

Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame
2280 Executive Drive
Lexington, Kentucky 40505

To Whom It May Concern,

Please accept this nomination and letter of recommendation for Randy Wyatt as an athlete for consideration into the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame.

His achievements as a high school athlete are remarkable. As an eighth grade student/athlete he won the 100 and 200 meter dashes at the Kentucky High School Track Meet. He was named the Kentucky Male Track Athlete of the Year for four consecutive years. In 1987, Gatorade named him their Track Athlete of the Year. He won 15 gold medals in track and field in the Kentucky State Track Tournament, and in doing so, he never lost an event.

He was named to the Top 100 football players in the nation, while leading his team into the State Finals during his sophomore, junior, and senior years. He played college football for the University of Louisville where he played in the 1990 Fiesta Bowl. He transferred to the University of Kentucky where he was named team captain in 1993 and he played in the 1993 Peach Bowl.

He currently is employed by the Paducah Public School System where he is the Head Coach of the Track Team at Paducah Tilghman High School. His teams have won 7 consecutive Kentucky State Track Championships.

Randy Wyatt has the high school athletic accomplishments for consideration into the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame. More importantly, I was impressed by his morals and character on and off the field. His high school diploma was more important to him than his state records. I know he has made significant contributions to Kentucky High School Athletics. Thank you for your consideration.

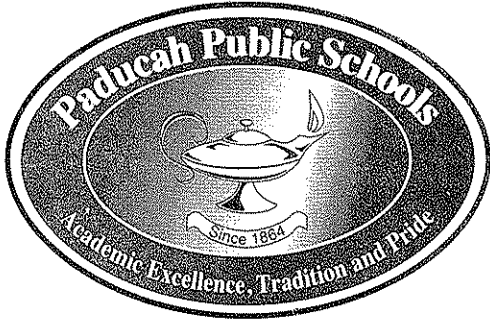
Sincerely,



Joe Ford
Class of 2002

Randy Wyatt's Fact Sheet

- First **eight-grader** to win the 100 & 200 meter dash at the Kentucky High School State Track Meet
- Name Kentucky Male Track Athlete of the Year for four consecutive years
- First Freshman to win the **Triple Crown** in Track & Field
- **1987 National Gatorade Track Athlete of the Year**
- As a quarterback led Paducah Tilghman Football to the **State Finals** his soph. jr. and sr years
- After his junior year, he compiled 15 gold medals in track and field. **Never lost an event at the State Tournament**
- Named High School Track **All-American**
- Named top **100** football players in the nation
- In 1990 signed a scholarship with University of Louisville
- Played in the 1990 **Fiesta Bowl** while playing at University of Louisville
- The Spring of 1992 transferred to the University of Kentucky
- While playing for University of Kentucky he started at Wide Receiver & Tailback
- In 1993 named team captain and played in the 1993 **Peach Bowl**
- **In 1994 graduated with a double major in Social Work & Kinesology and Health Promotion**



Paducah Public Schools

800 Caldwell Street
Post Office Box 2550
Paducah, KY 42002-2550

Telephone: 270-444-5600
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August 14, 2007

Dear Dawahares Hall of Fame Committee:

Please accept this letter in support of Randy Wyatt's nomination to the KHSAA Dawahares Hall of Fame. I am pleased to offer a personal and professional reference in support of his nomination.

Randy Wyatt has distinguished himself for many years as a strong advocate for Track and Field. In his early years as a student at Paducah Middle and Paducah Tilghman High School, he was part of two outstanding track teams.

Since you are in possession of his records, you are already aware of his outstanding career as a high school student athlete and high school coach.

I have known Randy for many years, during two of which I served as his middle school track coach. Throughout his career, as a student athlete and high school track coach, he has established a reputation as an extremely capable, effective high school track coach. He has consistently displayed qualities of initiative, conscientiousness, and professionalism.

Randy has been the track coach at Paducah Tilghman High School for the past seven years. Randy has done an excellent job in fulfilling his duties. He has demonstrated consistency and fairness in answering the needs and expectations of his student athletes.

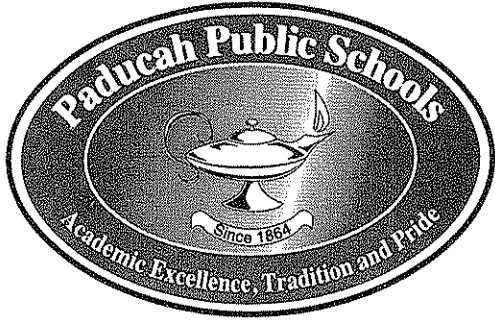
He is an effective and efficient communicator. As a coach, he is dependable and punctual. During this seven years, I have found him a very positive, honest, and understanding person. He is definitely a good character model for young adults to work with.

Without hesitation or reservation, I support the nomination of Randy Wyatt to be inducted into the Dawahares Hall of Fame. If you have further questions, please call me at (270) 444-5600 ext. 5614.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dennis Jackson".

Dennis Jackson
Director – District Personnel



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August 24, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to offer this letter of recommendation for Randy Wyatt as a candidate to be inducted into the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame. Randy has a long history as both an outstanding athlete and a very successful track coach at Paducah Tilghman High School.

Randy ran track for me at Paducah Tilghman during his high school career and established outstanding results. Paducah Tilghman High School won the Boys State Track Championship during the four years that Randy competed mainly because of his performances. Randy won 15 gold medals in the state meets during his four years at Tilghman. He was a team leader that helped motivate others by his performance and his willingness to do whatever he had to do for the team to be successful.

Randy was voted Track Athlete of the Decade by the Kentucky Track and Cross Country Coaches Association, won numerous outstanding athletic awards at major invitational meets, and was selected Gatorade High School All-American. He was state champion in the 100 meter dash, the 200 meter dash, and was a member of the winning 4 X 100 relay in track during his 8th grade year.

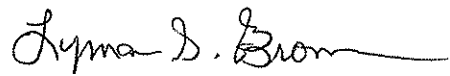
Randy attended the University of Kentucky on a full football scholarship following graduation from Paducah Tilghman where he started as a wide receiver for 3 years.

Upon graduation, Randy was employed at Paducah Tilghman and was also selected to coach the highly successful boys track team. After his 8th track season as head coach, Randy and his "Big Blue" track teams have won 7 straight Class AA State Championships and finished Runners-up the other year.

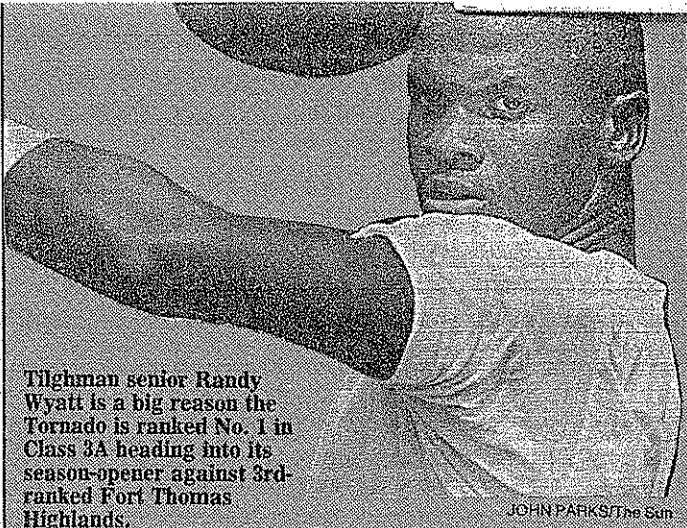
Randy Wyatt has accomplished wonderful things as a student athlete and a coach; however, his greatest value is his ability to motivate and challenge students/athletes. Randy prepares his athletes to win championships on the field, but more importantly he teaches them to be a success in school and life.

