leads that series 6-2.

The Lady Toppers were ranked number 17 in last week's Associated Press and USA Today polls, but could slip out of the Top 20 after splitting a pair of games. WKU was upset by Tennessee Tech 67-58, shooting a mere 27.1 percent from the floor. The Lady Toppers came back strong three days later against South Florida, registering a 79-44 victory. Brigette Combs had career highs of 22 points and six steals in the USF game and Susie Starks had all 19 of her points in the first half of that contest.

Looking ahead on the schedule, the Lady Toppers remain on the road for a Feb. 4 game with Eastern Kentucky. WKU returns to Diddle Arena Feb. 6, taking on Dayton at 5:15 p.m. in the first half of a doubleheader with WKU's Hilltoppers, who battle South Florida in the nightcap.

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Athletics-Basketball, Women
LADY TOPPERS TO PLAY EASTERN KENTUCKY AND DAYTON; MANN OUT FOR THE SEASON

Bowling Green, Ky. — Western Kentucky University’s Lady Toppers travel to Eastern Kentucky Thursday, Feb. 4, for a 6:30 p.m. (CST) game with the Lady Colonels. WKU will then host Dayton Saturday, Feb. 6, at 5:15 p.m. in the first game of a doubleheader with WKU’s men’s team. The Hilltoppers will take on Sun Belt rival South Florida in the nightcap.

The Lady Toppers will play the remainder of the season without freshman Terri Mann, who is out with a knee injury. Mann, a 6-2 forward, originally injured her knee Dec. 19 at Southern Illinois. She tried to rehabilitate the knee without surgery and played in four games, posting 21 points in 16 minutes in her first game back. The knee didn’t return to 100 percent, and Mann underwent arthroscopic surgery Monday, Feb. 1. A torn anterior cruciate ligament was found and the freshman will undergo reconstructive surgery. It’s hoped Mann will return to basketball early next fall.

Western was 7-0 heading into the Southern Illinois game in which Mann was hurt. The Lady Toppers are now 14-5 overall and 2-2 in the Sun Belt Conference. Mann averaged 12.8 points and 8.3 rebounds in 12 games. WKU slipped out of the Top 20 this week for the first time this season, and is currently No. 21 in the Associated Press and No. 23 in USA Today.

Eastern Kentucky has struggled to a 5-14 overall record and is 4-4 in the Ohio Valley Conference. The Lady Colonels are led by junior center Cathy Snipes (19.1 ppg, 8.7 rpg) and senior forward Carla Coffey (18.2 ppg, 9.1 rpg). WKU leads the series with EKU, 21-7, including wins in the last five meetings.

Dayton was 9-8 heading into a Wednesday, Feb. 3, contest with Miami of Ohio. WKU has a 6-1 series advantage over the Lady Flyers, including three straight victories.

Ahead on the schedule, WKU travels to Illinois State February 9. The Lady Toppers then open a three-game homestand beginning with Sun Belt rival Virginia Commonwealth February 13.

-- 30 --
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 11, 1988
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
By: Paul Looney
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Western Kentucky University
Office of Public Information • Bowling Green, KY 42101 • (502) 745-4295

17-5 LADY TOPPERS TO HOST VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH; VANDERBILT

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Western Kentucky University's Lady Toppers have two big games at Diddle Arena in the next several days.

WKU will tip off with Sun Belt rival Virginia Commonwealth Saturday, Feb. 13, at 7:30 p.m. (CST). After just one day's rest, the Lady Toppers will then square off with regional rival Vanderbilt Monday, Feb. 15, also at 7:30 p.m.

Both opponents seemed to have Western's number last season. VCU beat Western 81-73 last year in overtime at Richmond, and the Lady Toppers are hoping to return the favor. The "revenge" theme will be featured in 500 t-shirts which will be given away to the first 500 WKU students at the game. In addition to the t-shirt giveaway sponsored by RC Cola, there will be a halftime "Dash-for-Cash" sponsored by Bowling Green Bank.

