

Diallo, Wilkins can be major Kentucky backcourt

BY MARK MATHIS
PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

Kentucky has two good point guards who are usually dominant with the ball. Instead of that causing friction, junior transfer Zoom Diallo thinks Kentucky can be twice as good in the backcourt with both himself and Alex Wilkins on the floor at the same time.

"Most definitely, I feel like teams are gonna have to guard me or him, no matter if we have the ball or don't have the ball, they're gonna have to know where we're at at all times," Diallo said during a recent media session in Lexington. "I feel like Alex is dynamic with the ball and off the ball because he poses as a threat. He can shoot it at a high clip, and just me having the ball and me continuing to extend my range and shoot it at a high clip also myself, I feel like we challenge each other every day."

Diallo is 6-foot-6 with a lot of college experience, playing his first two seasons at Washington. Diallo started 29 games and averaged 15.7 points and 4.5 assists a game while hitting 48.9% from the floor. Diallo scored in double-figure in 23 games, including a career-high 26 against Southern Cal. He had three double-doubles. Diallo dropped 20 of his 24 points in the second half against No. 23 Wisconsin in the Big Ten Tournament and added seven assists.

Wilkins is a 6-6 sophomore who made a splash at Furman with 35 starts as a freshman. He averaged a team-high 17.8 points and 4.7 assists per game. Wilkins was the most outstanding player at the SoCon Tournament after helping lead Furman to the title and an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. He averaged 21.7 points per game in the SoCon Tournament and had a career-high 34 points in the

semifinal win over UNC Greensboro.

Wilkins emerged as a transfer portal top target after he put up 21 points, hitting 50% from long range, in an 82-71 loss to UConn in the first round of the 2026 NCAA Tournament.

"I feel like we challenge each other every day," Diallo said. "Even when we're not on teams, it's more of a competitive thing, and I feel like when we're on the same team, it's more dangerous, because teams have to guard me and they have to guard him. Now also, they have to guard all the other guys. They gotta guard Milan (Momcilovic), they gotta guard Brayden Hawthorne, it's just not just gonna be a me and him thing, it's gonna be a more team collective thing. But I feel like us being two lead guards is gonna start it off. I'm glad he's here, and we're just getting started." The way Diallo views the

situation, and maybe what Pope has indicated over the last few weeks, there will be two lead guards on the court at the same time during the upcoming season.

"To be honest, most definitely having two lead guards, I will say that, but again, you know, stuff changes all the time," Diallo said. "I feel like me and Alex being on the court together is going to be very helpful for our team. I feel like we're more versatile, and wherever coach wants to put us, I feel like we're going to be able to adjust. I mean, it's very exciting to see. He's very talented, he's young, but you can see that he's very gifted. And just me being another guy over here, I played two years of Big 10 basketball, and now coming to SEC, just trying to instill confidence, and he's instilling confidence in me. So, having another guard like that has been pretty good."



UK Athletics
Alex Wilkins (back) and Zoom Diallo (right) during a Kentucky men's basketball summer practice on June 16.

Bear struck, killed near Corinth as sitings on the rise

BY ANN CARTER
PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

Bear sightings have been on the rise in northern Kentucky in recent weeks, with wildlife officials saying that the trend is part of normal seasonal behavior.

Recently, a young male black bear was struck and killed on Interstate 75 near the Corinth exit. Owen County Sheriff Brent Caldwell confirmed the incident, saying that a Grant County deputy responded to the crash. A biologist with Kentucky Fish and Wildlife was called to retrieve the animal.

According to John Hast, bear program coordinator for Kentucky Fish and Wildlife, the recent increase in sightings outside of typical bear habitats is not unusual. He explained that younger bears, often described as "teenage" bears, can travel hundreds of miles. "We're well into bear breeding season," Hast said, adding that bears are especially active and on the move during this time.

Wildlife experts say the movement is largely

driven by older, dominant males in Eastern Kentucky, which push younger bears out of established territories during mating season. As a result, young males may travel for weeks at a time, covering more than 20 miles per day in search of food and a place to settle.

Recent sightings have been reported in several areas, including Lexington near Masterson Station, as well as across the Ohio River on the east side of Cincinnati and parts of southern Indiana near Corydon.


Biologists and game wardens with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources stress that this behavior is normal and encourage residents to educate themselves about black bears to better understand how to coexist safely.

"Learning a little more about black bears will help keep any encounter in perspective and can ease any fears a community may have," Hast said.

