

Stein: Kentucky will be full-strength vs. Alabama

BY COLE PARKE
THE CATS' PAUSE

As Kentucky football dominated Youngstown State offensively en route to a 45-13 victory to kick off the Will Stein era on a high last Saturday, it did so shorthanded. In that contest, Oklahoma transfer running back Jovantae Barnes was ruled out earlier in the week while starting corners Hasaan Sykes and Terhyon Nichols were also both absent. Add onto that the fact that, despite Stein saying later he could have played, projected start-

ing tackle Malachi Wood also didn't suit up against the Penguins and a picture begins being painted of a team that's less than 100%. Going into week two's SEC opener against No. 13 Alabama, though, Stein stated that won't be an issue. "Just a little recap after this past Saturday, (we) came out healthy, which is good," he said. "I'm expecting us to be at full-strength for this game, which is really exciting as well for us as a team." Full strength? Really? As it turns out, yes.

Regarding Barnes, Stein confirmed the running back is ready to go. He also added that he does feel better about his running back room after the strong showings from CJ Baxter Jr., Jason Patterson and Martels Carter Jr. on Saturday. Previously, Stein had said he felt "good" but not "great" about the depth in the room, but the trio's strong play, as well as Barnes' return, has UK's head coach's feeling on the upswing. If anything, he said he felt like Barnes' greatest contribution he's going to bring in

week two will be that depth that's necessary to challenge a behemoth like Alabama. "Add depth," Stein said regarding what Barnes brings. "I think this is a game where depth is needed. This is a season, a league, where depth is needed. So, those guys are able to go in there and provide us meaningful snaps and play winning football." What about Wood? Stein said postgame that the Madison Central product's only real ailment was a calf bruise and that he was held out with precau-

tion, but will he be good to go for the Crimson Tide? "Yep, like I said, we're full-strength," Stein said. "Ready to roll." And Sykes and Nichols? Stein had said previously that Sykes was likely to be back for week two, but Nichols was more of a "we'll see" in regards to how his recovery went. Will they both be ready to go? "Yeah," Stein said. "They practiced today, so that's my expectation." That sounds pretty close to full-strength,

barring the likes of Tovani Mizell, who's already been ruled out for the year. Kentucky has a tall task ahead of it if it hopes to down Alabama in Lexington for the first time since 1997 and for the third time ever, but having a healthy roster seems like a strong first step in the right direction. The Wildcats will kick off with the Crimson Tide on Saturday, Sept. 12, from Kroger Field to start SEC play. The game is set to begin at 3:30 p.m. ET and will air live on ABC.

Storm golf teams navigate busy late-summer slate

BY JIMMY DEROGATIS
THE MESSENGER SPORTS REPORTER

The Hopkins County Central golf program has experienced a whirlwind 2026 campaign across the area's fairways, highlighted by head-to-head success and tournament tests for both the boys' and girls' squads. The Hopkins County Central boys' team have seen success in dual match play following back-to-back late-August victories over district foe Webster County. The Storm claimed a narrow 164-178 home victory over the Trojans on Aug.

24 before sweeping the home-and-home series with a 162-167 road win on Aug. 27. Central's head-to-head success builds on a grueling tournament schedule earlier in the summer. The Storm opened their season on July 20 at the Colonel Invitational at Henderson Country Club, firing a team score of 350 to finish 10th. They followed with a sixth-place finish (332) at the Union County Invitational on July 24, a third-place effort (357) back at Union County on Aug. 4, and a sixth-place result (322) at the Madisonville-

North Hopkins Invitational on Aug. 22. The Storm were set to return to action on Tuesday for a head-to-head match against Christian County at Lakeshore Golf Course, but the outing was cancelled. Christian County instead hit the course against Todd County Central, falling 157-172. Todd Central's Noah Rager captured match medalist honors with a 3-under-par 33. Henry Riggs spearheaded the effort for Christian County, finishing as the individual runner-up with a 41. Lane (44), Cansler Wells (46), Sam Riggs (47), Landyn Hollimon (48), Aiden Riley (49), and Alex Naylor (55) rounded out the card for Christian County. On the girls' side, the Hopkins County Central Lady Storm solo linkster continued to build momentum throughout August. Standout performer Macy Cotton recently captured individual medalist honors at a three-team match on Aug. 12, while the squad joined the boys in taking the course at Webster County on Aug. 27.

