

30 – Michelle Clark

Freshman...6-2...200...Louisville, Ky.

Parents – Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Clark
 High School – Atherton '86
 HS Coach – Jerry Wilson
 HS Letters – Basketball
 Hobbies – Soap Operas, Music, Meeting People

At 6-2, Clark will make a fine addition to the Lady Topper front line...a strong, physical player who makes the most of her size, Clark averaged 19.6 points and 10.0 rebounds per contest as a prep senior at Louisville's Atherton High...a fine shooter, she connected on 50 percent of her field goal attempts and 65 percent of her free throw opportunities...a three-year starter for the Lady Rebels, Clark earned All-District, All-Region and All-State honors in each of those seasons (1984-86)...helped her Lady Rebels compile an impressive 67-22 (.677) record during her prep career...was a second-team Associated Press All-State selection as a senior, and was named the Kentucky "Player-of-the-Year" by both the *Orlando Sentinel* and the Quaker Oats-Gatorade selection committees...earned a spot on the state roster for the annual Kentucky-Indiana All-Star series...as a junior, she led her Atherton team to a second place finish in the Girls Sweet Sixteen State Basketball Championships, and a sparkling 33-3 overall record.

The Toppers in the Top Twenty

Western Kentucky's Lady Toppers first broke into the Associated Press Top Twenty Poll in late November of 1983, entering the elite rankings with a listing at the No. 18 position. The Toppers have appeared in the AP Poll 31 times since then, including a stretch

of 29 consecutive weeks, peaking with a best-ever ranking of fourth in the nation!

In addition, Western's women have also been consistently ranked in USA Today's Top 25 Poll over the past three years. Here's a look at last season's final polls:

Associated Press

1. Texas
2. Georgia
3. Southern California
4. Louisiana Tech
5. **Western Kentucky**
6. Virginia
7. Auburn
8. Long Beach State
9. Louisiana State
10. Rutgers
11. Mississippi
12. Ohio State
13. Penn State
14. Iowa
15. Tennessee
16. North Carolina
17. James Madison
18. Southern Illinois
19. Oklahoma
20. Vanderbilt

USA Today

1. Texas
2. Southern California
3. **Western Kentucky**
4. Georgia
5. Tennessee
6. Mississippi
7. Louisiana Tech
8. Louisiana State
9. Auburn
10. Rutgers
11. Northeast Louisiana
12. Long Beach State
13. Penn State
14. Virginia
15. North Carolina
16. James Madison
17. Ohio State
18. Oklahoma
19. Iowa
20. Montana



50 – Michelle Clark

Sophomore ... 6-2 ... 190 ... C ... Louisville, Ky.

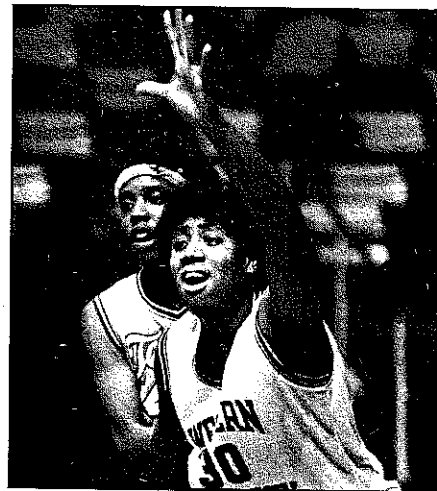
Parents – Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Clark
 High School – Atherton '86
 HS Coach – Jerry Wilson
 HS Letters – Basketball
 Hobbies – Soap Operas, Music, Meeting People

Became eligible to play for Western after the completion of the fall semester last year and immediately stepped in to contribute....played in 25 of the 27 games remaining on the schedule, helping WKU post a 20-7 record over that stretch of the '86-87 campaign....did a fine job filling in when injuries plagued the Western front line late in the season....progressed even quicker with the increased playing time, and was at a peak near the season's end....twice hit season-high of 11 points, first in Western's 99-63 win over visiting Tennessee State and again versus her hometown team, the Louisville Cardinals....grabbed a season-high nine rebounds in Western's season-ending loss to Southern Cal in the second round of the West Regional, tying teammate Charlene James for game rebounding honors....shot an impressive .500 from the field for the season, connecting on 36 of 72 attempts....finished the year with averages of 3.6 points, 2.0 rebounds and nine minutes of playing time, all of which could dramatically increase during her sophomore campaign....has trimmed down in the off-season, but still possesses the size and strength to dominate the inside....as a prep senior at Atherton High, she posted averages of 19.6 points and 10.0 rebounds while shooting 50 percent from the floor....a three-year starter for the Lady Rebels, she earned All-District, All-Region and All-State honors in each of those seasons....was named the Kentucky "Player-of-the-Year" by both the *Orlando Sentinel* and the Quaker Oats-Gatorade selection committees....earned a spot on the roster for the annual Kentucky-Indiana All-Star series....as a junior, she led her Atherton team to a second place finish in the Girls "Sweet Sixteen" state basketball tournament, and a 33-3 overall record....her AHS squads posted an impressive 67-22 (.677) overall record during her four-year tenure there.