Residents can report bear sightings to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife by calling the tip line at 800-858-1549.



Ryan C. Hermens
A black bear is walks near the Salts trailhead at Kingdom Come State Park near Cumberland, Ky. on 2024. A young black bear was spotted in a Lexington neighborhood over the weekend.



LEGAL NOTICE

June 2026 Probate
Estate to be Administrated: Name/Address Fiduciary: Date of Appt: Claims to be Filed: Atty of Fiduciary
 Linda Lou Adams
 Lori Bennett, 894 Dividing Ridge Rd., Sanders, KY 41083
 6/3/26
 12/3/26
 Hon Ruth H Baxter, Crawford & Baxter PSC, PO Box 353, Carrollton, KY 41008
 Jack Raymond Watkins Sr.
 Jeanette A Freeman, 1448 Sharon Rd., Ghent KY 41045
 6/3/26
 12/3/26
 Hon Jake Thompson, Crawford & Baxter PSC, PO Box 353, Carrollton, KY 41008
 Thomas Edward Deaton
 Sarah Deaton, 150 Kentucky Hwy 467 W, Sparta, KY 41086
 6/17/26
 12/17/26
 Pearson & Paris PSC, Hon Sean Paris, 306 West Jefferson St., LaGrange, KY 40031

Pope says Cats working on yearly matchup with Pitino, St. John's

BY KEITH TAYLOR
KENTUCKY TODAY

LEXINGTON — Mark Pope could be seeing more of his college coach in the future.

In a wide-ranging interview with Ron Rothstein of CBS Sports this week, Pope admitted that future scheduling adjustments could lead to a home-and-home series with St. John's. "We're not there now, but if we keep working this way scheduling-wise with getting more flexibility, I can't imagine that won't happen," Pope said. "I would expect that we'll get that done sometime here in the near future."

Pope and the Wildcats defeated the Red Storm 78-66 in the CBS Sports Classic last year in Atlanta.

"That was a fun night for us," Pope recalled. "I always talk about the 17 minutes where we had our group (fully healthy), and they were really good. They were really good against a terrific St. John's team."

Pope said he thinks the former Kentucky and Louisville coach will continue to build a solid program at St. John's. "He's still got a ton left in

the tank and I think they'll continue to be really good," Pope said.

Pope added the Wildcats are "really active" on the recruiting trail and they could add a 15th player to the roster.

"We have a spot open," Pope said. "And there are a lot of intriguing things going on that are all pointed in very, very different directions."

During his interview with Rothstein, Pope said Malachi Moreno "has the potential to make a massive jump" next season. Moreno declared for the NBA Draft last spring before opting to come back for another season at Kentucky.

"He was so solid for us last year," Pope said. "Every freshman player, especially freshman bigs that are carrying the load that he was carrying last year, where we didn't do a lot for him. There weren't many ways we made the game much easier for him. He came every single night and put together a good performance. There was a little bit of fatigue toward the end of the season, which is incredibly understandable. I think he's going to make a massive jump."




LEGAL NOTICE

City of Milton, Kentucky
Ordinance #3, Series 2026
AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE CITY OF MILTON ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2027, MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR PURSUANT TO KRS 91A.030.
WHEREAS, pursuant to KRS 91A.030, the City of Milton is required to adopt a budget for the fiscal year based on the anticipated revenues to be received and defining and appropriating the necessary funds for the expenditure of monies during the said fiscal year, and
WHEREAS, the City of Milton has reviewed the budget proposal as presented to the City Commissioners with a budget message, follows:
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Milton as follows:
 That the annual budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 is hereby adopted as
GENERAL FUND
REVENUES--\$240,521.37
EXPENDITURES--\$240,521.37
MUNICIPAL STATE AID ROAD FUND
REVENUES--\$54,000.00
EXPENDITURES--\$54,000.00
WATER DEPARTMENT MAINTENANCE FUND
REVENUES--\$1,426,900.00
EXPENDITURES--\$1,426,900.00
SEWER DEPARTMENT MAINTENANCE FUND
REVENUES--\$90,000.00
EXPENDITURES--\$90,000.00
 That this Ordinance take effect from and after its enactment and approval.
 First reading taking place on June 11, 2026.
 Second reading taking place on June 18, 2026.
 Date of Publication: July 10, 2026.