VCU is currently 11-8 overall and 1-1 in the SBC. The Lady Rams are led by Kelly Hoover (15.4 ppg, 4.3 rpg) and Lisa Stiepler (11.2 ppg, 5.7 rpg). Last year's victory by VCU was its first in five contests against WKU.

The Lady Toppers will also look to avenge last season's loss to Vanderbilt. The Lady Commodores beat WKU twice last year -- an 81-66 decision in the Rainbow Wahine Classic in Honolulu and a 78-75 win in Nashville. The Lady Commodores are 15-6 this season heading into a Saturday, Feb. 13, game at Belmont. Vandy is led by Deborah Denton (15.1 ppg, 3.3 rpg) and Wendy Scholtens (14.4 ppg, 8.3 rpg). WKU trails Vanderbilt in the series, 8-6.

WKU is currently 17-5 overall and 2-2 in the SBC. The Lady Toppers have a three-game winning streak after recording impressive victories over Eastern Kentucky (103-64), Dayton (73-46) and Illinois State (83-64). Western is ranked 23rd in this week's USA Today Top 25.

"We're looking better every day," Lady Topper Head Coach Paul Sanderford said. "I've said all along that this is a young team that will improve. This is the time of year when that improvement and experience starts to pay off."

-- OVER --

Athletics-Basketball, Women
The Lady Toppers are led by Tandreia Green (13.9 ppg, 6.8 rpg). Green, a 6-0 sophomore forward from Washington, D.C., had the best game of her career Tuesday (Feb. 9) at Illinois State, pouring in a career-high 30 points to go along with 10 rebounds and six blocked shots (matching career-highs in both of those departments, as well).

WKU center Traci Patton has also been impressive lately for the Lady Toppers, and is coming off a career-high 20 points in the Illinois State game. Patton, Western's only senior, is averaging 9.1 points and 6.7 rebounds per game. She is shooting a sparkling .567 from the floor.

Looking ahead on the schedule, Western will have several days off following the Vandy game to prepare for Texas, which will visit Diddle Arena Saturday, Feb. 20, at 7:30 p.m. The Lady Longhorns are ranked fifth in the nation by both the Associated Press and USA Today. General admission tickets, which are usually $3, will be sold at area Wendy's restaurants for a special low price of $1. As usual, WKU students with a valid ID will be admitted free.

-- 30 --
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 16, 1988

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

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19-5 LADY TOPPERS TO HOST 4th-RANKED TEXAS SATURDAY NIGHT AT DIDDLE ARENA

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Western Kentucky University's Lady Toppers will host Texas Saturday, Feb. 20, at 7:30 p.m. (CST) at E.A. Diddle Arena. Area Wendy's Restaurants and WBLC-FM are offering a "Super Deal" on this game, selling all $3 general admission tickets at Wendy's for a special low price of just $1. No additional purchase is necessary. WKU students with a valid ID will be admitted free as usual.

Texas was 22-2 overall and 11-0 in the Southwest Conference heading into a Tuesday, Feb. 16 contest with Texas Tech. The Lady Longhorns are ranked fourth in the nation this week by both the Associated Press and USA Today. UT is led by Yulonda Wimbish (15.7 ppg, 4.3 rpg) and Beverly Williams (14.8 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 5.0 assists per game).

The Lady Toppers will try to even the short but dramatic series with the Lady Longhorns at two games apiece. WKU won the inaugural game with Texas 92-90 on Lillie Mason's "shot heard round the world", sending the Lady Toppers to their first-ever Final Four appearance in 1985. Western made a return trip to the Final Four in 1986, and a revenge-minded Lady Longhorn team whipped the Lady Topper team, 90-65. Texas went one-up on WKU last year in Austin, dropping Western 63-41.

WKU is currently 19-5 overall and 3-2 in the Sun Belt Conference. The Lady Toppers are riding a five-game winning streak, including an impressive 89-64 win Monday night (Feb. 15) over Vanderbilt. Lady Topper Traci Patton had a career-high 29 points in that game, playing against her hometown neighbors from Nashville. Patton, Western's only senior, is averaging 10 points and seven rebounds per game. She is shooting 58 percent from the field.

