

CATS

From Page B1

searching for answers. Winless in the SEC one week into the league schedule, Pope hasn't lost hope in his squad.

"It's a hard space," he said. "This is tough. It's not the way we intended to start SEC, and it's exactly what we have in our hands right now. When you go through a hard time, which everybody does, the question is, how much does it take to break you? I'm not about to break. This group's not about to break. We're no place there."

Largely behind preseason Player of the Year Owew, the Wildcats were able to provide some bright moments against the Tigers. In one sequence in the second half, Owew fed Brandon Garrison with an alley-oop assist for a slam, and then Garrison returned the favor with an assist to Owew on a 3-pointer as part of a 6-0 run that gave Kentucky its largest lead of the



LES NICHOLSON PHOTO

Kentucky's Jaland Lowe looks for an open teammate against Missouri Wednesday.

game at 66-58 with 4:34 remaining.

From that point on, it was all Missouri as the Tigers (12-3, 2-0)

outscored the hosts 8-0 in the final 1:14 and scored 15 of the last 17 points to secure a memorable victory.

"I thought our guys came to try to compete the best they could," Pope said. "Our execution down the stretch was poor. You have to be able to execute better to win games."

Missouri coach Dennis Gates dedicated the program's first-ever win at Rupp Arena to former Wildcats assistant coach Leonard Hamilton. Gates served as an assistant coach under Hamilton at Florida State.

"(I) had a long conversation with Leonard Hamilton (Tuesday) night," Gates said. "Obviously, we know who he is around these parts. (He) gave me some great wisdom. He's an unbelievable mentor to me. This game was dedicated to him."

Behind his team's steady play and Kentucky's inability to execute when it mattered, Gates and the Tigers made history of their own.

"We call it a fire drill when we get under the two-minute



UNIVERSITY PAPERBACK BOX SCORE - FIRST

Missouri at Kentucky

01/07/26 Rupp Arena, Lexington

2025-26 Men's Basketball

Game Duration: 2:12

Attendance: 19,085

Officials: Doug Shows, Pat Adams, Rob Roke

Record: 12-3 (2-0)											
NO. Name	Min	FG	3P	FT	Rebounds	Foul	TP	AS	TO	ST	Blocks
		M-A	M-A	M-A	DR	PF	FD	BB	BA		+
25 Mark Mitchell	F 36:49	7-15	1-1	6-7	0 1 1	1 6	21	4	1	0 0 2	5
15 Shawn Phillips Jr.	C 22:16	4-5	0-0	0-0	0 1 1	4 1	8 1	2 0	2 1	1 3	
0 Anthony Robinson II	G 36:23	4-9	0-3	1-3	1 3	2 4	9	10	3 2 0 1	3	
17 Jayden Stone	G 26:23	3-6	5-7	0 7 7	0 0 3	20	1	1 0 0 0	0 2		
35 Jacob Crews	G 15:30	1-3	1-3	0-0	0 1	1 1	3	0	0 1 0	-5	
45 Luke Northweather	O 02:37	0-0	0-0	0-0	0 0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0 0	0 1	
5 T.O. Barrett	T 17:23	3-3	0-0	1-1	0 1	4 1	7 1	2 0 0 0	0 3		
11 Trent Pierce	T 27:18	2-5	1-4	0-0	1 4 5	3 0	5 3	1 1 4 1	0 1 0		
24 Nicholas Randall	O 10:29	0-1	0-0	0-0	0 2 2	1 2	0 0	0 0	0 0 0	0 3	
6 Annor Boateng	O 04:52	0-1	0-0	0-0	0 2 2	1 2	0 0	0 0	0 0 0	0 3	
Team					2 1	3 0	0	0	0 1		
Totals		27-52	6-17	13-18	4 25 29	19 18	73	20	12 8 4 4	5	

Major Fouls: NONE

Record: 12-3 (2-0)											
NO. Name	Min	FG	3P	FT	Rebounds	Foul	TP	AS	TO	ST	Blocks
		M-A	M-A	M-A	DR	PF	FD	BB	BA		+
21 Jayden Quaintance	F 17:54	0-1	0-0	1-4	1 3 4	0 4	4 0	1	1	2 1 1 0	-9
23 Mouhamed Dioubate	F 24:37	2-6	0-0	4-4	2 2 3	3 3 8	2 8	3 0	0 0 1 1		
00 Otega Owew	G 35:15	6-11	3-4	5-8	1 4 5	3 5	20 4	1 4 0 1	1 1		
1 Denzel Aberdeen	G 27:51	3-7	1-2	0-0	1 2 3	1 0	7 4	1 0 1 0	0 2		
15 Jaland Lowe	G 28:17	2-11	1-5	4-4	1 3 4	2 4 9	2 9	0 0 0 2	2 2		
24 Malachi Moreno	T 21:42	3-4	0-0	3-4	2 2 4	2 2 9	1 1	2 0 3 0	6		
3 Kam Williams	T 27:53	3-8	2-7	0-0	1 1 8	0 0	1 1 0 0	0 1 0 0	-15		
5 Collin Chandler	O 05:26	0-0	0-0	0-0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 1 1 0	0 0 0 6		
10 Brandon Garrison	H 11:05	3-3	0-0	0-0	0 0 4	4 4	6 6	2 1	0 0 0 0	-5	
Team					2 2 4	0 0	0 0 0 0	1 1			
Totals		22-51	7-18	17-24	8 23 31	18 19	68	16	13 7 4 4	-5	

Major Fouls: Team (TF) 1st 12:23

Shooting By Period											
1 st FG%	2-2	50.0%									
3PT%	3-10	30.0%									
2 nd FG%	15-28	53.6%									
3PT%	3-7	42.9%									
FT%	7-8	87.5%									
GM FG%	27-52	51.9%									
3PT%	6-17	35.3%									
FT%	13-18	72.2%									
Dead Ball Rebounds: 3,0											

Dead Ball Rebounds: 3,0

Shooting By Period											
1 st FG%	2-2	45.5%									
3PT%	2-5	40.0%									
2 nd FG%	12-29	41.4%									
3PT%	5-13	38.5%									
FT%	7-10	70.8%									
GM FG% 22-51 43.1% 3PT% 7-18 38.5% FT% 17-24 70.8%											