APPROVED:
Denny C. Jackson
Mayor

ATTEST:
Angela Dunaway
City Clerk/Treasurer

COMMISSIONERS VOTING:
FOR _____ AGAINST _____
Lee Carson _____ None _____
Troy Alexander _____
Denny Jackson _____
Leah Carson _____
Lynn Comeaux _____



LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF BUDGET ORDINANCE
CARROLL COUNTY FISCAL COURT
Fiscal Year 2026-2027
BUDGET SUMMARY
 AN ORDINANCE Relating to the Annual Budget and Appropriations.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE FISCAL COURT OF CARROLL COUNTY, KENTUCKY:

SECTION ONE: The following budget is adopted for the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 and the amounts stated are appropriated for the purposes indicated.

General Fund		
5000	GENERAL GOVERNMENT	2,227,738.00
5100	PROTECTION TO PERSONS AND PROPERTY	900,482.00
5200	GENERAL HEALTH AND SANITATION	261,545.00
5300	SOCIAL SERVICES	188,582.00
5400	RECREATION & CULTURE	14,500.00
7100	DEBT SERVICE	553,199.00
8000	CAPITAL PROJECTS	50,000.00
9100	GENERAL SERVICES	240,896.00
9200	CONTINGENT APPROPRIATIONS	500,000.00
9300	TRANSFERS TO OTHER FUNDS	
9400	FRINGE BENEFITS	956,910.00
9500	PAYMENTS TO OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES	40,000.00
Total		5,933,852.00
Road Fund		
6100	ROADS	2,402,534.00
9100	GENERAL SERVICES	85,450.00
9200	CONTINGENT APPROPRIATIONS	100,000.00
9400	FRINGE BENEFITS	444,656.00
Total		3,032,640.00
Jail Fund		
5100	PROTECTION TO PERSONS AND PROPERTY	2,466,849.00
5400	RECREATION & CULTURE	1,000.00
9100	GENERAL SERVICES	37,451.00
9200	CONTINGENT APPROPRIATIONS	25,000.00
9400	FRINGE BENEFITS	1,170,163.00
Total		3,700,463.00
Local Government Economic Assistance Fund		
5100	PROTECTION TO PERSONS AND PROPERTY	9,696.00
5200	GENERAL HEALTH AND SANITATION	62,328.00
5400	RECREATION & CULTURE	421,936.00
8000	CAPITAL PROJECTS	50,000.00
9400	FRINGE BENEFITS	49,687.00
9500	PAYMENTS TO OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES	20,000.00
Total		613,647.00
State Grants		
5100	PROTECTION TO PERSONS AND PROPERTY	10,000.00
Total		10,000.00
Ambulance Fund		
5100	PROTECTION TO PERSONS AND PROPERTY	1,464,500.00
9100	GENERAL SERVICES	11,188.00
9200	CONTINGENT APPROPRIATIONS	200,000.00
9400	FRINGE BENEFITS	651,213.00
Total		2,326,901.00
Solid Waste Fund		
5000	GENERAL GOVERNMENT	47,806.00
5200	GENERAL HEALTH AND SANITATION	217,000.00
9100	GENERAL SERVICES	2,722.00
9400	FRINGE BENEFITS	64,963.00
Total		332,491.00
Perks and Recreation Fund		
5400	RECREATION & CULTURE	340,319.00
9400	FRINGE BENEFITS	105,294.00
Total		445,613.00
SHERIFF		
5000	GENERAL GOVERNMENT	1,646,237.00
9100	GENERAL SERVICES	21,643.00
9200	CONTINGENT APPROPRIATIONS	20,000.00
9400	FRINGE BENEFITS	644,234.00
Total		2,332,114.00
911 FUND		
5100	PROTECTION TO PERSONS AND PROPERTY	24,005.00
Total		24,005.00
911 WIRELESS		
5100	PROTECTION TO PERSONS AND PROPERTY	200,020.00
Total		200,020.00
INSURANCE FUND		
9400	FRINGE BENEFITS	80,000.00
Total		80,000.00
CLERK SB135 (79)		
5000	GENERAL GOVERNMENT	56,336.00
Total		56,336.00
OPIOID SETTLEMENT (81)		
5100	PROTECTION TO PERSONS AND PROPERTY	75,893.00
9200	CONTINGENT APPROPRIATIONS	307,708.00
Total		383,601.00
MAJOR PROJECTS (82)		
8000	CAPITAL PROJECTS	3,879,452.00
9200	CONTINGENT APPROPRIATIONS	
9300	TRANSFERS TO OTHER FUNDS	
Total		3,879,452.00
Total Budget Appropriations		23,351,135.00