Year	G-GS	FG-FGA...Pct	FT-FTA...Pct	Reb-Avg	PF-Dq	TP...Avg	Ast-To-Blk-Ste	Min/G
86-87	25- 0	36- 72 .500	17- 31 .548	50- 2.0	25- 0	89 3.6	0- 12- 9- 9	9.0

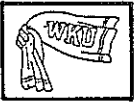
Career Highs

Pts: 11 vs South Florida, 1/31/87
 11 vs Louisville, 2/17/87
 FGs: 5 vs South Florida, 1/31/87
 FGA: 7 vs Portland State, 1/3/87
 FG%: 1.000 (5-5) vs South Florida, 1/31/87
 FTs: 5 vs Utah, 1/17/87
 FTA: 8 vs Utah, 1/17/87
 FT%: 1.000 (2-2) vs Alabama at Birmingham, 2/10/87
 Reb: 9 vs Southern California, 3/15/87
 Ast:
 Blk: 2 vs Cincinnati, 2/15/87
 2 vs. Southern California, 3/15/87
 Ste: 3 vs Southern California, 3/15/87
 Min: 20 vs West Virginia, 3/1/87



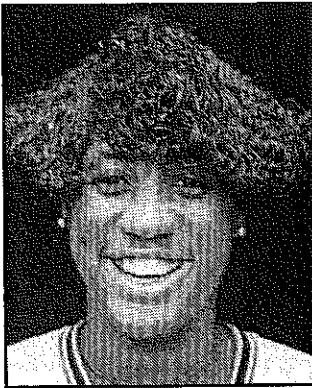
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Year
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 86-87
 Career
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 FGs:
 FGA: 1
 FG%: .5
 FTs:
 FTA:
 FT%: 1
 Reb: 1
 Ast:
 Blk:
 Ste:
 Min: 3



30 — Michelle Clark

6-2 ... 190 ... Junior ... Center ... Louisville, Ky.



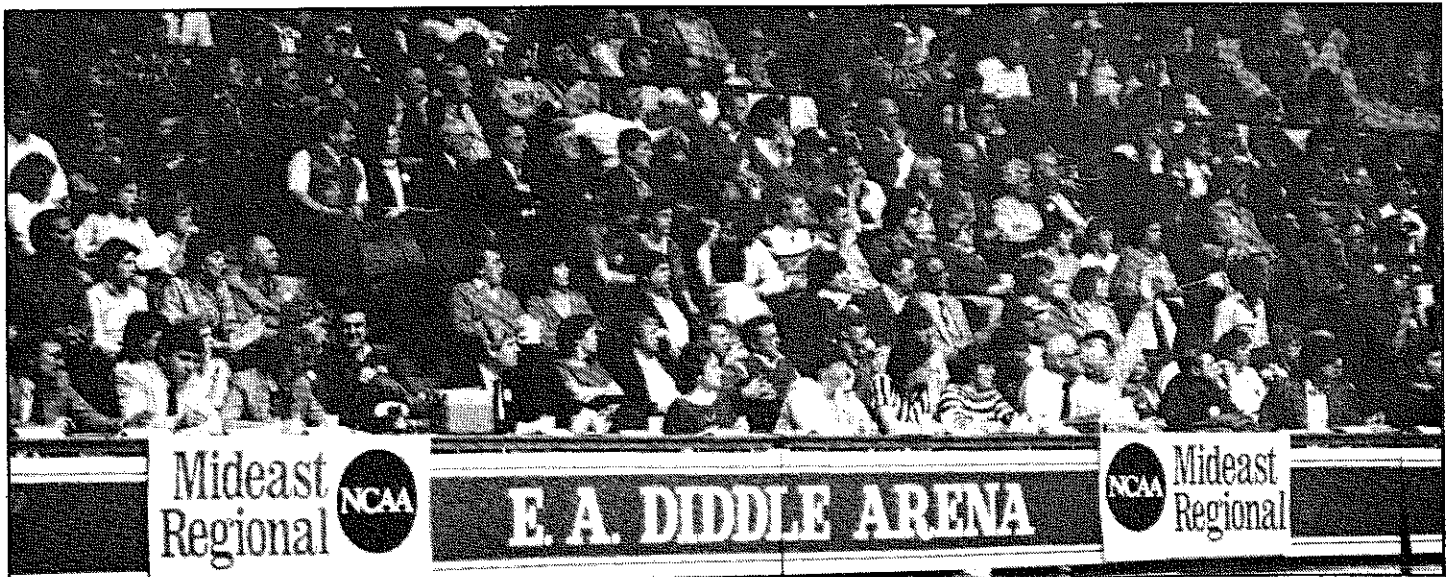
Coming off a strong sophomore season, appearing in all 34 Lady Topper contests started in nine of those games, despite serving primarily as a reserve center proved to be a capable back-up and could play an important part in the 1988-89 season averaged 6.9 points and 5.5 rebounds per contest led team in rebounds five times while sharing the honor another four times had perhaps most impressive game of career in the Lady Ute Classic championship game, when she came off the bench to score 12 points and a grab career-high 12 rebounds vs. Utah played an instrumental role against Old Dominion in Sun Belt Conference championship, netting 14 points and hauling in four rebounds scored in double figures on 12 occasions, including a career-high 15 points in WKU's season-opening win over Evansville recipient of the Most Improved Player award as voted upon by the Lady Topper coaching staff became eligible to play in freshman year after the fall

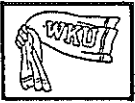
semester played in 25 of 27 remaining games that year has ability to dominate the inside with her size and strength scored 11 points and pulled down five boards vs. Georgia in last year's Mideast Regional second round contest posted averages of 19.6 points and 10 rebounds as prep senior at Louisville Atherton High School a three-year starter, she earned All-District, All-Region and All-State honors in each of those seasons earned the distinction of being named the Kentucky "Player-of-the-Year" by the *Orlando Sentinel* and Quaker Oats-Gatorade selection committees awarded a roster spot for the annual Kentucky-Indiana All-Star series led her school to a second-place finish in the Girls "Sweet Sixteen" state basketball tourney with a 33-3 record as a junior her high school squads posted an impressive 67-22 (.677) overall record during her four-year career greatest sports thrill is winning SBC title last season.

