1993

UA19/5 Scrapbook

WKU Women's Basketball

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc ua_records

Part of the Sports Studies Commons

Recommended Citation
http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc ua_records/3483

This Other is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in WKU Archives Records by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact topscholar@wku.edu.
Lady Topper 1992-93

Western Kentucky vs. Southwestern Louisiana
Jan. 17, 1993

Tonight's Sponsor: Domino's Pizza

$1.00
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Time CST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 21</td>
<td>Hungarian National (exh.)</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Derby City (exh.)</td>
<td>2:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 4</td>
<td>at Minnesota</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>at Krystal-Holiday Classic, Cookeville, Tn.</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Florida A&amp;M</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Consolation/Championship</td>
<td>6:00/8:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>UCLA</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>at North Carolina State</td>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Boston University</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 1</td>
<td>SW Missouri State</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>at Lamar*</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>at South Alabama*</td>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>at Middle Tennessee State</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Southwestern Louisiana*</td>
<td>2:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>at Kentucky</td>
<td>6:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Texas Pan-American*</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>at New Orleans*</td>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 1</td>
<td>at Southwestern Louisiana*</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>at Vanderbilt</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>New Orleans*</td>
<td>2:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>at Texas Pan-American*</td>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>at Louisiana Tech*</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Louisville</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Lamar*</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Arkansas State</td>
<td>2:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>South Alabama*</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Louisiana Tech*</td>
<td>2:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 6</td>
<td>at Arkansas State*</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-13</td>
<td>at Sun Belt Championships</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lady Jags sacrificed for loyal fans

By ERIC WOELHLER 2/26/93
The Daily News

Lady Jags sacrificed for loyal fans

1,300-1,800 — the Lawsons, the
Houston Eidsons, the Yvonne Turners,
the Tom Taylors, the Dick and Mary
Masons — who are awfully hard to keep
away.

About once or twice a season, you
won't find Jim Williams in his seat in
Section 111. That's when he's on the
floor officiating — at odds with, not part
Continued On Page 4
Column 1, This Section
of the crowd.

Thursday, he was called into action when the Sun Belt refs didn’t show because of the weather.

“I’m just as hard on Western as I am on anyone,” Williams said. “You can’t have any favorites when you’re on the floor.”

Sitting in the stands, though, is another matter. During Western’s game against Lamar last Friday, Williams kept track of Lady Topper scoring in a program.

“I just wish the people would believe in them and fill this place again like we did for Old Dominion,” he said. “I work games all over, and I can tell you that you won’t see better basketball than right here at Western.”

Ellsworth Strickler has been coming to the games since his son, George, started dating Brenda Chapman when she was setting Lady Topper records in the late 1970s. A piece of him never leaves — two pieces, in fact.

People milled around the Diddle Arena trophy case Thursday, admiring the royal blue and beige stained-glass replica of the 1992 Final Four logo. Another, a collage of Western symbols, hangs in the Lady Topper locker room. Strickler crafted both at his shop near Russellville.

“You know,” Strickler said, “you can sit here and holler for them. But you never get a chance to really do anything for them.”

Until last year, and Strickler didn’t miss his chance. He’s beginning to think he might get another this spring.

“They’re coming around pretty good,” Strickler said. “The things I like about Sanderford is that he plays everybody. That’s what makes them a true team.”

Like Strickler, Joanne Verner has been watching the Lady Toppers since before Sanderford arrived in 1982 and put Western into the annual championship hunt.

Verner goes to the men’s games, too. She has many of the players, both men and women, in her recreation classes at Western. Last weekend was a busy one: four games — two women’s, two men’s — in four days.

“I said I was just going to move my bed into my office in Diddle Arena,” Verner joked.

For the Lady Topper game against Louisville last Tuesday, Verner was the faculty coach. There, she learned that what she had suspected for years is true.

“That the officials do a lousy job,” she said. “One of them, I didn’t think he even knew what the word ‘traveling’ meant.”

Western students do not embrace the team as warmly as anyone involved in the program would like. Adam Carrico, a senior from Louisville, is an exception.

With red towels draped from his belt and his face painted to match his all-red outfit, he’s a regular in the end zone. And on Thursday, he wore a pom-pom over his head that made him look like a red-headed third member of Milli Vanilli.

Carrico followed the Lady Toppers to the Final Four in Los Angeles last April. He only wishes more of his fellow students would follow him to Diddle.

“I wish I knew why” more don’t turn out, he said. “If I did, I’d try and remedy it. Nobody knows what to do.”

The women’s game has its own appeal, he said.

“For one thing, it’s a little slower than the men’s game,” Carrico said. “It’s easier to follow.”

Thursday’s crowd was smaller than usual for Lady Topper games. But when Shirley Fulkerson played, “we were lucky to get even 100 people.”

Fulkerson lettered for the team 1978-80; she has attended the games ever since. She said she is not jealous that recent Lady Topper teams have more fan support.

“Not at all,” Fulkerson said. “I’m proud. I feel like I’m part of the dynasty that started it.”

“What’s great is to see men coming to watch them play. It used to be that no men would come at all. Now they have respect for what we can do as athletes. We can’t dunk, but so what? There’s more than that to basketball.”

It wasn’t much of a game. Western was in control before the slush melted from the fans’ shoes.

In an 11-0 game-opening spurt, Western had two steals, blocked a South Alabama shot and hit four layups. The Lady Jaguars were never as close as 10 after the first five minutes of the game. It was Western’s fourth straight win.

“It’s almost March,” Sanderford said. “I’ve been promising this all year.”

Four Lady Toppers reached double-figure scoring, led by sophomore forward Veronica Cook at 16. Junior forward Debbie Houk notched a career-high 11 points.

“You can’t beat the Diddle Arena atmosphere,” Houk said. “You feel like you can do anything when you’re at home.”

The Lady Tops (18-6 overall, 11-1 in the league) will be for at least one more game, 2:30 p.m. Sunday against Louisiana Tech (21-3, 12-0) for the Sun Belt lead. South Alabama coach Butch Stockton entered his prediction.

“It’s a toss-up, but I’m going with the home team,” he said. “This crowd will make the difference.”

SOUTHERN ALABAMA (9-15)

Cowans 4-9 6-10, Denley 3-10 4-6, Gore 2-9 2-6, Maggs 2-8 2-2, Wilkins 1-3 1-2, White 3-10 1-2, Wright 1-2 1-2, Washington 1-3 0-0, Williams 2-2 1-2

WESTERN KENTUCKY (11-11)

Calvert 2-6 0-0, Corbin 1-6 2-2, Dillard 1-6 1-2, Fulkerson 1-1 0-0, Fulkerson 0-0 2-2, Marquardt 0-0 0-0, Murchison 1-2 0-0, Rodgers 0-0 0-0, Smith 2-2 0-0, Stockton 0-0 2-2, Strickler 2-5 0-0, Verner 0-0 0-0, Williams 0-0 2-2

WOMEN'S SUN BELT

Sun Belt Conference women's basketball standings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Overall</th>
<th>Conf.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Louisville</td>
<td>21-3</td>
<td>17-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida State</td>
<td>20-4</td>
<td>16-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>19-5</td>
<td>15-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>18-6</td>
<td>14-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi State</td>
<td>17-7</td>
<td>13-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>16-8</td>
<td>12-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>15-9</td>
<td>11-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Mississippi</td>
<td>14-10</td>
<td>10-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>13-11</td>
<td>9-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana Tech</td>
<td>12-12</td>
<td>8-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana State</td>
<td>11-13</td>
<td>7-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Kentucky</td>
<td>10-14</td>
<td>6-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Alabama</td>
<td>9-15</td>
<td>5-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alabama State</td>
<td>8-16</td>
<td>4-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas-Pan American</td>
<td>7-17</td>
<td>3-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana</td>
<td>6-18</td>
<td>2-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas-Pan American</td>
<td>5-19</td>
<td>1-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas State</td>
<td>4-20</td>
<td>0-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Alabama State</td>
<td>3-21</td>
<td>0-19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Continued from Page 1-8

appeal, he said.