There has never been a more deserving person to have the honor of being inducted into the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame. Please consider him for this award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lyman D. Brown". The signature is fluid and includes a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Lyman Dale Brown



Tilghman senior Randy Wyatt is a big reason the Tornado is ranked No. 1 in Class 3A heading into its season-opener against 3rd-ranked Fort Thomas Highlands.

JOHN PARKS/The Sun

Speed, effort propel Wyatt

College scouts wait for results

By WARD WILLINGHAM
Sun Sports Editor

Speed is the word that best identifies Randy Wyatt for most fans. But work habits and attitude are the things that make the state's fastest runner special to Tilghman coach Allan Cox.

"Randy's not a kid any more," Cox said. "He's matured as a leader and nobody works harder."

Wyatt, who quarterbacked the Tornado in the Class 3A state championship game two years ago as a replacement for the injured Tony Whiteside, suffered an injury last season that kept him from moving into the quarterback spot. A split finger made handling the snap virtually impossible and forced a move to tailback.

"He made the move willingly," Cox said. "He never complained. If I went to him today and told him we were moving him to guard, he'd just say OK and try to be the best guard he could. He puts the team first. That's leading by example."

Wyatt has made his mark in track, winning state titles in the 100, 200 and 400-meter dashes with regularity. But Wyatt says his track days are over.

"I plan to play baseball this year," he said. "I'm a pretty good pitcher and I can play shortstop."

The recent death of a relative was a major factor in Wyatt's

"I plan to play baseball this year. I'm a pretty good pitcher and I can play shortstop... Maybe I'm just burned out on track."

— Randy Wyatt

decision. Connor Mason, a cousin who ran track for Tilghman before going on to college, was killed in a motorcycle accident this summer.

"Connor was my inspiration," Wyatt said. "He encouraged me and challenged me. Now that he's gone, I don't have a reason to run anymore. Maybe I'm just burned out on track."

No matter what happens next spring, football has all of Wyatt's attention now.

"I want to play quarterback. I've always been a leader and I want to lead this team."

With Wyatt at the controls Tilghman has blazing backfield speed. He has run the 100-meters in 10.39 seconds and the 40-yards in 4.38.

"We have two other kids back there with Randy who are just a step slower," Cox said.

Teronnie Holmes, who sat out last season with an injury, lines up at tailback. Holmes was fast enough to beat Wyatt in the 100

See WYATT/B3

Wyatt, Tornado produce offensive show, defense lags

By WARD WILLINGHAM
Sun Sports Editor

Tilghman had possession of the football eight times against Hopkinsville en route to a 38-27 victory in the Class 3A First District championship game Friday at McRight Field.

Six times Tilghman scored, getting five touchdowns and a career-tying 46-yard field goal from Curt Cromwell. The missed scoring opportunities came on a 49-yard field goal attempt by Cromwell that had the distance but drifted to the right, and a fumble at the Hopkinsville one-yard line by freshman quarterback Billy Jack Haskins.

"There was plenty of offense in this one," Tilghman coach Allan Cox said. "I was very pleased with the offense and Randy Wyatt's work at quarterback."

Wyatt threw four touchdown passes and completed 13-of-17 attempts for 172 yards to surpass the 1,000-yard mark on the season. He went into the game with 854 yards on 58 completions and 128 attempts. The senior quarterback improved his completion mark to 49 percent.

Tilghman 38, Hopkinsville 27

Hopkinsville	9	15	0	12	- 27
Tilghman	14	9	8	7	- 38

SCORING

TILGHMAN — Detrick Wells 18 pass from Randy Wyatt (Curt Cromwell kick) 7:31, 1st.
 TILGHMAN — Teronnie Holmes 84 run (Cromwell kick) 3:52, 1st.
 HOPKINSVILLE — Shawn Peachers 20 run (Steve Esposito pass to Willie Ennels) 10:12, 2nd.
 TILGHMAN — Cromwell 46 field goal 5:59, 2nd.
 HOPKINSVILLE — Wayne Lewis 20 pass from James Stokes (Cory Quarles kick) 3:46, 2nd.
 TILGHMAN — Dominique Hughes 18 pass from Wyatt (run fall) 1:36, 2nd.
 TILGHMAN — Lito Mason 27 pass from Wyatt (Wyatt pass to Michael Woodfork) 7:35, 3rd.
 TILGHMAN — Woodfork 6 pass from Wyatt (Cromwell kick) 10:54, 4th.
 HOPKINSVILLE — Lewis 3 pass from Stokes (pass fall) 7:14, 4th.
 HOPKINSVILLE — Lewis 9 pass from Stokes (pass fall) 0:02, 4th.

	Tilghman	Hopkinsville
First downs	21	25
Rushing attempts	31	39
Rushing yards	291	169
Passing	15-19-3	12-25-1
Passing yards	186	228
Total yards	429	397
Penalties	6-53	1-15

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing — Tilghman: Teronnie Holmes 4-107, Lewis Ridgeway 11-62, Detrick Wells 3-20, Kyo Wilson 3-18, Michael Warren 1-0, Randy Wyatt 2-1, Billy Jack Haskins 1-minus 1, Steve Harvey 1-minus 4; Hopkinsville: Shawn Peachers 20-99, James Stokes 15-48, Willie Ennels 3-28.
 Passing — Tilghman: Randy Wyatt 13-17-0 172, Billy Jack Haskins 1-1-0 16; Hopkinsville: James Stokes 11-23-1 194, Wayne Lewis 1-1-0 34, Willie Ennels 9-10 87.
 Receiving — Detrick Wells 5-64, Lito Mason 4-59, Dominique Hughes 3-42, Lewis Ridgeway 1-17, Michael Woodfork 1-6; Hopkinsville: Willie Ennels 5-115, Wayne Lewis 5-64, Tony Pollard 2-49.
 Records — Tilghman 9-2 overall, 5-0 3A district; Hopkinsville 7-3, 3-2.

"You can't do much better than that," Cox said. "We even had some balls dropped that could have been caught. Randy did everything we asked of him."

Tilghman struck early, following a fumble by Hopkinsville quarterback James Stokes that gave the Tornado the ball at its own 41. Six plays later Wyatt hit Detrick Wells with an 18-yard scoring toss and Cromwell added the first of three conversions.

The second touchdown came on the first play from scrimmage when Teronnie Holmes went the distance after Hopkinsville downed a punt at the Tilghman 16.

If Cox was pleased with his offense, his feelings about the defense were just the opposite.

"I don't feel we played real crisp defense," he said. "Maybe we're saving it for next week."

Tilghman plays host to Owensboro in the opening round of the 3A playoffs.

"I was pleased with the defense last week (Calloway County), but not this week. You can't play a team like Hopkinsville at half speed. We just didn't seem to play with much emotion and intensity."

Aided by a 15-yard penalty for pass interference and a 5-yard encroachment, Hopkinsville marched 80 yards in 10 plays for a touchdown. Shawn Peachers took scoring honors from 20 yards out on the third play of the second quarter. Backup quarterback Steve Esposito passed for two points on the conversion to make it 14-8.

Cromwell's field goal extended the Tilghman advantage to nine points.

A pass by flanker Wayne Lewis from a fake reverse gained 34 yards and set up the Tigers' second score. On the 20-yard scoring play, Wayne Lewis was the target for Stokes' toss.

Hopkinsville brought an 8-2 mark into the game, but would not have qualified for the playoffs even with a victory over Tilghman. The best the Tigers could hope for was a one-third share of the district title, but a third-place finish behind Tilghman and Union County.

"Had we played well on defense, we could have put the game away early," said Cox.

"They had nothing to play for and they got down 14-0, but they came back and got into the game."

