

Fantasy Draft – Sport of Kings style

As we quickly approach fantasy football draft season, I thought it would be fun to shift our focus to the older horses now that the Triple Crown is in the books. Before we get into the draft, how exciting was it to see the New York Knicks break their 53-year championship drought against Wemby and the Spurs. The Knicks just wanted it more, especially Jalen Brunson. His superhuman effort for 45 points was a thing to watch. Another champion was crowned in DC as our Louisville Kings took the UFL championship in their first year in the league. In honor of the team named



CHUCK HARPER

after the Sport of Kings, I thought it would be appropriate to do a draft of the top thoroughbreds in the country. With the Haskell and Travers still to test the three-year-olds, we need to get familiar with the older division of potential Breeders Cup challengers. The Breeders Cup World Championships will be held once again at Keeneland on October 30th and 31st. The draft will be three rounds. Let's get into it...

2026 FANTASY STABLE DRAFT ROUND -1

1. NYSOS – Met mile winner, may be the best horse in the world at a mile.

- 2. SOVEREIGNTY – As good as he is, he'll get a big test in the Stephen Foster.
- 3. MAGNITUDE – Dubai World Cup win over Forever Young reminded me of his daddy.
- 4. FOREVER YOUNG – The best horse in the world was never getting by Magnitude.
- 5. GOLDEN TEMPO- Continues to improve the farther he runs. No idea how good he is.

ROUND -2

- 1. WHITE ABARRIO – Extremely tough when he shows up. Next stop Louisville.
- 2. CRUDE VELOCITY – Was humbled by Devaux and Englishman but who hasn't been.
- 3. RHETORICAL – Turf monster

- 4. ENGLISHMAN – Probably 7 furlong limited but has a serious turn of early foot.
- 5. NITROGEN (Filly) – No one was beating her in the Phipps after a couple of clunkers

ROUND – 3

- 1. BURNHAM SQUARE – Could be the best turf horse in the country going long.
- 2. COMMANDMENT – Returned to form in the Belmont but no match for Golden Tempo.
- 3. BAEZA – Has yet to put it all together but extremely talented. Tough test coming.
- 4. JOURNALISM – Always shows up against the best but may be a cut below.
- 5. SKIPPYLONGSTOCKING – Like his stablemate, when he comes to run, look out.

BEST OF THE REST:
Renegade – Lagynos (T) – Further Ado – Splendor (F) - Knightsbridge – Napoleon Solo

NEWS AND NOTES:

The first progeny of the undefeated 2022 Horse of the Year Flightline are surfacing. Demian won his first race in Tokyo. Two other starters Greenwell and Balloteer finished 2nd and 3rd respectively at Churchill Downs. The Grade 1 \$2 million Stephen Foster Stakes at Churchill will go on June 27th. This might be the marquee race for the older horses with Breeders Cup aspirations. It's a win and you're in race. The probable field looks salty: Sovereignty (2-1) Magnitude (5/2) White Abarrío (7/2) Baeza (5-1) Corporate Power (8-1) Hit Show (15-1)

