

sports

Hall changes his tone after 'Cats win NCAA

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) — Kentucky Coach Joe Hall and forward Rick Robey proudly modeled the Wildcats' newest threads here Tuesday, to the delight of several thousand screaming fans squeezed into the Blue Grass Field terminal.

Hall sported a royal blue T-shirt imprinted with "1978 NCAA Champs" beneath his jacket. Robey wore a basketball net, snipped hours before from a rim in St. Louis and draped about his neck in the fashion of a conqueror.

He further delighted the crowd by tossing a few shreds to fans below the terminal mezzanine, causing a scramble in close quarters.

"That's unreal, that they would be out here at a quarter to four in the morning," said Hall, "but that's what Kentucky basketball is all about. They continue to demonstrate it in new ways every day."

"We're just as appreciative as we can be of our fans and thankful we could win the championship and restore their faith in Kentucky basketball."

The crowd began forming less than an hour after the Wildcats defeated Duck 94-88 Monday night for their fifth National Collegiate Athletic Association championship. One of the first to arrive was former Gov. Albert "Happy" Chandler.

When the team's scheduled arrival time passed with the Wildcats still on the ground in St. Louis, no one left. Instead, they kept coming.

Olympic coaching program starts with financing for wrestling

NEW YORK (AP) — A pilot program that could lead to the hiring of fulltime national coaches for many Olympic sports was initiated Tuesday with the announcement of a grant to finance a national wrestling coach and staff.

Sun Co. of Radnor, Pa., sponsor of the wrestling coach program, is scheduled to present a check for \$75,000 to the AAU this weekend at the World Cup Wrestling tournament at Toledo, Ohio. A total of \$225,000 has been pledged by Sun Co. to pay the coach and his staff for three years.

"I see this development as a breakthrough in our handling of Olympic sports in the United States," said Joseph Scalzo, immediate past president of the AAU and its national industrial chairman. "I'm convinced that wrestling will improve almost overnight" from having a national coach.

If the wrestling coach program

proves successful, Scalzo said, sponsorship will be sought from other companies for national coaches in other Olympic sports, such as track, gymnastics, swimming, boxing and weightlifting.

Scalzo said, "This program is necessary for many Olympic sports, but it is imperative for wrestling."

The main reason, he said, is that international wrestling rules and rules for high school and collegiate wrestling are "so vastly different that specialized coaching is needed."

He said only about a dozen of the thousands of wrestling coaches in the United States are qualified to teach international rules and technique. "We have a million talented kids wrestling at school who are using the wrong style."

The pilot program will allow the national coach to devote all his

time to the country's world-class wrestlers, to follow what other countries are doing, to disseminate the latest information on conditioning and training techniques and set up clinics for amateurs in all age brackets.

Right now, top coaches like former Olympic gold medal winner Dan Gable have to channel their energies in several directions. Two weeks ago, for example, Gable's team at Iowa won the NCAA championship and this weekend he will coach the United States in the wrestling World Cup against the Soviet Union, Cuba and Japan.

The Executive Committee of the national AAU wrestling committee, headed by Newt Copple of Lincoln, Neb., will select the national coaching staff and fully define its duties. The selection is expected to be made in time for the opening of national summer training camps and the world championships in September.

Women's tennis faces old foes in Washington State opener

Oregon's women's tennis team opens its 1978 campaign against its old nemesis, Washington State, today at 3:30 on the Alder Street Courts.

Oregon finished third in the northwest region last year, with Washington State finishing second behind Washington. Oregon's dual meet record was an impressive 13-3, but two of those losses came at the hands of the Cougars.

This year, though, it could be a different story.

"This is possibly the best team we've ever had, at least since 1973 (when Oregon won the NCWSA title)," said coach Marti Schey. The numbers tend to back this up.

The Ducks return their top player, Helen Vozenilek, who won the NCWSA singles title last year. In addition, Oregon returns junior Patti Layton, who alternated between number one and two singles

in 1976, but did not compete in 1977.

Oregon also boasts senior Maureen Henning, who played at Arizona State for two years before transferring to Oregon.



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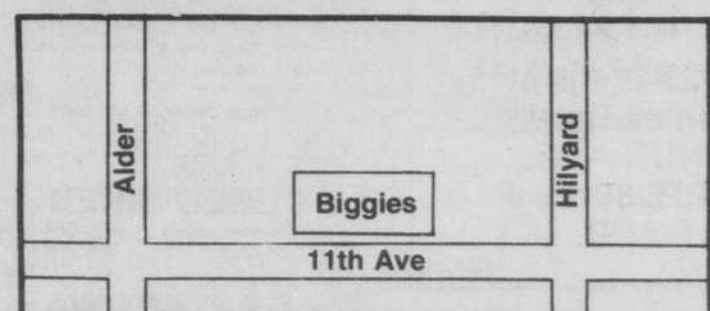
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