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UA12/2/1 Ohio Valley Conference Preview

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College Heights
Herald

OVC
tournament
preview

A look at the teams

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Toppers need spirited play

By DON WHITE

In track and horseracing, it's called a photo finish. In professional football, it's "sudden death." In boxing, they call it a split decision.

And in college basketball, it's the Ohio Valley Conference.

All involve near-equal performances. And all are exciting.

Certainly it is true of the OVC basketball race as it enters its last weekend. The four teams that will play to determine the league representative to the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament are marked by incredible balance.

Middle Tennessee, the top-ranked team, has lost twice to the fourth-ranked team, Austin Peay, but has beaten the second-place team, East Tennessee, twice.

Western, the third-ranked team has split with all three teams. East Tennessee has beaten Austin Peay twice.

Western, 13-13 overall and 9-5 in the OVC, will try for its ninth appearance in the NCAA tournament. Hilltopper coach Jim Richards, whose team won the OVC tournament in 1976 before losing to Marquette, 79-60, in the opening round of the NCAA tournament, said the tournament has no clear favorite.

"The only advantage I see in the tournament is that we're playing on our home floor," he said. "And that ceases to be our advantage if we don't have big crowds."

"We need that spark of magnetism."

Richards, who has resigned effective at the end of the season, will be trying for his 100th win at Western when the Toppers play East Tennessee at 7 tonight.

The Toppers beat East Tennessee, 98-94, in overtime in Diddle Arena on Jan. 14, and lost to the Bucs, 80-77, in triple overtime in Johnson City on Feb. 11.

In the second game, Western's Darryl Turner missed the front end of a one-and-bonus situation with eight seconds remaining in regulation play. After East Tennessee rebounded, a pass in the offensive court rolled off a Buc's leg and crossed the midcourt line for what Richards thought was an over-and-back violation.

East Tennessee went on to score two free throws to tie the game before winning it in overtime.

"If that violation had been called, we would have ended up in a first-place tie in the conference and seeded No. 1 in the tournament," Richards said. "The violation was vivid on the monitor."

Richards, who has won nine of 13 games against East Tennessee, said emotions will probably have a big effect on the game. He hopes Western can play with the same emotional intensity as it did Saturday in its 87-78 win over Middle.

"It's possible that we can keep that emotional high, but it's



Photo by Ron Mackie

Coach Jim Richards shouts instructions to the Hilltoppers in a recent home game. Western plays East Tennessee in the OVC basketball tournament tonight.

highly improbable," Richards said.

The Toppers have concentrated in practice this week on reacting to East Tennessee's strong man-to-man defense. The Bucs are second in the league in team defense and yield an average of 70.1 points a game.

Another concern for Western has been preparing defensively to stop the Bucs' balanced scoring attack. East Tennessee, which runs mostly 1-4 and 1-2-2 offensive sets, has six players averaging between eight and 15 points per game.

"They run some things that

are strictly East Tennessee's—things that no other team does," Richards said. "We're working on reacting to the press."

In the first meeting this season, Western held an 87-80 lead with 1:03 remaining before the Bucs' full-court press forced repeated Western turnovers that sent the game into overtime.

East Tennessee doesn't start a player over 6-foot-5, but all five starters earned either first-team or honorable mention All-OVC honors this season.

Jim Smith, a 6-5 forward, leads the team in scoring with a 15.3 average. He scored 26 points

against Western in the first game this season.

B. J. Johnson, a 6-2 guard, averaged 18.3 and All-OVC forward Scott Place averages 12.5.

Second-year Buc coach Sonny Smith was voted OVC Coach of the Year. East Tennessee, 10-4 in the OVC and 18-8 overall, has had its best season since the 1967-68 team won the OVC and a first-round game in the NCAA tournament.

Western, the league's leading offensive team with a 81.6

Western

9-5 OVC			13-13 Overall		
No.	Pos.		Ht.	Reb.	Pts.
42	F	James Johnson	6-7	9.8	19.3
53	F	Greg Jackson	6-5	8.0	14.5
51	C	Aaron Bryant	6-7	8.1	11.7
11	G	Steve Ashby	6-0	1.4	8.0
25	G	Darryl Turner	6-2	5.1	17.9
31	G	Mike Prince	6-5	4.5	10.2
30	G	Mike Reese	6-3	1.1	4.5
50	C	John Rahn	6-7	1.9	2.9
22	G	Greg Burbach	6-4	1.3	2.4
23	G	Don Thomas	6-1	0.9	0.6

Johnson, Turner voted to all-conference team

Western's James Johnson and Darryl Turner have been named to the 1977-78 All-Ohio Valley Conference basketball team.

