Stein concerned about winning, not 2027 revenue

By Larry Vaught
Vaught's Views

Kentucky could be on the verge of signing its highest-rated high school football class ever in coach Will Stein's first full recruiting cycle, and that should bode extremely well for the future.

High school football national signing day opens in about two weeks, and Stein currently has 27 verbal commitments, including 6-foot-1, 200-pound Georgia athlete Trace Washington—the most recent commit. He is a four-star prospect who plays both linebacker/running back, but apparently UK likes him a lot more at running back than most other schools. He is another top-500-rated recruit.

Former Kentucky coach Mark Stoops once asked UK fans to "pony up" to raise more revenue for the football program, but Stein has not had to do that. Instead, he insists the revenue is there to get the players he wants, especially with careful talent evaluation and not overpaying for players.

"I'm very confident in what we're going to have available (money-wise) for us moving into the '27 season," Stein said.

New athletics director J Batt made a financial pitch to donors earlier this week at the Commerce Lexington policy luncheon.

"I'm not going to lock the doors and put our K Fund folks to beat you up, but at the end of the day, nobody can sit it out," Herald-Leader's Jon Hale reported that Batt said. "Everyone who cares about (whether) the Cats do well, do they win, do we win off the field, is the University of Kentucky going to continue to be successful, you can't sit it out. You can't sit here and benefit on Saturday, be excited about the wins and not do your part."

Batt has already helped generate extra revenue, and Stein has done the same by leading UK to a 7-3 record and national ranking going into Saturday night's game at Missouri.

Stein has not mentioned negotiations with current players he wants to retain on his 2027 roster.

"We have not met with players yet, not for any reason. I want our guys to be focused and maintain our edge on the field," he said. "I think winning solves a lot of problems. When you win, there's enough for everybody. When you don't, there's not enough for anybody.

"The task at hand is go beat Missouri. The task at hand is not to make sure our roster for '27 is perfectly set right now. I know what we've done up to this point. The connection we've built with these players, the opportunities that we've allowed our players to have on game days, is going to set ourselves up to have a really good roster and to bring back the pieces that we need to continue to win in this league."

Stein said Kentucky has lost focus at times during its current two-game losing streak to Tennessee and Florida,

"It's really just one play here or there, and that's been disappointing," Stein said. "We just had some uncharacteristic, missed assignments that we have not seen up until this point.

"It's about us. We preach one-play focus and one-game bonus all the time. This (game against Missouri) is an opportunity to embody that culture, that mindset, more than ever. Our team is built on a connection; it has been all year. They love playing for each other; they love their coaches, and so that connection has got to show through in this game."



VICKY GRAFF

Will Stein has built a connection with UK fans that he thinks is only going to get better.

PUBLIC NOTICE
INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Housing Authority of Winchester (hereinafter called the "PHA") will receive sealed bids from qualified, licensed contractors for a total bathroom remodeling project.

Bidders are required to submit two separate prices: (1) labor-only, with all materials supplied by the PHA; and (2) a complete price including contractor-supplied materials and labor.

Bids are to be delivered in person by 4:00pm to the Housing Authority by the 14th business day after newspaper publication date.

All bidding documents can be requested by visiting the office of the Housing Authority of Winchester at 200 Canewood Drive, Winchester, KY 40391. Bid documents will be available for pickup during regular office hours.

The successful bidder shall be required to furnish proof of required contractor licensing and commercial general liability insurance. Any additional bonding or insurance requirements, if applicable, will be identified in the bid packet.

The PHA reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any informalities in the bidding.

Equal Housing Opportunity



