

UK, U of L alumni to play best-of-three TBT series

BY RUSS BROWN
KENTUCKY TODAY

If you are a Kentucky or Louisville basketball fan and you don't get enough of the rivalry, here's another chance to indulge your passion with an expanded event this summer.

The Basketball Tournament, often called simply TBT, announced that the U of L alumni team, The Ville, will play Kentucky's alumni team, La Familia, in a new best-of-three series in July.

The first game is set for a noon tipoff July 18 in Memorial Coliseum in Lexington, with the rematch at 7 p.m. July 20 at Freedom Hall. Game 1 will be televised on FOX, with Game 2 on FS1.

If necessary, the third game will tip off at 6 p.m. July 22 and also carried on FS1. Homecourt advantage will

be determined by which venue sells the most ticket for the game it's hosting between 10 a.m. Monday and 10 a.m. Tuesday.

The Ville and La Familia have met just once in the TBT, in 2024 in Freedom Hall, won by UK's alumnus, 70-61. That contest broke the tournaments attendance record with a crowd of 13,506 and it was a heated affair, capped by a brawl at the final buzzer.

"These two fan bases are incredible," TBT CEO Jon Mugar said in a release. "Based on the 13,506 that came out for this matchup in 2024, we expect this to be one of the most raucous sporting events of the summer. Especially now that there's \$2 million at stake."

In addition to the headline event, TBT also unveiled a new 16-team format and winner-take-all \$2 million

prize, with eight alumni teams and eight non-alumni teams competing on two sides of the bracket. The first round will be a best-of-three series before returning to the single-elimination format. Five wins will be needed to pocket the \$2 million.

In the first three years of the TBT, the field consisted of 60 teams in a single-elimination tournament.

The Ville vs. La Familia survivor will face the winner of the series between Syracuse's alumni team, Boheim's Army, and Seton Hall's squad, Hall In, at 2 p.m. July 26 on FOX. The alumni bracket winner will host the tourney's championship game Aug. 2 on FOX against the non-alumni winner on the alumni team's homecourt.

North Hardin boys basketball coach Michael Baffour, a member of Louisville's 2013 national champi-

onship team, will be The Ville's fourth different head coach in as many years.

Russ Smith is taking over general manager duties and also will return for a fourth year as a player. Wayne Blackshear, who played for U of L from 2011-15, will serve as Smith's assistant GM.

"It's an honor to be in a position to lead from the front office and add some new faces as we rebuild The Ville," Smith said in the release. "The reception has been great and we can't wait to be on the court and highlight the pro talent that was developed at the University of Louisville. We love that we get to play against our arch-nemeses from Kentucky. Those matchups are always heated. We are out for retribution. Bring it on!"

Edgar Sosa and Malik Williams were the first two players named

for The Ville. Former UK guard Jon Hood will take over as La Familia's head coach and Willie Cauley-Stein, Archie Goodwin and Reid Travis will be among the players.

"We've faced The Ville before and came out on top," and we plan to do it again," Cauley-Stein said. "La Familia has what it takes to win this series. We're prepared and motivated to show that we're the better team. Louisville should know that we won't let them get in the way of us winning \$2 million."

Last year, AfterShocks (Wichita State) defeated Eberlein Drive for the title in front of a record championship game crowd of 9,029 in Koch Arena in Wichita.

TBT drew 85,395 fans last summer, surpassing its own record. Since 2022, TBT says its annual attendance has grown by more than 136%.

Taylor wraps up baseball season on a roll

BY CKNJ SPORTS

Taylor County shut North Hardin 17-0 in four innings in its regular season finale on Thursday, May 14, in Radcliff.

Taylor County scored three runs in each of its first two at bats. Then, extending its lead, Taylor County manufactured five runs during the top half of the third inning.

Taylor County also pushed across four runs during the top half of the sixth frame.

Isaac Burress and Reece Vaughn combined to pitch a two-hit shutout for the Cardinals. Burress started on the mound, pitched three innings and claimed the win. Following Burress, Vaughn pitched the final inning in relief. Each Taylor County pitcher recorded two strikeouts.

North Hardin sent four different pitchers to the mound during the matchup with limited success.

Taylor County scored 17 runs on 15 hits. Several Taylor County players thrived offensively, including Burress (one hit), Vaughn (one hit, one RBI), Cole McLean (three hits, four RBIs), Grayson Kearney (three hits, four RBIs), Kaysen Thompson (two hits, two RBIs), Silas Young (two hits, one RBI), JT Johns (one hit, two RBIs), Braxton Veach (one hit, one RBI) and Will

Landis (one hit). Displaying power at the plate, McLean homered. Showing speed on the base paths, Kearney tripled.

TCHS 12, Washington County 2: Taylor County rolled past Washington County 12-2 in five innings on Tuesday, May 12.

Visiting Washington County manufactured the first run in the game during the top half of the opening inning but lost its early momentum. TCHS plated four runs during the bottom half of the first inning and gradually pulled away for the win.

Silas Young started for Taylor County and earned the win. Young pitched four innings and recorded five strikeouts.

JT Johns pitched the final inning in relief for the Cardinals. Johns struck out one Washington County batter.