Johnson, a 6-foot-7 senior forward, averaged 19.3 points and 9.8 rebounds a game during the regular season. Turner, a 6-2 guard, scored 17.9 points a contest.

Austin Peay's Otis Howard was named the OVC Player of the Year for the second year in a row. Second-year East Tennessee coach Sonny Smith is coach of

the year.

Other players named to the team were Middle Tennessee's Greg Joyner and Claude "Sleepy" Taylor, Eastern's Lovell Joiner, Tennessee Tech's Bobby Porter, East Tennessee's Scott Place, Murray's Mike Muff and Morehead's Herbie Stamper.

Stamper, Muff and Joyner made the team last year and Howard has made it three years in a row.

Western forward Greg Jackson got honorable mention.

Good Luck

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OVC

Tournament


Bowling Green Mall

East Tennessee 'a surprise'

By BRYAN ARMSTRONG

East Tennessee has been the doormat of the Ohio Valley Conference the last five seasons with a 44-85 record.

But what a turnaround the Buccaneers have made this year under second-year coach Sonny Smith. Smith, whose team was 12-4 a year ago, guided the Bucs to an 18-8 record in all games and a 10-4 conference record, earning him the OVC Coach of the Year honor.

East Tennessee, which will play Western in a first-round game of the OVC tournament tonight in Diddle Arena has certainly been a surprise to Smith. "We've gone far above expectations," he said.

East Tennessee tied Middle Tennessee for first place in the conference, but the tie doesn't taint Smith's feelings about the title.

"Any way you slice it, even if it's just a share, it's an OVC championship," he said. "This co-championship is a tribute to our team. They deserve a chance to go to the tournament."

The last time East Tennessee had as successful a season was 1967-68, when the Bucs finished 19-8 and qualified for the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament. They beat Florida State in the first round before losing to Ohio State and Marquette.

Balance has been East Tennessee's strength this year. Six Bucs scored at least seven points a game—Jim Smith (15.3), B. J. Johnson (13.3), Scott Place (12.5), D. C. Smith (10.7), Cat Watson (8.7) and Joe Perry (7.8).

"We don't hesitate to go to the bench," Smith said. "We know what Joe (Perry) and the rest of the reserves can do. We've said all along we really have about nine starters."

Place, a 6-foot-5 sophomore forward, also averages 9.2 rebounds a game. Jim Smith is next with a 6.6 average.

Johnson paces the team in field goal percentage with a 52.9 mark. D. C. Smith is the only other

starter shooting better than 50 percent.

East Tennessee has played two thrillers with Western so far this season. The Bucs lost in overtime, 89-84, in Diddle Arena in January when Western blew a comfortable lead in regulation play.

In the return game, East won, 80-77, in triple overtime at Johnson City. D. C. Smith hit two free throws after regulation time had expired to save his team and force the first overtime. Western forward James Johnson did the same thing at the close of the second extra period.

Sonny Smith fears Western's inside game. "The real key to

Western is their size and strength of their inside people," he said. "They are an explosive team with an ability to get second shots."

"Outside of Otis Howard of Austin Peay, Johnson is the strongest player in the OVC. He must be stopped if we are going to stay in the game with them."

Austin Peay and Middle Tennessee play in the other first-round game at 9 tonight. East swept its two games against Peay by scores of 66-68 and 69-64. The Bucs lost twice to Middle, 68-61 and 62-53.

"This is a great opportunity for our kids," Smith said. "These guys have worked hard all season long."

East Tennessee

10-4 OVC			18-8 Overall		
No.	Pos.		Ht.	Reb.	Pts.
40	F	Jim Smith	6-5	6.6	15.3
32	F	Scott Place	6-5	9.2	12.5
30	F	D.C. Smith	6-5	5.0	10.7
24	G	B.J. Johnson	6-2	4.1	13.3
22	G	Cat Watson	6-1	2.4	8.7
14	F	Joe Perry	6-7	5.4	7.8
44	G	Atlee Hammaker	6-2	0.7	5.0
54	F	George Underwood	6-6	1.7	3.0
10	G	Terry Poindexter	6-0	0.5	1.9
12	F	Charles Thaxton	6-3	1.3	1.8
50	F	Houston Scruggs	6-3	1.0	1.0
34	F	Luke Veney	6-5	1.1	0.7
52	C	Don Zeiler	7-0	0.7	0.7



East Tennessee's D.C. Smith arrives too late to stop Western's James Johnson from dunking. Their teams square off again tonight.