“...For one thing, it’s a little slower than the men’s game,” Carrico said. “It’s easier to follow.”

Thursday’s crowd was smaller than usual for Lady Topper games. But when Shirley Fulkerson played, “we were lucky to get even 100 people.”

“I can remember sitting on the bench and being able to hear the popcorn poppers in the lobby, it was so quiet.”

Fulkerson lettered for the team 1978-80; she has attended the games ever since. She said she is not jealous that recent Lady Topper teams have more fan support.

“Not at all,” Fulkerson said. “I’m proud. I feel like I’m part of the dynasty that started it.”

“What’s great is to see men coming to watch them play. It used to be that no men would come at all. Now they have respect for what we can do as athletes. We can’t dunk, but so what? There’s more than that to basketball.”

It wasn’t much of a game. Western was in control before the slush melted from the fans’ shoes.

In an 11-0 game-opening spurt, Western had two steals, blocked a South Alabama shot and hit four layups. The Lady Jaguars were never as close as 10 after the first five minutes of the game. It was Western’s fourth straight win.

“It’s almost March,” Sanderford said. “I’ve been promising this all year.”

Four Lady Toppers reached double-figure scoring, led by sophomore forward Veronica Cook at 16. Junior forward Debbie Houk notched a career-high 11 points.

“You can’t beat the Diddle Arena atmosphere,” Houk said. “You feel like you can do anything when you’re at home.”

The Lady Tops (18-6 overall, 11-1 in the league) will be for at least one more game, 2:30 p.m. Sunday against Louisiana Tech (21-3, 12-0) for the Sun Belt lead. South Alabama coach Butch Stockton entered his prediction.

“It’s a toss-up, but I’m going with the home team,” he said. “This crowd will make the difference.”
CONGRATULATIONS
On An Outstanding Year

Hilltoppers and Lady Toppers
Coaches Ralph Willard and
Paul Sanderford and staffs

THANKS
Topper Fans for your loyal support

Let's keep those red towels waving

GOOD LUCK
WKU!

In post-season play

Published in support of our two fine teams by
The Daily News
season," said guard Renee Westmoreland of Scottsburg, Ind.

And then?

"They hit us with the press, hit the boards really hard and we came out kind of lackadaisical," Westmoreland said. "It was a lesson we've got to learn."

Tech's man-to-man pressure caused five Western turnovers in the first 3:37 of the second half. Even when it didn't get the steal, Tech left the Lady Toppers with precious little time on the 30-second shot clock to run their offense.

The Western lead shrank to 67-37 with 14:56 to go, to 48-43 with 11:18 left and to minus-one at 6:31. When Nicole Collins drilled a 13-footer with 3:11 remaining, it was 62-56.

"We knew we were a better team than that at halftime," Tech guard Pam Thomas said. "We mixed our defenses, trapped some and got some steals."

Monroe rolled in her winning layup with 1:10 to play. Thomas then missed a 15-footer against Sanderford's sudden triangle-and-two defense, and Monroe rebounded. At the other end, Monroe threw up an air ball in heavy traffic as the shot clock was running down, giving Tech one final chance with nine seconds left.

Thomas got the ball, drove to the left baseline and fired a 12-footer at 0:02 that rimmed out. "I thought I had it," she said.

"They showed why they're the No. 7 team in the country," Sanderford said. "They never died. But we didn't die, either. If we get the right (NCAA Tournament) draw, both teams could make some noise in the postseason."

LOUISIANA TECH 62 (26-36) — A. Brown 9, Whitehurst 12, L. Brown 6, Thomas 7, Johnson 2, Spurlock 4, Jackson 2, Collins 6, Williams 10.

WESTERN KENTUCKY 63 (43-30) — Cook 11, Monroe 17, Wilson 2, Westmoreland 7, Jackson 8, Warner 3, Hill 6, Hook 4, Robinson 2, Abel 3.

3-point goals — Williams 1, Cook 3, Westmoreland 1, Warner 1.

PHOTO BY JOE STEFANCHIK

Western's Renee Westmoreland dribbled upcourt against close guarding by Louisiana Tech's Nicole Collins. No. 17 Western beat No. 7 Tech 63-62.
RENEE WESTMORELAND looks for a teammate over the defense of South Alabama's Metta Christensen in the Lady Toppers' 92-61 victory Thursday. Westmoreland and fellow seniors Kristie Jordan, Paulette Monroe and Trina Wilson will be honored before Western's game at 2:30 p.m. today.

By ERIC WOEHLER
The Daily News
The Lady Toppers play Louisiana Tech at 2:30 p.m. today in E.A. Diddle Arena. There is no shortage of subplots.

It's the last regular-season home game for four Lady Top seniors. It could clinch the regular-season Sun Belt Conference crown for Tech or almost assure a share of the title for Western Kentucky. It also renews one of the country's youngest but already most heated rivalries.

Yet today's winning coach will probably credit — and the losing coach is likely to blame — not so much the emotion that separates this from most basketball games as one of the truths that ties it to all others.

"We," Western's Paul Sandeford said, "must rebound."

Players miss shots. It happens every game. It has happened in all 697 of them coached by Sandeford and Leon Barmore since they were hired by Western and Tech, respectively, in 1982.

The reason that Tech and Western are again atop the Sun Belt and entrenched in The Associated Press Top 25 is that they make the most of their misses.

Tech is first and Western rates fourth nationally in rebound margin — the average difference in a team's and its opponents' rebounds per game.

The Lady Toppers closed the gap on Tech in their game Thursday. Western beat South Alabama 92-61 on the scoreboard, 57-34 on the backboards.

"When you have the tremendous rebounding effort we've been having lately," Sandeford said, "you're going to beat a lot of people."

Tech (21-3 overall, 12-0 in the Sun Belt) is proof. Six teams are ranked above the Lady Techsters in the AP poll, but every team is looking up to their plus-12.8 rebound margin.

"They box out," Lady Topper guard Renee Westmoreland said. "but the main thing is that they just hit the boards. They go for rebounds from places you never even think of. It's like they're there every time you turn around."

In Ruston, La., on Feb. 13, Western was outrebounded 39-35, and it lost 86-77.

"Tech didn't beat us with the first shot," Sandeford said. "They beat us with the second and third shot."

In the second half that game, the Lady Techsters rebounded 13 of their own misses. Western nabbed only eight rebounds off the Tech glass.

Continued On Page 8 Column 1, This Section
The Class of '93

Lady Topper Senior Day
February 28, 1993
Tonight begins final push toward conference title

By Tom Batters

Louisiana Tech (20-3, 11-0) has proven itself again this season. The Lady Techsters are undefeated in the Sun Belt Conference. ranked eighth in the country and have won 15 straight games.

But one thing they haven't proven is that they can win in Diddle Arena.

Only two Sun Belt teams, Old Dominion (1989) and Alabama-Birmingham (1991) have proven that and neither team in the conference any longer.

"Our fans definitely make a difference. It will be a different game."

