

MARCH MADNESS

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY | IOWA STATE | UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
MURRAY STATE | COLORADO STATE | MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY
BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY |
WESTERN KENTUCKY



COURIER-JOURNAL ILLUSTRATION

PAINT THE TOWN blue

UK fans make themselves right at home in archrival's place

By Joseph Lord | jlord@courier-journal.com | The Courier-Journal

Deborah Harrison won't let a little thing like not having a ticket to the men's NCAA Tournament games in the KFC Yum! Center keep her from being near her beloved University of Kentucky Wildcats. "I don't care," the Louisville native said. "It's just too close to home not to enjoy it. I just think it would be great to see Big Blue Nation all over Main Street."

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UK's Michael Kidd-Gilchrist and WKU's Derrick Gordon friendliest of rivals.

Starting today, Harrison plans to camp out near the arena, possibly watching the games from one of the nearby restaurants — and — most important — immersing herself as UK fans innumering herself as UK fans innumering the turf of their chief rival, the University of Louisville Cardinals, who are playing their tourna-

ment opener today in Portland, Ore. On Wednesday, more than 24 hours before the Wildcats' scheduled 6:50 p.m. tipoff against Western Kentucky today, the blocks surrounding the KFC Yum! Center — with its Louisville Cardinals logo plastered on the facade — already were taking on a decidedly bluish hue as fans streamed into the arena for an open practice.

Many said they fully expect UK fans to overrun the surrounding area in the coming days. A Big Blue occupation has begun, they say.

It's a common occurrence, said David Willmoth, a 70-year-old lifelong Wildcats backer from Elizabethtown. Last week he witnessed UK fans taking over New Orleans for the Southeastern Conference Tournament, and he expects much the same in Louisville.

"The treat is that they're playing closer to the

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TODAY AT KFC YUM! CENTER

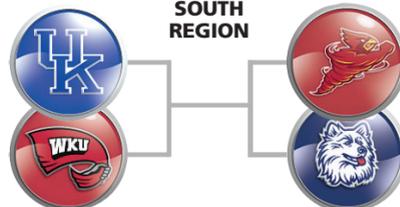
WEST REGION



(6) Murray State vs. (11) Colorado State
Noon, CBS-32

(3) Marquette vs. (14) Brigham Young
2:30 p.m., CBS-32

SOUTH REGION



(1) Kentucky vs. (16) Western Ky.
6:45 p.m., TBS

(8) Iowa State vs. (9) Connecticut
9:15 p.m., TBS

FOLLOW THE NCAA ONLINE

If you're in Louisville for the tournament, we pulled together information to help at www.courier-journal.com/ncaalouisville.
» Places to eat, things to do
» Things near the KFC Yum! Center on Foursquare
» Get in on The Courier-Journal | USA Today Matchup Mania game. Use our free points for a chance to win big prizes. Go to www.courier-journal.com/matchupmania.

Cardinals ready to end NCAA woes

With Peyton Siva, right, back on his game, surging Louisville aims to end its recent NCAA blues, M6



IU hopes return lasts a while

After what it's taken to get back, the Hoosiers would like to stay awhile, M7

Racers' shot at redemption

Isaiah Canaan can erase his memories of the 2010 near-miss against Butler, M8

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