Tops need spirit

—Continued from Page 2—

scoring average, ranks last in the OVC defensively, allowing opponents a 79.8 average.

The Toppers have hit 48.3 percent of their floor shots this season compared to 47.4 percent for East Tennessee. The Bucs hit 66.5 percent of their free throws while Western ranks last in the league in free-throw percentage (61).

Western's starting front line of forwards James Johnson and Greg Jackson and center Aaron Bryant are three of the top four scorers on the team. They also are the mainstays on Western's defense, primarily 1-3-1 and 2-3 zones.

All-OVC pick Darryl Turner, a 6-2 guard, averages 17.9, second only to Johnson's 19.3 average.

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Raiders surge to OVC title

By BRYAN ARMSTRONG

At the outset of the season, Middle Tennessee appeared to be the class of the Ohio Valley Conference.

Before the first game, the Blue Raiders had been picked as the conference favorite in at least two polls.

But by Christmas break, the Blue Raiders had fallen on hard times. Although they had won six of nine games, five wins had come over Athens College, Georgia College, Georgia Southwestern, North Carolina-Asheville and Bucknell universities—hardly powerhouses.

To boot, the Blue Raiders were in poor health. Bob Martin, a 6-foot-7 All-OVC center last season, had a torn knee cartilage.

Claude "Sleepy" Taylor was again having problems with a kneecap he fractured three years ago. And, as has happened to many teams this year, Middle was bitten hard by the flu bug.

The Blue Raiders were then revived by consecutive wins by

margins of 47, 36 and 33 points. They came back to finish the season with an 18-7 record overall and share the OVC title with a 10-4 mark.

Middle plays Austin Peay in the first round of the OVC tournament at 9 tonight in Diddle Arena. Austin Peay handed the Blue Raiders two conference losses.

"At Christmas, I sure didn't visualize being OVC co-champ," Middle coach Jimmy Earle said. "But we've hustled and scrapped. I'm very pleased with this bunch."

Middle split its two games this year with Western, thrashing the Hilltoppers, 98-69, in Murfreesboro, and losing last Saturday in Diddle Arena, 87-78.

They won both games against East Tennessee—68-61 in Murfreesboro and 62-53 in Johnson City.

"I'd have to pick Western, but it should be a fine tournament," Earle said. "All four teams are so