Personal Info: Parents — Mr. Clifton Clark, Mrs. Josephine Clark; Birth — 7/27/68, Louisville, Ky.; High School — Louisville Atherton '86; HS Coach — Jerry Wilson; HS Letters — Basketball 4; Major — Recreation; Ambition — college degree; Hobbies — friends, television.

Year	G-GS	FG-FGA	Pct	3-Point		FT-FTA	Pct	Reb	Avg	PF-Dq	TP	Avg	Ast	To-Blk	Ste	Min—Avg
				FG-FGA	Pct											
86-87	25-0	36-72	.500	—	—	17-31	.548	50	2.0	25-0	89	3.6	0-12	9-9	225	9.0
87-88	34-9	90-207	.435	—	—	53-89	.596	188	5.5	70-1	233	6.9	6-33	8-14	692	20.4
Career	59-9	126-279	.452	—	—	70-120	.583	238	4.0	95-1	322	5.5	6-45	17-23	917	15.5

Career Highs	
Pts: 15 vs Evansville, 11/29/87*	Reb: 12 vs Utah, 12/5/87
FGM: 6 vs Evansville, 11/29/87*	Ast: 1 vs Southern Illinois, 12/19/87
FGA: 13 vs Oregon, 12/29/87	1 vs South Florida, 1/24/88*
FG%: 1.000 (5-5) vs South Florida, 1/31/87	1 vs Morehead State, 1/27/88
3Pt: —	1 vs Illinois State, 2/9/88
Att: —	1 vs Murray State, 3/3/88*
%ag: —	1 vs Georgia, 3/19/88
FTM: 5 vs Utah, 1/17/87*	Blk: 2 vs Cincinnati, 2/15/87*
5 vs West Virginia, 12/13/87*	2 vs Southern California, 3/15/87
FTA: 8 vs Utah, 1/17/87*	2 vs Arkansas State, 2/28/88
8 vs Evansville, 11/29/87*	Ste: 3 vs Southern California, 3/15/87
8 vs West Virginia, 12/13/87*	3 vs South Florida, 3/10/88
FT%: 1.000 (4-4) vs Utah, 12/5/87	Min: 30 vs Morehead State, 1/27/88
1.000 (4-4) vs St John's, 12/30/87	*Home Game
1.000 (4-4) vs Morehead State, 1/27/88	





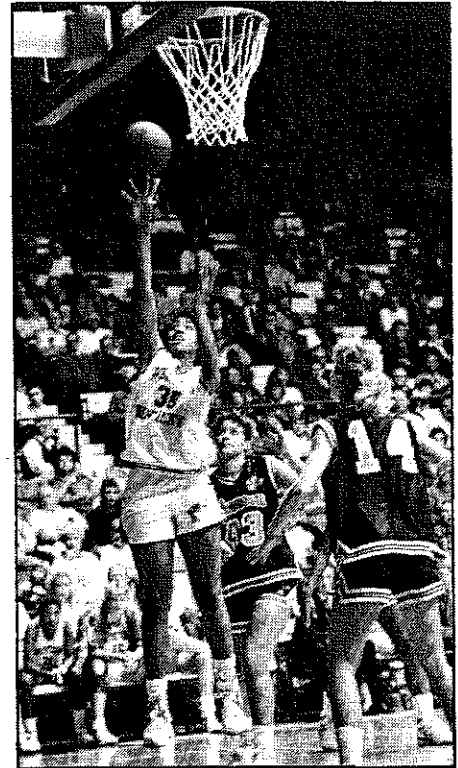
30 — Michelle Clark

6-2 ... 190 ... Senior ... Center ... Louisville, Ky.



One of only two seniors on the '89-90 Lady Topper squad, Clark will be counted on for leadership in addition to her contributions on the stat sheet had a fine junior season, averaging 7.3 points and 6.9 rebounds per contest came on strong under the boards and established herself as a dominant rebounder saw action in all 31 Lady Topper games last season, getting the starting nod 22 times Western won 19 of those 22 games had an impressive double-double performance against West Virginia, tossing in 10 points and hauling down a career-best 14 rebounds recorded six double-doubles last year, including an 11-point, 11-rebound showing against Old Dominion in the semi-finals of the Sun Belt Conference Tournament her best scoring output of the season, 13 points, came against both Ohio and Eastern Kentucky

