

Bledsoe pitches plan to preserve Minor League Baseball in Kentucky



Sen. Amanda Mays Bledsoe
FRANKFORT, KY (Feb. 4, 2025)—Recent changes in Major League Baseball’s

(MLB) labor agreements have benefited minor league players, including substantial salary increases and comprehensive benefits. However, Kentucky’s existing wage-and-hour laws risk conflicting with the new federally-negotiated collective bargaining agreement (CBA), potentially throwing a curveball and disrupting player development and team operations in the state.

Sen. Amanda Mays Bledsoe, R-Lexington, stepped up to the plate and introduced Senate Bill 15 on Tuesday to remedy the conflict and exempt minor league baseball players from

certain state wage-and-hour requirements. The narrowly tailored exemption, supported by the MLB and MLB Players Association, ensures players can fully benefit from the CBA without being subject to inconsistent state regulations.

“Baseball has long been America’s pastime, and now is the time to act to protect its future in Kentucky,” Bledsoe said.

Kentucky hosts several Minor League Baseball teams affiliated with MLB, including the Louisville Bats, the Triple-A affiliate of the Cincinnati Reds, playing at Louisville Slugger Field,

and the Bowling Green Hot Rods, the High-A affiliate of the Tampa Bay Rays, based at Bowling Green Ballpark.

Without legislative action, the existing state wage-and-hour statute applied to minor league baseball players could dramatically alter how they are utilized and how games are played in Kentucky.

Under the new CBA, the 69 minor league players assigned to Kentucky teams annually are treated as salaried employees and receive weekly pay throughout the year, including for spring training and the offseason. The CBA included significant salary increases of

119 percent to 138 percent, depending on the player’s level.

Without this legislative fix, state wage-and-hour laws could impose requirements like overtime tracking and recordkeeping, which are incompatible with the nature of professional baseball.

“Minor league baseball is a big part of Kentucky’s communities and economy,” Bledsoe added. “This bill strikes a balance between

supporting players and preserving the sport’s viability in our state, but it’s also going to assure the moms, dads and children who enjoy attending these games have more opportunities to do that. Many people enjoy visiting the ballpark to support their team as well as the social environment, and having a hot dog and snacks; it’s part of our American DNA. So, I’m glad to be able to support the game in this small but impactful way.”

Vaught

time. He never liked to yell it unless the situation really needed it. I remember times when coach Schlarman would yell and you knew if he raised his voice it had to be important for him to get the point across. He always treated people around him so well. I never forgot that.”

Stallings played in the NFL two years and then had COVID shut down football when he was trying to catch on with smaller professional leagues. He went to work in the corporate world but football was all in his passion and now he is the assistant coach at East Jessamine High School.

Even though his last season at UK was 2018 when Benny Snell set the career rushing record, Stallings still tries to go around the UK football program to talk with some players.

“I at least want to be somebody who can encourage them and tell them you got to stick to it. It starts in the weight room and I tell them to make sure we are doing that the right way and everything else will fall in place,” Stallings said. “Make sure you are living right.”

“I tell them the biggest thing I fought for was to make sure I had a good relationship with the guys around me. Our guys loved each other when I played. We are always with each other and that makes a difference.”

That offensive line continuity made me wonder about UK’s potential plan to start four, or maybe five, transfers in the offensive line in 2025 even with starting guards Jalen Farmer and Jager Burton returning.

Kentucky offensive line coach Eric Wolford brought in five offensive linemen from the portal — Bowling Green tackle Alex Wollschlaeger, Western Kentucky center Evan Wibberley, New Mexico State left tackle Shiyazh Pete, Arkansas guard Josh Braun and New Mexico tackle/guard Wallace Unamba.

Stallings said the transfer portal has created a different world for college football.

“The guys we did get all have one or two years (of eligibility) left. They have all played a lot of football. They should be able to plug in and go, but I would not be surprised if we play a rotational style,” Stallings said. “We have a bunch of younger guys who are able to play and it could come down to who feels comfortable with each other but I do believe one of the tackles and the center start for sure.”

Stallings felt UK coach Mark Stoops and Wolford had to win in competition, something UK missed last year, to rebuild the offensive line.

“When you have great competition that makes you appreciate going out there and fighting for this name across your chest,” Stallings said. “We talk about the Big Blue Wall and I see all this and that but it really is a mentality. It was always a group of people who did not give up and no matter what defenses did we were running the ball.”

Stallings was the run game coordinator for East Jessamine High School last year and will also be coaching the offensive line this season. He enjoyed meeting with head coach Tren-

ton Fields last season and was the coach’s “eyes in the (press) box” which was a new role for him.