-- Kristie Jordan
Senior guard

The Lady Toppers (17-6, 10-1) will try to avenge Feb. 13's 86-77 loss when they host the Lady Techsters Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

The game will be the last regular-season home game for the team's four seniors -- Jordan, Paulette Monroe, Renee Westmoreland and Trina Wilson.

Coach Paul Sanderford said that after beating Arkansas State (20-6, 10-3), Western is ready for Louisiana Tech.

"Arkansas State is just as good as Louisiana Tech," he said. "I honestly think we're gonna win. If I'm not confident, how can I expect anyone else to be?"

To share the Sun Belt lead with the Lady Techsters, Western must not only win Sunday but defeat South Alabama (8-14, 3-8) at 7 tonight in Diddle Arena.

South Alabama has lost three games in a row to Louisiana Tech, Arkansas State and third-ranked Auburn. Its only conference wins have come against Southwestern Louisiana (1-9) twice and Texas-Pan American (1-10).

Western won 82-65 in Mobile earlier this season.

Monroe had a season-high 21 points in that outing.

Like Western, Louisiana Tech has balance.

Senior forward Danielle Whitehurst, who averages 12 points per game, scored 21 against Western in their last meeting.

Westmoreland, last week's conference Player of the Week, had a season-high 28 points in the game.

Sunday's game will match up two of the most successful active women's basketball coaches -- Sanderford and Louisiana Tech's Leon Barmore.

Sanderford has a 154-13 record in Diddle in his 11 seasons and has won five conference tournaments.

Barmore (281-66) has lost only seven conference games in 11 seasons and was named women's basketball National Coach of the Decade by the United States Basketball Writers Association.

"It will be an emotional game for the seniors and the fans," Sanderford said.
La. Tech quick out of blocks in league race; Lady Tops face Lamar

By ERIC WOEHLER 1/6/93

The Daily News

Road wins against the elite teams in the Sun Belt Conference are rare, but Louisiana Tech got one on its first try. The Lady Toppers will try to do the same tonight.

The Lady Techsters' 71-62 win at New Orleans on Tuesday was not an upset, Tech is the country's 10th-ranked women's basketball team. "But to go down there and win is a big one," Western Kentucky University's coach, Paul Sanderford, said.

The Lady Toppers and Tech were picked by Sun Belt coaches to finish one-two in the conference race. Hoping to keep pace early, Western plays Lamar in Beaumont, Texas, at 7 tonight.

Last season, Western, Lamar, Tech and Arkansas State were the Sun Belt's four best teams. None of them lost a league game at home.

New Orleans was expected to join that group this season. And before their loss to Tech, the Buc-kettes had won their first seven games.

Lamar is probably the most likely to fall out of the upper tier of the standings. The Lady Cardinals are 4-4 heading into their league opener tonight after graduating four of five starters since the previous year, and the

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun Belt</th>
<th>Overall</th>
<th>Conf</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas State</td>
<td>10-6</td>
<td>1-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana Tech</td>
<td>9-7</td>
<td>1-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Orleans</td>
<td>7-1</td>
<td>1-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Alabama</td>
<td>6-9</td>
<td>1-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Kentucky</td>
<td>5-8</td>
<td>1-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamar</td>
<td>4-4</td>
<td>0-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwestern Louis</td>
<td>3-5</td>
<td>0-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas-Pan American</td>
<td>2-6</td>
<td>0-1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

troublesome for Western, which will likely start a freshman there. Senior off guard Kristie Jordan will rest a sore knee, senior Renee Westmoreland will shift to Jordan's spot, and Sanderford said he would probably give Dawn Warner her first start since starring for Franklin High School in Livonia, Mich.

"Our being able to contain Jones will be a key, because she is a very good player," Sanderford said.

"But I don't think it's a one-on-one situation. I think it's a matter of our five against their five."

Western (5-3) slipped to 20th in this week's Associated Press poll after losing to Southwest Missouri State 60-59 in E.A. Diddle Arena on New Year's Day. Two Lady Toppers left that game with injuries, but center Paulette Monroe and forward Denise Hill will both play tonight.

"We are a lot deeper than Lamar," he said. "They only play seven players. If we get into their depth, we should be all right."

Continued On Page 3
Column 3, This Section
Minor leaves team

A Daily News report

Forward Stephanie Minor has left Western Kentucky University's women's basketball team.

Minor, a 5-foot-11 sophomore from Nebo, played a total of 11 minutes in three games this season and collected all five of her points and all three of her rebounds in the Lady Tops' 93-55 win over Washington in E.A. Diddle Arena on Dec. 7.

A statement released by Western today said:

"Minor's decision was "a personal one, not related to basketball." She was unavailable for comment.

Coach Paul Sanderford, who left early today with the team for a game at Lamar on Wednesday, was quoted in the news release as saying, "We are disappointed that Stephanie will no longer be a part of our program, but we understand her decision and certainly wish her the best.""

Minor, who intends to remain enrolled at Western, according to the release, had missed practice time in December because of a death in her family and illness.

She played in 18 games as a freshman, averaging 1.8 points and 1.1 rebounds for a 27-8 Lady Top squad that advanced to the national championship game. Minor is the school's all-time leading scorer.

Belt loop

It's hard to imagine there being a player in the country with the combination of talent and anonymity that Sonata Tate possesses.

The Arkansas State senior guard won her second Sun Belt Conference Player of the Week honor by tallying 31 points and nine rebounds in an 80-52 Lady Indian win over Alabama-Birmingham on Dec. 30.

Tate leads the league in scoring at 23.3 points per game, ranks second in rebounding at 10.1 and tops among the conference leaders in field-goal, 3-point and free-throw shooting, assists and steals.

If Tate were a man, she'd be a dark-horse candidate for the NBA draft lottery. But as it is, unless Arkansas State fends off two nationally ranked teams, Louisiana Tech and Western, for the Sun Belt crown and then shocks a few traditional heavyweights in the NCAA Tournament this spring, her career will end without her skills ever being recognized outside her own conference.

New Orleans remains the only unbeaten team in the Sun Belt. The Buc-kettes are 7-0 but will surely be tested tonight — Louisiana Tech visits.

Odds and ends

— The Lady Tops left early today for Beaumont, Texas, where they will play Lamar at 7 p.m. Wednesday in a meeting of the 1991-92 regular-season Sun Belt co-champions. The Lady Cardinals (4-4) are led by 6-foot-1 junior center Travesa Gant, who averages 22.1 points and 12.8 rebounds per game.

— Kim Warfield, a sophomore guard, returns to the active roster for Wednesday's game after serving a two-game suspension for disciplinary reasons.

MINOR

continued from Page 6

Minor's decision was "a personal one, not related to basketball." She was unavailable for comment.

Coach Paul Sanderford, who left early today with the team for a game at Lamar on Wednesday, was quoted in the news release as saying, "We are disappointed that Stephanie will no longer be a part of our program, but we understand her decision and certainly wish her the best.

Minor, who intends to remain enrolled at Western, according to the release, had missed practice time in December because of a death in her family and illness.

She played in 18 games as a freshman, averaging 1.8 points and 1.1 rebounds for a 27-8 Lady Top squad that advanced to the national championship game. Minor is the school's all-time leading scorer.
Lady Bears win one for themselves, predecessors

By ERIC WOHLER
The Daily News

Two teams won, neither of which were the Lady Toppers.

"This was, obviously, a big win for this team," Southwest Missouri State guard Melody Howard said. "But a little part of it was for our team last year. Western Kentucky took something away from us last year."

Howard's arching, 13-foot jumper out of a double-team defense gave the Lady Bears a 60-59 victory over Western Kentucky University's women's basketball team Friday in Diddle Arena. And, in part, it avenged the Lady Tops' win in the teams' first meeting, at the Final Four in April.