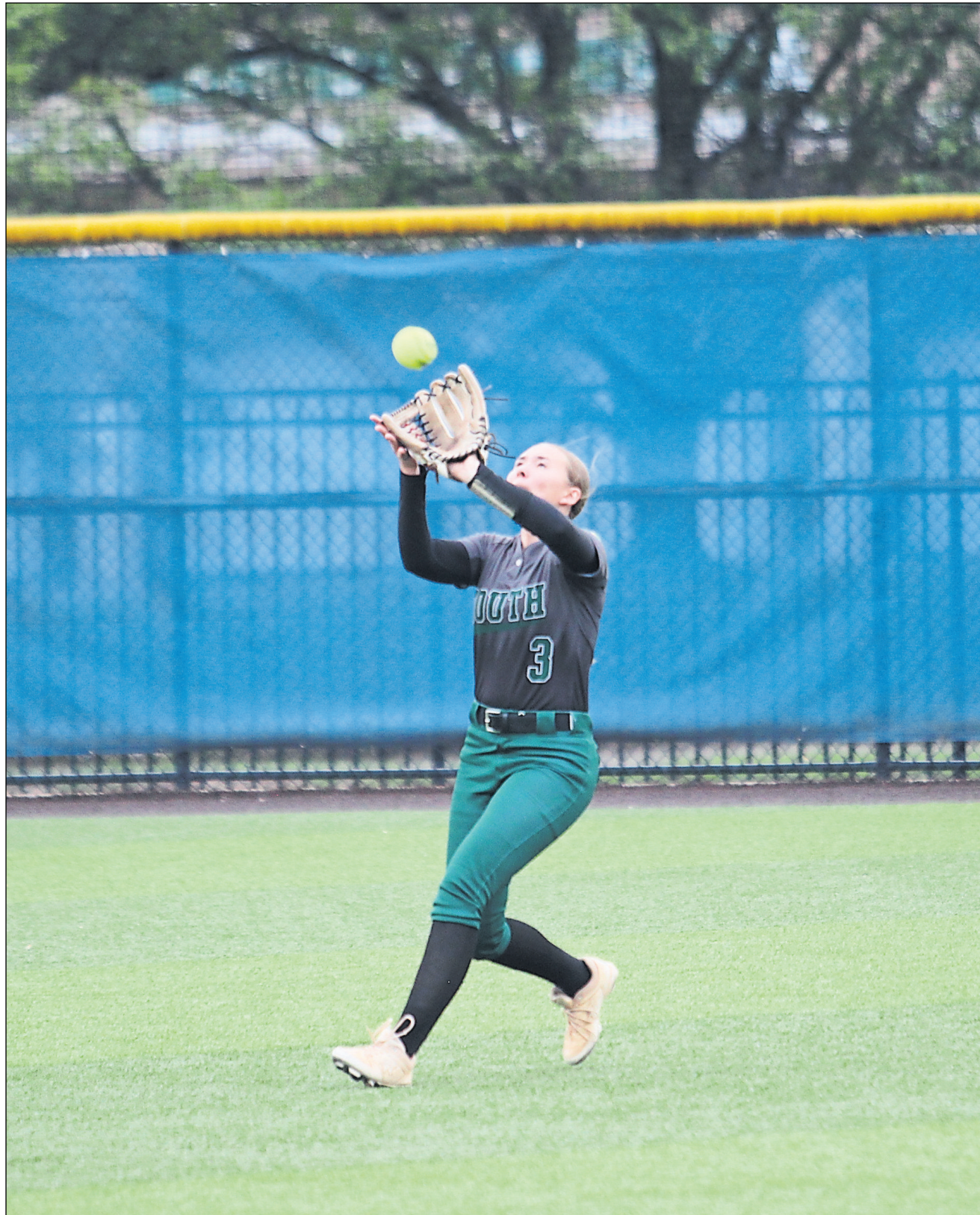


PHOTO BY Wyatt Sparkman

South Oldham senior Addi Schrecker catches a fly ball in a 12-5 win over Oldham County in the 29th District Championship.

BATTS

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helped lead the outfield in center field for the Lady Dragons.

Schrecker led South Oldham to its most prolific year in over 20 years. The Lady Dragons won their first district championship since 2002 and took down their county rival Oldham County for the first time since 2010 while making the Eighth Region Finals for the first time since 2019.

Report: State water systems comply with safety standards

BY TOM LATEK
KENTUCKY TODAY

FRANKFORT – Kentucky's 2025 Drinking Water Compliance Report shows public water systems across the state produce high-quality drinking water for the public and have a high rate of compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act requirements.

This annual report, required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, summarizes compliance data and monitoring results for Kentucky's public water systems.

"Kentucky's public water systems continue to demonstrate a strong commitment to providing safe, reliable drinking water to communities across the Commonwealth," Kentucky Division of Water Director Sarah Marshall said. "The high rate of compliance reflected in this report is a testament to the hard work of water system operators, local utilities and community leaders, who work every day to protect public health and maintain confidence in Kentucky's drinking water."

Federal rules require water systems to routinely test for bacterial and chemical contaminants and report them to Division of Water. A water system will receive a violation if it does not complete required testing, incorrectly reports testing, fails to submit results on time, doesn't provide proper treatment or exceeds established limits for

contaminants.

In 2025, 249 violations were issued to 62 different public water systems across the state. Of the violations, 190 were "monitoring/reporting" violations and administrative in nature. These violations do not directly pose a risk to public health, and water systems can often resolve them quickly by completing the necessary monitoring or submitting required documents to DOW.

The remaining 59 violations were "health-based" violations and include maximum contaminant level violations as well as treatment technique violations that may pose a risk to the consumer. In 2025, only 36 water systems (9% of total active systems) across the state were issued one or more health-based violations.

Health-based violations require public notification to customers within either 24 hours or 30 days, depending on the level of risk to customers.

La Grange Utilities Commission and Oldham County Water District were not listed in the report. Oldham's last violation was in 2011 and La Grange's was in 2014.