Lance Coulter started for Washington County and got relief held from Layne Mattingly and Thomas Roution.

Taylor County scored 12 runs on 13 hits. Young (one hit), Johns (two hits, one RBI), Reece Vaughn (two hits, four RBIs), Cole McLean (two hits, two RBIs), Grayson Kearney (two hits), Kaysen Thompson (one hit, three RBIs), Isaac Burress (one hit, one RBI), Carson Mills (one hit) and Baker Cox (one hit), each produced offensively in Taylor County's 10-run win. Both McLean and Thompson homered

for the Cardinals.

JT Smith and Reece Draper record the Washington County RBIs.

TCHS 14, Casey County 0: Erupting for a dozen runs in the home half of the first inning, Taylor County easily went on to shut out Casey County 14-0 in five innings on Monday, May 11.

Cole McLean and Andrew Burress combined to pitch a one-hit shutout the Cardinals. McLean started and went four innings. Burress pitched the final inning in relief.

Kaden Stephens started on the mound for Casey County and took the loss.

Following Stephens, Bryson Wesley and Braydon Snow pitched in relief for the Rebels.

Taylor County scored 14 runs on 13 hits. McLean (one hit), Isaac Burress (one hit, one RBI), Carson Mills (four hits, three RBIs), Baker Cox (two hits, two RBIs), Grayson Kearney (two hits, two RBIs), Silas Young (one hit, two RBIs), JT Johns (one hit, one RBI), Kaysen Thompson (one hit) and Reece Vaughn (one RBI) each delivered offensively for the Cardinals. Mills tripled while both Burress and Johns doubled.

Breaking up a no-hitter, Korbin Neat singled for visiting Casey County.

Eagles down Clinton, Boyle

BY CKNJ SPORTS

Campbellsville shut out Clinton County 15-0 in four innings Tuesday, May 12.

Kade Somerville and Reece Swafford combined to pitch a three-hit shutout for the Eagles.

Campbellsville scored 15 runs on 11 hits. Swafford (one hit, one RBI), Griffin Howard (three hits), Kace Eastridge (two hits, four RBIs), Ty Burwash (two hits, three RBIs), Jaden Elmore (one hit, one RBI), Dax Gray (one hit, one RBI), Remy Brown (one hit) and Mason Bubnick (one hit) were each productive in Campbellsville's lineup. Showing power at the plate, Eastridge homered. Displaying speed on the bases, both Howard and Burwash tripled. As part of balanced offensive effort for Campbellsville, Howard, Eastridge and Burwash each doubled.

CHS 3, Boyle County 1: Campbellsville beat Boyle County 3-1 on Monday, May 11.

Kace Eastridge pitched for CHS and earned the win while recording eight strikeouts.

Campbellsville plated three runs on five hits. Griffin Howard (three hits, one RBI), Jaden Elmore (one hit, one RBI) and Remy Brown (one hit) accounted for Campbellsville's offense. Supplying an extra-base hit, Howard doubled.

Boyle County managed to score one run on four hits.

Cam Hogue (one hit, one RBI), Owen Wheeler (one hit), Tyler Claunch (one hit) and Logan Perry (one hit) accounted for Boyle County's offense.

Bowling Green 4, CHS 3: Campbellsville came up short as Bowling Green held on to win 4-3 in the regular-season finale Thursday, May 14.

The Eagles completed the regular season 24-5.

Jack Cowan started on the mound for Bowling Green and earned the win. Cowan pitched six innings and recorded 11 strikeouts.

Grayson Rodgers got three strike outs in one inning of relief to earn the save.

Remy Brown pitched two and one-third innings in relief for Campbellsville and absorbed the loss. Brown recorded four strikeouts.

Cameron Estes started on the mound and pitched four and two-thirds innings.

Bowling Green scored four runs on six hits. Cowan (one hit, one RBI), John Mosley (two hits, one RBI), Landon Gilbert (one hit, one RBI), James Yarbrough (one hit) and Logan Johnson (one hit) each produced offensively for the Purples. Both Cowan and Mosley doubled.

Campbellsville plated three runs on only one hit. Brown connected for Campbellsville's lone hit. Aiding Campbellsville offensively, Jaden Elmore and Kade Somerville each drove in one run.

Kentucky basketball offers first scholarship to Class of 2028 recruit

BY CAMERON DRUMMOND
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Kentucky basketball has extended its first scholarship offer to a class of 2028 recruit.

On Monday, Yann Kamagate reported a scholarship offer from Mark Pope's UK program.

Kamagate is the first prospect from the 2028 recruiting group to report a scholarship offer from the Cats. College coaches aren't allowed to directly contact prospects in the 2028 recruiting class until June 15.

Kamagate is a 7-foot center from California. 247Sports ranks Kamagate as a five-star prospect and as the No. 4 overall recruit in the 2028 class. That recruiting service has Kamagate ranked as the top center in the 2028 recruiting group.

Last weekend, Kamagate impressed while playing up an age level on the Adidas travel basketball circuit. Kamagate plays for the Compton Magic on the Adidas circuit. He is currently averaging 13.9 points, 10.4 rebounds, and 2.9 blocks per

game through two sessions of the Adidas circuit this spring.