The game in the Final Four was probably our worst game of the entire season, in terms of playing team-oriented basketball," Southwest Missouri State coach Cheryl Burnett said. "At halftime tonight, we said we weren't going to be satisfied with playing even or close with Western Kentucky - we wanted to win.

"We all had something to prove."

Not the least of which was Howard, a junior guard who was held to nine points in Western's 84-72 win in the national semifinal. On Friday, she scored 20 and hit eight of her 14 field goals - including the go-ahead bucket at the halftime buzzer and the game-winner with two seconds remaining.

Debbie Scott was one of three Lady Toppers who surrounded Howard near the Southwest Missouri State sideline as the clock ticked away. Scott has seen her share of impossible game-winning, buzzer-beating shots, "but this one was pretty good."

"I think there were three players standing right on top of her. You just couldn't picture her getting it in."

The shot canceled out one of the same, clutch variety hit 14 seconds before by Renee Westmoreland. It was off a pick from 17 feet, and Westmoreland appeared to stumble as she shot it. It gave Western a 59-58 lead, the Lady Toppers' first advantage since the 13:38 point of the second half.

The shot clock was turned off, so Western could have held the ball for a final attempt.

"But we were looking for the first shot that was open," Lady Top coach Paul Sanderford said. "If you take it quick and miss it, then you have time to get the rebound or foul."

The shot Renee took was a great shot and a

Continued On Page 9
Column 1, This Section

RENEE WESTMORELAND grabs a loose ball in front of Southwest Missouri State's Melody Howard. Westmoreland hit a go-ahead bucket for Western with 16 seconds left, but Howard answered with two ticks remaining to lift Southwest past the Lady Tops 60-59 in Diddle Arena on Friday.
KRISTIE JORDAN leads the Lady Topper fast break in front of Denise Hill against Boston on Tuesday. In a rematch of an NCAA Tournament semifinal last spring, Western plays Southwest Missouri State in Diddle Arena at 7 tonight.
worries than he did the previous one. On Jan. 1, 1992, the Lady Top-
ners were 4-4 and had nearly fallen out of the national polls.

And yet Western eventually won the Sun Belt Conference crown and its third-ever berth into the Final Four. In Los Angeles, the Lady Toppers met Southwest Missouri State, and the teams showed a national-television audience a game more fitting of the NCAA than the NCAA.

Both teams pressed. Seven players fouled out. A turnover occurred, on the average, once every 42 seconds. Finally, after two hours and 34 minutes of fighting, the Lady Toppers were awarded the decision on points, 84-72.

"It wasn't very pretty," Lady Bears coach Cheryl Burnett said. "Hopefully, we won't see so many fouls and so many stoppages of play this time.

"But we're going to try to play the same style that we did at the Final Four. And Western's the same kind of team — pressure defense, constantly denying the passing lanes."

Southwest Missouri State was ranked 13th in the preseason, but a 3-5 record has the Lady Bears outside of the polls.

The two players who most hurt Western in the Final Four, guard Tina Robbins and center Tanya Baucom, have both been injured. Tonight will be only the fourth outing of the season for Robbins, a 5-foot-7 junior who scored 22 against the Lady Toppers. Baucom, a 6-foot senior who had 17 points in the national semifinal, broke a hand in a loss to Vanderbilt on Dec. 5 and is questionable for this game.

"Melody Howard realized her contribution today wasn't as great as in the past," Burnett said after Western limited the guard to nine points on one-of-eight shooting on April 4. "She's the kind of player who will probably try to shoot baskets in the hotel tonight. Today will be a motivation for her."

Guard play has not been among Western's strengths lately, and it will be tested tonight. Sanderford rates Southwest Missouri State's pressure defense above Tennessee's, and the Lady Vols are traditionally considered the country's best defensive team.

"We have to handle (Southwest Missouri State's) pressure," Sanderford said. "They really get after you. They extend the defense full-court and get all over the floor."

Burnett called Sanderford's praise "a tremendous compliment because we do take great pride in our defense. But I just think we still have so many inexperienced players in there that we can't play at the intensity that we would like to."

"Actually, we will have to play very, very well to even think of beating Western on its home floor."
Lady Tops slip in AP poll; Warfield returns to team

By ERIC WOEHLER
The Daily News

Billie Moore wasn't shocked when the Lady Tops rolled past her Bruins, as expected, on Dec. 18. And she probably wasn't too stunned when North Carolina State upset Western Kentucky two days later.

Western "looked like the team I expected them to look like," in pounding the Bruins 73-55 in E.A. Diddle Arena, UCLA's women's basketball coach said. But when asked if Western was deserving of its ranking -- then seventh -- Moore passed.

"I never rank basketball teams," she said. "I think you are going to see a lot of upsets early in the season because of the lack of practice time this year. I don't think we'll get a true indication of how the national picture is shaping up until some time in January."

The NCAA backed up by two weeks the date teams were allowed to begin fall practice.

On Dec. 20, unranked N.C. State beat the Lady Tops 82-75. Western slipped to No. 12 in last week's Associated Press poll, and the Wolfpack entered at 24.

Since then, North Carolina State has lost to unranked George Washington and fallen back out of the AP poll. Western slipped a notch to 13th this week without playing a game since the previous poll.

Five times last week - a light week of action because of the holiday - a ranked team was beaten by a lower-ranked or unranked team.

Incidentally, the Lady Tops' victory over the Bruins might be more important than some others. UCLA's senior associate athletic director, Judith Holland, chairs the NCAA tournament selection committee.

Warfield's back

Kim Warfield, a reserve guard, returned to practice after leaving the Lady Tops temporarily.

"I feel like everybody deserves a second chance," Coach Paul Sandeford said.

Warfield, a junior in her second year of eligibility with the Lady Tops, missed the team's trip to Raleigh to face N.C. State on Dec. 20.

Sandeford said she is "on sanction," but he wouldn't elaborate.

"That's between Kim and me," he said. "She made a mistake, used poor judgment and has to pay the price."

Warfield was unavailable for comment.

Western returned to practice Sunday after taking time off for Christmas.

Continued On Page 11

Column 3, This Section
Lady Toppers travel ‘home’ for a date with N.C. State

By ERIC WOHLER

RALEIGH, N.C. — Denise Hill clapped when the plane touched down.

It's an away game, according to the schedule. But today's matchup with North Carolina State has a decidedly home feel about it for the Lady Toppers.

About 50 miles east of Raleigh is where Hill, a junior forward, starred for Wilson Fike High School, winning North Carolina Player of the Year in 1990. She went on to nearby Louisburg Junior College before transferring to the Hill.

Cristy McKinney, an assistant coach, grew up in the foothills of Rowan County before playing for N.C. State — just a two-hour drive up Interstate 85 from her home.

And before Paul Sanderford, a native of nearby Durham, came to Bowling Green in 1982 to build one of the country's traditional women's college basketball powers, he coached Louisburg to a national junior-college crown.

"This game means an awful lot to me," Sanderford said. "I want to show all of the people back home what a good program we've built."

He brings one of his most impressive Lady Topper teams to Raleigh. Western is 4-1 and ranked seventh in the country by the Associated Press heading into today's 1 p.m. CST game in the Reynolds Coliseum. Western is coming off a 73-55 win over UCLA in Diddle Arena on Friday.

"For the first 10 minutes, I thought we looked like a top-five basketball team," Sanderford said. "The other 30 minutes, I thought we were only average."