Western's leading scorer is sophomore Tandreia Green. She is averaging 14.3 points and seven rebounds per game. Green was named Sun Belt Conference Player-of-the-Week for her performance in two games last week in which she scored 51 points, grabbed 18 rebounds and blocked six shots. In Western's 83-64 win at Illinois State, Green scored a career-high 30 points. She also matched career-high in rebounds (10) and blocked shots (6) in that contest.

Looking ahead on the schedule, the Lady Toppers will have several days off following the Texas game before heading to the Northern Lights Invitational in Anchorage, Alaska, Feb. 26-28.

Athletics-Basketball,Women
WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY
Office of Public Information • Bowling Green, KY 42101 • (502) 745-4295

KELLY SMITH MAKING THE GRADE AT WESTERN KENTUCKY

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Kelly Smith arrived at Western Kentucky University with a reputation as someone who could make the grade on and off the court. Smith, a 5-9 guard from London, Ky., led her Laurel County Lady Cardinals to the 1987 Kentucky State Championship. She also earned the "Sweet 16" academic scholarship, given to the participant with the highest grade point average.

It hasn't taken long for Smith to solidify her reputation as a student-athlete at Western. In her first semester of classwork, she earned a 3.8 (on a 4.0 scale). On the court, Smith is averaging 3.3 points, 2.4 rebounds and 4.3 assists per game. She has started the last 10 games for the 19-5 Lady Toppers, taking over the top point guard spot from her roommate, junior Debbie O'Connell. The situation hasn't created any trouble for the two players, who have been nicknamed "Bookends" by the coaching staff.

"Debbie and I are best friends," Smith said. "We leave the competition on the court." Smith is surprised to be starting as a freshman, and said the Western system is much different from Laurel County High School.

"The style of play at Western is much faster," Smith said. "We also play a lot of man-to-man defense now and in high school, we played mostly zone."

One person who isn't surprised by Smith's progress is Lady Topper Head Coach Paul Sanderford. "Kelly has picked up our system very quickly and improves each game. She is definitely a coach's player."

Although Smith has been successful, she sees room for improvement in her game.

"I definitely need to work on shooting. In my position, I've got to hit the outside shot and keep the defense honest."

Smith is coming off her best all-around game of the season, an 89-64 win over arch-rival Vanderbilt. She scored eight points, grabbed six rebounds and dished out nine assists in 37 minutes of work.

The win over Vanderbilt should be a good tune-up for WKU's Saturday, Feb. 20 contest with 4th-ranked Texas. The Lady Toppers and the Lady Longhorns will tip off at Western's E.A. Diddle Arena at 7:30 p.m. (CST), and Smith is ready.

-- MORE --

Sports
from Red Towel Territory
"I never dreamed of playing against Texas," Smith said. "I've watched them on television and they are awesome. I'll be nervous at first, but I look forward to the challenge."

Smith can be sure that she'll have family support at the Texas game. Her parents have only missed one game in her entire career, and her brother, Scott, is also a big fan. In fact, Smith credits Scott for helping her to develop as a player.

"We used to play some intense games of one-on-one in the Smith backyard," Kelly said. "The rule was 'no blood, no foul.'"

Smith has set some lofty goals for herself and the team at Western including an eventual national championship. She also has a special goal for after her playing days.

"Yes, I can see myself coaching Laurel County High School to the state championship, maybe in 1999. That would be nice."
19-6 LADY TOPPERS SEEK FOURTH TITLE OF SEASON AT NORTHERN LIGHTS INVITATIONAL

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Western Kentucky University's Lady Toppers will try to win their fourth tournament championship of the season in the Northern Lights Invitational at the University of Alaska-Anchorage Feb. 26-28.

WKU has already won its own Bowling Green Bank Invitational, the Lady Ute Classic at Utah and the Reverend Cahill Invitational at St. John's in New York. The Lady Toppers will be making their second appearance in the Northern Lights Invitational, trying to improve on their third place finish in the 1986 tournament.