Tilghman scored three more touchdowns, all on passes from Wyatt, before Hopkinsville got back on the scoreboard.

"Randy did a great job spreading the passes around," Cox said, noting that Wyatt threw touchdowns to four different receivers.

In addition to the touchdown reception to open the scoring, Wells caught four more balls for a total of 64 yards. Lito Mason had four receptions for 59 yards.

"Detrick had a good game," Cox said. "It shows what he can do when he's healthy. When we have Detrick and Lito at full speed, you can't just cover one side."

Lewis Ridgeway needed 139 yards to reach the 1,000-yard mark. The senior fullback fell short, gaining 82 yards on 11 tries to raise his season's rushing total to 943.

PT

VS

HOPKINSVILLE

All-Star rivalry

Kentucky's roster includes six Purchase standouts

Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — All-State quarterback Robert "Pookie" Jones of Calloway County heads the list of Kentucky high school all-stars that will face Tennessee prep stars this summer.

Jones, a candidate for the "Mr. Football" award, will be joined by quarterbacks Randy Wyatt of Paducah Tilghman, running backs Zane Beehn of Owensboro Apollo, Donnie Redd of Danville and Tony Edelen of Louisville Fairdale; and lineman Mark Askin of Louisville St. Xavier, all finalists for the honor.

Mr. Kentucky candidates



JONES



WYATT

The 35-man team, selected by the Kentucky High School Football Coaches Association, includes Tilghman's Curt Cromwell and

Detrick Wells, Mayfield's Beau Brown and Trigg County's Robert Stinson.

Among the all-staters making the team were linebacker Jason Kendrick of Louisville Trinity, defensive back Kelvin Givens of Lincoln County and running back Steve Bailey of Pikeville.

Lynn Ray of Covington Catholic will coach the team. The assistant head coach is Danville's Sam Harp, formerly a coach at Calloway County. The assistant coaches are Bob Schneider of Newport Central Catholic and Bob Noll and Mark Goetz of Covington Catholic.

Wyatt picks Louisville, Hammonds Mich. State

By JIM TERHUNE
Staff Writer

Kentucky sprint champion Randy Wyatt of Paducah Tilghman is coming, and Fern Creek's multi-purpose talent, Juan Hammonds, is going.

Wyatt, saying he feels he can be an "impact player" in a program on the "uprise," yesterday joined three Tilghman teammates in declaring he will sign to play football at the University of Louisville.

Hammonds, a full-time linebacker and tight end and part-time fullback, wide receiver and kick returner, rejected Kentucky's advances and announced for Michigan State.

"The last two years I've followed the Big Ten," Hammonds said. "It's real competitive; I like their aggressive hitting style; and Michigan State's had a first-round (National Football League) draft pick each of the last seven years."

In Wyatt, Louisville will get someone his coach says could become a "great impact player" in college.

"If Notre Dame's got the Rocket (Raghib Ismail), then Louisville's got the Laser," Tilghman coach Allan Cox said.

Wyatt, who has qualified academically to play as a freshman, ran a 4.33-second 40-yard dash before the 1989 season, Cox said.

At Tilghman, which went 38-6 the past three seasons and was Class AAA runner-up each year, he played quarterback as a sophomore and senior and tailback as a junior.

But U of L recruited Wyatt strictly as a wide receiver.

"That's definitely where I want to play," Wyatt said. "I liked playing quarterback, but I did it because the team needed help there."

Wyatt chose Louisville over Southern California. Kentucky was the other school in his final three. He turned down visits to Miami of Florida, Tennessee, Michigan and Illinois.

His host at Southern Cal in mid-January was Kurt Barber, a former Tilghman teammate and outside linebacker for USC.

"It was real nice," Wyatt said. "It's a different world out there. Lots of foreign people."

He made his official visit to U of L on Super Bowl weekend.

"I felt comfortable, like I fit in," he said.

See SPRINT CHAMP
PAGE 5, col. 4, this section

Sprint champ Wyatt picks U of L for football

Continued from Page D 1

"I was impressed with the dorms and the way the program is going."

Wyatt said he looked a bit more toward Lexington when Bill Curry was hired as head coach, "but it didn't make any difference. It came down to Louisville and Southern Cal."

Wyatt also said the transition from high school to college will be helped by the presence of teammates.

Split end Lito Mason and tailback Teronnie Holmes announced for U of L last Thursday. Fullback Lewis Ridgeway followed suit a day later. Only flanker Detrick Wells among Tilghman's primary touchdown-producing players is headed elsewhere, declaring yesterday for Missouri.

Cox also said place-kicker Curt Cromwell and linebacker Dominique Hughes are pointing toward Louisville, although Hughes, a non-qualifier, "will have to enroll on his own."

Wyatt, 6 feet and 165 pounds, threw for 21 touchdowns and rushed for nine last season. He rushed for 289 yards in 111 carries and completed 108 of 209 passes for 1,480 yards, with 11 interceptions.

He won 11 state sprint titles — the 100-, 200- and 400-meter runs as a freshman, sophomore and junior, and the 100 as an eighth-grader. Last spring in the Iroquois Invitational, he defeated Kentucky's other

top sprinter, AAA champ Aaron Payne of Holy Cross, in the 100.

But Wyatt will play baseball this spring and not run track. "I'm burned out," he said.

"He's the fastest kid ever to come out of Kentucky, I think," Cox said, "and the highest-recruited kid ever out of our program."

Wells caught 38 passes for 520 yards and four TDs. He rushed 32 times for 199 yards and four scores.

"He's a Paul Warfield-type receiver," said Cox, referring to the ex-Cleveland Browns star, "and his size (6-1½, 185) lends itself to making him a great blocker downfield."

Hammonds' core curriculum and grade-point average qualify him to play as a freshman, but he didn't reach the required 15 score on his American College Test on the first attempt. He'll try again Saturday.

"Teachers have been working with me, and I feel real good about it," he said.

Hammonds weighed the options between Michigan State and UK for almost a week before choosing.

"It was a really tough decision," he said. "Coach Curry was very concerned about me as a person and an athlete, and he plays a six-man attacking front on defense that I can excel in."

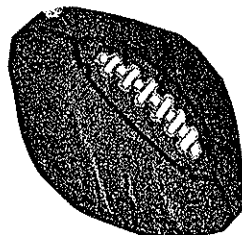
"But coach (George) Perles was a down-to-earth guy, a blue-collar type, and they play a 4-3 defense that is geared around the linebacker. A thought of mine, too, was to experience a different culture to see

if I can make it away from home. Plus Michigan State is strong academically in hotel management, a field I want to pursue."

Hammonds, 6-4 and 217 pounds, was recruited strictly as a linebacker. At Fern Creek he made 86 solo tackles and was in on 47 others. He caught 22 passes for 260 yards and returned a kickoff 82 yards for a TD against Eastern.

"Linebacker is what I want," he said. "I like the hitting — and not getting hit — a whole lot."

GOOD CHOICE!



SPRING SHORTS

PLAYER OF THE DAY

Tilghman's Randy Wyatt went 4-for-4, including a pair of home runs and a double, to pace Tilghman to a 7-5 victory over Heath. Wyatt tied the game in the top of the seventh as Tilghman scored four times to overcome a 5-3 deficit.

Area players ready to tackle Tennessee's best

BY CHRIS EVANS
SUN SPORTS WRITER

Don't tell Kentucky's all-star football players that tonight's game against the best high school graduates from Tennessee is just an exhibition game. They're out for blood.

"Everybody on this team wants to win. It's for bragging rights," said Tilghman graduate Detrick Wells, who is one of at least six area athletes who have made the starting lineup for head coach Lynn Ray of Covington Catholic.

