Star basketball recruit Taylen Kinney is still considering coming to Kentucky

BY CAMERON DRUMMOND cdrummond@herald-leader.com

An elite college basketball recruit from the commonwealth continues to whittle the list of schools in his recruitment.

And Kentucky continues to make the cut.

On Thursday, standout class of 2026 point guard Taylen Kinney announced the final eight schools in his college recruitment. Mark Pope's UK program made the list for Kinney, along with Arkansas, Indiana, Kansas, Louisville, Miami (Florida), Oregon and Texas.

Kinney is a 6-foot-1 guard who is ranked by the 247Sports Composite as a five-star recruit and as the No. 16 national prospect in the rising high school senior class. Kinney is also ranked by that service as the top point guard prospect in the 2026 class.

In July, Kinney announced a list of 12 schools that he was still considering for college. Auburn, Purdue, Tennessee and Xavier failed to make the cut from Kinney's top 12 list to his top eight list.

Kinney is a former Kentucky high school star who burst onto the basketball scene while playing for Newport High School in Northern Kentucky. While playing for the Wildcats, Kinney earned all-state honors and led the school to appearances in the Sweet 16 state tournament in both 2023 and 2024. Newport won the smallschool All "A" Classic

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Class of 2026 recruit Taylen Kinney is still considering playing for Mark Pope and the UK basketball program. Kinney is a former Kentucky high school basketball star at Newport.

state championship in

In total, Kinney played three seasons of Kentucky high school basketball at Newport. He played varsity for the Wildcats as an eighth grader, freshman and sophomore. Kinney scored 1,220 points during his Newport career.

Now, Kinney is about to begin his second and final high school season with the Overtime Elite program in Atlanta. That's the same basketball development pathway that produced former UK guard Rob Dillingham and incoming UK freshman Jasper Johnson, who, like Kinney, began his prep career in Kentucky.

The 17-year-old Kinney was a standout performer during his first season at Overtime Elite, where he was teammates with John-

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son on the RWE team. Kinney finished the 2024-25 OTE regular season with per-game averages of 20.1 points, 5.0 assists, 4.0 rebounds and 2.3 steals.

'He's got a high ceiling," Corey Frazier, who coached Kinney's RWE team, told the Herald-Leader last fall. "He's going to be a tremendous point guard. He competes at a high level.'

So far in his recruitment, Kinney has taken official visits to Kentucky, Louisville and Purdue. But a long list of official visits is still on the horizon for the talented guard.

Kinney is supposed to be visiting Kansas this coming weekend. He also has official visits set up to Indiana, Oregon, Texas and Arkansas, which is led by former UK coach John Calipari.

Kentucky first expressed recruiting interest in Kinney when Calipari led the Wildcats. Calipari hosted Kinney for Kentucky's 2023 Big Blue Madness and Kinney was also at Rupp Arena in February when Calipari's Arkansas squad beat Kentucky in an emotionally charged con-

Something to monitor in Kinney's recruitment is his relationship with Adidas outfitted schools. Kinney has an NIL endorsement deal with Adidas and played AAU basketball on the Adidas 3Stripes Select Basketball circuit. Overtime Elite also has an apparel deal with Adidas.

Kinney is one of 20 uncommitted class of 2026 recruits with a UK

basketball scholarship offer. Pope and the Wildcats are still looking for their first commitment from the 2026 class.

Previously, Kinney told 247Sports that he plans to make his college commitment after he takes his official visits and probably before the OTE season begins.

247Sports national basketball analyst Travis Branham recently told the Herald-Leader that Kentucky is on the outside looking in for Kinney's recruitment, despite the Wildcats continuing to make Kinney's list cuts.

"They're trying really hard on Tay Kinney, but I don't necessarily like their chances with Tay Kinney,' Branham said. "I think Louisville is very much in the driver's seat of that one, and that's going to be a tough one to kind of flip at the end of the day."

Like UK, Pat Kelsey's Louisville program is still in search of its first class of 2026 commit.

TAYLEN KINNEY IS STILL CONSIDERING COMING TO KENTUCKY

This is the second time that Kentucky has made a list cut for Kinney. His first list announcement came last Christmas, when he included Kentucky among 15 schools that he was considering. UK then survived his cut to 12 schools, and now his cut to eight schools.

Kinney has been a longtime target for Pope and the Kentucky staff. He earned a UK scholarship offer last August while on an unofficial visit to Kentucky. Pope and UK assistant coaches Cody Fueger and Jason Hart conducted an in-home visit with Kinney in April and Kinney took an official visit to Kentucky in late June.