The Lady Toppers will meet Fordham in the first round of the tournament, Friday, Feb. 26, at 11:00 p.m. (CST). Other first round games include Arkansas State vs. U.S. International, Nevada-Las Vegas vs. Baylor and South Carolina vs. Alaska-Anchorage.

Fordham is 5-17 overall and is led by 5-5 junior guard Jeanine Radice, who is averaging 25.7 points per game. Radice was the eighth leading scorer in the nation in the latest statistics released by the NCAA. The Lady Rams and the Lady Toppers will be meeting for the first time.

Western is 19-6 overall and 3-2 in the Sun Belt Conference. The Lady Toppers are coming off a 71-52 loss Saturday night at Diddle Arena to fourth-ranked Texas. WKU trailed 24-19 at the half and kept the game close most of the second half before UT outscored WKU 10-2 down the stretch. The loss to Texas snapped a five-game winning streak and marked the first time in Coach Paul Sanderford's six years at WKU that one of his teams has lost more than one home game in a season.

Lady Topper center Traci Patton continued her streak of excellent play against Texas, pouring in 15 points and grabbing 10 rebounds despite playing on a sprained ankle she suffered in shooting practice before the game. Patton, Western's only senior, is averaging 17 points per game in the last seven contests. She has been in double figures in both points and rebounds in three of those games.

The Lady Toppers play their final home game of the season Thursday, Mar. 3, against Murray State. WKU will then travel to UNC Charlotte as a tune-up for the Sun Belt Conference Tournament (Mar. 10-12) in Tampa, Fla.
21-7 LADY TOPPERS GETTING READY FOR SUN BELT CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Western Kentucky University's Lady Toppers have just two regular season games to play before heading to Tampa, Fla., Mar. 10-12 for the Sun Belt Conference Tournament.

WKU is 21-7 heading into a Thursday (Mar. 3, 7:30 p.m. CST) home contest with Murray State. The Lady Toppers then wrap up the regular season with a Sun Belt Conference game at UNC Charlotte Saturday, Mar. 5, (1:30 p.m. CST).

Lady Topper Head Coach Paul Sanderford looks forward to the stretch drive. "We want to continue to play well down the stretch and make the NCAA tournament," Sanderford said. "We control our own destiny."

WKU's 3-2 Sun Belt conference record includes wins over Alabama at Birmingham, South Florida and Virginia Commonwealth. The Lady Toppers lost to Old Dominion and South Alabama, who meet this weekend in Norfolk for the regular season title and the number one seed in the tournament.

The Lady Toppers are coming off a third place finish at the Northern Lights Invitational in Anchorage, Alas., this past weekend. WKU beat Fordham 90-64, lost to South Carolina 65-64 and beat Arkansas 60-55 to place third. Sophomore Tandreia Green and junior Brigette Combs were named to the All-Tournament team.

WKU's win in the first round over Fordham gave Western its sixth straight 20-win season, all under the direction of Sanderford. The Lady Toppers are now trying to earn their fourth straight NCAA tournament appearance.

Thursday's game with rival Murray State will feature WKU senior Traci Patton in the final home game of her career. Autographed pictures of Patton will be given away to the first 1,000 fans. In addition, there will be a drawing in which one lucky fan will win a trip for two to the Sun Belt Conference Tournament. The package includes round-trip airfare (courtesy of American Airlines), hotel accommodations at Embassy Suites and tickets to the tournament.

Those not lucky enough to win a trip to the SBC Tournament can still attend the event with the help of Southern Kentucky Bus Lines, which is offering a trip to the tournament for $150 per person.
The package includes round-trip bus transportation, hotel accommodations at the Holiday Inn-Busch Gardens (based on double occupancy) and tickets to the tournament. For more information, contact either Southern Kentucky Bus Lines or the WKU Athletics Office.
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26-7 LADY TOPPERS EARN FOURTH STRAIGHT NCAA BID; TO FACE GEORGIA SATURDAY IN ATHENS

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Western Kentucky University’s Lady Toppers have received their fourth straight bid (to the NCAA national championship tournament) and will face Georgia in a second round game in the Mideast region Saturday, March 19, at 6:30 p.m. (CST) on the Lady Bulldogs’ home floor in Athens.