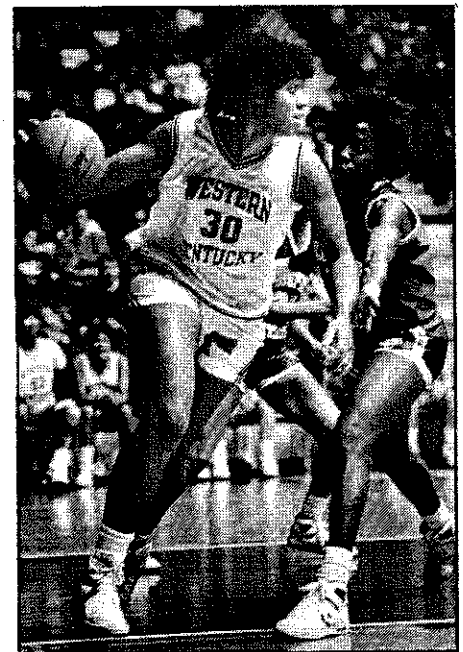
..... had a strong sophomore season, appearing in all 34 Lady Topper contests started in nine of those games, despite serving primarily as a reserve center averaged 6.9 points and 5.5 rebounds per contest as a sophomore had one of the most impressive games of career in the Lady Ute Classic championship game, when she came off the bench to score 12 points and grab 12 rebounds against Utah played an instrumental role against Old Dominion in the '88 SBC championship, netting 14 points and hauling in four rebounds scored in double figures on 12 occasions, including a career-high 15 points in WKU's season-opening win over Evansville recipient of the Most Improved Player award as voted upon by the Lady Topper coaching staff became eligible to play after the fall semester of her freshman year played in 25 of 27 remaining games that year has ability to dominate inside with her size and strength posted averages of 19.6 points and 10 rebounds as prep senior at Atherton High School a three-year starter, she earned All-District, All-Region and All-State honors in each of those seasons earned the distinction of being named the Kentucky "Player-of-the-Year" by the *Orlando Sentinel* and Quaker Oats-Gatorade selection committees awarded a roster spot for the annual Kentucky-Indiana All-Star series led her school to a second-place finish in the Girls "Sweet Sixteen" state basketball tourney with a 33-3 record as a junior her high school squads posted an impressive 67-22 (.677) overall record during her four-year career.



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87-88	34-9	90-207	.435	—	—	53-89	.596	188	5.5	70-1	233	6.9	6	33	8	14	692	20.4
88-89	31-22	82-205	.400	—	—	63-94	.670	215	6.9	63-1	227	7.3	13	40	15	21	653	21.1
Career	90-31	208-484	.429	—	—	133-214	.621	453	5.0	158-2	549	6.1	19	85	32	44	1570	17.4

Career Highs		
Pls: 15 vs Evansville, 11/29/87*	Reb: 14 vs West Virginia, 3/15/89	
FGM: 6 vs Evansville, 11/29/87*	Ast: 2 vs UNC Charlotte, 1/8/89*	
FGA: 13 vs Oregon, 12/29/87	2 vs Middle Tennessee, 2/7/89	
FG%: 1.000 (5-5) vs South Florida, 1/31/87	Blk: 3 vs Southern Illinois, 12/4/89*	
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FT%: 1.000 (4-4) vs Utah, 12/5/87		
1.000 (4-4) vs St John's, 12/30/87		
1.000 (4-4) vs Morehead State, 1/27/88		
1.000 (4-4) vs West Virginia, 3/15/89		



Michelle Clark-Heard

2013 Sun Belt Conference Coach of the Year

Second Season as Head Coach at WKU in 2013-14

Fourth Season as Head Coach in 2013-14

Michelle Clark-Heard is no stranger to building great basketball programs. If her first season back on the Hill as head coach of the Lady Toppers is any indication, she is well on her way to helping build another national powerhouse and returning the Western Kentucky University Women's Basketball program back to prominence.

In her first year as a Division One coach, Clark-Heard helped WKU to a 13-win improvement over the 2011-12 season output. It was the largest in Sun Belt Conference history as WKU turned a 9-21 mark into a 22-11 record. WKU's eight win improvement in conference play from five wins to 13 wins was tied for the largest in league history. The Lady Toppers also became the first team in Sun Belt Conference history to win 20 games in the season following a year in which the team won less than 10 games earlier this season.

Among her most notable accomplishments during the season were leading the team to the semifinals of the Sun Belt Conference Championships, a berth in the Women's NIT and becoming the first coach to lead a WKU team to 10 road wins in a season since 1990-91.

Her first season at WKU also showcased her ability to develop players. The duo of Chastity Gooch and Alexis Govan averaged a combined 12.7 ppg in 2011-12 but posted 36.5 per outing in 2012-13. The duo combined for 1,203 points after posting 381 last season. The team also saw major improvement in nearly all statistical categories, including improving free throw shooting by over 11 percent to .739, the third highest mark in school history.

As a player at WKU, Clark-Heard was part of four NCAA Tournament teams during her career. In addition, she has been on the bench as an assistant coach with seven other NCAA Tournament teams.

Clark-Heard spent five years as an assistant coach to Jeff Walz at Louisville. During her time with the program, the Cardinals made three Sweet 16 appearances and made their first Final Four appearance, finishing as the National Runner-Up in 2009. A roster she helped build also reached the Final Four in 2013 after beating No. 1 Baylor and national power Tennessee in the regional semifinals and finals. Clark-Heard was instrumental in bringing in the No. 12 recruiting class in 2008, then followed with three consecutive Top 10 classes in 2009, 2010 and 2011. The 2010 recruiting class was the highest ranked class in school history, ranked fifth in the nation.

Among the most notable players Clark-Heard coached at Louisville was overall number one pick in the 2009 WNBA Draft, Angel McCoughtry.

