



KEITH TAYLOR/Kentucky Today

Kentucky athletics director Mitch Barnhart.

# Kentucky makes changes as it steps into new era of college athletics

BY KEITH TAYLOR  
KENTUCKY TODAY

A new era in college athletics began July 1. Athletic programs, such as the University of Kentucky and its student-athletes, can partake in revenue-sharing with a cap expected to be approximately \$20 million. The number could climb to more than \$30 million in the next 10 years.

The \$20.5 million figure is an estimate based on a percentage of average revenue generated by “Power Four conferences” within various categories, including media rights, ticket sales, licensing and corporate sponsorships.

When combined with athletic scholarships, this figure represents approximately 50% of the total revenue allocated to athletes, akin to revenue-sharing models in professional sports.

The Kentucky athletic department is “experiencing strong momentum” as it prepares for a pay-for-play model that will forever change the landscape of college sports.

“This success reflects a broad-based commitment to excellence in all sports, even as the landscape of college athletics undergoes significant change,” the

university said in a press release.

The revenue-sharing model will add \$20 to 30 million to the school’s yearly athletic budget, and the school is taking measures to absorb the immediate and future costs.

“With this new framework, we will continue to do what it takes to remain competitive,” Kentucky athletics director Mitch Barnhart said. “We will remain focused on education and competition, putting championship rings on fingers and diplomas in hands. We plan to not only survive but thrive. We will rely on our strengths: our innovative legacy, our position in the Southeastern Conference and the unified support of the University of Kentucky and the best fanbase in America, the Big Blue Nation.”

“These are the cornerstones of our path forward.”

A College Sports Commission has been formed and will be put in place “to facilitate revenue sharing in college sports and ensure that name, image and likeness (NIL) deals made between student-athletes and third parties are fair and comply with the rules.”

Among the changes, Kentucky will be phasing out faculty and staff discount

tickets. The move will result in the elimination of the season ticket discount by the 2027 season. The school will transition to single-game admission for women’s basketball, baseball, volleyball, gymnastics and softball starting with the 2025-26 school year. Complimentary K Fun Olympic sports passes will be discontinued.

In other changes, free admission will be offered for men’s and women’s soccer and ticket prices for children will be standard in all sports, while ticket pricing will include all fees that will be paid “up front,” which the school said will be “in line with new FTC regulations” and will eliminate hidden charges.

Along with the changes, the school said the athletic program is “committed to offering access to events for university employees and fans ... select discounts may still be offered throughout the year, and the department will continue to evaluate pricing to maintain a strong home advantage while supporting long-term success.”

“As we move forward, the Big Blue Nation’s continued support remains crucial,” Barnhart said. “Together, we can embrace these changes to elevate Kentucky Athletics to new heights.”

## FORMER

FROM PAGE B1

of the Year and was a part of the Sporting News’ Midseason All-America Second Team. Butler reached career highs in field goal percentage (49.8%) and from 3-point range (39.1%).

The 6-foot-2 guard scored in double figures in 14 games, including one of the most impressive individual performances in program history. Butler erupted for a career-high 33 points and was a perfect 10 of 10 from the field in a win over Louisville. That included making a career-high six 3-pointers.

It was the second-most points scored by a Kentucky player against the Cardinals and his 10 made shots from the field tied for the third most without a miss in program history.

For his efforts, he was named the Bluegrass Sports Commission MVP, the Southeastern Conference Player of the Week and a United States Basketball Writers Association National Player of the Week.

**JAXSON ROBINSON**

Robinson was knocked out over halfway through his only Kentucky season because of injury.

Robinson agreed to a free agent contract with the Cleveland Cavaliers, the organization announced Thursday.

Robinson was a finalist for the Julius Erving Award honoring the nation’s best small forward in 2024-25. He started all 24 games in which he appeared and averaged 13 points, 3.5 rebounds and 1.7 assists per game while shooting 43.2% from the field and 37.6% from distance.

He set career highs in rebounds per game, assists per game, field-goal percentage and 3-point field-goal percentage.

Robinson is the fourth Wildcat to earn an NBA opportunity. He joins Koby Brea and Amari Williams, who were second-round picks, and Butler.

“It has been one of the

highlights of my coaching career to spend the last three seasons with Jaxson Robinson,” Pope said. “He was playing the best basketball of his career before his season was cut short and I’m ecstatic that he has earned this very well-deserved opportunity.”

The 6-6 guard scored in double figures in 17 games and paced the team in scoring four times before missing the final eight games of the season and 12 of the final 13 overall. Robinson drained at least three 3s in nine games and finished the year having made 62 long-range shots, which ranked second on the squad.