—Continued to Page 5—

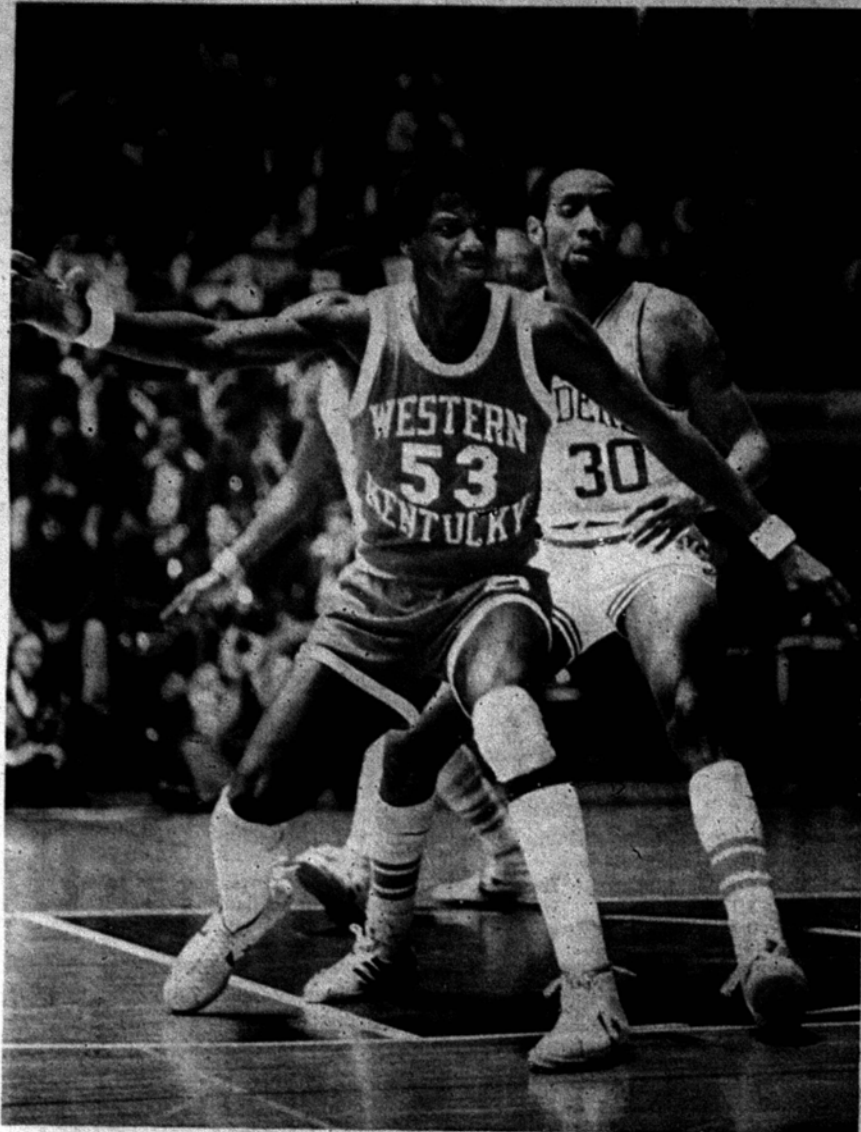


Photo by Ricky Rogers

Middle's Sleepy Taylor (30) guards Topper Greg Jackson (53). The Blue Raiders will meet Austin Peay in the OVC tournament tonight.

Middle Tennessee

10-4 OVC

18-7 Overall

No.	Pos.		Ht.	Reb.	Pts.
55	F	Greg Joyner	6-7	6.7	16.4
42	F	Leroy Coleman	6-4	2.8	5.0
52	C	Bob Martin	6-7	7.9	12.2
30	G	Sleepy Taylor	6-4	4.9	18.2
15	G	Greg Armstrong	6-2	1.7	4.0
20	F	Julius Brown	6-4	2.3	7.8
33	F	James Riley	6-6	2.2	4.9
14	G	Sam Burrell	6-0	.4	2.4
11	G	Curtis Fitts	6-3	.8	1.9
44	F	Clint Dennison	6-7	1.6	1.3
45	C	John Sauer	6-9	2.0	1.7
12	G	Robert Culley	6-1	.5	.7

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Austin Peay hopes to beat the odds

By DAVID T. WHITAKER

Austin Peay coach Ed Thompson doesn't believe in odds.

Thompson's Governors finished fourth in the Ohio Valley Conference with an 8-6 record. They beat OVC co-champion Middle Tennessee twice.

The two will meet again at 9 tonight in Diddle Arena.

Most coaches would agree that the odds of beating a good team, particularly the league champ, three times in a season aren't good.

Last year, Middle beat Peay in both regular season games, but lost to the Blue Raiders in the

tournament finals at Clarksville's Dunn Center.

"It's a toss-up," Thompson said of tonight's game. "It's just like a new season."

The Raiders aren't "due" to beat his team, Thompson said.

"Whoever wins the board battle and keeps the other team away from the free-throw line should win the tournament."

The Goys edged Middle, 64-62, at Murfreesboro Jan. 21 and won, 80-72, at home Feb. 20.

In Peay's victory at Middle, 6-foot-4 center Phil Mayo led the Goys with 22 points and 17 rebounds, one of his best performances of the season.

He averaged about 10 points

and eight rebounds and led the team with 86 fouls and four disqualifications.

Mayo is noted for his ability to leap over taller centers for rebounds but has trouble saving his strength for late in the game.

"We may have a physical weakness. We looked tired sometimes during Monday games after playing the Saturday before," Thompson said.

Thompson said Mayo doesn't feel any extra pressure because of his size. "He doesn't pay any attention to that; he just plays his game."

Flanking Mayo will be three-time All-OVC forward Otis Howard and Norris Randall, who

got six rebounds and 10 points per contest.

Howard has been the OVC Player of the Year for the past two years. The 6-7 senior averaged 21.5 points and 10.5 rebounds this season, but was held to six rebounds and 18 points in the Goys' win at Middle.

Mayo and Howard will match up with Middle's Bob Martin, center, and forward Greg Joyner, both 6-7. Martin is known as a workhorse and could tire the smaller Mayo out.

Starting guards Dennis "Pogo" Pagan and "Stormin'" Norman Jackson provide Peay with a sound backcourt.

Thompson said he won't change anything for tonight's contest.

"We've brushed up on the fundamentals and hit on most of the basics in practice," he said. "We've played zone and man-to-man all year long, and that's what we'll have to do to win."

Austin Peay has had trouble with the other two teams competing in the tournament, losing twice to East Tennessee and splitting two games with Western.