Prior to her time at Louisville, Clark-Heard spent two seasons as the head coach at Kentucky State, taking the reigns of the program in June 2005. She took over a program that had won just one game during the 2004-05 season. In her first season she led the Thorobrettes to a 5-23 record, four of the wins were against Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference opponents. Her team was picked to finish 11th in the SIAC but ended the season in ninth place. In her second season at KSU, she guided the Thorobrettes to an impressive 19-9 record, finishing tied for fourth place in the SIAC. Clark-Heard earned SIAC Coach-of-the-Year honors after the impressive turnaround. Her 2007 Thorobrettes were the second most improved team in NCAA Division II women's basketball during the 2007 season.

Before being named head coach at Kentucky State, Clark-Heard spent three seasons at Cincinnati as an assistant and four years at Nebraska in the same role. The Bearcats advanced to postseason play in two of her three seasons there while she helped Nebraska reach the NCAA Tournament twice during her time with the team. She was also responsible for helping sign McDonald's All-American Janice Bright for the Cornhuskers in 2001 while coaching alongside current Louisville coach Jeff Walz and under former WKU coach Paul Sanderford.

A four-year letterwinner on the Hill (1987-90), Clark-Heard was part of four NCAA Tournament teams during her Lady Topper career. She also helped guide the Lady Toppers to a pair of Sun Belt Conference Tournament championships (1988 and 1989) and two conference regular-season titles (1989 and 1990). She played in 118 games during her four years in the Hill, scoring 790 points and pulling down 615 rebounds. WKU amassed 89 victories during her four years in uniform, winning 70 percent of the games over that span and putting together three 20-win seasons.

Upon graduation from WKU, she spent eight years working within a recreational setting, five in Bowling Green and three with the Louisville Metro Parks Department. While in Louisville, she also served as head junior varsity coach and assistant varsity coach at DuPont Manual High School for the 1994-95 seasons and played professionally with the Kentucky Marauders of the Women's Basketball Association in 1994-95.

The Louisville native earned Kentucky High School State Player of the Year honors in 1986 while playing at Atherton High School and was inducted into the Atherton Hall of Fame in 2003.

She was married on August 16, 2003 to Luther Heard.

2012-13 Notables

- 2013 Sun Belt Conference Coach of the Year
- Led WKU to semifinals of 2013 Sun Belt Conference Championships and to the 2013 Women's NIT, earning a first round victory over East Carolina in overtime
- First coach in program history to lead team to 11 wins before Jan. 1.
- Led WKU to its first regular season invitational title since the 1997-98 season and just 16th in program history when WKU claimed the Wright State Invitational on Dec. 21, 2012 in Dayton, Ohio.
- Led team to 10-win mark before the start of a new calendar year for just the fifth time in program history and only the second time in last 14 seasons.
- Clark-Heard led WKU to the postseason in less than one year after her hire. She was hired as the WKU coach on March 22, 2012 and led the Lady Toppers to a win over East Carolina in the opening round of the WNIT on March 21, 2013.



COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

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Telephone — 270-745-4298 • FAX — 270-745-3444 • www.wkusports.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / March 22, 2012

Women's Basketball / Contact: Chris Glowacki, WKU Director of Athletic Communications / Media Relations

WKU NAMES MICHELLE CLARK-HEARD NEW HEAD WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COACH

Bowling Green, Ky. — Former Lady Topper **Michelle Clark-Heard** — who spent two years as the head coach at Kentucky State, and has helped lead Louisville into national prominence the last five years as an assistant coach — has been named the new women's basketball coach at Western Kentucky University. The 15th head coach in Lady Topper history will be formally introduced at a 4 p.m. (CDT) press conference in the E.A. Diddle Arena media room.

Clark-Heard was part of four NCAA Tournament teams during her career at WKU, and has been on the bench as an assistant coach with seven other NCAA Tournament teams.

Clark-Heard just completed her fifth season as an assistant coach at the University of Louisville. In those five seasons, the Cardinals have made three Sweet 16 appearances and made their first Final Four appearance, finishing as the National Runner-Up in 2009. Clark-Heard was instrumental in bringing in the No. 12 recruiting class in 2008, then followed with three consecutive Top 10 classes in 2009, 2010 and 2011. The 2010 recruiting class was the highest ranked class in school history, ranked fifth in the nation. During her time at U of L, the Cardinals have produced eight all-Big East performers — six of which earned first-team honors. Forward Monique Reid earned first-team all-league honors in both 2010 and 2011.

Clark-Heard came to Louisville after spending two seasons as the head coach at Kentucky State. She rejoined Jeff Walz after coaching with him for three seasons on the Nebraska bench under former head coach Paul Sanderford.

She was named the head coach at Kentucky State University in June of 2005. She took over a program that had won just one game during the 2004-05 season. In her first season she led the Thorobrettes to a 5-23 record, four of the wins were against Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference opponents. Her team was picked to finish 11th in the SIAC but ended the season in ninth place. In her last season she guided the Thorobrettes to an impressive 19-9 record, finishing tied for fourth place in the SIAC. Clark-Heard earned SIAC Coach-of-the-Year honors after the impressive turnaround. Her 2007 Thorobrettes were the second most improved team in NCAA Division II women's basketball during the 2007 season.

Prior to taking the head coaching position at Kentucky State, Clark-Heard spent three seasons at Cincinnati as an assistant coach. The Bearcats advanced to postseason play in two of her three seasons there.

Clark-Heard spent four seasons at the University of Nebraska prior to her stint at Cincinnati. During that time, the Cornhuskers advanced to two NCAA Tournaments. She was also responsible for helping sign McDonald's All-American Janice Bright for the Cornhuskers in 2001.