Heisman hopefuls Manning and Sayin to face off when No. 1 Ohio State meets No. 4 Texas in Austin

BY JIM VERTUNO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN, Texas — Arch Manning's 2025 Heisman Trophy campaign started and ended with a rocky season-opening loss at Ohio State. Over in the Buckeyes' huddle, Julian Sayin's first career start launched a standout season that found him, not Manning, among the Heisman finalists last December. Those two face off again Saturday when No. 1 Ohio State (1-0) meets the No. 4 Longhorns (1-0) in Austin. The blockbuster rematch could very well set the narrative for both players and teams for the rest of the season. After struggling against Ohio State, Manning evolved from a shaky passer to a starring one some now project as the possible No. 1 pick in the 2027 NFL draft. Sayin grew from game manager to team leader in taking the Buckeyes to the College Football Playoff. He also projects as a likely first round pick if he enters the draft after this season. The runup to the rematch has spent a lot of time looking back at where the two quarterbacks started and how far they've come come in the year since the Buckeyes roughed up the Longhorns. Manning would rather look ahead. "Not a lot of good memories from a year ago," Manning said this week. "I'm hoping to have a good game this week ... I feel like I'm a year better."

MANNING GREW THROUGH PAINFUL START
Manning's first season as the full-time starter was



Eric Gay | AP

Texas quarterback Arch Manning (16) scrambles against Texas State during the first half of an NCAA college football game in Austin, Texas on Saturday, Sept. 5.

far from the bust some were calling it by midseason. He was getting punished behind an offensive line that couldn't protect him. Manning took a beating from the Buckeyes and it shaped the national opinion about the latest prodigy from the Manning football family. Eventually the spotlight moved on. Instead of torching Manning, it shifted somewhere else as Texas started grinding out wins. Manning was maturing. The Longhorns went 7-1 to finish the season and pummeled Michigan in the Citrus Bowl. "He went through the battles and struggles," of last season, Texas' preseason All-America tackle Trevor Goosby said. Manning starred in the bowl game, passing for 221 yards and running for 155 more. His 60-yard touchdown run was the highlight of the game. In a season where Texas started No. 1 then fell out of the rankings after a 3-2 start, the Longhorns finished 12th. The Longhorns quickly turned their eyes to the Ohio State rematch on home turf. Texas coach Steve Sarkisian built a powerhouse offensive

lineup through the transfer portal, adding playmakers Cam Coleman at receiver and Hollywood Smothers and Raleek Brown in the backfield. Manning passed for 305 yards and four touchdowns in a season-opening 59-7 win over Texas State. His only blips were a first-half interception and a trip, fall and faceplant in the pregame sprint out of the smoky stadium tunnel. The blooper video quickly made the rounds on social media. "It's hard to see in that smoke," Manning joked. "It was good to get my first hit before the game started, get ready to roll." Ohio State coach Ryan Day can see the difference in Manning from a year ago. "You watched last year as Arch played, he got better and better and better," Day said. "He's really improved and give him a lot of credit for putting the work in."

SAYIN SEIZED HIS MOMENT IN 2025 AND IS AMONG HEISMAN CONTENDERS AGAIN
Sayin was a five-star recruit out of high school. But his name isn't Mann-

ing, so he wasn't the star going into the Texas matchup last season. Manning's name is still likely the first one mentioned this week and his endorsement deals are likely to pop up regularly on game-day TV commercials. But Sayin carries his own heavy load of playoff and Heisman expectations into Saturday. Sayin passed for 3,610 yards and 32 touchdowns with eight interceptions last season and his 77% completion rate ranked third in NCAA history. He won the Shaun Alexander National Freshman of the Year award and finished fourth on the Heisman ballot. He is the only player among last season's top four finalists to return this year. In the Buckeyes' season opener, Sayin passed for 320 yards and three touchdowns and ran for a score in a 56-3 win over Ball State. He'll get tested Saturday by Texas All-American edge rusher Colin Simmons, a crowd in excess of 100,000 and late summer Texas heat that could have temperatures still in the 90s by the 6:30 p.m. local kickoff time. An Alabama native, Sayin should be able to hack the Southern heat. "As a quarterback you have to stay even-keeled and be the calm in the storm," Sayin said this week. Sarkisian said he expects both quarterbacks to be at the top of their game Saturday night. "You see the level of confidence both guys are playing with. What you notice is the presence in the pocket and the confidence in using their legs," Sarkisian said. "Should be pretty high-level quarterback play."