He played the best basketball of his career against SEC competition, where he averaged 14.4 points across 11 games while shooting 46.2% from the field and 45.7% from 3-point range.

Robinson topped the 20-point plateau on four occasions, including scoring 27 points and sinking seven 3-pointers in a win at Mississippi State. He also topped the 20-point mark with 22 and five 3s against

Texas A&M. In a historic come-from-behind win against Gonzaga, Robinson logged 18 points and five assists.

Robinson was tabbed the Big 12 Sixth Man of the Year in 2023-24 and was an All-Big 12 honorable mention honoree at BYU. He was the first bench player in BYU history to lead the team in scoring, averaging 14.2 points per game.

**ANDREW CARR**

Carr will get an NBA opportunity after signing with the Portland Trail Blazers, it was announced Friday. Carr averaged 10.3 points, 4.7 rebounds and 1.7 assists per game for the Kentucky in 2024-25.

Carr is the fifth Wildcat from their Sweet 16 team to earn his way on to an NBA roster. He joins Brea and Williams, who were second-round picks, as well as Robinson and Butler, who also signed free agent contracts.

The 6-11 forward was a team leader for the Cats and earned SEC Community Service Team

accolades. On the court, he reached double-figure scoring in 21 games and connected on 54.4% from the field. Carr generated three double-double efforts, including notching 16 points and a season-high 12 rebounds in a win at Missouri.

“Andrew’s leadership was an invaluable part of our success last season,” Pope said. “I’m so excited for him to take this next step because he is going to be an asset to any team both on the court and inside of the locker room.”

He was at his best against some of the nation’s best. The West Chester, Pennsylvania, native charted a season-high 20 points on 7 of 11 shooting against No. 1 Auburn. He had 17 points, six boards, two assists and two steals at Alabama.

Carr logged a team-high 19 points on 8-of-12 from the field in the come-from-behind win over Gonzaga. He also chipped in seven boards and three assists, while playing the final 9:55 of the game with four fouls.

Carr came to Kentucky from Wake Forest.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Lebanon Enterprise newspaper in Lebanon, KY, is seeking a **FULL-TIME REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER.**

Applicants need to be able to write well-written, interesting, accurate, informative, and timely sports, feature, general news, and hard news stories as assigned. Photograph and process images on deadline that work with written text to illustrate news, sports or feature stories for print and online editions of the newspaper.

### QUALIFICATIONS:

- College degree in journalism, English, related field or equivalent experience
- Understanding of journalistic ethics and legal/libel knowledge is helpful
- Effective organizational and time management skills
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- Initiative to pursue news/feature/photo opportunities
- Sharp sense for news photography; keen eye for photos, strong sense of ethics.
- Ability to write effective, accurate cutlines.
- Proven adaptability and initiative.

### ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

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- Participate in news budget meetings, and project planning meetings.
- Process photos for publication using PhotoShop.
- Write effective, accurate cutlines

**Interested individuals should send their cover letter and resume’ to**  
**bsheroan@paxtonmedia.com**

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# Ohio multi-sport athlete commits to Cats for football, baseball

BY KENTUCKY TODAY

CINCINNATI — Matt Ponatoski, a four-star Ohio high school quarterback, committed Sunday night to Kentucky.

It is a double win for the Wildcats since Ponatoski will be joining the baseball team, too.

The 247Sports Composite ranks him as the No. 21 quarterback in the 2026 class.

As a junior at Archbishop Moeller High School in Cincinnati, Ponatoski was named the Gatorade Player of the Year in Ohio in both football and basketball.

He was named Ohio Mr. Football after throwing for 4,217 yards, 57 touchdowns and just three interceptions while leading his team to the OHSAA Division I state championship.

In the spring, he hit .462 in 27 baseball games.

Ponatoski, who is 6-foot-1 and 196 pounds, jumped at the chance to play football and baseball in the SEC. UK baseball coach Nick Mingione had him in for a convincing visit and the football program benefited from it. Ponatoski is an MLB prospect with the possibility of being good enough to be drafted in 2026, according to Perfect Game.

Ponatoski is the first Ohio recruit to commit to Kentucky since former assistant coach Vince Marrow left UK for Louisville. Marrow in the past had helped bring many Ohio prospects to Kentucky.

While the Wildcats had some strong commitments in June, only two were four-star prospects. The commitment of Ponatoski is a good boost for Coach Mark Stoops as he tries to rebuild Kentucky football.

of Coach Greg Fischer. For information, visit the Thomas Nelson boys’ soccer page on Facebook.

## THOMAS NELSON MIDDLE SCHOOL FOOTBALL

The Thomas Nelson Middle School football team will have a parent/player meeting at 6 p.m. Monday at Thomas Nelson High School.

