

JASPER

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Georgia Tech transfer Tonie Morgan is projected as the ninth pick in the 2026 WNBA Draft and came to Kentucky knowing that coach Kenny Brooks has a knack for developing point guards like he did with All-American Georgia Amooore at Virginia Tech and then Kentucky.

The 5-foot-9 Morgan has 95 collegiate starts and had 1,261 points along with 543 rebounds, 468 assists and 116 steals in 96 games at Georgia Tech. She averaged 13.7 points, 5.6 assists and 4.5 rebounds per game last season while shooting 49 percent from the field.

"I didn't want Tonie to feel like she had to be Georgia, and although we reference Georgia a lot in our conversations just because Tonie and I only have less than a year to build that chemistry, and so the blueprint has been what Georgia provided," Brooks said.

"To Tonie's credit, she has been magnificent as far as just understanding it, welcoming it, watching. We watch film of Georgia, and not just to praise Georgia, but Georgia did it in a way that Tonie wants to learn how to do as well."

Morgan came to Kentucky to learn how to be a true point guard and prepare for the WNBA draft while helping Kentucky win this season.

"I commend her for just her coming in here, hearing Georgia's name a lot but not letting it affect her and knowing that she's still going to be Tonie, and we're excited for what she's going to be able to bring to us,"

Brooks said. "She can do some things that Georgia couldn't do, so it's up to me to tap into those resources, and I'm excited for what she's going to be able to do this year."

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Kentucky volleyball doesn't just have depth. Instead, it has quality depth.

"We have 14 players who can actually go in and make an impact. That's not true for a lot of teams," said UK assistant coach Kyle Luongo. "A lot of teams might have one person they feel good about throwing in off the bench where they still feel competitive if this person goes in. But we feel competitive if we even have to go three, four or five players deep into the bench."

Kentucky (12-2 overall, 5-0 SEC) has wins over No. 5 Penn State, No. 10 SMU, No. 3 Louisville and No. 9 Texas A&M. The only losses have been to No. 1 Nebraska and then No. 7 Pittsburgh.

Kentucky has been a superb defensive team this season to go along with the big hitting from Brooklyn DeLeye and Eva Hudson, two of the nation's best players. Kentucky averages over 14.5 digs per set led by libero Molly Tuozzo with Hudson and DeLeye second and third in digs.

"I think we have some pretty special people on the court. The offense is always going to garner a lot of attention because what's going to stand out are the offensive plays and blocks," Luongo said. "The ability to extend rallies by digging what the opponent is trying to bring your way is huge for any team."

"For being as powerful and dynamic as Eva



Junior libero Molly Tuozzo leads Kentucky in digs. (Vicky Graff Photo)

Hudson is, she is an incredible defender because she's invested a lot of time into developing those skills. Brooklyn has as well. We used to kind of tease Brooklyn that (defense) wasn't a strength of her game but she took ownership of that. Her standard for herself is really high, so she has improved a ton in that area.

"Then when you surround those two in the back row with defenders like Molly Berezowitz, Molly Tuozzo and Ava Sarafa, you have a lot of opportunities to extend rallies and score with our

offense. This has definitely been an area that has become stronger than maybe we anticipated so now it is just a matter of us utilizing that in a way where we can score more points."

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Quote of the Week: "We don't like Kentucky at all. It's just like how it goes when you're playing for separate teams whether you like it or not. But you do need that hatred in you if you play for either of the teams. Everywhere you go, like, people say, 'Beat Kentucky' or when you're in Lexington people say, 'Beat Louisville.'"

That's just kind of how people view the rich history," Louisville forward J'Vonne Hadley at ACC Media Day on the UK-Louisville rivalry.

Quote of the Week 2: "If you'd have asked five years ago, I might have said Will Smith, but now — let's just keep it safe and say Denzel couldn't mess up a movie, so I would say Denzel Washington. He's fantastic. I think I look like him a little bit," UK women's basketball coach Kenny Brooks on what actor would play him in a movie.

Quote of the Week 3: "I

think a lot of people didn't think I would still come back once Cal left This is the school I played for. Yes, Cal was my coach, and I love Cal to death, but this is the school that gave me an opportunity to get a D-I scholarship and reach my ultimate goal to play college basketball. This place, in my heart they're always gonna have a place for me, and I'm always gonna be able to come back and support," John Wall on the SEC Network+ during his appearance at Big Blue Madness.

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