Kickoff is 8 p.m. in Neyland Stadium on the University of Tennessee campus. Kentucky won last year's game 14-6 with some help from Paducah's Kurt

Johnson, but trails 4-2 in the series.

Johnson, who scored a game-winning 72-yard punt return to earn most valuable player honors last year, says Kentuckians want to even the score.

"It was a big deal for me personally, and it means a lot to Kentucky fans. There are a lot of bragging rights on the line," Johnson went on to become a starter as a return specialist at the University of Kentucky as a freshman.

Wells says it would be nice for another Tilghman player, or just any western



JONES

Kentuckian, to win the MVP award.

"Nobody here is really thinking about MVP. There is no jealousy, everybody just wants to win this game. For me it's very personal. I'm a Kentucky resident, but I was born in Tennessee."

Wells, who is headed for the University of Missouri, was born in Union City, Tenn. He will be starting tonight's game at outside linebacker, a position new to him.

"Playing defense is a big change, but it's fun," said Wells, who was a flanker for Tilghman his senior season. "I don't think I will ever play this position in college. I'm too small. I can barely see over the line."

Wells, 6-foot-2, 186 pounds, is joined by former Tilghman teammates Randy Wyatt,



WYATT

a receiver, and Curt Cromwell, who will handle the punting and kicking chores.

Wyatt and Cromwell will play collegiately for the University of Louisville this fall. They are among five future Cardinals on the team's roster.

Wyatt, a quarterback his senior year at Calloway County graduate and Kentucky's 1989 Mr. Football Robert "Pookie" Jones.

"I like playing receiver," Wyatt said. "I haven't played there since my freshman year, but it's fun. Pookie can sure get you

the ball."

Jones, who is one of eight players on the team who have signed to play at Kentucky, is enjoying the stable of talented receivers.

"I'm having to really work on getting my timing down," Jones said. "Our receivers are so quick, I'm still just trying to catch up with them."

"I'm still a little shaky with Randy (Wyatt)," he said. "He runs the routes so fast."

Wyatt will be joined by another speedster at receiver, Hopkinsville's Wayne Lewis.

"There's a lot of pride at stake, but it's

TACKLE/3B

TACKLE

Continued from page 1

"supposed to be fun, too," Jones said.

"This group wants to be known as the one that kept the streak alive."

Tennessee won the first four all-star games, but Kentucky has captured the last two.

The Kentucky stars will rely on plenty of speed at skilled offensive positions and in the defensive backfield.

Wyatt, an 11-time champion in the state 100-, 200- and 400-meter dashes, recorded the best 40-yard time of any player in the Kentucky camp during Sunday's first practice session.

His 40 time, 4.36, was only slightly quicker than Wells, who ran a 4.47. Defensive backs Kelvin Givens (4.41) of Lincoln County and Darryl Conn (4.41) of Franklin-Simpson add quickness in the secondary.

"We've got a lot of speed," Jones said.

"But we've heard Tennessee has some big guys. They average 6-foot-5 per player."

Jones says he feels added pressure because of the awards he has won.

"Monday, I wasn't throwing the ball too good so I put some extra pressure on myself because I am Mr. Football, and won all those awards," Jones continued.

"I'm just trying to be myself and not worry about the awards, but that's hard to do sometimes."

Jones was also the first-team All-State quarterback, and has gained the respect of other all-star players.

"Pookie is just being Pookie," Wells said.

"I've played against him, now with him. He's Mr. Football. I don't know how to rate him, a 10 I guess. He's just playing like the Pookie, I know."

Mayfield's Beau Brown, who will play next year at Murray State will start at strong safety, and another Mayfield graduate, Jason Counts, will platoon at nose guard and defensive tackle.

Trigg County's Robert Stinson, a future Wildcat, is the team's starting left defensive tackle.

Five of the original 35 players selected for the team didn't show up: Counts, a 6-3, 225-pound lineman, was one of the replacements.

The team has been working out at the University of Louisville's sports complex this week. It leaves this morning at 9 for the trip to Knoxville.

7TH ANNUAL

TENNESSEE KENTUCKY

ALL STAR GAME JUNE 16, 1990

Versatile Wyatt a speedy football All-Star

By Mike Fields
Herald-Leader staff writer

LOUISVILLE — What was the first thing fleet-footed Randy Wyatt noticed when he walked into the University of Louisville football locker room this week?

One of those motivational signs posted by Cardinals coach Howard Schnellenberger that reads, "Speed kills."

Wyatt then went out and ran a 40-yard dash in 4.3 seconds as the Kentucky All-Stars' foot-



Randy Wyatt

ball coaches smiled with delight.

The Tennessee All-Stars, who will provide the competition Saturday night in Knoxville, better beware.

"Speed is a weapon in football," said Wyatt, the former Paducah Tilghman star who will play college football at U of L. "I first realized I was fast when I was in the sixth grade. I don't think I've slowed down since."

Wyatt is a versatile football player. In high school he played wide receiver, halfback, quarterback, defensive back and returned kicks. When he got a step on somebody, he was never caught.

Nobody could stay with Wyatt in track, either. He swept the 100- and 200-meter dashes in the state track meet four straight years, and added three victories

in the 400.

He didn't run track this spring because he had nothing left to prove. Instead he played baseball. Batting lead-off, he hit nearly .500, had 42 steals in 43 attempts, and sparked Tilghman to the sectional semifinals.

"It was fun," Wyatt said. "I think I'll try to play football and baseball at U of L, too."

Wyatt was one of the most sought-after college football prospects in Kentucky last season. Most of the major powers contacted him — there isn't an abundance of 4.3 speedsters out there — and Wyatt narrowed his choices to U of L and Southern Cal.

He finally decided to stay in his home state.

"I just felt more at home here," he said. "And I feel Louisville football is on the upswing, and I want to be part of it."

It also helped that six former Paducah Tilghman players will be joining him in the Cardinal football camp later this summer.

They are Lito Mason, Lewis Ridgeway, Terroine Holmes, Dominic Hughes and Kurt Cromwell off last season's team, and James Johnson, a serviceman who played for Tilghman two years ago.

"It's a good situation because we'll all motivate each other on the field and to make good grades," Wyatt said. "And maybe the winning tradition we had at Tilghman will carry over to college, too."

(Turn to WYATT, D7)

Wyatt

From Page D1

Wyatt helped the Blue Tornado to the Class 3A state finals three straight years, although they lost each time.

The loss to Highlands in last year's title game is Wyatt's most recent football memory, so he would love to replace that with a victory over Tennessee.

"I feel good about our chances," he said. "We've got a lot of talent, and we're coming together as a team. Maybe we can make it two in a row."

Wyatt was referring to Kentucky's win over Tennessee last year. One of the big plays in that game was Kurt Johnson's punt return for a touchdown.

Johnson, now at UK, was Wyatt's teammate at Tilghman, where the two of them were a frightening kick return tandem.

"Kurt has that speed plus the moves," Wyatt said. "I'd like to be the same way. That's why I love offense more than defense. I want the ball every time if I can get it."

All-Stars' Wyatt happy to play catcher for quarterback Jones

By BOB WHITE
Staff Writer

Pookie Jones of Calloway County and Randy Wyatt of Paducah Tilghman were rival high school quarterbacks, but now they're teammates on the Kentucky All-Stars and happy with the set up.

Neither will bump the other from the lineup, because Jones will play quarterback and Wyatt will use his great speed at wide receiver and free safety Saturday night when Kentucky visits Knoxville to take on

Tennessee's best 1990 graduates in their seventh annual all-star football game.

Kickoff will be at 8 p.m. in 91,110-seat Neyland Stadium on the University of Tennessee campus. Kentucky won last year 14-6 but trails in the series 4-2.