A four-year letterwinner on the Hill (1987-90), Clark-Heard was part of four NCAA Tournament teams during her Lady Topper career. She also helped guide the Lady Toppers to a pair of Sun Belt Conference Tournament championships (1988 and 1989) and two conference regular-season titles (1989 and 1990). She played in 118 games during her four years in the Hill, scoring 790 points and pulling down 615 rebounds. WKU amassed 89 victories during her four years in uniform, winning 70 percent of the games over that span and putting together three 20-win seasons.

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The Louisville native earned Kentucky High School State Player of the Year honors in 1986 while playing at Atherton High School. She was inducted into the Atherton Hall of Fame in 2003, and married Luther Heard on August 16, 2003.

The Michelle Clark-Heard File:

Born — July 27, 1968

High School — Atherton (Ky.) 1986

HS Athletics — Basketball, 4 letters

College — WKU (BA), 1990; Nebraska (MA), 2001

College Athletics — Basketball, forward, 4 letters

Coaching Experience —

Nebraska, assistant coach (1998-99 - 2001-02)

Cincinnati, assistant coach (2002-03 - 2004-05)

Kentucky State, head coach (2005-06 - 2006-07)

Louisville, assistant coach (2007-08 - 2011-12)

Western Kentucky University, head coach (2012-13 -)

Family — Husband, Luther

— WKU —

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / March 6, 2013

Women's Basketball / Contact: Chris Glowacki or Robert Sampson, WKU Athletic Media Relations/Communications

WKU'S CLARK-HEARD NAMED COACH OF THE YEAR, GOOCH NAMED DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. – Western Kentucky University coach Michelle Clark-Heard has been named the Sun Belt Conference Coach of the Year and sophomore Chastity Gooch has named the Sun Belt Conference Defensive Player of the Year, the league office announced Wednesday morning. In addition, Gooch and sophomore Alexis Govan were named First Team All-Conference selections in a survey of the leagues' coaches and media members.

The awards come on the heels of one of the nation's biggest turnarounds in 2012-13 by the Lady Toppers. WKU is 20-9 entering this week's Sun Belt Conference Championships in Hot Springs, Ark. after finishing the 2011-12 season with a 9-21 record. WKU earned the third seed and a first-round bye in the event after being picked to finish fifth in the East Division of the league in the preseason.

"The honors say a lot for how the players bought into what we were trying to do as a staff," said Clark-Heard. "Together, we have been able to show that Western Kentucky University is knocking on the door and that we are going to continue to, day-in and day-out, work hard to get back to where we need to be with our program."

In just her first year at the helm of the Lady Topper Basketball program, Clark-Heard engineered one of the best turnarounds in Sun Belt Conference History. Clark-Heard's team is one of five teams in league history to win 11 games more than they had in the previous season and one of two teams to win eight more conference games than the year before. Additionally, WKU is one of three teams in the nation that have won at least 11 more games than they did the previous season and one of just five teams that have won at least eight conference games more than the prior season.

"To win an award like this in your first year is special," said Clark-Heard. "I want to give a ton of credit to my assistants and to the team. Without them buying in and everyone being on the same page, this can't happen. If I could go down the line and give everyone of my assistant coaches and the team an award, I would. It is an individual award, but it is also a team award reflecting what we have been able to accomplish so far this season."

Clark-Heard is the third different coach in program history to win Sun Belt Coach of the Year and her recognition marks the seventh time in WKU history that a coach has claimed the honor overall. One of Clark-Heard's mentors, Paul Sanderford, also won the award in his first season as the coach at WKU in 1982-83. He won the award three times in his career and led the Lady Toppers to three Final Four appearances during his WKU career. Former WKU coach Mary Taylor-Cowles was the most recent WKU coach to earn the honor in 2007-08.

Gooch is the first player in school history to earn the Sun Belt Conference Defensive Player of the Year award. She finished the regular season by averaging 16.0 points and 11.3 rebounds per game. She also compiled 72 steals and 56 blocks as she became the only player in Lady Topper history to record at least 400 points, 300 rebounds, 50 steals and 50 blocks in a single season.

"I told Chastity all along that she is capable of doing things that a lot of people can't do on the court," said Clark-Heard. "She can block, she gets steals, she can alter shots and she is one of the best rebounders I have ever seen because of her knack for finding the basketball. I am super excited for her and I know she will be thrilled. I think this will make her work harder and harder to be even more focused on the defensive end."

Govan finished the regular season scoring 20.0 points per game, shooting nearly 47 percent from the field, over 42 percent from behind the three-point arc and over 80.0 percent from the free throw line. She is in position to become just the seventh player in school history to average 20.0 points per game in a season. Earlier this year, Govan recorded the top individual scoring performance in the league this season by scoring 40 points against North Texas. In her top 3 scoring outputs of the season, she combined to score 99 points in 92 minutes. Govan has scored in double figures in every game this season and places among the top 10 in the nation in consecutive games scoring in double figures.

With Gooch and Govan earning first-team honors, WKU earned two first-team selections for the first time since 2005-06 and the 16th time in program history. WKU has had at least one first-team selection in 30 of the last 31 years. Gooch and Govan were Third Team All-Conference selections in the preseason.

"I am really happy for Chastity and Alexis," said Clark-Heard. "They have invested into the new system and everything we have put in place here. We have put a lot on their shoulders and they have competed every day. I am excited for them and excited for this program to have two First-Team selections."