Complete data for the Kentucky Annual Drinking Water Compliance Report is available by going to eec.ky.gov/Environmental-Protection/Water/Drinking/DWProfessionals/Pages/AnnualComplianceReports.aspx.

OLDHAM

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the second leading scorer on the Lady Raiders, averaging 11.5 points per game while shooting 41.2% from the field and grabbing 4.1 rebounds per game.

Clifford's junior year saw her efficiently increase from the field and from deep while scoring 11.1 points per game and grabbing 5.2 boards as well. She helped lead her team to the 2016 KHSAA Sweet 16 for the first time since 1981.

Her senior campaign saw her jump to team-highs 19.8 points per game and nine rebounds per game while upping her efficiency to 50.8% from the field and 34.5% from deep. Becoming the first option on the team, Clifford grew fond of the closeness of the team and how everyone bought into the process of working as a team and becoming one unit.

"Our team was humble, and it wasn't about one

specific person," Clifford said. "Everybody was on the team, and everybody had a significant part to winning. I think eventually, it's not going to happen right off the bat, but I hope to instill that into our girls at OC and show them that everybody has a part to the story. If we want to be successful, it's not meatball, because yes, I had a successful high school career, but I had four other teammates on the court with me and five sitting on the bench that helped me have a successful career. It's going to be a great process that I'm willing to go through and hope that these girls buy into what I'm telling them."

After her legendary career at Trimble County, Clifford went through the recruiting process and signed with Kentucky Wesleyan in 2017. She wants to encourage any athlete that has a chance to play in college to go for it, because she experienced a lot of growth in college.

"That is where I kind of formed my love of coming back to my community and

coaching," Clifford said. "As you're going through the process and as you're going through games as a player, it's not about top score. It's not about how many threes you make. It's about the person that you are. College coaches don't always just see the makes. They see how you are as a teammate and what your attitude and your body language is, and that is what I'm trying to instill into our program, is being a great teammate, being coachable, being accountable and really buying into the process of, if you want to continue your this basketball career, it's more about just making buckets."

One of the most important lessons Clifford learned jumping from high school to college is playing within the role you're supposed to, to help the team get better, because everyone is at a similar talent level in college.

"I knew I wasn't going to be the star player on our college team, but I knew that also had a role, and everybody's role and everybody's

goal was the same," Clifford said. "I think the thing that I learned the most is being coachable, and your attitude and your body language is really what gets you playing time. It doesn't matter if you score. I think that was the biggest thing, because my body language in high school wasn't always the greatest, but I wanted to play in college and wanted an opportunity to play every game. I needed to fix that and learn how to be a great teammate."

At Kentucky Wesleyan, Clifford played and started in at least 16 games in all four years. She played 23.5 minutes per game and scored 9.4 points per game on 43.1% from the field and 35.9% from deep. Clifford helped the Wildcats to their fourth Division II NCAA Tournament appearance in school history her senior season in 2021.

"As I became older, I realized how much support I had from my community in Trimble, and I had two co-coaches at Kentucky Wesleyan that instilled a lot

of knowledge and just more meaning behind the game of basketball," Clifford said. "I think those two things combined really made me want to come back and coach and be different and be a great role model for younger kids and young women...as the head coach at Oldham County, I wanted to come to the community, and I want these girls to want to come play at Oldham County and be a Lady Colonel and instill that love in them at a young age."

Clifford graduated from Kentucky Wesleyan in 2021 and went into coaching at Trimble County Middle School shortly after. She also helped coach with the high school as well before becoming Oldham County's new head coach. Clifford has coached a few summer league games and already started to establish the culture she wants.

"It's been fun. I told them I'm 27. I'm younger," Clifford said. "I still don't have it all together and figured out, but I've asked for patience and

respect. It's been good. I feel like I've formed pretty good connections with the girls so far...but the biggest learning curve so far is I need assistance. I'm in charge of the whole program, and I'm honored to be in charge. I'm excited, but trying to find some help too."

The culture Clifford wants is to be team focused and have the team be a family.

"I want our culture to be a family," Clifford said. "Everybody is a part of our team, and everybody plays a role. We want to be great teammates. We want to hold each other accountable, and we want to show our fans that we love the game of basketball. It's not about winning. It's not about losing. It's about showing the love that the girls have and I have for the game and giving them a show to watch. That's something that I want to make sure that we set our expectations and standards, that it's not about us. It's about our county. It's about the front of the jersey and not the back."