"We’re thrilled to be in the tournament again this year," Lady Topper Head Coach Paul Sanderford said. "Playing Georgia on its home court will definitely be tough, but we look forward to the challenge."

Georgia enters the tournament with a 20-9 overall record and a 5-4 mark in the Southeastern Conference. The Lady Bulldogs lost to eventual champion Tennessee 82-76 in the semi-finals of the Southeastern Conference Tournament. Georgia is led by 6-4 freshman forward Tammye Jenkins (15.9 ppg, 8.9 rpg) and 6-3 sophomore center Sherelle Warren (13.8 ppg, 6.0 rpg).

Western trails Georgia 2-1 in a short but intense series between the two teams. The Lady Toppers nipped Georgia in Diddle Arena 72-67 in overtime back on Dec. 12, 1984, in the inaugural meeting. The Lady Bulldogs got revenge in the Final Four that same season, handing WKU a 91-78 loss (March 29) in an NCAA semi-final game in Austin, Texas. Western then traveled to Georgia Feb. 10, 1986 and got whipped by a 93-61 count.

Western earned an automatic bid to the tournament by winning the Sun Belt Conference Tournament this past weekend in Tampa. The Lady Toppers beat host South Florida in the first round (75-47), cruising to victory in the second half after going to the locker room tied at 26 at intermission. WKU then beat South Alabama 72-59 in the semi-finals, avenging a loss earlier this season in Mobile. The final matched WKU with regular season champion Old Dominion, who had handed the Lady Toppers a rare home loss back in January. Western dropped the Lady Monarchs 74-69 to capture its second Sun Belt Conference Tournament Championship.

"Everything came together for us in Tampa," Sanderford said. "It was a fantastic team effort. I thought we had great contributions from everyone, especially the bench."

-- OVER --

Athletics-Basketball,Women
A change in Western's lineup put two Lady Toppers in unfamiliar roles and both players came up with stellar performances in the tournament. Susie Starks, a junior guard who had started most of the season, came off the bench to score 49 points en route to winning tourney MVP honors. Mary Taylor, a freshman forward who had started just two games prior to the tournament, started all three games and scored 37 points on her way to a berth on the All-Tournament team.

Southern Kentucky Bus Lines is sponsoring a trip to the Lady Topper-Georgia game. Round-trip bus transportation is just $25. The bus will leave Diddle Arena at 9:00 a.m. Saturday and will return to Bowling Green immediately following the game. For further information, contact Southern Kentucky Bus Lines at 781-0020.

All Lady Topper-Georgia tickets are general admission and must be purchased in Athens. Grade school, high school and college students (with valid ID) can buy special $2 student tickets. All other tickets are $5.

There will be a WKU Alumni Reception Saturday at the Ramada Inn in Athens from 3:30-5:30 p.m. (CST), giving Western alumni and fans a chance to gather in advance of the game.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 30, 1988
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
By: Paul Looney
Graduate Assistant
CONTACT: Paul Just, SID

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

LADY TOPPER BASKETBALL CAMP DATES SET

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Western Kentucky Lady Topper Head Coach Paul Sanderford has announced the dates for his annual girls basketball camps, to be held on the WKU campus this summer.

Sanderford and his staff will conduct an individual camp for girls from age 10 to those entering their senior year in high school from June 19-23. The popular varsity team camp will be held from June 26-30.

"We're proud of the growth and strength of our camps," Sanderford said. "We feel that our overall Lady Topper basketball program is one of the best in the country and our camps are an important part of that success."

Illustrating that point, nine current Lady Toppers attended the camps as high school students. In addition, six of this year's Sweet 16 teams attended last year's varsity camp, including state champion Louisville Southern.

