

**MORENO***Continued from B1*

out with the same intensity we had in the second half," Moreno said on the UK postgame radio show. "We stepped it up in the second half. We made plays for each other, making that one extra pass, and we started knocking out shots - that led off to that shot."

Moreno played the final eight minutes with four fouls and finished with 10 points and eight rebounds.

The final play was intended for Otega Oweh, but Moreno ended up being the best option with the game on the line and the freshman forward

delivered at the buzzer. Kentucky coach Mark Pope was pleased with Moreno's poise under pressure down the stretch.

"My gosh, (he executed) with poise," the Kentucky coach said. "He didn't run away from the shot. He owned the shot like picture perfect. We're really fortunate when it ended up happy for him and happy for our guys."

Kentucky, which scored 22 points and shot 27 percent in the first half, made eight 3-pointers and shot a blistering 65 percent in the second half to spark the comeback.

Pope said the Wildcats lacked the energy it needed in the first

*"I made the shot, but that doesn't happen if we don't come out with the same intensity we had in the second half. We stepped it up in the second half. We made plays for each other, making that one extra pass, and we started knocking out shots - that led off to that shot."*

**Malachai Moreno**

Kentucky guard

half and added it was "an issue" against the Tigers but praised his team's ability to respond in the final 20 minutes.

"What has not been a challenge for us this

season is our guys trying to respond to tests," Pope said. "They were great, like, they never like ... I said, there were 100 times they could have just said, 'This is not our night,' and they

refused to do it. It's a good sign for our team.

It's the character these guys have, and I think we'll continue to grow in our confidence that way and it'll serve us well, especially as we play better and better,"

Oweh and Denzel Aberdeen combined for 38 points - 32 in the second frame - and five 3-pointers to pace the Kentucky offense. Aberdeen's 17 points all came in the second half. Oweh finished with 21 points.

The win came two days after Kentucky learned point guard Jaland Lowe would miss the rest of the season and undergo shoulder surgery. The Wildcats were also without Jayden Quaintance, who is

still nursing swelling in the knee.

Andrija Jelavic started in place of Mo Diouabate and finished with 11 points and five rebounds. Kam Williams was also inserted into the lineup and finished with five points before fouling out in the second half. Colin Chandler had nine points and three assists - including the big one at the end - off the bench.

LSU fell to 12-7 overall and has started SEC play 0-4 for the first time since the 2012-13 season.

**Gametracker:**

Kentucky at Tennessee, noon, Saturday. TV/Radio: ESPN, UK Radio Network.

**DAMRON***Continued from B1*

Greyhounds only a 3% chance of victory.

The Greyhounds (7-4) thus advanced to the quarterfinals before falling to eventual Class

1A runner-up Raceland.

Damron takes over a GRC football squad that won games in the first round of the KHSAA Class 6A playoffs during each of the last two years, including a 33-6 victory over Tates Creek in 2025, prior to a loss to Madison

Central.

While no roster is currently set for 2026, the Cards look to return much talent from a team with several strengths, including a top-rated rushing offense in the Commonwealth.

duo adding scores of 9.850 and 9.900, respectively.

The Wildcats will open their home campaign Friday, taking on No. 24 Arizona State for Excite NighT, presented by White, Greer, & Maggard, at Historic Memorial Coliseum on Friday, January 16 at 7 p.m. ET.

around debut with a total score of 38.275. Noonan followed with another solid routine, scoring a 9.800 highlighted by a stuck double layout dismount. Van Frayen posted a 9.350 and Bennett added a 9.650 from the middle of the rotation. Rivelli and Rodriguez closed the meet strong, with the upperclassman

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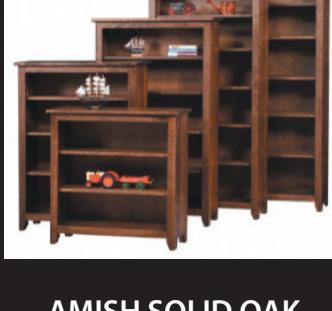
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