

# Kentucky's Quaintance taking his time in recovery from knee surgery

BY MARK MATHIS  
PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

The health timetable for Jayden Quaintance is the biggest question surrounding the 6-foot-10 potential star for the University of Kentucky as he observes practices in Lexington.

He had surgery for a torn ACL on March 19, ending his freshman season at Arizona State. Quaintance is moving along in his rehab and recovery, but whether he's available at the start of this upcoming UK season is a wildcard at the moment.

"I've been progressing pretty well," Quaintance said while declining to put a timetable on his recovery. "I've been trusting the trainers and coaches to try and get me right. Mentally, I've just been kind of focusing on the next step and kind of also focusing on the moment."

Quaintance did not mention a specific timeline for his return to the court.

But instead of focusing on when he can come back to action, Quaintance doesn't want to rush the process.

"It's really just trusting the trainers and coaches to try to get me back at 100%," he said. "They are really invested in my future and what I can do to help here, and they don't want to rush me to get back."

Quaintance has been limited in participation in practice, but he has been a keen observer

"I haven't been able to do all the reps that everyone else has been able to do, but I've been watching, observing, taking notes, learning some actions, getting adapted to the playing style," he said. "Getting adapted to the way the coaches think, and I feel like that's going to prepare me really well for when I can go 100%."

"I've been watching film and doing things that way. So that's been another way that I've been learning, but watching from the sideline, just seeing what guys are doing, just visually,



CHET WHITE/UK Athletics

Jayden Quaintance is shown during Kentucky men's basketball first summer practice.

I feel like that's really helped me memorize some of the things. And being able to picture what I'll be able to do, or where I'll be at during those steps, has been very helpful and impactful for me."

Quaintance originally committed to the Cats as part of the 2024 recruiting class under now former head coach John Calipari. When Calipari left UK for Arkansas, Quaintance re-opened his recruitment and ended up at Arizona State.

He played the entire season at 17 years of age (he graduated high school one year early)

and put up impressive numbers for the Sun Devils. Quaintance averaged 9.3 points, 7.8 rebounds and 2.6 blocks per game, while playing in 29 games. He earned Big 12 All-Freshman and All-Defensive team honors in the process.

Quaintance did all this despite his season coming to a sudden end after he suffered a torn ACL against Kansas State on Feb. 23.

However, at the end of the season, Quaintance entered the transfer portal, ending up at Kentucky.

UK coach Mark Pope was

more than glad to have Quaintance, who is projected as a high lottery pick in the 2026 NBA Draft.

And Quaintance saw a good chance to grow his game with Pope and Kentucky.

"They had the team set up so I could see what it looked like, got to trust in Coach Pope's offense, see how I can fit into that better," he said. "I feel like the squad that we have here has a really good chance to win a national championship. I feel like I have a chance to flourish offensively and defensively."

# Former UK coach Mumme returns to gridiron

BY JOSEPH RUSSELL  
PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

Former Kentucky football head coach Hal Mumme is returning to the sidelines in 2025 — at 73 years old and calling plays for a Division III football team.

Mumme, one of the architects of the famed "Air Raid" offense, has been hired as the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Centenary in Shreveport, La., after spending nearly a decade out of college sports.

Centenary head coach Byron Dawson, whose team went 4-6 last year in its first official football season since 1947, called Mumme "one of the most iconic offensive minds in college football history."

"With over 40 years of coaching experience, there's simply no substitute for the wisdom and leadership he brings," Dawson said. "He'll be a game-changer as he guides our young gents with the Air Raid offense."

Mumme served as the Wildcats' head coach from 1997-2000, mentoring Heisman Trophy finalist Tim Couch during his time in Lexington. Across his UK career, Mumme collected a 20-26 record with two bowl game appearances, including an 18-17 mark in his first three years.

Couch, who later became the first player selected in the 1999 NFL Draft, credits Mumme and his staff for keeping him at Kentucky.

Before that, after primarily running the option as a freshman — and poorly — under Coach Bill Curry, Couch was going to transfer.

Then Mumme was hired.

"My first meeting with Hal, I walk into his office and he literally says, 'You're my starting quarterback and we're going to throw it 50 times a game. How's that sound?'" Couch recalled on the Saturday Down South podcast in 2022. "All right, I

think I'll reconsider transferring at this point."

Couch stayed, and the rest was history — as Mumme's offense began to permeate throughout the sport.

"I had no idea it would be so prevalent around college football and now it's even made its way to the NFL," Couch said. "It's really cool to see that we were on the ground floor of breaking that system into major college football and where it is today."

Mumme resigned from Kentucky in 2001 amid NCAA rules violations within the program, including payments and illegal gifts to players. However, the NCAA concluded that Mumme was innocent of any individual rules violations.

Mumme later had head coaching stops at South-eastern Louisiana, New Mexico State, Division III McMurry and Division II Belhaven. He last coached as an offensive coordinator for the XFL's Dallas Renegades in 2020.



Hal Mumme

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## NCHS

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varsity and varsity teams.

For information, visit the Bardstown athletics page on Facebook.

### TNHS COED SOCCER CAMP

The Thomas Nelson High School girls' soccer team will have a youth camp Monday and Tuesday at the high school football field.

The camp is open to boys and girls ages 5-13 and for all skill levels.

Cost is \$80 per player and includes skill development sessions, team-building activities, competitions, lunch and a camp T-shirt.

For information, call Devin Boggs at 502-827-3224 or Durbin Boggs at 502-827-1015.

### NCHS BOYS' SOCCER ALUMNI GAME

The Nelson County High School boys' soccer alumni game is July 19 at the NCHS soccer field.

The game will be played at 8 p.m. and is open to all past and present Cardinals players. Cost is \$25 per player with a \$5 entry fee.

For information, email NCHS coach Gabe Stanley at 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 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.

### JIMMY CRAWFORD MEMORIAL GOLF SCRAMBLE

The Jimmy Crawford Memorial Golf Scramble is Aug. 2 at Bardstown Country Club's Maywood Course.

Cost is \$500 per four-person team. Registration begins at 7 a.m., with a shotgun start at 8.

Hole sponsorships are also available for \$150 each.

For information, contact Michelle Fabek at michellecfabek@gmail.com or 502-644-0249.

## 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
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Interested individuals should send their cover letter and resume' to [bsheroan@paxtonmedia.com](mailto:bsheroan@paxtonmedia.com)

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