"I knew I wouldn't be playing quarterback," said Wyatt, who turned down an offer from Southern California to sign with the University of Louisville. "I'm glad to be playing with Pookie. He's the type quarterback who is going to get you



Jones Wyatt

the ball any time." As a receiver, Wyatt, who won 11 state individual titles in the 100, 200 and 400 meters over the past four years before he gave up track to play baseball this spring — will be playing the position ticketed for him at U of L. "Randy has good speed and good hands," said Jones, who has signed with the University of Kentucky. "All I've got to do is get him the ball. I didn't know what to expect when I came up here, but I've really enjoyed it. There is a good bunch of

athletes here. The linemen are awesome. These guys are the best Kentucky has to offer." Wyatt is one of five U of L recruits playing for Kentucky. The others are defensive back Kelvin Givens of Lincoln County, linebacker Chris Hampton of Trinity, running back Tony Edelen of Fairdale and place-kicker/punter Kurt Cromwell of Tilghman. Eight future UK players are on the roster: Jones, defensive back Darryl Conn of Franklin-Simpson, outside linebacker Zane Beehn of

Apollo, fullback Donnie Redd of Danville, fullback David Pinson of Bellry, nose guard Mickey Webster of Pikeville and offensive linemen Mark Askin of St. Xavier and Robert Pinson of Trigg County. Pinson will play at UK as a walk on. One of Kentucky's main strengths is its speed. Wyatt ran the fastest 40 yards (4.36 seconds) in time trials, followed by Givens at 4.41 and Conn at 4.48.

Set PAGE 3, col. 6, th

Wyatt happy to play catcher

Continued from Page 1

Not only can the best run, but so can the linemen. District 11's coach and outside linebacker Herb Triggman, who was named in 1991 Jump Start month, a National State Sportsman from Fern Creek, and Beehn were both checked in 4.55.

"One thing we tried to do this year was get kids not only with good size, but who could run," Kentucky head coach Lynn Ray at Covington Catholic said. "We have excellent team speed. Givens has great range and great instincts. Hampton is a big, fast, instinctive player. He's our linemen. Everyone there is a fine athlete."

Scott Crabtree of Wiggens' also will play quarterback and help out in the defensive secondary. Redd, Statton and Steve Bailey of Pikeville are the main ball carriers. "With Darryl Pinson of Bellry the fullback."

"Our running backs aren't big, but they're quick and fast, and with the offense we're using it makes their ability," Ray said.

Five of the original 33 players chosen didn't show up, but players Lindecker, Jason Kendrick of Trinity went to the University of Michigan for freshman orientation, fullback-linebacker Melvin Holt of Steady County and tackle Chris Anderson of Laurel County did not graduate. Tight end Frank Medlock of Moore is working in North Carolina and linebacker James Simpson of Pleasant Ridge Park is responsible for his knee after surgery.

Replacing them are linebackers Hampton and Andy Barr of Lexington, James Creech, defensive lineman Jason Counts of Highland and Jason Nelson of Hendersonville and tight end Scott Duns of St. Xavier.

To visit the Kentucky-Tennessee rivalry is personal. Later this year they will enter the University of Tennessee to start their season. "I've never been to Knoxville, but I've seen about 60 miles from Paducah," he said. "I go back there every summer. This game is for bragging rights. Our defense has done well against the pass and, if Tennessee messes a lot, we'll beat them." "I don't want go back there," Jones said, laughing.

VOLS

Continued from page 1

Jones then ran the ball in.

Whites Creek's Robert Davis ran a kickoff back 48 yards, and Knoxville Bearden's David Cartel scored the touchdown on a six-yard run to put Tennessee up 7-6.

"Basically, I thought our team played a great game," Kentucky coach Lynn Ray of Covington Catholic said. "It's just a shame the officiating wasn't as good as we played."

Kentucky was penalized eight times for 70 yards, while Tennessee received six penalties for 60 yards.

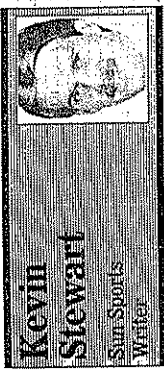
Alcoa's Chad Smith was Tennessee's leading ball carrier, gaining 61 yards on 15 carries. Pikeville's Steve Bailey led Kentucky with nine carries for 66 yards.

Wyatt caught five passes for 67 yards for Kentucky and Covington Catholic's Brian Williams had three for 34.

More times, better grades Wyatt's goals

Confrontation awaits with country's best in 400 yard dash

Randy Wyatt is a gem bright, beautiful and pure as virgin snow.
 His gift is speed. He runs fast. He'd like to run faster. There are those making sure he will.
 At 16 the Paducah Tilghman sophomore is a legend.



classroom, athletic excellence awaits.
 Brown's challenge is finding challenges for his star. Last season Tilghman traveled to high-caliber meets in Knoxville, Tenn., and Champaign, Ill. He won at both.
 Brown has raised his sights for the upcoming season.

The best 400-dasher in the country is Philadelphia's Willie Reed, whispered to be the nation's next dominant sprinter.
 Wyatt knows the name well. He would breeze to a 400 win last season only to be kidded by coaches and teammates. "If Willie was here, things would be different."

"It would be a shame to get any athlete to his senior year and find out he doesn't have the right academics," said Brown, Tilghman's track coach for 15 years. "That's cheating the kid."

Wyatt even respects the name.
 "This year I'm going to race against the number one dude in the nation," he said. His name is Willie... uh... William Reed.
 Wyatt needs such confrontations to keep improving.

Even when younger, Wyatt's friends knew he was special.
 "If we played games I would always be the first one picked," Wyatt said.
 Little has changed.

"We just would like to see how Randy could fare with that kind of competition," Brown said. "With Randy's talent and with the things he can do, we have to keep him challenged."
 "We can't be satisfied with what we've done so far. I don't think it would be fair to Randy if we don't go as far as we possibly can with him."

As an eighth-grader at Paducah Middle School Brown made him the team's sprinter. He responded by winning five state titles in two years.

Stardom has brought Wyatt unfamiliar popularity.
 "Some people come speak to me at school and I don't even know who they are," Wyatt said. "They'll ask me stuff like 'How'd you get so fast?'"

Now he's been picked again — this time as Kentucky's top male track athlete.

Another avenue of fame opens in a week. Wyatt's name will be on even more tongues when he starts at quarterback for Tilghman. Wyatt, a wide receiver, inherited the position when senior Tony Whiteside was injured. Whiteside is expected to miss two-to-three games.

In the September issue Wyatt joins 49 other track stars in the Gatorade Circle of Champions High School Player of the Year program. The magazine makes nominations and honors one from each state. The publication later named eight regional finalists and a national winner.

When football ends Wyatt will turn to the track and the real spotlight.
 "I'm sure everyone will be out to get me," he said. "So I just have to go out and work hard, extra hard."
 "Some people like to be the underdog. At times I like to be the underdog. But I guess that's all over now. Once you're at the top, you're at the top and that's where I have to stay."

Tilghman and Wyatt each received a plaque and the Kentucky High School Athletic Association got \$500 in Wyatt's name.
 "We can't give the money to the school because of NCAA regulations or we would," Weber said. "But most of the states use it for a good cause, like drug awareness, safety in sports, etcetera."
 Wyatt's plaque hangs on his bedroom wall — for motivation, he says.

Wyatt appears on track in the

Now that Wyatt appears on track in the

We think we speak for the people of the area in saying that we're proud of the young men of both schools. They have given us remarkable examples of skill, courage and determination. We hope that the disappointments of the weekend will abate in time, leaving them lifetime memories of outstanding achievement.

But high school legends often end in fodder for barroom talk. High school's their showcase, but graduation opens the real world's door — to the good, the bad and the ugly. Too often the good loses and high school heroes fade into oblivion never reaching potential.