Kristie Jordan's steal and layup about three minutes into Friday's game made it 10-2, Lady Tops. When Veronica Cook sank a 9-foot jumper with 2:35 to play in the half, UCLA coach Billie Moore called timeout to stop an 8-0 Lady Top dash. Western was up 46-22.

"Whoever we played tonight," senior point guard Renee Westmoreland said, "was going to be a victim of circumstance."

Western hadn't played for six days since being upset at Tennessee Tech, "and I think we played with some vengeance," Sanderford said.

The Lady Tops forced 17 UCLA turnovers in the first half, outrebounded the Bruins 22-16 and built

Continued On Page 6

Column 1, This Section
Lady Toppers shoot better than 60 percent, clobber Washington

By ERIC WOEHLER

Shooting, rebounding, ball-handling, defense, depth — no one factor in Washington's demise overshadowed the rest in Chris Gobrecht's estimation.

"We were truly pathetic," the University of Washington's women's basketball coach said.

Two coaches tried for their 250th victory Monday in Diddle Arena. Western Kentucky's Paul Sanderson got his in the Bowling Green Bank Tipoff Classic. Gobrecht, meanwhile, watched a seven-point halftime deficit balloon into her program's fifth-worst defeat ever, 93-55.

The Lady Toppers (2-0) outshot Washington 60.7 percent to 32.7 percent from the field. They outrebounded the Huskies 41-28. Washington committed one more turnover than its host, four more personal fouls. Western even outnumbered the Huskies — 14 healthy Lady Tops to 10 for the visitors.

But "there is no one key in a game like this," she said. "We just didn't play hard enough or smart enough."

Washington (1-2) never led. But the Huskies kept Western to a single-digit lead until Paulette Monroe dropped in a short bankshot with 17:37 to play in the second half, making it 40-29 amid a 10-0 Western run.

In its scoreless span of five minutes, 24 seconds, Washington attempted three shots and turned the ball over five times. Western, meanwhile, spread out its offense and freed its guards and small forward to drive to the goal.

The Lady Top lead swelled to as many as 31 points in the second half.

"I would like to be able to save the second half too."

Continued On Page 3
Column 3, This Section

LADY Topper Debbie Scott (right) races Washington's Tera Davis for a loose ball during the Bowling Green Bank Tipoff Classic on Monday night.
Lady Toppers put four players in double figures, smack Washington 93-55.

Lady Toppers 12/8/92 continued from Page 1-B

night for Louisiana Tech or one of the (Sun Belt) conference games down the road," Sanderford said. "I saw some things we did wrong. But when you shoot 74 percent from the field, it makes up for a lot of problems, and that's what we did in the second half.

Monroe, a 6-foot-4 senior center, led Western with 15 points. Denise Hill, a 6-foot junior forward, collected 12 rebounds. Hill had 10 in the first half, including one over the waiting hands of Monroe, who finished with eight.

"Denise can get up higher than me, and I am very upset about this," Monroe teased her teammate, who was sitting nearby in the post-game news conference. "She stole my rebound.

"But, really, I think we work well together. It just seems like I'm where Denise isn't and she's where I'm not on the court."

Dawn Warner, a freshman backup guard, scored 13 points.

"The more she played, the better she got," Sanderford said. "It was a story-book beginning to her career."

Ida Bowen, a sophomore starting in place of the injured Kristie Jordan at off guard, had 10 points, an assist and two rebounds.

"In second half, we thought we could exploit her size (6-foot-2) by having her back the kid guarding her in and then shooting over her," Sanderford said. "It worked."

Trina Wilson, a senior reserve center, followed her 10-point outing at Minnesota with 11 points and a pair of shot-blocks in the same Washington possession. Senior point guard Renee Westmoreland had six assists. Every Lady Topper except Jordan, who is nursing a knee injury, played at least minutes.

"You can go down our list," Sanderford said, "and just about everybody did a good job for us."

"It is true," Gobrecht said, "that Western doesn't have a team -- it has an army."

Gobrecht was at a loss for an explanation for her team's showing. Washington's home draws averaged 3,648 during the 1991-92 season, so Monday's crowd of 3,228 shouldn't have bothered us, and I don't think they did," Gobrecht said. "Our problems went a lot deeper than a couple of hecklers."

But the Lady Toppers, which play in the Krystal Holiday Classic in Cookeville, Tenn., beginning Friday, pointed to home-court advantage as one reason for their big victory.

"I think the fans had a lot to do with it," Wilson said.

"Especially for the new players," Hill added, "because we're not used to the crowds."

"I still don't think the fans understand how important they are to the kids," Sanderford said. "Afterwards, the players weren't talking about the game; they were talking about the fans."

"I was really glad to see the amount of student support we had. And I think it's time for that support when you're ranked fourth in the country."

WASHINGTON 55 (1-0)
Kelly 5-5 0-0, Hills 0-0 0-0, Smith 5-12 5-14 15, Moore 5-12 2-2 12, Foucault 5-7 0-0 11, Gobrecht 5-5 1-4 12
Davis 3-7 1-3 7, Gobert 7-7 0-0 14, Westmoreland 3-14 1-2 8, Francis 4-4 0-0 8, Boyd 3-13 0-0 9, Adams 3-1 0-0 3, Hill 1-1 0-0 2, Guard 0-3 0-0 0, Foy 1-1 0-0 2, Washington 5-15 1-2 11, Warner 4-7 3-3 11, Beal 5-12 1-1 11, Totals 15-15 16-14 50-50.

WASHINGTON 23, W. KENTUCKY 15 (2-0)
Hill 3-7 1-2 2, Scott 4-5 1-0 9, Monroe 8-12 2-2 18, Westmoreland 5-12 1-2 14, Moore 4-8 2-2 10, Jefferson 2-4 1-2 1, Jackson 2-4 0-0 4, Mercer 1-4 0-0 2, Cook 0-1 0-0 0, Robinson 1-3 0-0 2, Hill 1-1 1-1 2, Washington 5-14 3-3 12, Warner 2-6 2-2 6, Beal 5-12 1-1 11, Wilson 4-14 11, Totals 34-50 11-14 64-64.

Half-time - W. Kentucky 36, Washington 23, 3-point goals - Washington 6 (Kelly 3-11, Monroe 2-10, Foucault 1-3), W. Kentucky 0, W. Kentucky 41 (Moore 11, Davis 10, W. Kentucky 46 (Westmoreland 14, Johnson 1-0, Bowman 0-1, Robinson 0-1,Warner 3-0, Foy 2-0, Davis 1-0, Washington 28 (Gobrecht 9), W. Kentucky 41 (Moore 12, Westmoreland 7, Moore 4, W. Kentucky 21 (Westmoreland 6), Total - W. Kentucky 53, W. Kentucky 43, W. Kentucky 15: A-3,228.
Guard Jordan might miss Lady Toppers' home opener

By ERIC WOEHLER

The Lady Toppers face one of the country's most physical defenses tonight and might do so without starting guard Kristie Jordan.

Jordan, a senior who led Western with 22 points in its 92-64 season-opening victory at Minnesota on Friday, might miss the 7 p.m. Bowling Green Bank Tipoff Classic in Diddle Arena between Western Kentucky and Washington.

"If she's able to play, she'll start," Western coach Paul Sandeford said. "But she pulled a muscle behind her knee, and she wasn't able to practice Saturday or Sunday."

Washington (1-1) is a "pressing, in-your-face team," Sandeford said. "The big thing tonight will be whether we can handle their pressure and get a shot off."

The Lady Toppers, ranked fifth nationally by the Associated Press, shot and rebounded well in their season opener. But Western committed 28 turnovers.