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
HOPKINS CIRCUIT COURT
MADISONVILLE,
KENTUCKY 42431
CIVIL ACTION NO.
24-CI-01057

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
PLAINTIFF

vs. NOTICE OF SALE IN EQUITY

CARROLL D. GRACE
DEFENDANT

By virtue of Judgment and Order of Sale of the Hopkins Circuit Court the undersigned will, on **Monday, September 21, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.** on the steps of the Hopkins County Judicial Center, 120 East Center Street, Madisonville, Kentucky, proceed to expose to PUBLIC SALE, the real estate located at **26 Pine Street, Nortonville, PVA Parcel No. NORT-2-15-2**, Hopkins County, Kentucky. See **Deed Book 572, page 520**, Hopkins County Court Clerk's Office, for the legal description of said property. Terms: The real estate shall be sold for cash or on credit of thirty (30) days. If on credit, the purchaser must pay a down payment of 10% of the purchase price at the time of the sale and post bond with approved surety for the balance of the purchase price, bearing interest at the rate specified in the judgment from the date of said bond, with a lien reserved upon said property until payment is made in full. The buyer shall be responsible for the current year's property taxes.

J. Keith Cartwright
Master Commissioner
Hopkins Circuit Court

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
HOPKINS CIRCUIT COURT
MADISONVILLE,
KENTUCKY 42431
CIVIL ACTION NO.
26-CI-00397

PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC
PLAINTIFF

vs. NOTICE OF SALE IN EQUITY

TODD TRAVIS aka TODD COLEMAN TRAVIS, ET AL.
DEFENDANTS

By virtue of Judgment and Order of Sale of the Hopkins Circuit Court the undersigned will, on **Monday, September 21, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.** on the steps of the Hopkins County Judicial Center, 120 East Center Street, Madisonville, Kentucky, proceed to expose to PUBLIC SALE, the real estate located at **1919 Darrell Court, Madisonville, PVA Parcel No. M-48-5-1**, Hopkins County, Kentucky. See **Deed Book 763, page 275**, Hopkins County Court Clerk's Office, for the legal description of said property. Terms: The real estate shall be sold for cash or on credit of thirty (30) days. If on credit, the purchaser must pay a down payment of 10% of the purchase price at the time of the sale and post bond with approved surety for the balance of the purchase price, bearing interest at the rate specified in the judgment from the date of said bond, with a lien reserved upon said property until payment is made in full. The buyer shall be responsible for the current year's property taxes.

J. Keith Cartwright
Master Commissioner
Hopkins Circuit Court

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
HOPKINS CIRCUIT COURT
MADISONVILLE,
KENTUCKY 42431
CIVIL ACTION NO.
25-CI-01255

TAX BRAKE KY, LLC
PLAINTIFF

vs. NOTICE OF SALE IN EQUITY

LINDA LOUISE WOODWARD, ET AL.
DEFENDANTS

By virtue of Judgment and Order of Sale of the Hopkins Circuit Court the undersigned will, on **Monday, September 21, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.** on the steps of the Hopkins County Judicial Center, 120 East Center Street, Madisonville, Kentucky, proceed to expose to PUBLIC SALE, the real estate located at **1115 Manitou Road, Manitou, PVA Parcel No. MAP-64-23A-15**, Hopkins County, Kentucky. See **Deed Book 765, page 358**, and **Deed Book 778, page 56**, Hopkins County Court Clerk's Office, for the legal description of said property. Terms: The real estate shall be sold for cash or on credit of thirty (30) days. If on credit, the purchaser must pay a down payment of 10% of the purchase price at the time of the sale and post bond with approved surety for the balance of the purchase price, bearing interest at the rate specified in the judgment from the date of said bond, with a lien reserved upon said property until payment is made in full. The buyer shall be responsible for the current year's property taxes.

J. Keith Cartwright
Master Commissioner
Hopkins Circuit Court

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
HOPKINS CIRCUIT COURT
MADISONVILLE,
KENTUCKY 42431
CIVIL ACTION NO.
25-CI-00889

CITY OF MORTONS GAP, KENTUCKY
PLAINTIFF

vs. NOTICE OF SALE IN EQUITY

LARRY W. FARMER, ET AL.
DEFENDANTS

By virtue of Judgment and Order of Sale of the Hopkins Circuit Court the undersigned will, on **Monday, September 21, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.** on the steps of the Hopkins County Judicial Center, 120 East Center Street, Madisonville, Kentucky, proceed to expose to PUBLIC SALE, the real estate located at **240 White City Road, Mortons Gap, PVA Parcel No. MGAP-28-15**, Hopkins County, Kentucky. See **Deed Book 654, page 706**, Hopkins County Court Clerk's Office, for the legal description of said property. Terms: The real estate shall be sold for cash or on credit of thirty (30) days. If on credit, the purchaser must pay a down payment of 10% of the purchase price at the time of the sale and post bond with approved surety for the balance of the purchase price, bearing interest at the rate specified in the judgment from the date of said bond, with a lien reserved upon said property until payment is made in full. The buyer shall be responsible for the current year's property taxes.

J. Keith Cartwright
Master Commissioner
Hopkins Circuit Court