The cost (per person) for attending the camps is just $195 for the individual camp ($150 for day campers) and $150 for the varsity team camp. And, special discounts apply for early registration.

For more information, contact the Lady Topper Basketball Office, E.A. Diddle Arena, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Ky. 42101 (telephone: 502-745-2133)

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WESTERN KENTUCKY SIGNS NEW YORK CITY PREP STAR TRINA WILSON

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Western Kentucky University Head Coach Paul Sanderford inked his first signee of the spring signing period today -- 6-5 center Trina Wilson of August Martin High School in New York City.

Wilson averaged 15 points, 15 rebounds and five blocked shots per game in leading her team to the 1988 New York championship in Class A (the state's largest schools).

A three-year starter, she helped lead her team to 77 wins against only five setbacks -- 25-2 her sophomore year, 26-1 in the '86-'87 campaign and 26-2 last winter. And, one of those two '87-'88 defeats came at the hands of Louisville Southern, the reigning Kentucky state champion.

"Trina Wilson could be a key piece in the puzzle for us," Sanderford said. "Not only is she 6-5, but she is a tremendous athlete with exceptional potential. If she continues to develop, she could become a dominant force in women's basketball."

She was named All-City by both the New York Daily News and Newsday this year. Her past honors include being named MVP of the prestigious B/C Basketball Camp as well as making the All-Star teams at both the Blue Star and Cathy Rush basketball camps.

"I'm very excited about coming to Western," Wilson said. "I think it will be great to be part of such a strong program."

Wilson's co-coaches at August Martin are Joel Ascher and Don Andlesman.

"Trina has only been playing basketball for three years," Andlesman said. "She is still developing and has the potential to be one of the top players in the nation. Her defensive skills are already strong, but she'll need to work on her offense. I think Western is an ideal place for Trina to play ball and get her degree."

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Athletics-Basketball, Women
Bowling Green, Ky. -- Western Kentucky University Lady Topper Head Coach Paul Sanderford announced his second signee of the spring signing period today, with the inking of 5-7 guard Kim Pehlke from Louisville Doss High School.

Pehlke is the second straight Kentucky "Miss Basketball" to sign with the Lady Toppers and the fifth "Miss Basketball" in the last eight years to ink with WKU.

"I feel Kim Pehkle is the best player to come out of Kentucky since Clemette Haskins," Sanderford said. "She will be an impact player immediately at Western. The thing that makes Kim special is that she is a total player. She can score, pass and handle the ball with the best of them."

A four-year starter, Pehlke scored a school-record 2,073 career points and grabbed 833 career rebounds in leading her Lady Dragons to an 86-29 record. As a senior, she averaged 26.2 points, 10.4 rebounds, 7.5 assists and 3.9 steals per game in pacing Doss to a 20-8 mark.

She averaged 16.5 points, 7.3 rebounds and 4.3 assists her junior year as Doss rolled to an impressive 33-3 record, losing in the championship game of the state tournament by just two points to Laurel County High. Pehlke made the "Sweet 16" All-Tourney squad.

"Kim is a class person and a class athlete," Louisville Doss Coach Terri Keown said. "I'm really going to miss her. She's talented, but she has also worked hard to become a tremendous player. She'll definitely help Western at the guard spot. And, it will be nice for her to compliment the quality inside people they already have."

In addition to being named "Miss Basketball" this year, Pehlke was named State Player-of-the-Year by USA Today and Gatorade. She also earned second team All-America honors from Parade Magazine. She was named first team All-State by both the Lexington Herald Leader and The Courier-Journal and second team All-State by the Associated Press. She was All-Region the past three years and All-District all four years in high school.
Pehlke joins Trina Wilson on the list of WKU spring signees. Wilson, a 6-5 center from August Martin High School in New York City, signed with the Lady Toppers April 13.

-- 30 --
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KENTUCKY ALL-STATER JENNIFER BERRYMAN SIGNS BASKETBALL LETTER WITH WESTERN KENTUCKY

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Jennifer Berryman, an All-Stat er from George Rogers Clark High School in Winchester, Ky., has signed to play her college basketball at Western Kentucky University.