Wyatt has three years left in his fate. Fortunately he has help. Track coach Lyman Brown, football coach Allan Cox and teacher Angie Schuller are keeping him on the right track.

Wyatt is assured an athletic scholarship and the opportunity for a college education. So grades are important. That's why he took part in a "summer enhancement" program recently.

According to Schuller the class is a pilot program where "we try to raise, for instance, the reading level of students who are behind a grade level in certain areas. Let's say in reading. They may be doing fine in other areas, but they need help with specific subjects."
 The students go to class half a day, work half a day. Under Cox supervision, Wyatt worked on the football facility he'll soon be playing in.
 Their goal is to keep Wyatt away from the educational pitfall that has snared one of the country's best athletes.

"We want to try to give Randy arbitrers like him every advantage we can," Schuller said.
 Stricter educational requirements imposed by Proposition 48 have already ensured that the University of Kentucky, for one, will see the services of 7-foot Texas center Jolly Pluman this season.

Locally two all-state athletes, Tilghman's Donald Overstreet in track, failed qualify for freshman participation at the Division level.

Kevin Stewart is a gem bright, beautiful and pure as virgin snow. His gift is speed. He'd like to run faster. There are those making sure he will. At 16 the Paducah Tilghman sophomore is a legend.

We think we speak for the people of the area in saying that we're proud of the young men of both schools. They have given us remarkable examples of skill, courage and determination. We hope that the disappointments of the weekend will abate in time, leaving them lifetime memories of outstanding achievement.



KEVIN STEWART/The Sun
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Leading figures in 1986 were traditional ones

Tilghman takes five First Region titles

By STEVE MILLER
Sun Sports Editor

Here's a review of the top events and individuals during the 1986 sports season in western Kentucky.

BASKETBALL depended on traditional powers to lead the way, and Tilghman's boys and Marshall County's girls were happy to move to the forefront.

The Tornado won a school record 27 straight games, taking the First Region title against McCracken County in Gibson Reidsland. After beating Ed Carter in the Sweet Sixteen's first round, the Tornado finally lost to state runners-up Pleasure Ridge Park 82-56 for a 30-2 season, which included coach Berny Miller's 500th victory.

Those numbers helped Miller win his fifth Purchase Coach of the Year honor with Tornado players Donald Travis, Bob Ferguson and Michael Wilson in the All-Marshals team. Graves County's Forrest Wood was named Player of the Year.

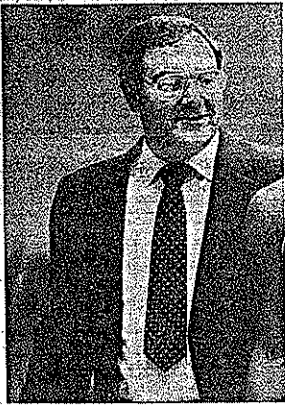
It looked like 1987 may be a close clone. With Travis and Gross back, Tilghman was 11-2 with a championship in the Wendy's Classic in Jonesboro, Ark., and runner-up placing in the King of the Bluegrass in December.

The Lady Marshals weren't far behind. They finished last spring with a 23-5 record when eventual state champion Oldham County beat them 61-46 in the state quarterfinals. Mary Taylor and Living on Central's Stacy Calhoun won All-State honors with Taylor also winning Purchase Player of the Year. Livingston Central won the Second Region title before losing in the Sweet Sixteen's opening round.

Mayfield had a good season and beat Marshall County in Dravenville to win the district crown before losing to Reidsland in the First Region semifinals. The Cardinals' outstanding record helped Lanny Lancaster to win the Purchase Coach of the Year honor.

Across the Ohio River, Massac County also beat the Marshals and went on to the championship game of the Illinois Class A state tournament. Tent poles, which swept the boys' and girls' titles, beat the Patriots 59-44.

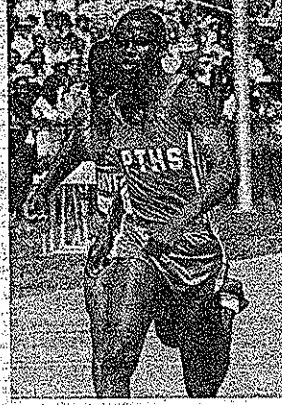
Tony McClure had his Paducah Community College Indians one step away from the national junior college final tournament, but a Great Rivers Athletic Conference rival, Ash Valley beat the 24-13 Indians. PCC won its first Region VII title in 13



Berny Miller (left) won his 500th game, titles to highlight the 1986 season.



Mike Shelbourne (center) an Irvin Cobb, and Randy Wyatt (right) two sprint



titles to highlight the 1986 season.

years despite a dispute with the Kentucky Junior College Athletic Association that forced it to play extra tournament games.

Although Murray State settled for a 17-12 record in Steve Newton's first year as coach, it was 14-0 at Racer Arena and reached the Ohio Valley Conference tournament semifinals. After a 2-4 start in the '86-'87 season, the Racers won the Bayou Classic title for an even 4-4 mark.

Marshall County's Barry Goheen made an immediate impact in college. In his freshman season at Vanderbilt he was named to the Southeastern Conference all-freshman team and was the team's fourth best scorer.

Goheen got off to a good start in the '86-'87 season by beating Indiana with a last-second shot.

FIRST REGION dominance belonged to Tilghman, which won First Region titles in five of the 12 sports it participated in. The Tornado won championships in boys' basketball, soccer, cross country, football and track while finishing second in baseball to Calloway County.

Only the Tornado track team went on to a state title, winning its eighth straight led by 100- and 200-meter champion Randy Wyatt.

The cross country team finished third in the state with Neal Clark and Jemo Hayes named to the All-State team.

The Tornado soccer and football teams

were eliminated in the first round, but soccer starter Jamie Griner and football starters Stacey Overlin and Billy Swanson won Associated Press All-State honors. The football team was eliminated by eventual state 3A champion Owensboro 10-7 in overtime, a team it had beaten in the season's opening game.

Other champions were Marshall County in girls' basketball, Calloway County in baseball, Caldwell County in boys' golf, Calloway County in girls' golf, Lone Oak in boys' tennis, Murray in girls' tennis and Lone Oak in softball.

TENNIS always begins with a P in Kentucky, no matter which year you choose. Although the state's top professional Mel Purcell fell on hard times before rebounding, its best coach, his father Bennie, stayed on his usually consistent course.

Pestered by injuries, Mel dropped to 148th in the ATP rankings in July, then rebounded in August. Losing in the finals of the Wachovia Tennis Tournament in Raleigh, N.C., he bounced back to 51 in September and finished 72nd in December's last ranking.

Bennie kept his Murray State tennis team on a more even keel. The Racers won their seventh straight OVC tennis crown for Purcell and won by a convincing 57 points with three new players in the roster. The eighth OVC crown may not be far behind.

Purcell kept on the court himself as one

of several local champions in The Sun's summer tennis series. Purcell won a seniors title, along with Mike Martin, Garnett Scott and Lloyd Settle.

Paducah part-time resident Ferris Newell won both the Juniors and Open titles in women's play while Richard Tracy won the Juniors 16's championship and Edwin Albritton the A division title. In state competition, Jeff Leeper captured a Kentucky Open-singles title and Bobby Palmer won the B-division title in the Bluegrass Games, both in Lexington.

High school play was dominated by Lone Oak and Murray in the First Region tournament. Lone Oak won the boys' title, although Marshals' Mike Adams won his 3rd boys' singles crown. Murray won the girls' title with Liz Oakley taking the championship. None of the First Region players reached the semifinals.

GOLF provided a growing list of young professionals who were raised on local courses, and some of the old favorites kept popping up in the headlines.

