

Pope high on Aboya as UK assistant

BY COLE PARKE
THE CATS' PAUSE

When Mark Pope started asking around about Alfred Aboya this summer, the calls came back fast.

“As we went through this process over the course of the summer, I probably reached out to 15 different people kind of league-wide,” Pope said at SEC Basketball Media Days in Birmingham, Alabama. “He is universally — I’ve had people call me back faster

about him than they have on any other topic just to give a ringing endorsement of who he is as a human being.”

That made it an easy decision to hire him as Kentucky’s last assistant coach for the 2026-27 season, which was made official Tuesday in a press release from UK Athletics. Aboya, the current coach of the Cameroon national team and former head coach of NBA Academy Africa, is a Kentucky assis-

tant coach.

With that in mind, the release also left a lot unsaid. It didn’t include any quote from Pope and nothing from UK Athletics Director and Champions Blue LLC CEO J Batt. So, on Wednesday, Pope was asked to fill in some blanks.

“Aboya is a tremendous addition to the staff,” Pope said. “He’s currently the head coach of the Cameroon national team. He’s been the head coach of the NBA Academy in

Senegal. His contacts throughout Africa and Europe with African players are extraordinary. He was one of the all-time winningest players at UCLA, went to three straight Final Fours, that’s saying a lot at UCLA.”

From there, Pope explained that he sees Aboya contributing in two main areas: player development and recruiting.

“He’s going to have an immediate impact with our guys on the floor,” Pope

said. “He’s big, he coaches bigs, he’s really going to help with our front line, but also on the recruiting front, the X’s and O’s front. He’s got great acumen. He’s really going to help us.”

On the recruiting side, the timing matters, too. Kentucky spent the summer watching how the NCAA would handle eligibility for European players who had signed professional contracts. That question still isn’t fully settled, but Pope at least

believes that the door is open wider than he expected it to be.

“We haven’t got to the end of that road, but certainly it appears like there’s still going to be some real runway to at least recruit top young talent in Europe,” Pope said. “We were nervous earlier in the summer that the door might be closed a lot more than we thought it would. It seems like there’s still

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LEGAL NOTICE

PURSUANT TO KRS 424.290, “MATTERS REQUIRED TO BE PUBLISHED,” THE FOLLOWING RACES AND QUESTION WILL APPEAR ON THE VOTING MACHINES AND PAPER BALLOTS IN THE PRECINCTS LISTED IN TRIMBLE COUNTY FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION, NOVEMBER 3, 2026.

STRAIGHT PARTY
☐ Republican Party
☐ Democratic Party
☐ Kentucky Party
☐ Libertarian Party
UNITED STATES SENATOR (Vote for One)
☐ Andy BARR Republican Party
☐ Charles BOOKER Democratic Party
☐ Christopher CAMPBELL Kentucky Party
☐ Write-in
UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE in CONGRESS 4th Congressional District (Vote for One)
☐ Ed GALLREIN Republican Party
☐ Melissa Claire STRANGE Democratic Party
☐ Jeremy TODD Libertarian Party
☐ Write-in
STATE SENATOR 6th Senatorial District (Vote for One)
☐ Lindsey TICHENOR Republican Party
☐ Christian FURMAN Democratic Party
☐ Write-in
STATE REPRESENTATIVE 47th Representative District (Vote for One)
☐ Felicia RABOURN Republican Party
☐ Write-in
PROPERTY VALUATION ADMINISTRATOR (Vote for One)
☐ Jill Hudson MAHONEY Republican Party
☐ Write-in
COUNTY JUDGE/EXECUTIVE (Vote for One)
☐ John D. OGBURN JR. Republican Party
☐ Kenny GREEN Democratic Party
☐ Write-in
COUNTY ATTORNEY (Vote for One)
☐ Crystal L. HEINZ Republican Party
☐ Write-in
COUNTY CLERK (Vote for One)
☐ Sarah A. CULL Republican Party
☐ Write-in
SHERIFF (Vote for One)
☐ Lonnie GULLION Republican Party
☐ Bob G. TEMPLE Democratic Party
☐ Write-in

ALL PRECINCTS

JAILER (Vote for One)
☐ Will McCOY Republican Party
☐ Travis WEBSTER Democratic Party
☐ Write-in
CORONER (Vote for One)
☐ Samantha "Sam" KIMBLER Republican Party
☐ Write-in
COUNTY SURVEYOR (Vote for One)
☐ Write-in

ALL PRECINCTS

MAGISTRATE 1st Magisterial District (Vote for One)
☐ Justin OST Republican Party
☐ Chris LITER Democratic Party
☐ Write-in
CONSTABLE 1st Magisterial District (Vote for One)
☐ Chris WRIGHT Republican Party
☐ Write-in