Kamagate, who is originally from Burkina Faso, was scouted this past weekend by UK assistant coach Mikhail McLean during an evaluation period for college coaches.

Pope and the Cats are hoping to score better results with future recruiting classes than they did with this year's group. UK stumbled badly with the 2026 recruiting class, landing only two high school commitments from guards Mason Williams and Zyon Hawthorne.

247Sports ranks Williams as a four-star recruit and as the No. 110 overall prospect in the 2026 class. Williams is a son of new UK assistant coach Mo Williams.

Hawthorne wasn't ranked by the major recruiting services. He's a younger brother of UK freshman forward Braydon Hawthorne, who redshirted the 2025-26 season with the Cats.

Kentucky suffered several significant recruiting losses with the 2026 class, missing out on several elite prospects

including top-ranked recruit Tyran Stokes. Ten of the top 20 players from the class of 2026 in the 247Sports rankings took a recruiting visit to Lexington, but none committed to Kentucky.

Across the past three high school recruiting classes, Pope has successfully recruited seven prospects to Lexington.

Those players are Zyon Hawthorne and Williams from the 2026 class, Braydon Hawthorne, Jasper Johnson and Malachi Moreno from the 2025 class and Trent Noah and Travis Perry from the 2024 class.

Acaden Lewis signed to play at UK from the 2025 recruiting group, but he decommitted from the Cats and instead played his freshman season at Villanova. Lewis hit the transfer portal this offseason and will play his sophomore year at Miami.

Collin Chandler was a

freshman at UK during Pope's first season with the Cats. He was originally part of the 2022 recruiting group before delaying his college career to serve a two-year mission trip for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Chandler had been committed out of high school to play for Pope at BYU, before following then Pope to Lexington.

Chandler transferred to BYU this offseason.

Johnson, who 247Sports ranked as the No. 24 overall prospect in the 2025 recruiting class, is the highest-ranked high school player to commit to play for Pope in college.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Budget hearing regarding proposed use of County Road Aid A public hearing will be held by Taylor County Fiscal Court at the courthouse on June 11, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. for the purpose of obtaining citizens comments regarding the possible uses of the County Road Aid (CRA) Funds. All interested persons in Taylor County are invited to the hearing to submit oral or written comments on possible uses of the CRA Funds. Any person(s) who cannot submit written comments or attend the public hearing but wish to submit comments, should call the Office of the County Judge/Executive at (270) 465-7729 by June 10, 2026 so that arrangements can be made to secure their comments.

This notice is intended to inform the residents of Campbellsville, Kentucky, that the City of Campbellsville is in the process of closing out CDBG #25-028 grant for The Healing Place of Campbellsville Recovery Kentucky Project 2025. The project was funded by the Kentucky Community Development Block Grant Program.

A public hearing will be held at the Campbellsville City Hall at 110 S. Columbia Avenue, on June 2, 2026 at 12:00 PM local time. The purpose of this hearing is to review past use of funds and program performance. If there are any questions or comments about the project, please direct them to:

Mayor Dennis Benningfield
110 S. Columbia Avenue, Suite B
Campbellsville, KY 42718

Written comments for the grant will be received until the date of the hearing on June 2, 2026.

Discrimination Clause

The City of Campbellsville does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, sex, age, religion or disability, and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation, including auxiliary aids and services, to afford an individual with a disability an equal opportunity to participate in all services, programs and activities. Any persons requiring special needs assistance should contact Jennifer Thompson, City Clerk at 270-465-7011 at least five days prior to the meeting. The TDD number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-648-6057 or 711.

Americans with Disabilities Act Contacts:

Vocational Rehabilitation
Division of the Blind
502-564-4440

American Printing House
1-800-223-1839
www.aph.org

Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
1-800-372-2907
www.kcdhh.org

For Interpreter Directory
https://oop.ky.gov/Public_Dir.aspx

State Relay TDD Number
1-800-648-6057

Two CU golfers earn PING honors

BY CKNJ SPORTS

Two members of the Campbellsville University men's golf team were named to the NAIA PING All-Midwest Region team announced by the Golf Coaches Association of America.

CU announced the honors were bestowed upon Carson Childress and Daniel Drjevic.

Childress finished his junior season ranked in the Top 100 nationally and 76th in the region. Childress had a scoring average of 72.4, three

top finishes and won the Gibson Baby Intercollegiate. In his last tournament, Childress finished second in the conference, receiving first-team All-Conference honors.

Drjevic finished the season ranked 69th and 63rd in the region. Drjevic had a scoring average of 72.5 in 26 total rounds. He won the LTU Heritage Hill Collegiate, finishing -11 and posting a season-low round of 63. Drjevic finished T-11 at the MSC Championship and joined Childress on first-team All-Conference.

CENTRAL KENTUCKY
NEWS-JOURNAL

CLASSIFIED DEADLINE

FRIDAY - 4:00 PM

Contact Customer Service at
**270-465-8111, Option 1 or
classifieds@cknj.com**

Monday-Friday 8AM-4PM

***Holidays advance deadline by 24 hours.**