"Fifteen a game is a good number," senior point guard Renee Westmoreland said. "If you have 15 turnovers and good rebounding, you should win."

If Jordan is unable to play, Ida Bowen, a sophomore who scored 10 points on five-of-five field-goal shooting Friday, will get the nod.

Depth is among Western's greatest strengths. Every Lady Topper played in the season opener, and Sandeford used 30 different combinations of five against Minnesota.
Sanderford won't platoon as much

By ERIC WOEBLER 12/3/92
The Daily News
In their last exhibition game before Friday's regular-season opener, Coach Paul Sanderford was still experimenting with the Lady Topper lineup.

The Western Kentucky University women's basketball team's starting five — guards Renee Wescoworeland and Kristie Jordan, forwards Lea Robinson and Denise Hill and center Paulette Monroe — played the opening four minutes, 12 seconds and built an 11-3 lead against the Derby City Demons on Sunday in E.A. Diddle Arena.

When Sanderford replaced Robinson and Monroe with Debbie Scott and Trina Wilson with 15:48 to play in the first half, the second of 24 Lady Topper combinations were on the floor. Other than the starters, no group would play longer than 3½ minutes together, and not once did the same five play together twice.

"Chemistry is important," said Robinson, a junior. "He's trying different groups to see who plays best together."

The most effective group? No one bunch did better than the starters, who outscored the Demons by eight. But the five who finished the first half — Jordan and Dawn Warner in the backcourt, Hill, Veronica Cook and Lori Abell up front — stretched a 35-18 lead to 47-23 during the final 2:07 before the break.

Sanderford won't be as quick to substitute Friday at Minnesota.

Good as gold
Sanderford knew Minnesota was...
Lady Tops tip off tonight

By ERIC WOEHLER 12/4/92

The Daily News

MINNEAPOLIS — Tonight's game is the first of the season for the Lady Topppers, the second for Minnesota, and both teams are already thinking about the NCAA Tournament.

The Golden Gophers have one win over a ranked team. It came Tuesday over Kansas. A victory at 7 p.m. in the Williams Arena over Western Kentucky might make an impression on NCAA Tournament committee members that would last until spring.

"And because of their win over Kansas," Lady Topper coach Paul Sanderford said, "this game takes on added importance for us. This is a chance to get a win over a team with a win over a ranked team already."

In women's college basketball, opportunities to make a national splash are as valuable as they are rare. Since the middle of the last decade, the Golden Gophers haven't created much of a ripple outside their own state.

Minnesota went 18-10 in 1984-85, consistent in the most kind way to describe the Golden Gophers since: eight wins in 1985-86, nine in 1986-87, followed by seasons of nine, seven, eight, six and finally eight a year ago.

But in her and Coach Linda Hill-McDonald's third year in Minneapolis, center Carol Ann Shudlick feels her team is due for better days. And Tuesday's 82-76 win over the 16th-ranked Kansas indicates she might be right.

"Winning is an attitude," said Shudlick, who scored 24 points against Kansas. "That's what we've been working on a lot in the preseason — attitude. We're a more confident team than we've been, and that's why we won Tuesday."

"Can it work again tonight?"

"They're definitely a great team," Shudlick said, "and we'll have to be prepared in all aspects of our game."

Shudlick, a 6-foot junior, averaged 20.3 points and seven rebounds a game last season and was named second-team All-Big Ten Conference. She scored 44 against Marquette.

"We're not worried about what teams will do to try and stop her," Hill-McDonald said. "Somehow, Carol Ann finds a way to get it done. She's the kind of player coaches dream of having."

Shudlick was the 1990 Minnesota "Miss Basketball" while playing in nearby Apple Valley, but she considered attending Kentucky or Missouri before settling on her home school.

"Now I really like the idea that a Minnesota team might get some notoriety while I'm around," she said. "You go to the recruiting camps, and Minnesota isn't thought of as much of a basketball state."

"Maybe if we can start doing well, when people say, 'oh, she's from Minnesota,' it will really mean something."

Shudlick will be joined in Minnesota's starting lineup by 5-foot-11 sophomore Cara Pearson and by 6-foot-1 senior Stacy Carver at forwards. At the guard spots are 5-foot-9 junior Crystal Flint and 5-foot-11 sophomore Lori Lawler.

Probable starters for fifth-ranked Western are 6-foot-4 senior Paulette Monroe at center, 6-foot junior Denise Hill and 5-foot-11 junior Lea Robinson at forwards plus 5-foot-10 seniors Renee Westmoreland and Kristie Jordan at the guards.

"I think the chemistry of this team is good," Westmoreland said. "But it's hard to tell in the preseason."

Western won its two exhibitions: 81-65 over a Hungarian club team; and 91-52 over a Louisville Amateur Athletic Union team.

Monroe twisted an ankle and Hill, Debbie Scott and Ida Bowen each missed practice time this week because of minor injuries. All four are expected to play tonight.

It will be the second ever meeting for the teams. Western won 69-61 in 1983.

WESTERN'S Paulette Monroe (left) will be among the starters for tonight's season opener at Minnesota.
**Western Kentucky University vs. Derby City Demons**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Western Kentucky Lady Toppers</th>
<th>1st half pts.</th>
<th>2nd half pts.</th>
<th>Fouls</th>
<th>Total Pts.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>00</td>
<td>Dawn Warner, G, 5-7, Fr., Livonia, Mich.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Kim Warfield, G, 5-8, So., Hebron, Ky.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Renee Westmoreland, G, 6-10, Sr., Scottsburg, Ind.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Missy Jackson, G, 5-6, Fr., Lexington, Ky.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Veronica Cook, G, 6-0, Fr., Franklin, Ky.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Denise Hill, F, 6-0, Jr., Wilson, N.C.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Ida Bowen, F, 6-2, So., Inez, Ky.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Kristie Jordan, G, 5-10, Sr., Louisville, Ky.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Debbie Houk, F, 6-0, Jr., Greensburg, Ky.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Lea Robinson, F, 5-11, Jr., Winchester, Ky.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Debbie Scott, F, 6-1, Sr., Gallatin, Tenn.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Stephanie Minor, F, 5-11, So., Nebo, Ky.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Paulette Monroe, C, 6-4, Sr., Kansas City, Mo.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>Trina Wilson, C, 6-5, Sr., Jamaica, N.Y.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>Lori Abell, F, 6-4, So., Louisville, Ky.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Derby City Demons**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Derby City Demons</th>
<th>1st half pts.</th>
<th>2nd half pts.</th>
<th>Fouls</th>
<th>Total Pts.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tanya Adkisson, G/F, 5-7, Louisville</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Kimberly A. Hatley, G/F, 5-8, Eastern Kentucky</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Jane Loveall, C, 5-11, Northwestern</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Dina Hutt, F, 5-9, Lindsay Wilson</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Angela Montgomery, G, 5-3, Alabama State</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Jacqueline Jacobs, G, 5-4, Kentucky State</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Starlight Williams, F/G, 5-10, Texas-San Antonio</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Sara White, C, 6-2, Wake Forest</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Angela Marr, G, 5-4, Bellarmine</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Ruth Jacks, F, 5-9, Granite City College</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Dee Dee Polk, G, 5-4, University of Missouri</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Michelle Clark, C, 6-2, Western Kentucky</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Carrie Lawless, C/F, 5-11, Northwestern</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Mary Porter, G, 5-7, Texas Southern</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Tuonisa Cummings, G, 5-8, Louisville</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Head Coach: Paul Sanderford  
Assistant Coaches: Steve Small, Christy McKinney, David Graves
Sun Belt coaches foresee Lady Tops, Tech in duel

By ERIC WOEHLER
The Daily News

The Lady Toppers are No. 5 in the country, No. 1 in their conference — by a nose.

