

KENTUCKY

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good.”

UK had eight steals in the first half, as the Cats took control of the game early. Illinois had a 5-4 lead within the first four minutes of the game but a 9-0 run, sparked by defense, gave Kentucky a lead it would hold for the final 36:16 of the game.

The defensive effort was a collective one, with several players contributing to the cause. Williams had three of UK’s four blocked shots and he also had a steal. Butler, Andrew Carr and Collin Chandler each had three steals. Carr tied his season high, while Chandler set a new career high in the win.

Brandon Garrison had two steals for the Cats, while Koby Brea and Otega Oweh each added one. Oweh had UK’s other blocked shot in the game.

With the increased effort, the Cats have moved from 110th to 45th in defensive efficiency in the country. Kentucky will need to continue to play solid defense as they move forward to the Sweet 16 later this week in Indianapolis.



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