Thompson was reluctant to pick a winner. "Surprises happen. Somebody gets hot for a few games and that's all it takes."

Austin Peay

8-6 OVC

14-11 Overall

No.	Pos.		Ht.	Reb.	Pts.
45	F	Otis Howard	6-7	10.5	21.5
44	F	Norris Randall	6-4	6.0	10.2
40	C	Phil Mayo	6-4	7.8	10.2
20	G	Dennis Pagan	6-2	2.2	10.4
14	G	Norman Jackson	6-0	2.4	9.5
24	G	Clarence Mason	6-3	2.0	5.5
22	F	Alfred Barney	6-4	1.9	3.5
10	G	Sterling Harris	5-10	0.6	2.9
30	G	Frank Ross	6-3	1.0	2.1
34	F	Tim Thomas	6-4	0.4	1.1
32	F	Mike Howard	6-3	0.3	0.8
50	C	Gary Burns	6-8	0.1	0.3

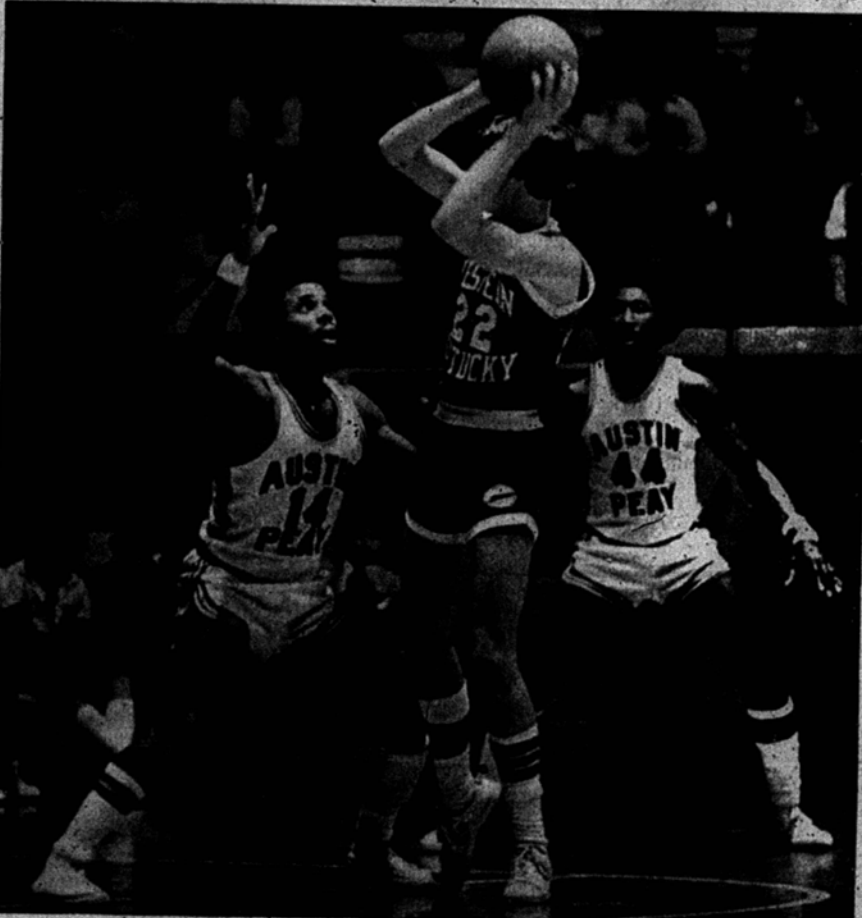


Photo by Mark Lyons

Austin Peay's Norman Jackson (14) and Norris Randall (44) defend Western's Greg Burbach (22). The Governors meet Middle in the OVC tournament.

Taylor, Martin lead Middle

—Continued from Page 4—

even. There will be no letdowns."

Taylor has been Middle's leading scorer this season, averaging 18.1 points a game. He averaged 15.8 points a contest as a freshman, but his injured knee has helped lower his scoring to 11.6 and 12.1 the last two years.

Earle said Taylor has almost regained full mobility. "It's much better, almost as good as his freshman year," the coach said.

"He's very, very important to us."

Martin's comeback has been less successful. As a junior last year, he led the team in scoring (17.9), rebounding (8.4) and field goal percentage (57.4).

His rebounding and shooting marks are only slightly off this season, but his scoring has dropped to 11.9.

"He's playing in pain," Earle said. "He's operating at 70 percent efficiency. He was

supposed to have surgery over Christmas, but he refused.