Western Kentucky and Louisiana Tech split first-place votes among the eight Sun Belt Conference women’s basketball coaches, but the Lady Toppers won one extra voting point in the league’s preseason poll.

“I’m not sure we’re that close,” Western coach Paul Sanderford said. “I think Tech has to be the favorite.”

Leon Barmore feels otherwise.

“I don’t think there’s any doubt Western Kentucky’s the front-runner,” Louisiana Tech’s coach said in a telephone news conference involving league coaches today.

Of Sanderford’s vote, Barmore said, “It’s tough to vote for your own team for No. 1 — who are you going to blame if you don’t win it? “But we’re all chasing Western; there’s no question.”

In the first Associated Press Top 25, released Monday, Western was fifth behind Stanford, Tennessee, Vanderbilt and Maryland. The Lady Toppers return three starters — including preseason all-Sun Belt selections Paulette Monroe and Renee Westmoreland — from the 27-8, national runner-up squad of a year ago.

New Orleans coach Joey Favaloro also predicted Western would win the league.

“They have an inside game coming back, as well as some good perimeter players — including Westmoreland, who I think is one of the best players in the country,” he said. “Also, going to the national championship game, you can’t get that kind of experience just anywhere.”

Louisiana Tech was 19th in the AP ranking. The Sun Belt player of the year, Shantel Hardison, graduated. But the Lady Techsters have three starters back from a 20-10 season, as well as three former high school stars who were ineligible to play in their first year in Ruston.

“They had those three out last year, and they’re back,” Sanderford said. “Plus, they have good experience back. I just think they’re a great basketball team. They were in my top 10 (nationally).”

“Parish Tech’s No. 1, and we’re two. I think New Orleans is very good and will surprise a lot of people, and I think Arkansas State will be a very good basketball team again.”

New Orleans (20-11 in 1991-92) is led by 6-foot-3 senior center Robin Martin, a preseason All-Sun Belt choice. The Bayous were picked third in the coaches’ poll.

Sonja Tate, a guard, was, along with Monroe, a unanimous choice for the all-league team. She is one of two starters back for Arkansas State (25-7 last season), selected fourth in the coaches poll.

Lamar (21-7) was fifth but is ineligible to compete in the postseason as punishment for NCAA rules violations which were committed before Coach Liz McQuitter arrived in Beaumont, Texas, a year ago. Point guard Ramona Jones is the only returning starter and a preseason all-conference pick.

“We can still go for a regular-season championship,” McQuitter said.

Continued On Page 10
Column 1, This Section
said. "Not being able to go to postseason play is very disappointing, but that's not going to ruin our season. We still have goals."

South Alabama (8-20 in 1991-92), Southwestern Louisiana (0-27) and Texas-Pan American (10-18) were the bottom three choices among league coaches.

Five Sun Belt teams posted 20 or more wins in 1991-92. Two went to the NCAA tournament, one — Arkansas State — to the women's National Invitation Tournament. "I'm not sure the league is as strong as it was last year at the top," Sanderford said. "Lamar was an outstanding basketball team that deserved to go to the tournament, so was Arkansas State. We had four great basketball teams.

"But I think the bottom of the league is much stronger than it was last season."

Sun Belt coaches agree that their conference was slighted by the NCAA Tournament committee and that the time has come to expand the 48-team field.

"Definitely," Favaloro said. "When the Sun Belt has five teams with 20 wins and only two go to the NCAA Tournament and one to the NIT, there's something drastically wrong."

Sanderford said, "I think we need to go to 64, and I think it will happen. I'm not sure that we'll go to the whole 64-team format immediately, but I think we'll add at least eight teams this year.

"The last couple of years, all the first-round games have been drawing well and making money. I think the fact that the interest is there and the quality teams are there demands that we expand the field."

Expansion, McQuitter said, "is part of the answer. But you're still going to have politics involved — people are still going to favor certain teams in certain conferences."

"But maybe (had the field been bigger) that would have gotten us in last year — I don't know."

Sanderford also has a ballot for the AP Top 25, and his No. 1 vote went for Tennessee.

Stanford coach Tara Vanderveer "may be mad at me," he said. "But, top to bottom, I think Tennessee is the best basketball team in the country."

Sanderford's was one of three first-place votes cast for the Lady Vols. Stanford, which returns all five starters from the team that defeated Western 78-62 in the NCAA final in April, was named on all 69 other ballots.

Western received 1,459 points — edging out Virginia for the No. 5 slot.

"I had us down around eight or nine," Sanderford said. 
Odds and ends

With its 65-49 win over Western in Saturday’s championship of the Krystal Holiday Classic in Cookeville, Tennessee Tech remained in a fourth-place tie in all-time victories by Division I teams.

Tennessee Tech and Louisiana Tech each have 502 wins. Long

Continued On Page 9

Column 1, This Section

Women’s poll

By The Associated Press

The Top Twenty Five women’s basketball teams as compiled by Mel Greenberg of the Philadelphia Inquirer based on the votes of 66 women’s coaches, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Dec. 13, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and last week’s ranking:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Record</th>
<th>Pts</th>
<th>Pve</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Tennessee (71)</td>
<td>4-0</td>
<td>1,775</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Stanford</td>
<td>4-1</td>
<td>1,684</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Vanderbilt</td>
<td>6-0</td>
<td>1,619</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Iowa</td>
<td>4-0</td>
<td>1,566</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Virginia</td>
<td>6-0</td>
<td>1,494</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Maryland</td>
<td>4-1</td>
<td>1,338</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. W. Kentucky</td>
<td>3-1</td>
<td>1,214</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Purdue</td>
<td>5-0</td>
<td>1,192</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Stephen F. Austin</td>
<td>5-1</td>
<td>1,161</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Penn State</td>
<td>4-0</td>
<td>1,065</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Louisiana Tech</td>
<td>4-1</td>
<td>1,022</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Texas</td>
<td>2-1</td>
<td>872</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Colorado</td>
<td>5-0</td>
<td>855</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Texas Tech</td>
<td>3-1</td>
<td>780</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Southern Cal</td>
<td>2-1</td>
<td>749</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Miami</td>
<td>2-0</td>
<td>630</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Auburn</td>
<td>4-0</td>
<td>529</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Mississippi</td>
<td>3-2</td>
<td>507</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. North Carolina</td>
<td>5-0</td>
<td>456</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Georgia</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. DePaul</td>
<td>3-0</td>
<td>401</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. Tennessee Tech</td>
<td>5-0</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. Connecticut</td>
<td>4-1</td>
<td>294</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. Nebraska</td>
<td>6-0</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. George Washington</td>
<td>3-2</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Others receiving votes: Kansas 61, Georgia Tech 58, Alabama 57, Santa Clara 56, Vermont 55, SW Missouri St. 51, N. Illinois 44, Clemson 42, Creighton 31, Florida St. 30, Ohio St. 29, San Diego St. 28, Arkansas St. 21, Oklahoma St. 21, Montana 18, NE Louisiana 13, Tulane 12, Xavier 11, Ohio St. 9, Oregon 9, Boise St. 9, Kentucky 9, UNLV 9, Georgetown 8, Southern Miss. 8, Long Beach St. 6, St. Joseph's 6, Louisville 4, California 1, UC Santa Barbara 1.

LADY TOPS

continued from Page 7

Beach State is No. 1; Western is 14th.

Saturday’s upset came in front of 3,325 fans in the Eblen Center.