WEST MILTON, NORTH MILTON, AND LEEPORT

MAGISTRATE 2nd Magisterial District (Vote for One)
☐ Matt GOSSOM Republican Party
☐ Write-in
CONSTABLE 2nd Magisterial District (Vote for One)
☐ Travis PRICE Democratic Party
☐ Write-in

SOUTH BEDFORD, BURROWS, AND NORTH BEDFORD

MAGISTRATE 3rd Magisterial District (Vote for One)
☐ J. D. JONES Republican Party
☐ Write-in
CONSTABLE 3rd Magisterial District (Vote for One)
☐ Write-in

PALMYRA, EAST MILTON, AND SOUTH MILTON

MAGISTRATE 4th Magisterial District (Vote for One)
☐ Crystal WHITICE Republican Party
☐ Jason L. SMITH Democratic Party
☐ Write-in
CONSTABLE 4th Magisterial District (Vote for One)
☐ Write-in

ANTIOCH, PROVIDENCE, AND EAST BEDFORD

NONPARTISAN JUDICIAL BALLOT (Vote for One in Each Division)
DISTRICT JUDGE 12 Judicial District 1st Division (Vote for One)
☐ Daniel FENDLEY
☐ Write-in

ALL PRECINCTS

DISTRICT JUDGE 12 Judicial District 2nd Division (Vote for One)
☐ Jessica N. BEARD
☐ Write-in
SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPERVISORS (Vote for Three)
☐ Write-in
☐ Write-in
☐ Write-in

ALL PRECINCTS

NONPARTISAN "SCHOOL CANDIDATES"
MEMBER BOARD of EDUCATION 1st Educational District (Unexpired Term) (Vote for One)
☐ Amanda J. WRIGHT
☐ Karly A. CODE
☐ Write-in

WEST MILTON, NORTH MILTON, AND LEEPORT

MEMBER BOARD of EDUCATION 2nd Educational District (Vote for One)
☐ Angela ANDERSON
☐ Write-in

EAST MILTON AND SOUTH MILTON

MEMBER BOARD of EDUCATION 3rd Educational District (Vote for One)
☐ Allie WRIGHT
☐ Write-in

SOUTH BEDFORD AND NORTH BEDFORD

MEMBER BOARD of EDUCATION 4th Educational District (Unexpired Term) (Vote for One)
☐ Kim PERKINSON
☐ Write-in

PALMYRA, ANTIOCH, AND PROVIDENCE

NONPARTISAN CITY BALLOT
MAYOR City of Bedford (Vote for One)
☐ Joe ROBINSON
☐ Write-in

PART OF SOUTH BEDFORD, NORTH BEDFORD, PALMYRA, AND EAST BEDFORD

CITY COMMISSIONERS City of Bedford (Vote for up to Four)
☐ Tony LEMBERGER
☐ Hilda S. PARRISH
☐ Angie ROBINSON
☐ Write-in
☐ Write-in
☐ Write-in

PART OF SOUTH BEDFORD, NORTH BEDFORD, PALMYRA, AND EAST BEDFORD

MAYOR City of Milton (Vote for One)
☐ Troy E. ALEXANDER
☐ Write-in

CITY COMMISSIONERS City of Milton (Vote for up to Four)
☐ Leah R. CARSON
☐ Denny C. JACKSON
☐ Rick CULL
☐ Lynn Jones COMEAUX
☐ Write-in
☐ Write-in
☐ Write-in
☐ Write-in

PART OF WEST MILTON, NORTH MILTON, LEEPORT, EAST MILTON, AND SOUTH MILTON

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 1
Are you in favor of limiting a Governor's ability to grant pardons or commute sentences by prohibiting him or her from granting pardons or commuting sentences during the time period beginning 60 days prior to the general election at which the Governor is elected, and ending when the Governor is sworn in for that term by amending the Constitution of Kentucky as stated below?
It is proposed that Section 77 of the Constitution of Kentucky be amended to read as follows:
(1) The Governor shall have power to:
(a) Remit fines and forfeitures; and
(b) Commute sentences and grant reprieves and pardons, except:
1. In case of impeachment; or
2. For the period beginning sixty days prior to the date of the gubernatorial election and ending the fifth Tuesday succeeding the election.
(2) The Governor shall file with each application therefor a statement of the reasons for his or her decision thereon, which application and statement shall always be open to public inspection.
(3) In cases of treason, the Governor shall have power to grant reprieves until the end of the next session of the General Assembly, in which the power of pardoning shall be vested; but he or she shall have no power to remit the fees of the Clerk, Sheriff, or Commonwealth's Attorney in penal or criminal cases.
☐ YES
☐ NO

ALL PRECINCTS