"He has to shoot off balance, and you just can't do that."

Middle won last year's OVC tournament before losing to Detroit in the first round of the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament. Earle thinks a repeat performance is within reach for his team.

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In the White light

Don White

OVC biting hand?

"Don't bite the hand that feeds you."

It's advice the Ohio Valley Conference athletic directors should well heed.

Faced with the almost certain loss of an automatic bid to the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament, the OVC athletic directors met this morning to decide the future of the conference's annual revenue-raising basketball tournament.

The issues are complex, but the basic priority isn't. If the conference hopes to meet rising operating costs, it must not abandon its principal source of income—even if the tournament no longer serves its purpose of determining the OVC representative to the NCAA tournament.

The situation developed last fall when the NCAA voted to withdraw automatic tournament bids to the five conferences with the worst tournament records over the previous five seasons. The provision, which takes effect in 1979, will probably take away the OVC's automatic bid.

Unless this season's conference representative to the national tournament wins at least one game, the OVC would show no wins in its last five tournament games. Austin Peay, the last OVC team to win in the NCAA tournament, beat Jacksonville University in the opening round of the 1973 tournament before losing to the University of Kentucky in the regional.

If the conference loses the automatic bid, OVC teams could advance to the NCAA tournament only by at-large bids from the NCAA's tournament selection advisory board.

Although OVC commissioner Bob Vanatta said the OVC will have "no assurance at all" that one of its members would receive an at-large bid, he said the conference is "continually trying to influence" the selection board.

"We sent out 500 mailings each Tuesday trying to promote our conference," Vanatta said. "We try to contact people who have influence in key places. It's kinda like politics."

But with the purpose of determining the OVC's NCAA representative removed, future conference tournaments could suffer from dwindling ticket sales.

Vanatta said future conference tournaments may not sell enough tickets or programs to generate the \$30,000 tournament income the conference figures into its budget. The first three tournaments each have produced that much.

"Tournaments have tremendous financial incomes," he said, "and that's one of our conference's biggest problems—financial difficulties. But I'm afraid that the interest we've had in the OVC tournament wouldn't be there if they didn't have the automatic NCAA bid."

Western athletic director Johnny Oldham said Western has traditionally voted against the postseason tournament to deter-

mine the NCAA representative, despite the tournament's financial advantages.

"Western has felt that the team that wins the regular season is deserving as the OVC representative rather than the tournament winner," he said. "We will probably maintain that position again this year."

"I think the tournament without the championship as it is now (to determine the NCAA representative) would be doomed to failure," he added.

"I would favor that we start the OVC basketball season with a tournament (between OVC teams). I think it might have some success."

Other suggestions that the athletic directors could recommend to the OVC presidents for acceptance at their annual May meeting are:

—The elimination of the OVC tournament completely. The OVC would have to develop another source of revenue to supplement its other sources of budgeted income—each conference member's annual \$6,000 assessment and the conference's share of NCAA tournament assessments from all sports.

—The reinstatement of a preseason conference tournament that was last played in the late 1960s. "I can't see a lot of strength to this possibility," Vanatta said. "The coaches are against it, but it would give fans a preview of conference play."

—Two OVC doubleheaders at different sites. Vanatta said this possibility would limit costly travel expenses but would



Photo by Mark Lyons

Athletic director Johnny Oldham says Western is opposed to the OVC tournament, despite its revenues.

provide needed revenue.

With the future of the OVC's principal source of income threatened by decreased ticket sales and the possibility of alternative incomes (such as TV revenue) doubtful, the OVC can ill afford to discontinue its tournament.

Although the OVC stands to make less off tournaments that have little significance outside the conference, the revenue from preseason or midseason tournaments would nevertheless supplement its strained budget.

And with the excitement that characterized OVC play this

season, the possibility of large crowds at future "meaningless" conference tournaments isn't remote.

That would mean increased revenue available to promote the OVC nationally. And that's something the conference desperately needs.

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For the last time

Johnson, Ashby want second trip to NCAA

By BETH TAYLOR

Each game Western plays now could be the last for seniors Steve Ashby and James Johnson.

"Like they say—it's do or die time for J.J. and me," Ashby said, contemplating his last days of playing for the Hilltoppers.

Johnson and Ashby were members of the 1975-76 squad that went to the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament and both are hoping for a return this year. They are also roommates.

"The team we have now is more talented than that team," Ashby said. The 6-foot guard leads the team in assists with 93 and thinks Western's chances for winning the Ohio Valley Conference tournament are good.