For complete coverage of Lady Topper Basketball, visit www.wkusports.com.

WOMEN'S FIRST TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE

Jerica Coley (FIU, Junior, Guard)
Kortni Jones (Middle Tennessee, Senior, Guard)
Ebony Rowe (Middle Tennessee, Junior, Forward)
Chastity Gooch (WKU, Sophomore, Forward)
Alexis Govan (WKU, Sophomore, Guard)

WOMEN'S SECOND TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE

Taylor Ford (UALR, Junior, Guard)
Jane Morrill (Arkansas State, Junior, Forward)
Chenise Miller (Florida Atlantic, RS-Junior, Forward)
Icelyn Elie (Middle Tennessee, Senior, Forward)
Joanna Harden (Troy, Junior, Guard)

WOMEN'S THIRD TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE

Marita Davydova (FIU, Junior, Center)
Ashleigh Simmons (Louisiana-Monroe, Junior, Forward)
Loryn Goodwin (North Texas, Freshman, Guard)
Alexis Hyder (North Texas, Freshman, Forward)
Mary Nixon (South Alabama, Senior, Guard)

WOMEN'S PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Jerica Coley (FIU, Junior, Guard)

WOMEN'S DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Chastity Gooch (WKU, Sophomore, Forward)

WOMEN'S FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR

Loryn Goodwin (North Texas, Freshman, Guard)

WOMEN'S COACH OF THE YEAR

Michelle Clark-Heard, WKU

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2012-13 WKU Lady Topper Basketball Season Highlights

- The 22 wins for WKU were the most since 2007-08.
- The 13 conference wins were the most since 2007-08.
- Michelle Clark-Heard was named the 2013 Sun Belt Conference Coach of the Year.
 - Tied the largest single-season win improvement for a coach in state history at plus-13.
 - Just ninth coach in state history to win 22 games in first year at a Division One school in state of Kentucky
 - Has coached a team to the postseason in each of the last six seasons and in 10 seasons as a head coach or assistant coach
- Biggest turnaround in Sun Belt Conference history
 - 13-win improvement was largest in Sun Belt Conference history
 - 13-win improvement was the second largest in school history behind a 16-game improvement from 1974-75 to 1975-76.
 - 8-win improvement in conference games tied the league record
- Two players selected First Team All-Sun Belt Conference for the first time since 2005-06.
- Sophomore Alexis Govan had one of the top scoring seasons in school history
 - Finished with the fourth highest single-season average in school history.
 - Finished with the sixth highest point total for a single season in school history and second highest by a sophomore
- Sophomore Chastity Gooch was named the Sun Belt Conference Defensive Player of the Year.
 - First player in school history to win SBC Defensive Player of the Year and just the 11th to win an individual specialty award in school history (player of the year, freshman of the year, newcomer of the year)
 - First-Team All-SBC selection
 - only player in school history to record 400 points (532), 300 rebounds (374), 50 steals (77) and 50 blocks (61) in a single season.
 - Set new school record for double-doubles in a season at 26 and will finish in top 15 in NCAA history for double-doubles in a season
- WKU earned a berth in the 2013 Women's NIT
 - 26th postseason appearance in last 30 seasons
 - 10th WNIT appearance in school history
 - Posted 30th postseason win in school history
 - Ended longest streak in school history (five consecutive seasons) without a postseason win by winning opening round game of WNIT
- WKU won on the road
 - Won 10 of 15 games on the road and 12 of 18 away from home after going 1-13 on road previous season
 - First time since 1990-91 to win 10 true road games
 - WKU won 10 games at home and 10 true road games in the same season for the first time since 1990-91
 - Won six Sun Belt Conference road games for just the sixth time in school history
 - Before suffering its first road defeats on Jan. 6, was one of just five teams from a non-AQ league to be undefeated on the road
 - Ended 11-game road non-conference losing streak by prior coach when opened season with win at Murray State.
- Wright State Invitational Champions
 - First invitational tournament title since 1997-98
 - 16th invitational tournament title in school history
- First team in school history to win 11 games before Jan. 1 and just fifth to win 10 games before Jan. 1.
- Entered month of February with 16 or more wins for just the sixth time in program history
- Turned team that shot 62.5 percent from free throw line in previous season to third highest in school history at 73.9 percent.
- Guided program to 850th win, becoming just the 13th team in NCAA Division One history to reach the mark

Kentucky.com

Make a full

CLARK, MICHELLE

Posted on Thu, Feb. 22, 2007

HERALD-LEADER

& full in back

KSU's gamble on coach paid off fast

By Rick Bailey
HERALD-LEADER STAFF WRITER

Michelle Clark-Heard had her eye on the Kentucky State women's basketball program for a long time.

While paying her dues as an assistant coach, the young woman from Louisville and Western Kentucky University watched the Thorobrettes. And waited.

Two years ago, the KSU women were one and none. One victory, none in the conference.

Clark-Heard, on the Cincinnati staff at the time, hoped the job would come open one day. It did.

Her first team (2005-06) was 5-23 with four victories in the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. This season, the KSU women are 18-7, 13-5 and tied for third in the SIAC and riding a seven-game winning streak. Home games this week against Stillman and Tuskegee complete the regular season.

"I always thought Kentucky State would be a great place to build a program," Clark-Heard said. "I was fortunate (the administration) took a chance on someone without head coaching experience."

Recruiting was the first task. The result has been a team chemistry Clark-Heard labeled "great."