Russ Cochran's exploits included securing his PGA Tour card for fifth season. Thanks to a \$21,000 second place paycheck at the Tallahassee Open in November, Cochran finished a lackluster year strongly for \$68,917 and 92nd place on the money list.

Plenty of young faces looked hopeful of following those steps. Kenny Perry, a

former Lone Oak resident, and John Riegger of Metropolis, Ill., both earned tour cards for next season. Riegger won the Tournament Players Association's Stearns boat Classic.

Perry had to play a pair of overtime holes to edge Riegger by a stroke in the Irvin Cobb's pro division championship of a hot July day after the pair tied at 7 under-par 135 through 36 holes.

Amateurs were just as busy. Marshall County's Brett Larimer started the season by edging Murray's David Dill by a stroke for the First Region prep title in May, then followed with a sudden death playoff loss for second place in the KHSAA boys finals. His team finished 4th. Calloway County's girls were the second best team in the KHSAA finals, but a distant 43 strokes behind Sacred Heart.

Mike Shelbourne rarely faltered in the area's amateur tournaments. After taking a first-round lead in the Kentucky State Amateur, held at the Country Club of Paducah, he finished at 290 when a birdie putt on his last hole stopped short. Left-handed Steve Flesch, a State Am first, was the only one to beat the score with a 289.

In the Cobb, Shelbourne's consistency kept him among the leaders throughout the two-day tournament for a 5-under-par 137 that was one stroke better than Craig Schnurbusch. Jeff Gollher was an easy winner at Rolling Hills with a 6-under-par 65 after rain turned the tournament into a one-day event.

Pursie Pipes win his 5th straight Seniors crown, and Mary Jane Park her eighth Ladies Sun tournament. Pipes beat his age with a 68 on the last day to win the Seniors while Park built an overwhelming lead on the final day with a 241. It had been eight years between her 7th and 8th wins.

COACHES hit milestones along the way, with the magic 500 victory plateau important to both Berny Miller of Tilghman and Doc Hildeg of Post 31. Miller's basketball Tornado presented him his 500th victory just before the district tournament began while Hildeg's American Legion baseball team supplied the honor in July.

Others had harder times.

Paducah's Leeman Bennett ended his term as professional football's Tampa Bay coach on Monday when it was announced he was fired after a 2-14 season in 1986. It was only the second year in a four-year contract with the Bucs.

Just two months earlier Eddie Haas ended a 20-year coaching career with professional baseball's Atlanta Braves in the fall. Haas had been manager of the major league Braves in 1985 before Chuck Tanner replaced him at midseason.

Wyatt's early progression pointed toward rich future

By STEVE MILLIZER
Sun Sports Writer

Thoroughbred sprinter Connor Mason loved to run through the park, stretching and tuning his muscles under a hot sun in the grass. In the summer of 1984, he was already flaunting the graceful stride of a mature and refined collegiate athlete.

In May of '84, the Tilghman track star had narrowly missed a Kentucky high school sprinter's triple crown. He had won the Class 2A 100-meter and 400-meter dashes at the Kentucky State Track Meet, and finished second at 200 meters.

A scholarship at Southern Illinois University (SIU) followed, and Mason spent his summer training on the meadows of western Kentucky. At his side was an awkward, frisky young colt named Randy Wyatt.

"Connor used to tell me when he first got here that there was a little kid back in Paducah who was nearly as fast as him," SIU track coach Bill Cornell said.

"He told me to watch out for this kid, that he was going to be an exceptional runner."

Just out of the sixth grade, Randy Wyatt already had a reputation.

"It's hard for me to comment on the kid, because I haven't seen him run yet," University of Tennessee coach Doug Brown said Friday. "What I've heard from others is that he's absolutely tremendous, a big-time sprinter already with tremendous potential."

Now a 16-year-old freshman, Wyatt is focusing on a world-class future his Tilghman track coach Lyman Brown claims. Over the next four years, Brown believes Wyatt will be establishing some amazing Kentucky track traditions and adding a nation-wide reputation.

Brown has a deep measure of credibility for such a statement. His Tilghman team has won a record eight straight Kentucky track titles and his sprinters have won four 100-meter dash titles, five 200-meter titles and four 400-meter titles in the last seven years.

Meanwhile, Wyatt has already proven himself as Kentucky's outstanding sprinter by winning the Class 3A 100-meter and 200-meter dashes at the state meet as an eighth grader. His 100-meter time (10.84) was .19 behind the state record and his 21.58 at 200 meters was .25 short.

This spring, he's already broken meet 100-meter records in four invitational races, including a remarkable 10.47 at the Cape Relays in Cape

"What I've heard from others is that he's absolutely tremendous, a big-time sprinter already with tremendous potential."

Doug Brown
Tennessee

Girardeau, Mo., on April 25. His slowest time was a 10.8 at the Champagne Invitational in Champagne, Ill., Saturday. But he has passed the state meet record time of 10.65 three times this season.

"I've never personally seen a sprinter that has as much potential as Randy does," Brown said. "And I think in the back of his mind, Randy sees himself as maybe being a world class sprinter and running in some of the top meets in the world."

"We've compared his times as a 14-year-old with the times of Carl Lewis at that age and the times of the nation's top high school sprinter, William Reed in Philadelphia, at that age. Randy's times are almost all better."

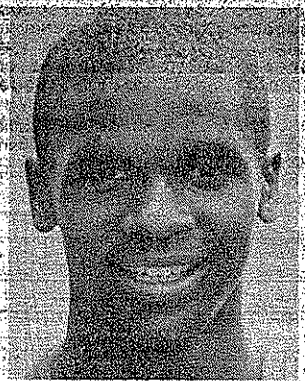
"That's just something to talk about, but it only tells you how those runners compared to Randy at 14. There's a lot of hard work that goes into a world class sprinter running a 9.9 100-meter dash."

"What it does say, is that it's definitely possible for him. If he understands how hard he has to work to get there and does the necessary work, it's possible."

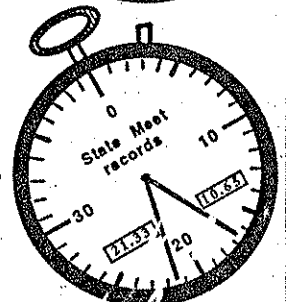
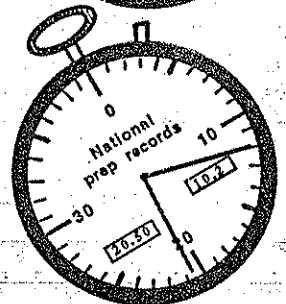
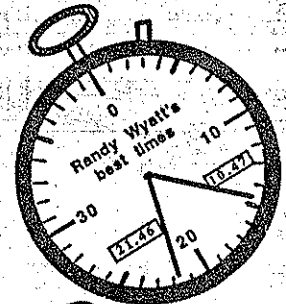
Soft-spoken and still a little shy, the lanky 5-foot-11 freshman doesn't back down from looking at such lofty heights. Just a little digging into his short background reveals an early and well-bred determination to run fast.

"When my cousin Connor would go out to the park, he'd always ask me to go out and run with him," Wyatt said about Mason. "He and Shawn (Jackson) showed me a lot of things about form, like high-knee kick and pumping your arms."

"Connor always told me I was going to be good, just to keep working hard. I do work hard. I push myself every day in practice because once you take it easy someone else will come up from behind you and take your place."



RANDY WYATT



See WYATT/B5

Cox's 'Basic' language helps Tilghman recover

BY WARD WILLINGHAM

OWENSBORO, Ky. — Away from his football team, Tilghman coach Allan Cox can be pleasant and conversational. But on game night the mood and the words change, especially when his team is trailing.

Friday night in Owensboro Cox watched his offense struggle

through a first half that generated just 11 offensive plays and a net gain of two yards.