"We're in the best shape we could be—us playing East Tennessee and letting Middle and Austin Peay tangle," he said.

"We've got as good a chance or better than anyone," Johnson said. "We've beaten everyone in the tournament; but on the other hand they've beaten us, too," he remembered.

Johnson has been selected to the All-OVC team this year. The 6-7 forward is averaging 19.3 points and 9.8 rebounds a game to lead the Tops in both areas.

"I try to be a leader and set an example," Johnson said. "Being the last games, I want to do the best I can and know that I did the best I could do."

"I'd love to go out a winner," Ashby said. "We definitely have the talent to do it."

"The only thing hurting us sometimes is our emotion. We're not always mentally up, but during tournament time that should take its place," he speculated.

The seniors started to worry midway through the season when Western fell into a slump.

"We'd wait till the last 10 minutes to put our game together," Ashby said. "But now we realize we have to play from the beginning, go from the buzzer—like we did the other night against Middle."

"We played some close games," Johnson said, "and it was always us on the losing side. We knew that couldn't last. There were too many games when some played and some slacked. Now everyone is pulling together."

Ashby and Johnson are sentimental as their Western careers near an end, and that is heightened because this is coach Jim Richards' last year.

"He lacks one game for 100 wins," Ashby said. "We all realize that and want to get that milestone for him."

"We want to give him at least 101 wins before leaving Diddle," Johnson emphasized. "He's an excellent coach, knows his basketball."

As tournament time nears, both players are getting nervous and reflecting on their time here.

"There were times when everything was going wrong," Ashby said. "But then there's times when everything goes better."

"My first year we were on probation, but I'll always be able to look back to my sophomore year in the NCAA tournament as a high point. If we go this year, that will be even better."

Being on the court for the last time "has been running through my head for the last four or five games," Johnson said.

"I came here because of the basketball tradition and I've been doing everything I can to keep it up. I've become fond of the school and the state of Kentucky," the Savannah, Ga., native said.

"People turn out for the games here. That makes you loyal to the school and makes you want to perform well."

When asked about his habit of shooting from the hip, Johnson just smiled and said, "That's my style...a lot of people think it looks funny. Every year in high school I had a different coach and each one changed my style."

But the most important memory of all could be shaping up this weekend.

"If we get beat, it's because we beat ourselves," Ashby said. "If we play aggressive, no one can play with us. When it's on the line you have to put everything you've got into it."

"We all know we need each other to win—from the players to the managers," Johnson said. "Everyone is going to pull together."