“I think this will be a really fun year. I have some things in mind to show people what I can do with the players I have,” the former Kentucky All-American said. “We are going to put the work in. What I learned from Schlarman and how to go about things the right way is really needed in today’s world.”

“My long-term goal is to gain all the experience I can and move up as high as I can if I get the chance. I would love to land a college position one day and help as many players as I can understand what it takes to be successful.”

ing. That’s easy. I am not interested in doing that,” the Kentucky coach said. “I am interested in putting pressure on them (opponents).”

“Our guys will make mistakes. As long as they are being aggressive, I am okay with it. We want them to play with brains and guts. We are dealing with 18 to 24 year olds and we want to create pressure. We are going to keep adding things to give our opponents something to think about.”

Mingione is not ignoring defense.

“Defense is crucial to us. Two years ago we led the nation in defense,” he said. “When we started in the fall we were not close to that standard but we are getting better and will continue to get better.”

THE MERCER COUNTY JOINT BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS AND APPEALS

The public will take notice that a Public Hearing has been scheduled at the request of the following:

25-01 – Brad Vaughn is requesting a variance of 10’ from 20’ to 10’ on the rear yard setback. The property is located at 530 Commerce Drive in Harrodsburg, KY. The zoning map indicates the property is zoned B-2 (General Business District).

This public hearing has been scheduled for **Friday, February 28th, 2025** in the Harrodsburg City Commissioners meeting room located at 208 S. Main St. (2nd Floor) in Harrodsburg, KY at **9:00AM**. If you have any questions or comments, or would like to view proposed plans, please contact the Planning & Zoning Office at (859) 734-6066 or you may visit the Planning & Zoning Office at 109 Short St. Harrodsburg, KY.

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Bearcats



The Harrodsburg Herald/April Ellis
Annie Releford looked for a way out of the oncoming trap during Mercer's game with Anderson County.

Souder’s style of play, he is driving one point home, play my plays and my style of basketball or you will sit. Most of the starters sat for over half of the game.

but passes were too low and intercepted before she could do anything. At the end of the first quarter, Anderson led 18-2.

The Bearcats overpowered the Titans throughout the game; with Carlton on the bench, Anderson rebounded easily and took every advantage of Mercer’s inexperienced players. Eighth-grader Reese Ransdell fought for

every rebound and didn’t mind contact, but she lacked the height needed to get things done in the post. Eighth grader Annie Releford was barely inside the arc for two points and, a few possessions later, drove through traffic for another basket. Freshman Olive Frisby snagged a rebound and hit a jump shot to round up the six points the Titans scored in the second quarter and ended the half down, 34-8.

Mercer’s defense could not stop Anderson senior Lainey Johnson, who had 36 points for the night, including four 3-point shots. The second half was a scoring drought for Mercer. The only points scored each quarter came from three foul shouts from eighth-grader Cardin Sickles. While the team made good attempts at the basket, nothing fell through. Anderson ended the game with a 69-14 victory.

The Lady Titans may not have had the same success this season as previous teams, but they should not be counted out. A couple of rough years will lead to some great seasons with a little more maturity and experience under their belt.

The Lady Titans are on the road tonight, Thursday, Feb. 13, against the Casey County Lady Rebels and back at home Saturday, Feb. 15, against the Washington County Commanderettes.

**ON LINE ONLY
ESTATE AUCTION**

ANTIQUES – FURNITURE – GLASSWARE - TOOLS

Bidding Ends Monday, Feb 24, 2025 @ 6 PM

RM McGINNIS, LLC Real Estate & Auction Professionals have been authorized to sell a nice collection of Estate personal property. A few of the items in the auction include: Cherry drop leaf dining table and 6 chairs, buffett, sofa, end tables, coffee table, maple corner cabinet, several lamps, china cabinet, maple table and chairs, leather recliner, antique mantle clock, lots of American Fostoria glassware, Cherry bed, dresser, and chest, several hand stitched quilts, washer and dryer, day bed, roll top desk, lots of hand tools, tool chest, and many more items too numerous to list. See complete list of items with photos on line.

Preview Date – Sat – Feb 15th 1 PM to 4 PM EST
Auction Ends – Mon – Feb 24th approximately 6 PM EST
Pickup Date - Thurs – Feb 27th 1 PM to 6 PM EST

Property Location – 170 Boyle Ave, Harrodsburg, KY


Bidding Notice: This is an internet-only auction. All bidding activity will take place on line. 10% Buyers Premium Applies to All Bids

Payment Terms – Cash, check with proper ID, Visa, Master Card, Discover.


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