Defensively, things weren't much better. The Tornado defenders seemed willing enough. It wasn't a matter of lack of effort, Cox said later. But there were too many missed tackles and too much confusion, leading to a 9-0 Owensboro lead at intermission.

After the break between halves, the beneficiaries of a speech Cox titled "Back to Basics" came out to score two third quarter touchdowns en route to a 14-9 triumph over the Red Devils.

Greg Arnold took the second half kickoff and returned it 23 yards to the Tilghman 36. On the first play from scrimmage, Eugene Sanders took the pitch and headed to the

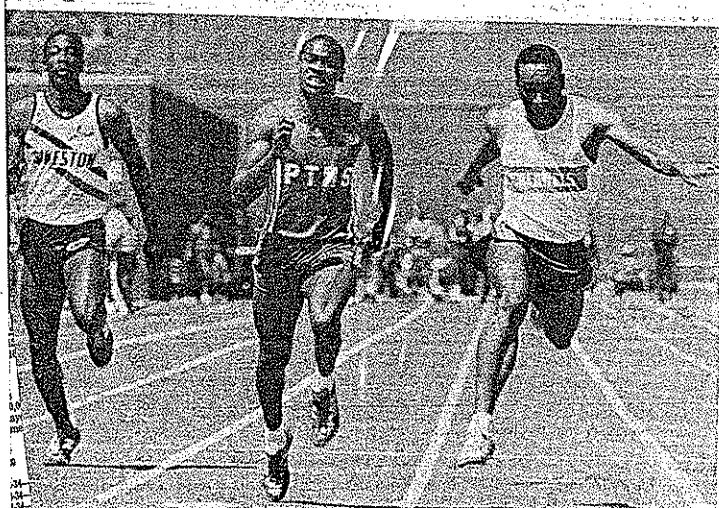
outside. He met Randy Wyatt behind the Tornado line and handed the ball off to the freshman speedster.

Wyatt, who won the state's 2A 100- and 200-meter dashes as a eighth grader, beat the Owensboro defense to the outside and turned uphill for a 19-yard gain. Tilghman's longest run of the night and only its second first down of the

game. It was also the first incursion into Red Devil territory.

Wyatt's run was a product of Cox's halftime visit with his offensive unit.

"We went to the one-back set just before the end of the first half," Cox said. "Owensboro wasn't adjusting and we wanted to hit them quick with Wyatt in the second half."



Wyatt (middle) of Paducah Tilghman sets a school record in the 100 meter dash.

STEVE MILLIZER/The Sun

Wyatt making it difficult for Gross to get attention

By STEVE MILLIZER

Sun Sports Writer

With Randy Wyatt rewriting Tilghman track history nearby, Tornado senior Bobby Gross has a hard time getting any attention. Heck, they won't even let him in the stadium to compete.

Long before Wyatt had broken two Tilghman Invitational Track meet records, Gross was setting off Saturday morning on a quest to become the first Kentucky prep athlete to clear the 7-foot plateau in the high jump.

On a cold, blustery day, that height wasn't even close to the horizon for the Tilghman senior, but his 6-foot, 4-inch winning leap was a more than satisfactory first step along the way.

"Considering the weather, this is a good start," Gross said after clearing 6-4 on his last jump on outside Memorial Stadium on the

Complete results of the Tilghman Invitational, page B2.

parking lot. The rest of the competition had all missed at 6-2 and Gross decided not to try for 6-6 because of the cold conditions.

"Last year I started here at 6-4, but the conditions were ideal. If the weather was good I think everyone would have jumped higher.

"Last year I didn't think I'd get near 6-9, but I came out in the second meet and cleared 6-8. That was really a surprise. Now, I'm shooting for 7-foot. I cleared 6-9 in the regionals and three inches might seem like a lot but it's really not that much.

"It's get-able." That's what Lyman Brown and

Augie Schiller believe about the Tilghman track team, a particularly strong unit that blistered competition in the 29th annual meet. With a strong showing by field events team and Wyatt's track-record sprints, the Tornado won by 80 points. They beat second place New Madrid 136-75.

Wyatt, a freshman, and sophomore Kurt Johnson were the meet's only double winners and Gross was the third individual champion the Tornado produced. Wyatt won the Outstanding Track Performer and Cape Central's Jeff Tullis won the Outstanding Field Performer trophy with a 57-7/8 shot put.

In girls, Salem edged Henderson County for the title 58-56 while Tilghman tied for third with Fort Campbell at 50. Tilghman's Bobby Jefferson was a double winner in

See GROSS/B2

Freshman shines at meet

by BILL LUTHER

News-Sentinel sportswriter

Remember the name Randy Wyatt. You haven't heard the last of the Kentucky high school freshman.

Wyatt, competing for Paducah Tilghman High, left his mark on Tennessee's Tom Black Track on Saturday afternoon. He left a lot of sprinters behind en route to The Evelyn and Spencer Thrift Memorial Award as the outstanding male performer in the 25th Volunteer Track Classic.

The first freshman to capture the honor in what is considered the South's top high school track and field championships, Wyatt won the 100-meter dash in 10.81 seconds,

reeled off a 21.70 run to win the 200 and recorded a sizzling 48.1 anchor leg to bring Tilghman from behind to a victory in the 4x400 relay.

"It (winning the award) was a goal I set before I came down here," Wyatt said. "I wanted the team to do well, so everything worked out fine. I knew we had to win the relay (4x400) to win the title. All I wanted to do was to catch up with the guy and stay with him. After we got to the straight, I knew I could turn it on and beat him."

With Wyatt scoring 22½ points, Tilghman compiled 61 to halt an eight-year reign by Virginia teams in the boys competition. Thomas Jefferson of Richmond, Va., was second with 42 points. Third place, with 41 points, went to Nashville

Whites Creek.

When the team title was on the line, Wyatt rose to the occasion — winning the 200 and then the splendid leg on the 4x400.

"I really wanted the 200 because I knew if the guy from Glass (Eric Williams) won they could win the meet," Wyatt said. "Everybody told me it was up to me and I never really thought I was in trouble."

Tina Curtis, winner in the 100-meter hurdles in 14.41 seconds, second in the 300 hurdles in 44.87 and a member of the runner-up 4x100 relay team, guided William Fleming of Roanoke to the girls team championship. William Fleming's margin beat Thomas Jefferson of Richmond

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4-19-87

Tilghman captures Vol meet

Staff report

TENNESSEE — Participating in its biggest track meet of the season, Paducah Tilghman's boys captured the Volunteer Track Classic Saturday by defeating 66 other teams. Tilghman freshman sensation Randy Wyatt was named the meet's outstanding performer with victories in the 100 (10.57 seconds) and 200 (21.46) meter dashes. He also anchored the winning 1,600 meter relay team with a final leg of 48.3.

Tilghman scored 61 points. E.C. Glass (Va.) had 42, Whiteside (Nashville, Tenn.) 41.

Tilghman's winning 1,600-meter team set a school record of three minutes, 20.03 seconds. Other team members and their times were David Jones (49.98), Kurt Johnson (50.24), and James Johnson (51.51).

Tilghman had three second place finishes. Kurt Johnson finished second in the triple jump with 47 feet, Michael Jones was second in the shot put at 55-3, and the 800-meter relay team of James Johnson (22.41), Anton Thomas (21.95), Teronnie Holmes (22.88) and David James (21.74) was second in 1:28.89.

Tilghman secured a third place behind the 400 meter team of Johnson (10.82), Chris Weatherspoon (10.65), Holmes (10.95) and Jones (10.42) for a 42.64 overall time.

The Tilghman girls' finished four in the meet out of 52 teams. Freshman Bobby Jefferson won the 100 (12.01) and finished third in the 200. Senior Marissa Pace won the discus (119-4).