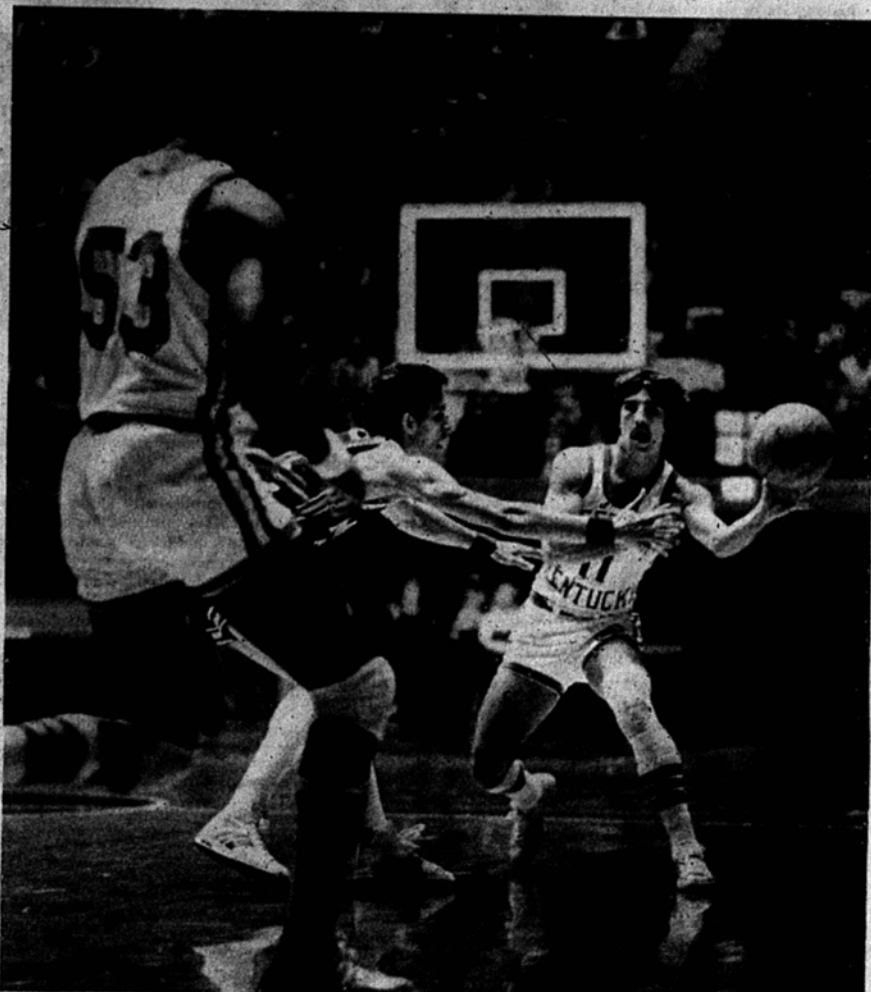


Photo by Ricky Rogers

Senior guard Steve Ashby passes to teammate Greg Jackson.

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Get ready: Hot dogs to press row, plans laid early

By ROBIN VINCENT

The public affairs office started making its preparations months ago. Food services and physical plant will make theirs this afternoon. Bowling Green residents will be prepared early tonight.

What all these people are getting ready for is not the invasion of an army, although it may be the closest thing to an army that Bowling Green has seen since the Civil War.

It's the 1978 Ohio Valley Conference tournament.

According to OVC commissioner Bob Vanatta, most preparations for the tournament are handled by the host school.

"They do all the really hard work at the host school itself," he said. "The biggest thing we work on as far as the tournament is concerned is making sure we get the right officials for the games."

When the tournament site was decided last year, sports information director Ed Given and public relations director Don Armstrong started making plans.

"I contacted the Mammoth Cave barbershop chorus about singing the national anthem before the season started," Armstrong said. "I could have just had the band play it, but I thought this might help add to the pageantry of the tournament."

According to Given, accom-



Folding refreshment boxes is just one job concession stand workers do to prepare for home and tournament games.

modating the additional press that the tournament draws and putting out the official program are the major obstacles he is faced with.

"The biggest job so far has been taking care of the press passes," he said. "There will be about two or three times as many press people here but we're going to keep the same press room set-up."

"We're going to put out more of a score-card program instead of the magazine-type program," he added.

"One of the problems with putting out a more detailed type

program was that we really didn't know for sure who was going to be in the tournament until this week."

In addition to these preparations, the public affairs office will also conduct a dinner in the university center executive dining room for the press, coaches, athletic directors and school officials after the first two games Friday night.

Besides helping the public affairs office by preparing for the banquet, food services is also in charge of the Diddle Arena concession stands.

According to Felix Spugnardi,

concession stand manager, about 1,000 hot dogs, 6,000 soft drinks and 800 candy bars will be sold the first night.

Food services director Lon Slaughter said that about 30 workers, many of whom are students, will set up the stands at about 4:30 p.m. and run them during the games.

"The only problem that we really have is that we have to go in early on Saturday morning and check on just what business was done on Friday night so we can get all the stands set up with change and other things," he said.

Although physical plant workers are used to their work at basketball games, the fact that Western is also playing host to high school district and regional tournaments causes some problems.

"Our regular workers start putting up the bleachers and the turnstiles at about 3 p.m., but the people who actually work the games at night are already getting 40 hours a week at their regular job," Kemble Johnson, assistant physical plant administrator, said.

"They get paid overtime and we try to give all our people a chance to get the extra hours, but it's sometimes hard to get people this time of the year."

The Pershing Rifles' volunteer ushers and the basketball trainers and managers also have

a few extra things to do during the tournament.

"It's going to take more people to usher the games because there are no reserve seats," Capt. William Kennedy of the military science department said.

"All the ramps have to be closed off and there are more places to check. Normally about 18-20 people need to work, but this weekend we'll need 28."

Bill Edwards said making things available for the other teams is the main task of the training staff.

"We know the other trainers coming in from the other schools and we just try to make their stay a little easier," he said. "We make sure they have training aids and training tables and help them find a doctor if an injury requires one."

"The only thing that is different about the tournament is that we have to do it for three teams instead of just one. The managers also do a lot to help the other teams out, too."

Fans and cheerleaders may be the only two groups not needing to make many preparations.

"We're just going to do the same basic cheers that we have done all year," cheerleader captain Pam Mosier said.

"There really isn't that much for us to practice once we learn our cheers. We really got psyched up for the Middle game and we're hoping to do the same things."

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