The meeting is open to seventh and eighth graders who are set to attend Thomas Nelson High School and their parents.

FROM PAGE B1

For information, email NCHS coach Gabe Stanley at [gabe.stanley@nelson.kyschools.us](mailto:gabe.stanley@nelson.kyschools.us).

## TNHS BOYS’ SOCCER ALUMNI GAME

The Thomas Nelson High School boys’ soccer alumni game is at 6 p.m. July 26 at the TNHS soccer field.

The game is open to all past and present Generals players, and it will be played in honor

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# LEGAL NOTICE

### Probate Notice of Appointments

The following Fiduciaries have been appointed in the Nelson District Court.

Any claims against the following Estates should be presented to the named fiduciary before December 20, 2025.

**25-P-121 Estate of James David Elder,**  
203 E. Broadway, Bardstown, KY 40004.  
6/20/25 Margaret Elder, 203 E. Broadway, Bardstown, KY 40004 appointed Executrix.  
Attorney Amanda Rogers Deaton, 212 East Stephen Foster Avenue, Bardstown, KY 40004.

**25-P-182 Estate of Ann Dierker Richter,**  
412 South 6th Street, Bardstown, KY 40004.  
6/20/25 Jennifer Evans, 4055 Woodlawn Rd., Bardstown, KY 40004 appointed Executrix.  
Attorney Amanda Rogers Deaton, 212 East Stephen Foster Avenue, Bardstown, KY 40004.

**25-P-184 Estate of Lucille J. Farley,**  
7885 Highgrove Rd. Cox’s Creek, KY 40013.  
6/20/25 James Dale Goode, 7885 Highgrove Rd., Cox’s Creek, KY 40013 and William Goode, 9851 Bloomfield Rd., Bloomfield, KY 40008 appointed Co-Executors.  
Attorney Amanda Rogers Deaton, 212 East Stephen Foster Avenue, Bardstown, KY 40004.

Any claims against the following Estates should be presented to the named fiduciary before December 25, 2025.

**25-P-167 Estate of Ethel Jane Hall McBride**  
3003 Virginia Avenue, Bardstown, KY 40004  
6/25/25 Deborah Mathis, 3003 Virginia Avenue, Bardstown, KY 40004 appointed Executrix.

**25-P-171 Estate of McKinzi Nicole Raisor**  
3115 Poplar Flat Rd., Bardstown, KY 40004  
6/25/25 Heather Small, 3115 Poplar Flat Rd., Bardstown, KY 40004 appointed Administratrix.  
Attorney Richard I. Williams, Jr., 908 Minoma Ave., Louisville, KY 40217

**25-P-186 Estate of John William Reed,**  
512 Maxie Court, New Haven, KY 40051.  
6/25/25 Carolyn LaFollette, 841 LaFollette Road, New Haven, KY 40051 appointed Administratrix (w/Will Annexed).  
Attorney Valerie W. McCubbin, PO Box 288, Hodgenville, KY 42748.

**25-P-188 Estate of Kenneth Dean Skinner,**  
909 Woods Run Road, Bardstown, KY 40004.  
6/25/25 James Aaron Dean Boles, 123 Locust Grove Court, Bardstown, KY 40004 and Tonya Jo Donoho, 1001 Buck Run Trail, Cox’s Creek, KY 40013 appointed Co-Executors.  
Attorney Thomas A. Donan, 205 East Stephen Foster Avenue, Bardstown, KY 40004.

**25-P-174-Estate of Mary Barbara Headdy,**  
215 Floyd Court, Bardstown, KY 40004.  
6/25/25 Danielle Nicole Cox, 11305 Spring Hollow Court, Prospect, KY 40059 appointed Executrix.

**25-P-103 Estate of Chester Alphonse Morris, Jr.,**  
4475 Gap Knob Road, New Hope, KY 40052.  
6/25/25 Joyce M. Morris, 4475 Gap Knob Road, New Hope, KY 40052 appointed Executrix.  
Attorney Elmer J. George, 105 West Main Street, Lebanon, KY 40033.

### Probate Notice of Settlement Hearings

Exceptions to the following settlements must be filed in the Nelson Circuit Clerk’s office prior to the scheduled hearing on **July 23, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.**

**13-P-54 Estate of Michael Bret Young**  
Final Settlement  
Filed by Jason P. Floyd

**23-P-156 Estate of Harry Karr**  
Periodic Settlement  
Filed by Travis Newman

**19-P-15 Estate of Fern P. Geoghegan**  
Periodic Settlement  
Filed by Terry Geoghegan

Diane Thompson,  
Nelson Circuit & District Court Clerk