Kentucky's coaching staff was a mainstay this spring and summer on the Adidas grassroots circuit to watch Kinney play with his Wildcat Select team. Also this summer, Kentucky coaches got the chance to evaluate Kinney during the NBPA Top 100 Camp in South Carolina

and during a USA Basketball Under-19 national team training camp. At that USA Basketball camp, Kinney received on-court instruction from Pope and participated alongside incoming UK freshmen Johnson and Malachi Moreno.

Additionally, Kinney has shared the floor in other settings with players connected to the Kentucky program. Earlier this summer, Kinney participated in the 2025 Adidas Euro-Camp in Italy where he was teammates with fellow class of 2026 UK recruits Caleb Holt and Anthony Thompson. Holt is scheduled to visit Kentucky in September and Thompson has included Kentucky in his top seven list of schools.

Kinney was also a participant in last year's Adidas EuroCamp with Holt, Thompson and Moreno.

Kinney has one of the biggest social media followings of any prominent high school basketball recruit. In part aided by his move to the social media savvy OTE operation, Kinney has more than 350,000 followers on Instagram and more than 930,000 followers on TikTok.

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The Lexington Housing Authority (LHA) will accept applications at the Centre Meadows Apartments (Project-Based Housing Choice Voucher) and Northeast Lexington Public Housing sites, starting 12:00 a.m., Monday, September 1, through 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, September

30, 2025: Centre Meadows Apartments - Two (2) and Three (3) Bed-room Waiting List ONLY located at 1301, 1317 & 1333 Centre Northeast Lexington Public

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Interested persons MUST apply online ONLY. For instructions how and where to apply for the wait list, go to the LHA website at www. lexha.org to be directed to the application link. Applicants can apply from anywhere with internet access. If you do not have internet access, online application assistance is available by calling the Centre Meadows Management Office at 859-281-5087 or the LHA Central Office at 859-281-5060. Accommodations for disabled or non-English speaking residents will be made available upon advance request by calling (859) 281-5060 Persons with hearing or speech impairments can receive assistance contacting the LHA by dialing 7-1-1 to reach the Kentucky Telephone Relay

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING KENTUCKY TOURISM, ARTS
AND HERITAGE CABINET,
TRIANGLE PARK PROPERTY
OWNER I, LLC
The Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet will conduct a public bearing on Tuesday Sentember 9

hearing on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, between 1:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. Eastern.

The purpose of the hearing is to so-licit public comments regarding (i) the application of Triangle Park Property Owner I, LLC, a tourism development project located in Fayette County; and (ii) the designation of this eligible company as a preliminarily approved company, and its consideration for final approval by the Kentucky Tourism Development Finance Authority pur-suant to KRS 148.850 - 148.860. Persons wishing to present evidence or comment on the application may participate by Zoom, in person, or in writing. Contact Kimberly Gester, Hearing Agent, for details on participating by Zoom or in person at (502) 892-3198 or by email at kimberly. gester@ky.gov. Written submissions should be sent to the Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet, 500 Mero Street, 5th Floor, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601, ATTN: Kimberly Gester. and clearly marked RE: "Triangle Park Property Owner I, LLC." Written submissions should be mailed in sufficient time to be received on or before 4:30 p.m. Eastern, Monday, Septem-

Aug 24 2025

Misc. Legals **Public Notice**

The U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) is considering a request for Federal assistance from the City of Springfield to construct a KY 150 Bypass Sewer Extension and City Barn Pump Station Upgrade Project in Washington County, Kentucky, Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), EDA is conducting an assessment of the potential of the proposed project to affect the environment and/or historic properties. Notice is hereby given that the project is proposed to be located in, or may affect, a floodplain and/or wetland as defined by Executive Order (EO) 11988 and/or EO 11990.

The project includes approximately 7,400 linear feet of new gravity sewer, one regional pump station upgrade with generator, and 6,900 linear feet of new 8-inch force main. The project will eliminate three aging and undersized existing pump stations. The construction will begin at the new regional pump station located at the corner of US Hwy 150 and Kentucky 528. The Latitude is 37.706163 and Longitude is -85.225993. The 8 inch force main will parallel Lincoln Park Rd (KY 528) then turn west along Hwy 555. All of the force main will be within the rightof-way. The gravity sewer line will also begin at the regional pump station. Some of the line will also parallel KY 528 and end at the City Barn Pump Station. The other gravity line will be gin at the new regional pump station and run parallel to KY 150 Bypass and end at the Industrial Park Pump Station. Project information is available for review at the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission's office located at 603 West Main Street, Springfield Kentucky 40069. Their phone number is (859)336-5454.

you have any information regarding potential impacts to historic properties or environmental resources including wetlands or floodplains associated with this proposed project, please provide any comments by email to ATRO-REO@eda.gov.

Comments received by 5:00 pm eastern on September 26, 2025 will be considered. A copy of the NEPA/NH PA decisional document will be available upon request from ATRO-REO@ eda.gov. IPL0265635 Aug 22,24,27 2025

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