

UK basketball recruit files suit seeking fifth year of eligibility

BY BEN ROBERTS
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

All-SEC basketball player Mark Mitchell has filed a lawsuit in the state of Kentucky seeking a fifth season of NCAA eligibility. Mitchell, who was a standout at Missouri over the past two years after starting his college career at Duke, emerged in recent weeks as a major UK basketball target amid a landscape that could see a wave of talented players hit the transfer portal before the 2026-27 season. Because of NCAA rules regarding the transfer portal, Kentucky has not been able to formally pursue Mitchell, though his decision to file a lawsuit in the state is the latest sign of his potential to join the Cats this summer. There have been lawsuits filed in several states over the past few weeks on behalf of players seeking a fifth season of college eli-

gibility after they were left out of recent NCAA rule changes that will grant current and incoming players five years to play five seasons moving forward. The high school class of 2022, in which Mitchell was a McDonald's All-American, was not grandfathered into the new eligibility structure. That decision by the NCAA, with the support of its member schools, limited those players to four seasons of eligibility, effectively ending their college careers at the conclusion of the 2025-26 season. Multiple temporary injunctions have been granted in favor of the players seeking a fifth year of eligibility, but none of those rulings are final, and the NCAA is appealing in each case to keep players from the high school class of 2022 from playing another season of college basketball.

A U.S. District Court judge in Colorado issued a temporary injunction this month that would give a fifth season of eligibility to all players in the 2022 class, whether or not they joined any of the current lawsuits around the country, but that ruling is not final and left intact the NCAA's transfer portal rules, which mandate that players must enter the portal during a specific window in order to switch schools. Mitchell did not enter the transfer portal in the specified window in the spring. As part of his lawsuit filed this week in Jefferson County, he is seeking a fifth season of eligibility and the ability to potentially transfer for the 2026-27 season. Since he's not currently in the transfer portal, college coaches are not permitted, under NCAA rules, to have direct contact with Mitchell for

recruiting purposes. "He is not sure where he will play if granted another year, and is having difficulty with his decision because NCAA rules currently prohibit him from speaking with any coaches other than his previous school even though he has graduated and been declared eligible," one portion of the lawsuit reads. Kentucky is expected to be a major contender for Mitchell if he is indeed allowed to enter the transfer portal. The 6-foot-9 forward averaged 18.3 points and 5.2 rebounds

per game and would likely slot into the 4 role in UK's starting lineup, if the Cats can land him. Coach Mark Pope's team is already projected as a top 20 squad for next season, with star transfers Milan Momcilovic, Zoom Diallo and Alex Wilkins joining key returnees Malachi Moreno and Kam

Williams on the 2026-27 roster. Pope has one roster spot remaining for next season, and he has said in recent days that he's looking for a frontcourt player who can make an immediate impact. Mitchell would fill that role while possibly vaulting the Cats even higher in the preseason rankings.



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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 4.2 of the Zoning Regulations for All of Nelson County, notice is hereby given that the Bardstown Board of Adjustment will hold a **public hearing and meeting** on Tuesday, September 1, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in Planning Commission Office, 989 Chambers Blvd, Bardstown to consider the following applications:

Application #3336 – Jeffery Anderson has filed an application for a Conditional Use Permit for a Type 2 Short-Term Rental, located at 107 Payne Avenue.

A copy of the applications may be reviewed in the Planning Commission office at 989 Chambers Blvd, Bardstown.

BARDSTOWN BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT



LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 4.2 of the Zoning Regulations for All of Nelson County, notice is hereby given that the Nelson County Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing and meeting on Tuesday, September 1, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. in the Planning Commission office at 989 Chambers Blvd, Bardstown to consider the following application(s):

Application #3335 – Tracy Milburn has filed an application for a Conditional Use Permit for a Home Occupation (Hair Salon), located at 1005 Spring Court.

A copy of the applications may be reviewed in the Planning Commission office at 989 Chambers Blvd, Bardstown.

NELSON COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

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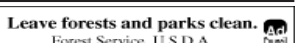
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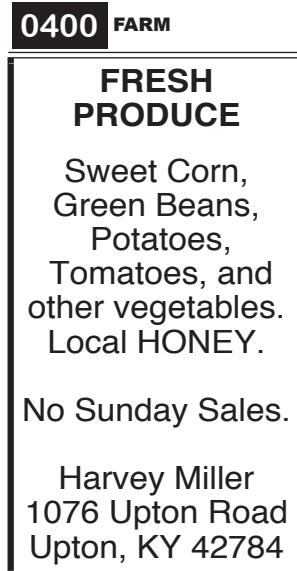


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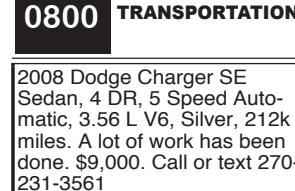
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