

# Bevy of teams eye Perry

BY KEITH TAYLOR  
KENTUCKY TODAY

The sweepstakes for Travis Perry have begun.

The former Kentucky guard, who led Lyon County to a state championship in 2024, declared for the transfer portal earlier this week. Several schools have expressed interest in Kentucky high school basketball's all-time leading scorer, including Louisville, Arkansas and Tennessee.

Perry sent shockwaves throughout the state and likely Kentucky's coaching staff when he opted to enter the portal rather than return for a second season at the 11th Hour late Tuesday night. It's unknown whether Perry's decision was monetary or related to playing time.

Before deciding to stay with the Wildcats, Perry originally was signed by former Kentucky coach John Calipari and his staff. It's no surprise that Calipari, now the coach at Arkansas, is among eight Southeastern Conference teams that have expressed an interest in Perry. In-state schools Louisville and Western Kentucky are also reportedly in the picture.

Ole Miss was one of the schools that chased Perry out of high school and is on the list of SEC schools that are giving Perry a look. Vanderbilt, Georgia, Missouri, LSU and South Carolina are also chasing Perry.

## OWEH UPDATE

Kentucky guard Otega Oweh, who declared for the NBA Draft with an option to return next season, is ranked No. 77 on ESPN's early draft board. Only 59 players are chosen in the draft, and based on those projections, the chances of Oweh returning are extremely high.

On ESPN's list, Koby Brea is 56, followed by Amari Williams at 63, Jaxson Robinson is No. 81, and Andrew Carr ranks 97 on the draft projection board.

Oweh can participate in the NBA Combine if he receives an invite, and has until May 28 to remain in the draft or return to Kentucky for a final season.

In his first season with the Wildcats, Oweh led the team in scoring (16.2 points per game) and scored 20 or more in 13 games. In two games against Oklahoma, his former school, Oweh scored 55 points and hit the game-winner in both contests.



AP PHOTO  
Kentucky's Travis Perry looks to get past the defense of Texas' Tre Johnson during a game in Austin, Texas, on Feb. 15.

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## AREA

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sport make a giant leap forward.

"I have been coaching since it was just the coaches association," Davidson said. "I was there when it was only 50 girls in the state tournament. It was over in two hours. Now it goes all day. These girls all show up and it's great to see 200-plus at State. It's really grown."

Skaggs improved her record to 11-0 after defeating Madison Central's Narae Cumpton, 27-7, in the Region 4 final. Skaggs won three of her five matches at State to take her spot on the final podium.

The freshman embraces the moment and realizes the gravity of what she has accomplished.

"It was really challenging being the only girl there," Skaggs said. "I didn't have many people to work with. The outcome was really nice. I am proud of myself this year and I feel that my family and friends are also proud of me."

Skaggs's first sports aspirations did not include wrestling. Inspired by her siblings, she has become her own trendsetter on the



PHOTOS BY BRAD LAUX | 1016 SPORTS  
East Carter's Keiona Skaggs, top, grapples with an opponent on the mat the state championship meet in Lexington on March 1.

mat.

"I never really thought I would get into wrestling," Skaggs said. "My brother introduced me to it. He would say, 'I bet you wouldn't do this.' I fell in love with it. I don't know what I would have done if I hadn't started wrestling."

Boyd County and Ashland placed two wrestlers on the first girls All-Area team.



Destiny Walters became the first girl to garner a spot on the boys wrestling team last year and made the podium in the first KH-SAA girls state meet.

Walters, along with teammate Lexie Dingess, earned a spot at State in March. Dingess finished third at the region event in the 126-pound division and entered the state stage with a 24-1 record.

Ashland's Ryleigh Mahan and Vivian Moyer are both seventh graders but competed well beyond their years, becoming the first Ashland wrestlers to advance to a girls state meet.

Mahan finished fourth at the region meet in her division. Moyer recorded third

place. Both closed the season with double-digit victories in their first varsity season.

Greenup County's Alexis Gibson and Rowan County's Aubree Ison round out the All-Area team. Gibson was the lone area wrestler to win a state match in the championship bracket.

Ison posted a 16-3 record through the Region 4 meet.

Ison, Mahan and Dingess also posted a win at the state event.

Wrestlers qualified for the All-Area team based on season success and final placement at the region meet. *The Daily Independent's* sports staff chose the Wrestler and Coach of the Year.

### 2024-25 THE DAILY INDEPENDENT GIRLS ALL-AREA WRESTLING TEAM

- Lexie Dingess (Boyd County)
- Alexis Gibson (Greenup County)
- Aubree Ison (Rowan County)
- Ryleigh Mahan (Ashland)
- Vivian Moyer (Ashland)
- Keiona Skaggs (East Carter)
- Destiny Walters (Boyd County)
- WRESTLER OF THE YEAR**
- Keiona Skaggs (East Carter)
- COACH OF THE YEAR**
- Shane Davidson (East Carter)
- HONORABLE MENTION**
- Chyanne Maggard (Ashland), Angelina Parks (Boyd County), Reyna Petre (Rowan County).

Boyd County's Lexie Dingess, right, competes at the state meet on March 1.

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\*Kentucky State Study 2023; conducted by Coda Ventures