The 6-1 frontliner led her Lady Cards to a sparkling 28-4 record and an appearance in the state tournament this past season, averaging 17.5 points and 9.3 rebounds per game.

"Offensively, Jennifer is already a big-time player," said Lady Topper Head Coach Paul Sanderford, who has guided his charges to a 153-45 record in his six years at the WKU helm. "She is an outstanding shooter and she handles the ball extremely well for her size. And, Jennifer is an aggressive player who should fit nicely into our style of play. We're all very happy to have her with us on the Hill."

An outstanding shooter, Berryman connected on 56.1% from the floor and 68.9% of her free throws last season. She also had 53 blocked shots and 46 steals.

A four-year starter at Clark High, she posted career-high performances of 34 points (versus Rowan County) and 16 rebounds (on several occasions) her senior year.

She was named first-team All-State by The Lexington Herald-Leader and she earned second-team honors on squads selected by The Courier-Journal and by the Associated Press. In addition, she gained berths on All-Tournament Teams at the state tournament, the Famous Recipe Tournament in Northern Kentucky and the Madison Central Christmas Tournament.

Berryman is one of a select few Kentucky prep standouts invited to try-out for a spot on the Kentucky All-Star team that will face its Indiana counterparts in that annual interstate rivalry this summer. Those tryouts are scheduled for this weekend.

"Jennifer loves to play the game and has a great basketball attitude," said Clark High Coach Lisa Goodin. "She has very good shooting range and is an agile athlete who should be able to make the transition to the college game easily. I expect that she will contribute as a freshman."

Berryman, who is interested in pursuing a course of study in Elementary Education at Western, is the daughter of Mr. Stephen Berryman of Winchester. She is the third outstanding prep prospect to ink with the Lady Toppers this spring. Kim Pehlke (5-7, Doss High School, Louisville, Ky.), Kentucky's 1987-88 "Miss Basketball" honoree, and Trina Wilson (6-5, August Martin High School, New York City) signed with WKU earlier this month.

Athletics-Basketball,Women
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 26, 1988
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
CONTACT: Paul Just, SID

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WESTERN KENTUCKY SELECTED TO HOST 1989 SUN BELT CONFERENCE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNEY

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Western Kentucky University has been named as the host of the 1989 Sun Belt Conference Women's Basketball Championship Tournament, set for Thursday-Saturday, March 9-11, 1989.

That decision was reached at the Sun Belt's annual spring meeting at Sawgrass Resort near Jacksonville, Fla., Wednesday (May 25).

For the first time in conference history, a bid process was used to select a site for the annual women's event. The only other school bidding to host the tourney was Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va.

The 1989 SBC tournament will be the second on the WKU campus. Western's 12,370-seat E.A. Diddle Arena was also the site of the 1986 tourney, which was won by the Lady Toppers, who went on to the NCAA Final Four en route to a sparkling 32-4 season.

Conference officials also selected UNC Charlotte as the host of the league's 1989 men's basketball tournament, which has been set for Saturday-Monday, Mar. 4-6 in the new 23,000-seat Charlotte Coliseum. Charlotte served as host to the first four Sun Belt men's tournaments (1977, '78, '79 and '80), but has not had the affair since 1980.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 17, 1988
WOMEN’S BASKETBALL
CONTACT: Paul Just, SID

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

LADY TOPPERS SET RIGOROUS SCHEDULE FOR '88-'89 CAGE SEASON

Bowling Green, Ky. -- With a schedule that boasts of seven games with teams that played in the NCAA Tournament last spring, the Western Kentucky University women’s basketball team has set the stage for a rugged test in its efforts to put on an encore performance of last season’s successful 26-8 campaign.

"We feel that our schedule will be ranked in the top ten in the nation," Lady Topper Head Coach Paul Sanderford said. "We only lost one player from a strong 1987-88 team, so we’re all very excited about the coming season."