The Thorobrettes are coachable and able to play her pressing defense. "We have a lot of different players who do different things," she said.

Freshman forward **Cortney Mathewis**, current SIAC Player of the Week, is second in conference scoring and "plays all over the place," according to her coach. "She can shoot the three or take it to the basket, and she's good at getting fouled. She's not a selfish player. Sometimes I have to make her shoot."

Freshman **Latrice Watkins** is an effective point guard. Sophomore **Mattie Jones**, a transfer from Division I Fordham, is in the post. Freshman **Jessica Vaughn** and senior **Shelly Dukes** are the other starters.

"The big key was getting through the first year," Clark-Heard said. "We had to go out and recruit equal-caliber players with the top teams in the conference. It's not easy recruiting when you haven't been successful for a long period of time."

Kentucky State's goals are to finish with at least 20 victories, get a first-round bye (one of three) in next week's SIAC Tournament, and advance as far as possible in the post-season.

"To go from five to 20 wins is an unbelievable turnaround for this program," Clark-Heard said.

Tails, Saints win

The best way to win homecourt advantage for your conference tournament is ... win the coin toss.

The Thomas More women finished in a three-way tie with Washington & Jefferson and Westminster in the Presidents' Athletic Conference.

Saints Coach **Brian Neal** and his colleagues called tails on the first flip, and it was tails. Neal called tails on the next flip, while the others called heads.

When the coin landed tails, the semis and finals were headed to Crestview Hills on Friday and Saturday. Thomas More (20-4) also got a first-round bye and will play Bethany in the semifinals.

Making their point(s)

Three of the nation's top women's scorers play within the commonwealth. **Crystal Kelly** of Western Kentucky averages 23.6 points and is second. Louisville's **Angel McCoughtry** (22.2) is fourth, and Murray State's **Joi Scott** (21.8) is tied for fifth.

Dynasty on The Hill?

Western Kentucky's men's team won its third consecutive Sun Belt Conference swimming and diving championships.

No Hilltopper swimmer, diver, coach or diving coach received an annual award. The Western women were second.

Haddix honored

Senior quarterback **Justin Haddix** was honored at the Western football banquet with the team and offensive most valuable player awards.

Haddix set school records with 8,890 total yards, 50 touchdown passes, 57.1 completion percentage and 137.28 pass efficiency rating. He also was a captain on his final Topper team.

Best sports

Eastern Illinois' football team earned the Ohio Valley Conference team sportsmanship award. The Panthers were 8-4 and co-champions with Tennessee-Martin. Players and coaches voted for the award.

Home on the range

The OVC's Murray State and Jacksonville State qualified for the NCAA Rifle Championships March 9-10 in Fairbanks, Alaska.

The Racers have participated in 26 of the 27 championships, winning in 1985 and 1987. The school also has had five individual champions.

Other team qualifiers include Kentucky, Alaska-Fairbanks, Nebraska, Texas Christian, Army and Navy. Fairbanks has won seven consecutive titles.

Rick Bailey covers state colleges and Marshall for the Herald-Leader. This articles contains his opinions and observations. Reach him at (859) 231-3336, 1-800-950-6397, Ext. 3336, or rbailey@herald-leader.com.



SPORTS

Clark-Heard joins UofL staff

10:58 AM EDT on Monday, April 16, 2007

UofL press release by Kimberli A. Pemberton

Michelle Clark-Heard, the head coach at Kentucky State the past two seasons, has joined the University of Louisville women's basketball staff head coach Jeff Walz announced today. Clark-Heard took a Kentucky State team that had won only one game before she arrived to a 19-win season in just two years. She rejoins Walz after coaching with him for four seasons on the Nebraska bench under former head coach Paul Sanderford.

"I am very excited to be working with Michelle again," said Walz. "We were able to work together for four years at Nebraska. She is a tireless worker and has had great success everywhere she has been. After the success that she has had at Kentucky State, I am honored that she would join my staff here at Louisville. I am thrilled to have a hometown coach on my staff. She has a great relationship with Kentucky and Ohio coaches that will help us in our recruiting efforts."

Clark-Heard became the head coach at Kentucky State University in June of 2005. She took over a program that had won just one game during the 2004-05 season. In her first season she led the Thorobrettes to a 5-23 record, four of the wins were against SIAC opponents. Her team was picked to finish 11th in the SIAC but ended the season in ninth place. This season she guided the Thorobrettes to an impressive 19-9 record, finishing tied for fourth place in the SIAC.

Prior to taking the head coaching position at Kentucky State, Clark-Heard spent three seasons at Cincinnati as an assistant coach. The Bearcats advanced to postseason play in two of her three seasons at Cincinnati.

Prior to her coaching at the University of Cincinnati she spent four seasons at the University of Nebraska where they advanced to two NCAA Tournaments. She also was responsible helping sign McDonald's All-American Janice Bright for the Cornhuskers in 2001.

Upon graduation from Western Kentucky, she spent eight years working within recreational setting, five in Bowling Green and three with the Louisville Metro Parks

Department. While in Louisville, she also served as head junior varsity coach and assistant varsity coach at DuPont Manuel High School for the 1994-95 seasons and played professionally with the Kentucky Marauders of the Women*s Basketball Association in 1994-95.

Clark-Heard played for Paul Sanderford at Western Kentucky University. During her four year tenure, the 6*2 center helped WKU make four straight appearances in the NCAA Tournament and win two Sun Belt Conference titles. She finished her career as the school*s 10th all-time leading rebounder.

