

Sports

All-State athlete, local coach dies at 82

Bill Jenkins known as member of UK's 'Thin Thirty' team

BY THE NEWS-ENTERPRISE
A 1961 graduate of Elizabethtown High School, Bill Jenkins gained notoriety as a standout athlete and went on to serve the community as an educator, businessman and city council member. He died June 4 at his home in Mexico Beach, Florida. He was 82.
An All-State selection in football and basketball, Jenkins also played baseball at E'town High and quali-



Bill Jenkins

fied for the state track meet in the discus throw.
"Bill Jenkins, without a doubt, is one of the best high school football players to ever play in Kentucky," wrote Gary P. West, a Kentucky author and former sports reporter. "He played ever position and he played it well."
Jenkins was recruited to play football by teams across the southeast and signed with Coach Blanton Collier at the University of

Kentucky. Although he played multiple positions including quarterback, most of his varsity experience under Coach Charlie Bradshaw was at end.
As a senior in 1964, he served as team captain at UK. Jenkins was part of the Wildcats 1962 squad famously known as "The Thin Thirty." It was Bradshaw's first season and his stern ways and physical practices, bordering on abusive, led to 60 players quitting the team.
"At that time, the university had these handball courts. Well, (the football staff) put up these pads all around those courts, then would send groups of football players in there and you had to fight your way out," Jen-

kins recalled in a 2013 story in the *Lexington Herald-Leader*. "Basically, the last man standing got out and everybody else in there was trying to put your body back together."
Jenkins, who served in the U.S. Army, taught at North Hardin High School and served as its head football coach in the 1970s.
As a businessman, he established a fitness center in downtown Elizabethtown and later became a Realtor. He served on Elizabethtown City Council from 1990 to 1995.
An obituary prepared by his family emphasized his volunteerism including efforts on behalf of Elizabethtown Parks

and Recreation, Special Olympics, Helping Hand and Sportsman Lake, where he lived for years. At his retirement home in Florida, Jenkins was part of Mexico Beach's Turtle Patrol and beach cleanup efforts as well as doing relief work after Hurricane Michael devastated the area in 2018.
William Lee Jenkins was born Jan. 9, 1943, to Harold "Bull" Jenkins and Mildred Jenkins. Survivors include his wife, Kathy Mahon Jenkins, three daughters and four grandchildren.
A celebration of life is planned July 8 at the Driftwood Inn in Mexico Beach, his obituary says.



JAKE KLINECT/The News-Enterprise

JT Lyon, middle, helps demonstrate a conditioning drill to the girls' soccer group Wednesday at Elizabethtown High School.

EHS, JT Lyon host summer workouts for Panther student athletes

BY JAKE KLINECT
THE NEWS-ENTERPRISE

JT Lyon, Elizabethtown High School's football defensive coordinator, is organizing and offering strength and conditioning sessions for student athletes in the Elizabethtown Independent School District until the start of the KHSAA dead period June 25.
The sessions are held every week around noon Tuesday to Thursday at the high school, with workouts available for student athletes of any sport from middle school to high school grade levels.
Lyon entered the school district last summer and aimed his focus on kick-starting the Panther football program, but he said the goal is to tackle other sports this summer.
"Now that I've finally been settled for a year, it's all about getting the other sports going," he said. "We just want to offer our athletes the opportunity to lift, train and to move while they're in the offseason. It's open to anybody who wants to come out and join us."
In its first week, the summer strength and conditioning program saw more than 130 Panther student athletes in attendance across the various sessions held throughout each day.
"You're seeing a lot of people here who are bought into a common goal, which is to be a better athlete for their team and have a successful career," Lyon said. "That goes as far as being successful for themselves, or being successful in their career with that team."
Boys and girls train separately and workouts vary depending on the specific sports of the attending student athletes.
Despite small variations, the student athletes follow a baseline athletic development course under Lyon's guidance and supervision. Workouts are held in rotation in the EHS football stadium, basketball courts or weight room depending on the weather.
"With football we are now working with more barbells and heavier lifts, whereas the soccer group is doing less with



JAKE KLINECT/The News-Enterprise

Multiple student athletes participate in a sprint drill Wednesday at Elizabethtown High School.



JAKE KLINECT/The News-Enterprise

Elizabethtown senior Ben Tucker pushes a weight sled in a strength drill Wednesday at Elizabethtown High School.

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— JT Lyon
Elizabethtown High School's football defensive coordinator

workouts with variations of the same program."
In addition to offering sessions for the high school and middle school grade levels, later sessions are offered to Panther alumni who are competing in collegiate sports.
"We just want to meet those athletes and ensure that they have a place to train for free and give them that opportunity," Lyon said. "They can use my program or they can use their college's program. For our high schoolers, it's a chance to see what it takes and looks like to be a college athlete."

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WADE PAYNE/Associated Press

Kentucky guard Otega Oweh (00) challenges an Alabama defender during the Southeastern Conference tournament in March. Oweh decided to forgo the NBA Draft and return to UK for his senior season.

'Unfinished business' inspired Oweh to return to UK

BY KEITH TAYLOR
KENTUCKY TODAY

LEXINGTON — After going through the NBA Draft process, including the combine, Otega Oweh opted to return and complete his collegiate career.
He returns as the team's leading scorer — 16.2 points per game — and wants to help lead Kentucky to the proverbial pinnacle.
"I still could have gone but I had one more year of eligibility and (wanted to) try to do the things that I didn't get to complete last year, like win a national championship," Oweh said. "I feel like we have so much more to complete here."

In addition to experience playing at an elite level, Oweh added more to his game while working out for several professional teams this spring.
"Learning all of the stuff I learned there, then being able to come back, I feel like I can use those things to my advantage," Oweh said. "I feel like if I continue to work on the things that I know I've got to work on, then on top of that, the conditioning and the stamina."
Oweh will be part of a nucleus that returns several players from last year's squad that finished 24-12 and reached the NCAA Sweet Sixteen. Oweh, Brandon

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Cards facing a powerhouse Oregon State in CWS opener

BY RUSS BROWN
KENTUCKY TODAY

LOUISVILLE — With his players gathered in front of a scoreboard in Jim Patterson Stadium that read OMAHA following Louisville's Super Regional victory over Miami on Sunday, sending the Cardinals to the College World Series, coach Dan McDonnell returned to his season-long message about enjoying the journey, although now he had reason to qualify it a bit.
"The journey continues, but let's make this very clear," McDonnell said, and then asked: "we're not going there for some of it, we're going there for?..."
And right on cue his players shouted, "All of it!"
They're not alone, of course. Seven other teams have the same idea in the best-of-three double-elimination tournament, including CWS

powerhouse Oregon State (47-14-1), U of L's first opponent Friday in Charles Schwab Stadium in Omaha, Nebraska.
In fact, the Beavers are so focused on winning the school's fourth title that they bypassed the traditional celebratory dog pile after winning the Corvallis Regional, a move reminiscent of Louisville's 2013 national championship basketball team that declined to cut down nets until winning the title in Atlanta, passing up opportunities in the Big East Tournament, the Sweet Sixteen and Elite Eight.
"Saving that for Omaha," third baseman Trent Caraway told the media in reference to a dogpile.
The celebration was restrained because, junior centerfielder Canon Reeder said, "We're just getting started. The job's not finished."
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