Included on the playbill for 1988-89 are:

* The Bowling Green Bank Invitational Tournament -- The sixth annual BGBIT has once again attracted some of the top teams in the nation. This year’s field includes NCAA Tournament representatives Clemson (21-8) and Louisiana State (15-10), and Texas Tech (15-12), the runner-up to powerful Texas in the Southwest Conference Tournament last year. The tournament has been set for Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 26-27, in Western’s E.A. Diddle Arena.

* Texas -- The Lady Longhorns (32-3 last winter) and the Lady Toppers have been intense rivals ever since Western defeated Texas 92-90 on its way to the 1984-85 NCAA Final Four. But, since that contest, the Longhorns have dominated the series, defeating WKU three times, including a 90-64 decision in the 1985-86 NCAA Final Four. Last season, Texas advanced to the NCAA Mideast Regionals before bowing out to eventual NCAA champion Louisiana Tech. The Lady Toppers travel to Austin, Tex., for a Saturday, Jan. 21, date with the Lady Longhorns.

* Long Beach State -- It will not be an easy task for the Lady Toppers when they travel to California (Thursday, Dec. 29) to face perennial power Long Beach State (27-6). Last season, the 49ers made it to the NCAA Final Four.

* Tennessee -- The Lady Vols have been a force in women’s basketball for years and next season should be no exception. The women in orange boasted a 30-3 record last year, losing to eventual national champ Louisiana Tech in the Final Four. Tennessee visits Diddle Arena Friday, Feb. 24.

-- OVER --
**Kentucky** -- Although the Lady Kats did not make it to the NCAA Tournament last season, any contest between these two intrastate rivals is always an exciting shootout. Kentucky (14-15) will be out to avenge a 80-55 setback suffered at the hands of the Lady Toppers last winter in Bowling Green. It may be a lot tougher for Western when the Toppers face the Kats in Lexington (Tuesday, Jan. 24) this season.

* Middle Tennessee -- The Lady Raiders (22-8) have proved that there is more than one good women's basketball team in Tennessee. The Lady Toppers face MTSU in Diddle Arena Monday, Feb. 27. The Raiders won the Ohio Valley Conference title last year and earned a berth in the NCAA Tournament.

* Add the always rugged Sun Belt Conference lineup and heated regional matchups with traditional rivals like Murray State (21-7) and Vanderbilt (18-10), and all the ingredients are there for another outstanding Lady Topper basketball season.

The 1988-89 WKU slate features a total of 28 schools, including 18 that posted winning records last year. Two of those (Texas and Tennessee) racked up 30-victory campaigns while seven more -- Clemson, Illinois State (20-11), Long Beach State, Nevada-Las Vegas (25-9), Murray State, South Alabama (22-9) and Middle Tennessee -- each accounted for 20-or-more wins. In addition, four others -- LSU, Vanderbilt, Tennessee Tech (19-10) and Northeast Louisiana (19-10) -- narrowly missed that 20-win plateau.

Eighteen of the teams on the WKU schedule saw action against the Lady Toppers last year. Western won 16 of 21 contests (.762) with those schools in the '87-88 campaign.

With the schedule set, the 1988-89 season promises to be exciting for Lady Topper fans. Sanderford and his crew return four of five starters from last year's outfit. Add to that the return of a healthy Terri Mann, the nation's prep Player-of-the-Year for '86-87, who missed nearly two thirds of the season last winter with a knee injury, and another outstanding recruiting class, including Kim Pehlke, the fifth Kentucky "Miss Basketball" to sign with Western in the past eight years and things look bright for the Lady Toppers.

"We're still a relatively young team," Sanderford added. "But, we're excited about getting back to work and preparing ourselves to face the kind of challenge this schedule presents us with."

The 1988-89 season will be the 27th in the history of the women's game on the Hill. Through the years, Lady Topper teams have compiled a sparkling 315-182 record for a .634 winning percentage. In his six years at the Topper helm, Sanderford has garnered an impressive 153-45 (.773) record, winning 20-or-more games each year and earning post-season tournament berths the last five seasons in a row.

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