“The crowd was awesome. They kept us up,” Tech sophomore Amy Engle said. “But then who isn’t going to be up for the No. 4 team in the country?”

— Florida A&M’s Natalie White, the 1991-92 NCAA steals champion, helped her chances of defending her title at the Cookeville tournament. The sophomore guard had nine steals against Western in a 76-53 Rattlerette loss. She is averaging five a game.

— The Lady Tops next play at 7 p.m. Dec. 18 in Diddle Arena against UCLA, then leave early the following morning for Raleigh, N.C., where they play North Carolina State on Dec. 20.

— Clemette Haskins, Western’s career assists and steals leader, is into her third season as an assistant coach at Arizona and has been promoted to recruiting coordinator on head coach Joan Bonvicini’s staff.

After graduating from Western in 1987, Haskins said she would shy away from her dad Clem’s field. Now 26, Haskins hopes a head-coaching job is in her future.

“I really take being a role model very seriously because as a woman, especially a young black woman, there’s just not very many role models,” Haskins was quoted in the Nov. 20 Arizona Daily Wildcat newspaper as saying.

continued from Page 9

Column 1, This Section
**SPORTS**

Ashby’s ankle said sprained, not broken

By ERIC WOELHLER  
*The Daily News*

Brandi Ashby’s Miss Basketball pursuit might resume as early as this week. The Webster County High School senior who has signed to play at Western Kentucky University injured an ankle in a Dec. 10 game.

“‘But it’s just a sprain,’” her father, Milton Ashby, said. “We look for her to be back by Thursday or Friday and definitely by the time of the Franklin-Simpson tournament.”

The Domino’s Classic begins Dec. 21 at Franklin-Simpson High School. Webster County (3-1) will take part.

Brandi Ashby, a 6-foot-2 forward, is considered a leading candidate for the state’s Miss Basketball award. Before injuring her ankle two minutes into a 63-55 loss to Lyon County — “she went up for a rebound and came down on another girl’s foot,” Milton Ashby said — Brandi Ashby was averaging 35.5 points a game for the Lady Trojans. In a victory at Fort Campbell, she scored a Webster County-record 41 points.

Before the season, USA Today ranked Brandi Ashby the country’s 31st best player. She signed a national letter of intent last month to play for Western.

The Lady Toppers’ other fall signee from Kentucky, Russellville High School’s Stacie Gamble, is also off to a big start. She is averaging 21.8 points a game for the 3-1 Lady Panthers. Gamble scored 30 in a season-opening win over Cumberland County.

---

**Belt loop**

Mississippi has probably seen all it wants of the Sun Belt Conference. On the other hand, the Sun Belt has had enough of Northeast Louisiana.

Ninth-ranked Mississippi lost 68-64 in overtime in the championship game of its own tournament Saturday night to No. 10 Louisiana Tech. Arkansas State — like Tech, a member of the Sun Belt — is responsible for Mississippi’s other loss of the season, 62-61 on Dec. 9.

It was Tech’s second win over a higher ranked foe. When it beat Alabama 93-72 on Dec. 5, Tech was ranked 19th, the Tide 14th. The Lady Techsters’ first loss came Tuesday at unranked Northeast Louisiana, 62-51.

Northeast nearly upended Arkansas State on Saturday but fell at home 82-79.

New Orleans is the only unbeaten team among the four expected to battle for the Sun Belt crown, but the Buc-kettes have played only one game. Tech is 4-1, Western 3-1 and Arkansas State 2-2. Lamar, which shared the league’s regular-season crown with Western a year ago but is on NCAA probation this season, is 3-2.
It's and Paulette, 'Scared-to-shoot' Tech Toppers season performance Paul Sanderford roles for its opened the season with impressive From Carlyon.

Western Kentucky University's its field goals. The its defense was matched Florida A&M in the first season, and was expecting. The Lady Toppers' offense was only about four more minutes after Trina Wilson said.

His team lost Saturday at women's basketball coach said after tolerant, forcing only 16 turnovers wins at Minnesota and at home.

"1 Dally News 65-49. guard. Sanderford said, could sense this coming in the early.

"People were scared to shoot." Western trailed 29-22 at the break and tried to cut the lead by creating shots for Westmoreland as the second half opened.

The senior scored Western's first 10 points after halftime. But a 3-pointer with 13:58 to play was her.

Continued On Page 3 Column 3, This Section
Lady Tops hit road, try to avoid another December nightmare

By ERIC WOEHLER
The Daily News

Having inched a notch to fourth in this week's Associated Press poll, the Lady Toppers take to the road with hopes of improving their perfect record.

Sound familiar? Western Kentucky University's women's basketball team left Bowling Green last December with the same 2-0 record and the same No. 4 ranking — then lost four of its next six.

The ghost of Decembers past haunts Western as it prepares for the Krystal Holiday Classic in Cookeville, Tenn. The Lady Toppers play Florida A&M at 6 tonight and either tournament-host Tennessee Tech or Georgia Southern on Saturday.

But senior center Paulette Monroe said this year's team is not the same one that had to endure a vicious early season tailspin before soaring to the national championship game last spring.

"This is a different team with different goals," she said after Western pounded Washington 93-55 in the home opener on Monday. "The chemistry with this team is great. We believe we can go farther."

Don't make hotel reservations for the 1993 Final Four in Atlanta just yet, though. Even Coach Chris Gobrecht, who witnessed first-hand the Lady Tops' obliteration of her Huskies, said Western is not quite the team its ranking suggests.

"Potentially, they are," she said.

Western is a unique team. They just keep throwing bodies at you, and they don't care if they foul. Stanford (the No. 2 team and defending national champion) is more of a

KRISTIE JORDAN (with ball) is still nursing a sore knee and might not play in this weekend's Krystal Holiday Classic in Cookeville, Tenn.

LADY TOPS

Continued from Page 1-B

who can each do things to help you win?"

One of the smaller, talented kids is still hurt. Kristie Jordan, a senior off-guard who scored 22 in Western's 92-64 season-opening win at Minnesota, might not play tonight or Saturday. She missed the Washington game after pulling leg muscles in practice last week.

Probable starters for tonight's game are sophomore Ida Bowen in Jordan's off-guard position, senior Renee Westmoreland at point, Monroe in the pivot and junior Denise Hill and senior Debbie Scott in the forward slots.

Florida A&M is 3-0. But only one of the victories came against a Division I team, and that was Alabama State.

Western, short-handed in the backcourt, might not breeze by the Rattlerettes too easily, though. Florida A&M has a guard, 5-foot-5 sophomore Natalie White, who led the nation in steals in 1991-92. And 5-6 sophomore Monika Williams, is nearly as theft-prone. White has 6 steals, Williams 13 through three games.

White comes off the bench; 5-foot-8 senior Demetria McMillan starts with Williams in the backcourt.

Center Sherrall Bass, a 6-foot-1 senior, averages 17.5 points and nine rebounds a game. The forwards are freshmen, 6-foot Cathy Robinson and 5-11 Angela McPhaul, who also played together at James Shanks High School in Quincy, Fla.

The winner of the Western-Florida A&M game plays in the 8 p.m. tournament championship Saturday, while the loser plays at 6 p.m.

Tennessee Tech (3-0) received three votes for this week's AP poll. The Golden Eaglettes most recently won at Southern Illinois in overtime, 66-65. In that game, 5-foot-9 senior center Roschelle Vaughn had 26 points and 11 rebounds. Vaughn has scored no fewer than 20 points in a game this season.

Western beat Tech 92-66 for its second win last season.

Georgia Southern is 2-0.

The Tech-Georgia Southern game starts at 8 tonight.